

Recruiting

Use caution when approached by non-sanctioned recruiters

Football Canada has sent us a notice informing us that over the past few months, there have been several US-based recruiting companies that have been contacting Canadian players trying to recruit them for several All-Star team competitions.

It is important to note that Football Canada, the International Federation of American Football (IFAF) do not have any affiliation with these programs, nor are they the sanctioned Team Canada or Team World that participates in official IFAF events. If you are approached by or encouraged to contact one of these organizations, we urge you to use your caution and discretion and ensure that you do the proper research into their recruiting methods and costs.

If you have any concerns or want more information on sanctioned recruiters, we encourage you to contact Rick Sowieta, Director of Sport at Football Canada at gridiron@footballcanada.com or by phone at (613) 564-0003 x 224.

Important Tips and Facts about recruiting and scholarships:

- Most importantly, you do NOT have to pay to get scouted or recruited. Contact the school of your choice, ask what information they need, create a highlight video. YOU are your biggest salesperson and fan. Any program that is prompting you to pay for exposure is making money off YOU.
- Make sure you gain the correct information about the recruiting process and what you must do in order to qualify for a scholarship. You must know all the rules and regulations. Talk to someone who really knows.
- Not all NCAA schools offer scholarships. Only Div. I & II plus some NAIA schools offer athletic scholarships. Div. III schools do NOT offer athletic scholarships, but may give aid up to the cost of attendance based on financial need and not associated with athletic ability.
- All athletes pursuing NCAA opportunities must be registered with the NCAA clearinghouse and complete the SAT
- All CIS schools are permitted to offer financial assistance either in the form of athletic awards (not exceeding the cost of tuition and fees) or academic awards or both. Most universities have alumni awards and other bursaries available to athletes.
- Your coach MAY be able help you make connections, but very few high school or community coaches have the time, knowledge, resources of contacts to effectively get you recruited.
- Always remember that you are NOT a high prospect being recruited by the NCAA until you are offered an Official Visit or asked to give a verbal commitment followed by the signing of a National Letter of Intent.
- Parents should be a part of the recruiting process but remember that they are not the ones being recruited. 99% of parents go through the recruiting process for the first time with their child. Therefore, questions and information are the keys to a positive recruiting experience.
- It is a good idea to prioritize the things that are most important to you as you choose the right university program for YOU.
- DO NOT BELIEVE anyone who PROMISES to get you a scholarship in the NCAA, NAIA or CIS. The ONLY person that can give you a scholarship is the Head Coach of the university.

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