

A FREE RESOURCE FOR RECRUITING FAMILIES

The October Recruiting & College Planning Checklist

What to handle this month — by grade level — so nothing falls through the cracks

October moves fast. FAFSA opens, fall evaluation season peaks, and seniors start feeling the signing-period clock. I built this check list so you always know exactly what to do next— whether your athlete is a senior racing toward a signing period or a freshman just getting started.

— Coach Braxton

1 Seniors — Your Busiest Month Yet

Class of 2027

FUTURE — RECRUITING & ELIGIBILITY

- ☐ Confirm your eligibility center registration is complete and your transcript has actually been sent
- ☐ Lock in remaining official/ unofficial visits before your sport's signing period opens
- ☐ Confirm the exact signing date for your sport directly with your coach — don't assume last year's date

FINANCE — FUNDING

- ☐ File the FAFSA starting October 1 — the single biggest date on this month's calendar
- ☐ Set up your FSA ID (student and parent) before October 1 so you're not stuck on day one
- ☐ Start a running list of outside scholarship deadlines that fall in November

FOCUS — EXECUTION

- ☐ Send an updated fall highlight clip or stat line to your top-priority coaches
- ☐ Follow up on any coach conversation that's gone quiet since September
- ☐ Say thank you to any coach who's invested real time in you this fall

2 Juniors — Building The Runway

Class of 2028

FUTURE

- ☐ Register with the eligibility center — junior year is the right time to start
- ☐ Confirm your core courses are tracking correctly with your counselor
- ☐ Refine your target school list into honest tiers based on real fit — not just interest

FINANCE

- ☐ Run a net price calculator on 3-4 schools now, before you fall in love with one
- ☐ Have the honest family conversation about affordability early — not senior year
- ☐ Start applying for outside scholarships — junior year is when your track record is strong enough to compete

FOCUS

- ☐ Refresh your recruiting profile and highlight video with fall footage
- ☐ Start — or continue — direct outreach to coaches at your target schools
- ☐ Choose camps and showcases based on your target list — go where your priority schools' coaches will actually be evaluating

3 Freshmen & Sophomores — Foundation Month

Class of 2029 / 2030

FUTURE

- ☐ Protect your core-course GPA — it's the number that follows you the whole way
- ☐ Learn which of your classes count as NCAA/NAIA-approved core courses
- ☐ Start building your athletic & academic resume now — track stats, honors, leadership, and community service
- ☐ Start a rough target school list now — early direction pays off when camps and visits start

FINANCE

- ☐ No FAFSA yet — but start a scholarship-search habit now so it's not foreign in two years
- ☐ Start a running list of outside scholarships you may qualify for later — many require years of documented activity, so the earlier you start tracking, the more you'll qualify for

FOCUS

- ☐ Build your social media presence with intention — it's part of your recruiting story
- ☐ Start attending camps and showcases to get comfortable in front of coaches

Coach Braxton Tip

October feels like a sprint because it is one. Seniors — don't let FAFSA and signing-period prep compete for your attention in the same week. Get FAFSA done in the first ten days so the rest of the month is free to focus on coach conversations. Juniors — this is quietly one of the best months of the year to get real face time with coaches, because every senior in the country has their head down on paperwork.

WHERE DO I START?

Book Your Free College Recruiting & NIL Game Plan Call

I help parents of serious high school athletes generate real college coach interest that turns into scholarship opportunities. On this free 15-minute call, I'll look at where your athlete is right now and walk you through what a real recruiting plan looks like for your family.

Schedule Your Free Call →

calendly.com/coachbraxton/recruitingdiscoverycall

Want to explore the system first? **Try the NIL\$ense Recruiting System free for 7 days** at nilsense.net/recruitingssystem — built to help your family save hours navigating recruiting, generate real coach interest, and position your athlete for scholarship offers you can actually say yes to.