



Dear players and parents:

SWSC recently held an excellent college recruitment virtual event featuring two college soccer coaches, Erik Ronning, the men's coach at Colgate, and Keith Simons, the women's coach at Vassar, in addition to a parent of a college player and a current college player.

Highlights included:

Both coaches said that they look for players of strong character and resilience, players willing to put the work in and earn their playing opportunities.

They indicated that they value having players reach out to them via email with specifics including:

- School and club affiliations and soccer recognition
- Player video footage (highlight reels, no longer than 3-5 minutes, position specific footage)
- Opportunities for them to see you play at showcases and ID camps (team, uniform number, game times, field #s, etc.)
- Academic credentials (Graduation year, GPA, test scores if available, potential major)
- Coach references – high school and/or club
- Contact information

Note: It's best if the email is specific to each college coaching staff and not a cut and paste effort (make sure the school and coach name are correct!). It's also best to do your due diligence and determine who you should reach out to. Sometimes it's an assistant coach who takes the lead on recruiting. The email should also come from the player and not the parent. Of course, it's fine to have a parent proofread the email.

Once you've connected via email, you can begin your relationship. Be patient but stay on task. A reasonable cadence for contact is every couple of weeks.

Note: Before June 15th after your Sophomore year, D1 coaches will not be able to respond to you (or contact you at all) outside of a boilerplate email with a questionnaire and any information on their soccer camps. D3 coaches can contact you at any point.

Note: Many colleges and universities will encourage players to apply "early decision" as a means to give them a higher acceptance rate window.

The coaches also advocate attending their schools' ID camp as this is the best opportunity for them to truly see you in action, typically with some of their current college players.



The player, Xander at SUNY Poly, shared that he was eventually able to narrow his choices based on the ongoing communication and a college visit with his current coach.

The parent, who has 3 girls playing soccer collegiately—2 at D1 level and 1 at D3 level— advised that the player should take the lead on where they want to play. The desire needs to come from them.

Coach Kiersten Owen provided an overview of the college soccer landscape in terms of competitiveness and offered a great link to consider where you fit:

[Soccer Scholarships & Odds of playing in College | Scholarship Stats.com.](#)

The powerpoint can be accessed [here](#).