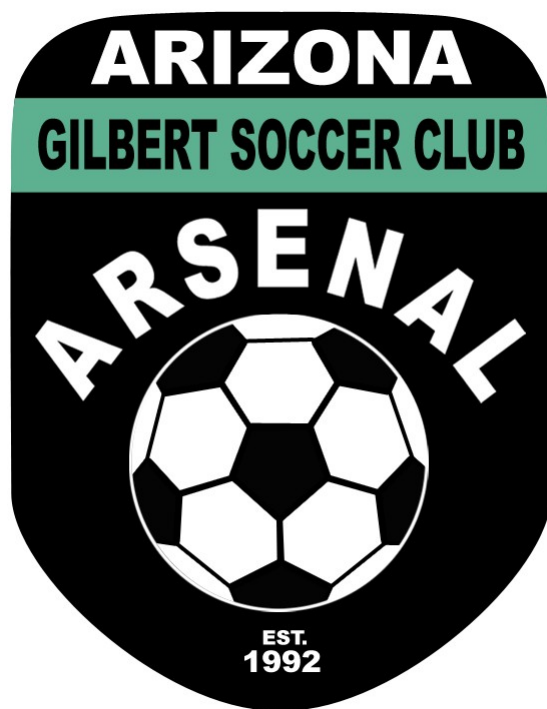


Gilbert Arsenal College Recruiting Information



The information included in this packet is taken from many different sources, including but not limited to the NCAA website, NJCAA website, SAT/ACT websites and others. The information is based primarily on the NCAA process as this is the most regulated of the colleges. There are different rules for Junior Colleges and NAIA colleges. It is prepared by Tim Barmettler and Matt Smith and includes opinions and suggestions for the college search and recruiting process, but does not represent all the answers you will need as you continue on through the recruiting process.

It also does not represent a guarantee of a scholarship!

Feel free to contact

**Tim as the Boys' College Liaison
or
Matt as the Girls' College Liaison**

with additional questions

Background Information

Before you begin...

This Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete will lead you through a number of important topics, including your academic eligibility, amateurism eligibility, registration with the NCAA Eligibility Center, financial aid and recruiting rules.

What is the NCAA?

The NCAA, or National Collegiate Athletic Association, was established in 1906 and serves as the athletics governing body for more than 1,280 colleges, universities, conferences and organizations. The national office is in Indianapolis, but the member colleges and universities develop the rules and guidelines for athletics eligibility and athletics competition for each of the three NCAA divisions. The NCAA is committed to the student-athlete and to governing competition in a fair, safe, inclusive and sportsmanlike manner.

The NCAA membership includes: ○ 326 active Division I members; ○ 281 active Division II members; and ○ 421 active Division III members.

One of the differences among the three divisions is that colleges and universities in Divisions I and II may offer athletics scholarships, while Division III colleges and universities may not.

What is the NCAA Eligibility Center?

The establishment of the NCAA Eligibility Center in Indianapolis, Indiana, was first announced by Dr. Myles Brand, president of the NCAA, in January 2007. Succeeding the current NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse in Iowa City, Iowa, the eligibility center will certify the academic and amateur credentials of all college-bound student-athletes who wish to compete in NCAA Division I or II athletics. To assist with this process, the eligibility center staff is eager to foster a cooperative environment of education and partnership with high schools, high school coaches and college-bound student-athletes. NCAA regulations are set by NCAA colleges and universities and require all incoming student-athletes to meet a prescribed level of academic performance while maintaining their amateur status before entering college. The eligibility center will collect data from high schools, sport-sanctioning bodies and, most importantly, high school student-athletes in order to make eligibility decisions. Ultimately, the individual student-athlete is responsible for achieving and protecting his or her eligibility status.

How to find answers to your questions

The answers to most questions can be found in this guide, at our Web site, www.ncaaclearinghouse.net, or by accessing the eligibility center's resource page at www.ncaa.org and then by clicking on "Information for College-Bound Student-Athletes" in the "My Links" section on the right-hand side of the page. If you have additional questions that cannot be answered by this guide or one of the Web sites mentioned above, please contact the eligibility center at the address and phone number below. In addition, if you are sending transcripts or additional information to the eligibility center, please use the following address.

NCAA Eligibility Center
Certification Processing
P.O. Box 7136
Indianapolis, Indiana 46207-7136
www.ncaaclearinghouse.net

877/262-1492 (customer service Monday – Friday,
8 a.m. – 6 p.m. Eastern time)
317/223-0700 (international callers)

When to call the NCAA

Please contact the NCAA when you have questions like these: What are the rules and regulations related to initial eligibility? What are the rules and regulations related to amateurism? What are the regulations about transferring from one college to another? What are the rules about athletics scholarships and how can they be reduced or canceled? I have a learning disability. Are there any other requirements for me?

NCAA
P.O. Box 6222
Indianapolis, IN 46206-6222
317/917-6222 (customer service Monday – Friday, noon – 4 p.m. Eastern time)

Questions About the Certification of Amateur Status

Who will be certified?

Every college-bound student-athlete, both domestic and international, who is attending an NCAA Division I or II institution for the first time, must be certified by the eligibility center. This includes college-bound student-athletes who are transferring from any two- or four-year institutions (including international institutions) that are not members of NCAA Division I or II. Thus, if an individual wants to participate in athletics at an NCAA Division I or II institution, the college-bound student-athlete must register with the eligibility center and submit the appropriate documentation to receive a certification decision.

Do transfer college-bound student-athletes also have to register with the eligibility center?

Every college-bound student-athlete who is attending an NCAA Division I or II institution full time for the first time must be certified by the eligibility center.

When should I register with the eligibility center?

Register for the eligibility center at the **beginning of your junior year** in high school. The athletics participation section should be updated regularly so that institutions recruiting you will have up to-date information about you. Be sure to send your high school transcript to the eligibility center after you have completed at least six semesters of high school coursework.

Is there a registration deadline?

No. However, college-bound student-athletes must be certified as an amateur before they may receive an athletics scholarship or practice or compete at a Division I or II institution.

Is there an additional fee to register with the eligibility center because of the additional questions on athletics participation?

No, there is only one fee to register for the eligibility center, which covers both the academic and amateurism certification. In addition, there is no reduction of the fee if the college-bound student-athlete does not need an academic certification (e.g., has already served an academic year in residence at a collegiate institution).

May I receive a fee waiver?

Yes, you are eligible for a waiver of the initial-eligibility certification fee if you have already received a fee waiver (not a state voucher) for the ACT or SAT. If you have not been granted a fee waiver by ACT or SAT, then you will NOT be eligible for a waiver of the certification fee. If you are seeking a waiver of the certification fee, you should confirm your eligibility with your high school counselor. Your high school counselor MUST submit an electronic fee waiver confirmation before your registration may be processed.

How often can I update my information?

You can update your information as often as you need until you request a final certification of your amateurism status. At that point, you will no longer be able to update your amateurism information.

Can I receive different amateurism certifications for Division I and Division II?

Yes. Divisions I and II have different rules, so it is possible that your certification status may be different for each division.

Who can help me complete the amateurism registration process?

Anyone can assist you in completing the process. However, when you have completed the registration process, YOU will be the only person allowed to submit the information to the eligibility center.

Will a paper copy of the amateurism form be available?

No, the registration form will only be available on the eligibility center Web site and must be completed online.

Questions Relating to the Athletics Participation Section of the Amateurism Certification Process

What if I enroll in an NCAA Division I or II institution and decide to participate in a sport other than one of the three I had listed on the amateurism certification registration form?

If you decide to participate in a sport other than the three you listed on the registration form, the institution in which you enroll will be responsible for certifying your amateurism status in that sport.

If I have been participating in events related to my sport for a significant period of time, what events do I need to list on the amateurism registration form?

You should include all events in which you participated, beginning with the ninth grade and thereafter.

Am I automatically ineligible if I violated the amateurism rules?

No. The eligibility center will review your athletics participation history. If there are violations of NCAA amateurism rules, the eligibility center may certify you with conditions, which must be

fulfilled before you are eligible for competition. The conditions will be set based on which rule was violated and the severity of the violation. Such conditions may include repayment of money or sitting out of competition for a specified number of games, or both. In some cases, the eligibility center may determine that the violations are such that permanent ineligibility for competition is the appropriate penalty.

Can I appeal a certification decision regarding my amateur status?

Yes. The NCAA has an appeals process in place if you choose to appeal the certification decision. You will need to work with an NCAA institution since all appeals must be filed by a member institution.

Division I

2008 and Later

If you enroll in a Division I college on or after August 1, 2008, and want to participate in athletics or receive an athletics scholarship during your first year, you must:

- o Graduate from high school;
- o Complete these 16 core courses:
 - 4 years of English
 - **3** years of math (algebra 1 or higher)
 - 2 years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if offered by your high school)
 - 1 extra year of English, math or natural or physical science
 - 2 years of social science
 - **4** years of extra core courses (from any category above, or foreign language, non doctrinal religion or philosophy);
- o Earn a minimum required grade-point average in your core courses; and
- o Earn a combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches your corecourse grade-point average and test score sliding scale – see your counselor or the website if this is a concern (for example, a 2.400 core-course grade-point average needs an 860 SAT).

Note: Computer science courses can be used as core courses only if your high school grants graduation credit in math or natural or physical science for them, and if the courses appear on your high school's core-course list as math or science courses.

Requirement to graduate with your high school class

Beginning in 2007 and thereafter, you must graduate from high school on schedule (in eight semesters) with your incoming ninth grade class. You may use **one** core course completed in the year after graduation (summer or academic year). You may complete the core course at a location other than the high school from which you graduated and may initially enroll full time at a collegiate institution at any time after completion of the core course.

Division II

2005 and Later

If you enroll in a Division II college and want to participate in athletics or receive an athletics scholarship during your first year, you must:

- o Graduate from high school;
- o Complete these 14 core courses:
 - 3 years of English
 - 2 years of math (algebra 1 or higher)
 - 2 years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if offered by your high school)
 - 2 extra years of English, math or natural or physical science

- 2 years of social science
- 3 years of extra core courses (from any category above, or foreign language, non-doctrinal religion or philosophy);
- o Earn a 2.000 grade-point average or better in your core courses; and
- o Earn a combined SAT score of 820 or an ACT sum score of 68.

There is no sliding scale in Division II.

Note: Computer science courses can be used as core courses only if your high school grants graduation credit in math or natural or physical science for them, and if the courses appear on your high school's core-course list as math or science courses

Remember

Meeting the NCAA academic rules does not guarantee your admissions into a college.

You must apply for admission.

ACT and SAT Tests

Test-Score Requirements

You must achieve the required score on an SAT or ACT test before your full-time college enrollment. You must do this whether you are a citizen of the United States or of a foreign country. You must take the national test given on one or more of the dates shown below.

SAT

Dates needed

ACT

Taking Tests More than Once

You may take the SAT or the ACT more than one time. If you take either test more than once, you may use your best sub score from different tests to meet the minimum test-score requirements.

Your test score will continue to be calculated using the math and verbal/critical reading subsections of the SAT and the math, science, English and reading subsections of the ACT. **The writing component of the ACT or SAT will not be used to determine your qualifier status.**

IMPORTANT CHANGE:

All SAT and ACT test scores **must** be reported to the eligibility center **directly** from the testing agency. Test scores will **not** be accepted if reported on a high school transcript.

When registering for the SAT or ACT, input the eligibility center code of **9999** to make sure the score is reported directly to the eligibility center.

Eligibility Center Registration

Complete the Student Release Form

To register with the eligibility center, you must complete the Student Release Form and amateurism questionnaire at the beginning of your junior year online and send the eligibility

center the registration fee (\$50 for domestic and \$75 for international students). This Student Release Form does two things:

- It authorizes each high school you have attended to send the eligibility center your transcript, test scores, proof of graduation and other necessary academic information.
- It authorizes the eligibility center to send your academic information to all colleges that request your eligibility status.

Online registration: The only method is to register online. Go online to www.ncaaclearinghouse.net. Select **Prospective Student-Athletes** and then register as a U.S. or international student. Complete the Student Release Form online and include your credit or debit card information to pay the fee. Then follow instructions to complete the transaction. Print a copy of your completed registration form and both Copy 1 and Copy 2 of the Transcript Release Form. Sign the Transcript.

Questions to Ask as You Consider Colleges

You may want to ask your prospective college coaches the following questions as you consider colleges.

Athletics

1. **What positions will I play on your team?** It is not always obvious. Most coaches want to be flexible, so you might not receive a definite answer.
2. **What other players may be competing at the same position?** The response could give you an idea of when you can expect to be a starter.
3. **Will I be redshirted my first year?** The school's policy on redshirting may impact you both athletically and academically.
4. **What expectations do you have for training and conditioning?** This will reveal the institution's commitment to a training and conditioning program.
5. **How would you best describe your coaching style?** Every coach has a particular style that involves different motivational techniques and discipline. You need to know if a coach's teaching style matches your learning style.
6. **When does the head coach's contract end? How long does the coach intend to stay?** The answer could be helpful. Do not make any assumptions about how long a coach will be at a school. If the coach leaves, does this change your mind about the school/program?
7. **What are preferred, invited and uninvited walk-on situations? How many do you expect to compete? How many earn a scholarship?** Situations vary from school to school.
8. **Who else are you recruiting for my position?** Coaches may consider other student-athletes for every position.

9. Is medical insurance required for my participation? Is it provided by the college? You may be required to provide proof of insurance.

10. If I am seriously injured while competing, who is responsible for my medical expenses? Different colleges have different policies.

11. What happens if I want to transfer to another school? You may not transfer without the permission of your current school's athletics administration. Ask how often coaches grant this privilege and ask for an example of a situation in which permission was not granted.

12. What other factors should I consider when choosing a college? Be realistic about your athletics ability and the type of athletics experience you would enjoy. Some student-athletes want to be part of a particular athletics program, even if that means little or no playing time. Other considerations include coaching staff and style. Of course, the ideal is to choose a college or university that will provide you with both the educational and athletics opportunities you want.

Academics

1. How good is the department in my major? How many students are in the department? What credentials do faculty members hold? What are graduates of the program doing after school?

2. What percentage of players on scholarship graduate? The response will suggest the school's commitment to academics. You might want to ask two follow-up questions:

- a. What percentage of incoming students eventually graduate?
- b. What is the current team's grade-point average?

3. What academic support programs are available to student-athletes? Look for a college that will help you become a better student.

4. If I have a diagnosed and documented disability, what kind of academic services are available? Special academic services may help you achieve your academic goals.

5. How many credit hours should I take in season and out of season? It is important to determine how many credit hours are required for your degree and what pace you will follow to obtain that degree.

6. Are there restrictions in scheduling classes around practice? NCAA rules prevent you from missing class for practice.

7. Is summer school available? If I need to take summer school, will it be paid for by the college? You may need to take summer school to meet academic and/or graduation requirements.

College Life

1. What is a typical day for a student-athlete? The answer will give you a good idea of how much time is spent in class, practice, study and travel. It also will give you a good indication of what coaches expect.

2. **What are the residence halls like?** The response should give you a hint of how comfortable you would be in your room, study areas, community bathrooms and at the laundry facilities. Also ask about the number of students in a room, co-ed dorms and the rules governing life in the residence halls.

3. **Must student-athletes live on campus?** If “yes,” ask about exceptions.

Financial Aid

1. **How much financial aid is available for both the academic year and summer school? What does your scholarship cover?**

2. **How long does my scholarship last?** Most people think a “full ride” is good for four years, but athletics financial aid is available on a one-year, renewable basis.

3. **What are my opportunities for employment while I am a student?** Find out if you can be employed in season, out of season or during vacation periods.

4. **Exactly how much will the athletics scholarship be? What will and will not be covered?** It is important to understand what college expenses your family is responsible for so you can arrange to pay those. Educational expenses can be paid with student loans and government grants, but it takes time to apply for them. Find out early so you can get something lined up.

5. **Am I eligible for additional financial aid? Are there any restrictions?** Sometimes a student-athlete cannot accept a certain type of scholarship because of NCAA limitations. If you will be receiving other scholarships, let the coach and financial aid officer know so they can determine if you may accept additional dollars.

6. **Who is financially responsible if I am injured while competing?** You need to understand your financial obligations if you suffer an injury while participating in athletics.

7. **Under what circumstances would my scholarship be reduced or canceled?** Coaches should be able to give you some idea of how players are evaluated from year to year and how these decisions are made. The institution may have a policy governing renewal of athletics aid. Ask if such a policy exists and read it.

8. **Are there academic criteria tied to maintaining the scholarship?** Some institutions add academic requirements to scholarships (e.g., minimum grade-point average).

9. **What scholarship money is available after eligibility is exhausted to help me complete my degree?** It may take longer than four years to complete a college degree program. Some colleges assist student-athletes financially as they complete their degrees. Ask how such aid is awarded. You may have to work with the team or in the athletics department to qualify for this aid.

10. **What scholarship money is available if I suffer an athletics career-ending injury?** Not every institution continues to provide an athletics scholarship to a student-athlete who can no longer compete because of a career-ending injury.

11. **Will my scholarship be maintained if there is a change in coaches?** A coach may not be able to answer this, but the athletics director may.

National Letter of Intent

The National Letter of Intent (NLI) is a voluntary program administered by the NCAA Eligibility Center. By signing an NLI, your son or daughter agrees to attend the institution for one academic year. In exchange, that institution must provide athletics financial aid for one academic year. Restrictions are contained in the NLI itself. Read them carefully. These restrictions may affect your son's or daughter's eligibility. If you have questions about the National Letter of Intent, visit the NLI Web site at www.national-letter.org or call 317/223-0706.

Recruiting Regulations

Introduction

College coaches (Division I, II and III) must follow the rules outlined in this section. You are expected to follow these rules as well.

Recruiting Terms

Contact. A contact occurs any time a coach has any face-to-face contact with you or your parents off the college's campus and says more than hello. A contact also occurs if a coach has any contact with you or your parents at your high school or any location where you are competing or practicing.

Contact period (not used in soccer). During this time, a college coach may have in person contact with you and/or your parents on or off the college's campus. The coach may also watch you play or visit your high school. You and your parents may visit a college campus and the coach may write and telephone you during this period.

Dead period (not used in soccer). The college coach may not have any in-person contact with you or your parents at any time in the dead period. The coach may write and telephone you or your parents during this time.

Evaluation. An evaluation is an activity by a coach to evaluate your academic or athletics ability. This would include visiting your high school or watching you practice or compete.

Evaluation period. The college coach may watch you play or visit your high school, but cannot have any in-person conversations with you or your parents off the college's campus. You and your parents can visit a college campus during this period. A coach may write and telephone you or your parents during this time.

Official visit. Any visit to a college campus by you and your parents paid for by the college. The college may pay the following expenses:

- Your transportation to and from the college;

- Room and meals (three per day) while you are visiting the college; and
- Reasonable entertainment expenses, including three complimentary admissions to a home athletics contest.

Before a college may invite you on an official visit, you will have to provide the college with a copy of your high school transcript (Division I only) and SAT, ACT or PLAN score and register with the NCAA Eligibility Center.

Prospective student-athlete. You become a “prospective student-athlete” when:

- You start ninth-grade classes; or
- Before your ninth-grade year, a college gives you, your relatives or your friends any financial aid or other benefits that the college does not provide to students generally.

Quiet period (not used in soccer). The college coach may not have any in-person contact with you or your parents off the college's campus. The coach may not watch you play or visit your high school during this period. You and your parents may visit a college campus during this time. A coach may write or telephone you or your parents during this time.

Unofficial visit. Any visit by you and your parents to a college campus paid for by you or your parents. The only expense you may receive from the college is three complimentary admissions to a home athletics contest. You may make as many unofficial visits as you like and may take those visits at any time. The only time you cannot talk with a coach during an unofficial visit is during a dead period.

Verbal commitment. This phrase is used to describe a college bound student-athlete's commitment to a school before he or she signs (or is able to sign) a National Letter of Intent. A college bound student-athlete can announce a verbal commitment at any time. While verbal commitments have become very popular for both college-bound student-athletes and coaches, this "commitment" is NOT binding on either the college-bound student-athlete or the school. Only the signing of the National Letter of Intent accompanied by a financial aid agreement is binding on both parties.

Summary of recruiting rules for soccer—Division I

Sophomore Year

Recruiting materials - You may receive brochures for camps and questionnaires.

Telephone - You may make calls to coach at your expense only. College coach cannot call you.

Off-campus contact – None Allowed

Official visit - None Allowed

Unofficial visit - You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits.

Junior Year

Recruiting materials - You may begin receiving September 1 of junior year.

Telephone - You may make calls to the coach at your expense. **College coaches may call you** once per week starting July 1 after your junior year.

Off-campus contact - Allowed starting July 1 after your junior year.

Official visit - None allowed.

Unofficial visit - You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits.

Senior Year

Recruiting materials - Allowed

Telephone - You may make calls to the coach at your expense. **College coaches may call you** once per week after July 1st.

Off-campus contact - Allowed

Official visit - Allowed beginning opening day of classes your senior year. You are limited to one official visit per college up to a maximum of five official visits to Divisions I and II colleges.

Unofficial visit - You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits.

Evaluations and Contacts - Up to seven times during your senior year.

How often can a coach see me or talk to me off the college's campus - A college coach may contact you or your parents/legal guardians not more than three times during your senior year.

Divisions II and III

Recruiting materials

II - A coach may begin sending you printed recruiting materials September 1 of your junior year in high school.

III - You may receive printed materials any time.

Telephone calls

II - A college coach may call you once per week beginning June 15 between your junior and senior year. You may make calls to the coach at your expense.

III - No limit on number of calls or when they can be made by the college coach. You may make calls to the coach at your expense.

Off-campus contact

II - A college coach can have contact with you or your parents/legal guardians off the college's campus beginning June 15 after your junior year. A college coach is limited to three in person contacts off campus.

III- A college coach may begin to have contact with you and your parents/legal guardians off the college's campus after your junior year.

Unofficial visits

II and III - You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits any time.

Official visits

II - You may make official visits starting the opening day of classes your senior year. You may make only one official visit per college and up to a maximum of five official visits to Divisions I and II colleges.

III - You may make official visits starting the opening day of classes your senior year. You may make only one official visit per college.

What you have to do in the recruiting process

**All Years (Based primarily on the NCAA process)
NAIA or Junior Colleges are covered by different rules ... far less restrictions.**

Before Tournaments

About a month before, visit the tournament website and look for the section that shows college coaches who have registered to attend. Sometimes only your club coach/manager will have access to this, let them know if you can't find it. If a tournament does not have a list, often it is because there will only be a few coaches attending. Sometimes tournaments refer to themselves as college showcases, a true showcase has no semifinals or finals, however, often what tournaments mean is they are specializing in getting coaches there to see your players. Once you have found this list, a player should begin contacting, usually by email, coaches from schools the player might be interested in attending. Do yourselves a favor and the coach a favor and write them only if you might be interested. Coaches often receive hundreds of emails such as this for one tournament. Take the time to tell them why you might be interested in their school and soccer program. Two hundred other kids told them their team is great and their school is neat ... find something special like the size of the school, that they have a player from Arizona, that they offer a major you like, etc. Every week until the tournament, email those same coaches again and add any new colleges that have registered that you might be interested in. As soon as you have your game schedule for the tournament email them that info. Make sure to tell them your jersey number and that our uniforms are black and teal or white and teal. Tell them to look for the teal ... it stands out and is easy for them to find.

Freshman Year

It is not too early to start. The way the recruiting process has gone, players are committing earlier and earlier. Do not panic, unless you are on the national team or regional team for ODP, you will probably have some time, but you need to begin showing that interest to coaches. Many are not interested in looking yet, but it doesn't hurt to get your team and name on the radar already. Contact the coaches before tournaments, but otherwise your focus should be on individual player development. This is the year to work with the ball on your own and not just rely on practice to make you better. Coaches will be looking at your skills for the next three years, make sure they will be impressed.

Sophomore Year

This year is about being seen, contacting coaches and being seen again. It is extremely important to give coaches the opportunity to see you play as much as possible as they are balancing signing their next class, finalizing the class two years out and identifying the prospects they want to recruit in your grade. Plan on attending a couple of college soccer camps during the summer after your sophomore year. Coaches that have watched you play may send you info about their camps. This is sometimes a money making ploy and sometimes genuine interest, either way going to a camp is a chance for you to impress the coach over a short period of time, but far more thoroughly than in a single game observation. Some college camps will be run just by that college's coaching staff, some will be larger and have additional college coaches there. If you have questions about the camp, you can always call a coach, just remember that if you leave a message, they cannot call you back. Try again later.

Junior Year

Important date – September 1st of your junior year is when a coach may send you recruiting materials (Divisions I and II). They still cannot call you (Divisions I and II) until July 1st (Division I) and June 15th (Division II) after your junior year. If you receive recruiting materials in the mail, go online and take a look at the college. Do this even if you have never heard of the college. If you have no interest whatsoever in the college, contact the coach and let them know. This courtesy might help you later since the coach might change schools before the recruiting process ends. If you have an interest, return any questionnaires and email or call the coach and thank them for their interest in you. Plan on attending a couple or more (if economically feasible) college camps during the summer. If a college is very interested, they might invite or pass the word through a coach that they would like you to take an unofficial visit to their campus. They cannot pay for this, but it usually means they are very interested. While on campus, you can meet with the coach and they can discuss anything with you, including scholarships. After these meetings a player can “unofficially” commit. This commitment is not binding and relies on the trustworthiness of the coach and player. You should not do this lightly. Make sure it is what you want. Almost all

coaches will honor these commitments because it is bad business to not honor oral commitments.

Senior Year

Important Dates – June 15th (Division II) and July 1st (Division I) is when a coach can call you. Only once per week, but you may still call them as much as you want. After the first day of school, you may make an official visit to a college. You may do this up to 5 times (once per school) to a Division I or II college. Many of the top college programs have wrapped up their recruiting before the senior year, but the vast majority of programs are still in the process. Plan on visiting early. Arizona has an advantage because we start our school year so early, so you can take an official in August when many other states are still on summer vacation. Take advantage of this.

Signing Day

February for NCAA institutions
December 1st for NJCAA schools

Scholarship Information

Soccer is an equivalency sport, unlike football and basketball. Often people will talk about how a football player or basketball player got a “full ride”. All scholarships in these sports are the same amount at any particular college. Soccer has a number of scholarships and the coach will offer a percentage up to 100%. Most scholarships are not 100% because a coach must split their scholarship total (up to 14 at the Division I level) among all players, perhaps as many as 30 total players. What is important is to evaluate the amount you will have to pay, not the % you get. Higher percentages might be offered to an out of state player at a state college in order to offset the higher cost for that player. Coaches handle these discussions in different ways, some might be interested in what others have offered, some might be interested in what you can afford and some might make their decision on what to offer totally independent of your needs focusing instead on their team’s needs.

Remember you are not buying or selling a used car. Open conversation is appropriate, bartering is probably not.