

## ADVICE FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

### **Who is a recruited athlete?**

Quite simply, college coaches will make that determination: not the student, not the high school coach, not the parents. The first line of communication for a recruited athlete is his or her coach at Brooks. Thus, if sports will be an important part of your college experience, you should have a good, serious talk with your Brooks coach during the second half of your sophomore year or early in your junior year. Your Brooks coach knows you well and can talk with a college coach about your talents and experience. You can count on your coach to be straightforward with you. They will help you to understand the letters and or phone calls from a college coach. We have mentioned elsewhere the danger of misinterpreting a coach's letter or phone call. You should also keep the College Counseling Office up to date. We frequently get calls from coaches or athletic liaison officers at colleges. We can be more helpful if we know what you are thinking.

### **Recruitment can come in many forms, including:**

- Form letters (sent to hundreds of athletes)
- In-person or film scouting (coach evaluating individual players)
- Personal communication about the program's interest: letters (handwritten) or emails to a specific individual (not just a group)
- Phone calls from coaches
- College overnight visits. Division I schools offer five official, paid visits; Division II schools can offer some paid visits as well; The student pays for visits to Division III colleges.

A word of caution: College coaches can sometimes apply a bit of pressure. An "early" application can make their jobs easier. We urge you to resist coaching pressure. Talk with your family, with your Brooks coach, and with us before you make any commitments. Remember that you, not the coach, are in charge of your future.

The NCAA Clearinghouse was established to determine academic eligibility for student-athletes in Divisions I and II. All students with a potential interest in Division I and or II programs, and especially those interested in making official college visits in the fall of their senior year, should register with the [NCAA Eligibility Center](#) at the end of his/her junior year. Once you have registered, you will need to request that Brooks sends your transcript to the NCAA after completion of your junior year. If you have ever attended another high school besides Brooks School, you will have to request that your previous school send your transcript as well. These forms are used to certify your academic eligibility according to the core set of courses that are required by Clearinghouse standards.

### **What can the athlete do on his or her own behalf?**

- 1.** Think about different types of institutions available: Consider location, size, curriculum as it relates to possible career plans, sports, overall atmosphere. Remember that this is a life decision, not just an athletic decision.
- 2.** Pay attention to the calendar and reminders from the College Office. Know deadlines and what is required of you.
- 3.** Respond to all coaches' letters and phone calls if interested. If you are not interested, it is important to politely tell the coach so in writing or over the phone. His or her feelings will not be hurt by honesty. On the other hand, if the coach applies pressure, tell the Brooks School Athletic Department and your counselor.

- 4.** Visit the college's website to gather as much information as you can. Contact the admission office and set a time and date for a tour of the campus if possible.
- 5.** Take the time to create an athletic resume. Provide your history with the sport and all teams, clubs or organizations with you have been or are affiliated. List and explain any special honors or distinctions you have earned; any camps, showcases, or programs you will be attending where a coach might be able to see you play.
- 6.** Athletes should seriously consider making a game tape in their junior year to send to coaches. This is particularly true of spring athletes. Unlike other seasons, by the time senior spring comes around, a student's performance in a sport will have no influence on coaches and, therefore, no influence on admission. This tape does not have to contain full games, but it should show enough for a coach to get a sense of the player's abilities, both on offense and defense, in a game situation. In general, this is a much better way for a coach to get a sense of your ability than a "highlight" tape of individual plays without the context of the game around it.
- 7.** Take time to read and understand the NCAA recruiting rules for your sport. These rules are set up for your benefit. While you can contact a college coach whenever you'd like, there are restrictions on how and when they can contact you. Knowing their restrictions will reduce confusing situations and questions like, "Why haven't I heard from them lately?"
- 8.** Remember, historically, Brooks athletes have attended some fine institutions; if you are prepared and listen to advice, good things may happen. Relax and good luck!