So, you want to play college squash?

December 14, 2019

U.S. Junior Open Squash Championships

Harvard University
Agenda

1) Welcome and Introduction
2) What is the CSA?
3) The College Squash Recruiting Process
4) What are college coaches looking for?
5) Q&A
Welcome & Introduction

David Poolman

• CSA Executive Director & League Commissioner since Aug. 2018
• Former CSA student-athlete (Haverford College ‘06)
• College athletics administrator for 12 years
What is the CSA?
What is the CSA?

Formal Name: Intercollegiate Squash Association

Common Name: College Squash Association

• Official governing body for intercollegiate squash – both varsity and club teams – in the United States

• Mission:
  • Sportsmanship, integrity, and fair play
  • Encourage academic excellence
  • Expanding opportunities to play organized squash in college

• 35 Varsity Men’s Teams, 32 Varsity Women’s Teams, 45 additional club teams
New CSA Structure

• Prior to 2017: separate organizations for men (MCSA) and women (WCSA)
• 2017: MCSA and WCSA dissolve, reform into 1 organization
• New CSA overseen by independent board of directors
  • Separate independent governance structure from US Squash
  • 5 independent directors
  • 4 college coaches
  • 1 ex-officio member from US Squash
• Rely heavily on NCAA and conference rules
• Codified CSA-specific rules in summer 2019
Varsity College Squash Landscape

NCAA Division II
- Liberty League (5)
- NESCAC (11)
- Other Conferences and Sports

NCAA Division I
- Ivy League (8)
- *Drexel University
- *Fordham University
- *George Washington Univ.
- *U.S. Naval Academy
- Stanford University
- *University of Virginia

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)
- Chatham University
- *Dickinson College
- *Franklin & Marshall College
- Haverford College
- *MIT
- Mount Holyoke College
- *Mid-Atlantic Squash Conference

NCAA Division III
- Liberty League (5)
- NESCAC (11)
- Other Conferences and Sports

Other Conferences and Sports
- *Drexel University
- Fordham University
- *George Washington Univ.
- *U.S. Naval Academy
- Stanford University
- *University of Virginia
- *Mid-Atlantic Squash Conference

* Indicates the conferences that are part of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).
Near-term CSA Goals

- Define eligibility, amateurism, and recruiting regulations
- Reinforce core values of sporting behavior and fair play
- Enhance championship experience for players and fans
- Generate additional operating revenue
- Improve communication across all platforms
- Expand varsity squash playing opportunities
The College Squash Recruiting Process
IMPORTANT!

Who can communicate about and confirm admissions status?
Also Important!

- Each college and university is different
- They approach the admissions process differently
- Coaches have different approaches too
- Research your top schools to understand their policies
- List of schools with squash programs is impressive!
College Recruiting Timeline

First Year of High School

• Focus on academics
  • Best grades possible
  • Most rigorous classes you can handle
  • Think about your academic interests

• Be a good citizen

• Work on communication skills

• Hone squash skills
College Recruiting Timeline

Second Year of High School

• Same as Freshman year, plus...
• Update your US Squash profile, and make key info public
• Start researching schools, if you’re ready
• Research and attend squash camps
• Consider taking a standardized test (SAT/ACT), if you’re ready
College Recruiting Timeline

Third Year of High School

• Continue efforts from first 2 years, plus...

• First opportunity for RECRUITING CONTACT: September 1
  • “Contact”: in person, over the phone, text, email
  • Recruiting conversations at camps
  • Interactions at competitions
  • Communication via club, high school, or personal coach
  • Unofficial Visits
College Recruiting Timeline

Third Year of High School (cont’d)

- Produce a “squash resume”
- Narrow down your preferred list of schools
- Reach out to coaches
- Discuss visiting campus
  - Unofficial (unpaid) – Sept. 1
  - Official (paid) – Jan. 1
- Academics! Good Citizen! Standardized Tests!
Recruiting Process Steps of Interest

“Verbal Offer” or “Commitment”
- Coach is committing to you by supporting your application for admission
- NOT a guarantee of admission

“Pre-read”
- Coach asks Admissions and Financial Aid for preliminary review of credentials
- Favorable pre-read is NOT a guarantee of admission

“Likely Letter”
- Only offered by Ivy League schools
- Only sent after Oct. 1 of senior year
- Application must be complete
- NOT a guarantee of admission
Recruiting Process Steps of Interest

First Opportunity for Recruiting Contact: Sept. 1 of Junior Year

Verbal Offer
Academic Pre-Read
Likely Letter

Offer of Admission
Obligations to Uphold

✓ Best grades possible
✓ Best test scores possible
✓ Most rigorous classes
✓ Take application & essay seriously
✓ Act appropriately
✓ Play good squash
College Recruiting Timeline

Fourth Year of High School

- Coordinate final visits, if necessary
- Ask about a “pre-read”
- Decide where and when you are going to apply
- Take application and essay seriously
- Provide coach all necessary information & documentation
- Uphold your obligations!
What are college coaches looking for?
What Coaches Look For

Top 12 tips on what all coaches r looking for in prospects.
1. Humility
2. Gratitude
3. High character
4. Trust (precedes progress)
5. Incredible Work Ethic
6. Coachable
7. Growth mindset
8. We vs Me Orientated
9. Drug free
10. Impulse Control
11. Self reliant
12. Talented

6:46 AM · Dec 6, 2019 · Twitter for iPhone

296 Retweets 1.2K Likes
What Coaches Look For

• Basic academic credentials (class rigor, grades, test scores)
• Evidence of when and where you play
• Appropriate behavior – on and off the court
• Experience during visit to campus
• Fit! – on campus, on the team, with the coach
• Communication skills
• Enthusiasm about squash
• Examples of grit, determination, resilience, learning ability
• Well-rounded experiences
Questions?

admin@csasquash.com