

Tips for competing beyond High School

Do you want to swim/dive past high school?

Do you feel like no colleges are noticing you?

There are a few things you need to know about the recruiting process for most colleges. Unless you are an elite swimmer or diver (meaning you have finished in the top 3 in state prior to your senior year) most colleges don't know who you are. The majority of colleges (including Division 1) have little to no recruiting budget. They simply don't have the money to send out information to prospective athletes or invite them for a visit. You must express an interest to schools that you are interested in, and want to compete on their swimming and diving team.

It is very much like trying to find a job...you must apply to schools and then contact their coaches for information about their programs. If you are still interested they will want you to send best times/best diving scores and the rest of the details can be worked out if you are a good fit for the program.

***The key is that YOU must take the initiative to contact the school and the coach first!**

Looking over many of the country's programs you can swim or dive at any level you choose as long as you find a school that is a good fit for you. Many Mid-Major DI, DII, DIII schools have athletes that are competing at the same level that many of you are now.

We just want you to understand that many of you have the talent to compete at the next level if you want to. So often, many of you get lost in the Chicago suburban bubble and think that you are not that good. You must realize that this area is a very talented area, and just because you are not the best here doesn't mean you can be the best somewhere else. Not to mention many of you will continue to grow and mature well into your college years.

We/I am not trying to push competing in college on anyone, but swimming in college was something that provided so much for me both personally and professionally, and I hope that you will take advantage of the opportunity that lies in front of most of you.

Coach Johns