

College Recruiting

Finding the right college to continue playing volleyball can seem overwhelming at first, but if you break it down into the most fundamental steps, it actually is pretty easy. Most parents/players get paralyzed with too many options, and therefore don't know which direction to head. In my 11 years of coaching club volleyball, I've seen both good and bad about the process. If my experience can help in any way, I'd love to share some thoughts...

- ✓ **NB:** *Not all kids follow the same path to recruitment. These are my **general thoughts** from years of seeing what works and what does not. Also please remember that it is typically easier for a Setter or Pin Hitter (OH/RS) to get a scholarship than a libero. Not ALWAYS, but generally. Also kids who touch 10ft tend to get recruited more than those with a 9" vertical and highly skilled players get recruited more than those with poor ball skills.*

Good & Bad uses of time/money

GOOD	BAD
<p>Attend a College Summer Camp on Campus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typically the head coach or the head assistant coach will be there running the camp. This ensures that you'll get seen and hopefully make a personal relationship with a few coaches. • Bigger camps (like Belmont or UT) will hire other collegiate coaches from around the country to serve as coaches. This means exposure to more than just the "host" college. <p>Attend a Skill Specific Camp</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go get some high-level coaching at Sports Performance, K2 or someone who is known for their training. This investment in becoming a better player will surely pay off. <p>Go for a College Visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once you've been noticed by the coach, many will invite you for an official college visit which usually includes playing against the team, rooming with the players and getting a tour of campus. These are well-worth the time missed from school and cost to drive. 	<p>College Showcases (with rare exception)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually these are just money-makers for the host club or tournament that is putting them on. Typically the ratio of player to coach is 100/1 and the college coaches spend 50% of their time talking to one another. Unless you are the absolute BEST player out there, you might not get noticed. <p>Recruiting Websites/Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When I talk with coaches, they continually tell me the best way to get seen is to send an email expressing interest in the program with a quick YouTube link of unedited game film. Most college coaches can tell within 30seconds or less whether they want to invest the time to come watch your club team play. <p>Approaching Coaches at tournaments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many kids/parents make this common mistake. You see a coach standing near your court and start blabbing about how great your child is – coaches really despise this. Coaches have eyes. They know which kids are good and which aren't.

What should I be doing now?

MS years – focus on all-around skill development, join a club that trains (not just plays), watch & play tons of volleyball

Freshman – continue developing your skills but start focusing on a specific position, attend a few summer camps on a college campus (if possible), play high level club volleyball, work hard to play Varsity as quickly as possible

Sophomore – start identifying schools that might be good for you, attend a summer camp at that campus (if possible), continue training and play on a team that attends some National tournaments for exposure to college coaches, workouts should now be a major part of your life

Junior/Senior – start narrowing schools, begin emailing coaches, still continue training but now the majority of your training is by your position, workout seriously (starting to use weights), eat healthy, make sure your grades (especially ACT/SAT) are good enough for college, watch your social media & be smart, play on a club team that will be in major tournaments and teaches collegiate skills, attend 3-4 college camps during the summer

- ✓ *Hopefully you have a few colleges interested by this point but timelines vary per kid. Some are late bloomers*

How do I choose the right college?

Step 1 – Narrow the Field

1. Division I, II, III, NAIA, etc?

- a. Be honest with yourself. Can you play Division I volleyball or are you more suited for a Division II or Division III school? If you don't know the difference, research it. Look at the height, playing experience, etc. of a Division I program (Belmont, Lipscomb, TSU, MTSU are all local options to watch). How do you compare? Then go watch a Division II match (Trevecca, Union, etc.) to compare.

2. Where do you want to live?

- a. Do you want to stay within a reasonable driving distance or do you want to get away from TN? Does the thought of living in that state AFTER your college career is over bother you? Then you may not want to go there?
- b. Do they offer the Major you want for college? Remember that you are one blown knee away from just being a STUDENT on campus. So if you wouldn't attend that college except to play volleyball, might not be a good idea.

3. What's your goal with playing in college?

- a. Do you want to play at the absolute HIGHEST level of competition you possibly can play? Or do you want to be a 4-yr starter? Is playing time an issue or do you just want to be on a team?

4. Do you need the Money?

- a. Do you need college paid for or is playing volleyball just for fun? How are you academics?

Step 2 – Identify Target Schools & Email Coach

Now that you've identified what you want out of college, have a radius of drive time and know what level you are capable of playing, you need to do the next few things:

1. Find colleges which fit your goals

2. Research the volleyball program

- a. Take a close look at the roster (how old is the current setter, how many setters do they have on the roster, etc.). What is the win-loss record for the past couple of years? Is the coaching staff new or have they been there for years?

3. Email the Coach

Things to include in an initial email

- **General Information** (see below) - this helps the coach evaluate just the numbers/information they need
- **Specifics about your interest in that school or the value you bring.** Such as:
 - "I see you have a senior setter and might need another one on the roster" **or** "I've always wanted to attend a small Christian university in the Carolinas since I love that area of the country" **or** "I have watched Nebraska play for the past few years and think I could help your ball control"
- **YouTube link to your highlight video or unedited clip of you playing** (most prefer the latter)
- **Copy of your club schedule** (so they can come watch you play)

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name:• Player Email:• Player Phone:• Graduation year:• Height:• Jump Touch:• Vertical	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parents Names:• Parent Email:• Club & Team Name• Club Coach Name• Club Coach Email• Director Name & Email
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Step 3 – follow up, visit the college, accept a scholarship, play collegiate volleyball

OR

Start back over at Step #1