

IDENTIFYING SCHOOLS TO FOLLOW UP WITH

You have sent out the initial round of letters. Your initial letters are to schools that your player has interest in.

- What you need to do now is find the schools that have interest in you.
- This is going to be gauged, at least at this point, by responses to the initial letter that you get.
- You may also get return emails and/or letters.
- There are strict NCAA rules which specify the amount, timing, type and content of communications from coaches to prospective players.
- With that in mind, the responses your communications may get will depend in large part on when you send the initial letters and when the responses are made.
- Before July 1st of the player's junior year in high school, the coach cannot communicate or initiate contact with the player at all, except to tell her about the NCAA restrictions on communications, give her a school brochure and send a questionnaire to be completed and returned by the player.
- These questionnaires should be completed and returned as quickly as possible. They can also be found on many of the college websites. If you find on line questionnaires at the website, complete them.
- You will find differences in nature, tone and content of the communications that you receive.
- You will try to read between lines and see if the letters are saying anything more than they actually do.
- The truth is that some do and some don't, but that ANY and ALL communications from colleges should be considered positive unless and until you are told that the school is not interested in your player.
- FOLLOW UP WITH ANY SCHOOL THAT RESPONDS OR SHOWS INTEREST, ALONG WITH ANY OTHER SCHOOLS THAT YOU FEELSSTRONGLY ABOUT.
- You going through a process of elimination to narrow your search to be efficient in your efforts.
- At some point through this process your search will expand again before it narrows even further.
- Eventually, coaches with whom you may have not yet communicated will contact you.
- When this happens go back and do your research on these schools, based on the criteria discussed above and decide if you may now be interested in any of those schools.
- If you are, then these new schools should now be on your list of schools to follow up with.
- Do not make the mistake of presuming that your initial search was **exhaustive**.
- Don't forget that there are a number of schools that you did not consider initially, plus it is possible that several months may have passed since you have made your initial determinations.
- It may be a good idea to go back and see if you still has the same preferences and desires.
- In fact, I would suggest that you review your list and interest in all schools every few months to see if your search is still current or if it is now obsolete.
- IF A SCHOOL DOES NOT RESPOND, ESPECIALLY AFTER NUMEROUS ATTEMPTED CONTACTS, MOVE ON. THE COACH PROBABLY HAS NO INTEREST IN YOU.
- IF YOU DIRECTING MOST OF YOUR COMMUNICATIONS TO DIVISION I SCHOOLS, AND IS NOT GETTING A DECENT AMOUNT OF ATTENTION IT MAY BE TIME TO RE-EVALUATE.
- AN HONEST EVALUATION OF THE YOUR SKILL LEVEL IS A CRITICAL TO SUCCESSFUL RECRUITING.