

## Tampa Bay United College Process

- **Choosing A College**
  - Bigger is not necessarily better, make sure the school fits student-athlete academically.
  - NCAA Division I – most are fully funded.(9.9 men / 14 athletic scholarships women is max)
  - NCAA Division II – few are fully funded (9 athletic scholarships is max)
  - NCAA Division III – most do not have athletic scholarship money
  - NAIA Schools – 860 SAT in NAIA vs. 820 SAT required in NCAA to be eligible
  - Junior Colleges – get AA degree then transfer to school of choice in junior year if D1. At D2 schools you can transfer after 1 year provided you have 24 transferable credits.
  - Core Requirements 16 D1, 16 D2. Find out from your guidance counselors at your HS to make sure you are taking the right courses to make sure you have all core requirements for college.
- **Getting Noticed**
  - ODP – State, Regional, National Levels. (State, National Training Centers US Soccer & SYL)
  - Top Tournaments – Outside and in the target region, college showcases.
  - League Play – USYS State, Regional, National – ECNL, Development Academy. Be sure league is preparing YOU for the next level.
  - Summer & College ID Camps – if you like a school, go to their College ID & residential camps in the summer of your sophomore/ junior/senior year of high school. Can give you a quick idea of the campus & quality of staff in the program. These allow the coaches to see you in a “training setting” which a lot of times will market you better. Be cautious of numbers at camps as it is very tough for coaches to evaluate players with huge numbers at camps (200-700 players)
  - Club - Is your club getting to top tournaments & showcases, do you have a history of placing players in college programs – how strong are your older ages at the current club you are at?
  - Recruiting services – *if they can provide video service it may be beneficial*). What they cannot answer is the player commitment to training, character and work ethic as most recruiting services do not see them play on a day to day basis. Do not rely solely on a recruiting service, the player needs to be proactive in getting their information out and responding to emails/calls.
- **Sending the Package**
  - The cover-letter – take the time to address the coach by correct name and do not send out 1 letter to 50/100 coaches. Keep email address professional – [partyboyjohn@gmail.com](mailto:partyboyjohn@gmail.com) may sound cool with your friends but it is not cool or professional to college coaches.
  - The resume – only include positive honors, for example if you run the 40 yard dash in 9 seconds, you may want to leave that off – if scored 26 goals with your High School team it may be something you want added. Top level tournaments and college showcases need to be listed started at freshman year of HS.

- The video – have one with short clips & also show a full game. Coaches want to see what players do in situations, show full view of game if possible. Be careful with case package & music on the video – keep it professional and make sure music is something that is professional.
- Letters of recommendation – make sure they come from respected coaches/people.
- **The Follow-up Phone Call**
  - Your first impression of the coach. Phone Call rules, Coaches cannot contact you via phone until June 15 (D2), July 1 (D1) the summer heading into your senior year. You can contact them as much as you want but they cannot return messages or call until those dates and may only call you 1 time per week.
  - Questions they may ask – Have a list of questions you may want to ask each coach about program athletically and academically.
- **The Campus Visit**
  - Set up a visit with your target 5 schools on your list. Your club coach or DOC can assist in setting this up.
  - Have a list of questions you want to ask. Also try to go when school is in session not in summer.
- **The Decision**
  - Keep it to 5 schools in senior year – do official visits (48 hours on campus) to each school. Unofficial visits are also beneficial and can start right away. This is a 1 day visit to campus, try to set up a time to meet with the coach/assistant coaches. Set this up in advance and try to avoid walking into coaches offices the day of the visit to the school unannounced.

[www.tbusc.com](http://www.tbusc.com)