



STARTING THE COLLEGE BASEBALL RECRUITING PROCESS

Every high school baseball player wants to be recruited by college coaches. Here's how you can avoid 4 of the biggest recruiting mistakes:

MISTAKE #1: Not registering with the NCAA Eligibility Center

Whether you are already talking to a few college coaches or haven't received a single phone call yet, every high school athlete who wants to play Division I or II baseball will have to be certified academically and as an amateur athlete. This is where the [NCAA Eligibility Center](#) comes into play. You should be prepared to register with the Eligibility Center once your junior year of high school begins. There is no deadline to register, but you should complete this process as soon as you are able. A college coach cannot invite you on an official visit to the school if you are not registered with the NCAA Eligibility Center.

MISTAKE #2: Waiting for colleges to find you

There are few ballplayers who will be discovered outright. Most high school ballplayers will have to contact coaches independently, fill out surveys, attend showcases, and ask their high school coach to make calls on their behalf. This is all in an effort to secure a small portion of the 11.7 scholarships that a (Division I) college baseball coach needs to spread amongst more than 28 players on his team's roster. If you are a high school ballplayer and have any interest in playing at the college level, you cannot assume that you will be "found." It's time to get involved in your own recruiting by taking action. The proactive student-athlete will always have an edge over those who wait until the last minute.

MISTAKE #3: Focusing on too few colleges

When you begin reaching out to colleges and contacting coaches, do not limit your list of potential colleges to just your preferred top 10. Make a list of 50-100 schools and reach out to all of them. Contact the top teams from the SEC, PAC-12, Big West, and any other great college baseball conferences even if you don't think you have a shot at playing with them. You never know where you might turn a head or who may decide to contact you. At the very least, make sure your name is in front of as many coaches as possible.

MISTAKE #4: Neglecting your academics

Academics are far more important to the recruiting process than most realize. Colleges and universities are educational institutions first, and all athletic programs must operate within the guidelines set forth not only by the NCAA, but also the institution itself. For college coaches, if a player is not going to be an initial academic qualifier then they cannot spend time recruiting him. Every minute a college coach spends worrying about academics takes away from the time spent coaching, organizing, and preparing for baseball-related activities. Furthermore, when players have comparable on-field talent, the offer is going to go to the better student in most cases.