



College Info Night

**WHATCOMFC RANGERS**

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# Helpful College Advisors

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# Soccer In College

## Adult & Community Leagues

Bellingham United is an example.  
Most cities have organized competitive adult soccer leagues.

## INTRAMURAL SOCCER

Teams usually play on campus versus other students.

## CLUB SOCCER

Sanctioned by the colleges, tryouts are held.  
Play organized soccer in matches and tournaments  
Highly competitive, especially at larger schools

## COMMUNITY COLLEGES

2 year soccer programs  
Offer athletic scholarships  
Many NAIA & NCAA schools recruit these players.

## NAIA

Similar to the NCAA, smaller schools.  
Offer athletic scholarships.

## NCAA Division I, II, III

Largest college sports organizations.  
All but Div III can offer athletic scholarships.

# COLLEGE TO DO LIST

1. Do well in school!
2. Save money
3. Maximize your development as a player
4. Create a list of schools & rank the things that are important.
5. Go visit schools, watch college soccer games.
6. Contact coaches via email, include a highlight reel
7. Figure out a way to get the coaches to see you play - ID Camp, Showcases, League Game
8. Get answers so you know what your soccer options are at each school
9. Discuss pros and cons with people you trust before making a decision.

# The Importance of Academics

STUDY.

Attack your academics with the same intensity and discipline that you do with your sport. There is \$100 of academic money available for every \$1 of athletic scholarship. The better student you are the more opportunities you may have. GPA more important than class rigor. Balance is ideal.



# Save Money

Full ride scholarships are extremely rare.

Often times, decisions on schools are made due to financial feasibility.

Three main areas of financial support:

## Academic or Merit Scholarships

Merit based scholarships on GPA, leadership skills, or other achievements.

## Federal Aid

Scholarship or grants based on financial need, FAFSA.

## Athletic Scholarships

Offer on talent, not necessarily on need.

Often partial scholarships.

No athletic scholarship at NCAA Div III

## Become a Better Soccer Player

This is a competitive player pool—standing still means falling behind. Each year is an opportunity to raise your level. Stay committed to growth: refine your strengths, address your weaknesses, and embrace challenges.

Use your time wisely, each day at Rangers is an opportunity to grow!



# TIMELINE OF RECRUITING

NCAA coaches are not allowed to contact you until June 15 before your junior year, unless you are in person on campus on your own terms i.e. you visit or attend their ID Camp.

Coaches mostly scout players going into their junior & senior year in high school

Freshman & Sophomores: study, practice, save money, start creating lists, researching schools online and visiting campuses.

Juniors & Seniors: study, practice, save money, start contacting coaches & attending events where college coaches will see you play

Every school has a different timeline and every player has a unique process.

# Build A List Of Colleges

Great starting point! Find schools you would actually want to attend even without soccer.  
What is important to you?

## LOCATION

Climate, city size, distance from home, vibe of the campus

## ACADEMICS

Majors, class size, acceptance rates, do you qualify for admissions?

## CULTURE / SOCIAL

Would you thrive at this school without soccer? Religious Affiliation? Big Football Games?

## FINANCIAL

Can you afford to go here?  
How much financial aid can they offer  
how much of a loan would you need?

## SOCCER

What options do they have? Varsity - Can you play there? Do you like the style of play? Do they offer Club or Adult League?

# Track Your Research

It is easy to forget about schools and details throughout this process i.e. why you liked them, what the cost is, coolest thing on campus...

Track your notes so you have an overview of your research and experiences

Colleges	WWU	Boise State	Whatcom CC
	11-12-21 emailed coach No response 11-20-21 phoned coach	11-12-21 emailed coach Received email back Scheduled phone call	11-12-21 emailed coach Received email back Scheduled campus visit
Financial	Tuition: \$8,400 Could I live at home to save money? I can afford this with no debt.	WUE Tuition: \$12,000 Living expenses \$6000 I may need to take a small student loan and work all summer.	Tuition: \$4,650 Living expenses? I can afford this with no debt
Location	Close to home Hiking & skiing Close to the water Small college town	Close enough to drive Small college town Not close to ocean	Close to home Hiking & skiing Close to the water Small college town
Academics	Has all the majors I'm interested in I might be able to get into the honors program Medium class size	Has all the majors I'm interested in Some big classes	Has nursing program or I can get my AA and transfer to a 4 year school Small class sizes
campus	Medium size campus No Greek system		Small campus beautiful
soccer	Successful NCAA DII Not recruiting me yet Coach is nice	No varsity mens team Very competitive club team that I can play for	Successful JR College Offered me a spot on the team

## Go Visit Schools

Best way to learn about a school is in person!

- Visit campuses and do a **guided tour** if possible.
- **Set up meetings** with the coaches & show up anyways to their office!!
- Have a **list of questions** for the coach and students
- **Watch a training and or a game** on your visit (most teams have a fall & spring season)
- **Meet with an admissions counselor** to learn more about academics and financial aid at that school
- **Drive around the city** so you have an idea of what it would be like to live there
- **Reflect & record** 5 pros and 5 cons for each school after your research and visit

# Contacting Coaches

**YOU ARE GOING FOR A JOB, PURSUE THE JOB YOU WANT!**

**Visiting Campus: Email & call to set up campus visits so you can meet in person, show up to their office.**

**Email them whenever you have updates, events, big games, schedules & follow up with phone calls. June 15 going into your junior year is the first time they can actually reply to you.**

**Reply to everything they send! Keep in touch. Short updates are valuable. The goal is to build a relationship and connection with the coach.**

**Figure out when or how they can see you play, what events are they attending, are they hosting an ID Camp, etc.**

**Once they see you play, ask the hard questions! Do you have a spot on the team, where do you stand, are they offering you a scholarship.**

# IMPORTANT EMAIL INFORMATION

Your email needs to stand out by being authentic and personal while offering clear and concise information that is relevant. The subject line should be short and to the point. Include information that would be important for that school or coach.

## SHOW YOUR GENUINE INTEREST & BUILD A CONNECTION

**In your email include a statement that shares something unique:**

- The academic programs and departments that line up with your passions.
- Their team's success recently and in the past few years.
- Information on their style of play (after you have watched them play online or in person).
- Your position and how it would fit into their upcoming graduating classes.
- Other relevant information - Do you know anyone on the team? Have you had an older sibling attend the school? Have you watched the team train? Have you visited the campus?

## KEY INFO TO INCLUDE

- The Coach's Actual Name - No misspellings! (cc all of the coaches)
- First Name, Last Name, Graduation Year
- What club team you play on and what high school you attend
- Jersey number and soccer position
- GPA, ACT/SAT Test Scores,
- Player's contact info
- Club coach contact info
- Game schedule (time, location, opponent)
- CC your club coach

# Highlight Videos

Film is a tool that you can use to entice coaches to come see you in person. Build a highlight video and post it on your YouTube channel. Keep your video short (2-3 min max) and impactful

## Things that should be in your video:

- Title page that includes photo, contacts, position, jersey number & color, grad year, GPA
- 5-6 highlights that show your strengths, sometimes less is more!
- Two 2min clip of game that you are extremely involved in
- Identify yourself in each clip with an arrow or circle

# HOW WILL COACHES SEE YOU PLAY

**SHOWCASES &  
TOURNAMENTS**

**ID CAMPS**

**LEAGUE GAMES**

**VIDEO**

Ask coaches what events they will be attending and then find a way to attend those events.

Talk on the phone or visit in person with a coach prior to attending an ID Camp

Sometimes college coaches come together to attend larger ID camps like UW, Stanford, UCLA, PACNW, WPL.

**QUESTIONS?**

