



NAVIGATING THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS: A GUIDE FOR HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYERS

INTRODUCTION: YOUR JOURNEY TO COLLEGE FOOTBALL

The journey to playing college football is a challenging but rewarding one. It requires dedication, hard work, and a proactive approach. This guide will help you understand the process and provide you with a template for your initial communication with college coaches.

CRAFTING YOUR INITIAL CONTACT EMAIL: A TEMPLATE AND EXPLANATION

Below is a template of an email you can adapt to contact college football coaches. Remember to personalize it for each coach and institution.

EMAIL TEMPLATE

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL FOOTBALL STUDENT-ATHLETE - [YOUR NAME] - [YOUR GRADUATION YEAR]

Dear Coach [Coach's Last Name],

I am writing to express my strong interest in the [College Name] football program. I have been following your program's success and am impressed by [mention something

specific about the program, e.g., their offensive style, defensive reputation, coaching philosophy, recent season, etc.]. I believe my skills and dedication would be a valuable asset to your team.

I am a [Your Height] and [Your Weight] [Your Position] from [Your High School Name] in [Your City, State]. I am graduating in [Your Graduation Year]. During my high school career, I have demonstrated [mention 2-3 key skills or achievements, e.g., strong blocking ability, speed and agility, leadership on the field, high tackle count, etc.]. [Optionally, add a brief sentence about your current season or recent performance.]

Beyond my athletic abilities, I understand the importance of being a person of high character. I am committed to academic excellence, teamwork, and representing my team and school with integrity. I believe in hard work, discipline, and a positive attitude, both on and off the field.

I understand that college coaches are evaluating more than just athletic talent. Your character and how you represent yourself matters. When attending camps, communicating with recruiters, or interacting with coaches, I always strive to:

- Hustle and give my best effort in every drill and interaction.
- Demonstrate respect by saying "please" and "thank you," and genuinely meaning it.
- Show a willingness to learn and be coachable.
- Be a positive and supportive teammate.
- **Maintain unwavering focus at all times.**
- **"Listen with your eyes." Make direct eye contact to show respect and attentiveness in all communications.**

I am eager to learn more about your program and the opportunities available at [College Name]. I have attached my [highlight reel/game film link] for your review. [If you have a Hudl profile, add that link here as well].

I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to speak with you or a member of your coaching staff about my potential as a student-athlete at [College Name]. Please let me

know if you have any upcoming camps or visits, and what steps I can take to further express my interest.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Name: [Your Full Name]

Home Phone: [Your Home Phone Number]

Cell Phone: [Your Cell Phone Number]

Email: [Your Email Address]

Home Address: [Your Full Home Address]

[Link to Highlight Reel/Game Film (e.g., YouTube, Hudl)]

KEY ELEMENTS EXPLAINED

- **Subject Line:** Be clear and concise. This helps coaches quickly identify your email.
- **Personalization:** Always address the coach by their last name. Research the program and mention specific aspects that interest you.
- **Introduction:** Briefly introduce yourself, your position, and your high school.
- **Skills and Achievements:** Highlight your key football abilities and achievements. Be specific and quantifiable.
- **Character and Academics:** Emphasize your commitment to academics and your understanding of the importance of character.
- **Character Checklist:** This section reinforces the importance of character. It's a reminder of how to behave around coaches and recruiters.
- **Highlight Reel/Game Film:** Include a link to your best film. Make it easy for coaches to access.

- **Call to Action:** Express your interest in speaking with the coach and ask about upcoming opportunities.
 - **Contact Information:** Provide all necessary contact information for easy follow-up.
 - **Focus and Eye Contact:** Added to reinforce that coaches are always watching, and that eye contact shows respect.
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BEYOND THE EMAIL: BUILDING YOUR RECRUITMENT PROFILE

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- Maintain a high GPA.
 - Take challenging courses.
 - Prepare for and excel on standardized tests (SAT/ACT).
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ATHLETIC DEVELOPMENT

- Consistent training and skill development.
 - Participate in camps and combines.
 - Create a professional highlight reel.
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CHARACTER AND LEADERSHIP

- Be a leader on and off the field.
 - Volunteer and participate in community service.
 - Maintain a positive social media presence.
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BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

- Communicate regularly with coaches.
 - Attend college camps and visits.
 - Network with current and former college players.
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IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

- **NCAA Eligibility:** Understand and meet NCAA eligibility requirements.
 - **Timeline:** Start the recruitment process early.
 - **Realistic Expectations:** Be realistic about your skill level and the schools you are targeting.
 - **Parental Involvement:** Involve your parents in the process.
 - **Professionalism:** Always maintain a professional demeanor.
 - **Focus:** Maintain focus at all times, coaches are watching.
 - **Eye Contact:** Listen with your eyes, make eye contact to show respect.
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CONCLUSION

The recruitment process is a marathon, not a sprint. Stay focused, work hard, and maintain a positive attitude. Your dedication will pay off.

Jaxon Knighton
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