

# COLLEGE NIGHT

with Louisville Soccer Alliance & Louisville Soccer Club



## Pursuing the next level: Helping your son or daughter play college soccer

### **Beginning the process...**

- Create a list of schools that you are interested in
  - o Areas to consider: Level of play (D1, D2, D3, NAIA, JuCo), Location, Cost, Size of school, Coaching staff, Opportunity for playing time, Campus, Religious affiliation, Major/Area of Study
- Reach out to the coaches at these schools
  - o Send them an email / text message
  - o Fill out the online recruit questionnaires

### FAQ

#### **How do I get exposure?**

- Reach out to the coaches! They will want to see you in action, so let them know who you are, what team you play for, and when/where you and your team will be playing. Provide details (field #, jersey #, jersey color!
- What about video? Highlight videos are good, but natural game footage is better (in short clips)
- Online profiles – NCSA, BeRecruited.com, CaptainU
- ID Camps – the best, easiest way to get exposure

#### **Where am I qualified to play?**

**Less than 1% of college athletes earn a Division I full ride. More than 1,800 colleges have athletic programs and 94% of them are outside of Division I.** The majority of college athletes don't compete in Division I, so set your expectations accordingly. Most college athletes are at the Division II, Division III, NAIA or junior college level. An experienced talent evaluator can tell you exactly which level you should shoot for and where you're likely to find the most success.

- Ask your high school or club coach for advice on what level you should pursue

### **Narrowing it down...**

\*Sophomore/Junior year of high school: Day visit – see campus, meet with coaches

\*Junior/Senior year of high school: Overnight visit – spend time with players on the team

- Settle on 5-7 schools that you are genuinely considering
  - o Always have a back-up option – a school that is affordable and close to home
  - o Make sure you visit these schools, make sure you spend time with the coaches
    - We also encourage you to spend time with the players
- Begin the application process
  - o Most applications can be done online
  - o CommonApp
- Send in your high school transcripts and ACT/SAT test scores (beginning of senior year)

## **Financial Aid...**

You can love the school, you can love the coaching staff, you can love the campus... but if you cannot afford it, you cannot go!

- Scholarships
  - o D1, D2, NAIA, JuCo – all have athletic scholarships
    - # of scholarships per team varies per school
  - o D3 – NO athletic scholarships
- Most scholarships will come from academics – importance of getting good grades & test scores
  - o Minimum 3.0 GPA
  - o In-state scholarships – for example, KEES money
- Look for outside scholarships (for example, KY Youth Soccer awards a scholarship every year)
- FAFSA
  - o Free Application for Federal Student Aid, [fafsa.org](http://fafsa.org)
    - Grants – money you DO NOT have to repay
    - Loans – money you DO have to repay
- FAFSA is based on previous year's taxes. You can file it on October 1, 2018.
  - o Typically, you get your financial aid package back a couple months later

## **Overall...**

- Go play college soccer... it's awesome!
  - o Extremely rewarding & beneficial to overall educational experience
  - o It shapes who you are--- being a member of a team, pursuing championships, reaching for goals, spending time on road trips, experience of having teammates
  - o College athletes make great businessmen and businesswomen
- Don't live in a dream world!!!
  - o You have to get good grades
  - o You have to be realistic about level of play
  - o You have to be realistic about cost
- Start the process early!
  - o Don't be afraid to ask questions and ask for guidance

