



How and when to start the process

(PARENTS and PLAYERS)

Parents/Player

This is always the biggest question, the answer lies with the individual! We suggest 2nd year of 14u and no later than the 2nd year of 16u.

Parents please realize that this is a lot of added stress and pressure on the player so as a parent be encouraging and offer info but do not dictate direction to them.

Let them figure it out and learn as they go. This is a great teaching/learning experience for them, allow them to explore options!

Step one:

Ask three questions to start the process when the player is ready:

- How far away from home do you want to be?
 - 50% of college students stay within 100 miles of home
 - The earlier they start the process the further they want to be away, but this changes very quickly as they get older
- Do you want a large or small campus?
 - How did you like your high school?
 - Was it large or small?
 - Where do you see yourself?
 - Do you like big crowds?
 - Is your friend group large?
- Do you know what you want to study?
 - Do you have an idea?
 - It is ok if you do not know!
 - Approx 80% of students change their majors thruout their college education
 - It is OK to go in undecided - in fact most college coaches approve that

All of these questions do not need to be answered right away - but just answering one or two will allow you to narrow your search!

Step two:

Once you have an answer or two you can start looking into different colleges.

- You can use Wikipedia.com and research colleges within your area.
 - Make a list of 10 colleges you are interested in
 - This list is not set and does not define you
 - This list WILL continually change as the player learns about what they want and do not want
 - This is a starting point only to get them understanding the process
 - Of all the players we have worked with to get to the next level only 1 player did so at a college on their original list
- You can then find the softball info you need off of the college website
 - Head coaches emails
 - Assistant coaches emails
 - Look at the roster and review different majors within the roster and see if they align with your goals
 - Many colleges frown on athletes with certain majors such as nursing or bio-chem
- Look for camps softball camps offered
 - Most all colleges have a camp on the fall and one in the spring
 - At camps you get a hands on experience
 - With the campus
 - With the coaches
 - With the players

Step three:

You are now ready to start emailing, going to camps, or campus visits

- Use the email tutorial to start the email process
- Parents let the player send the emails in their own words
- Allow the player to start asking questions without judgement
- It is a long process but in the end the knowledge self-awareness they gain is worth it.
- Let the player research schools and edit their list based on who THEY are and want - not what we want as parents

It is never too early to start the process and never too early to start getting experience and knowledge, the key is you have to start!!!!

Travel Ball Coaches/Parents

It is our job to teach the players the game, mechanics, and mindset to get them ready for the next level, that is if they want the next level. Many do not but it is still our job

What can you do to help the team:

- Identify what level team you have
- Play in events against like competition
- Play in events that have a good college coach showing
 - These are in every state
 - College coaches usually know their recruiting schedule by the end of May
 - Call and find out where your targeting college coaches will be and get there
- Showcase the players accordingly - do not have favoritism
 - During pool play do a showcase batting order
 - Whoever is the last out of the game the next person in the lineup now becomes lead off for the next game

What can you do to help the players:

- If your players are serious about going to the next level they have to understand
 - It's a huge commitment
 - It's a tremendous amount of dedication
 - They **HAVE** to separate themselves from other player
 - College softball is not easy and less than 3% get the opportunity
- Set requirements for each play, this will ensure a consistent message
 - 10 emails must be sent a week, you get blind-copied
 - Maintain a certain GPA
 - Must attend X number of college camps a year
 - Must have a hitting/pitching instructor
 - We even made it a requirement that they have to take the ACT/SAT as freshman
 - Must maintain a positive attitude and effort towards the game and others
- If you set requirements make sure there are consequences if they do not do them - but be consistent with all players
- Once you have a team of like minded players you will be amazed at the results.

What can I do to help advocate for my players:

A college coach will NEVER ask a player or TB coach

- What was your record?
- What's the score?

They are there to watch players who have shown interest in their program.