

NCAA Recruiting - Swimming

Do you have a recruiting call coming up? Not sure what to ask? Uncertain that you have discovered everything you want to know before visiting a college?

Here is a list of helpful questions to keep the conversations from being one-sided and to help you collect key information to consider for a decision to 1) continue as a student athlete in swimming 2) to choose to visit the location of the university or college 3) developing communication between yourself and a possible future Coach.

Coaches typically allot around 30 minutes for the phone call. To ask all of these questions would be too many. Choose the questions you want to cover in the first call. Should you decide to continue receiving phone calls from that Coach/School you have some others to consider for future conversations. Take notes of each Coaches answers so that you can compare. It's not a bad idea to have an adult in the room and possibly take the call on speaker mode. Adults hear answers differently and remember a bit more than you do. They also can make good note takers.

Initial Conversation questions....

- What are your expectations for incoming freshman swimmers...in-season meets, conference championships, ncaa, etc.?
- How do you see me fitting into your program/team?
- Especially for the first year...what is the academic support/study hall like?
- What opportunities are there for academic aid? Will you help facilitate it?
- How do you award it? Annualized or 4-year commitment?
- Are scholarship amounts static or can it increase/decrease depending upon performance?
- What's the best thing about being a swimmer at _____?
- What are the next steps?
- What/when will you decide on coming to campus for an official visit? How does that typically work for your school?

Familiarize yourself with these...maybe think of others, but probably best for follow-up calls

Athletics:

- What percentage of incoming freshman compete 4 years then graduate?
- What are your expectations for summers?
- What separates you from the other schools in your conference?
- What is your opinion of the transfer portal and how do you utilize it?
- You have a few international swimmers, what impact on the team does that have, if any?
- About how many athletes do you like to have per event/specialty?
- What is your timeline for decision making?
- What does housing/meals/campus life look like?
- Describe a day/week (practice, lifting/drylands, and class) in the life of a swimmer...in season and out of season?
- What is the culture like at practice, meets and away from the pool?

- What is travel like for the away meets?
- Do you see yourself in this coaching position for the next 4 years?
- Currently I am not lifting weights...is that something you would want me to start doing now or wait until I get to campus?
- What does the team do for fun away from the pool?
- How many freshman/1st year swimmers are you wanting for the class of (insert your incoming year)?
- What is your training philosophy...how do you construct practices?
- If talking to an assistant...what is the head coach like, how involved is he/she with my potential training group?
- Does the entire team travel to away meets or is there a "travel team"?
- Do you take a training trip...if yes, when, and where?
- Do the men's and women's teams practice together or separately?
- Assuming you taper...what meets do you do that for?

Academics:

- Will I need a standardized test score to get into school...if yes, what test/score?
- What kind of swim team alumni support is there for job placement?
- What's the GPA for the team?
- What is the support like for scheduling classes?
- How do internships interact with athletics?
- How accommodating is the faculty with players that miss class due to practice or travel conflicts?

Financial Aid/Scholarship: DO NOT ASK THESE ON THE FIRST PHONE CALL!!!

- How many on the team receive athletic scholarship?
- What expenses does financial aid cover...not cover?
- What happens to any aid if I am injured?
- Will I need additional insurance beyond what the school/athletic department provides?