Recruiting Tips from College Coaches

Purpose: To Share advice from college coaches that will better prepare The First Tee PLAYers for the college application and recruiting processes.

Being recruited by a college is very similar to applying and interviewing for a job. A college coach is judged by the team he/she puts on the golf course and you are a reflection of that coach and university. This is very different from high school. Typically in high school, your golf coach also teaches a class and that is their primary job. If the high school golf team members each shoot 100 in a tournament, that high school coach will continue to teach his/her class and coach the golf team. College coaches will not be so easy. He/She is expected to enter well prepared student athletes in each tournament and if the team is struggling, the golf coach is going to “have to answer” to the athletic director. When you sign a letter of intent to attend a university and play for the golf team, you are taking on the same responsibility as if you were going to work for a company. College golf is not for everyone, but if you are interested, below is some advice from college coaches that will help you reach your goal.

1.) Think about and write down what is important to you when looking for a school, including academics and golf. This will help you ask questions when talking to a coach or academic counselor. Other things to write down include (a.) the reasons you are interested in the school, (b.) why are you play golf, (c.) what you enjoy about the game.

2.) A bad shot won’t turn off a college coach, but a bad attitude and disrespectful behavior on the golf course (and before and after your rounds) will.

3.) Take responsibility for your game and scores; making excuses is another big turn off to college coaches.

4.) Send a resume, cover letter and swing video to coaches early; then send monthly updates via email. Be brief, but informative.
   a.) Some items to include in your resume are: (a) grades, (b) test scores, (c) golf results (include course yardage, rating and slope), and (d) upcoming tournament dates.
   b.) Make sure your cover letter is only one page, address specifically to the coach and the highlight your strengths and how you would positively impact their program.
   c.) Your swing video should be 4-5 minutes, introduce yourself, show your personality, and include “down the line” and “face on” angles of all aspects of your game.

5.) Include this subject heading in emails to coaches: ”Name, year of high school graduation, town and state;” for example, “Beth Brown, class of 2011, Twister City, OK.”

6.) Contact Coaches directly, don’t have parents/guardians or other adults call the coaches for you. Also, make sure your parent never says “we” when talking about you.

7.) To talk with a coach via telephone, send email to set up specific time for a call. Let the coach know what telephone number you will be calling from.

8.) If you receive a questionnaire from a coach, or find one on the team webpage, promptly complete and return it.

9.) Compete in a variety of tournaments: local, regional, state and national.

10) Most programs have a facebook account. It’s always a good idea to become a fan of their page.

11) Send a copy of your high school transcript to the coach and register for NCAA clearinghouse for the beginning in of junior year.

12.) Never ask for financial aid during one of your early correspondence or interactions with the coach.

13.) If you invite your coach to come watch your play, provide them easy directions and what your wearing so that it is easy to spot you.

14.) Take the SAT/ACT at least once during your junior year, and make sure you understand your
academic requirements.

15.) In order to take an official visit, you need to send your transcripts, SAT/ACT scores and be registered with the NCAA clearinghouse.

16.) If you are playing in a tournament near a campus, call the coach at the university to ask if you can visit.

17.) After a visit to a campus, or if a coach has come to one of your tournaments or visited your home, be prompt in sending a handwritten thank you note to your coach.

18.) Don’t be afraid to ask coaches questions about recruiting rules related to “contact with coaches.” These rules include the following:

   a.) Coaches are allowed to start communicating by email or regular mail on Sept. 1st of Junior year.

   b.) Coaches are allowed to make a phone call starting on July 1st going into your senior year.

   c.) Coaches only get three contact opportunities when off campus. Note that “one day= one contact event” even if there are multiple conversations.

   d.) At tournaments, coaches are not allowed to speak with your parents until after July 1st of your senior year. Then, the coach can speak with your parents during the round, but only can speak to you before you register in person or after the tournament.

   e.) Official visits are paid by the institution; each prospective student athlete is allowed 5 paid visits.

   f.) Unofficial visits are paid by the individual. Unofficial visits can be done any time of the year and are a great way to get to know the players and the coaches.

19.) Scholarships are one year agreements. There is an NCAA limit on your scholarships. Coaches must abide by the NCAA rules and varying scholarship amounts based on the number of seniors. Don’t give up on what is important to you because 50% versus 75% offer: but you can ask a coach “what would it take for me to earn an increase.”

**Important Websites**

Purpose: To provide resources for advanced skill development, competitive playing opportunities and preparation for college academics and golf requirements.

**ACT** ([www.act.org](http://www.act.org))

Go to this website to find a test schedule and register for the ACT.

**American Junior Golf Association** [AJGA] ([www.ajga.org](http://www.ajga.org))

The American Junior Golf Association is dedicated to the overall growth and development of young men and women who aspire to earn a college golf scholarship through competitive junior golf. In 2010, the AJGA will conduct more than 80 tournaments and 45 Qualifiers for young players, ages 12-18.

**College Board** ([www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com))

This website provides a survey to help narrow down your list of schools. You also find dates for the SAT on this website.

**College Game Plan** ([www.collegegameplanonline.com](http://www.collegegameplanonline.com))

This website offers free college planning and advisory service for the families of talented high school student-athletes.

**Girls Golf Prep** ([www.girlsgolfprep.com](http://www.girlsgolfprep.com))

Girls Golf Prep is an interactive website with a complete source of information for female junior golfers, college golf coaches, high school golf coaches and parents. This website was developed for junior girl golfers to help prepare them for the college recruiting process and furthering their
career in golf. Girls Golf Prep holds a database of more than 500 College Golf Coaches as well as school contacts. To receive access to most materials, there is a one-time application fee.

**Golf Stat** ([www.golfstat.com](http://www.golfstat.com))
This website is the official source for college golf scores and statistics including NCAA Division I, II, III, NAIA and NJCAA. One feature offered is the Prep Report ($25), which is an online report showing what scores you have shoot to play at every NCAA, NAIA, and NJCAA school in the system.

**International Junior Golf Tour** [IJGT] ([www.ijgt.com](http://www.ijgt.com))
The IJGT provides junior golfers the opportunity to develop and showcase their golf skills. IJGT tournaments are held at some of the finest venues in the U.S. as well as tournaments in Canada, Scotland and Mexico. These tournaments routinely attract some of the most talented young golfers from around the world.

**Junior Golf Scoreboard** ([www.juniorgolfscoreboard.com](http://www.juniorgolfscoreboard.com))
This website was created to help junior golfers market themselves, find tournaments more easily and assess their playing skills against other junior golfers without necessarily having to travel nation-wide. Some services on this website are free and others are fee based.

**National Collegiate Athletic Association** ([www.ncaa.com](http://www.ncaa.com))
If you click on (1) Legislation and Governance, (2) then Eligibility and Recruiting, then (3) Information for College-Bound Student-Athletes and Parents, you can get a free download of the Guide for College-Bound Student-Athletes.

**National Collegiate Athletic Association** [NCAA] Clearinghouse ([www.eligibilitycenter.com](http://www.eligibilitycenter.com))
Go to this website to register for the NCAA Clearinghouse; for NCAA Division I and II schools.

**Ping American College Golf Guide** ([www.collegegolf.com](http://www.collegegolf.com))
The PING Guide contains vital help for junior golfers who want to continue their golf career at the collegiate level. It includes information on every scholarship and non-scholarship golf program in the U.S. and answers questions facing college-bound students on a variety of subjects. The “PING Guide-Golfstat Interactive Score Conversion Program” is available on this website to help junior golfers project where their adjusted junior scores would place them in actual college tournaments.

**The Next Tee** ([www.nexttee.com](http://www.nexttee.com))
The Next Tee is an affordable web-based program that allows student-athletes the ability to build and update a resume (athletic and academic), post their tournament schedule and stats and send it to college coaches (DI, DII, DIII, NAIA and Junior Colleges) around the country. The Next Tee also helps student-athletes showcase their abilities by providing a professionally shot and produced video of their swing and an interview with the student-athlete.

**Titleist Performance Institute** [TPI] ([www.mytpi.com](http://www.mytpi.com))
MyTPI.com is the largest free information website on golf-specific fitness, health and biomechanics. You free subscription to MyTPI.com includes an expansive article library, video tips from the pros and printable video exercise examples. There are more sophisticated services offered by MyTPI.com that are fee-based.

**Tour Resource Center** ([www.tourresourcecenter.com](http://www.tourresourcecenter.com))
This website offers free and paid membership content and includes information on (a) building your custom golf schedule, (b) selection from over 1800+ junior tournaments, (c) getting and staying on college coaches’ radars, and (d) real tips from the top golfers. One unique aspect of this website is that you can choose your objective – whether that is to be a rookie, competitive, collegiate or aspiring professional – and then this program will help determine which level of tournaments you need in order to achieve your objectives.

**United States Golf Association** [USGA] ([www.usga.org](http://www.usga.org))
The USGA is the not-for-profit governing body of the game of golf. On behalf of all golfers, both
Amateur and Professional, the USGA conducts three Open Championships each year – Women’s, Men’s and Senior Men’s – and ten Amateur Championships.