10 TIPS FOR COLLEGE BOUND ATHLETES

1. **Take NCAA approved courses**
   - Take NCAA approved courses beginning freshman year; 16 core classes needed.
   - Refer to the AD’s NCAA website for approved courses; math must all be Algebra I or higher; note that Survey of Algebra and Informal Geometry are NOT approved.

2. **Maintain a high GPA all four years.**
   - Minimum 2.0 for high school eligibility but 2.3 core grade point average for enrollment on or after 8/1/2016.
   - The higher your GPA, the more schools you may be admitted to; more coaches interested in you; more scholarship; a greater likelihood of contact.

3. **Take the SAT/ACT early and with maximum preparation.**
   - Take tests junior year to assist in realistic school research.
   - Do something to prepare for the test (i.e. PSAT); don’t just show up and hope to do well.
   - Statistics show the more often you take the SAT/ACT the higher your score rises each time.
   - Don’t be satisfied with a score; a raised score may increase your scholarship award.

4. **Research college teams for college, not for sport.**
   - You are going to college to create opportunities for your future, choose wisely.
   - Athletes who choose a school simply for a team are more likely to drop out as they discover the school is not a good fit for them.
   - Understand the differences between collegiate divisions and benefits/drawbacks of each.
   - SAT/ACT the higher your score rises each time.
   - Don’t be satisfied with a score; a raised score may increase your scholarship award.

5. **Search and apply for scholarships and financial aid outside of athletics**
   - Most scholarship offers are not solely based on athletics but a package.
   - Consider WUE schools.
   - Complete the FAFSA form in January of senior year.

6. **Begin the college recruitment process before senior year.**
   - Many coaches already have their teams set well before senior year starts.
   - Unprepared seniors are overwhelmed with the many steps in admissions and recruiting.
7. **Actively market yourself to coaches at schools of interest.**
   - Don’t rely on coaches finding you: sell yourself to coaches at (realistic) schools that fit you.
   - Be seen, attend camps, create and send a player profile, create and post a video.

8. **Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center, [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org)**

9. **Visit campuses and meet with coaches and players.**
   - Make sure the school is where you want to be, coaches are people you want to work with, and teammates are people you want to be around.

10. **Finish strong academically and train harder than you ever have.**
    - Don’t lose your opportunity by not doing well senior year, not preparing yourself to do well in college courses, and staying eligible while in college.
    - A spot on a team is not guaranteed even with a scholarship; don’t slack thinking all is set.