

Breaking Down College Recruiting Process

Topic #1: Knowing When A College Coach is Interested in You

For High School student-athletes and their parents, the recruiting process can be stressful, overwhelming and confusing. Embrace the process; make the most of it. Perhaps the most difficult knowing when a coach is interested in you; it is hard to read. Just because you get emails or questionnaire's does not mean you are recruits.

Below, is an attempt to break down a coaching staff's recruiting actions into a scale of interest from 1 to 5 (low to high). Every coaching staff recruits student-athletes differently and not every athlete is treated the same. Understand, every situation is different and this is a broad idea what to look for determining coach's interest level.

Five Levels of Coach Interest:

1. Minimum Interest Level – contacted by coach

What does it mean? Your name is in a computer database or on a list; most likely, someone (perhaps your club coach) gave them your name as a potential recruit; they may or may not have seen you play or watched your recruiting video.

Coach's actions that accompany this level:

- May send you a very general letter and/or questionnaire
- May send you a brochure to their camp

2. Low Interest Level

What does it mean? Again, they may or may not have seen you play or watched your recruiting video, but if they haven't seen you play, someone they know or trust told them about you (perhaps your club coach) and suggested you are a prospect. At the minimum they will keep in touch and monitor your progress along with about 50-100 athletes in your graduating class.

Coach's actions that accompany this level:

- May send you a very general letter and/or questionnaire
- May invite you to their "elite" or prospect camp
- May send you a media guide in the mail
- May talk on the phone to your high school and/or club coach about you

3. Medium Interest Level

What does it mean? You are probably 1 in about 20-30 athletes the coaching staff is considering as a potential recruit. At this point coaches are not convinced you can play at their preferred level because they see a couple of flaws in your game they want you to improve or they question whether you can contribute immediately. Frankly, they might not think you are good enough player and it is possible they do not have time for you to develop into the player needed on the team. Another criteria they may question is about your grades or character; in any case, they're interested, but they're not sold yet; they will keep an eye on you and give you some attention watching you develop.

Coach's actions that accompany this level:

- College coaches will talk on the phone or in person to your high school and/or club coach about you
- Besides football or basketball it not typical but depending on the recruiting budget the college has at it's disposal or if your high school is close to the college an assistant coach may come watch a game. Coaches will definitely watch you play at recruiting tournaments and festivals
- Coaches may ask for updated player video, grades and college prep test scores
- They will invite you to their "elite" or prospect camp

- A coach will likely reach out with some form of communications, ie emails, calls, text, Facebook, twitter or Instagram. A coach might even attempt to add a personal touch with handwritten notes or press clippings or team pictures
- They might encourage you to take an unofficial visit to their campus or attend a Junior Day activity.

4. Likely Interest Level

What does it mean? *You are likely 1 in about 10 athletes on their list of players they want to recruit for the team. You are a legitimate recruit at this point; they believe you are capable of playing at their level. Most likely, at the least you have one particular strength or skill that they have a need for or they like your all-around game and mental ability. At this point they would be satisfied get you but also may have a couple more recruits they like as much or better.*

Coach's actions that accompany this level:

- Now you will get more communication with the head coach.
- You will get regular phone calls and texts from an assistant coach beginning on the first allowable day
- Coaches will ask for your club and tournament schedules wanting to see if you have consistent skills on the field.
- The head coach may come with his assistant to see you play
- They will invite you to take an unofficial visit to their campus
- They might invite you to take an **official visit in winter or spring of your senior year**
- They might be willing to talk to you about whom else they are recruiting and where you stand at your position.
- They might make a visit to your home or meet with you & parents at your school
- They might make a verbal scholarship offer.

5. High Interest Level—They are committed to you

What does it mean? *You are a priority player for them; you are either a recruit at your position or you are a top recruit for a spot; they believe you can contribute as a freshman (if they need you).*

Coach's actions that accompany this level:

- A head coach will call you at least occasionally
- Coaches will ask for your club and tournament schedules wanting to make sure you are developing in the skills they have suggested to you and you are preparing to play at the next level
- An assistant coach will call or text you often
- They will invite you on an **official visit** to their campus early in your senior year, possibly to watch a game
- They will make a verbal commitment and when the time comes for Division 1 and 2 schools a written scholarship offer
- They will talk to you about who else they are recruiting
- They may make a visit to your home or sit down and meet with you & parents at your school

****Keep in mind you may fall into several of these levels before you are a actual recruit and it's possible to go from level 1 to 5, skipping levels because there are so many variables in the process****

Again, understand this is a rough idea of the process and every situation will vary depending on the college and coaching staff or college playing division level.

Most coaches are upfront about the recruiting process and where you stand but it is difficult to nail down their decisions because there are many unpredictable conditions. It is difficult to put together a cohesive-winning team and program with student-athletes that also meet the college admissions requirements. It is important to gather as much information about the recruiting process as you can.