

# FOOTBALL RECRUITING BASIC TRAINING

What to Expect from Football Coaches

# Overview of Today's Session

- Opportunities at each division level
- Visits
- National Signing Day / signing period
- Gauging a coach's interest level
- Questions to ask coaches

**Understand the Process to Make This Easier!**

# Opportunities at each division level

## - NCAA Division I (FBS)

- 128 FBS programs in 10 athletic conferences
- Power 5 conferences: SEC, ACC, Big 12, Big 10, and Pac 12
- Independent schools: Army, BYU, Notre Dame
- **Multibillion dollar industry!!!**
  - ESPN paid \$7.3 billion for the TV rights to the FBS playoffs (three games each year)
  - USA Today reported that the University of Tennessee spent \$1.3 million on recruiting in 2014
- **Less than 1% of high school football players will play D-I**
  - Less than 0.5% will play in a Power 5 conference
- **85 full athletic scholarships**
  - Full ride (100%) or nothing
  - No partial scholarships
- **Division I (FBS) recruiting timeline...**
  - Coaches will make offers as early as 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Most offers are made during the summer before senior year
  - Some offers will be made during senior year, but not many
  - In all reality, if you are not in conversation with a Division I (FBS) program right now, you are better served focusing on other levels of college football



COLLEGE FOOTBALL  
**PLAYOFF**

# Opportunities at each division level

- NCAA Division I (FCS) *also referred to as D-IAA*
  - 124 FCS programs in 13 athletic conferences
- **Nationally televised 24 team playoff**
  - On ESPN each year
- **Very high level of competition!**
  - This is not a step down from FBS
  - Do not consider these schools as back up options to FBS schools
  - Competition level is comparable to a non-Power 5 FBS conference
- **63 athletic scholarships per fully funded program**
  - Can offer partial scholarships
  - More often than not, partial scholarships usually cover 50% of tuition
  - Pioneer League and Ivy League are non-athletic scholarship FCS conferences
- **Division I (FCS) recruiting timeline...**
  - 25-50% of offers are made in the summer before senior year
  - Most programs have their offers out by December of senior year
  - Some programs will possibly look for one or two more recruits through February
  - Transfer and JUCO recruiting is very prevalent



# Opportunities at each division level

## - NCAA Division II

- 169 D-II programs in 16 athletic conferences
- Only 6 D-II programs west of Colorado!
- **Nationally televised regular season games**
  - On CBS Sports Network
- **Another very high level of competition!**
  - 100+ former D-II football players are currently on NFL rosters
  - All but one NFL team had at least one D-II player on their roster in 2015
- **36 athletic scholarships per fully funded program**
  - Can, and often do, offer partial scholarships
  - Scholarships are typically linked to playing time
  - The more you play, the more scholarship money you receive
- Division II recruiting timeline...
  - Small amount of scholarship offers made before senior season
  - Most offers are made during the back half of HS senior season



# Opportunities at each division level

## - NCAA Division III

- 248 D-III programs in 28 athletic conferences
- Only 6 D-II programs west of Colorado!
- **Playoff system and nationally televised National Championship (Stagg Bowl)**
  - On CBS Sports Network
- **15 D-III players on NFL rosters in 2015**
  - Hobart College OT Ali Marpet was drafted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the 2015 NFL Draft
- **Elite academic programs**
  - NESCAC (aka “Little Ivys”) – Amherst, Wesleyan, Tufts, etc.
  - Carnegie Mellon – Ranked as the 24<sup>th</sup> best university in the world and #1 in computer science
  - Johns Hopkins – Has produced 36 Nobel Prize winners
  - Williams College – Ranked as the #1 college in the U.S.A. by Forbes
- **Best opportunity to play multiple sports in college**
  - More time to study and pursue other passions
- **Do NOT offer athletic scholarships**
  - Substantial financial aid packages available through academics, merit, and need based scholarships
- **Division III recruiting timeline...**
  - Most recruiting takes place during senior season
  - Can recruit into the spring depending on the school
  - Academics are key, so finishing HS strong is vital



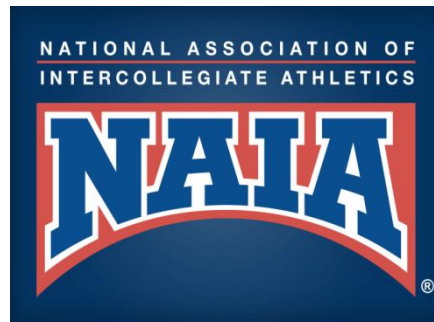
Division III

DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

# Opportunities at each division level

## - NAIA

- 89 NAIA programs in 10 athletic conferences
- Located mostly in the Pacific Northwest, Midwest, and Southeast
- **NAIA motto – “Champions of Character”**
  - Athletes, coaches, and administrators are educated on character and integrity
  - Schools are required to conduct student-led leadership activities
- **24 athletic scholarships per fully funded program**
  - Like NCAA D-II, scholarships are typically linked to playing time
  - The more you play, the more money you tend to receive in a scholarship
- **Simplified recruiting rules**
  - Very few restrictions on coach/student-athlete contact
  - On campus tryouts/workouts are allowed at any time
- NAIA recruiting timeline...
  - Most recruiting takes place during senior season
  - Most offers are made November through March after senior season



# Opportunities at each division level

## - Junior College

- 134 JUCO programs across two governing bodies (NJCAA & CCCAA)
- 65 teams in the National Junior College Athletic Association (7 conferences and Independents)
- 69 teams in the California Community College Athletic Association (10 conferences)
- **Academic leniency**
  - Do not need to take ACT or SAT to attend a junior college
- **24 athletic scholarships per fully funded program**
  - Like NCAA D-II, scholarships are typically linked to playing time
  - The more you play, the more money you tend to receive in a scholarship
- **Simplified recruiting rules**
  - Very few restrictions on coach/student-athlete contact
  - On campus tryouts/workouts are allowed at any time
- JUCO recruiting timeline...
  - Most recruiting takes place after senior season
  - Most offers are made November through May after senior season



# Visits

- Official visits
  - Partially or completely paid for by the school
    - Program to program basis
  - Usually invited by a coach
    - Not appropriate to ask for an official visit
  - Can take up to 5 official visits to D-I schools
    - Unlimited official visits to all other levels
  - Scholarships and roster spots are often offered during an official visit



# Visits

- Unofficial visits
  - Paid for by the student-athlete & family
    - Transportation, food, lodging (if necessary), etc.
  - Up to three tickets per recruit
  - Game day visits are unofficial visits
    - Usually include a tour and an opportunity to meet with the coaches before the game
    - Invitation is not a sign of actual interest



# Visits

- Schedule your own unofficial visit!
  1. Fill out the program's recruiting questionnaire
  2. Email the coaching staff expressing your interest in the school and your desire to visit the campus
  3. Call the coaching staff to confirm a date and time that works well for both parties
- If you do not hear back from a coach, that is okay!
  - You can also schedule an unofficial visit through the school's website or by calling the admissions department
  - When you talk to the admissions department, express your interest in playing football at the school and ask to be put in contact with a coach on the football staff

## Daily Campus Visit

The University of Montana hosts prospective students on campus Monday - Friday throughout the entire year, except holidays. Typically, a student can meet with an admissions counselor, take a guided tour of campus, and meet with a faculty member. Tours and meetings with admissions counselors are offered at various times throughout the year.

We recommend visiting on a weekday during the academic year to experience campus life at its best. To provide you with the best experience possible, we ask that you give us at least two weeks notice to schedule your visit. If you schedule within a week of visiting we may not be able to arrange additional meetings with departments.

[Register online for a daily campus visit](#)

When are you visiting?	Tour Times (MST)	Admission Visit Times (MST)
Fall & Spring Semester (late August through mid-December and late January through mid-May)	11 a.m. or 2 p.m.	10 a.m. or 1 p.m. - Freshmen Students 3 p.m. - Transfer Students
Winter Break (mid-December through late January)	11 a.m.	10 a.m.
Summer Break (mid-May through late August)	11 a.m.	10 a.m.
Saturday (Fall and Spring Semester only)	10 a.m.	Not available

Check out the [travel and accommodations](#) page for information on getting to Missoula, accommodations, and other services in the area.

# National Signing Day / Signing Period

National Letter of Intent (NLI) - For Division I and Division II only.

## NLI Signing Dates for Prospective Student-Athletes Signing 2016-17 and Enrolling 2017-18

Sport (s)	Initial Signing Date	Final Signing Date
Basketball (Early Period)	November 9, 2016	November 16, 2016
Basketball (Regular Period)	April 12, 2017	Division I: May 17, 2017 Division II: August 1, 2017
Football (Midyear JC Transfer)	December 14, 2016	January 15, 2017
Football (Regular Period)	February 1, 2017	April 1, 2017
Soccer and Men's Water Polo	February 1, 2017	August 1, 2017
All Other Sports (Early Period)	November 9, 2016	November 16, 2016
All Other Sports (Regular Period)	April 12, 2017	August 1, 2017

<http://www.nationalletter.org/signingDates/index.html>

# National Signing Day / Signing Period

- Division III & NAIA programs do not have a signing period
  - However, you may be asked to an Institutional Letter of Intent or Letter of Commitment on a school to school basis
    - Unlike the NLI, these are not binding
    - Signing the Award letter or making your housing deposit is considered a commitment by most DIII colleges.

# Gauging a coach's interest level

- Interest level: UNCLEAR

- Camp brochures
- Questionnaire
- General letters
- Form emails/mass emails
- Request for your game schedule
- Game day visit

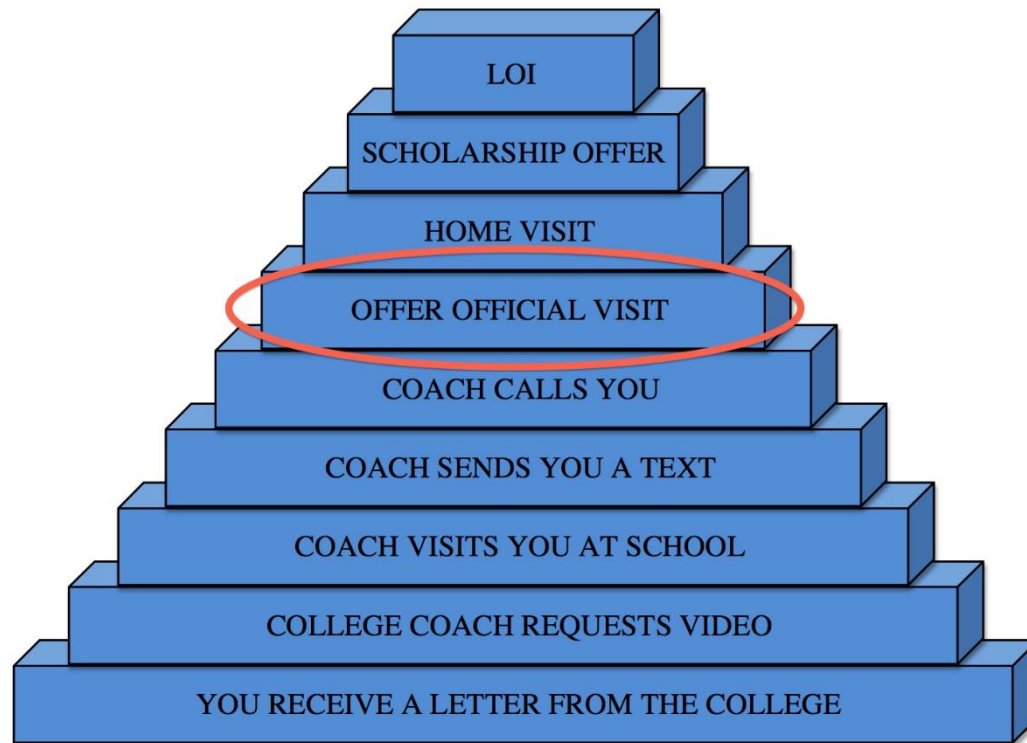
- *On this side? Here's what to do:*

- *Fill out questionnaire*
- *Send intro email to coach*
- *Connect with coach on social media*
- *Call coach*

- Interest level: LIKELY

- Personal email
- Social media back & forth
- Phone call
- Tells you where you stand on the recruiting board
- Meeting with coach(es) on or off campus
- Official visit
- Roster spot offer
- Athletic scholarship offer

# Gauging a coach's interest level



**How Interested Are They?**

# Questions to ask coaches

## Academic/Admissions Qs:

- ✓ Will my specific major interfere with my athletic schedule?
- ✓ What are the admission requirements for an athlete?
- ✓ Does your program have a full-time academic adviser?
- ✓ Are there team study halls?
- ✓ Do most of your players graduate in four years?
- ✓ Can the application fee be waived for athletes?



## Athletic/Recruiting Qs:

- ✓ What are the key positions you are looking to fill in the (your grad year) class?
- ✓ How many players are you recruiting at my position?
- ✓ Am I a player on your recruiting radar?
- ✓ What type of player are you looking for at my position?
- ✓ What is your recruiting timeline? When would you like your recruiting done for the class of 2017?
- ✓ What is a typical "day in the life" like for a member of your team during the season? What about during the off-season?