



NCAA Division I and II Recruiting Timelines for Junior Golfers

Knowledge about important dates and rules will help the high school golfer throughout the recruiting process.

When a junior golfer enters the ninth grade he or she becomes a “Prospective Student Athlete.” Understanding what a PSA can or cannot do and what coaches may or may not do based on the student’s high school year will help families more easily navigate the recruiting process. Additionally, by understanding recruiting timelines for college golf, families are able to organize their approach and best utilize their resources to ensure the junior golfer is on track toward selecting the “best fit” institution both academically and athletically. Though this discussion focuses on the recruiting timelines for Division I and Division II golf, please remember that Division III, NAIA, and NJCAA golf programs have their own rules which should be investigated thoroughly.

Understanding recruiting timelines of each division will be quite advantageous as your family begins the recruiting process. For example, coaches may not call a PSA before July 1 of the Junior year, but they may reply to an email. Coaches can not offer an official visit until the Senior year, but you can request an on-campus meeting while on an unofficial visit. Unofficial visits provide an opportunity to ask pertinent recruiting questions such as what tournaments the coach thinks you should play, his or her coaching philosophy, how he or she selects players for tournament play, and whether or not your golf game matches up to his or her team’s level of competition.

Begin the recruiting process in the freshmen or sophomore year in high school, selecting “best fit” schools that meet academic and athletic goals of the junior golfer. Once you have a list of 10 - 12 schools, research their first year programs, residence life department, and support centers for academics, career exploration, and advising. Are your grades compatible with the entrance requirements of the institution? Then, look at the golf program. Do your current scores resonate with those on the program’s website? Looking at the team roster, are you the ‘right fit’ for the golf coach? This research will give you a snapshot view of the institution and the golf program, allowing you to better direct your recruiting research in selecting appropriate schools that you want to target more aggressively.

Summary of NCAA Division I Recruiting Timelines for Junior Golfers in High School	
Freshman & Sophomore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ May receive brochures for camps and prospective student athlete questionnaires ✓ May contact (phone or email) college golf coach, but coach may not call you or return voice mails ✓ May make an unlimited number of unofficial visits to college campuses ✓ No official campus visits or off-campus contact with college golf coach is allowed
Juniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ May begin receiving recruiting materials September 1 ✓ May contact (phone or email) college golf coach and coach may call you starting July 1 ✓ May make an unlimited number of unofficial visits to college campuses ✓ No official campus visits allowed
Seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ May contact (phone or email) college golf coach and coach may contact you once per week ✓ May make an unlimited number of unofficial visits to college campuses ✓ Official campus visits are allowed beginning opening day of classes your senior year ✓ Limited to one official campus visit per school and a maximum of five official visits to DI and DII schools ✓ Up to seven evaluations and contacts per year

The questions in the previous paragraph will provide pertinent information to direct your college golf search along a successful path. You do not want to spend time only to receive minimal interest because your academic or athletic abilities were not a strong match with the golf programs you researched. By understanding the recruiting timelines and starting early in the process you will have an appropriate amount of information available to you as you reach the critical Senior year and signing periods in November and April. This information should also direct you to programs at different collegiate levels. Many junior golfers look only at Division I programs and fail to realize that Division II golf is an excellent avenue for successfully accomplishing academic and athletic goals. Lastly, do not forget about Division III, NAIA, and the NJCAA golf programs. Determine where your golf game is a “best fit” and begin investigating the recruiting timelines and rules of that division. You may be very surprised at what you find as golf provides excellent competition at many levels - find the one that fits you!

Summary of NCAA Division II Recruiting Timelines for Junior Golfers in High School	
All High School Levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ May receive printed recruiting materials September 1 of your Junior year ✓ May receive calls from coach once per week beginning June 15 after your Junior year ✓ College coach may contact with you off-campus beginning June 15 after your Junior year ✓ College coach is limited to three in-person contacts off-campus ✓ May make an unlimited number of unofficial visits ✓ Official campus visits are allowed beginning opening day of classes your senior year ✓ Limited to one official campus visit per school and a maximum of five official visits to DI and DII schools

Understanding recruiting timelines and processes will only enhance the recruiting experience as well as provide less stress and frustration. Players need to recruit coaches just as much as coaches need to recruit players. Players also need to realize that there are different recruiting timelines for each specific division they are interested in; this knowledge will only help them in the long run. The recruiting process is a challenging environment, but knowing the rules that a coach and a PSA must operate within will make it more easily navigable and much more enjoyable.

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

Manage Your Time Wisely for Success in the Classroom and at the Golf Course

College Survival Tip



Good time management is critical to success in both college and athletics. It is imperative to career development and success in life after college. Formulate your personal time management style by identifying your greatest time-wasters and examining ways to reduce them.

- Study in blocks of one hour with 10 minute breaks to avoid marathon sessions.
- Utilize daytime hours for tasks that require great concentration.
- Schedule time before class to review assigned readings and after class to review notes.
- Keep a large calendar with all academic, social, and athletic commitments.
- Double your time estimates for assignments, and start well in advance of due dates.