

Disclaimer: This timeline will vary from athlete to athlete based on position, ability level, etc. Refer to the FAQ's sheet for general recruiting information.

Freshman Year

- Learn about the differences between Division I, II, III, NAIA, NJCAA schools in order to gain a firm understanding of each.
- Become familiar with NCAA recruiting rules and [tournament etiquette](#). (Link available on PDF).
- Begin to think about what you would like to study, how far away you would like to go, how big of a school you would like to go to, etc.
- Look at schools that would possibly be on your list if you can while traveling to tournaments or on vacation.
- It's never too early to start contacting coaches in order to get your name out there as much as possible. The first step to this is to make an appropriate and professional email to use when contacting coaches (i.e. Susie.johnson46@gmail.com). Next, come up with an introductory note which can be used when emailing prospective programs. This should include who you are, where you go to school, year, position, club you play for, club website, a direct link to the competition schedule, Andy's contact information, etc. Give the coaches the information they need and the tools to recruit you. By making their jobs as easy as possible you will be making yourself more likely to be looked at. Lastly, email as many coaches as you can with your introductory note and interest in finding out more about their program.

Sophomore Year

- Fill out and turn in an [Illini Elite Recruiting Questionnaire](#). (Available on our website).
- Start to solidify answers about what you would like to study, how far away you would like to go, how big of a school you would like to go to, etc.
- Fill out any recruiting questionnaires that are sent to you from schools to open your options. You can also go to a prospective school's website to find a recruiting questionnaire. Keep in mind that just because you fill out a recruiting questionnaire does not mean you are actively being recruited by this school.
- Create a broad list of schools that you may be interested in. Make this list diverse as you may not be sure what you want and/or your interests may change throughout the process.
 - Continually reevaluate and narrow this list throughout the year.
- Provide coaches of schools you are interested in with your high school and/or club schedule.
- Begin making unofficial visits to schools.
- Research college summer camps of schools you are seriously considering and/or talking to.

Junior Year

- Take the ACT/SAT
 - Do the schools on your list specifically require one test over the other?

- Look into preparatory courses to help achieve the highest score you can.
- Register with the [NCAA Eligibility Clearinghouse](#) (if you will be playing Division I or II)
- If you have been in consistent communication with many schools, begin to narrow your list of prospective schools to about 5-10 realistic choices (Keep at least a semi-diverse mix as you begin to better understand what you want).
- Research the school's coaching staff, roster, academic strengths, culture, location, etc.
 - Can you expect the head coach to be there for a while?
 - Will they be looking for someone at your position in your recruiting class?
- If you are not receiving a full scholarship, research financial aid opportunities both at the schools you are interested in and general ones as well. These could be from your high school, church, private companies, etc.
- Keep up to date on news and results of schools you are considering.
- Begin or continue steady contact with the coaching staff at schools you are interested in.
 - Send new high school and club schedules to coaches.
- Begin or continue to make unofficial visits to schools.
- Keep your high school and club coach up to date on your interests and your stage in the recruiting process as schools may contact them.

Senior Year

- If you have already verbally committed:
 - Apply to the school
 - Go on your official visit
 - Keep steady contact with coaching staff (stay current on news and results of the school).
 - Continue to research and apply for scholarships/aid if you are not receiving a full scholarship.
 - Sign an NLI (must be accompanied by a financial aid agreement with school).
- If you have not already committed:
 - ***Do not panic.*** In this day and age you are always being lead to believe that you are behind when it comes to the recruiting process. We receive inquiries from programs all of the time about unsigned seniors. If you continue to put in work there will be opportunities.
 - Continue to reevaluate your list.
 - Exhaust all options (DI, DII, DIII, NAIA, NJCAA, etc.)
 - Maintain contact with schools you are interested in.
 - Continue to make unofficial/official visits to schools you are interested in.
 - Send out your high school and club schedule to coaches of prospective schools.
 - Apply to colleges you are seriously considering (Remember there is a fee that accompanies most applications).
 - Keep your high school and club coach up to date on your interests and your stage in the recruiting process.