

What is College Baseball? What is the Recruiting Process?

When does it start?

College Baseball has many different facets, there are different levels of college baseball that are all competitive beyond the ones that ESPN make famous, and that participate in the College World Series. There are GREAT reasons to go into any division, finding the right college fit as a total package is the number one goal. Things to consider are; region, field of study, tuition, job placement percentage, can you play baseball there and/or will you be an impact player, and many more factors as well.

College Divisions

- NCAA
 - Division 1 - 298 (Can offer 11.7 athletic scholarships every year)
 - Division 2 - 259 (Can offer 9.7 athletic scholarships every year)
 - Division 3 - 374 (Does NOT offer athletic scholarships)
- NAIA - 212 (Can offer 12 athletic scholarships every year)
- NJCAA - 511
 - Division 1 (Athletic Scholarship Opportunities, varies by school)
 - Division 2 (Athletic Scholarship Opportunities, varies by school)
 - Division 3 (Does NOT offer athletic scholarships)
- 1,653 colleges offer baseball programs (not including club teams)
- Players can be drafted out of every division.

Freshmen Year

- Build a list of 100 perspective schools that you have researched, and are interested in.
 - 25 D3
 - 25 D2
 - 25 D1
 - 25 NAIA
- Fill out questionnaires
- Respond to any camp invites
- Take your measurable numbers so that you have a baseline to work with (60yd dash, exit velocity, OF/INF velocity, Pitching Velocity)

Sophomore Year

- Narrow down your list to about 20 programs at each level
- Continue to fill out questionnaires and respond to camp invites
- Register for NCAA Eligibility center during your second semester
- Create a skills video
- Begin reaching out to prospective coaches
 - June 15th AFTER your sophomore year recruiting restrictions are lifted for D2 programs and September 1st AFTER your sophomore year D1 coaches can begin sending you personal e-mails
- Attend a camp or showcase to verify your current measurable numbers by a 3rd party

Junior Year

- Narrow list down even further
 - 5-6 back up schools 10-20 target schools, 5-6 Reach schools
 - Be prepared to expand if needed
- Pro-actively create as much communication with college coaches as possible
- Update your skills video as needed
- Try to set up and take unofficial or official visits
- Be as direct as possible with coaches you have contacted, asking them where YOU stand on their recruiting list
- Attend a few college camps

Senior Year

- Start applying to schools/Apply for Financial Aid
- Consider a few JC's as backup options, or if you need to work on your grades, physical growth, or are strained financially, it could be a great choice to continue to develop and transfer to a 4 year program after two years.
- Early signing period in November for D1 and D2 programs
- Continue to follow up with schools you have contacted
- Regular Signing Period begins in April of senior year.
- Sign and Commit to a school

Things to remember:

- Everybody's recruiting process is different
- There is a school for almost everybody that commits the time and energy to find it
- You can certainly start the process late but it makes it much more difficult, however you can always stop pursuing it if you decide it isn't the route for you.
- You don't HAVE to play high school or club baseball in order to pursue baseball in college although it helps exponentially at both levels.

#BEDIFFERENT