

## College Athlete Recruiting Timeline

	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade
<b>Fall</b>	Learn how to write formal letters (no longer than a page) and start your résumé, also no longer than a page.	Begin thinking about the type of school you want to go to (size, location, caliber of program, academics, etc). Start making your list of schools, it's better to start with a large list (20-40 schools) and narrow it down later. It's easier to drop schools off your recruiting list then add them late in the recruiting process.	Recruiting becomes more of a give and take at this point. Coaches can respond via email, and talk with you on the phone if you reach them. They are not allowed to return phone calls but can return emails. The schools you are emailing should be top 15-20 on your list based on your interests, your best times and academic standing. Sign up for the early Winter or early Spring SAT or ACT testing dates.	You have 5 official visits to campuses, which the coaches will pay for, within NCAA Division I and II (there is no limit on unofficial visits, which are not paid for). Division III is a different process. If you have verbally committed, sign your paperwork in Nov and continue communication, especially with any SAT/ACT score changes or any schedule changes. If you haven't committed, continue communication with all schools you are interested in.
<b>Winter</b>	Begin researching the type of school you are interested in and determine what NCAA level you want to participate in (Division I, II, or III) and what sort of times it will take to swim there.	Start formulating your letters/emails to college coaches. See NCAA recruiting guidelines (you may contact coaches but they cannot initiate communication with you yet). Keep them updated via email because college coaches have a database of recruits.	Respond to coaches immediately... do not let days or weeks pass before you respond to them, this shows a lack of interest. Continue to update coaches on meets and times. This is your time to brag about any time standards or awards that you have achieved or won. You need to "sell" yourself to them. Begin thinking about college entrance exams, see your school counselor.	Continue to keep in touch with schools whether you have committed or not. Again, any schedule changes need to be communicated with coaches, especially if commitment is made. The college/university has agreed to accept you, not just the coach, admissions must approve changes. If you have not committed, keep coaches updated on your meets and times.

### College Athlete Recruiting Timeline (con't)

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<b>Spring</b>	Camp registration is here... think about team and individual camps. Decide if you want to go to a camp on a college campus coached by a collegiate team and coach, or another location coached by national and international players and coaches. Consider camp as a great way to see a campus and get to know coaches from different schools.	Same as 9th grade, begin thinking about camps. Begin sending your letters/emails to college coaches. Start narrowing your list of schools to those that you have the most interest in.	Narrow your final list of schools to about 8-10 that you are serious about and those that have shown significant interest in you. You MUST take the SAT or ACT at this time if you haven't already done so. When you indicate what colleges to send scores to, also indicate scores be sent to the NCAA clearinghouse. You may be asked to send transcripts at this point.	If you have not committed, take your final official visits. The spring signing period begins in April and continues through the summer. GRADES, GRADES, GRADES, DO NOT LET THESE SLIP!!!!!!
<b>Summer</b>	Participate in summer meets. Attend camps for swimming, not a "combo" camp.	Send a follow up letter including the summer camps you are attending and meet/time information.	July 1 going into 12th grade, college coaches are allowed to contact you by phone. They can make scholarship offers at this point. Register with the NCAA Clearinghouse if you plan to play Division I or II athletics. Visit colleges, set up meetings with coaches (these will not be official recruiting meetings) and academic advisors. Send coaches your summer meet/camp schedule. Include club/high school team information. Attend camps where coaches you want to swim for will be.	Continue to train and compete through the summer. The college recruiting process is the START of your college career. You want to make a great impression when you arrive on campus in August/September.