

Introduction to U.S. College Tennis

The United States offers student athletes a unique opportunity unlike any other to play competitive tennis at the next level while earning a degree at a reputable school. It has proven to provide tremendous financial value through athletic and academic scholarships, quality training/competition and an unforgettable experience that can lead to a professional career or competitive edge for future jobs.

The OTA has partnered with ImRecruitable - a world leader in college recruiting that has had a lot of success assisting Canadian tennis player and their families obtain a scholarship.

U.S. College Tennis Pathway for Ontario Players

What does an OTA player need to do to get recruited?

College recruiting is a difficult, competitive and confusing process. Get up to speed on the recruiting process by spending time reading online and attending exposure camps.

Step 1: Learn

5 Things you need to know:

1. The recruiting process has already started

You officially become a prospect to college coaches as early as grade 8. Due to the rise in athletic scholarship need and the increase of available information for college coaches, recruiting is starting earlier than ever. We suggest you get started now; no recruit has ever started too early or been too prepared. Therefore, by the beginning of grade 9 athletes should have a clear understanding of the NCAA rules and requirements to begin developing a winning game plan.

Recruiting starts with verified 3rd party information

College coaches depend on verified and trusted information from reliable sources about future prospects. It is important to have your academic record, athletic talent, and standardized test scores verified by a qualified third party to determine what your potential. Each school has different requirements both academically and athletically. Having a comprehensive and cohesive evaluation makes the process of choosing a school much easier for the student athlete and their family.

2. College coaches evaluate prospects at exposure events & online

In this age of technology, college coaches are able to see results of tournaments with the click of button. We encourage you to have an online presence including a profile and video so that coaches can view your results and scout for talent. Coaches are also evaluating prospects at exposure events such as college camps and showcases. The opportunity for a coach to evaluate a prospect in person and build personal

relationships is priceless. College coaches' network is small and your opportunity to get recruited and find your match increases significantly.

3. Be realistic, less than 1% of players get a D1 full ride (100%)

More than 1,700 colleges and universities in the U.S. offer scholarships or financial aid packages to collegiate athletes. 80% of those opportunities fall outside of Division 1. NCAA D1,2,3 and NAIA offer competitive programs. Not all Division 1 teams are the best, in fact many Division 2, 3 and NAIA teams can compete at the same level as Division 1. Have a clear understanding and expectations of the college programs you qualify for based on your athletic and academic performance. An experienced scout can tell you exactly what level you should shoot for and where you will likely find the most success. Keep an open mind to all available options.

4. Don't blame your coach

Getting recruited successfully is a full time job. Your coaches want nothing more than to see you succeed and achieve your dream of becoming a collegiate athlete,. However, the coach's job to be your coach and unfortunately lack of time, resources and college coach relationship prevent most coaches from effectively taking on this challenge. Student athletes and their families are ultimately responsible for their recruiting process. Take control and utilize all the resources available to you to maximize your potential.

Step 2: The recruiting process

7 things you need to do:

1. Get evaluated and create a winning game plan

Every student athlete needs an objective evaluation by a trusted third party to identify potential opportunities. A third party evaluates academic/athletic ability and helps set realistic goals and expectations. This allows you to formulate a winning game plan for your recruiting process.

2. Create your profile & video

College coaches view player profiles online containing all athletic and academic information needed to recruit a prospect. It is important to include only the important information for the coaches to evaluate. Student athletes also need a recruiting video that best conveys their athletic ability. Coaches want to see stroke progression and match play. It is best to play with someone who is at equal or better level. Avoid music; it is often a distraction to coaches.

3. Register for the NCAA/NAIA

Ontario tennis players should register with NCAA/NAIA as early as grade 10. By getting an evaluation, you will have a realistic idea of which association to register for based on your academic and athletic ability. The eligibility centers require specific information about your academic and athletic results through out your high

school years. Ensuring that you are meeting all the requirements to be eligible is vital to being cleared to play collegiate tennis.

4. SAT/ACT

The SAT or ACT are standardized tests that are required to be taken in order to get admitted to a U.S. college/university. The tests are used together with your high school grade point average to determine your NCAA/NAIA eligibility, your admission to a specific college/university and possible academic scholarships. Most Canadian high schools do not prepare you for this test as part of the high school curriculum. It is advised to start taking SAT or ACT tutoring and practice tests as early as Grade 9. We recommend taking the SAT or ACT in May of your grade 11 year as a first attempt to get an initial read on your test taking ability. The tests can be taken multiple times and your best-combined scores will be taken. The test is offered multiple times a year.

5. Contact 50-100 realistic programs

Receiving a few emails or letters from college coaches does not constitute serious recruitment. College coaches contact thousands of prospects in order to guarantee they have athletes to fill their recruiting needs. You need to play the same game as the coaches by contacting at least 10-20% of the programs that could be a realistic fit. This could mean contacting more than 300 college coaches in order to get enough options to consider.

6. Communication with colleges & coaches

The most difficult part in the process is communicating with the college coaches and finding your opportunities. Coaches are looking for athletes that will take initiative and show serious interest in their programs. They want to know why you are interested in their program, how serious you are about your athletics and academics and if you would be a good fit for their program and college/university. You must be well prepared and organized to make time to communicate with the coaches.

7. It's not a 4 year decision, but a lifetime decision

Recruits need a step-by-step plan to successfully navigate the recruiting process. To do things right, a team effort between the student athlete, parents, coaches and credible recruiting experts is needed. You must also be dedicated and work hard towards your goals. This setup will enable you to visit colleges/universities that fit your needs and wants and allow you to make a good choice and enjoy a rewarding experience!

Additional Information on College Tennis

ImRecrutable College Tennis Exposure Series

Many junior tennis players in high school have the dream of playing college tennis. Finding a school that fits your academic and athletic requirements can often be a challenge. One big challenge most student athletes face is getting exposure to college coaches. Regardless of your ranking, accomplishments and academic standing, our exposure events allow players and parents to learn the secrets on how to get recruited, make a lasting impression on college coaches and showcase your talent. College coaches want to evaluate players in competitive match situations and interact with them on a personal level. They will take every opportunity to come see players, and they do! ImRecrutable organizes college showcases and exposure camps to help facilitate the recruiting opportunity for players and college coaches.

The Exposure Camps are designed to provide players with a unique opportunity to train like a college tennis player on court with top U.S. college coaches. The coaches will put the players through high intensity drills, match play and teach them strategies they use to help players improve and prepare their tennis game for college. Coaches will also educate players about how to conduct a proper college search, how to get coaches to respond to you, how to maximize the college tennis experience and many other secrets to the college recruiting process.

LEARN MORE & REGISTER FOR CAMPS www.imrecrutable.com

Importance of match experience

College coaches do not always take a look at your tennis skill objectively – they want to see that you produce wins as well. Maximizing your amount of tournament play and match experience will only benefit you in the recruiting process as well as when you make it to college, as you will be comfortable with match play. The Ontario Tennis Association provides suitable opportunities for aspiring college athletes to get the tournament play and match experience they need to be successful in the recruiting process, but it is up to you to sign up and play those tournaments.

Parent's role in recruiting

The role of parents in the recruiting process is important in yielding success for their athletes. Parents should provide support through the process, as well as assistance and mentorship in decision-making. Being involved optimally means a being involved, but not so much where the parents are fully influencing and/or making decisions. Parents should upkeep the importance of high academic standards, and good work ethic throughout the process. Parent's only want the best for their children, so it is in their best interest to be objective about the skills and needs of their child, therefore they should seek a third-party evaluation of their child, which ImRecrutable will provide.

Academics

Having good grades and acceptable test scores are just as important as results and statistics in your sport. A coach is only able to recruit you if you are academically eligible to compete at their school, abiding by their school's requirements. Each school has their own GPA requirements. In addition, you must meet the academic requirements of the NCAA and NAIA to be eligible.

Do NOT believe the myth that a college coach can get you into their school if they want you bad enough! A coach will not want a student-athlete that cannot demonstrate their responsibilities athletically and academically. Remember, you are "student-athlete", so must perform as both.

SAT/ACT

In addition to GPA, schools have minimum SAT score requirements. The standardized exam tests your skills in reading, writing and math. Each school uses a different combination of test scores in those skills for admission. The best resource for SAT preparation, school requirements, and test taking information is "College Board" (www.collegeboard.org). Ideally, students take their SATs in grade 11, that way they have sufficient time if taking the test again is needed.

NCAA & NAIA

The National Collegiate Athletic Association oversees the rules and regulations for 1,200 Division I, II and III athletic institutions. The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics oversees the rules and regulations among smaller institutions.

With innumerable rules between the two associations, it becomes extremely difficult to keep up with what is allowed and not allowed in the recruiting process (the NCAA's rule handbook itself is 500 pages long!). ImRecruitable will tell you exactly what you need to know along the way, to make the process stress-free and seamless.

Top 5 reasons to play college tennis

1. Experience – Being able to represent your school by playing your sport and travelling with your team makes playing a college sport an experience like no other!
2. Be a better student – Being a student-athlete enhances skill in time management to balance the demands of being a student and college athlete, therefore studying time blocks are not taken for granted
3. Competitive Tennis - Playing a college sport entails abiding by strict training/fitness/match schedules and regimes, which will improve your game and help you establish a healthy lifestyle that will continue after college.
4. Make connections - Through college sports, you meet many people, building lasting friendships and professional relationships that can be carried after college
5. Job Opportunities – In addition to time management, college tennis hones transferable skills in teamwork, leadership, independence, goal orientation,

work ethic, and handling pressure. Such skills are desirable in the workplace and will give you competitive edge to get the job.

College Scholarship Placement Service

About ImRecruitable

ImRecruitable assists student-athletes and their families' successfully navigate the college recruiting process. Our team of former international and national college athletes, coaches, scouts, together with our network of college coaches and successful 7 step recruiting guide provide you with the tools you need to reach your dreams of playing college sports.

Why use ImRecruitable?

- The recruiting process is a very lengthy and complicated one, in addition to being competitive and cutthroat.
- Choosing a college is one of the most important decisions in your life, especially when pursuing college athletics.
- Choosing a school that best fits your athletic and academic balance needs is crucial to the ultimate college experience. Uninformed decisions will make this experience less than ideal.
- We simplify the confusion, complications, and stresses of the recruiting process into a proven 7-step process.
- Our personalized approach allows us to create a strategy customized to you, to help you obtain your goals
- Our staff of former college athletes is here to ensure your success in the recruiting process through our strong relationships with countless college coaches, along with our systematic approach.

For questions and additional information contact

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