

THE RECRUITING TIMELINE

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The following general schedule or "time line" was developed by Howdeshell with input from former college players, parents, college coaches and college academic advisors. As you will notice as you review this schedule, it begins from your freshman year in high school with a list of academic and athletic tasks that hopefully will increase your chances of attracting interest by a college coach.

If your state (i.e. South Dakota) is off the beaten track of college recruiters, this schedule can be invaluable to you in getting your name out to college recruiters.

To the Player:

You will get very tired of hearing this ... but if you do not take care of your academics (grades) it will not matter how good you are on the baseball field, if your dream is to play college baseball academics are a part of the package!

Freshman (9th grade)

- Settle into the high school environment ... get to work developing good classroom and home study habits. Learn to manage your time.

September

- Play fall baseball, if available
- Long toss after school
- Run sprints and medium distance
- Read the articles on **Making the High School Team**.

November

- Plan your winter baseball schedule
- Locate an indoor facility that offers "top level" instruction.
- If possible target and attend one (1) college Christmas camp
- Begin an **Off - Season Conditioning** program.

November - January

- Continue winter work-outs / get ready high school team try-outs
- Keep working hard on those grades

February - May/June

- High school season

May - July/August

- Summer league seasons
- Play the best and most competitive baseball that is available to you. Best teams, best tournaments, against the best the competition possible. Play in a program such as American Legion Baseball or VFW Baseball where you can receive exposure to college coaches as well as post-season recognition. Legion & VFW programs generally offer the best coaching available in your area as well as competition against other talented players.

June - July

- Attend a college baseball program's "week long" camp if your summer schedule allows.
This is the best way to "get noticed" by your favorite school. Many colleges sign players as a result of their attendance at the camps.
- Contact local colleges regarding camp opportunities or showcases that they may offer in late summer or during the fall.

Sophomore (10th grade)

- Continue to "hit the books" hard. Your grades this year count as much as any other year.
- Follow the same off - season schedule as last year.
- Meet with your high school guidance counselor -- tell him/her of your desire to play college baseball ... you want to be "on track" with the required core courses, as well as other needs, such as foreign languages.
- Follow the same spring and summer schedule as last year.
- Play as many summer baseball games as possible ... the more you play the more experience that you will get, and the more you should improve.

July - August

- Attend a **Pro Try-Out Camp** in your area -- these will be listed in the message section of your daily newspaper's sports section.
- Start learning about **Showcases** and make contact with several of the directors -- find out if they may be interested in including you in one of their events.
- Check out the High School Baseball Web's **Showcase Table** for a listing of showcases around the country.
- Also visit the High School Baseball Web's **Showcase Calendar** for a listing of showcase dates and locations.

Junior (11th grade)

September

- Send out your first contact letters --
- Ask your high school coach to write letters to a few preferred colleges
- Include a copy of your fall schedule (if available)
- Check the Player Corner for examples of letters you can perhaps use to contact college coaches in regards to your interest in their programs.

SEPTEMBER 1

- Written contact by college coaches is allowed
- Register with the NCAA Initial - Eligibility Clearinghouse (your high school guidance counselor should have these forms). You can also register on line by logging onto the NCAA Clearinghouse website at:

<http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net/ncaa/NCAA/common/index.html>

- Register for the fall ACT / SAT standardized tests ... most students take these tests at least twice ... try to avoid the spring dates, as they may conflict with your high school season Request that your ACT/SAT test scores be sent to the NCAA Clearinghouse (there is a box on the application form that you check for this)
- Find more information about the **NCAA Clearinghouse**.
- Continue the fall and winter schedule as you did for your freshman and sophomore years

DO NOT LET UP ON ACADEMICS

- Familiarize yourself with the NCAA admission / eligibility requirements **NCAA Online** or check with your school's guidance counselor.

Feb -March

- Send out your spring high school schedule
- Prepare a videotape to be sent out when requested (do not send unsolicited tapes)
- Plan visits to as many schools as possible this spring and summer
- Some schools have "Junior Days" during the spring season ... don't be shy write a letter to the coach and ask about them.
- All of these visits are "unofficial" this means that the college cannot pay for any part of the visit. These are done on your own.
- Make contact with showcase groups - Work on getting your information to them - So that if you qualify they can send out an invitation - If you

wait until school is over for the year, it may be too late! The better showcases fill up fast.

- June and July are the primary showcase months.
- Check the High School Baseball Web **Showcase Table**.

Summer

- Send out letters to college programs - Tell them about your high school junior year (11th) season - Sending stats is okay
- Focus this summer should be on attending "Select or Advanced" **College Camps**.
- In this environment you will be able to gauge yourself against some of the best players, at each camp. The college coaches will be able to do the same.
- The summer between a player's junior and senior year of high school is very important

JULY 1st

- Phone contact from college coaches is permissible
- July is **Showcase** month.
- High School Baseball Web **Showcase Table**
- High School Baseball Web's **Showcase Calendar** for a listing of showcase dates and locations.
- Attend a **Pro Try-Out Camp** in your area -- these will be listed in the message section of your daily newspaper's sports section.

Senior (12th grade)

July - August

- Seek out a team that plays fall "showcase" tournaments (pro scouts can be helpful with this)
- **DO NOT LET UP ACADEMICALLY**
- Review core academic requirements with your guidance counselor. Make sure you are "on track"
- Send out your fall baseball schedule
- If you do not think you will sign in the early National Letter of Intent (LOI) period, usually the second week of November. Request information on Christmas camps ... especially from schools that you are most interested in .. or those that have shown an interest in you.

November

- Early signing period -- dates vary slightly from year to year -- Check on the **HSBBWeb Message Boards** for the current years dates
- Update college coaches on any changes to your fall schedule

- You can contact college coaches (by phone) at any time (prior to July after your Junior year they can not call you)
- Continue your fall and winter schedule as you have in previous years

Official Visits

- If you are offered an official visit -- prepare for your visit with a list of prepared questions. Be prepared for any questions the college may have for you.
- See the **Recruiting Tips** section for information about official and unofficial visits.

This is it! The year that you have been preparing for! ENJOY IT!

Good Luck