

# ISC Recruiting Times

## Prospect Camps

### Is Attending a Prospect Camp a Good Idea? How Many Should I Attend?

One the keys to understanding the value of prospect camps is to educate yourself on why a particular program hosts a camp as well as knowing what you hope to achieve by attending one.

There are three primary reasons a college soccer program will host a “Prospect” or “ID” camp. First, the program will use an event to raise money; to supplement their team’s budget, and/or to augment their coaches’ salaries. When larger schools invite a hundred or more players and employ a requisite number of coaches from



Violette Bonvallet signing her Letter of Intent

other colleges to assess players- at \$150 dollars per athlete or more (see table on page 2), you can see how quickly the money multiplies. Secondly, programs use these events to invite identified recruits (although by NCAA rule these events must be “open”) providing each a chance to pull the proverbial curtain back on their soccer program- to meet the team and experience life within their program. Oftentimes, those coaches have already seen you play in at least two different environments and have made an initial judgement on your suitability to help their program. Lastly, some colleges use these event to actually identify and evaluate players for their programs. This reason is

more often tied to small college programs whose budgets don’t allow them to travel to numerous recruiting events around the country. This provides those coaches and opportunity to get paid while attending an event where numerous players come to them. A win-win situation.

1

IS THIS A TOP 3-5  
SCHOOL/PROGRAM  
FOR YOU?

2

HOW MANY PLAYERS  
WILL BE ATTENDING?

3

DO I HAVE AN  
ESTABLISHED  
RELATIONSHIP WITH  
THIS PROGRAM?

While college  
coaches strive to  
see you



play in at  
least three  
different  
environments, the  
truth is that



sometimes  
college coaches  
make decisions  
about a player’s  
ability after seeing



you play just once  
or twice.

**Always Strive To  
Do Your Best &  
Be Your Best!**

From the player's vantage point, attending a Prospect/ID camp can be an important task when it comes to ultimately choosing which college to attend. If you aren't careful though, attending Prospect/ID camps can quickly become expensive in terms of money and time as well as leading you astray from the ultimate goal of

EVENT	DATES	WHO	GRADES	DEADLINE	COST
Prospect Camp	06/06/2020 - 06/07/2020	Girls	9th - 12th Grade as of Fall 2020	06/04/2020	<a href="#">See Prices</a>
Day Camp	06/15/2020 - 06/18/2020	Girls	Pre-K - 8th Grade as of Fall 2020	06/10/2020	<b>\$495.00</b>   Field Player <b>\$495.00</b>   Goalkeeper
Summer ID Camp	07/19/2020	Girls	8th - 12th Grade as of Fall 2020	07/17/2020	

The above screen shot above is from a women's soccer program in a Power 5 conference. Note: the ages of prospects attending are 9th-12th. Also, note the cost of \$495 for essentially a day and a half experience.

finding the best fit for you. The key is to know WHY you should attend a particular Prospect/ID camp. One of the best reasons to attend a Prospect/ID camp is when you have identified a school to be among your very top choices. This will allow you to learn even more about the program and most importantly, the coaches and players associated with it. A second reason to attend a prospect camp is because you are connecting with a coach from a specific school you have interest in because of academics or location, who otherwise would not have a chance to see you play. Again, in this instance, you are making an informed decision as to which camp(s) to attend. The final reason to attend a Prospect/ID camp is to get identified and recruited by that program. The challenge in this scenario is that the players don't know each other, some if not most, will play out of position, and the quality of the competition is predictably uneven with a wide disparity among ages. Not an ideal scenario to showcase you at your best. This is not to say that this scenario should be avoided at all costs, but don't be surprised if the goal of getting recruited doesn't happen the way you had hoped. The lesson here is to be educated about your options and when in doubt, talk to ISC staff for guidance.

## SportsRecruits & ISC

The SportsRecruits platform is an ideal way for players to organize and take ownership of their recruiting process.

At ISC, one of the guiding principles is for players to take ownership of their own development. Along those same lines, ISC wants to help players take ownership of their recruiting process too. Playing college soccer can be one of the best experiences in your life. In addition to having the chance to continue to play the game you love, you'll have experiences that will shape you and help you prepare for life after college. Additionally, you will likely meet friends who share your passions and that will last long after your playing days are over! And SportsRecruits can help you make a great decision. One of the best parts of the SportsRecruits platform is its simplicity. For example, when a student-athlete is researching

schools, trying to find ones that meet her identified criteria such as distance from home, size of school, major or level of athletics, the 'SCHOOLS' search tool is outstanding. In just a few seconds, a player can see



the schools that meet her criteria and get the contact information for those particular coaches. Additionally, the messaging feature allows players to keep all recruiting emails and conversation threads in one place. Further, when a player sends college coaches an email, a link to their profile is automatically attached. Finally, FrontRow is where players can create and edit highlight videos for coaches to watch. While video is rarely the only reason a player gets recruited, it is an excellent way for a coach to put a face to a name and to see some of what you are good at on the field.