

College Recruiting Information for Swimming

1. The worst mistake a parent can make is not realizing that your child can swim in college. The one thing parents tend to overlook is the number of smaller schools with swim teams this country has. Not every swimmer will swim at a D-I school but there are D-II & D-III schools that have great swim teams.
2. On-line a parent can look into each division's minimum time requirements for their swim programs. In some cases you can find specific schools requirements. Most swim sites will have a questionnaire to fill out and ask questions. College recruiters can look at those forms but can't respond to them until July 1st prior to a swimmers senior year in high school.
3. Does your child REALLY want to swim in college? College swimming is very different from High School swimming. The question isn't so much about opportunity but desire. College is meant as a learning experience, a chance to find out who you want to be "when you grow up". College swimming is very demanding and leaves little time for a "normal" college experience.
4. Once the decision has been made to swim for a school some of the questions a swimmer/parent should ask are:
 - a. What's the average GPA of the swim team?
 - b. How long has the coach been with the team?
 - c. Does the program train year round?
 - d. How often does the team train?
 - e. What does it take to earn a scholarship with your team?
 - f. How recent are the all-time top 10 school records?
5. In order to swim sometimes you have to sacrifice your dream school to swim where you fit best in college. Swimming is not the football program so they are very limited on what they can and can't do. A swimmers dream school may not have a spot for them but there are plenty of schools that will love to have them.