



## ***Recruiting Guidelines for Men's and Women's College Golf Programs***

*Understand the various requirements within NCAA and NAIA golf programs*

There are many options for playing college golf. Two divisions in the NCAA and programs in the NAIA offer athletic scholarships (Note: Division III does not offer athletic scholarships, however academic scholarships are potentially available). All divisions, though, offer excellent competition and the chance to win individual and team championships. Junior golfers need to understand what each division requires to compete at that level. One mistake seen over and over is the improper assessment of golfing abilities resulting in sending on information to coaches at programs that are not an appropriate athletic fit. Save time and frustration by following the suggested guidelines in this article when determining your "best fit" athletically.

Review the tables in this article to get a sense of what you need to be achieving on the golf course to play at each specific level of college golf. *However, please remember that these are only guidelines.* Part of the recruiting process is to directly interact with coaches to find out what they specifically want for their team in terms of competitive ability, tournaments that you must play, and scoring averages you must attain to become a viable recruit. Use your contact time with coaches wisely and ask the right questions for you to determine if you should continue to develop a relationship with this team and this institution. Also, remember that you need to review the academic standards of the institution and ensure you are on the right track for admission as well.

### **Men's Golf Recruiting Guidelines for NCAA Divisions I, II, III and NAIA**

<p><b>TOP NCAA Division I Programs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Handicap: Scratch or better</li> <li>★ 18 hole average: 72 or under</li> <li>★ Top finishes at national tournaments (USGA; RCGA)</li> <li>★ Competes in state tournaments</li> <li>★ Competes in high ranking junior tour events</li> </ul>	<p><b>Division II Programs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Handicap: Equal to or &lt;2</li> <li>★ 18 hole average: 74 or under</li> <li>★ Competes in national tournaments (USGA; RCGA)</li> <li>★ Competes in state tournaments</li> <li>★ Competes in high ranking junior tour events</li> </ul> <p>**Some DII coaches require DI standards</p>	<p><b>TOP NAIA Programs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Handicap: Equal to or &lt;2</li> <li>★ 18 hole average: 74 or under</li> <li>★ Competes in national tournaments (USGA; RCGA)</li> <li>★ Competes in state tournaments</li> <li>★ Competes in high ranking junior tour events</li> </ul> <p>**Some NAIA coaches require DI standards</p>
<p><b>LOWER NCAA Division I Programs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Handicap: Equal to or &lt;1</li> <li>★ 18 hole average: 73 or under</li> <li>★ Competes in national and state tournaments (USGA; RCGA)</li> <li>★ Competes in high ranking junior tour events</li> </ul>	<p><b>Division III Programs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Handicap: Equal to or &lt;3</li> <li>★ 18 hole average: 75 or under</li> <li>★ Competes in state and local tournaments</li> </ul> <p>**Some DIII coaches require DI standards</p>	<p><b>LOWER NAIA Programs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Handicap: Equal to or &lt;3</li> <li>★ 18 hole average: 75 or under</li> <li>★ Competes in state and local tournaments</li> </ul> <p>**Some NAIA coaches require DI standards</p>

## Women's Golf Recruiting Guidelines for NCAA Divisions I, II, III and NAIA

<p>TOP NCAA Division I Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Handicap: Equal to or &lt;5</li> <li>❖ 18 hole average: 78 or under</li> <li>❖ Competes course yards 6000 +</li> <li>❖ Competes in national tournaments (USGA; RCGA)</li> <li>❖ Competes in state and local tournaments</li> </ul>	<p>Division II Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Handicap: Equal to or &lt;10</li> <li>❖ 18 hole average: 85 or under</li> <li>❖ Competes in state and local tournaments</li> </ul> <p>**Some DII coaches require DI standards</p>	<p>TOP NAIA Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Handicap: Equal to or &lt;10</li> <li>❖ 18 hole average: 85 or under</li> <li>❖ Competes in state and local tournaments</li> </ul>
<p>LOWER NCAA Division I Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Handicap: Equal to or &lt;8</li> <li>❖ 18 hole average: 82 or under</li> <li>❖ Competes in national tournaments (USGA; RCGA)</li> <li>❖ Competes in state and local tournaments</li> </ul>	<p>Division III Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Handicap: Equal to or &lt;15</li> <li>❖ 18 hole average: 95 or under</li> <li>❖ Competes in state and local tournaments</li> </ul> <p>**Some DIII coaches require DI standards</p>	<p>LOWER NAIA Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Handicap: Equal to or &lt;15</li> <li>❖ 18 hole average: 95 or under</li> <li>❖ Competes in state and local tournaments</li> </ul> <p>**Some NAIA coaches require DI standards</p>

As you can see, there are plenty of opportunities at four different and distinct levels to compete collegiately in golf. Each of these four playing environments can be found across the US with the NAIA programs reaching up into Canada at schools such as the University of Victoria, the University of British Columbia, and the University of Regina in Saskatchewan. Play Collegiate Golf suggests that you first review your “best fit” schools academically and then find the correct athletic opportunity based on your scoring average and tournament results. From there begin to recruit the coaches you want to talk to with a strong letter of interest, a golf-specific résumé, and a well-crafted swing video. These three recruiting tools along with properly selecting the correct playing division will help you create a solid base from which to develop your contacts at the collegiate level.

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.*

*For more information please visit [playcollegiategolf.com](http://playcollegiategolf.com)*

### College Survival Tip

**Learn from your Peers** - Your peers will be your teammates on the golf team. Older students will be able to answer questions on studying for the first Biology test, where the Career Center is on campus, and even who makes the best pizza in town. Take the time to talk with your teammates from the beginning; these students will be your support base during your four years at college and many will become lifelong friends.