



# Athletic Recruitment: NCAA Updates and Finding Your Fit

May 11, 2021



# WELCOME!

- Your microphone will be muted throughout the program.
- You may choose to have your video on or off.
- **If you have questions for the presenters:**
  - Please type them in the Chat area. Any not answered during the presentation will be addressed at the end as time allows.
- **PowerPoint and any Handouts(files):**
  - Will be in posted on the Conestoga Student Services webpage.

# Coach Wants Me So I'm in Right?

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*Associate Director of Admission and Head Women's Soccer Coach,  
Neumann University*

- **Jim VanBlunk**

*Senior Associate Director Undergraduate Admissions, Athletic Liaison,  
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*Senior Associate Director of Admissions/ Coordinator for Multicultural  
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# Some Things to Consider

- Time Commitment
- Career Goals/Life Choices
- Major Choice
- Realistic Assessment of Personal Ability

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# Differences in Divisions

- Division 1
  - Athletic Scholarships
  - Increased organized/official time commitment
  - Bigger Travel Range
- Division 2
  - Athletic Scholarships
  - Follows Div 1 schedule as far as time commitment
  - Smaller travel range than Div 1
  - Least amount of total schools
- Division 3
  - No Athletic Scholarships
  - Emphasis on participation
  - Increased amount of merit scholarships available
  - Large variation in types of schools, size and academic focus

# Academically

- Do your research first – SLAAM!
  - Size, Location, Academics/Athletics, Money!
  - Fit versus feel
- Get good grades
  - All years of HS matter
  - Testing??
  - Coaches want students they don't have to support to get in
- Course Selection
  - Challenging but not overwhelming
- Get involved in a meaningful way in high school beyond athletics

## Athletically

- Reach out to coach and be ready to talk via zoom/phone.
  - Coaches want to hear from the players!
- Make coach aware if you are visiting campus ahead of time.
  - Current climate – see if there are virtual visits
- Invite them to see you play.
  - Videos, film practice, share club coaches information

# Things for Students to Ask Potential Coaches

- Coaching/Team Philosophy
- What do you look for in a player/team member
- How do you see me fitting in to your program
- Expected time commitments
- Guaranteed spots versus walk-ons
- ID camps and clinics to attend?

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# Things to Help Students Think about

- DON'T rule out a school that shows interest because you haven't heard of them – Keep an open mind!
- DON'T assume coaches will reach out to you- figure out what you want and advocate for yourself.
- DON'T compare your process to others – pave your own path and find your own way.

# Recruiting Timelines

- Recruiting processes vary by division, school and program.
- Ask coaches about his/her process to know expectations and timelines.
- Have your own recruiting timeline that makes you comfortable!
  - Pre-Reads
  - Verbal Commitments – National Letter of Intent
  - Application Process – Pay attention to deadlines and requirements of the application
  - Financial Assistance/FAFSA

# Advice – Finding Your Fit

- **Professionalism**

- Emails
- Social Media
- Face to face meetings

- **Coachability**

- Buy in to the program
- Willingness to learn
- Knowing/accepting your role

- **Good Fit**

- Team chemistry
- Personal accountability

# Challenges and Changes from COVID

- Dead Periods/visit challenges
- Pre-Read changes – can schools still do them?
- Eligibility – returning seniors in college
- Eligibility – test optional policies for 2021, 2022 and beyond
- Recruiting Process – how to be seen

# Questions?

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