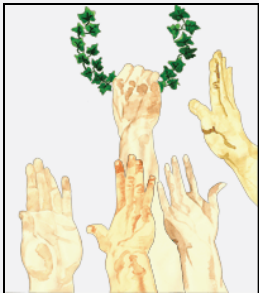


The College Recruiting Process USA Gymnastics Webinar

With

Tom Kovic

"Reaching for Excellence"

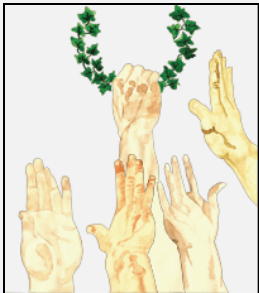


The College Recruiting Process

“These are four of the most important years in the lives of our children in that it will shape their direction for the future. We owe them our best effort in assisting them to prepare well and early, in order to maximize their chances in making great college choices.”

Tom Kovic

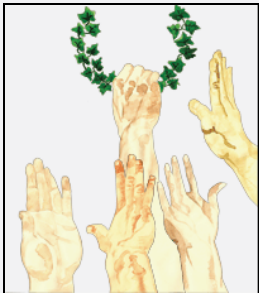
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The College Athletics Culture

- Focus has changed drastically over past 25 years
- Coaches under tremendous pressure to win/fundraise
- College athletics has become a business
- Budgets for non revenue sports have not increased by much over the years; therefore, coaches are expected to raise much more money to cover additional costs.
- Gender equity and Title 9 have opened up more opportunities
- Alumni support is directly proportional to team success
- Recruitment therefore, becomes essential and even more competitive

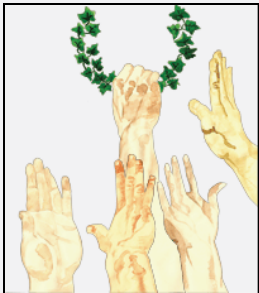
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NCAA Rules

- Contacts, evaluations, visits, eligibility rules etc.
- Designed to protect prospects and families
- The NCAA Manual: An outstanding reference
- Most Important re: Recruitment and Eligibility (phone calls, email contacts etc.)
- Rules keep coaches “in check”/maintain integrity
- D2, D3, Rules differ slightly (Communicate)

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NCAA Eligibility Center

- Collaborates with the NCAA
- Determines eligibility to practice and compete
- Prospect must register (D-1/D-2).
- 2 part process (Online/Guidance)
- Know individual NCAA division standards (D-1 uses a sliding scale). D-2 Minimum 860 (SAT math/verbal) or 68 sum (ACT) and minimum 2.0 GPA
- The “core” course requirement (no gym, art music etc.)
- Working closely HS advisor is critical

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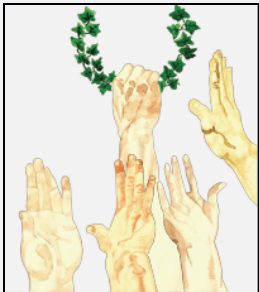


Division 1 Requirements

16 Core Courses

- 4 years of English
 - 3 years of math (Algebra I or higher)
 - 2 years of natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered)
 - 1 year of additional English, math or natural/physical science
 - 2 years of social science
 - 4 years of additional courses (any area above, foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy)
 - Graduate from high school
 - Corresponding test score (ACT sum score or SAT (Critical Reading/Math) score and core-course GPA (minimum 2.300) on Sliding Scale
-
- Note: **Ivy League** College prospects need to meet D-1 eligibility standards to practice and compete

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Division 1 Requirements (2016)

16 core courses

- Ten (10) core courses completed before the start of seventh semester.
- Seven (7) of the 10 must be in English, math or natural/physical science.
- Corresponding test score (ACT sum score or SAT combined score (Critical Reading/Math)) and core-course GPA (minimum 2.300) on Sliding Scale
- Graduate from high school
- Note: Ivy League College prospects need to meet D-1 eligibility standards to practice and compete

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Division 2 Requirements

- Graduate from high school;
- Complete 16 core courses:
 - 3 years of English
 - 2 years of math (Algebra 1 or higher)
 - 2 years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if offered by your high school)
 - 3 additional years of English, math, or natural or physical science
 - 2 years of social science
 - 4 years of additional core courses (from any category above, or foreign language, non-doctrinal religion or philosophy);
- Earn a 2.000 grade-point average or better in your core courses; and
- Earn a combined SAT score (Critical Reading/Math) of 820 or an ACT sum score of 68

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D-3 Eligibility

Division 3 student-athlete eligibility is determined “in house.” Typically, prospective student athletes who meet the minimum requirements for academic admissions to a D-3 institution will be deemed eligible to practice and play.

- Note: Many of the D-3 colleges have higher admissions standards compared to D-1 and D-2 schools.
- Working closely with college coaches in admissions process can be very helpful in navigating a successful application.

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Campus Visits

- Knowing the difference
- The Official Visit
- The Unofficial Visit
- Not much difference between the two
- Help families become familiar with the program, coach and social environment
- One of the most important “links” in the chain when narrowing choices
- Importance of timing and communication

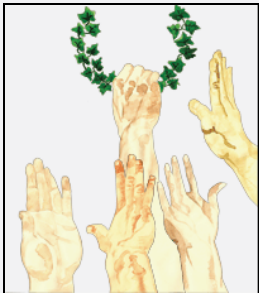
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Contacts and Evaluations

- Critical in cultivating relationships/assess skill
- Coaches permitted contacts July 15 Jr. Yr.
- Can begin calling prospects July 1 following Jr. Year
- Introduce family with the coach
- Let “instincts” rule when sizing up a coach
- Find the correct fit.
- Evaluations: determining the academic and athletic skill
- The Home Visit A great sign of interest

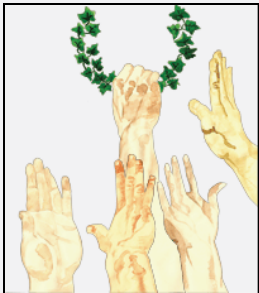
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Effective Communication

- Proactive effort (phone/email/face to face)
- Be an educated consumer/ Bone up!
- Offer pertinent questions to the college coach
- Listen, but “Hear” what the coach is saying
- Get the answers to your questions
- Be polite, respectful and tactful
- Practice honesty and integrity in approach
- Be realistic (Develop backups to primary plans)
- Effective communication cultivates mutual respect and builds strong relationships
- Club/HS Coaches... critical proponents

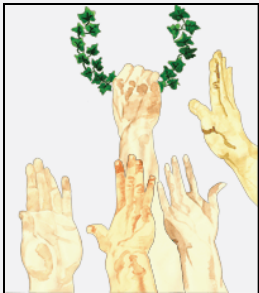
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5 Question areas

- Academic Assistance
- Coaching Philosophy
- Scholarships/Financial aid
- Recruiting Goals
- Policies and Procedures

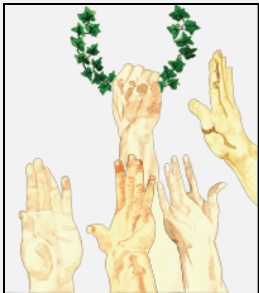
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Athletics Scholarships

- Tom’s story!
- Learn to get on the radar screen early
- Providing honest information
- Searching availability
- How to get in the “A” file
- What’s available and where do I stand?
- Persistence pays off
- Early vs. Regular signing
- Maximum limits by sport and institution
- A “4 year scholarship”
- Athletic scholarships are 1 year contracts that are renewed annually for 4 years.

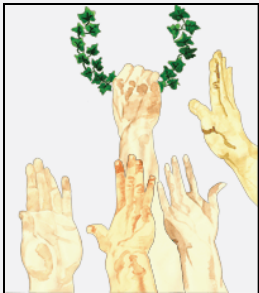
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Financial Aid

- Need based
- An investment in the future
- Financial aid pre-reads
- Organization of paperwork
- Timing
- Internal Scholarships

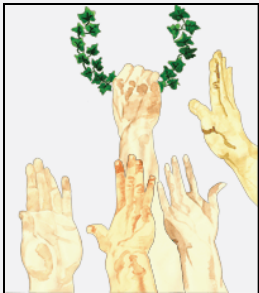
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D3 Schools

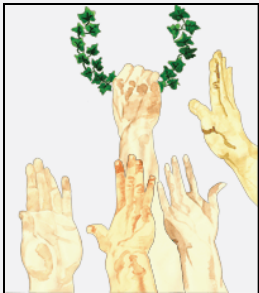
- D-3 Contact/Evaluations periods differ
- D-3 programs do not offer athletic scholarships
- D-3 Visitations and phone contact
- The Ivy League
- Proactive preparation
- Admissions Pre-Reads (Determine Chances)
- The admissions index
- A potentially tremendous investment

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- Initial Letter (brief, informative, confidence)
- Make your profile standout
- High volume of profiles received by college coaches
- Simple, crisp and to the point
- The 90 second rule

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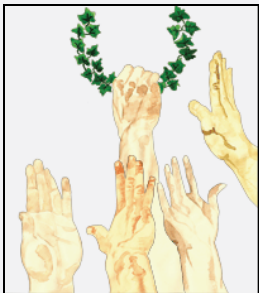


Winning Video

- High volume received by college coaches
- Brief, informative and include best performances
- Consider a 90 second “trailer”
- Grab the attention of the coach
- Digital quality
- Edit professionally
- Web streams

See www.YouTube.com or examples (search: “gymnastics college recruiting”)

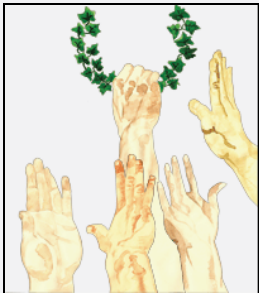
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Organization

- Critical in reaching worthy goals
- Begin early
- Plan your work and work the plan
- Takes you step by step through a demanding process
- Develop confidence
- Map out calendars years in advance
- Sharpen the tool
- Simple areas of focus (Admissions/Financial Aid/Video and profile/Communication etc.)

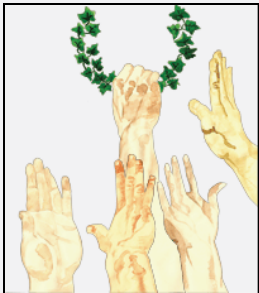
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Management/The Team Approach

- The Team Approach
- Define clear objectives first
- Then define clear roles for the players
- Coordinating efforts
- Meet regularly to determine progress
- Make any necessary adjustments to the plan
- Role play
- Examples of Team Areas

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Making the Final Decision

- The educated consumers create more options
- Reach for excellence as a habit
- The upward spiral to peak performance
- The benefit of the team approach
- Tweaking plans and getting it right
- A feeling in your heart

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USA Gymnastics Technical Materials Store

Reaching for Excellence: An Educational Guide for College
Athletics (Item #8101)

By Tom Kovic

Book available at online at usagym.org/sportgraphics.biz

Or by phone at 1-800-345-4719 option 1

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