

10 Ways to Chase Away a College Coach:

HERE is a list of what NOT to do based on what College Coaches have said:

- 1. Have Poor Grades:** Softball is not a revenue producing sport. The number of scholarships at most schools is limited. Coaches need to know that the athletes they sign will be able to handle the load of playing softball and school. If your grades are not good, take the Junior College route and improve them. That will also give you an opportunity to play at the collegiate level and get the needed experience. Plus, Junior Colleges have outstanding programs and will help you get to the collegiate playing level. (By the way, if your SAT's are not good, improve them. Take a course offered outside of school. Also, try the ACT's and see if you do better.)
- 2. Wait for the college coach to contact you.** No, they are not going to come find you. They don't have the time or money to try to find someone. Contact the coaches in schools in which you are interested. Update them on how you are doing, where you are playing, etc.
- 3. Have a poor disciplinary record in school/or your community.** Yeah, I know they sign basketball and football players with infractions. Do I need to remind you about that non-revenue producing thing? Besides, unless they are a blue chip sure fire D I prospect in football and basketball, no college coach wants to recruit headaches. If you have already made mistakes, acknowledge them and let coaches know you have changed. Get references to write about this change.
- 4. Be a DIVA on or off the field.** So many college coaches tell me that they watch the athletes on and off the field at tournaments. So, if you throw that tantrum on the field or with your parents, coaches will see that and reconsider whether you are what they want. YES, this does include your interactions with your parents. Besides wanting good athletes, colleges want athletes with personalities that will ENHANCE not DESTROY their team! Have a good team attitude.
- 5. Use your parents as your personal valet.** This sort of goes with #4. Do your parents carry your bag, get your water, or baby you during games? If so, a college coach can expect that you will be a little lost when you get there. Do your own errands.
- 6. Don't hustle on and off the field.** It doesn't matter what the score of the game is, how hot it is, how tired you are... HUSTLE. College softball is not easy. If you don't hustle now, how can a college coach expect that to change? Most coaches will tell you that they would rather have a skilled player with hustle and heart than a player with even higher level skills and little hustle and heart. This means during warm ups as well as games. It also means the dugout. Are you cheering your team on? Are you helping with equipment or are you JUST THERE? You need to stand out. HUSTLE!
- 7. Procrastinate.** Don't call coaches right back or send back questionnaires. Wait until the summer of your senior year. While you are waiting, someone else is. Besides, colleges are getting verbal commitments earlier and earlier. You need your information out there in your Freshman year, if only to send an e-mail. They won't recruit someone who doesn't have the time to write or respond. If a coach writes, e-mails or calls you, respond!
- 8. Lie about your grades.** They won't check, right? RIGHT (that's sarcastic). If you say your GPA is a 3.5, it better be a 3.5 and not a 3.0. Every coach will ask for an official transcript. If you lied, they will find out and you will be eliminated as a prospect immediately. The same goes for pitching speeds, SAT scores, etc. Tell the truth!
- 9. Bother coaches during tournaments.** They are NOT supposed to talk to you and they really want to watch recruits, not talk to you or your parents. Make sure your parents know this. There is nothing worse than an overzealous parent bothering coaches and scaring them away from YOU and YOUR TEAM. If they want to talk to you or their parents, they WILL!
- 10. Play Rec League, small tournaments.** College coaches go to large showcases where they don't have to spend a lot of travel money to see a lot of recruits. Get on a team with a good showcase schedule.