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IMPORTANT APRIL RECRUITING DATES

1 – Football (regular) final signing date for National Letter of Intent

8 – SAT late registration postmark date for May 1st Test

10 – ACT Test

14 – All other sports (late) initial signing date for National Letter of Intent.

14 – Basketball (late) initial signing date for National Letter of Intent

15 – Div. IA and IAA football coaches may make one telephone call to a prospect in his junior year of high school.

Financial Aid News

Top Ten Factors Affecting Financial Aid

U.S. News and World Report likes Top Ten Lists, and we like the information the periodical frequently provides on the subject of higher education. Here, then, is the Top Ten factors that can tip the financial aid scale according to *U.S. News*:

1. **The college's expectation of the student's contribution.** Many of the schools on this list reduce the student's need, and thus the aid package, by at least \$1,000 (and some by much more), saying that the student is expected to contribute that much each year from summer earnings.
2. **How the college counts home equity.** Some do consider the equity parents have in their homes as a resource that should be tapped to help pay for

college. Others don't. This question is not on the FAFSA but it is on the CSS/Profile that many high-priced schools require.

3. How the college considers divorced parents. Some schools, such as Yale, analyze the incomes of both stepparents and original parents and make their own judgments about which set of parents should be responsible for each student's college costs. Others consider the incomes of only the original parents. Colleges that only use the FAFSA consider only the custodial parents' income, even if a stepparent has a prenuptial agreement relieving the stepparent of financial responsibility for the child.

4. Pay attention to financial aid deadlines. Many schools will use a deadline as a reason to deny financial aid, even if they have money remaining. Others commit to meet the need of only those students admitted during the early or regular admission seasons and may run out of aid by the time they start admitting students off of the wait list. There are still schools who worry less about the deadlines, but there is evidence that that list is shrinking.

5. The aid policy for international students. There are a few schools like Princeton and other that commit to meet the financial needs of those who are not U. S. citizens. Many others, such as Northwestern and Adrian (Mich.), don't guarantee full aid for international students.

6. Whether the school offers merit scholarships. These are granted regardless of how wealthy the parents are if the student qualifies under the conditions set forth for the grant. But there are schools like Ivy League member Columbia that doesn't give merit aid.

7. The effect of an aid application on admission. At least 28 colleges nationwide have committed to ignore a student's aid application when deciding about admission. But that's risky and potentially expensive. Most reserve at least some seats for students who can pay full price. The number of full-paying customers can depend on the current year's total financial aid pool. Once the school runs out, it's everyone for himself!

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RECENT ADDITIONS TO CPOA Pennsylvania

Hayden Rigo – North Star – Football

Zach Hermann – Seneca Valley – Volleyball

Tommy Valerio – Canon McMillian – Football

Zarley Zalewski – Valley – Baseball

Caela Long – Greater Latrobe – Soccer

Andrew Huska – Ford City – Football

Andrew Ohm – South Park – Track & Field

Mitchell Martin – Deer Lakes – Track & Field

Tyler Bergman – North Hills – Golf

Maggie Simpson – Upper St. Clair – Field Hockey

Megan Drambel – Seneca Valley – Volleyball

George DeAugustino – Seneca Valley - Soccer

CPOA Clients / College Decisions

Evan Kelly – Seton LaSalle will continue his Football career at the University of Richmond

Sara Scheidmantel – Beaver Area will continue her Golf career at Youngstown State University

Max Pawk – Sewickley Academy will continue his Lacrosse career at Franklin & Marshall College

Morgan Sharick – Burrell HS will continue her Soccer career at the University of Pittsburgh

Jessie Vilkofsky – Elizabeth Forward HS will continue her Soccer career at the Wheeling Jesuit University

Zachary Carter – Hampton will continue his Soccer career at Johns Hopkins University

Jenn Stefano – Connellsville will continue her Softball career at Chatham College

Christopher Hunkele – Hampton will continue his Soccer career at California University of PA.

Chelsy Cosentino – Kiski Area will continue her Softball career at St. Francis University

Jenna Dunlay – McKeesport will continue her Softball career at Chatham University

Tyler Lukart – Norwin will continue his Football career at Clarion University

Corey Spegal – Bethel Park will continue his Football career at Mercyhurst College

Adam Kelly – Mars will continue his Baseball career at Mt. Union College

Drake Greer – Bishop Canevin will continue his Football career at the University of Pittsburgh

Adam Lazenga – Bethel Park will continue his Football career at the University of Pittsburgh

Sarah Sandin – Yough will continue her Basketball career at Point Park University

Lacie Rosensteel – Connellsville will continue her Soccer career at Seton Hill University

Alyssa Ross – Thomas Jefferson will continue her Soccer career at St. Vincent College

Tenesha Corrales – Kiski Area will continue her Soccer career at St. Vincent College

Quinn Hood – Baldwin will continue his Football career at the College of Wooster

NCAA News

ESPN Report – Can Athletics Help in Admissions?

One of the most common messages that CPOA conveys to families is simple: It pays to be a recruiting student-athlete...in more ways than one. Recruited student-athletes experience benefits that reach far beyond the obvious opportunity to play the sport you love. From scholarships to preferred scheduling to personal tutors – athletes have a vastly different (in many ways better) college experience than the average student. ESPN recently came out with an eye opening report that exposes the advantages given to recruited student athletes.

Here are a few of the highlights from the report:

While not surprising that athletes receive admissions exceptions, the degree to which this occurs is widespread:

“An Associated Press review of admissions data submitted to the NCAA by most of the 120 schools in college football’s top tier shows that athletes enjoy strikingly better odds of having admission requirements bent on their behalf.

The notion that college athletes’ talents give them a leg up in the admissions game isn’t a surprise. But in what NCAA officials called the most extensive review to date, the AP found the practice is widespread and can be found in every major conference.

The review identified at least 27 schools where athletes were at least 10 times more likely to benefit from special admission programs than students in the general population.”

Many athletes are far less deserving of admissions than regular students:

“But the school also acknowledged in its NCAA report that athletic recruits overall are less prepared. At Texas, the average SAT score for a freshman football player from 2003 to 2005 was 945 — or 320 points lower than the typical first-year student’s score on the entrance exam.”

The advantages athletes receive are not supposed to be reserved only for them:

“The NCAA defines special admissions programs as those designed for students who don’t meet “standard or normal entrance requirements.” The NCAA says such exceptions are fine as long as schools offer the same opportunities to everyone from dancers, French horn players and underrepresented minorities as they do to fleet-footed wide receivers and 300-pound offensive linemen.”

Many universities defend the practice of special admissions citing the added value it brings to the school and student population.

Regardless of whether or not you agree with athletes receiving special privileges, it has and will happen for the foreseeable future

The Truth About Official Visits

What is the definition of an official visit vs. unofficial visit?

By definition an Official visit is paid for by the college, an unofficial is paid for by the family. On an official visit, the NCAA allows a school to pay for lodging, transportation, meals, and entertainment. That includes airfare, rental car, and three meals a day. Be aware that the school is NOT allowed to pay for your parents. The school may only pay for expenses related to the student-athlete. So for example, if you and your parents stay in a hotel the coach is able to pay for it. If you stay overnight with a member of the team on campus, the coach may not pay for your parents hotel. Official visits cannot be made until the opening day of class senior year. So, that date will be different depending on your school. The NCAA allows 5 visits to D1 and D2 schools combined. You are allowed an unlimited number of unofficial visits to all divisions. You may only take ONE official visit per institution. Each official visit may be up to 48 hrs.

Are all D1 & D2 schools able to offer official visits?

No. Remember that each school differs in policy. Just because official visits are allowed by the NCAA does not mean each school offers them. You should always ask the coach.

Can you visit a D3 school officially?

There is a common misconception that D3 schools do not offer official visits because they do not offer athletic scholarships. That is false! You are allowed an unlimited number of official visits to NAIA & D3 schools. Unfortunately, D3 schools tend to have a limited recruiting budget and therefore aren’t usually able

to offer paid airfare, hotel, etc...Some D3 schools do not offer official visits at all. It's a case by case basis.

What does it mean if the coach doesn't offer an official during senior year?

As a general rule, you are not likely a top recruit if it's a D1 or D2 school. Always ask questions and find out where you are on the recruiting list before visiting a school. Also ask what the schools policy is on official visits. Many schools are not fully-funded enough to provide airfare, but will offer to pay for meals and lodging. If they do, that IS an official visit. Always clarify with the coach whether it's an official and unofficial.

Are student-athletes allowed to tryout or practice with the team?

As an NCAA rule, D1 and D3 schools do not allow tryouts. On an official or unofficial visit you may participate in workouts that are not organized or observed by coaching staff. They must not be designed to test your athletic ability though. D2 schools are allowed to conduct one tryout in the off-season of your sport.

Are there any times when visits are not allowed?

Yes. There is a Dead Period in which it is not permissible to make in-person recruiting contacts or evaluations on- or off-campus or permit official or unofficial visits. Dead periods generally fall right before the signing periods.

When should visits be scheduled?

You should be trying to schedule visits right away. The best time to make visits is between now and the initial signing date.

Should a student-athlete bring up a visit or wait until a coach offers an official?

You should always bring it up!. You should really let the coaches know what YOUR recruiting timeline is. This is your recruiting experience and college choice; you have every right to inquire about how it's going to work.

How do these students and parents schedule these visits?

The key to setting up visits is coordinating with the coach. You must call or email the coach to inform him or her that you are coming to campus and would like to set up a meeting. Always contact the coach well in advance. If you do not let a coach know about your visit you are not maximizing your time and you will miss out on opportunities.

Sports Sponsorships

- Seton Hall University, NCAA Division I in South Orange, NJ, is eliminating mens and womens indoor track and field and adding womens golf as they shuffle some of their varsity sports teams. The changes take effect on July 1.
- Monmouth University, NCAA Division I in West Long Branch, NJ, is adding bowling as a varsity sport for women effective this fall.
- Cal State Northridge eliminates its Division I mens and womens swimming programs this spring.
- Wheaton College in Illinois is discontinuing five of its 22 Division III programs at the end of the school year: mens and womens golf, mens tennis, mens indoor track and womens water polo.
- Penn State Behrend, NCAA Division III in Erie, PA, adds mens volleyball to its sports listing.
- College of Notre Dame (Maryland) announced that its womens basketball team is being reinstated and will resume play next season. Late last year, we reported that the school cancelled the 2009-10 season after just one game when a rash of injuries and player illness depleted the roster to only six players.

CONTACT SHEETS

Remember to keep track of all questionnaires, calls, etc from college coaches with the contact sheets found in your STUDENT PACKET. Email me at martin.rock@cpoapa.com if you need additional copies!

REFERRAL PROGRAM

Do you know of a high school student athlete with the ability to perform at the collegiate level? A teammate from high school? Club team? From the newspaper? If so, contact your CPOA representative at martin.rock@cpoapa.com and if that athlete signs with CPOA PA, you receive a \$50 referral fee!

Season End Updates

Attention all spring sport athletes, your season end update forms which were mailed to you are now overdue. There are hundreds of coaches out there awaiting an update on your stats, awards and accomplishments from the past season. Please complete these and return to your CPOA representative immediately.

RECRUITING SEMINARS

CPOA Pennsylvania is planning to conduct several recruiting training sessions over the next few months. These sessions will include the basics of the recruiting process, how to choose the right college, review of NCAA rules and regulations, and how to best navigate this important process of college selection. Please let us know if you have interest in hosting one of these sessions for your teammates (students/parents) or teams/booster clubs (coaches).