

ROYAL OAK RAVENS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT



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1500 Lexington Blvd. Royal Oak, MI 48073

COLLEGE RECRUITING 101

There are two key points to remember as you begin the discussion with your student-athlete regarding college choices. First, there are many more dollars to be earned in the “counseling” office, versus the Athletic office. Many times, the first question a college coach will ask your athlete is “what is your GPA and ACT score”? Many colleges are hampered by strict enrollment policies. Therefore, if your student achieves at a high academic level, the college coach and university perceive them as a “low-risk” potential investment. Secondly, your student-athlete needs to commit to being the best athlete they can be. This means outworking and outperforming not only the athletes within ROHS, but also amongst our league and region.

Grades 9 & 10 “Build A Foundation”

- **Communicate with your high school counselor and coach.** It is important to establish positive relationships with those who will guide and support you.
- Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center in the spring at www.eligibilitycenter.org.
- **Train and practice.** A rigorous schedule develops both discipline and skill.
- **Play often and well.** There is no substitute for game experience, so join both school teams and outside teams to maximize your potential.
- **If you enjoy more than one sport, play more than one.** College coaches covet the multiple-sport athlete.
- **Have fun!** Play because you love the game.
- **Attend camps.** Summers provide a block of time to make local, regional, and national connections, as well as to build skills.
- **Record statistics.** Be able to prove your standing at meets, tournaments, and play days.
- **Study!** The higher your GPA, the more college options you will have

“College selection is a match to be made, not a prize to be won”

Grade 11 “Do The Research”

- Communicate with your high school counselor and coach.
- Talk with your coach about your goals and plans.
- Create a Resume: Present your athletic history on a single page, include all of the appropriate information related to your sport (Year in School, Goals, Camps, Awards, Lessons, Statistics, Positions, Past accomplishments, Teacher/coach names), see page 3
- Make a video or DVD: Although “Highlight” films show you at your best, also include general game or match footage. Online video is a plus, allows for easy access
- If you have not yet done this, register with the NCAA Eligibility Center in the spring at www.eligibilitycenter.org.
- Use summers for camps with college coaches.
- With your coach, create a list of college coaches, including e-mail and phone numbers.

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- Write a generic letter of interest asking for information and send it to coaches on that list in June. Include your resume.
- Provide additional information and video upon request.
- Keep an accurate record of all communications to and from coaches, including telephone calls and e-mails.
- Visit college campuses. Talk to coaches, if possible.
- College coaches are permitted to communicate with athletes beginning July 1 after the completion of Grade 11.
- Be sure to know the NCAA rules for your sport. They will vary and may change year to year.

Grade 12 “Hurry Up & Wait”

- Continue to communicate with your high school coach and athletic director.
- You have an obligation to keep everyone involved and informed about your communication with college coaches.
- Keep an open dialogue with coaches at institutions in which you continue to have an interest. If you do not have an ongoing interest, be courteous but clear with recruiters.
- Provide additional information and video upon request.
- Take a maximum of 5 **official** visits to college campuses at the invitation of coaches (Division I and IAA, unlimited visits at Division III.) An official visit to a Division I school is one in which the costs of travel and your stay is paid for by the school. You may make any number of visits at your own expense.
- Recognize when coaches are no longer interested in you.
- Apply to some colleges where you are a strong candidate without athletic consideration.
- Prepare applications for those colleges where you are an athletic recruit.
- Keep the scrapbook and statistics updated; keep accurate records.
- Make new videos if time permits.
- Be prepared to give a yes/no answer to one school without knowing another school's admission decision.
- Consider the restrictions of an Early Decision.
- Demand clarity and seek honesty.
- Make a final decision—you can only attend one school.
- If necessary, accept that you will not be a college athlete and move on
- Consider the value of selecting a school that will meet your academic goals where you will be comfortable if you are unable to continue as an athlete.

For the most up-to-date information, please visit www.ncaa.org, click on Student-Athletes

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