



PARENT GUIDE SERIES

College Prep Camp Parent Evaluation Checklist

A Practical Worksheet for Evaluating College-Readiness Soccer
Camps

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Before You Begin

This checklist is designed to help parents evaluate college prep soccer camp programs before registering.

It does not recommend one specific camp.

College prep camps can be valuable when they help players and families understand the bigger picture of college soccer. That may include athletic development, recruiting communication, academic expectations, eligibility, coach interaction, campus life, time management, and realistic next steps.

Before registering, use this checklist to understand what the camp actually teaches, who is involved, and whether the program fits your child's current stage.

What Is a College Prep Camp?

College Prep Camps are usually designed to help players prepare for the college soccer process, both on and off the field.

- ☐ Field training
- ☐ Technical development
- ☐ Tactical instruction
- ☐ Recruiting education
- ☐ Academic guidance
- ☐ College coach communication tips
- ☐ Eligibility information
- ☐ College fit discussions
- ☐ Campus or program information
- ☐ Parent education sessions
- ☐ Player feedback or next-step guidance

A college prep camp can help families get organized, but it should not be treated as a guaranteed recruiting shortcut.

Is My Child Ready for a College Prep Camp?

Use this section honestly. Fit matters more than the label.

- ☐ My child is interested in playing college soccer
- ☐ My child wants to understand the recruiting process
- ☐ My child is ready to learn about college soccer expectations
- ☐ My child needs guidance on academics, eligibility, or planning
- ☐ My child is beginning or already navigating the recruiting process
- ☐ My child can benefit from coach communication guidance
- ☐ My child wants to understand different college soccer levels
- ☐ My child is ready to think about college fit, not just exposure
- ☐ My child understands that preparation does not guarantee recruitment
- ☐ My child wants clear next steps after the camp

If several boxes are unchecked, a Training Camp, Clinic, or Elite Camp may be a better next step before choosing a College Prep Camp.

If your child's main goal is direct coach evaluation or exposure, a Soccer ID Camp, Showcase Camp, or Prospect Camp may be more appropriate.

Parent Evaluation Scorecard

Camp Name: _____

Organization / College: _____

Website: _____

Location: _____

Dates: _____

Cost: _____

Graduation Years: _____

Age / Grade Range: _____

College Prep Topics: _____

Coaches / Speakers Listed: _____

Camp Format: _____

Primary Camp Focus: _____

Questions to Ask Before Registering

Use these questions while reviewing the camp website, registration page, or speaking with camp staff.

College Prep Focus

☐ What does "college prep" mean for this camp?

Notes:

☐ Is the camp focused on training, recruiting education, academics, exposure, or a combination?

Notes:

☐ What specific college-readiness topics are covered?

Notes:

☐ Does the camp explain different college soccer levels?

Notes:

☐ Does the camp provide next-step guidance after the event?

Notes:

☐ Does the camp explain what families should do before and after attending?

Notes:

Coaching and Instruction

☐ Who will be coaching or teaching the sessions?

Notes:

☐ Are college coaches, former college players, admissions staff, academic advisors, or recruiting educators involved?

Notes:

☐ What experience do the instructors have with the college soccer process?

Notes:

☐ Will players receive feedback, evaluations, or planning guidance?

Notes:

☐ Are parent sessions or family Q&A; opportunities included?

Notes:

Player Fit

☐ What graduation years are accepted?

Notes:

☐ What age groups or grade levels attend?

Notes:

☐ What skill level is expected?

Notes:

☐ Is this camp appropriate for players just beginning the recruiting process?

Notes:

☐ Is this camp appropriate for players already communicating with college coaches?

Notes:

☐ Is the content age-appropriate for my child's current stage?

Notes:

Recruiting Guidance

☐ What recruiting topics are covered?

Notes:

☐ Does the camp discuss coach communication, emails, profiles, or video?

Notes:

☐ Does the camp explain recruiting timelines by grade or graduation year?

Notes:

☐ Does the camp discuss ID camps, showcases, prospect camps, or other recruiting events?

Notes:

☐ Does the camp help families understand realistic recruiting expectations?

Notes:

☐ Does the camp help families think about college fit?

Notes:

Academic and Eligibility Guidance

☐ Are academic eligibility, grades, test scores, or admissions topics discussed?

Notes:

☐ Does the camp explain NCAA, NAIA, junior college, or division-level differences?

Notes:

☐ Does the camp discuss academic planning or course requirements?

Notes:

☐ Does the camp explain how academics can affect recruiting options?

Notes:

☐ Does the camp encourage families to confirm official eligibility rules separately?

Notes:

Camp Experience

☐ What does the daily schedule look like?

Notes:

☐ How much time is spent on field training versus classroom or workshop sessions?

Notes:

☐ Are small-group discussions, parent sessions, or Q&A; opportunities included?

Notes:

☐ Are players grouped by age, graduation year, skill level, or recruiting stage?

Notes:

☐ What should players bring?

Notes:

Safety and Communication

☐ Who is the parent contact before and during camp?

Notes:

☐ Are athletic trainers or medical staff available during field sessions?

Notes:

☐ What happens if a player is injured?

Notes:

☐ What happens if weather affects the camp?

Notes:

[] What is the refund, credit, or cancellation policy?

Notes:

Registration and Cost

☐ What is included in the registration fee?

Notes:

☐ Are meals included?

Notes:

☐ Are shirts, evaluations, video, workshops, campus tours, or materials included?

Notes:

☐ Are there extra fees for parking, film, housing, meals, or add-ons?

Notes:

☐ Does the cost make sense for the value being offered?

Notes:

What Good College Prep Camps Usually Include

Check the items you find.

- ☐ Clear explanation of college prep focus
- ☐ Qualified coaching or teaching staff
- ☐ Age and graduation year guidance
- ☐ Appropriate recruiting-stage guidance
- ☐ Organized daily schedule
- ☐ Field training component
- ☐ Recruiting education
- ☐ Academic or eligibility discussion
- ☐ College level comparison
- ☐ College fit discussion
- ☐ Coach communication guidance
- ☐ Realistic expectations
- ☐ Safe training environment
- ☐ Required equipment list
- ☐ Parent contact information
- ☐ Transparent pricing
- ☐ Refund or weather policy

Possible Red Flags

Slow down and ask more questions if you notice:

- ☐ Very little information is available online
- ☐ "College prep" is used without explanation
- ☐ Coaching or teaching staff is not identified
- ☐ No age or graduation year guidance
- ☐ No recruiting topics listed
- ☐ No academic or eligibility information
- ☐ No daily schedule listed
- ☐ No explanation of field versus classroom time
- ☐ Guaranteed recruiting claims
- ☐ Guaranteed scholarship claims
- ☐ Guaranteed roster spot claims
- ☐ Poor communication before registration
- ☐ No refund or cancellation policy
- ☐ No weather policy
- ☐ No safety procedures explained
- ☐ Vague camp description

Parent Comparison Notes

Use this section if you are comparing more than one college prep camp.

College Prep Camp Option 1: _____

College / Organizer:

Best Strength:

Main Concern:

Cost / Value Notes:

College Prep Camp Option 2: _____

College / Organizer:

Best Strength:

Main Concern:

Cost / Value Notes:

College Prep Camp Option 3: _____

College / Organizer:

Best Strength:

Main Concern:

Cost / Value Notes:

Pre-Camp Preparation

Before attending, my child and family should consider:

- ☐ Reviewing current academic standing
- ☐ Knowing graduation year and target college timeline
- ☐ Preparing basic player information
- ☐ Updating player profile information, if available
- ☐ Preparing highlight video, if available
- ☐ Listing questions about recruiting and academics
- ☐ Researching NCAA, NAIA, junior college, and division differences
- ☐ Thinking honestly about college fit
- ☐ Bringing the right equipment
- ☐ Arriving ready to learn, not just train
- ☐ Writing down next steps after the camp

My Overall Impression

Would I feel comfortable registering my child?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Maybe
- ☐ No

Why?

Notes:

Biggest Strength

Notes:

Biggest Concern

Notes:

Questions I Still Need Answered

[] _____

[] _____

[] _____

[] _____

Overall Rating

Circle one:

1 star - Poor

2 stars - Fair

3 stars - Good

4 stars - Very Good

5 stars - Excellent

Parent Reminder

The best college prep camp is not always the biggest, most expensive, or most heavily promoted.

Choose the college prep camp that best matches your child's age, graduation year, current skill level, recruiting stage, academic readiness, college goals, confidence level, and development needs.

Preparation matters. Fit matters more.

College soccer preparation is more than exposure.

It includes development, academics, communication, decision-making, and finding the right fit.

A good college prep camp should help your child better understand the college soccer journey, not just attend another event.

Continue Your Research

Explore additional parent guides at [SoccerIDCamp.com](https://socceridcamp.com):

- What Is a College Prep Camp?
- What Types of Soccer Camps Are There?
- How to Choose the Right Soccer Camp
- Soccer Camp Planning Checklist
- What Age Should My Child Start Attending Soccer Camps?

Helping parents understand soccer camps before they compare them.