

# Questions to Ask College Coaches

## Coaching Approach

- What is your approach to the game, meaning are you aggressive offensively, stealing bases, hit and runs, etc?
- Where do you see the program in next 3-4 years?
- Do you let freshman play?
- Do you allow pitchers to bat? Do you allow catchers to call their own game?
- How many assistant coaches are there? What are their roles?
- How would you describe your style of coaching?
- How do you run your practices? Would the players consider them hard?

## Academics

Simply put, academics are the most important part of the process. If the college coach does not share your academic goals then it might be time to look at other options. Here are some academic questions every recruit might want to ask:

- What are the admission requirements for an athlete?
- How do you deal with the relationship between class and athletics?
- How do you accommodate classes and exams that conflict with practices and games?
- Will my specific major interfere with the athletic schedule?
- Are there any majors that are incompatible with your schedule?
- What are some of the most popular majors for athletes on your team?
- What about academic support? Does your team have a full-time academic advisor?
- What is the team GPA?
- What is the team graduation rate? Do your players graduate in four years?
- Can the application fee be waived for athletes?

## Athletics / Recruiting

These two topics overlap in many cases, as an athletic evaluation will determine how heavily the coaching staff will be recruiting a prospect. Here are some “must ask” questions for recruits at any point in the process:

- Has your coaching staff evaluated me?
- Where do I fit on your recruiting board? What role do you see me in?
- Have you offered scholarships to others in my class? At my position?
- Have any other athletes in my class accepted the offers?
- How many players will you be recruiting at my position?
- Where will you be recruiting this season / spring / summer?
- What types of off-season activities are expected?

- How many players do you carry? (pitchers, catchers, etc.)
- What percentage of freshmen end up being on the team for all four years?
- What does the training program consist of at your school?
- What is your recruiting timeline?
- Is there a good time to come visit your school?

## **Scholarship**

As we noted, it is rarely appropriate for a recruit to ask if they will receive a scholarship in an initial phone conversation, however there are a few questions that will help you gauge your scholarship possibilities at that school...

- How many scholarships do you have available for my class?
- Am I under consideration for a scholarship?
- What types of academic scholarships are available?
- What about other sorts of grants and aid?
- Do I have to apply before a scholarship is offered?
- What happens if I get injured?
- Have you ever withdrawn an offer?

## **College Life Questions**

Even though athletics will obviously play a major role in the life of a collegiate student-athlete, every recruit should make sure they are going to be happy on campus even when they are not with the team. Make sure to ask about some of the following:

- Are the players on your team close with each other?
- What is the housing situation like? Do teammates typically live/eat together?
- Do student-athletes stay on campus during the summer?
- Is it possible to work part-time in addition to playing a sport and studying?
- What is a typical “day in the life” like for a member of your team during the season? What about during the off-season?
- Do any of your players belong to a sorority?

## **Important Final Questions**

While there are many directions that a conversation might take with a college coach, one key goal should be to find out what comes next:

- What are the next steps in this process?
- When is the next time we can speak / meet?
- Is there anything I can provide you with that will help you further evaluate me?