

When should junior golfers begin researching colleges and planning for their future?

“If they are seriously considering playing golf at the next level, I feel they should start researching their freshman year of high school. Emailing resumes to coaches by the end of their freshman year will give coaches the opportunity to get them on their radar and begin watching them during the sophomore season. Updating your resume often is crucial.” – **Tim Poe, PGA – University of Central Missouri**

“I think your sophomore/junior year. For juco I get a lot of kids that have offers from D2 that are wanting to go D1 so they will need to come to me for a year or two. Most of my Kansas kids I get are referrals from people like Casey Old, Jim Mapel, Josh Cook and Doug Atherly. They have seen a lot of kids play either through high school, central links or teach that student.” – **Chris Robinson, PGA – Dodge City Community College**

“This process should start in 8th grade and freshman year. This is when you need to start compiling results for your future resume. The sooner you start the better tournaments you will be able to play in as you get older. As a college coach at a Power 4 school we will be looking at the kids playing in higher level tournaments sooner.” – **Ryan Hand – University of Louisville**

“As soon as you think you want to play in college is a good time to start doing research on schools. With the rules today you can have a great deal of contact with coaches starting your freshman year in high school. Ultimately, a good choice will likely come down to a good relationship with a school/coach. The earlier you start the process the more developed your relationships with coaches will be.” – **Chris Port – University of Central Missouri**

How does the recruiting process work and when does it start/end?

“Per NCAA rules, coaches may not begin contacting recruits in person until June 15th after their sophomore year. Coaches can reply to emails at any time. Coaches are allowed to watch athletes of any age prior to this date, but no in person contact until June 15th date after sophomore year. The recruiting period, in my opinion, never ends until they have signed a letter of intent/scholarship agreement to attend another university. “ – **Tim Poe, PGA – University of Central Missouri**

“Contract from the kid his sophomore/junior year and then I really follow him junior onto senior year. I try and be done before Christmas of a kid's senior year. Not saying I wouldn't take someone after, but I might not have scholarships left. Example would be 2025 class...I have been done since Christmas as I signed five kids and will have ten for next year. On an average I receive 5 to 10 emails a week from kids from all over the world. “ – **Chris Robinson, PGA – Dodge City Community College**

“This can be a long answer, here is the short version. This process starts by playing in as many tournaments as you can, and playing well. Good numbers get our attention. From here we will follow your progress until we can talk to you June 15th of your jr year. But the relationship needs to be started by June 15th of your junior year almost 90% of the time.” – **Ryan Hand – University of Louisville**

“Personally, I start looking at kids when they are eighth grade to freshman year if possible. That doesn't mean we don't look at kids who start later, but the more time I have to evaluate their game and how they act on and off the course the better. Typically, the recruiting process starts with me reaching out to a player we have watched or a player reaches out to us because they are interested in our program. For me the recruiting process is about

relationships. We want to know that a player will be a good fit for our program golf/social & academically. For players they should be looking for the same kind of fit as well as the financial fit. Not every player will get a full ride with me, but they could get a full ride with another program. So the financial fit sometimes ends up being the final decision point between a couple of schools.” – **Chris Port – University of Central Missouri**

What is the difference between ability/competition in DI, DII, DIII, NAIA, etc?

“Obviously, the top elite programs at the Division 1 level are getting golfers that are bordering tour level ability. However, I feel that Division 2 elite programs are recruiting and signing players that would make the roster on most Division 1 teams. I feel most elite Division 2 players would play right out of high school at mid major Division 1 programs.

There are great players at all collegiate levels, I feel it is important that a recruit be realistic in determining where he will fit in best with his current level of play, which will allow them the opportunity to play sooner. It is important that the student athlete knows the scores and averages of the programs they are researching and are interested in playing at. Players improve while they are in college, but it is important that they understand that this is not what coaches are looking for while recruiting. Immediate impact tips the scale.” – **Tim Poe, PGA – University of Central Missouri**

“In golf you can have a really good team in D2 beat D1's. D1 players for the most part are better players than D2. There are really good D2 kids. But I think with each level like D1 there bad is better the D2 kids bad.

Njcaa (Juco) is a little different. The top 30 to sometimes 40 kids are all D1 kids. American and International kids come to get better, not because of grades. The number one kid in juco this year is on the Arnold Palmer watch list which has 15-20 D1 kids and one juco kid. The number two juco kid is going D1 and getting NIL money in the \$300000.00 total for two years.” – **Chris Robinson, PGA – Dodge City Community College**

“All levels are important. You need to make sure you understand what it takes from each level so that you know what you are getting yourself into before you get there. Go somewhere you know you can play and have a good experience. Everyone thinks they need to play at the D1 level but it is ok to understand that you are able to play at the other levels. Be true to yourself. Don't just go be a gear collector. You won't be happy playing the sport you love.” – **Ryan Hand – University of Louisville**

“The obvious answer is the higher the level the better the ability and competition. But the reality is there is overlap between all the divisions. A good D2 school will be better than a lot of D1 schools, a good D3 school will be better than a lot of D2 and some D1 schools. Generally, D1 players are more complete players from an ability perspective, they are a more finished product than good D2/D3 player. But there are lots of D2 players that are better than D1 players.” – **Chris Port – University of Central Missouri**

What are some dos and don'ts when communicating with coaches?

"I feel it is the responsibility of the student athlete to communicate directly with the coaches themselves. Do not over sell yourself, if your resume and communication is done properly, coaches will respond and show interest. It is important that your current ability matches the university that you are contacting. I find many student athletes submit resumes and questionnaire forms that don't match what coaches are looking for and its evident that they have not researched the scores and caliber of players at that university." – **Tim Poe, PGA – University of Central Missouri**

"I want to see a resume with kid's tournament scores from high school and summer. Good and bad. I want to see 2 to 3 swing videos from down the line. I want to know grades and some outside activities he is in. I don't want to look up every score from the kid. I will verify scores online to make sure they match. I don't want to get an email from Johnny mom or dad. The kid should make the effort. I think it's a red flag if mom or dad is sending me an email about Johnny. IMO" – **Chris Robinson, PGA – Dodge City Community College**

"Don't send long worded emails

Don't send mass emails that start with Hello Coach. Make it personable. I don't open Hello Coach. This is just a mass email that they send to many coaches.

Do Make it personable with the schools name and coaches name.

Do be short and sweet, Name, age, scores, upcoming schedule." – **Ryan Hand – University of Louisville**

"Do make sure it's the player reaching out to the coach. At some point I will have lots of communication with your parents, but I'm interested in you not your dad or mom. I think it's very important to include all your scores not just your good ones, we know there are bad scores and most of them end up on the internet anyway, so own all your scores. Relationships are what make good fits, you have to be proactive in your communication. It helps you stick out from the other kids were talking with and you will figure out if the coach is a good fit for you personally." – **Chris Port – University of Central Missouri**

What are coaches looking for in student athletes?

"1-Grades, will they strive in the classroom. 2-will they be a good fit with the current roster. 3-playing ability (tournament scores and results). 4-work ethic. 5-coachable. 6-athletic (other sports)." – **Tim Poe, PGA – University of Central Missouri**

"Good kids that will work hard and I think will grow as a golfer and person while being here." – **Chris Robinson, PGA – Dodge City Community College**

"Hardworking, no complaining, figure it out with no excuses, Independent at a young age, Good golf scores on tough courses over 6500 yards. Outgoing, not afraid to ask questions." – **Ryan Hand – University of Louisville**

"I want a athlete that is great in the classroom. Shows a strong ability at golf or has a high upside at golf. Plus we want a player who will fit our team and is coachable. Athletes need to realize we watch everything, so when you go into the parking lot and yell at your parents because you played bad, we see that." – **Chris Port – University of Central Missouri**

In what tournaments should student athletes be participating in to get noticed by colleges?

“It is important for me that a prospective golfer plays in the largest golf association events offered by their state, along with the upper level USGA tournaments in their area. Larger local events and city events also looked at. I like players that play for their high school because in college they will be playing for a team as well. AJGS tournaments are expensive, however, I would encourage a player to play in these if he has the means and opportunity (examples: State Jr Am, State Jr Matchplay, USGA qualifiers, Jr qualifiers, US Am qualifiers, etc)” – **Tim Poe, PGA – University of Central Missouri**

“I don't believe kids have to play AJGA to get noticed. There has been plenty of KS kids that have played well in high school and central links. I think all kids wanting to play college golf should play in the JR Am, KS Am, Railer and as many KJGT tournaments as possible. The more you can play the better.” – **Chris Robinson, PGA – Dodge City Community College**

“AJGA, Golf Week, Play in what ever you can and play well. We understand the levels of Jr golf and it is good to see players climb levels at a young age.” – **Ryan Hand – University of Louisville**

“First and foremost, be proactive in communicating your schedule to coaches. You don't have to play every high level event to get noticed. If you send me a resume and swing video that I like, I will make it a point to find out where you are playing and come watch.” – **Chris Port – University of Central Missouri**

What is the role of the parent in the recruiting process?

“I like the parental role to be to assist the student athlete in making the best decision after all the research and college visits have been made. Ultimately, that is what we all want is for the student athlete to be happy and productive. This, in my opinion, is the point where the student athlete must be making his own decisions and prepare for the next step in life. I encourage parents to make the trip on their official university visit.” – **Tim Poe, PGA – University of Central Missouri**

“I think parents should support what their child through the recruiting process. Let the kid send the email and reach out to the coach. Once the coach setups a phone or two then parents can ask questions.” – **Chris Robinson, PGA – Dodge City Community College**

“Ask questions and be there for your kids. Don't do everything for them. We want to see they are about 40% and the kids are 60%. That just means the kids want to be at that school.” – **Ryan Hand – University of Louisville**

“Parents should be involved in the whole process, but it needs to be driven by the player. Obviously, mom & dad will be very involved in the financial part of the recruiting process. They need to step back when it comes to the coach/player relationship. Allow that relationship to develop without involvement, I'm going to develop a relationship with both mom & dad if I'm interested in the player. I promise mom and dad will have opportunities to discuss everything with me.” – **Chris Port – University of Central Missouri**

What advice can you give to student athletes to prepare them for their first year in college?

“Setting realistic goals for themselves, starting with time management skills, prioritizing their daily schedules, finding out the expectations from their coach, which includes workouts and conditioning, practice schedules and taking an interest in physical and mental health. Communication with your coach and teammates is vital for a positive experience in your freshman year and beyond.” – **Tim Poe, PGA – University of Central Missouri**

“Time management!! Make sure you are organized with school and golf. Come prepared to work. Make sure your golf game is ready when you get here.” – **Chris Robinson, PGA – Dodge City Community College**

“Understand it is a job and you will not have a lot of free time.

Understand that the school you are going to has good players and you need to earn your spot.

There are so many resources to help you be successful make sure you use them all. You only get 4 years.” – **Ryan Hand – University of Louisville**

“Things that are critical to being ready for your first year: be good at time management, understand you will be overwhelmed at times, stay on top of your academics because it will bring your stress level down. Golf wise be focused on greens in regulation, fighting the golf ball for conditions, having great yardage control from your 9 iron to sand wedge, practice your short game twice as much as you currently do, and lastly work hard on having great pace control with your putting.” – **Chris Port – University of Central Missouri**

What is a typical week like in the life of a college golfer?

“There are time regulations required by the NCAA. The number of countable practice hours, competitions, workouts and other countable activities are regulated by the university’s compliance. A typical day would be a morning workout, attend classes (preferably in the morning), followed by afternoon practice (or qualifying). Most schools have qualifying rounds determined by the coach as to who will be traveling to competition events (this varies from university to university). In the Midwest, there are 2 playing seasons (both fall & spring), typically split in half for regular season tournaments. Post season (conference, regionals & nationals) all are played at the end of the spring season. During the winter off season, most teams will be heavily into their conditioning programs up to the spring season.” – **Tim Poe, PGA – University of Central Missouri**

“We will lift 2-3 days a week in the morning. Breakfast at 7:30am. They will take 15 credits and have class five days a week until about 12:00pm. Practice or qualifying at 1:30pm. Dinner at 6:00pm. After dinner they might have studying or homework. If not, they can hang out with friends or come back to the golf course to play or practice.” – **Chris Robinson, PGA – Dodge City Community College**

“Monday - Class 9-12, Lunch, Practice 2-5, Studyhall one hour, Bed/freetime/study more

Tuesday - Workout 6-7, Class 8-11, Practice 1-5, Studyhall one hour, bed/free time/ study more.

Wednesday Repeat Monday

Thursday Repeat Tuesday

Friday No Class Qualifying/ practice/ other commitments

Saturday OFF

Sunday OFF” – **Ryan Hand – University of Louisville**

"In season you're going to practice 20 hours a week with the team and you better be practicing another 15-20 hours outside of practice on your own. You will need to stay on top of your academics because if you travel you will miss a few days of class each week. Make sure you're getting plenty to eat and it's really important that you are getting 8 hours of sleep a night whenever you can." – **Chris Port – University of Central Missouri**

How will new NCAA roster limits affect your team?

"That is yet to be determined. With cuts in roster sizes at the bigger universities, it will make it tougher to obtain a scholarship at the Division 1 level, therefore it will trickle down to the other divisions, making the competition stiffer." – **Tim Poe, PGA – University of Central Missouri**

"I think it will hurt college golf as a whole. The 2025-26 class will take the biggest hit. Less kids playing. Coaches of D1 can no longer gamble and take a kid with potential, they can't miss since roster sizes will only be 9 (8 is SEC) if voted through in April. If D2 adopts the same roster limits in the next few years it will really hurt kids, chances." – **Chris Robinson, PGA – Dodge City Community College**

"Going to 9 spots will be harder to get on a team. This means less spots but almost everyone will have the same 4.5 scholarships we have always had. This makes it important to find a student athlete that we know will make an impact on our program and less take a chance on someone that might take longer to develop." – **Ryan Hand – University of Louisville**

"Roster limits won't impact our program" – **Chris Port – University of Central Missouri**

How does the transfer portal impact future recruitment of perspective student athletes out of high school?

"In my opinion, loyalty should always weigh heavy on a student athletes' decision to transfer. I understand that sometimes a fit or certain circumstance might require a transfer decision to be made. I do feel that the portal will affect the high school recruitment process, mainly due to the number of scholarships available and the increased number of available recruits." – **Tim Poe, PGA – University of Central Missouri**

"I think the trickle-down effect will be in play. Mid to Low Major D1 kids going to D2. I don't think Njcaa will see a ton. But it might be harder to move kids up to D1. I think D1 and D2 coaches will take more kids from the portal then from High School. I close with a D1 coach who told me "Why would I take a high school kid when I can take a junior. Get old and stay old."" – **Chris Robinson, PGA – Dodge City Community College**

"The transfer portal will be at its most impactful this coming season. With rosters being cut it is going to give schools the opportunity to get a plug and play athlete vs taking in a new freshman they might have to develop. Every school will handle this differently." – **Ryan Hand – University of Louisville**

"Depends on the coach. We are keeping our focus on high school kids and building great culture within our program. I think lots of coaches are focused on portal players because they thing there getting a more ready player. But I think that comes at the cost of developing culture in your program." – **Chris Port – University of Central Missouri**