

Ranking Metrics & Evaluation Criteria

Understanding What Coaches and Scouts Look for in Basketball Prospects

Presentation Script

In this section, we will dive deep into one of the most essential, and sometimes misunderstood aspects of college basketball recruiting: **Ranking Metrics & Evaluation Criteria**.

Understanding how your child is evaluated and ranked by colleges and scouting services will empower you to focus your time, resources, and attention on the areas that truly matter.

Let's break this down into three core areas:

1. **NCAA Divisions & Level of Competition**
 2. **Scouting Services & Ranking Organizations**
 3. **Key Statistical Benchmarks & Player Traits Evaluators Value**
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Visual Outline

(A visually engaging slide projected clearly, split into three distinct sections.)

NCAA Divisions	Scouting & Ranking Services	Statistical Benchmarks & Traits
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Division I (High, Mid, Low)	ESPN Rankings (ESPN 100/ESPN 60)	Points Per Game (PPG), Efficiency
Division II	247Sports Composite Rankings	Field Goal & 3-pt Shooting %
Division III	Rivals.com Player Rankings	Assists, Turnovers, Assist/TO Ratio
NAIA & JUCO	Prep Hoops, On3, MaxPreps	Steals, Defensive Ratings

Deep Dive into Ranking Metrics & Evaluation Criteria

1. NCAA Divisions & Level of Competition

Division I

- **High Major (Power 5 conferences):**
 - Elite athleticism and skill, top-tier statistical production
 - High rankings from major scouting services (ESPN 100 level)
 - Typical height for guards: 6'1–6'5
- **Mid-Major & Low-Major:**
 - Solid statistical contributors, strong fundamental skills, slightly less recruited by elite services
 - Guards typically 5'11–6'4; high basketball IQ and competitiveness

Division II

- Competitive skill level; athleticism slightly below DI
- Good academic standing highly valued
- Well-rounded statistical profiles; guards 5'10–6'3 typically

Division III / NAIA / JUCO

- Strong academic profiles often critical for DIII
 - Skilled players with less emphasis on raw athleticism
 - Excellent opportunity for overlooked athletes to shine and potentially transfer upwards
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2. Scouting Services & Ranking Organizations

These services significantly influence recruitment visibility:

- **ESPN (ESPN 100 for boys, ESPN 60 for girls)**
 - Evaluates top national talent through major tournaments/events (Nike EYBL, Adidas Gauntlet)
 - Scouts rate athleticism, skillset, potential to succeed at college/pro levels
- **247Sports Composite Rankings**
 - Aggregates ratings from multiple sources, offering comprehensive views
 - Strong focus on measurable athletic performance, basketball IQ, and potential
- **Rivals.com & On3**
 - Evaluate top prospects via tournaments, showcases, and events
 - Criteria include stats, athletic performance, competitiveness, and coachability
- **Prep Hoops & MaxPreps**
 - Broader database covering regional/local talent
 - Stat-driven and video-highlight-based rankings

Important: Maintain accurate online profiles (highlights, stats, updates) with each scouting service to maximize visibility.

3. Key Statistical Benchmarks & Traits Evaluators Value

Scouts and coaches closely monitor these key metrics for guard positions:

Statistic	Competitive Benchmark
Points Per Game (PPG)	12–20+ PPG (High Major), 10–16+ PPG (Mid/Low Major, DII, NAIA)
Field Goal % (FG%)	45%+ Guards (All Divisions)
3-point Field Goal % (3P%)	35%+ Elite Shooters; ideally 38–40%+
Assist-to-Turnover Ratio	2:1+ (High-level guard play)
Steals & Defensive Impact	1–3 Steals per game; strong defensive rating
Free Throw %	75%–85% minimum
Basketball IQ & Decision-Making	Strong evaluations from coaches/scouts
Physical Attributes (Height/Strength)	Guards typically 6'0–6'4 (DI), 5'10–6'3 (DII/DIII/NAIA)

Intangible Traits Evaluators Consider

- Competitiveness and hustle (effort plays)
 - Leadership and communication
 - Coachability and willingness to learn
 - Body language and attitude under adversity
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Practical Steps for Parents & Players

- **Regularly Update Your Profiles:**
 - Highlight videos, game stats, academics
 - Clear links accessible for coaches and scouts
 - **Attend Recognized Exposure Events:**
 - Events covered by ESPN, 247Sports, and Rivals
 - **Focus on Skill Development & Efficiency:**
 - Improve shooting percentages, efficiency (Assists/TO ratio), and defense
 - **Engage with Evaluators and Coaches:**
 - Proactively reach out, request feedback, and maintain a positive relationship
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Summary & Key Takeaways

- Rankings are influenced by measurable statistics, skill evaluation, and intangibles like competitiveness and leadership.
- Understanding the NCAA division requirements and expectations helps set realistic, achievable goals.
- Maintaining active, professional relationships with scouting services is vital for maximizing your child's visibility.

Parents, by mastering this information, you can strategically position your child to perform exceptionally well in evaluations and significantly improve their recruiting stock.

(Handouts provided at end of session: A concise PDF containing the visual breakdown, ranking criteria checklist, and contact links to scouting services.)