

PREPARING FOR COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MICHIGAN BASKETBALL ACADEMY

Recruiting Guide: The tips, tricks and pitfalls every player and parent should know when looking to play at the collegiate level.

SELECTING A COLLEGE THAT IS RIGHT FOR YOU

- Understand the time commitment and sacrifices involved with each tier
- Look at different levels of college games (d1, d2, d3, naia)
- What feels right? Not just what your friends/family say.
- What is the school history for basketball? (win/lose)
- Academics – does it fit your needs
- Distance from home
- Type of program (competitive, social, scholarship)
- Research the coach – is the personality type a good fit?

MYTHS

- Because I play for a club, means that I will be recruited
- There is not enough time with going to school and being able to play basketball and keep my grades up
- I'm not good enough to play
- I get a college brochure in the mail, so I'm being recruited
- Because you hear from the coaching staff, means you are being recruited

HOW TO GET NOTICED

- #1 goal is to get the attention of the coaches
- Send initial letters (get head coaches name correct) and include:
 - grade
 - position & number
 - club
 - other sports
 - playing schedule
 - grade point
 - coaching references
- Reply to all requests – keep options open until decision is made
- Check out the program and be informed
- If you are traveling for a tournament, schedule a visit (please be aware of the dead periods)
- Attend an elite camp at the college you are interested in
- Put together a profile sheet (like a resume)
- Skills video – put together a 3 minute video with skills clips
- Always remember that even though one school may not be interested in you, there is one out there that is!!!

LEVELS OF COLLEGE BASKETBALL

NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) – biggest and most well known. Each college is broken into divisions (D1, D2, D3)

NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) – mostly run at private or smaller colleges. 1/3 of the size of the NCAA.

NJCAA (National Junior College Athletic Association) - small, 2 year colleges.

WHEN TO BEGIN YOUR COLLEGE SEARCH

- Begin as early as your freshman year so coaches can follow progress
- It's never too early to start! (it's also never too late)

FINANCIAL AID

- Financial Aid can be complicated, but lets break it down to types of aid you can apply for:
 - Fill out fafsa (free application for federal student aid) online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. This will allow you to apply through the state for any assistance based on income.
 - Apply for private or merit based scholarships at www.studentaid.ed.gov. It also may help to search through personal affiliations for opportunity for scholarships (churches, local business, parents employer, etc).
 - Contact financial aid office at specific colleges to ask about scholarships they offer.
 - Apply for stafford student loan – this is a federal, low-interest student loan which is deferred until graduation. www.staffordloan.com

SCHOLARSHIPS

- One of the great benefits of playing college basketball is the possibility of scholarships and increased levels of financial aid
- Two types of athletic scholarships: full and partial. It is important to get a detailed checklist if you are offered either. Most will vary with what they cover.

ACADEMICS

- The NCAA and NAIA both have a minimum standard needed to be eligible to play as a freshman. You must meet at least two of the following criteria:
 - A minimum of 18 on the act or 860 on the sat
 - A minimum of 2.0 gpa (on a 4.0 scale)
 - Be in the top half of your graduating class

5-STEP ROADMAP

1. Assess yourself – what do you want to study, how far away, what college size are you looking for?
2. Identify potential colleges & universities – narrow down options
3. Research basketball programs – bios, records, success, etc.
4. Build relationships with coaches – reach out and contact
5. Make decisions