



"creating academic and athletic success"

W. J. Bruce Fleming, EdD
Founder/Consultant

1725 Babington Way
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464
T: 843.609.6201
E: bruce@playcollegiategolf.com
W: playcollegiategolf.com

The Recruiting Process: Getting Noticed by College Golf Coaches

Understanding the NCAA recruiting process improves your child's scholarship opportunities for college golf.

The recruiting process for golf is different in comparison to other high school sports. For example, college football programs have recruiting coordinators and large budgets while college golf coaches are often the recruiting coordinator and have small budgets. Therefore, it is up to you to get noticed by college coaches and become a targeted recruit. You will need to send coaches a letter of interest, a golf-specific résumé, and a short swing video. A strong letter of interest is imperative because it serves as your first introduction to a potential coach and scholarship. Send your letter and résumé to selected coaches electronically, indicating in the email your plan on following up with him or her in the near future. Ensure you contact the coach within one week of sending your information. The coach will have looked at your materials and will be impressed with your initiative; your call also indicates your interest in his or her golf program. Instantly, this gives you an advantage over other players being recruited by that coach. Remember, you have to *recruit* a program just as much as they need to *recruit* you!

When recruiting players, coaches are looking at two specific things. First, they look at tournament scoring averages, paying close attention to improvement from year to year. High school tournament scores are usually less important than regular tournaments though scores from state tournaments are often closely scrutinized. State tournament scores are more important because they are 18 hole rounds and usually 36 hole or 54 hole tournaments, similar to college golf. Of course, every golf coach is different. When sending your materials to the coach electronically ask what he or she focuses on when reviewing a player's résumé. It is a great way to open up communication lines. Also, have an annual tournament plan so that you can inform the coach where you may be playing. Second, coaches review the player's grades and SAT or ACT scores. Colleges have specific admission policies and if your grades and test scores prevent you from *realistically* being admitted to the institution a coach may not recruit you.

Tournament scoring averages are an important consideration. For boys, top 25 Division I schools are looking for a 72 average. Those interested in playing at a mid-level Division I golf program should have a 75 average or better. Lower tier Division I schools and most Division II schools expect a scoring average of 75 – 80. Division III programs would be interested in players scoring in the 75 – 85 range depending on the school. For girls, the story is much different. A scoring average of 85 – 90 will draw interest from Division I programs. The top ranked programs demand a scoring average of 80 and lower, however. Use this information wisely as you research potential schools.

As you begin the recruiting process, Play Collegiate Golf prescribes first determining your academic goals and interests. Finding an athletic link is important; however, it is more important to place yourself in an academic environment in which you will be successful and *then* find the athletic match that best suits your game. Think about what you are interested in or enjoy studying currently or what you don't want to study or find difficult at your high school. These interests may guide you toward an academic major and career. Matching these academic interests to specific schools where you can compete regularly is the goal. You may also ask yourself "If golf weren't in the equation, where would I want to attend college?" With the information gathered from these brainstorm sessions you can begin matching your academic interests with institutions where you can play collegiate golf.



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As you begin your search match your scores and the scores of the college golf programs in which you have an interest, and see where your game fits. If you are on the bubble whether you could play for that team or end up spending four years on the sidelines, contact the coach. Ask yourself, "Do I want to play sparingly, but be at a strong golf program? Or, am I willing to go to another school and make them better by competing more often?" Success in golf is dependent on the individual improving; you improve through constant practice and competition. Therefore, research schools that will provide *both* enriching academics *and* opportunities for athletic success. In the long run, this will make your college experience much more enjoyable.

During the recruiting process you need to ensure coaches know that you are a prospective student-athlete. Creating a strong introduction letter, golf specific résumé, and a swing video are keys to successfully beginning the recruiting process. Constantly updating coaches of your progress is an integral part of the process as well. Do not expect coaches to follow your every tournament. They are recruiting other players and you need to make every effort to keep them up to date about your successes. Again, you need to *recruit* the coaches just as much as they need to *recruit* you! And, if you have a poor performance or poor round, make the effort to email the coach and explain what you learned during the playing process. Lastly, college golf coaches must follow NCAA rules throughout the recruiting process. Prospective student-athletes are expected to follow these rules as well.

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

Establishing Goals for Success in the Classroom and on the Golf Course

College Survival Tip

Imagine for a minute that you were asked to run a race without a finish line. That would be difficult, right? And, trying to accomplish anything in college, athletics, or life is just as difficult if you do not have goals to work toward. Goals can be academic (i.e. grades), athletic (i.e. improved putting), or social (i.e. make new friends) as well as other forms of self-improvement. Develop short-term and long-term goals each semester, keeping in mind the following:

- Goals should be specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time-bound (SMART);
- Write your goals down;
- Post your goals where you will see them daily;
- Reevaluate your goals periodically such as at mid-term and revise where necessary;
- Reward yourself for accomplishing your goals.

