

GPS – THE RECRUITING PROCESS.

This is a simple timeline for all GPS student-athletes. There are 4 P's that are applicable in order for GPS players to be as successful as possible in their pursuit of playing soccer at the collegiate level:

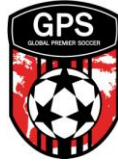
- Preparation
- Professionalism
- Personality
- Persistence.

1. Freshman and younger:

- *Go and watch local college games in the fall and spring.*
Try to see a selection of D1, D2 and D3 schools and watch the level and style of play and the coach interaction with the players.
- *Visit college campuses with siblings.*
Try to visit a selection of D1, D2 and D3 campuses and start to get a frame of reference for what each looks like. If you don't have any siblings of college age, ask your parents to take you to some local colleges to have a look around.
- *Work hard at school.*
Make sure that your grades are as good as they can be.
- *Work hard at soccer.*
Make sure that you are working at improving yourself as a player in all 4 pillars of the game – technical, tactical, physical and psychological.

2. Sophomore:

- **SAME AS ABOVE.**
- *Use Internet to start researching colleges of interest.*
Initial interest can be based on a major, geography, sport or anything that might attract you to a particular school. Start to think about what are the most important factors when you actually decide on a college to attend – a good rule of thumb is to consider whether you would be happy at the school if you weren't playing soccer. Create folders on schools that interest you and start to include coach contact information.
- *Begin to prepare for initial coach contact.*
GPS will provide you with a template for a cover email/letter to introduce yourself to college coaches. GPS will also provide players with a dynamic profile that will list key personal information and achievements and will be accessible as a web link. Players will be able to edit this page on an ongoing basis



and send the link to college coaches. As you start to attend showcase tournaments, you will make contact with college coaches and let them know of your interest in their program and where you will be playing.

3. Junior(Most important year):

- SAME AS ABOVE.
- *Further develop your list of schools.*

Start to research and collate a list of between 15-25 schools that interest you in some capacity. Start to make clear folders with coach contact information and begin to keep notes on all communication with each coach. Your GPS U17 coach will meet with you in January/February to review this list and check on your progress with contacting colleges.
- *Prepare cover letter/email, profile and schedule.*

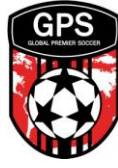
Start to be aggressive with the recruiting campaign and send your introductory package to all colleges that you are interested in. Be very professional in spelling, grammar and making sure that you have the correct information. GPS U17 coach will review as requested.
- *Follow up phone call.*

Follow up with all college coaches to ensure they have received your info. This will allow you to establish a personal connection with the coach – engage them in a conversation on their program, their record from last season, their style of play, the coach's philosophy – and talk about your club experience with GPS and what roles and systems you have played in yourself. Let them know that you are very interested in their school and are passionate and knowledgeable about soccer.
- *Set up unofficial visits.*

You can go on as many unofficial visits as you like. Pick some of your more serious choices and go and visit the campus and get in touch with the coach ahead of time to set up a meeting with them. This will further enhance the personal connection.

- *Get the college coach to see you play.*

Be aggressive and persistent in getting your game schedule in front of college coaches. Make sure that they know what tournaments you will be attending with your team and what leagues you will be playing in. Communicate effectively with college coaches if there are any changes to your schedule and always follow up after each event. Ideally you can create more than one opportunity for them to see you play. GPS will make sure that you get opportunities throughout your junior year to gain exposure to college coaches starting with the GPS Residential showcase in April which is an excellent way to get seen by local college coaches.
- *Take the SAT and ACT if you have not already done so.*
- *Register with NCAA eligibility center.*



- *Manage the process.*
Keep notes on all your conversations with coaches. Be persistent with colleges who do not respond and get adequate closure. Start to narrow your list down to 3-5 schools. GPS has an excellent reputation nationally and we have a wide network of college coaches who know and trust our feedback. Your U17 GPS coach will follow up with these 3-5 schools directly on your behalf.

4. Senior:

- *Improve your GP. Prepare diligently for SATS.*
- *Send applications to the 3-5 targeted schools you have chosen for soccer. It is up to you to choose how many beyond this you apply to.*
- *Keep in touch with Admissions and College soccer coaches. Be punctual returning emails and phone calls.*
- *Fill out all Financial Aid documents as applicable.*
- *Make official visits. Have a plan of what you want to learn on the visit.*
You can take a maximum of 5 for D1 and D2 schools.
- *Pick the school that is the best fit for you academically, financially, athletically and socially.*
- *Once your college choice has been made, do not back of your soccer preparation.*
Playing in the U18 GPS teams is the best way to keep yourself in shape and ready for your freshman fall season.