

Episode 79 - Shownotes

When to start looking for a sports scholarship

An age old question, when should you start looking for a sports scholarship?

The easy answer is as soon as possible. But, in other parts of the world, really anywhere outside of the US, we don't tend to think like they do in America. Not many people in the world are seriously thinking about university in elementary school or the early stages of high school. Its more towards the end of high school.

So, starting early is a difficult concept for most internationals and international families to grasp. Why would I start now when university is 4 years away? Well you start now because that is how they do it in the US. If you want to go to the US, then you need to act as the Americans do. Just because you may not agree with it doesn't mean anything.

Americans start the college recruitment process early. Most Americans know they are going to college from an early age. Very early age. So, to sum it up quickly, its never too early to start but it can certainly be too late.

Let's talk about actual time frames as an international. We mentioned before its never too early to start the process but look, I guess it takes a special family to start the process in year 9 even year 10. But one thing that is hard to get across is that is isn't about going to the US.

Going to the US and getting offers are two different things. You can't go anywhere if you don't have college offers. You can only go, if you have offers, and to get offers, you need to start the process. Not at the end of year 12, or after year 12, but as early as possible.

So its not about going, really. Its not about starting because you are going to the US. Its about starting the process so you have the option to go to the US. I know that may be confusing because it is, for internationals. Like we said, it's a hard concept to grasp because we don't tend to think about post high school until the very end of high school.

Okay so lets talk about times. When should an international start? We will talk about when first then we will get into the whys

Look, year 9 is great. That's when they start high school in the US. Not many people start in year 9 though. Most people begin at the end of year 10, early year 11 and throughout year 11.

Which is okay, but again, there are other things you need to be conscious of. The later you start the less options there will be. The less scholarships there will be available. Meaning there will be less affordable opportunities. Costs will be higher. So year 9 is great, but most people will join year 10 and year 11.

Why start year in year 10:

- Subject selections – You will choose subjects for year 11 and 12 that will allow you to remain eligible for all divisions rather than a few divisions for your first year.
- Two definite years of footage – You have more time to gather footage meaning you can make some errors and feel your way through the process.
- More time to change grades around, lift grades – If you start in year 12 it will be very hard ot change your GPA (Average Grade)
- Longer promotion – More time to promote an athlete means more opportunities and more affordable opportunities.
- Prepare mentally earlier – You can prepare yourself mentally a little earlier knowing you are looking at heading to the US
- Focus more on your sport, more time to improve – More time to develop yourself athletically in different areas. More time for athletic preparation.
- SAT exam prep – More time to prepare for the SAT exam and you will have more chances to sit the exam.