



DART - College Recruiting Meeting

1. Why are we having this meeting for Sophomore/Junior Swimmers?
 - a. Rules are changing daily!
 - i. NIL, Transfer Portal
 - b. Your recruiting starts today! Official date to talk is June 15th after Sophomore year. Official visits to schools can begin after August 1st (beginning JR year).
 - c. With these new rules, recruiting trips and official college commitments vary dramatically.
 - i. Junior Year trips vs Senior Year trips
 1. Benefits – get a jump start on ideas for college, scholarship money, colleges timeline for committing to certain schools (Spots)
 2. Negatives – it's early and kids will hopefully continue to mature in life and in swimming, scholarship money, team will change dramatically before athlete arrives
 3. Thoughts – It's like selling a used car, there are strategies and negotiations
 - ii. Junior Year Commitments vs Senior Year Commitments
 1. Swimmers can commit their Junior year but can't officially sign until the Senior year signing periods (Nov 15 – Fall Signing/Spring signing)
 - a. Commitment – details until you sign!
 2. Scholarship Money, Academic admissions
2. Recruiting Rules – Timelines
 - a. After June 15 following sophomore year: Recruiting communication officially begins, and student-athletes can expect to hear from coaches in a variety of ways, including email, text messages, social media messages and by phone. Student-athletes may also initiate the contact. Verbal offers and commitments are also allowed.
 - b. Beginning August 1 of junior year: Official visits to a school are now permitted. Men's swimming recruits are allowed one visit per school and have unlimited recruiting trips (New rule). Off-campus contact is also permitted.
 - c. Senior year: College coaches may only make three off-campus contacts with the NCAA swimming recruit.
3. NCAA Eligibility Center
 - a. This needs to be done before recruiting starts – get your number!
4. Swimmer vs Parent Recruiting
 - a. a. Swimmer – Needs to be a part of sending all emails, communicate via text



- b. Swimmer needs to have specific questions to ask. Be mature on conversations and recruiting trips. It's like a job interview
 - c. Social Media – Pro's and Cons
 - i. You can get a lot of information on social media. You can also mess up opportunities. Golden rule – “If grandma can't see it, don't post it”!
 - d. Parents – Can help with emails especially if dates and times need to be discussed.
 - i. Parents can help with questions for the swimmer to ask school.
 - ii. Parents should not be involved in conversations with athlete and coach unless specifically invited by one or the other.
- 5. Swimmer Timeline
 - a. Sophomore year – (April – June)
 - i. Fill out online college sports questionnaires – Create contact
 - ii. Send email to the Coaching Staff – Create contact (3 touches is best)
 - iii. Take visits or tours if interested
 - b. Junior Year
 - i. Begin recruiting trips or regular communication with possible schools.
 - ii. Continue to be flexible and open with your options. Repeat steps from sophomore year as needed. It is not too late to add new schools or adjust your priorities.
 - iii. JR Day – Recruiting opportunity
 - c. Senior Year
 - i. You may still be deciding all the way till May due to admissions.
- 6. Small money vs big football schools & recruiting trips
 - a. Recruiting Trips – what is a recruiting trip? What's an “official trip” - what's an “un-official trip”
 - i. “Unofficial” just means that the school doesn't pay for your trip. Some smaller budget athletic departments might not have the funding to afford an “official” trip.
 - b. Smaller or more academic schools recruiting will start later. Lower budgets, strict admissions requirements, no scholarships
- 7. Swim meets – Possible Meetings with college coaches you are talking too. Talks can happen after competition each day
- 8. Collegiate Levels a. D1, D2, D3, NAIA, JR College
- 9. Bargaining
 - a. College recruiting is a business and thus you have to think about it in terms of supply/demand – You may be a great fit for a school but they may not need a butterfly swimmer that year.
 - b. Scholarship vs. Admission
 - i. Scholarship (DI, DIII) – 9.9 mens, 13 womens for fully funded programs.



1. These means they usually have 2/3 boys or 3/4 girls scholarships per year.
2. Scholarship can mean a balance of academic aid and swimming money.

c. Admission

- i. Early Read
- ii. Tier System for admission
- iii. Early read for financial aide
- iv. Financial Information
 1. Billy can be as involved as needed. I can help if you need a certain amount to make a school work – “used car” – negotiable if the car is worth it.
- v. Financial read – Don’t always let the school price scare you. So much better financial aid for privates with high price tags.

10. Stressful Process

- a. Time Management and communication is key
 - i. Email and phone for access to info and college coaches
 - ii. Recruiting calls by multiple coaches in a week can be a stressor in an already busy HS students schedule
 - iii. Once you are 100% sure you are not interested in a school, let them know. It makes it easier on everyone. They are recruiting 50+ swimmers for 6 spots, they are used to being told “no thanks”.
- b. Options are great but are stressful. In an already stressful teen mind, this can add more stress. Remind them that having great options and choices are a result of their hard work and they deserve it.
- c. Money – College is expensive. Be upfront as much as possible with the swimmer/coach as to what the family can afford. It is much better to have these tough conversations up front that to have a swimmer commit to a school and then realize they can’t afford it or have to take thousands of dollars in unexpected loans.

11. College Search

- a. Academics/Financial/Social
- b. Location/School Size/Degree
- c. Swimming Team
- d. Competitive
- e. Team Fit (Conference/NCAA/Travel team)
- f. D1, D2, D3, NAIA
- g. Team Relationship - Coach Relationship



12. College Fit

- a. Great Fit –
 - i. Teams in which a swimmer can make an immediate scoring impact at the conference level for the team.
 - ii. Teams in which the swimmer will have a great shot of contributing on relays
- b. Reach Schools –
 - i. Teams in which some of your times might fit in but times don't meet conference scoring levels
- c. College Coaches jobs are based around performance. You may have the nicest, hardest working swimmer around but they have to win.
- d. Why can't they just add my kid as a "walk-on"?
 - i. College teams have restrictions on the number of participants on a team based around school gender size, funding amounts, and coaching staff numbers.

13. NCSA – Recruiting service

14. How DART recruiting works

- a. Meet with Coach Billy – Bring a list of 10 – 15 schools you are interested in and some reasons why you think you want to learn more about those schools
- b. Billy brings back a list of schools for you. Great fit schools, Reach schools that might also interest you to look into.
- c. Swimmers go through the process – Questionnaire, 3 contacts, be aggressive if you think it's a fit.
- d. If swimmer can't get response from the Coach ask Coach Billy for help.
- e. Set up meetings with Coach Billy to give regular updates and request help as needed.