

CHURCHLAND SOCCER LEAGUE COLLEGE NIGHT PRESENTATION



Thank you and Welcome!

- Churchland Soccer League would like to welcome each of you and thank you for joining US.
- Panel Introductions



Do you secretly hope that your child will some day be a college athlete and possibly win a full-ride athletic scholarship?

Many parents do!

Many start thinking this at a young age. This often happens because players are chosen at young ages to be on top teams. And if they perform well at a young age they are encouraged to continue. While there is nothing wrong with this it does lead parents (and often players) to believe they have a Mia Hamm or David Beckham in their future. And as we all know, players like this are the exception, not the norm.

There's so much disinformation about Collegiate level opportunities, recruiting and most especially athletics scholarships.

Your job is to learn as much as you can and be a better informed parent and player.



Some important things to know....

Contrary to popular belief very few, very, very, very few players receive full scholarships. The vast majority of players are on partial scholarships, which can range from a few hundred to thousands of dollars. Don't worry, everyone lies about who's recruiting them, how much they are getting, and where they are eventually going to play. Unless you see a player's acceptance letter and their financial aid package no one knows what is real and what is not. The best resource is the College/University itself. Do your homework!!!

Here's the bottom line: Students and parents should be realistic about a child's chances, both to be a Collegiate level athlete and chances for scholarship. For most athletes, if you are picked up for a program, academic scholarships from the colleges themselves are going to represent the preferable way to shrink the cost of college.



- 1. The odds are remote.** Scholarship money can be very hard to come by.
- 2. The money isn't that great.** Scholarships vary by school and rarely cover enough expenses for the average family.
- 3. Most scholarships are sliced and diced.** The NCAA dictates how many athletic scholarships each sport can offer in Division I and Division II. To squeeze out the maximum benefit, coaches routinely split up these awards.
- 4. Don't wait to be discovered.** Unless your child is a superstar, college coaches probably won't know he or she exists. Players may send an email to introduce themselves to coaches at schools that they think they'd like to attend. They should include such info as their positions, sport statistics, and coach contacts for both their club and the school.
- 5. Use video footage.** To attract the attention of coaches, compile an action video rather than CDs that tend to pile up on desks
- 6. Scholarships aren't guaranteed.** If your teen receives a sports scholarship, don't assume that it's going to be for four years. Athletic scholarships must be renewed each year and that's at the coach's discretion. The pressure to maintain athletic scholarships can distract stressed students from what should be their main goal—earning a college degree.
- 7. The best places for money can be in Division III.** The best way for many athletes to win a scholarship is to apply to colleges that don't award athletic scholarships. Yes, that's right. Division III schools, which are typically smaller private colleges, routinely give merit awards for academics and other student accomplishments. The average merit grant that private colleges are awarding routinely slashes the tuition tab by more than 50 percent.



Be Realistic!

BE REALISTIC: Do not assume that because you are not an ODP or High level player with great credentials that you cannot be recruited. There are not enough big names to go around. Over one thousand colleges compete in soccer. You can compete at many of the schools seeking decent players.

BE REALISTIC: When you set out to be recruited do not involve schools that you would not or could not go to if you were accepted. It is a waste of everyone's time and money.

BE REALISTIC: Most young athletes are disappointed in their senior year because they assume a college coach is going to find them. Coaches do not have the time or money to search for athletes. You must help them by selling yourself.

BE REALISTIC: You are going to college to continue your education. You should be using soccer to help you complete that goal. Make your decision based on academic and social considerations NOT soccer. Carefully consider whether you want to be a small fish in a big pond or a big fish in a small pond.



BE REALISTIC: Limit your marketing efforts and limit your choice of schools in a realistic way.

BE REALISTIC: Full ride athletic scholarships are so rare they might just as well not exist. You are pursuing a package of Academic and Financial assistance. Understand what is possible and pursue that. The stories of a coach pulling into your driveway with money hanging out of his pockets are not realistic.

BE REALISTIC: Academic assistance for admissions is the easiest form of help to get. Do not put yourself in the position of being recruited too high academically. Be realistic: Do not fall in love with the first coach who calls and says he wants you. You are going to spend four years living and playing somewhere. Be absolutely positive you will be happy in the school you end up in.

BE REALISTIC: Do not attempt to be recruited to a school unless there is at least some reason to believe you can get enough financial assistance to go there.

BE REALISTIC: When you talk to coaches they are trying to sell you on their program and you are trying to sell them on your abilities. This can lead to a lot of misunderstandings. If a school makes your final list, check it out very carefully. Twenty-five percent of all freshmen drop out the first year. When you talk to coaches YOU must do the talking. Your Mom and Dad are not being recruited.



What things should I look for in choosing a College/University?

- ✓ Location
- ✓ Size of Campus (# of students and physical size of campus)
- ✓ Academic reputation
- ✓ Programs offered that you may be interested in pursuing
- ✓ Admission requirements
- ✓ Cost –private vs. public, in-state vs out-of-state
- ✓ Soccer program
- ✓ Financial aid availability



What is the most important thing to remember?

GRADES

PSAT

SAT

ACT

GRADES



What do we do and when?



9th Grade

Become a recruitable student athlete –High school transcripts are the single most thing looked at by Colleges and Universities along with SAT's and ACT's. Keeping up grades is vital to a students eligibility, both as an athlete and as a candidate for admission. Every school has different requirements.

Keep Playing and stay conditioned. Playing at the club level is where student athletes get seen. It is very rare that a Collegiate level Coach attends a high school match.

10th Grade

Compose a list of desirable schools and possible areas of study interest.

Meet with your guidance Counselor and make sure they are aware of your interest in being a Collegiate level student athlete. Their advice and guidance is crucial. You are both partners in your goal to be a Collegiate student/athlete so stay connected with them.

Check for Summer camps available at schools of interest and make plans to attend.

Start visiting campuses (spring break is a good time) or (visit when you are at tournaments)

Get organized, start a filing system and keep notes about activities, events, emails, etc...



Junior Year

- Begin fine tuning your list of desirable schools and possible areas of study interest
- Request Admissions information from each school
- Create files for each place
- Contact coaches –send email/letter of introduction and resume. Inform them of your schedule and remind them of games. Make yourself known to the coach.
- Visit campuses again (spring break is a good time) or (visit when you are at tournaments)
- Meet with your guidance Counselor and make sure they are aware of your interest in being a Collegiate level student athlete. Their advice and guidance is crucial. You are both partners in your goal to be a Collegiate student/athlete so stay connected with them.
- Check for Summer camps available at schools of interest and make plans to attend.
- Take some Unofficial visits, –unlimited
- Take SAT/ACT
- Sign up with NCAA Clearinghouse –www.eligibilitycenter.org



Senior Year (before the year starts)

- Fine tune your College search and plan visits to final places of interest!
- DO NOT put all your eggs in one basket. Keep many options open.
- KNOW the rules!!!! Visit NCAA clearinghouse to make sure you know how and when contact can be made with, and by, the Coaching staff at the schools you are considering. Typically it is July 1st before senior year before coaches are allowed to call (1 call from coach a week) and contact
- Keep meeting with your guidance counselor and make sure that all things are on track!
- Learn the difference between Official visits and Unofficial visits
- Usually 1st week of February ,National Signing Day, has people in a panic.
- There is no reason to panic! AND there is no question that is too silly to ask. If you don't ask you will not know. Most coaches are happy to answer questions. Just remember they are people too and have lives that keep them very busy! So always be respectful!



- Comments from the CSL Technical Director
- Comments from the CSL VP
- Comments from the Collegiate Players
- Comments from the College Coaches

- Question/Answer session

