



# Recruiting Tips from Elite 300

*Helping Student-Athletes Reach the Next Level*



**ELITE 300**  
**SOCCER ACADEMY**

**Recruiting Tip #1 - GET ORGANIZED:** Create a list of colleges you are interested in. Consider location, academic profile and offerings, size of school, and competition level. Be thoughtful and thorough, as this will help you get focused and organized and will create a strong foundation for your soccer recruiting journey.

**Recruiting Tip #2 - COMPLETE RECRUITING QUESTIONNAIRES:** Looking to play college soccer? Make sure you complete the Recruiting Questionnaire on the website of each school you like. This simple step provides your contact info to the coaching staff and initiates the communication/recruiting process.

**Recruiting Tip #3 - START EARLY:** If you want to play college soccer, start laying the groundwork early in your high school career. Complete recruiting questionnaires online, consider attending on-campus ID Camps during your high school underclass years (don't wait until just the summer before your senior year to get on a college coach's radar), keep coaches updated on your soccer achievements/schedule, and maintain a strong academic record.

**Recruiting Tip #4 - ACADEMICS ARE IMPORTANT:** Work hard in the classroom and on the field. A strong academic profile opens more doors and creates more opportunities on and off the field.

**Recruiting Tip #5 - LEAD THE CHARGE:** The student-athlete should be the one to initiate contact with the coach - NOT the parents. A "yellow flag" goes up when a parent calls or emails. Earn the coach's respect and attention by reaching out yourself.

**Recruiting Tip #6 – YOUR WORK RATE MATTERS:** Show respect for your team, your coaches, and the game by always hustling and working hard. First impressions are important, and your work rate is a key attribute coaches value. They want players who want to play – these are the guys that will improve the fastest, bring the most energy to the team, and set the competition level expected every day.

**Recruiting Tip #7 – CREATE A HIGHLIGHT VIDEO:** It is a good practice to create a short, 3-to-5-minute video of your soccer highlights. This video, composed of game action with a wider view of the field, can help a coach make an initial evaluation of your skill-set. This video does not need to be professionally produced. Simple, wide-view footage from your team's video provider, organized thoughtfully (include your best stuff first, no slow motion or replays necessary, and make sure you identify yourself with an arrow/highlighting/etc.), works. Your goal is to get a coach's attention.

**Recruiting Tip #8: COMPILE A STUDENT-ATHLETE PROFILE:** Create a one-page Student-Athlete Profile that gives a coach a quick look at your athletic and academic achievements. Include your contact info, GPA and academic achievements, along with your soccer/athletic resume. List your high school and club

coaches and their contact info and don't forget to include a link to your soccer highlight video. There are lots of profile templates available online to get you started.

**Recruiting Tip #9 – INITIATE CONTACT WITH COLLEGE COACHES:** After you've completed the Recruiting Questionnaire found on each college soccer program's website, send a personalized email, written by and signed by you, stating your interest in playing at that school (add why you are interested in the program) and include key info like graduation year, high school and club teams, position, and a short list of soccer and academic achievements. If you've created a Student-Athlete Profile (see Recruiting Tip #8), attach it and provide a link to your Highlight Video (see Recruiting Tip #7).

**Recruiting Tip #10 - DETAILS MATTER:** When contacting college coaches, details matter. Do your research and customize your communications. (DO NOT send mass emails.) Send to the Head Coach and the identified Recruiting Coordinator (spell name correctly!) and outline why you are interested in the school and why it is a good fit. Your attention to details sends the message that you have a serious interest in a program/school and gets your communication process started on the right path. This and other valuable recruiting tips are just part of the great information you will receive at the Elite 300 ID Camp's Recruiting Seminar offered during both of our summer ID Camp sessions.

**Recruiting Tip #11 - REQUEST INFO FROM COLLEGE ADMISSIONS:** In addition to filling out the recruiting questionnaire on a college or university's soccer website, don't forget to demonstrate your interest in the college by filling out the Request for Information/Add to Mailing List section on the Admissions page of the website. This act signals to Admissions that you have a keen interest in the school and will aid you in the recruiting process, as many colleges track these interactions. In addition, the Admissions Office will send you more general information about the school, which will help you decide whether it is, in fact, a good fit for you.

**Recruiting Tip #12 - TAKE A VIRTUAL COLLEGE TOUR:** A virtual college tour is a great way to learn more about a school you are interested in attending, and it signals a college's admissions team that you have a sincere interest in the school. Many colleges take note of this engagement as "demonstrated interest" and it could give your application a boost. You can sign-up for virtual tours at a college's website on the admissions page. We encourage you to take a tour of each of the colleges that will be represented at the Elite 300 College ID Camp held at Swarthmore College.

**Recruiting Tip #13 - ENLIST SUPPORT FROM YOUR CURRENT COACHES:** It is critical that YOU initiate contact with college coaches to start the recruiting process (see Recruiting Tip #9). After that, you can ask your high school and/or club coach to reach out to provide an evaluation of your character, skills, and how you will help the program. Suggestion #1: Only ask your coach to call programs you are serious about. Suggestion #2: Make sure your coach understands the level of play at the program you are considering.

**Recruiting Tip #14 - ATTEND COLLEGE ID CAMPS (ON CAMPUS):** Attending ID camps can be a very important part of your recruiting journey, especially those on campuses where you are interested in playing. Most coaches actively recruit from their own camps. These camps also allow you to play against other recruits interested in that school or type of school, giving you a good sense of the level of play. We recommend you look at the duration of the camp (will you have enough time to showcase your skills?) and review the college programs/coaches slated to attend when setting up your summer ID camp schedule.

**Recruiting Tip #15 - TAKE A COLLEGE TOUR WHEN ON CAMPUS:** On the Admissions page of the school's website, schedule a tour that coincides with your time on campus – this is a great way to

potentially meet current students, learn more about school, and determine if a given school is the right fit both academically and athletically for you. Tip: Schedule early, as these spots can fill quickly, especially during the summer, and especially when camps are in session.

**Recruiting Tip #16 - CONNECT WITH CAMP COACHES:** Introduce yourself to the camp coaches attending and working the camp. Your interaction with coaches is an important step – not just for them, as they decide whether to recruit you, but for you as well, as you evaluate whether their program and school are the right fit. After camp, if you remain interested in a school, reconnect with the coach. Send a thank you note and restate your interest in playing for him and attending that school.

**Recruiting Tip #17 - ASK FOR COACH FEEDBACK:** Most coaches will be happy to provide feedback during camp. Don't wait until the final session to connect, as they might need to leave quickly. Instead, let them know you'll follow up by email and would appreciate any feedback they can provide.

**Recruiting Tip #18 - NEVER STOP WORKING ON YOUR GAME:** Playing college soccer is a commitment. Stay motivated and increase your fitness level, your speed of play, and your level of competition. Take care of your body, stay healthy, and work hard to prepare for the next level.

**Recruiting Tip #19 - GET FEEDBACK FROM YOUR CURRENT COACHES:** You may be the best player on your club or high school team, but that doesn't mean you can't get better. Ask your current coaches what you can do to improve.

**Recruiting Tip #20 - GIVE BACK:** Many college programs take character and service into account. Find ways to give back to your community that demonstrate your character and values. Service demonstrates maturity, responsibility and leadership. It also can be valuable as a resume-builder for when you are looking for a job.

**Recruiting Tip #21 – LOVE THE GAME & HAVE FUN PLAYING IT:** Is there anything more exciting than scoring a game-winning goal? Saving a penalty when the chips are on the line? Making a tough tackle at midfield that turns the tide and inspires your team to victory? Enjoy the moments and savor the experience. Your body language and enjoyment of the game matter. If you play for the love of the game, the game will always satisfy.

**Recruiting Tip #22 - YOUR PARENTS/GUARDIANS' ROLE:** While you need to lead the charge in communicating with college coaches, that doesn't mean your parents/guardians don't have a role in this process. Ask them to proofread your emails, help you practice for phone calls, and accompany you on virtual or in-person campus tours. Involve them in any conversation about specifics like finances and the benefits of certain schools. And remember, your parents/guardians are your biggest advocates. They want what is best for you - and you must make sure they know what that means. Work with them to make sure the college admissions and recruiting process is a productive, enjoyable and memorable experience.

***We hope these tips help you during the recruiting process on your soccer journey! Earning four more years to play is a wonderful opportunity to continue doing what you love. We hope you will consider joining us at the Elite 300 College ID Camp held at Swarthmore College – we've been helping student-athletes reach the next level for more than 25 years.***

***Learn more and register at [www.Elite300.com](http://www.Elite300.com).***