



JUNE 15TH

RECRUITING

GUIDE

**WHAT TO EXPECT, HOW
TO PREPARE, AND WHY
YOU SHOULD JUST SMILE!**

▶ **ATL FIRE** THE PATHWAY TO
COLLEGE SOCCER ◀

1

JUNE 15TH IS JUST ANOTHER DAY!

June 15th can feel like the biggest day of your life, but it is really just another day on the calendar! On this day, you might get a lot of phone calls from college coaches, a few calls, or no calls at all. No matter what happens, it does not mean you are a good or bad player, and it does not fix your future. Don't look at what your friends are doing. You are one of a kind! Focus on what you can control, and don't sweat the rest.

2

GET READY FOR SUCCESS

If you want to do well, you have to prepare! A few days before June 15th, send an email to your favorite schools. Make sure they have your correct phone number and email address. Do not just guess that they have it! Some coaches look at old team papers or online forms that might be wrong. Being helpful now gives you the best chance to talk to them

IMPORTANT RULES: Never post your cell phone number or where you live on the internet or social media!

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KEEP A SOCCER NOTEBOOK

You might think you can remember every conversation, but after a few weeks, everything blurs together! Start a Google Sheet or an Excel page today to track your chats.

Write down:

Letters: The date you got mail from a school and what it was.

Emails: When you and the coach emailed each other.

Phone Calls: The day and time you talked, and what you need to do next.

Camps and Visits: The dates of camps you went to or trips you took to see a school.

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WHAT WILL HAPPEN ON JUNE 15TH?

This day looks different for every single player. Some kids talk to coaches right away, some talk to them later that week, and some talk to them months down the road. All of those are totally fine! Here is what to expect:

Pre-set Times: Some coaches will tell you exactly when they will call. Put it in your phone calendar with an alarm 10 minutes before.

Texts and Emails: Some coaches will text you to find a good time to chat. Keep checking your phone.

Surprise Calls: Some coaches will just call out of nowhere. If you are already talking to another coach, don't panic! You don't have to answer. Make sure your voicemail is set up with a nice, polite message, and call them right back when you are free.

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TIME FOR A CALL OR ZOOM! WHAT DO I DO?

Before the call: Put the call in your phone calendar. Set an alarm for 10 minutes before so you can find a quiet spot. Have a piece of paper with your questions ready to go, along with a few facts about their school. (Use the list I gave you!) That way, you don't have to worry about your phone screen turning off while you are trying to talk. Also, dress nicely—especially for a Zoom or FaceTime call! If you are at the pool or the beach that day, pack a clean T-shirt to put on.

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THE 10-MINUTE COUNTDOWN

Your phone alarm just went off! You have 10 minutes until the coach calls. Do these five things:

Find a Quiet Space: Go to your room or the basement. Make sure your phone has a strong signal and there is no noise around you.

Sit at a Desk or Table: Do not lie down in bed!

Turn Off the Noise: Turn off your TV, your music, and your video games.

Look at Your Notes: Grab a pen and paper to write down fun things the coach says.

Learn the Coach's Name: If you don't know it, write it down in giant letters at the top of your page as soon as they say it!

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TALKING ON THE PHONE

Guess what? This is way easier than you think! It is just a normal conversation to see if your personalities match. You might talk about soccer, or you might talk about your favorite ice cream flavor! Every chat is different, so just enjoy it and stay focused. The best trick is to just BE YOU. Don't act shy or pretend to be someone else. You want a coach to like you for who you really are.

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AFTER THE WHISTLE BLOWS

When the call ends, you might feel super excited, or you might feel like that school isn't the right fit. Both feelings are totally okay! No matter what, send a quick text to the coach. Say: 'Thank you for your time, I really liked talking to you!' Remind them of any next steps, like setting up a visit or sending over your school grades.

Be honest and kind. If you know you don't want to go to that school, do not just ignore the coach. Send a polite text thanking them and wishing them good luck. Being honest and nice will take you a long way in life!

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SMILE AND ENJOY THE RIDE!

This is a super exciting time, and it is totally normal to feel nervous, happy, or overwhelmed all at once! If you need help, just ask your family, your friends, or your club coaches

COACH SAL'S BIG ADVICE:

THIS JOURNEY IS ONLY FOR YOU. DON'T WORRY ABOUT GETTING A FANCY PICTURE TO POST ON INSTAGRAM. THAT EXCITEMENT FADES AWAY IN ONE DAY. FOCUS ON FINDING A SCHOOL WHERE YOU LOVE THE CAMPUS, FEEL SUPER SUPPORTED BY THE TEAM, AND CAN GROW INTO AN AWESOME PLAYER AND PERSON. THERE IS A PERFECT HOME OUT THERE FOR EVERY PLAYER!

DON'T FORGET TO SMILE! **FIRE ON,**

Coach Sal Martelli
Director of College Recruiting
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