

Oklahoma Celtic



Girls College Recruitment Packet



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College Recruiting Overview

Many players/parents believe that the schools will find them. This is not the case in soccer. We have grown up with the stories of football recruiting stories where the coaches travel around and do all the work scouting the players. Your choice of colleges and soccer programs are only going to happen if you take the initiative. Only a tiny fraction of players are actively recruited by coaches. Most players will not be recruited unless they take the lead and are active about finding the right school. You must promote and sell yourself to the schools you are interested in.

In a time where soccer and the way players are recruited is changing so drastically and quickly, you must work hard to be seen and separate yourselves from the thousands of other good-great soccer players. Through club tournaments, summer ID camps, market training centers, videos, well-written letters, and personal conversations, I believe if the player is right for the situation the opportunity will be there.

Players: Do not rely on your parents and/or coaches to make this process work. These individuals will be there to help you; you need to be the driving force behind this process. This is your future, decide what you want it to be and make it happen. This packet will help guide you through the process.

Parents: You need to assist and guide your child through the process. The college selection process can be rather scary for a 15 to 18-year-old, but you cannot be the force that gets your child recruited. Your primary role initially will be helping your child identify schools. Assist your child in staying organized and in proper contact with coaches. You should not be the person contacting the coaches. The hardest thing you may have to do in this process is discussing the financial issues regarding college selection. College is very expensive and you need to let your child know of limitations and needs.



Freshman To-Do List

- Academics first. Your grades freshman year will count towards your overall GPA and class ranking. Don't dig yourself a hole. Many schools give automatic money for a 3.5 GPA
- Take Challenging Courses. Colleges look for students that take a challenging curriculum
- Update your TGS Recruiting Profile
- Talk to your coach, DOC, or Age Group Coordinator
- Talk with coaches about what colleges are looking for when scouting players
- Attend different levels of college soccer games so that you can see levels of play
- Practice good nutrition and training habits
- Create a resume
- Research schools
- Begin to think about what type of college would fit your needs—academics, size, location
- Send out letters to colleges prior to attending showcase tournaments. For female players, this is the beginning of a critical recruiting period
- Discuss the types of colleges and soccer programs with the coaching staff to find out what schools fit your academic and soccer skill sets
- Attend at least one summer college Player ID Camp from a school you are interested in
Do your research, know what other schools will be attending camp



Sophomore To-Do List

- Continue to take challenging courses and focus on your grades—GPA AND CLASS RANK ARE IMPORTANT!!
- Take the ACT test in the Fall
- Meet with your guidance counselor and make sure that you are taking the correct academic courses to qualify for as many colleges as possible.
- Research university entrance requirements. Each school may have different requirements (some schools may require two years of a foreign language, others may require three)
- Make sure you are on track with the NCAA core course requirements
- Update resume and cover letters
- Update your TGS Recruiting Profile
- If you have a chance when traveling, visit colleges to help you decide what colleges fit your needs
- Continue working with the coaching staff to determine the areas of your game that need to be worked on for you to be an effective college player
- Begin discussing potential colleges or types of colleges with family and coaching staff
- Start narrowing school choices – finalize your “wish list”.
- Know your abilities and choose schools that fit your needs
- Make “unofficial” visits
- Attend college showcase tournaments
- Email your upcoming tournaments and game schedule to the schools you are interested in. Check the tournament list for attending college coaches
- Stay in contact with schools you are interested in
- Send videos to schools that may not be able to see you in person
- Attend 1-2 college Player ID camps over the summer
- Watch college games – see what it’s like at the next level and make sure it’s something you want to be involved in during college
- Begin calling schools you are interested in on June 15 before Junior year



Junior To-Do List

Junior year is the critical year in the recruitment process

- Get moving! If you don't do it nobody will. Plan your time wisely
- Your GPA is and always will be important! STUDY!!
- Read the NCAA publications – Guide for the College-bound student-athlete and NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse.
- Meet with your guidance counselor to discuss your academic curriculum – make sure you are meeting the NCAA Course Requirements
- Concentrate on the core courses
- Involve yourself in extracurricular activities – clubs/honors society/church
- Take the ACT and SAT in the Fall and again in the Spring
- Become familiar with the Financial Aid and Scholarship process
- Update your TGS Recruiting Profile
- Begin to finalize your college choices if you have not already. Don't rule out any schools until you have made your final decision. Multiple schools will create a buzz around a player and may provide some leverage. (Always be honest with coaches, as they may talk to each other)
- Take "unofficial" visits to colleges and meet with the coaches
- Explore scholarship opportunities (non-soccer). Meet with your guidance counselor to discuss. The best way to get a great scholarship will be a combination of athletic/academic/financial aid/and specialized scholarship



Senior To-Do List

- Set up a calendar of events. There are a lot of deadlines your senior year – make sure you have a plan to meet all deadlines.
- If you have not already, you need to finalize your choice of college.
- Take advanced math, English, and other courses for college admission.
- Review class schedules with your H.S. counselor and ensure you have met all NCAA requirements
- Continue to take ACT/SAT as needed
- October: Begin application process – apply for early admission. Most schools have deadlines in the Fall.
- October 1 – January 1: VERY IMPORTANT apply to colleges; regular decision deadlines are usually mid-December to mid-January.
- January: Complete and file the Federal Financial Aid Form.
- If you receive financial assistance, share the assistance with the coach and let him know of any concerns you may have.
- Letter of Intent Day – Be prepared to commit to a college.
- Register with the NCAA/NAIA Eligibility Center.



Writing a Letter

Players are also encouraged to personalize each letter with the coach's name, e.g., "Dear Coach Smith" versus "Dear Coach" and incorporate the name of the school into the body of the letter, e.g., "I am interested in attending XYZ to study accounting."

Don't send reproduced emails; take the time to write each individual letter.

You want to stir up interest if you can....Why do you want to attend their school (ex. Family member attended, former teammates play there, like your coaching style).

Coaches are looking for letters to include the following:

- Player's name
- Name of club team
- Name of high school
- GPA
- Graduation date
- Projected major
- Upcoming schedule (tournaments, academy games, etc.)
- Resume (a separate document)



OKLAHOMA CELTIC

February 8th, 2021

Dear Coach **Wilson**,

My name is **Parker Hefti**, and I am a student at **Southmoore** High School, where I have played on the Varsity team since **2020**. I am currently a **Sophomore** and will graduate in **2023**. I have achieved a **4.0** GPA and earned a **24** on the **ACT** to date.

I play for the Oklahoma Celtic **ECNL 2004** team coached by **Michael Cagle** for the past **two years**. I primarily play **Center Back**. The Oklahoma Celtic staff has recommended **University of Missouri-Kansas** and the **Women's Soccer Program** to me based on the academic, athletic, and social experience.

I have researched **UMKC** and the **Women's Soccer Program**, and yes believe it would be an excellent fit for me and your program. **UMKC** offers a keen **Kinesiology** Department that is my top academic interest. Please let me know the best way to set up an in-person campus meeting with you and your staff to learn more about becoming a **kangaroo**.

Attached is my resume with references and team schedule for upcoming matches and events. You are welcome to contact **Coach Cagle** to discuss my attributes and abilities both on and off the field. **Coach Cagle** may be reached at **Michael@oklahomaceltic.com** or **(405) 219-9375**.

Please let me know if there is any additional information I can provide. I appreciate your time and look forward to hearing from you and meeting you in the future.

Sincerely,

Parker Hefti
15501 Sandstone Ter
Oklahoma City, OK 73170
(405) 200-2149
parkerhefti15@gmail.com



Resumes

The resume should include:

- Personal information – height, weight, birth date
- Contact information – address, email, phone (home and mobile)
- Academic – GPA, class rank, PSAT or SAT/ACT scores, clubs, community service, awards/honors
- Athletics – soccer info for the club (include uniform colors, jersey number, position), high school, ODP (if applicable), awards
- Other sports experience
- References – include name, phone (home and mobile), email, mailing address

Club references should include:

1. Your current club coach
2. Michael Cagle
Oklahoma Celtic Girls ECNL Director
405-219-9375
michael@oklahomaceltic.com
3. Skip Thorp
Oklahoma Celtic Technical Director
336-491-0707
skip@oklahomaceltic.com



OKLAHOMA CELTIC



Parker Hefti

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Address: 15501 Sandstone Ter., Oklahoma City, OK 73170

Phone: (405) 200-2149

E-mail: parkerhefti15@gmail.com

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Parents: Tim & Erika Hefti

Birth Date: August 16, 2001 **Graduation:** May 2023

GPA: ### **Class Rank:** not given **SAT/ACT:** 27 ACT

Team: Oklahoma Celtic 04 ECNL **Position:** Center Back

Number: 15



PERSONAL SUMMARY:

The game of soccer is what I love most. The feeling I get when the team and I succeed together pushes me to go for more. I have a strong work ethic both on and off the field and hope to play at a high level in college. I continue to train so that I can play at the highest level. I've experienced and played many different styles and feel confident playing just about anywhere on the field.

EDUCATION/ACADEMIC AWARDS

- Attending Dripping Springs High School, Fall 2009, 11th grade
- ACT score – 27
- Spanish II Award for highest average
- 4.00 GPA of Freshman year

ACTIVITIES/COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

- Enjoys playing Dungeon and Dragons

ATHLETIC BACKGROUND/AWARDS

- AU*Capital Soccer Club 93 Premier team (2009 -current)
- Dripping Springs High School Varsity Team (2008-current)
- Dripping Springs High School JV Soccer team (2007-2008)

REFERENCES:

ECNL Director: Michael Cagle **Phone:**(405) 219-9375 **Email:** Michael@oklahomaceltic.com

Club Coach: Don Rother **Phone:** (405) 650-1881 **Email:** Don@oklahomaceltic.com



Phone Calls

You can usually find coaches or head recruiter's phone numbers on the team web pages of the colleges' intercollegiate athletic websites. NCAA coaches cannot return calls until June 15th before their junior year, so don't get discouraged when you don't get a returned call. NAIA coaches have no limit to when they can call. Prepare a list of questions in advance – include more questions on your list than you think you will ever ask (otherwise, you will almost certainly have "dead space" during your calls when you can't think of any more questions).

Examples of questions:

- How many players have you committed to my recruiting class, and how many do you plan to commit?
- Do most students live on campus or off-campus apartments?
- What do you do to help players with school work, is there tutoring?

Make the conversation personal: "I saw your game last night. I like your style of play." "How is Sarah doing, I enjoyed playing with her in high school." "Congratulations on your success so far this season, how do you think you will do in your conference tournament?" Let them know why you are interested in attending the school. If they are actively recruiting you ask them where they see you fitting into their team.

Introductory emails may not be as effective as introductory phone calls. Coaches may receive thousands of emails and yours may get lost in the shuffle.

It will be a challenge for your daughter to make these phone calls, but they can start with schools for which they believe they could easily make the team – it may end up being practice, or depending on how well you and your child have judged their abilities, it may end up being one of the schools they seriously consider. Your child should keep in mind that college coaches talk on the phone with youth soccer players quite a bit – they know you're nervous. Sometimes (especially if they want your child badly), they will be nervous too. Your child will probably never be completely comfortable with this part of the process, but it's a good growth opportunity for them.



Video

Developing a video can be helpful because a college of interest may not be able to make it to any of your scheduled games and doesn't have you on his/her radar. A well-made video can spark interest.

The video doesn't need to be an academy award-winning but good enough quality where they can recognize you and see parts of the play. The video should include approximately one minute of recent highlights, and an unedited half of play against a quality opponent.

Post your video on YouTube, and keep it up to date. You can simply email a coach the link and it will be easy for them to access. For field players, off the ball footage is important. Goalkeepers should have videos of both highlights and training sessions.

It may make sense to consider hiring a professional (the perspective from the tall cameras used by many professional sports videographers can be good, especially for field players) – at most showcase tournaments; there is an approved company that takes videos. If all (or many) of the parents on your child's team chip in, the cost can be manageable.

Keep the purpose of video in mind – and this is the purpose of a lot of what you're going to be doing during the college recruiting process. No college coach will choose a player based on video highlights. What you're trying to do is convince the college coach that it will be worth their time to come to watch the player at a game.



Visits and 1 on 1 interview

Unofficial and official visits

An *unofficial visit* is any visit to a school that is paid for by the player or parents. There are no limitations on when you can visit or how many visits can be made. The only expense a school may offer to pay is for three complimentary tickets to a school's sporting event.

There are more regulations pertaining to an *official visit*. Briefly, an official visit occurs at the invitation of a coach and is paid for by the school. Please go to the NCAA Web site for the specifics on unofficial and official visits.

A helpful tip for official visits to schools:

- keep multiple copies of the player's high school transcript
- have SAT and/or ACT scores handy
- register with NCAA Eligibility Center

The player will be asked to provide the coaches with transcripts and test scores as well as confirm registration with the Eligibility Center.

During a visit, how can the player best represent herself?

- Recruit speaks more than the parents do
- Make eye contact
- Come prepared with questions and have clearly put some thought into this very important decision
- The player needs to be educated on the school
- Be relaxed and treat parents with respect
- Show good character, manners, and maturity
- Communicate well and ask questions
- Represent yourself in a well-spoken and confident manner, rather than have your parents do all the talking and have a good idea of what you are looking for in a college: academically, socially, and geographically



Choosing a School

Getting an education should be the first priority. A player should not choose a school based solely on its soccer program. As a prospective college student-athlete, you must choose a school based on both its academics and its soccer program.

When considering schools, players need to ask themselves several questions:

- Do I want to go to a big school or a smaller school?
- What part of the country would I like to be in?
- What do I think I might want to study?
- Does the school offer what I want to study?
- Does the school fit our family's budget?
- What are the athletic facilities like?
- What are the soccer facilities like?
- Is it the right social environment for me?
- Is it a college town or a big city? Which do I prefer?
- Do I have to play right away or am I willing to work and compete day in and day out for a position that may not come for a couple of years?

Research colleges from an academic and athletic standpoint. Use the U.S. News & World Report Ultimate College Guide (or something similar) and Sports Source's Official Athletic College Guide for Women's Soccer. Choose ten target schools for academics (divided fairly and equally between schools where a student of your academic standing should be easily accepted, schools where acceptance will be a bit more challenging, and schools where you anticipate acceptance will be difficult) and ten target schools for athletics (divided fairly equally between schools where a player of your skill should easily make the soccer team, schools where making the soccer team will be more challenging, and schools where making the soccer team would seem to be quite difficult). Rely on your club coaches to give you an honest assessment of your skill level, and use that assessment in evaluating which soccer programs will be easy, challenging, and difficult for you. Then focus on the overlap between your academic list and your athletic list. Goalkeepers need larger athletic lists because schools that are on your original list may not be recruiting for goalkeepers in your graduation year.



NCAA/NAIA Rules

It is the player's responsibility to understand and abide by the NCAA regulations. It is strongly suggested that you and your child spend time reviewing NCAA regulations. The NCAA Website ncaa.org is a wealth of information and easy to navigate.

NCAA Eligibility Center

The NCAA Eligibility Center establishes the player's amateur status and eligibility. There is an online form that needs to be filled out by the player. He should complete this online information by the end of his junior year, preferably before summer starts as he might need information from his guidance counselor.

Go to <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/> to complete the form.

Go to www.naia.org for information regarding NAIA schools and regulations

NAIA Eligibility Center

Similar to NCAA, players must fill out the eligibility form for NAIA.

Go to playnaia.org to complete the eligibility form for NAIA



Other Important Info

Your guidance counselor

If your child hasn't met with his guidance counselor, now is the time. The guidance counselor can be a tremendous asset during the college process. The earlier your child meets with the counselor the better because the counselor can educate him about the college application process, the high school's process for supplying transcripts, recommendations, meeting deadlines. Also, check out your school's Web site and the guidance department's section. Most guidance departments will have a guideline and tips pertaining to the college application process.

Transcripts, GPA and Class Rank

In preparation for the letters of introduction, at the end of the player's sophomore year, he should request a copy of his transcript which will include his GPA. This transcript is considered an "unofficial" transcript. Coaches understand that official transcripts are not available until a player's junior year as well as class rank. When the player receives his official transcript, he can forward it to coaches as necessary.

SATs & ACTs

As it relates to recruiting, the important thing is to make sure the player has registered with NCAA Eligibility Center and puts the NCAA Eligibility Center code on his test as the scores have to be sent directly to the NCAA. The code is 9999. Be sure to thoroughly read the NCAA regulations.

Applications & Deadlines

As the search and recruiting begin to narrow, the player needs to be mindful of application deadlines. The player doesn't want to find himself in a situation where he receives an offer from a coach in mid-January only to find out he has missed the deadline to submit his application to the school. The player might want to consider submitting applications as soon as he begins any discussions with a coach.

Scholarship and Financial Aid

Soccer at most schools is not a revenue-generating sport like football and basketball. Therefore, the soccer programs do not have the depth of scholarship money like the other sports. Each program is given a set number of scholarships for the program – not per year. So, the scholarship money available to the player's recruiting class is usually dependent upon the graduating scholarship players. Most players will receive partial athletic scholarships, which allows coaches to spread the funds across several players.

Because of limited scholarship funds, players and parents are encouraged to research the financial aid and merit scholarship options available through the schools. Again, the player's guidance counselor can be very helpful in navigating the financial aid process.



Closing

We hope that this packet and our seminar will help you in whatever part of your college search you are in. Remember it takes work to get there; it will not fall in your lap. There are thousands of players with similar goals as you. How will you separate yourself?

The end goal for our soccer club is to develop great young players and confident well rounded young adults who are hopefully prepared for the next step of life. Some will choose not to play soccer any longer and some will go on to flourish at their collegiate programs. None the less, we are grateful to have had the opportunity to have served in your lives and hope we have impacted each of you in a positive way. We will always be here to help you in any way we can throughout this process or when you have moved on to your post-high school and college years.

Thanks for letting us be a part of these important years and best of Luck.

NYSA staff



Notes

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