



# 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**

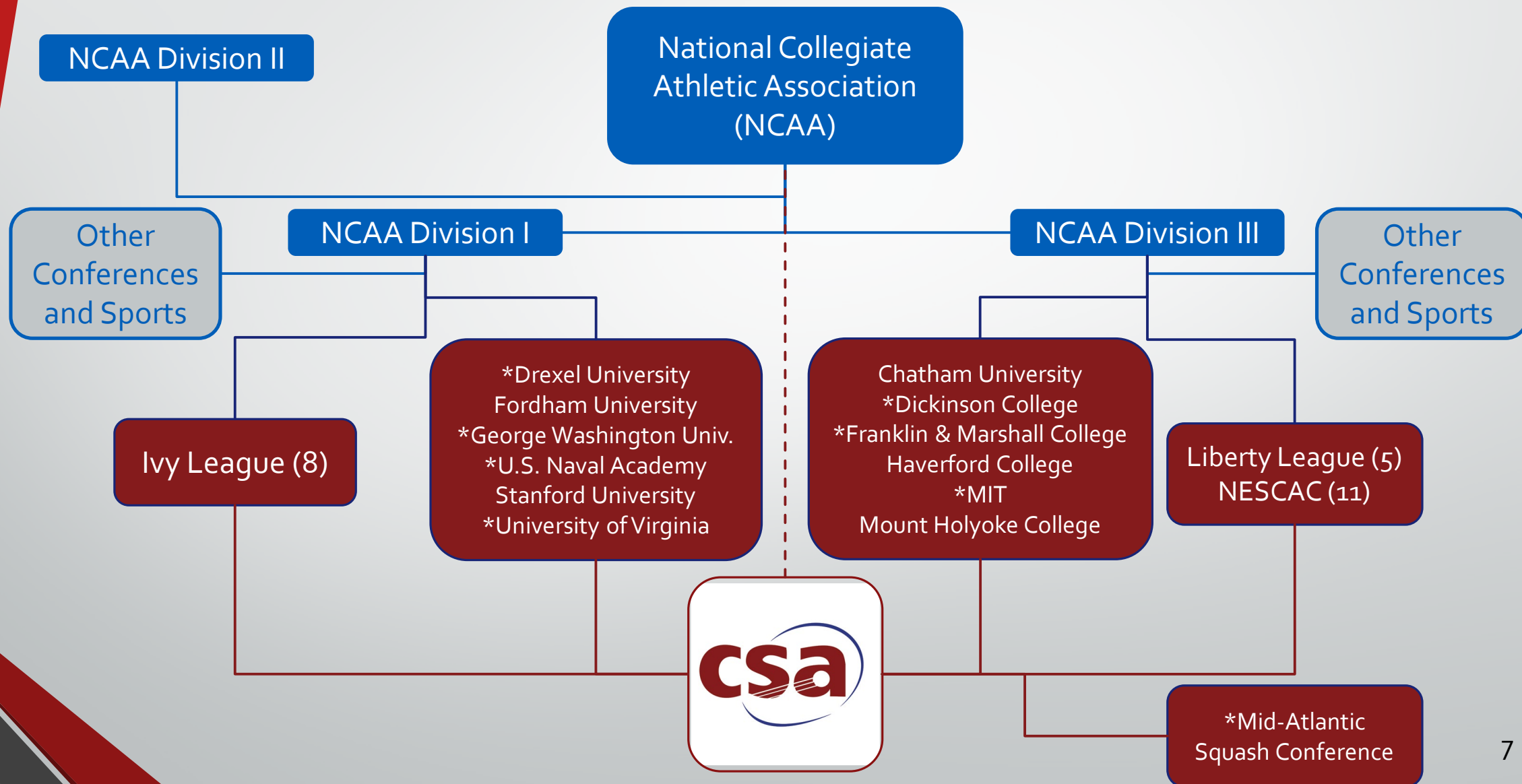
**Common Name: College Squash Association**

- 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



# 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?

*Offices of Admissions*

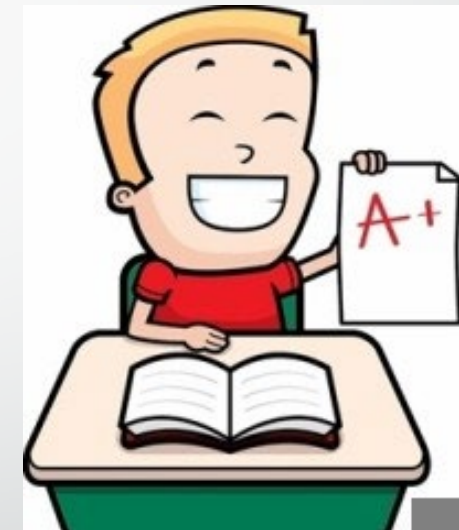
# Also Important!

- 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**



**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



← **Tweet**

 **Thomas Ryan**  
@Buckeye158

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](#)

295 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?

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