



BOSTON BREAKERS ACADEMY



THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS



THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS – SIMPLE TIMELINE

This packet will give each grade a guideline as to what they should be looking for and preparing in order to make the college search process a successful and organized one. The college process can be stressful, this simple timeline will help guide you in the right direction, however in order to be successful it is important you remember the following:

- “Failing to prepare is preparing to Fail”
- Be personable, professional and most importantly persistent.

Freshman and younger

+ Go and watch local college games in the fall and spring.

- We are blessed in MA to have so many colleges competing in each division. Try to see a selection of D1, D2 and D3 schools and watch the level, style of play and the coach interaction with the players. Try and get a good feel as to where you feel you could play and get a read for the competitive level.

+ Visit college campuses with siblings.

- Try to visit a selection of D1, D2 and D3 campuses and start to get a frame of reference for what each looks like. If you don't have any siblings of college age, ask your parents to take you to some local colleges to have a look around. Figure out what campus lifestyle will fit you best. A big school spread across a city? A big school all in one location away from a city? A small school with everything on the campus in a city? What size of school would you be comfortable with?

+ Grades, grades, grades!!!

- Make sure that your grades are as good as they can be. This is CRUCIAL; your grades could tip the scales in your favor when it comes to a college coach pushing for a candidate. Remember, it will not only be you applying to the school or soccer program.

+ Work hard on your soccer development!

- Make sure that you are working at improving yourself as a player in all 4 pillars of the game – technical, tactical, physical and psychological. You never know who is watching and where, it is important you are practicing and playing to the best of your abilities whilst pushing to develop your game.



Sophomore

✚ SAME AS ABOVE

✚ ***Start your online research***

- Based on what you took from the timeline as a freshman, start to research schools that you feel would be more of an interest to you. Be realistic; do not just list five D1 colleges. Have a variety of schools and all divisions. The variety can be compiled by a chosen major, geography, sports or anything that might attract you to a particular school. When researching the colleges, vision yourself at the school as just a student, not a student athlete – a good rule of thumb is to consider whether you would be happy at the school if you weren't playing soccer.

✚ ***Failing to prepare is preparing to fail***

- Start to compile spreadsheets and folders on each of your chosen schools, team information, school education, contact information, activities and clubs, what grades are the players in your position? Will they be graduating as you will be coming in?

Junior (Most important year)

✚ SAME AS ABOVE.

✚ ***Continue working on your college list***

- As you go through the online research process and gathering information you may come across other schools that interest you, or you may take a dislike to a school you previously had an interest in. This is fine, by this stage you should look to have a list of 15-25 colleges you have an interest in. It is often good to categorize the schools by interest level, group them by "A" (strong interest), "B" (Interested) or "C" (slight interest and need more information). At this point your Breakers Academy Coach or College Liaison will work with you on narrowing down your list based on your desires. It is important to understand, Breakers Academy Coaches and College Liaisons will be honest with you. If they feel a certain program would not be right for you, or too much of a high expectation they will be honest in letting you know.

✚ ***Prepare cover letter/email, profile and schedule.***

- Later in this packet you will find a template letter, start to use this template as your first point of communication with college coaches. Remember, there will be hundreds of other players emailing college coaches, you need to vision your email/letter going into pile "c", the work then really starts getting from pile "c" to pile "a".



This will be explained to you and your Breakers Academy Coach/College Liaison will assist you in this process.

Along with your cover letter you should send the coach a one page bio, include height, weight, grades, school, AP classes you may be taking, jersey number and soccer achievements. The final piece to the introduction email/letter should be your upcoming schedule. List upcoming tournaments you will attend and any league games you have coming up.

- You may be sending out the same cover letter/email up to 30 times, it is **VERY IMPORTANT** you read through before you send. Make sure you have changed the college name, coaches' name and the spelling is accurate. It is also a good idea to open the letter with acknowledgment of the soccer program, or any player highlights. For Example.....

- *Dear Coach Durkin,*

- *My name is Heather O'Reilly, I am a center forward for the U17 Boston Breakers Academy and have a strong interest in your program. Before I tell you more about myself I wanted to congratulate you on the win this past weekend, I noticed Kristie Mewis scored again making her the highest scorer in the ACC. I am looking forward to seeing your team play on October 15th against UNC.*

- This shows the coach you have been following the program, players and have a strong interest. College coaches receive a lot of bulk, general emails with no signs of real interest, and often still have a different coach or school name because the sender forgot to make the edits. Be **VERY** careful with this and make sure you know about their program.

The persistence starts now!

- Follow up with a phone call to the coach; make sure they have received your email, bio and schedule and spend some time talking about their program and how you feel you would be a good fit.
- **NOTE:** It is VERY rare that you make one phone call and a coach picks up or returns your call straight away. College coaches are very busy, especially during season this is where persistence pays off. If they do not answer or do not call you back immediately, do not panic just keep being persistent. It is like a sales job, you are the product being sold.
- **ADVISE:** rehearse phone calls, especially when leaving messages. Your message should be clear and confident. Leave your name, club, high school and note you are following up on the bio you emailed them on a specific date. Also, let them know when you will call back. College coaches are not allowed to contact you until September 1st of your junior year, you can contact them, however they cannot contact you directly.



Here is an example message:

- *Hello Coach Durkin, this is Heather O'Reilly from the U17 Boston Breakers Academy calling on Thursday October 17th at 1pm. I was calling to confirm you received the email and bio I sent on Tuesday October 15th at 2pm. I am very interested in your program and would like to speak to you in person to discuss me as a player and how I believe I can be beneficial to your program. I will try calling back again today at 4pm, if I don't get a hold of you I will try again tomorrow at 11am. I look forward to speaking with you soon (if it is after September 1 of your JR year, leave a call back number).*
- DO NOT think one phone call is suffice, you may need to make 5-10 phone calls before you and the college coach connect. The more persistent you are in your calls, the more known your name will become to the coach. This is one way you can jump from pile "c" to pile "b".
- **NOTE:** your Breakers Academy Coach or College Liaison will also be able to make phone calls on your behalf.

✚ Set up unofficial visits.

- You can go on as many unofficial visits as you like. Pick some of your more serious choices and go and visit the campus and get in touch with the coach ahead of time and set up a meeting with them. It is also good to know when visiting colleges you should try and visit the athletic office and see if the college coach is available for a personal introduction.

✚ Get the college coach to see you play.

- Be aggressive and persistent in getting your game schedule in front of college coaches. This is the way you jump from pile "b" to pile "a". Continue emailing and calling the college coach regarding your upcoming schedule. As tournaments get closer and game schedules are confirmed, send that schedule to the coach noting time of kick off, field number, your team's jersey color and your jersey number. Do not make the college coach have to look up information, if you place it in front of them they are more likely to see you play. Communicate effectively with college coaches if there are any changes to your schedule and always follow up after each event.

✚ Take the SAT and ACT if you have not already done so.

✚ Register with NCAA eligibility center.



✚ **Be detailed and organized**

- Keep a spreadsheet on each school, note when you emailed your bio, when you made phone calls, make notes on any conversations in person, on the phone or over email and re-evaluate your “a”, “b” and “c” categories as the process moves along. Your list of 15-25 should start to be more narrowed down to a top 5-10

Senior

- ✚ **Focus on school and grades, make sure you are improving your GPA and preparing for SAT's**
- ✚ **Meet with your school advisor to discuss colleges from an academic standpoint.** Once this has been finalized start to apply for your chosen schools.
- ✚ **Keep in touch with Admissions and college soccer coaches.** Be punctual returning emails and phone calls.
- ✚ **Fill out all financial Aid documents as applicable.**

- ✚ **Make official visits.** Try and get a feel for where you will fit in and what role you want to play. If you want to be an impact player who starts and gets minutes then ask the coach if they see you as that player. If you are happy sitting on the bench and earning more time over the years then you need to make that decision based on coaches' responses.
- ✚ **Pick the school that is the best fit for you academically, financially, athletically and socially.**
- ✚ **Once your college choice has been made, do not back off your soccer preparation.** The process does not stop once you have been accepted, your grades need to be maintained and your fitness and soccer development needs to be continually worked on. College coaches will send out summer fitness packets to help prepare players coming into pre season. It is important you follow that packet, and as an incoming freshman you do extra preparation.
- ✚ **Your Breakers Academy coach or College Liaison will be with you every step of the way in the process.** The PLAYER is accountable for the college process and not the PARENT or COACH. The players who have the most success and the easiest process in their college selection have been the ones who have been self-motivated and aggressive in staying on top of things.
- ✚ **Boston Breakers will be implementing player and parent college education seminars hosted by Breakers Academy College Liaisons and Boston Breakers Professional Players who have been through the process.**
 - One of the best ways to prepare you for college pre- season is to maintain your **fitness** and **competitive edge** by competing in the **Breakers Academy U18 and College Academy teams.**



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Thursday, March 13, 2013

Anson Dorrance

University of North Carolina
Address
City, State, Zip

Dear Coach Dorrance,

I am writing this letter to you to express my interest in your program and to introduce myself to you and your coaching staff. My name is Heather O'Reilly and I am currently a junior at Acton Boxborough high School. I currently play for the U17 Boston Breakers Academy team and I am attaching my player profile which will give you an overview of my soccer and academic background. I am a striker and I strongly believe that I can contribute to your program in #####.

I would like to congratulate you on your continued success on and off the field. The win last week against Boston College was very impressive, I really like the style of soccer your team play and have developed over the years. I follow the National Women's Soccer League; it is great to see so many strong players come out of your UNC program.

I am very interested in your program because of..... Athletically and academically UNC is an excellent fit for what I am looking for and I intend to visit the campus this summer and would be excited about meeting you and your staff at that time if possible.

I am also attaching my club schedule through August and will contact you directly to see if there are some opportunities here for you or your staff to see me play in person. The attached information lists my Breakers Academy and High School coach information but I will also put it at the bottom of this letter should you want to contact them directly.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to consider me as a future part of the UNC team and will call you in the next week to make sure that you have received all my relevant information. I look forward to talking to you soon and learning more about the UNC program.

Sincerely,



Questions to ask a College Coach

- ✦ If you are calling to follow up on your cover letter and profile, introduce yourself clearly and state where you are from. Tell the coach why that particular college is of interest to you and that will start you on the way to engaging them in a conversation where you can show your personality and your interest in the school and the soccer program.
- ✦ Here are some questions that you can use:
 - ✦ I saw your team's results last year and was wondering where in particular you are looking to improve the team?
 - ✦ What system do you normally play?
 - ✦ What is your philosophy as a coach with regards style of play?
 - ✦ How many players do you carry on your roster typically?
 - ✦ What about the status of your returning group of players?
 - ✦ Do you have a pre-season fitness schedule that I could see?
 - ✦ What are the long term plans of the coach – what are the goals for the next 3-5 years for the program?
 - ✦ Ask about other coaching staff – is there a GK coach, what medical staff will the team have access to?
 - ✦ How much time does soccer require? What do you need to know to make sure that there is no impact on Academics?
 - ✦ What is the availability of scholarship help – or ask about financial aid or any other help that the school can provide financially?



NOT A GOOD EMAIL TO SEND TO COACHES:

Subject: Fast left footed defender at November Nights!

Dear Coach _____

My name is _____ and I am extremely interested in playing soccer for you at the University of Washington. Being from Portland, Oregon, I have had chances to see you guys play and I would love to further my soccer career at UW. Aside from soccer, I want to earn a degree in social sciences to pursue both academics and athletics.

I am a left footed defender with speed (5.01 flying 40). I have an aggressive style of play and can make things happen for the Huskies.

Please come see me play at November Nights in Carlsbad, CA. My team is Crossfire Oregon Breakers.

11/29 8:10 pm Aviara Community Park #2

11/30 2:50 pm Poinsettia Community Park #2

12/1 9:00 am Army Navy Academy #1

Thank you so much and look forward to seeing you,

Why it's NOT good:

- Say your name and YEAR of graduation in the Subject line
- Say your year of graduation and club name in the first sentence
- When doing schedule, write other teams that you are playing, coaches are more apt to watch if they recognize the opponent as well.
- Didn't include the club coach and contact info
- Year of grad was never stated in the entire email – it was then deleted by the coach.



GOOD EMAIL TO SEND TO A COACH

Subject: (ENTER NAME) - Soccer Recruit Class of 2016

Dear Coach _____,

My name is _____ and I will be graduating from high school in 2016. I wrote to you on a previous occasion and would like you to know I am still very interested in the University of Washington. University of Washington offers me several strong options for the academic programs I am now considering. It also would allow me the opportunity to play on a strong soccer team, which is my goal. I will be playing in the ECNL Phoenix Showcase November 15 to 17. I would appreciate it if you would come watch some of my games. My team is MVLA Pride ECNL U16. My position is attacking midfield and on occasion I play defensive midfield. Our colors are navy blue and white and my number is 5. This is our schedule for the Phoenix Showcase:

Fri Nov 15	11:00 am	Michigan Hawks ECNL U16	vs	MVLA ECNL U16	Reach 11 - #06
Sat Nov 16	9:00 am	MVLA ECNL U16	vs	Sereno Soccer Club ECNL U16	Reach 11 - #02
Sun Nov 17	7:45 am	GSA ECNL U16	vs	MVLA ECNL U16	Reach 11 - #14

I go to Menlo-Atherton High School and currently have a 4.0 GPA. For more information about me this is a link to my resume:

<http://www.eliteclubsnationalleague.com/teams/62561624/49622465-62562502/50339908.html>

I realize that you can't contact me, however feel free to contact my coaches Ben Pada at padasoccer@gmail.com or (623)-203-0996 and Albertin Montoya at albertin1010@gmail.com or (650)-464-0425.

Sincerely

Why it's good:

- Short, to the point but detailed
- Includes important things – year of graduation, team name, jersey number, schedule
- A genuine interest in the school
- Where will you be playing and when
- The schedule with the opponents
- Your uniform number
- Position
- Coaches Contact info



Boston Breakers Academy College Contacts:

Girls Director: Sydney Stoll – stoll@bostonbreakers.com or Sydney@scorpionsc.com

Breakers GM: – Lee Billiard – lbilliard@bostonbreakers.com

Club Director: – Fred Marks – scorpionsoccer@aol.com

West Director: – Jess Brown – jess@scorpionsc.com

www.bostonbreakerssoccer.com

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