



Swimming in College

THE RECRUITING PROCESS & YOU

Why Swim in College?

- College Swimming is fun!!
- Built in Friend Group
- Accountability
- Routine
- Stay in Shape
- Learn Valuable Life Lessons

First Things First – Something for Everyone

- If you want to swim in college, there is somewhere for everyone!
 - Divisions
 - NCAA Div. 1
 - NCAA Div. 2
 - NCAA Div. 3
 - NAIA
 - NJCCA

NCAA Division I



350 Division I Colleges and Universities



Division I
Philosophy

Varies from Program to Program
Largest Student Bodies
Largest Athletic Budgets



DI Scholarships

Athletic
Academic

NCAA Division II



300 Division II Colleges and Universities



DII Philosophy focuses on Balance

Academic Success
Athletic Contributions
Campus and Community Involvement



DII Scholarships

Athletic
Academic
8.1 for Men and 8.1 for Women (Usually Split)

NCAA Division III



450 Colleges and Universities,
Largest Division



DIII Philosophy

Student First
Shorter Seasons
Look at WHOLE
Student for Admission



DII Scholarships

No Athletic
Academic
75% of Student
Athletes received Merit
or Need Based
Financial Aid

NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics)



NAIA Functions like NCAA



NAIA Philosophy

Schools vary on
admission criteria
Must Register with
NAIA



NAIA Scholarships

Academic &
Athletic
Scholarships
Available

NJCAA (National Junior College Athletic Association)



NJCCA Promotes and Fosters
Two Year College Athletics



NJCAA Philosophy

3 Divisions
Admission
Standards Set by
Schools



NJCAA
Scholarships

D1 – Athletic &
Academic
D2 – Athletic
D3 - Academic

Choosing the Right Place for YOU



Chemistry is
Important

Pick a school based on the
impact you want to have
Team/Family Environment
MAJORS



Don't Overlook DII
and DIII Schools

May be the right fit



ASK QUESTIONS!!



Find a way to stand out amongst the
crowd

Getting Started

Getting Recruited Starts NOW!!

Requires Hard Work & Perseverance

Be open, opportunities may arise

Be Flexible

Do not get overwhelmed

There is something for everyone out there!



Rising Sophomores

REGISTER WITH THE [NCAA Eligibility Center](#)

- You will need
 - Personal Information
 - Transcript
 - Top Times
 - Other Pertinent School Information
 - Standardized Test Scores (If you have them)
 - \$90
 - 30 Minutes

Begin to Research Colleges and Universities – Explore Options

- Compile a List of ~20 Schools that you may be interested in attending and rank them from 1-20
- Please send this list to Coach Chris @ Chris.Bushelman@swimrichmond.org & Coach JKAP Jonathan.Kaplan@swimrichmond.org
- Coach Chris & Coach JKAP are willing to reach out to coaches for you if you have already initiated contact with that school.

Researching Colleges

Start your Search!

- www.CollegeSwimming.com
 - Most Teams and Links to their program can be found on this website.
 - Top Times/Conference Results Can be Found here as well (These times can tell you where you fit in/will be a fit)
 - Dream schools are not only ok but encouraged!
 - Goal times will often need to be fast enough to score at a conference meet
 - Coaches also look for intangibles – teammate interactions, race reactions, & the like (these can be more important than time)
 - Coaches look for scorers or potential scorers in a minimum of 2 events, but 3 are preferred (at Conference Meets) – Per Matt Gearing, Assistant Coach at Indiana
- Explore college & university websites
 - Majors
 - Campus Life
 - Admission Requirements & Deadlines
 - Tuition
 - Financial Aid (FAFSA, Scholarships, Grants, etc.)

Rising Juniors (Big Year Ahead)

Complete the Rising Sophomore Tasks (if not completed)

Begin to take unofficial visits with your parents

- It is important to visit prospective schools
- Picture yourself at each school
 - roaming the hallways
 - attending athletic events
- Now Picture yourself there without swimming
 - If you can still be happy there, then you've found your school!

Schools can begin to contact you June 15th going into Junior Year

- 2020 is currently the exception because COVID-19
- Currently there is a recruiting dead period in effect for in person visits
- Phone Calls are still allowed
- Official Visits can happen Junior Year
 - Individual situations effect our recommendation on this

Junior Year (Cont.)

Begin to Draft an email to send to prospective coaches

- From your school account (keep it professional)
- Introduce yourself and express interest in their program (DO YOUR RESEARCH)
- Share with them your upcoming meets, top times, goals, etc.
- Share with them your academic accolades – GPA, Test Scores, Transcript, etc.
- Finish with a short sentence or two of gratitude for their time and giving them your contact information
 - You may share your coach's information as well should you choose.
- Send your email to Coach Chris – Chris.Bushelman@SwimRichmond.org for review

Fill out Prospect Forms on the websites of the Universities you are most interested in (Top 5-10)

- These can be time consuming, so be ready!
- If you have not registered and been cleared by the NCAA Clearinghouse, these coaches will not be able to contact you

Send your email out!! Coaches are waiting to hear from you!! BCC Coach Chris and Coach JKAP

The Anatomy of a Recruiting Call



When a College Coach Calls...

- Be polite when you answer the phone
- Listen to understand, not to respond
- Be Honest
 - If you are not interested in the school, it is ok to be honest, but you may be closing a door
 - Be gracious and show gratitude if you do this
- Be normal – Hold a normal conversation – Let the coach direct the call
 - Sometimes they just call to say hi and that they are interested. Be ready for this
- Be prepared
 - Have a list of programs you are interested in studying – these are not a commitment
 - Have a few questions you would like to ask for each program – fit is important
 - “Coaches are often more impressed by the questions you ask than the answers you give” – Coach JKAP
- End the call with appreciation and on a positive note
 - Maybe share something neat or that you liked hearing during the call
 - Share something you like about their program or the institution

The Official Visit

Athletes are eligible to make 5 Official Visits

- The athletes on the team or your “host” are seeing if you would be a good fit
- Be observant and respectful
 - You are checking for fit and culture too!
- Make good decisions on your trip**
- Schools may provide you with meals for you and your parents
- Schools may provide you and your parents complimentary athletic tickets
- Schools may NOT provide you with t-shirts, photos, merch, etc.



Rising Seniors

Complete Rising Sophomore Tasks

Complete Rising Junior Tasks

Update your email with updated times, results, & achievements

- Send and Reconnect with Coaches
- BCC Coach Chris and Coach JKAP

Be prepared to work hard your senior year

- Coaches will track your GPA
- Coaches will still check in with your coaches to see how you are doing
- Coach Chris and Coach JKAP will be HONEST with prospective Coaches
 - You are representing all of your teammates, SwimRVA as an organization, and your coaches

National Letters of Intent (NLI)

- Administered by Collegiate Commissioners Association (NOT NCAA)
- When signing, you are committing to attend an academic institution for one academic year

Making the Decision



Use your resources

Your Coaches are here for you!

So are your....

Guidance Counselors

Parents

Prospective Coaches

Choose wisely to make this first step down the road a success!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!

Questions?

Contact Information

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