VALOR SOCCER
COLLEGE SOCCER ANNUAL CHECKLIST

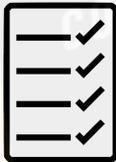**If you wait for a college coach to tap you on the shoulder and hand you a scholarship… you will be waiting forever. You need a plan. There are boxes you need to check, starting from a player's freshman year.**

IT'S OK TO START LATE OR FALL BEHIND… BUT ONLY IF YOU CATCH UP!

FRESHMAN YEAR

- Concern yourself far more with your academics (grades) than catching the attention of a college coach.
- Create a 'top 20' list of colleges based as much on location and academic interests as soccer. This list should include schools from all levels (NCAA D1-D3, NAIA).
- Email any college coaches of schools you are interested in who are attending the tournament in which you play. - **MOST WILL NOT REPLY DUE TO RECRUITING GUIDELINES.**
- Consider attending 1 or 2 college ID camps.

SOPHOMORE YEAR

- Your GPA must be at least 2.2 to be eligible for NCAA D1 or D2 and 2.0 for the NAIA but you should strive to keep your GPA above 3.5 to be considered by most schools.
- Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center and Play NAIA eligibility center.
- Pare your 'top 20' list to a 'top 15' list and register as a 'prospective recruit' on the schools' athletic web sites.
- Email any college coaches of schools you are interested in who are attending the tournament in which you play. - **MOST WILL NOT REPLY DUE TO RECRUITING GUIDELINES AND PRIORITIES ON OLDER CLASSES.**
- Attend 2 or 3 ID camps of schools you are most interested in if possible (ideally of different levels).
- Begin compiling video highlights from multiple matches to create a reel for online posting.
- Take unofficial visits to any schools you are interested in to see the campus and possibly watch the team play in person.

JUNIOR YEAR

- Check with your counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate with the required number of NCAA approved courses.
- Take the ACT and/or SAT and submit your scores to the NCAA.
- Pare your 'top 15' list to a 'top 10' list and be sure to include schools whose coaches you know have watched you play.
- Email any college coaches of schools you are interested in who are attending the tournament in which you play. - **MOST COACHES ARE NOW ALLOWED TO REPLY AND MAY REACH OUT TO YOU!**
- Attend 2 or 3 ID camps of schools you are most interested in if possible (ideally of different levels).
- Create a highlight video from multiple matches and post online. Write emails to coaches on your 'top 10' list (and perhaps more) sharing the link to your video and any updates about your soccer achievements and status.
- Take unofficial visits to any schools you are interested in to see the campus and possibly watch the team play in person.
- Ask your coach(es) to reach out to any programs you are very interested in and/or write a letter of reference for you to distribute.

SENIOR YEAR

- Complete NCAA core courses and take the ACT and/or SAT again if necessary.
- Your academic record and grades still matter and the higher your GPA and test scores the easier it is for a soccer program to get you accepted to their school.
- Start the college application process and apply to any schools that have contacted you and you are interested in.
- Pare your 'top 10' list to a 'top 5' list and be sure to include or ADD schools whose coaches have expressed interest in you.
- Attend 1 or 2 ID camps of the specific schools you are interested in and have expressed interest in you.
- Update your highlight video (or create a new one) from multiple matches and write emails to coaches on your 'top 5' list sharing the link to your video and any updates about your soccer achievements and status.
- Take official recruiting visits to any schools who provide the opportunity.
- **Communication with any college coach in any form is now allowed. If you have not decided on what school to attend you should be PROACTIVE and reach out to any programs that seem to be a legitimate possibility. Emails, phone calls, texts, etc. And you should reply to all those who contact you, even if it's a program that reaches out to you unexpectedly.**