

## Getting the Most Out of Your Recruitment

The #1 rule in recruiting is still to be really, really good. If you are the top 2% of all players in your class then opportunities will find you. If you are a very good to above average player you may have to do some work, take some steps, and build some relationships. Following the steps in this document will help you move closer to your goal and give you a process for progress in recruiting.

First, we have to understand how college coaches operate. College baseball coaches have a limited amount of time and resources. Put yourself in their shoes. Your email inbox and text messages are flooded with prospects who want you to come see them. You have a limited amount of time to go watch prospects. Who would you go see? Following the guidelines below will help you from making any costly mis-steps when it comes to communication/social media and your online presence, and will increase your chances of schools coming to see if you are a fit for their program.

### Email:

All players need a baseball specific email address that is appropriate. This email will be used for communication with college coaches and other baseball related communications. Use gmail so you also have access to google drive to store/upload any highlight video or track any numbers. You can easily keep all your baseball information and media in one place attached to your baseball email. This will save you time and a headache.

Good Example: [Jay.Smith2024@gmail.com](mailto:Jay.Smith2024@gmail.com) (includes player name and grad year if possible)

Non-example: [DropBombs654763@hotmail.com](mailto:DropBombs654763@hotmail.com) (college coaches usually get a kick out of these).

### Social Media:

Follow Carolina Combat Baseball and tag us in your baseball posts. Twitter, Instagram, Facebook.

If you are on multiple social media platforms for recruiting purposes try to keep your username appropriate and keep the same handle across platforms when possible. Keep your DM or messaging inbox open so you can be contacted should coaches be able to contact you via social media or someone with other opportunities can reach you. (Beware there are scams and spammers as well as coaches who tamper with players who are already committed). Take the time to talk with your trusted coaches.

Your social media and any username or avatar you associate yourself with can either help you or hurt you in the recruiting process. "Liking" or "tagging" or "re-posting" any negative, controversial, or derogatory content online, reflects upon you as if you posted or created the content yourself! Imagine your grandparents read every word of it out loud. Would it be

respectful to yourself, your family, your team, and the game? If the answer is not “yes”, you should not post it.

If you are using social media to promote yourself as a recruit you should have pertinent information in your bio or user info. However, self promotion of yourself while playing a team sport is often frowned upon when it comes to social media/baseball. Put the team first and send us your highlight type content, if it’s good we will promote it for you!

Social Media - User Info Example:

Name / Class of 2025 (or c/o 2025) / Position(s) / “American” High School / Carolina Combat Baseball (or @combatbaseball) / Height - Weight / GPA - SAT - ACT / Link to Online Prospect Page / [John.Smith05@gmail.com](mailto:John.Smith05@gmail.com)

If there is not enough room you could just link your prospect page which will contain the most pertinent information, but I would at least put grad class/school/travel club before the link for ease of access for coaches.

It also does not hurt to put your high school or a travel coach’s contact info in your user info (be sure to get permission from the coach!), or online prospect page. Please make sure your info is accurate.

College coaches will check your social media, make them glad they did!

### **Online Prospect Profile:**

All prospects will want to ensure you have done your Online Prospect Profile which is included as a member of Combat Baseball (we may have to charge for this in the future). This is like your online resume and is becoming more of a requirement to help coaches decide who they want to come see. Players are committing at younger and younger ages. If you have tools be sure to get your numbers, get your skills and best game footage on video and update your page. Even if you do not feel your tools are good enough currently, you should still have video so you can show how your skills have developed over time, which speaks to your work ethic and character. Short clips with a still camera (use tripod if possible), no commentary necessary. Add your name, class, and date in the bottom corner. Consult with a coach if you need help. The clips that highlight your skills that are closest to college ready abilities should come first. Be sure to either link or copy and paste your HS and Travel schedule if available. Make it easy on them to have everything they need to evaluate you.

Your online profile is a one stop shop and once you have updated it you can easily send the link in an email, attach it to social media, or text it to a college coach who might request it, so a college coach can assess your skills.

You can find the link to update your personalized page here:

<https://playinschool.pages.ontraport.net/pp-combat>

### **Creating your School List:**

Athletics opens doors, but academics can carry you through life. 4 (or 5) years can determine your next 40+ years of life. Find a school that fits you not only athletically, but academically (has your major), as well as socially. Look at athletes on the colleges online roster, look at their height, weight, and position, look at what they major in. Read their bio's. Do you think you are as good or project to be better than them? How many of their players are playing baseball and pursuing the major you would choose?

With that in mind, look at your 10 favorite schools and create a school list ranked 1-10, 1 being *your* dream college, 5 being where you think you could realistically play immediately upon stepping on campus, and 10 being a "fall back" school where you would go if other options fell through. 1 does not necessarily need to be a better baseball school than another one down the list, but it should be your personal #1 school you would want to attend as a student-athlete. Once your list is in place it can be modified if needed. *You want to start with contacting school #10, do not start with your dream school!* Build leverage and give yourself the best chance to gain offers by working your way up the list. Colleges many times will ask if you have other offers. Take the time to do your homework on these schools. Following this method not only is more efficient but it helps speed up the recruiting process. Do not discount junior college as an option, as there are multiple financial and playing benefits currently that 4 year schools can't provide. You can transfer and your diploma still comes from where you eventually graduate!

We have ranked what we feel are the most important factors (ranked in order) for deciding on a college/university to put on your list. It's about finding the right fit, not necessarily the most high profile baseball program.

1. **Geography/location** - Do you want a big town, small town, big campus, small campus, rural, or city? Most in our state want to stay in the south, with the bulk staying in-state. What type of weather is best for you? Will the family be able to visit or is it too far? We have had plenty go out of state. Start by marking your territory on a map, you will choose your 10 schools from that area.
2. **Financial costs** - Scholarships are limited in baseball. Virtually nobody gets a full ride on baseball alone. Out of state tuition costs are usually significantly more than in-state tuition costs. This is why academic standards are almost always higher for baseball programs compared to other sports, academic (or other grants/aid) scholarship money helps pay the costs. Private schools are usually pricey but can usually find more money to help athletes. If you can graduate with little to no debt that is huge!
3. **Field of Study** - Knowing what you want to study for your career after baseball is critical. You may have an idea of a few things that interest you. Find the schools that have the field of study that interests you most. When you eventually talk to the college coach at a school, knowing about their academic programs of study not only helps speed the process but will impress the college coach and show that you are serious about becoming a collegiate student-athlete.

4. **Social environment/campus culture** - Do you like big classes or small classes? More of a city type of campus that is in one spot, or spread out? Maybe a more rural small town campus? These types of questions impact your quality of life while getting your education. Are there any clubs you might be interested in outside of baseball (your time will be limited).
5. **Baseball** - Notice that baseball is last on this list. The baseball part of your college experience could go perfect, but if the school is too far, too expensive, not academically suitable, and/or your social life isn't good, the player is going to be coming home early or transferring out ASAP. This can be costly as credits many times don't transfer yet you still have to account for them financially. However, if 1 - 4 are good, or great, you have a higher chance of having a fulfilling college experience. Please keep in mind players are drafted from every level of college baseball, including junior college.

### **Contacting College Coaches:**

Once you have your email, social media, and profile page set up appropriately then you (the player) can contact college coaches. They want to hear from the player. Nothing against parents, but they are looking for responsible young men who can speak for themselves, take responsibility for their actions, and are accountable in the recruiting process.

Division 1 coaches cannot contact athletes before September 1 of their junior year. Phone calls, texts and emails from Division 2 coaches can begin June 15 after the athlete's sophomore year. There are no restrictions regarding phone calls from coaches at the Division 3, and junior college or NAIA levels, but typically they wait until an athlete's junior year. "Early recruiting" and contact before these dates happens through communication with the travel coach (or high school coach). If the college coach wants to talk to the prospect they can communicate through the coach and set up a time for the prospect to call the college coach. The best recruiters almost always talk to the prospect's coaches before deciding to make contact or not. Make sure you include coaches' contact info in your email and on your Online Prospect Profile.

When you make first contact you want to show interest in the school and baseball program, just as much as you want the coach or school to be interested in you. Know something about them. Each email should be personalized to that particular coach and school. The generic emails usually are the first to get deleted. Keep the email short and sweet, remember they are strapped for time. Email the recruiting coordinator. Here is an example:

*To: (recruiting coordinator)*

*Subject: Jay Smith (graduation year)*

*Dear Coach (name),*

*My name is "Jay Smith" and I have been researching (insert college/university) and the (insert mascot) baseball program. I like that you offer (insert areas of interest in study) and (insert*

*something you like about their team accomplishments or coaching background). I would like the opportunity to show my skills and learn more about your program.*

*Here is a link to my Online Prospect Page with video, academics, and schedule (if available):  
[insert link]*

*I understand your time is valuable. Here is contact information for my coaches. If you like what you see, please feel free to contact them.*

*[insert HS/Travel coach name and contact info]*

*Also, could you please send me camp information when you have a moment?*

*Thanks for all that you do for the game.*

*Sincerely,  
(Full Name) (graduation year)  
(insert online prospect page link again)*

This email is a good example and can be modified, just note that if the email is too long, or everyone copies and pastes the exact same thing, or if you send the same email to multiple coaches at the same time, then the length or lack of personalization can backfire and get your email deleted.

### **Quick Tips**

- Letting us post any summer or other highlights goes a long way due to our track record, versus you or a parent posting highlights. Have parents or friends (can even be players with coach's permission) video your opportunities. The more content the better.
- We agree you should announce it (if you choose) when you commit to play in college. It is a time to be celebrated, and a new beginning to your baseball career. Take the time to thank your family, friends, and coaches that have helped you along the way. Have an attitude of gratitude.
- We encourage you to tag us on social media Twitter/Instagram/Facebook etc we will retweet you to our followers which includes college coaches and pro scouts.
- We do not recommend announcing *offers*. College coaches see this as the player chasing social media glory over real world results.
- Once you commit to a school, you should not entertain other offers unless you decommit from the school you are committed to.
- If you commit solely because you want the social media attention or validation you are missing the big picture. Make decisions based on the right fit. Consult with your coaches who have helped guide hundreds of players through this process.

- Be as happy for others when they commit as you would want them to be for you. If you are doing the right things and working hard, your day will come. You are looking for the right fit and everyone's best fit will not be the same.
- Committing is not the time to slow down or pause your training or growth as a player. This is a dangerous pitfall and causes many players to be released from their verbal commitment (yes, it happens every year!). It is time to go even harder because you are leveling up in competition as soon as you step on campus.
- We encourage you to tag us on social media Twitter/Instagram/Facebook etc we will retweet you to our followers which includes college coaches and pro scouts. It looks even better when highlights come from our account, instead of self promotion from your personal account.
- Once you commit, always let your coaches and family know about your commitment plans before blasting it on social media!

The sooner you have a plan and start to complement it the better. You are jousting for position not only with high school players but junior college and the transfer portal as well!

Stuck on something? Email [info@carolinacombat.org](mailto:info@carolinacombat.org) or discuss with Coach Nobles or your team's head coach about how we can help.