



Play Collegiate Golf

"creating academic and athletic success"

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5 Things You Need to Know...4 Things You Need to Do...for Successful College Golf Recruiting

Review These Tips In an Effort to Best Inform Yourself About the College Golf Recruiting Process

Preparing ahead of time and getting the most knowledge about the college golf recruiting process will provide you a positive direction as you fully immerse yourself into an active academic and athletic search for the “best fit” post-secondary options. Beginning this process - which needs to be done early in the junior golfer career - is sometimes overwhelming. Questions such as “Where do I look first?,” “How do I determine what is the “best fit” academic and athletic choice for me?,” and “How do I prepare for college golf?” are all appropriate questions to think about. Read through this article and review the statements below to better familiarize yourself with what you need to know about college golf recruiting and how to proceed to best prepare yourself.

Five Things You Need to Know About College Golf Recruiting

The recruiting process starts earlier than most people imagine. The recruiting process starts early due to the rise in athletic scholarship need, increased availability of player information to college golf coaches through the internet, and a much more connected junior golf tournament environment. Early into the high school career is a good time to start thinking about the next educational step for your junior golfer. Get started early. No recruit has ever started too early or been too prepared. Take action and approach recruiting like your school work and sport...spend time working on it everyday!

College coaches depend on verified information from reliable sources. Most coaches attend golf tournaments with specific players in mind to watch play. Therefore, make sure you are pro-active in getting your name, academic successes, and athletic achievements in front of coaches early in your career and on an on-going basis. This way, coaches will attend tournaments to watch you play!

Coaches rely on video to initially evaluate players. College golf coaches do a majority of their initial evaluation by reviewing swing videos delivered online through websites such as YouTube. After watching a video a coach may put the prospect on his or her radar screen to review tournament scores or even to go see play in a tournament. A swing video along with a strong letter of interest and a golf specific résumé is the main way to initially introduce yourself to a college golf coach.

Don't think that Division I is the only place to compete. There are over 1800 US Colleges (and a handful in Canada) that sponsor collegiate golf programs and are able to offer financial packages. More than 90% of those opportunities fall outside of Division I. Have clear expectations of the college programs you qualify for based on academic and athletic performance. Also, understand that DII, DIII, NAIA, and NJCAA all offer excellent academic challenges and athletic competition. Do you want to compete for the traveling roster or merely be a member of the golf team?

It is your responsibility to get noticed. Rely on your teaching professional to evaluate your skills and to act as a reference for your golf specific résumé. Ultimately, though, it is your responsibility to research the schools you are interested in, contact the coaches, and send out your package of information. Talk with your teaching professional and gain a clear understanding of where you might best fit for college golf and then organize the materials yourself! Coaches are recruiting you; they are most interested in hearing how you want to play at their institution and on their team. Bring your voice to the recruiting process!

Four Things You Must Do for College Golf Recruiting

Get evaluated. Every junior golfer needs an objective, third-party evaluation to determine “best fit” qualifications for various college programs. A knowledgeable individual in this environment can help set realistic expectations on programs, competition levels, academic fit, and schools, helping you target a strong list of viable institutions to target. Please review the [Play Collegiate Golf September 2010](#) article to get a better sense of what different levels of college golf require playability-wise.

Build a recruiting profile package. Develop a strong letter of interest that is institution specific. Research the school and its golf program; being specific in your letter will indicate you are not sending out a blind letter to a number of schools. You can mention a particular academic program, a recent finish by the golf team, or something about the coach such as an award he or she may have received during his or her tenure. Include a golf-specific résumé. Use a correct golf specific résumé format...don't just guess at this! It is very important that it have tournament results, course yardage, weather, etc.

Create a swing video. Often, a swing video is the first visual contact a coach will have of a player so it is important to create it correctly. To learn how to create a strong swing video, please see the [Play Collegiate Golf September 2009](#) article. Ensure that the coach can view it easily by linking to a site such as YouTube.

Connect with college coaches early. Create your recruiting package and send it electronically to the coaches on your list of schools. Follow up with questions that will help you determine your recruiting direction. You need to recruit the coach as much as the coach needs to recruit you. This process will help you determine if it is a correct fit on *both* sides. This is important for you (and the coach) as this should be a long term commitment!

As you move forward throughout the recruiting process keep a positive outlook. It can be challenging at times organizing all the letters to be sent out, developing the communication with potential coaches, and following up with appropriate questions. Make sure that you start the recruiting process early on during the high school years so that you can take full advantage of the time available to you. Creating a plan that works for you and provides the greatest benefit to you is the goal and should be the mindset during this exciting time!

Good luck

Dr. Fleming

Dr. Bruce Fleming is the founder of Play Collegiate Golf, created to mentor young women and men interested in continuing their competitive golf careers at institutions that support their academic, athletic, and personal goals.

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