



Rockdale Youth Soccer Association – Club Development Program

The RYSA Soccer Club Development Program is a special program that is offered as part of being a RYSA Select player. The program is introduced the first year of high school, or the freshman year and is maintained throughout the high school years until the player's commitment to a university during their senior year.

The College Development Program or CDP is a crucial process to the youth soccer player with the dream of playing college soccer. We introduce this program to the player and the parent together. The process is a four-year program that details the vital areas of collegiate recruiting including the following areas:

- Academics
- College Testing and Preparation
- College Correspondence and Contacts
- Showcasing, Tournaments and Exposure
- NCAA Initial Eligibility and Clearinghouse

The RYSA Soccer Club brings a wealth of talent and knowledge to this area of the game. Our staff is educated on the process from first hand experience from two NCAA Division 1 men's and women's teams. Our staff has seen experience at top collegiate programs and will use this expertise to help aid our youth in achieving their goals of either D1, D2, D3 or NAIA soccer.

This experience is invaluable to our club. We encourage you to contact us to learn more about the **RYSA Soccer Club** College Development Program or CDP.



RYSA SOCCER CLUB COLLEGE LECTURE

Identification of Colleges

- Identify and create a list of schools of interest - Major, Location, Size, Level of Play (D1, D2, D3, NAIA), Social, Etc.
- Research and become educated about colleges - internet
- Contact colleges and make aware of your interest
- Make yourself marketable and visible

Contacting a College and How to Do It

- D1 college coaches can contact recruit by telephone once in March of Junior Year: Normal contact begins July 1 of Senior year
- D2 college coaches can contact June 15; D3 begins when JR year ends
- Recruit can contact colleges as often as they like via e-mail/phone/IM
- Be persistent
- Request a college questionnaire and return promptly
- Send schedules of games, tournaments and ODP events
- Do not be afraid to call a college and speak to them or e-mail them
- Create a recruiting packet and soccer resume
 - Accurate, Professional, References, Appearances

Expectations of a College Soccer Player

- Be realistic about your expectations
- College soccer is the next level and you may not play as a freshman
- Ask coach about your ability to play at his college
- Time management with academics, soccer and social

Visits

- Begin to visit colleges through summer trips and college soccer camps
- Unofficial and Official Visits

Unofficial visits are unlimited and out of pocket of recruit and can occur anytime as a high school athlete

Official visits are limited to five percent recruit paid for by the colleges you visit: Official visits occur after July 1 of senior year and once a standardized test has been broken, i.e., SAT or ACT

Athletic Aid - Financial Aid - Academic Aid

- Athletic Aid is called a soccer scholarship
 - D1 schools have 9.9 scholarships; D2 schools have 9; D3 do not offer
 - Scholarships are split throughout team of possibly 25
 - Full rides or full scholarships are rarely seen; year to year terms
- Financial Aid is government or college money
 - Need based is given per family needs; generally not to be paid back
 - Aid or loans through government or school; generally must be paid back
 - FAFSA - Federal aid apply early

Academic Aid

- College coaches LOVE good grades and high test scores
- 25 times more academic aid than athletic aid
- Academic aid is not to be paid back



College Timeline

Freshman Year

Make a list of 25 schools based on above information

Sophomore Year (1st Semester Aug-Dec)

Sharpen List of colleges

Sophomore Year (2nd semester Jan-June)

1 page informational letter sent to colleges; ask for questionnaire and camp brochure

Summer before Junior Year

Letter sent where you will be playing with your club team, RYSA

Junior Year (1st Semester Aug-Thanksgiving)

Send informational letter and soccer resume

Email coach and assistant coach weekly

Junior Year (Nov-Dec)

Send letter of where you will be playing over holidays with schedules of RYSA games

Emails and phone calls weekly; Be persistent and not afraid to communicate

Junior Year (2nd Semester Jan-June)

Continue to narrow list of colleges based on feedback

Generate more feedback through e-mail, phone, references (RYSA coaches and DOC) and letters

Update resume and list of appearances

Apply for college soccer camp over summer

Plan list of unofficial visits

March recruiting calls from colleges

Summer before Senior Year

Make unofficial visits

Attend soccer summer camp

Emails, calls and updated letter and resume with summer game schedule

July 1st recruiting calls

Apply to NCAA Clearinghouse (www.ncaaclearinghouse.com)

Senior Year (1st Semester Aug-Dec)

Make unofficial visits; organize official visits with colleges (5 total)

Continue contacts through email, phone letters, update resume

College applications and deadlines met

APPLY EARLY FOR MONEY; college and FAFSA

Make a decision of where you are going for college - Verbal commitment

Senior Year (2nd Semester Jan-June)

Finalize all applications

National Letter of Intent (NLI) February Signing Day

Continue to perform academically

D1 schools finished recruiting seniors - D2, D3, NAIA schools recruiting push

Summer before College

GET FIT and MENTALLY PREPARED with RYSA staff

GOOD LUCK!



Important Information About Division I and Division II Initial-Eligibility Changes

The Division I and Division II initial-eligibility requirements have changed.

WHAT IS THE NEW RULE? The new requirements increase the number of required core courses from 13 to 14. The additional course may come from any of the following areas: English, mathematics, natural/physical science, social science, foreign language, non-doctrinal religion or philosophy.

For the classes of 2005, 2006 and 2007: Division I and Division II

If you plan to enter college in 2005 or after, your eligibility will be determined under the new rule. That means that you must have 14 core courses to be eligible to practice, play and receive financial aid at a Division I or Division II school.

For the class of 2008: Division I only -- 16 core courses

If you plan to enter college in 2008 or after, you will need to present 16 core courses in the following breakdown:

- 4 years of English
- 3 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher)
- 2 years of natural/physical science (one must be a lab science)
- 1 year of additional English, math or science
- 2 years of social studies
- 4 years of additional core courses (from any area listed above, or from foreign language, non-doctrinal religion or philosophy)

Hot issues

Information for home-schooled students

Students who were home schooled for any part of high school (grades nine through 12) must now register with the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse. The clearinghouse will determine whether they will be eligible for practice, competition and institutional financial aid at an NCAA Division I or Division II institution during their freshman year.

The clearinghouse will perform preliminary and final certification reports for home-schooled students. The preliminary analysis of a student's academic record will enable the student to become aware of any deficiencies in their academic record and allow the student to rectify those deficiencies prior to high-school graduation.

It is important to note that before a preliminary certification may be performed, the clearinghouse must receive the student release form (or registration form, which may be completed via the Internet), the registration fee, a transcript with at least six semesters represented and official test scores on the ACT and/or SAT.



SAMPLE LETTER OF INTRODUCTION TO COLLEGE COACH

Mr. College Coach
Men's Soccer Coach

Dear Coach,

I am a junior (06) at Heritage High School in Conyers, Georgia and am interested in attending the University to pursue a degree in economics.

I am very attracted to the USF men's soccer team and would be thrilled to play for you in the Big East. I have played mainly Goalkeeper for my club team, RYSA. My current club coach is Bryan Mills, who is also Director of Coaching for the RYSA Club. In addition, I have played varsity soccer for Heritage High School for the past two seasons.

Enclosed you will find my athletic profile, my unofficial high school, and or upcoming tournament/game schedule for the 05-06 season for my RYSA team.

Please forward me a media guide, soccer questionnaire, and any other information about the University soccer program.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you shortly!

Sincerely,

College Applicant

SAMPLE LETTER OF INTRODUCTION TO COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

Mrs. Director
Director of Admissions

Dear Mrs. Director,

I am very interested in attending the University and studying Economics, beginning in the fall of 2006.

Please forward me any relevant information about the University, the School of Business, an application for admission and a financial aid packet to the address below.

College Applicant
Home Address
Conyers, GA

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Sincerely,

College Applicant



Frequently Asked Questions on NCAA College Initial Eligibility

What requirements do I need to be able to practice, play and get a scholarship at a Division I or Division II school?

You need to complete the following:

- Graduate from high school;
- Complete a minimum of 14* core courses;
- Present a minimum grade-point average (GPA) in those 14* core courses; and
- Present a qualifying test score on either the ACT or SAT test.

*In Division I, the minimum number of core courses is 16 for students who enter a Division I school August 1, 2008, and after.

How do I know if the courses I'm taking will count as core courses?

You need to look at your high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses. Follow these steps:

- Go to the [NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse Web site](#)
- Click on "General Information"
- Click on "List of Approved Core Courses"
- Input your high school's code (if you know it) or search by your high school's name and state.
- Review the list

Very important: If a core course you took is not on the list, it won't be used in your eligibility determination. Courses that appear on your transcript must exactly match what is on the list.

What do I do if a core course I took isn't on the list?

See your high school counselor immediately. Someone at your high school is responsible for keeping your high school's list updated. It is important they do this every year to make sure the core courses you are taking appear on the list.

May courses taken in the eighth grade that are high-school courses (e.g., Algebra I, Spanish I, Freshman Composition) be used to meet the 14 core-course requirements?

Courses taken in the eighth grade may not be used to satisfy the core-curriculum requirements regardless of the course content or level. However, in the rare event that students need to have courses taken in the eighth grade considered for eligibility purposes, there is a waiver process available.

How is the NCAA core grade-point average different from a student's overall grade-point average?

The NCAA core-course grade-point average is calculated using only NCAA-approved core courses in the required 14 core units. High-school grade-point averages generally include the grades from most or all courses attempted in grades nine through 12.

Can weighted grades for honors or advanced placement courses be factored into the calculation of the student's core grade-point average?

A school's normal practice of weighting honors or advanced courses may be used as long as the weighting is used for computing grade-point averages. Weighting cannot be used if the high school weights grades for the purpose of determining class rank. Additionally, in no instance may the student receive greater than 1,000 additional quality points for purposes of calculating the grade-point average for initial eligibility.

What options are available to students who do not meet the NCAA initial-eligibility standards?

Students who do not meet the initial-eligibility standards may be granted a waiver of their deficiency through an NCAA initial-eligibility waiver. NCAA academic committees have the authority to authorize waivers of the initial-eligibility requirements based on objective evidence that demonstrates circumstances in which a student's overall academic record warrants the waiver of the normal application of the legislation. The waiver must be filed by an NCAA institution (college or university) on behalf of the student.

When should a student register with the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse?

Students should register with the clearinghouse after the completion of their junior year in high school. At this time, a transcript, which includes six semesters of grades, should be sent to the clearinghouse *from the high school*. Additionally, students should have their SAT or ACT test scores forwarded directly to the clearinghouse whenever they take the exam.

Can students with a diagnosed disability use courses that are designated for students with a disability to meet NCAA core-course requirements?

Students with appropriately diagnosed disabilities may use courses for students with disabilities for the purpose of meeting NCAA core-course requirements. Courses for students with disabilities must appear on the high school's list of NCAA Approved Core Courses in order for a student to receive NCAA credit for the course.

May a nonstandard ACT/SAT be used for initial eligibility?

Yes. Students with diagnosed disabilities may take a nonstandard ACT or SAT. The test score must still be provided to the clearinghouse, just as any other test.



**RYSA
College Questionnaire**

Personal Information

Name _____ Birth Date _____
Current Address _____ City/Zip _____
Social Security # _____ Current Email _____
Phone (H) _____ Cell _____
Height _____ Weight _____ Jersey # (Club) _____ (HS) _____
Father's Name _____ Mother's Name _____

Academic Information

High School _____ Phone _____
Counselor _____ Registered for Clearinghouse? _____
Rank In Class _____ GPA _____ Year of Grad _____
PSAT V _____ M _____ Date SAT V _____ M _____ Date ACT _____ Date _____
Academic Interests _____ Honors _____

College Information

List your top five choices for college _____
Do you prefer to be in state or out of state _____
Do you require financial or athletic aid _____

Playing Information

Club Honors _____ ODP Honors _____
High School Honors _____ Left or Right Footed _____
Preferred Position _____ HS Coach _____ Phone _____
Why do you want to play college soccer? What level? _____
