

COLLEGE SWIMMING INFORMATION

BCH SWIM TEAM - AUGUST 2024





A few things to keep in mind....

- We are not experts
 - Every athlete is different
-
- Have an open mind to EVERY possibility
 - **Academics!**
 - Communicate
 - College is not the end all be all... rather another step along the way

The NCAA logo is a large black circle containing the letters "NCAA" in a white, serif font. The background of the slide is dark blue with a thin, light-colored diagonal line passing through the bottom left corner.

NCAA

National Collegiate Athletic Association

Governing body of most
colleges

Broken into 3 different levels



NCAA DIVISION I



- Approx. 133 schools with Men's Swim •

AT MOST have 9.9 scholarships

- Approx. 195 schools with Women's Swim •

ATMOST have 14 scholarships

- Generally the “bigger” schools

Power 5 Conference

Mid-major conference

- This is the max scholarship offered by the NCAA, not all schools will have this

- Can combine this with other Academic Awards

NCAA DIVISION II

Approx. 73 schools with Men's Swim

Approx. 103 schools with Women's Swim

- Allowed 8 Scholarships on each side (max)
- Not all schools will have 8 full scholarships
- Most can be combined with other academic awards
- Most athletic aid one can receive is 50%



Division III



- Approx. 225+ schools with Men's Swim
- Approx. 250+ schools with Women's Swim
- NO athletic scholarships
- Most schools will have a combination of academic aid, grants, and merits for students
- Varies by school

National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics

- Up and coming collegiate route
- Approx. 26 schools with Men's Swim
- Approx. 31 schools with Women's Swim
- Can receive BOTH academic and athletic scholarships
- No association with NCAA
- Different eligibility rules, standards, etc.



National Junior College Athletic Association

- Community and Junior Colleges
- Approx. 13 schools with Men's Swim
- Approx. 14 schools with Women's Swim
- Often used to continue swim career, then transfer to NCAA
- Different eligibility rules, standards, etc.
- Scholarship info not available



NCAA Eligibility

What do I need to do to begin the recruiting process?

NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER

- For ALL D1 & D2 NCAA Schools
- ACT/SAT Submitted to NCAA
- Code “9999” on your tests
- Send OFFICIAL Transcript to NCAA after Junior year
- Make an account at www.eligibilitycenter.org
- Check progress, find academic requirements, etc.
- Academic requirements vary by level (no uniform D3 requirements)
- Check with your counselors/advisors!
- Formally known as the “NCAA Clearinghouse”

NCAA Eligibility Center

- Completing those requirements clears you for visiting universities
- If you are behind, or could end up behind, utilize summer school BEFORE senior year

Unsure of requirements for D3 and NAIA Schools, ask coaches when contacting them

Swimcloud is your friend!

Buy the **Varsity package** - it is a one time fee and then you are good

Recommend beginning search with [College Matchmaker \(Big Future\)](#) & [College Swimming \(SwimCloud\)](#)

Make a List

- Create a list of schools that check both boxes (Match Maker & Swimming)
- Don't be afraid to reach/have too many
- Cast a big net!
- Mix in schools you can swim at right now, one you are on the bubble, and “reach” schools
- It is a working list

What Should I be considering?

- Cost
- Grants/scholarships/WUE
 - Cost of living
- Location
- Be honest...how far can you go from home
- Family
- Weather
- Academics
- Majors
- Class size
- PostGrad
- Entry
- What school will you get the most out of

Swimming:

- Where do you rank • Future needs
- Progression
- Staff
- Scholarships
- Facilities
- History
- Competition
- Retaining teammates/graduation

I have a list! Now What?



- Don't wait... Initiate!
- **ATHLETE'S DO EVERYTHING!** (Coaches know if it's the parents)
- Contact the coaches (via email) • CC ALL of the coaches
- Recruits can contact the coaches as much as they want
- Including parents and club coaches
- Be up front and honest
- Take notes
- Be prepared to be asked to go on visits

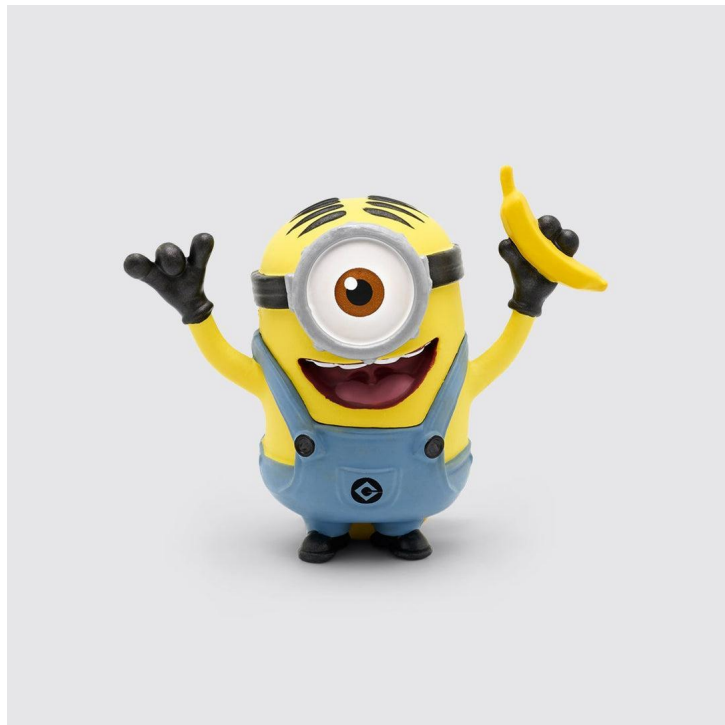
Contacting Coaches:



- Professional in the email
- Include:
- Contact info, days, times, etc.
- Your times/stats (SCY & LCM!) • They want to see versatility (3-4)
- HS GPA, test scores, rank
- Potential major/reason for interest in school
- **SELL YOURSELF!** Recruiting = Job interview
- Dress up for your Zoom. Do your research ahead of time
- Coaches may contact you beginning June 15 post Sophomore year

Contacting Coaches

- Respond to communication from coaches within 48 hours
- You are not going to get a response from many!
- It's ok to double email/text
- Send updates
- Ask why not me? What can I do better? ASK!



Sample Letter



Link to sample letter:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zzH9seEP1vgHeJqPGbUx3aVr0he1GuyGsHA-W17vWDQ/edit?usp=sharing>

Email Subject:

-Name, location, times, class

-Ex: Tim Touchpad, Las Vegas, 50/150 Fly, Class of 2023

-"11 second attention span

Official vs Unofficial Visits (OV vs UNOV)



- **[NEW] Allowed unlimited official visits**
 - **Can begin August 1 of Junior year**
 - **University CAN pay for transportation, meals, lodging, parents • Athletes take 3 on average**
 - **Only visit a school once (unless Head Coach change)**
 - **You can take as many unofficial visits as you want • Start these early!**
 - **Timing of recruiting trips**
- *These rules are for NCAA D1 Schools. D2 & D3 trip rules vary**

Committing/Signing

- Unofficial commit whenever you want

(no strings attached for you or the school)

- Official Signing periods

- Senior Year

Mid-November

There are no longer National Letters of Intent, it is simply a financial agreement. The “open date” changes each year from the NCAA and does not need to be signed on any specific day past the open date. Many financial agreements will have a 7 day period in which you must sign and return or your offer is no longer valid.

- Don't be afraid to say no

- Do I need to commit earlier vs later?

Scholarships/Finances

- DO NOT rely on athletic aid!
- Average D1 Athletic scholarship was under \$9,000 in 2017
- Ask if scholarship is good for just one year, or all four
- If needed, is their summer school aid and 5th year aid?
- Any chance of increasing award while in school?

Requirements?

- Schools cannot take away awards due to bad performance or injury (NCAA RULE) “Broken Leg Test”
 - FAFSA (family income based)
 - Academic Money/grants
 - Hundreds of thousands of dollars go unclaimed every year! • WUE
 - Parents: Be honest with your athlete about your financial situation •
- What is saved specifically for their college fund?
- What can you afford?

Recruiting Services & Takeaways

- Thoughts on recruiting services (NCSA, ACC, etc.)
- Average scores for swimmers: 3.6 GPA | 28 ACT | 1350 SAT Score (this is an average, not all)
- AP Classes/tests
- Must be getting a 4 or 5 on test
- “Only person you’re impressing with AP classes is you” – If you can handle it, great, if not, don’t stress.
- SOCIAL MEDIA: Positive, No bad talking, not boasting
- Volunteering: 100 hours with one program/place better than 10-10-hour sessions at random opportunities

Use Your Resources

- Your Coaches – happy to help, but you need to talk to them!
- Academic advisors/counselors
- External Services
 - Extremely Expensive
 - Sometimes helpful but not always the best for swimming

Good reads:

- Colleges That Change Lives
- Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be
 - Renee Lopez – Full Ride (buy onsite, not Amazon)

What Do I Do Next?

- NCAA Eligibility Center Account • Send Scores
- Send Transcript after junior year
- College Swimming Account
- Cast your net!