

# Recruiting Pathway & Key Timelines

*College Basketball Recruiting – A Clear Roadmap*

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## Presentation Script

Good afternoon, everyone! One of the most common challenges parents and high school basketball players face is understanding the recruiting process and knowing exactly *when* certain actions should be taken. In today's brief presentation, I will clearly outline the college basketball recruiting pathway and highlight the critical timelines and milestones your child must hit to successfully navigate this journey.

We will break the recruiting pathway into three distinct stages:

1. **Early Preparation (Freshman & Sophomore Year)**
  2. **Active Recruitment (Junior Year)**
  3. **Decision-Making (Senior Year)**
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## Visual Timeline Overview

*(Visual Timeline displayed as a horizontal roadmap with clear stages.)*

Freshman Year  Sophomore Year  Junior Year  Senior Year  College Enrollment

### Key Milestones & Activities:

- **Freshman Year**
  - Academics and foundational skill development
  - Start attending exposure events and elite camps
  - Build relationships with local coaches/trainers
- **Sophomore Year**
  - Create highlight videos
  - Attend NCAA-certified camps and showcases
  - Begin outreach to college programs and coaches
  - Register with NCAA Eligibility Center
- **Junior Year**
  - MOST CRITICAL YEAR: Active recruiting begins
  - Frequent contact with coaches (calls, visits, evaluations)
  - Official & unofficial campus visits
  - Standardized testing (SAT/ACT)
  - Summer AAU circuit for maximum exposure
- **Senior Year**
  - Narrow college list and focus on official visits
  - Review scholarship offers and financial aid packages
  - Make verbal and written commitments
  - Complete NCAA Eligibility Certification
  - Signing Day and college preparation

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## **Printable Timeline Template**

Below is a structured, easy-to-follow printable timeline template parents and players can reference throughout each stage of the recruitment journey:

### **Freshman Year (Foundation Stage)**

- Maintain high academic standards (Aim for 3.5+ GPA)
- Develop fundamental basketball skills consistently
- Attend local skill camps or elite showcases
- Start building your basketball resume (teams, stats, awards)
- Begin conversations with coaches/trainers for mentorship
- Setup Your Social Media Pages (business card)

**Key Focus:** Academics, fundamentals, initial exposure

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### **Sophomore Year (Introduction Stage)**

- Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center
- Attend NCAA-certified events for evaluation
- Send introduction emails to target colleges (initial interest)
- Track responses and maintain consistent communication

**Key Focus:** Early exposure, highlight videos, building relationships

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### **Junior Year (Active Recruitment Stage) (*Most Critical*)**

- Update highlight videos regularly (every season)
- Schedule and take SAT/ACT exams
- Initiate regular communication with college coaches (emails, phone calls)
- Plan and complete unofficial visits to colleges of interest
- Participate heavily in AAU/travel basketball during evaluation periods (April–July)
- Monitor NCAA recruitment calendar closely

**Key Focus:** Active coach engagement, visibility, standardized testing, showcasing talent

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## ✓ Senior Year (Decision-Making Stage)

- Narrow down list of colleges (top 3–5 programs)
- Complete official visits (5 permitted)
- Evaluate and compare scholarship/financial aid offers
- Verbally commit (Fall/Winter), followed by official signing (National Signing Day periods: November & April)
- Ensure completion of all NCAA academic eligibility requirements
- Begin preparation for the transition to college athletics (training, nutrition, academic transition)

**Key Focus:** Finalizing college choice, committing, NCAA compliance, college preparation

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## Important Reminders

- **Grades matter!** Academics open more doors in recruitment than anything else.
  - **Consistent Communication:** Building genuine relationships with coaches is critical.
  - **Visibility:** Competing in recognized events and showcases is essential.
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## Next Steps

Keep this timeline handy and continually revisit these key checkpoints. By following this structured timeline, you and your child can confidently navigate each stage, ensuring no critical steps are missed along your recruiting journey.

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*(Hand out the printed timeline template, clearly organized by year for easy reference.)*