

High School Baseball Recruiting Guide

Questions to ask a coach during the recruiting process

Seek and you shall find. Ask and you will know. If you are a first time parent in the college search process, or even if you are a seasoned vet, you have to ask questions to gain the knowledge and information necessary to make the proper decisions for and with your child. Remember that you are scouting a coach and a program as much as he is scouting you. Critical inquiry is important and a coach's hesitation at answering something should signal a red flag.

Questions to ask. The list of questions below serves as a starting point for you and a primer for your own specific questions. Keep a record or chart on how each school answers these and other questions. **MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THE NEW NCAA RULES FOR BASEBALL STARTING IN 2008.** (See handout)

Questions:

1. -What is the in-season time commitment? Practice from? -?
2. -How much time in the off-season for conditioning and practice?
3. -Do you have a strength and condition coach?
4. -Do you have indoor facilities? View them.
5. -Is there academic support and tutoring available in and out of season? Who pays for tutoring?
6. -What is the school's policy on missed classes because of sport participation?
7. -What percentage of players stay in the program all four years?
8. -What percentage of players graduated in four or five years?
9. -How many roster spots are available next year?
10. -What have been your teams GPA in the past?
11. -How much class time is missed due to travel?
12. -Do you have organized study hall for players? Is it mandatory or optional, in season? Out of season?
13. -How many freshman recruits are you trying to bring in?
14. -What positions are you looking to fill?
15. -What position are you recruiting me for?
16. - How many players in the last five years have gone on to play pro baseball?
17. - How many others are you recruiting at that position?
18. - How many returning players do you have at my position?
19. -Where do (I) stand on your recruiting depth chart? (You want to know if they really want you or just hope to get you for depth purposes.)
20. -What are the minimum academic eligibility requirements (they may differ from NCAA min standards)?
21. -What types of travel accommodations are provided, i.e. food, transportation, and lodging? How much meal money per road trip?
22. -Does the school underwrite all expenses or do athletes have to raise funds or spend out of pocket? (Pertains mainly to spring trips.) If yes how much \$\$\$\$\$
23. -Are there plans for facility expansion and construction in the next few years?
24. -Are employment or work-study opportunities available in the athletic department?
25. -Are athletes permitted to live and work at school in the summer? (Some schools do not offer summer classes.)
26. -Do the dining facilities accommodate athletes who play or practice late?

} NEW NCAA RULES
FOR 2008

27. -Can athletes get first choice of class sections that meet at non-practice times, helping to avoid conflicts? (This is very important). How strong is the academic counselor, hands on?
28. - What amount of money is my scholarship for? MUST BE 33% OR MORE
29. -What type of summer time playing opportunities will be available? Does the coach have contacts that can get you into a good league such as Cape Cod League, Northeastern Collegiate Baseball League Northwood's League or Alaska Baseball League for example?

Questions and the reasons behind them.

Q: What positions will I play on your team?

- It's not always obvious.
- Most coaches want to be flexible so that you are not disappointed.

Q: Describe the other players competing at the same position.

- If there is a former high-school all-American, all-state, etal. at that position, you may want to take that into consideration.
- This will give you clues as to what year you might be a starter.

Q: Can I "red-shirt" my first year? Do you know what red shirt means?

- Find out how common it is too red-shirt and how that will affect graduation.
- Does the school red-shirt you if you are injured?

Q: What are the physical/strength and conditioning requirements each year?

- Philosophies of strength and conditioning vary by institution.
- You may be required to maintain a certain weight, depending on the coach.

Q: How would you best describe your coaching style?

- Every coach has a particular style that involves different motivational techniques and discipline.
- You need to know if a coach's teaching style does not match your learning style.

Q: When does the head coach's contract end?

- Don't make any assumptions about how long a coach will be at a school.
- If the coach is losing and the contract ends in two years, you may have a new coach.

Q: Describe the preferred, invited and uninvited walk-on situation. How many make it, compete and earn a scholarship?

- Different teams treat walk-ons differently.
- You might pick a school for academics and attempt to make the team as a walk-on.

Academics: Remember that the number one reason that you are going to college is to receive an education. It is important that you will be able to succeed in the classroom as well as on the diamond- your eligibility is depending on it.

. "YOU CAN'T EAT A BASEBALL"

Q: How good is the department in my major?

- Many colleges can have very highly rated specific departments or schools within the college.
- A team's reputation is only one variable to consider.

Q: What percentage of players on scholarship graduate in four years? NCAA NEW RULE VERY IMPORTANT.

- This will tell you about the quality of their commitment to academics.
- The team's grade-point average also is a good indicator of the coach's commitment to academics.

College Life

Q: Describe the typical class size.

- At larger schools, classes are likely to be larger and taught by teaching assistants.
- Average class size is important to the amount of attention you receive.

Q: Describe in detail your academic support program. For example:

Study-hall requirements, tutor availability, staff, class load, faculty cooperation.

- This is imperative for marginal students.
- Find a college that will take the 3.0 students and help them get a 3.500 GPA.

Q: Describe the typical day for a student-athlete.

- This will give you a good indication of how much time is spent in class, practice, studying and traveling.
- It also will give you a good indication of what coaches expect.

Q: What are the residence halls like? VIEW THEM

- Make sure you would feel comfortable in study areas, community bathrooms and laundry facilities.
- Number of students in a room and coed dorms are other variables to consider.

Q: Will I be required to live on campus throughout my athletics participation?

- Apartment living may be better than dorm living.

Financial Aid

Q: How much financial aid is available for summer school?

- There is no guarantee. Get a firm commitment.
- You may need to lighten your normal load and go to summer school in order to graduate in four years. You can take graduate courses and maintain your eligibility.

Q: What are the details of financial aid at your institution?

- What does my scholarship cover? MUST BE 33% OR MORE/ANY %
- What can I receive in addition to the scholarship and how do I get more aid?

Q: How long does my scholarship last?

- Most people think a "full ride" is good for four years. It is a year-to-year agreement that is renewed. THERE ARE NO FULL RIDES FOR BASEBALL!
- Financial aid is available on a one-year renewable basis.

Q: If I'm injured, what happens to my financial aid?

- A grant-in-aid is not guaranteed past a one-year period even for injuries.
- It is important to know if a school has a commitment to assist student-athletes for more than a year after they have been injured.

Q: What are my opportunities for employment while I'm a student?

- Find out if you can be employed in-season, out-of-season or during vacation periods.
- NCAA rules prohibit you from earning more than the cost of attendance during the academic year

A portion of this content is courtesy of the NCAA. www.ncaa.org. For additional information about recruiting please review the NCAA's web site.

OTHER STUFF: RANDOM THOUGHTS

1. How important is it for my parents to see me play?
2. How far away do I really want to go?
3. Can my parents afford the cost of this school?
4. What is the cost after scholarship?
5. What type of an education will this school give me?
6. How many players are from out of states that go to this university?
7. **Trust** what your parents are telling you! **Your Mom knows men!**
8. What will it cost every weekend for my parents to go to games?
9. Where is the school in standings in the conference?
10. What ranking does the school and Conference have? See **Boyd's World**
<http://www.boydsworld.com/>
11. Does my personality fit this coach and school?
12. Do I like the environment, college town, city school, country school etc?
13. Is this a state school or private school?
14. Do you have a religious preference?
15. How do you feel about the campus?
16. What do current players tell you about the program? Coach?
17. Do you like the players on the team now?
18. Should I go to a JC, NCAA Division 1,2,3, and NAIA?
19. In twenty years how will you feel about this university? I'm proud I went too _____!
20. Is this education worth the money it cost me to go too this university?

Moms and Dads,

I hope this helps with this process. We (the coaches) have been through this process several times. The coaching staff knows many college coaches and is willing to set down with you and discuss the entire process. Contrary to the popular feeling or belief that the high school coaches don't care or will not help is NOT TRUE. We know that several summer travel coaches are singing this tune. We want to help.

Thanking You.

Coaching staff

P.S. Many of the answers to the above questions can be obtained by looking on the team web sites before you make a college visit. <http://www.boydsworld.com/junk/teamlinks.html>
Remember you only get five paid visits to schools.

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QUESTION	SCHOOL A	SCHOOL B	SCHOOL C	SCHOOL D	SCHOOL E
1. Practice time					
2. Off season conditioning					
3. Strength and condition coach					
4. Indoor facility					
5. Tutoring available					
6. Missed classes					
7. % Players 4 years					
8. % Graduated					
9. # Roster spots available					
10. Team GPA					
11. Class time missed due to travel					
12. Study hall in season out of season					
13. # Freshman recruits					
14. Position for me to play					
15. Position recruiting me for					
16. # Players playing pro baseball					
17. # Recruiting at same position					
18. #Returning players at this position					
19. Recruiting depth chart					
20. Minimum academic requirements					
21. Travel food lodging					
22. Expenses or fund raised					
23. Facility expansion					

24. Work study in athletic dept.					
25. Live work at school in summer					
26. Dining facilities late meals					
27. Class sections and academic counselor					
28. % Of my scholarship					
29. Summer placement					

NOTES: _____
