



Baseball Recruiting Timeline

11 Essential Questions to Guide You Through the Baseball Recruiting Process

Questions to Ask College Coaches on Recruiting Visits

Count of Baseball Programs by State

By Michelle Kretzschmar

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When looking at this schedule, keep in mind this is geared for baseball players. In many ways, your senior high school baseball season will not count. Most coaches (not all) will have already filled their recruit classes for the following year (your college freshman year) and some of the slots for the year after that (your college sophomore year.)

There will be exceptions, such as junior colleges and some of the less academically competitive D3 schools. But in general, your junior year high school season and the following summer season are the ones that really count. For those talented enough to play for top D1 schools, coaches will start identifying you based on your sophomore year.

It is essential to see your high school timeline in relationship to the recruiting timelines for college coaches. What does this mean? Your senior season (for baseball) occurs too late to count. In most cases, you are going to have to submit your college applications before your season even starts.

If you think you're good enough and want a coach to watch one of your games during your junior year season (remember, they are in the middle of their own season), you'll need to provide evidence for the coach before the season starts. That generally means an excellent performance at a camp (that the coach is familiar with) from the summer before or video from your sophomore high school season and/or the following summer.

That means that you have already targeted the schools you are interested in before your junior year!

Even if you think you'll be competing at a lower level, you'll still need your targeted list of schools by the end of your junior year. This is why it's not unreasonable to start visiting colleges during your sophomore year and the summer before. (The [DIY College Rankings Baseball Spreadsheet](#) can help you create your list of targeted schools.)

The following is recruiting timeline for baseball. There are some things missing from this list that you'll find on others. The two big ones are: keep up the academics and keep up your physical training. I think that these should be givens for your entire high school career and don't see the need to repeat it in every section.

Baseball Recruiting Timeline

Freshman

SPRING

Believe it or not, playing on your high school team is still an important part of the recruiting process. No, it's not likely that college coaches will show up to your games. Rather, you should use the results of your high school freshman season to determine what level college to target.

If you're potential D1 material, you should know by the end of your freshman season. The following are some signs:

- You played varsity as freshman
- Invitation to the USA Baseball National Team Development Program
- Invitation to the Area Code Underclass Tournament
- You're playing on a nationally ranked travel team (Check places like [Perfect Game](#) to see where ranked teams play--does your team play in the same places)

The key is to be [realistic](#) about your abilities and potential for improvement. Remember, your chances of getting into Harvard are better than your chances of going pro. And playing college baseball is not the same thing as getting a scholarship.

- If you are shooting for a top D1 program, get video from your season to post.

Sophomore

SUMMER-RISING SOPHOMORE

If you're targeting the major D1 programs, you should also do items in **Summer Rising Junior Year**.

- Play on a summer team.
- If possible, attend a showcase or prospect camp to get an idea of what level you can play at in college. This is a perfect time to attend a prospect camp at a local college and use the college [coach's interest](#) to estimate your ability level.
- Start visiting colleges, even if they are just local ones that you may not have much interest in. You need to develop a baseline from which to evaluate other schools.
- Look up the NCAA rules about contact with coaches and grade and ACT/SAT test scores requirements. This information is free and there is no excuse not to know the information.
- Decide if you want to use a [professional service for recruiting](#) college athletes or even just the college admissions process. You'll get more value from these services the sooner you start using them.

FALL

If you're targeting the major D1 programs, you should also do items in **Junior Fall**.

- Take the [PSAT](#) if offered by your school. This is an easy and inexpensive way to gauge your probable SAT score.
- Make sure that your high school counselor knows that you're interested in playing at the college level. You need to make sure that the classes you are taking will count toward NCAA requirements. (For homeschoolers, use the course titles of acceptable courses provided by the NCAA to minimize problems.)

SPRING

- You should be [playing on your high school team](#). Remember NCAA rules, coaches cannot initiate contact with you at this time. However, you can contact coaches at any time.
- Make sure you get video from your season to post.

Junior

SUMMER-RISING JUNIOR

- Play on a summer team.
- Start generating a [list of potential schools](#). This could be as many as [50 schools](#). Don't think that this is too many. Keep in mind that schools will start falling off the list for a variety of reasons: the coach isn't interested; too many players at the position; you don't like the coaching philosophy; the team has a low graduation rate; you don't like the school; you won't start; you don't like the facilities; the team has a poor record; or you don't have very good chances at getting admitted to the school.
- Attend [showcases](#), ideally where some of the schools you are interested in are participating.
- Visit colleges whenever possible.
- Put together your [athletic profile](#) so it can be easily updated.
- Fill out the online recruiting form for all of the colleges you are interested in. Follow this up with an email with your athletic profile and a link to your video, if you have any.

FALL

If you're targeting the major D1 programs, you should also do items in **Senior Fall**. If you're looking at making an early [verbal commitment](#), you should definitely request a [financial aid pre-read](#).

- Retake the PSAT. This allows you to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship program. Colleges will start sending you information based on your scores and there are a lot more academic scholarships than athletic scholarships.
- Take the SAT/ACT during the semester your sport is not in session. For baseball players this means the fall of your junior year. Coaches need to know your score to know if you have a chance at being accepted to their schools. You need to know your score so you can plan to retake the test if necessary.
- Subscribe to a service like BeRecruited.com. If nothing else, it will give you a place to post your video. Of course, you can post your video on YouTube but why not someplace where you already know coaches will be visiting?
- Register with the [NCAA Eligibility Center](#).
- Start [calling coaches](#) to ask him what positions he will be looking for in your recruiting class.
- Attend fall visit days for colleges. Arrange for meetings with coaches whenever possible.

SPRING

- Play on your high school team and get video. At the very least, invest in a stand to hold your camcorder or [smartphone](#). You can then set it up and have it record the area of the player's position during defense and move it for batting.

Unless your son is playing pitcher or catcher, there will be a lot of useless [video](#) to edit out. Make sure you do edit the video to be no more than four minutes, ideally less than two. You can probably get an entire season of at bats in less than four minutes. It is not difficult to edit video. You can download a program as part of Microsoft Windows that will allow you to cut video, eliminate the sound (don't add music!), and put a splash screen with the player name and information at the beginning.

- Send updates to coaches that you have already contacted. Let them know about a homerun, no-hitter, etc. Also, you can let them know when you have uploaded video. Don't expect automatic replies since they will be in season as well. Try to use a consistent subject line for each contact, for example: John Smith, 201X Prospect, Update.
- If necessary, repeat the ACT/SAT for the final sitting of the semester. It will be one less thing to worry about your senior year. The June date is also a good time to take any required SAT subject tests. Request your transcripts be sent to the NCAA Eligibility Center at the end of the semester for a preliminary evaluation.
- Ask teachers if they will write letters of recommendation in the fall.
- End of the semester/beginning of summer, continue to call coaches and ask what they're looking for in your recruit class.

Senior

SUMMER-RISING SENIOR

- Play on summer team
- Attend camps with targeted schools attending
- Let [targeted coaches](#) know which camps you will be attending and summer schedule.
- Visit colleges. Schedule admissions interviews and meetings with coaches whenever possible.
- Work on any required college admissions essays.

FALL

- Retake the SAT/ACT if necessary
- Schedule official and unofficial overnights (you should be familiar enough with the NCAA rules to know the difference)
- Get your financial aid form submitted as close to October 1 as possible.
- Submit college applications as soon as possible. If you have a first choice, talk with the coach about [early decision](#).
- Make sure all of your letters of recommendation are submitted.
- For those getting scholarships, sign [national letter of intent](#). For those targeting the Ivy League, try for a likely letter.
- Let college coaches that you have rejected know as soon as possible.

SPRING

- Keep in contact with the coaches. Those that don't give scholarships will understand that you need to know your financial aid situation at all the schools before you can make a decision.
- Request final transcripts to be sent to the NCAA.
- Once you accept at a school, get the team's [summer workout schedule](#) and do it.
- Let college coaches that you have rejected know as soon as possible.

11 Essential Questions to Guide You Through the Baseball Recruiting Process

Do you know not all colleges offer athletic scholarships?

- [What Athletes Need to Know Before Starting the College Recruiting Process](#)
- [How to Get Recruited to Play College Baseball](#)
- [12 Things You Need to Know About Athletic Scholarships](#)

Do you know how many baseball scholarships are available per team?

- [11.7 Reality Check: College Baseball Scholarships](#)
- [Getting Recruited for Athletic Scholarships is All About Knowing the Numbers](#)
- [Must Reads about the Odds of Playing College Sports and Receiving Athletic Scholarships](#)

Do you think you're being recruited because you've received letters from baseball coaches?

- [5 Signs that You Don't Understand the College Recruiting Process](#)

Do you think your you're good enough that coaches will find you?

- [Must Read for High School Baseball Players and their Parents](#)
- [4 College Recruiting Mistakes to Avoid When You're the Best Player on Your Team](#)

Do you think that a baseball scholarship means you won't have to worry about financial aid?

- [5 Financial Mistakes that Can Limit Your Chance of Playing Your Sport at the College Level](#)
- [Can College Athletes Receive both Athletic and Academic Scholarships?](#)
- [Athletic Recruiting and the Financial Aid Pre-Read](#)

Have you created an athletic profile?

- [6 Things High School Baseball Players Must Have on Their Athletic Profile](#)
- [15 Sample Athletic Resumes and Letters](#)

Do you have video for coaches to view?

[9 Resources for Creating Your Own Softball or Baseball Recruiting Video](#)
[Creating a Recruiting Video with Your Phone Resource Center](#)

Do think your baseball ability will make up for weak academics?

[4 College Recruiting Mistakes to Avoid When You're the Best Player on Your Team](#)

Are you considering using a recruiting service?

[Should You Use an Athletic Recruiting Service?](#)

Have you started contacting coaches yet?

[What's Important to College Baseball Coaches](#)

[Questions to Ask College Coaches on College Recruiting Visits](#)

[4 Things You Should Know Before You Contact College Coaches](#)

[When Will College Coaches Start Contacting Me?](#)

[How Many Colleges to Target to Get Recruited to Play College Baseball](#)

Are you attending showcases or prospect camps?

[Want to be Recruited to Play in College? Draw Them a Map](#)

[8 Ways Showcase Camps Can Be a Waste of Money](#)

[Want to be Recruited to Play in College? Draw Them a Map](#)

Other Resources

- [5 Ways to Get Smart About College Baseball Recruiting](#)
- [What is a walk-on player in college sports?](#)
- [5 Ways to Get Smart About the National Letter of Intent](#)
- [Who Pays for College Athletes Health Care?](#)
- [How to Answer Coaches Who Ask What Other Schools Are Recruiting You](#)
- [Using Baseball to Get Into College: The College Application Essay](#)
- [What You Need to Know About College Recruiting: Coaching Changes](#)
- [Should you tell coaches about an injury during the recruiting process?](#)

Questions to Ask College Coaches on College Recruiting Visits

The following is a list of questions to ask college coaches during a college visit. These questions won't be relevant for all sports or all colleges. For example, [D3 colleges](#) do not give out athletic scholarships so there's no point in asking about them. Some questions may be more appropriate for a second visit than a first visit. After all, if a [coach](#) is just meeting you for the first time, he probably can't rank you among recruits for specific positions.

I based these questions on those I've found on various internet sites and recruiting books. There are some questions I didn't include. One list included questions on the conference the team played in and how many games were on the schedule. I'm sorry, this is something that is easily looked up on the team website. Why waste your time (and the coaches) asking questions that can be answered in five minutes on the computer?

If you are targeting the Ivy League, I suggest you read through [Good Questions During Unofficial Visits-Suggestions](#) on College Confidential. There are quite a few contributors on the Athletic Recruits forum with experience with Ivy League recruiting and are willing to help.

For baseball players who have realistic prospects to make it to the MLB, [25 Questions to Ask During the College Baseball Recruiting Process](#) is worth a read. Some of the questions are designed to get more at the issue of player development.

Questions to Ask College Coaches

- What is the season/off-season practice schedule?
- What would a typical schedule look like?
- Is there a separate conditioning schedule?
- Are there unofficial/captain practices?
- Do freshman play?
- What percentage of freshman remain on the team all four years?
- What is the travel schedule like?
- Are there separate dorms/dining/work out facilities for the athletes? Are athletes required to use them?
- What position do you see me playing?
- How many people are you recruiting from my position?
- Where do you rank me on your list of possible recruits for position _____?
- How many/types of [scholarships](#) are available for my class?
- How are scholarships renewed?
- What are your redshirt policies? Will scholarship cover a fifth year?

- Do you have official tryouts for the team?
- What is your [walk-on](#) policy?
- Can I compete in other sports?
- Is there a junior varsity team?
- Are there any summer obligations?
- What is the coaches recruiting timeline?
- How would you describe your coaching style?
- When does the coaches contract end?
- What kind of players succeed here?
- What [medical expenses](#) does the college cover?
- What equipment are players required to provide?
- What expenses will players have to cover?
- What is the team GPA?
- What percentage of players [graduate](#)?
- Are there team/athletic study halls/tutoring?
- How are conflicts between academics and athletics handled?
- Will I be able to do study abroad?
- What are some of the common majors of players?
- Are any players majoring in _____
- Will I be able to major in _____?
- How accommodating are faculty with players missing practices?
- Do players attend summer school to reduce the in-season course load?

Position Questions

- For example: are catchers allowed to call their own pitches?
- What do look for in players at _____ position?
- What happens next?
- Do you need anything else from me?

Count of Baseball Programs by State

State	NAIA	NCAA D1	NCAA D2	NCAA D3	NCCAA	NJCAA	Other	Grand Total
Alabama	3	9	9	2	1	17	2	43
Arizona	1	2	1			14		18
Arkansas	3	5	7	2	2	2		21
California	13	24	17	9	1	1	88	153
Colorado		1	7			5		13
Connecticut		7	4	6		1		18
Delaware		2	1	1		1		5
District of Columbia		2		2				4
Florida	7	13	13		1	22	1	57
Georgia	7	7	14	6	1	9		44
Hawaii		1	2					3
Idaho	2		1			1		4
Illinois	9	11	4	21	1	38	2	86
Indiana	14	9	4	8		2		37
Iowa	11	1	1	11		12		36
Kansas	12	3	5		1	21		42
Kentucky	10	7	3	5				25
Louisiana	3	12		2		4		21
Maine		1		9			3	13
Maryland		6		8		10	2	26
Massachusetts	1	5	6	35		6	1	54
Michigan	9	6	4	8		13	1	41
Minnesota		1	8	17		16		42
Mississippi	4	6	2	2		15		29
Missouri	11	4	14	4		7	2	42
Montana			1			1	1	3
Nebraska	7	3	2	1	1	3		17
Nevada		2				2		4
New Hampshire		1	3	6			1	11
New Jersey		8	3	14		13	1	39
New Mexico	1	2	2			3		8
New York		18	13	46		32	3	112
North Carolina	2	18	13	5		11		49
North Dakota	4	2	2			4		12
Ohio	6	12	10	21		6	2	57
Oklahoma	8	3	11		1	9	1	33
Oregon	2	3	2	5			8	20
Pennsylvania	1	9	20	51		12	11	104
Puerto Rico			2				13	15
Rhode Island		3		4		1		8
South Carolina	3	11	12			5		31
South Dakota	4	1	3					8
Tennessee	7	10	10	3	2	10		42
Texas	9	18	12	16	2	35		92
Utah		4	1			1		6
Vermont			1	5			1	7
Virginia	1	13	2	16		3		35
Washington		4	2	4			19	29
West Virginia	1	2	14	1		1		19
Wisconsin	2	1	1	21		3		28
Grand Total	178	293	269	377	14	372	163	1666