



The College Baseball Recruiting Process

A Guide for Players and Parents

Introduction: The Spikes Baseball Club is committed to helping our players achieve their individual goals of playing college baseball. To that end, we have conducted extensive research and have designed a program to help our high-school-age players achieve this objective. Below, please find an outline of steps for players and their families to review and implement. The steps are designed to insure our players' eligibility and to enhance each player's ability to be recruited to play collegiate baseball.

Overview: According to our research, there are roughly fifteen hundred college baseball programs in the United States. The breakdown by division is 299 NCAA Division I, 274 NCAA Division II, 389 NCAA Division III, 212 NAIA, 189 NJCAA Division I and 129 NJCAA Division II. Ohio itself boasts approximately 50 college baseball programs and Ohio's five contiguous states add nearly an additional 200; Pennsylvania alone offers more than 80. Close by (but not contiguous) New York state adds as many as Pennsylvania.

Be Realistic: The NCAA counsels that players must be willing to make and accept an honest evaluation of their talent and skill level. Keeping this in mind, the NCAA warns that for most student athletes, it is a mistake to focus only on the largest and most prominent schools. They recommend that players not get caught up in the glamour of NCAA Division I athletics at the expense of other opportunities that may present themselves at the Division II, III or NAIA level. Most importantly, the NCAA and NAIA agree that players must remember to put academics and scholarship above athletics. A player's education should come first as it is very likely to have a far greater impact on his quality of life as he eventually finishes school and enters the workforce.

Take Action: With the above information in mind, the Spikes recommend that high-school-age members of our Spikes family take the following steps:

Freshman Year

1. As an incoming freshman, review your schedule with your guidance counselor.
2. Make your guidance counselor aware that you hope to pursue collegiate athletics.
3. Commit yourself to taking school seriously and to achieving the best possible grades.
4. Confirm that you will take the proper courses to meet NCAA eligibility for the next year.
5. Begin the process of developing a resume of your academic and athletic accomplishments.
6. Build your physical strength through a professionally-supervised weight training program.
7. Continue to work hard at improving your baseball ability by developing your speed, agility and core strength as well as baseball specific skills and knowledge by taking lessons from qualified instructors, attending skill-specific camps and playing at an appropriately-competitive level.

Sophomore Year

1. Prepare for and take the PSAT in the fall when it is first offered.
2. Continue to take school seriously and achieve the best possible grades.
3. Meet with your coach(s) to make him/her aware of your desire to play college baseball.
4. Confirm that you will take the proper courses to meet NCAA eligibility for the next year.
5. Continue to build your academic and athletic resume of participation and accomplishments.
6. Build your physical strength through a professionally-supervised weight training program.
7. Consider attending a PBR Showcase event to have your PBR Profile created and published.
8. Begin to explore your career interests with your parents, teachers and school counselors.
9. Begin a college search with your parents, school counselors or online via multiple websites.
10. Conduct research on appropriate NCAA, NAIA and NJCAA colleges and universities.
11. Research and consider attending baseball camps at schools in which you may have an interest.
12. Continue to work hard at improving your baseball ability by developing your speed, agility and core strength as well as baseball specific skills and knowledge by taking lessons from qualified instructors, attending skill-specific camps and playing at an appropriately-competitive level.

Junior Year

1. Continue to take school seriously and achieve the best possible grades.
2. Again, make your high school counselor aware that you hope to pursue collegiate athletics.
3. Confirm that you are enrolled in the proper courses to meet NCAA eligibility in your senior year.
4. Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at www.eligibilitycenter.org.
5. If interested in an NAIA school, Register with the NAIA Eligibility Center at www.PlayNAIA.org.
6. Take the PSAT when it is first offered in the fall; then prepare for and take the SAT/ACT afterward.
7. Discuss and explore your career interests with your parents, teachers and school counselors.
8. Develop a college search criteria that includes fields of study, admissions standards, tuition costs, level of competitive play and distance from home.
9. Use Peterson's Guide (www.petersons.com) to gather in-depth information on select schools.
 - a. Research fields of study (courses/degrees suitable to your intended career path).
 - b. Review academic requirements (average SAT/ACT scores, GPA's, acceptance rates).
 - c. Consider the expenses of attending including tuition, fees, room & board, travel, etc.
 - d. Remember that costs may be reduced by academic and/or sports scholarships and financial aid.
10. Create a target list of schools that you think might be appropriate.
 - a. Review the list with your parents, school counselor and baseball coaches.
 - b. Study the makeup of the teams' current rosters and their recruiting tendencies.
 - c. Send letters indicating your interest to the head baseball coaches of all the schools on your list.
 - d. Find out if your target programs conduct prospect camps and request to attend.
 - e. Remember to respond to all schools and coaches that contact you.
11. Make an unlimited number of unofficial visits to schools that you may have an interest in attending.
12. Attend local college camps by yourself or with teammates to gain experience and to get exposure.
13. Attend a Prep Baseball Report (PBR) Showcase event this winter in order to create a PBR Profile.

14. Work with your Spikes' coaches to create a prospect profile that may be sent to select college coaches.
15. Request that your school counselor send your high school transcript to the NCAA/NAIA Eligibility Center(s) after you have completed at least six semesters of high school coursework.
16. Continue to work hard at improving your baseball ability by developing your speed, agility and core strength as well as baseball specific skills and knowledge by taking lessons from qualified instructors, attending skill-specific camps and playing at an appropriately-competitive level.

Senior Year

Assuming that the above steps have been followed, we recommend that our players take the following steps during their senior year:

1. If necessary, retake the appropriate college admissions test (SAT/ACT).
2. Confirm that you have passed all the classes required for NCAA eligibility.
3. Continue to discuss with your coaches the level/schools at which you might be best suited to play.
4. Update your PBR Profile, academic/athletic resume and the NCAA Eligibility Center.
5. Narrow your choices by selecting schools in 3 categories based on your athletic/academic ability:
 - a. Schools you consider to be a "reach."
 - b. Schools you consider to be a "good fit."
 - c. Schools you consider to be a "backup plan."
6. Send your college applications to your target and backup schools.
7. If and when invited, make official visits to no more than five schools that you would like to attend.
8. Review the results of your applications and offers (if any) and choose your school.
9. With the help of your parents and school counselors, research financial aid resources.
10. Continue to work hard at improving your baseball ability by developing your speed, agility and core strength as well as baseball specific skills and knowledge by taking lessons from qualified instructors, attending skill-specific camps and playing at an appropriately-competitive level; i.e., prepare to contribute to your team and to become the best college athlete possible.