



*Division III Official Visit and Unofficial Visit Recruiting Survey
February 2021*

Division III Official Visit and Unofficial Visit

Recruiting Survey

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The online survey was distributed to athletics directors and senior compliance officers at all Division III institutions. Responses were received from 350 Division III institutions for a response rate of 79%. Please note that multiple responses were received from some institutions.

1. Do you use official visits (i.e., a visit in which the institution provides benefits to the prospective student-athlete (PSA) or parents in excess of one meal for the PSA) to recruit PSAs?

Answer	Count	Percent
Yes	317	79%
No	82	21%

2. If no, why not? Select all that apply.

Answer	Count
• Too costly.	48
• Sufficiently recruit through unofficial visits.	55
• Difficult to monitor.	23
• Other, please specify:	10

3. If no, why not? (Other, please specify.)

• Process is difficult.
• Treat recruits the same as any other prospective student on campus using admissions. Our athletes get no more benefits than a regular visiting student.
• ASC does not allow official visits.
• We do not have dorms, so our recruiting base is within close proximity.
• Conference Rules.
• Admissions covers meals for visiting prospects.
• Any "official" visit runs through Admissions. They will help cover some travel costs for accepted students visiting from out of state. other than that circumstance - we do not use "official" visits and do not cover any costs through athletics.
• We are able to offer a meal through the general admissions visit process for all prospects. We rarely have overnight visits. With COVID overnight visits will not be an option for some time.

- Conference Restrictions.
- We offer the same opportunities/travel reimbursements/meals on campus/etc. that are offered through our admission office to all prospective students. Costs for such things for any PSA are also paid for by our admission office.

4. If yes, how many official visits does your institution provide each academic year?

Answer	Count	Percent
• 1-5	48	15.53%
• 6-10	37	11.97%
• 11-15	46	14.89%
• 20 or more	178	57.61%

5. If yes, please indicate which benefits you provide during an official visit (select all that apply).

Answer	Count
• Meals to PSA.	316
• Meals to those accompanying the PSA.	228
• Lodging for PSA.	212
• Lodging for PSA's parent/guardian/spouse or individual of comparable relationship.	69
• Complimentary admission to home athletics contests.	189
• Transportation costs for PSA.	134

6. Under existing official visit legislation, institutions may provide three on-campus meals per day for a PSA and individuals accompanying the PSA. The meal can be catered from off-campus vendors if the meal is comparable to normal student life. The meal can only be provided off-campus if all on-campus dining facilities are closed. Would you want to see this legislation changed?

Answer	Count	Percent
Yes	150	38.36%
No	241	61.64%

7. If yes, what change would you like to see? Select all that apply.

Answer	Count
• To provide more than three meals per day.	8
• To provide fewer than three meals per day.	4
• To provide meals off-campus at a local restaurant.	143
• Other, please specify:	6

8. If yes, what change would you like to see? (Other, please specify)

• Be able to take a parent out to dinner one time with a certain cost limit. Often parents ask coaches out to dinner while their child does an overnight in the dorms and for parents that have spent a lot of money to travel across the country it would be nice to pick up the check in these situations (reasonably priced meal in mind).
• Food delivery to team on campus.
• Permissible even if on campus dining is open.
• Option to use on campus or off campus depending on the situation.
• Really just deregulating (including off-campus, not limiting to three meals).
• Removed for DIII.

9. The student host legislation allows the institution to provide \$40 per day to cover entertainment expenses for the PSA, individuals accompanying the PSA and the student host. The student-athlete and PSA may not contribute funds for the cost of entertainment. Further, the institution may only entertain the PSA within a 30-mile radius of the main campus. Do you use student-athletes as student hosts on official visits?

Answer	Count	Percent
Yes	331	85.53%
No	56	14.47%

10. If yes, do you provide the student-host with money to cover entertainment expense for the PSA?

Answer	Count
Yes	125
No	231

11. Would you like to see any change to the entertainment legislation permitted for PSA and student host?

Answer	Count	Percent
Yes	80	20.67%
No	307	79.33%

12. If yes, what change would you like to see? Select all that apply.

Answer	Count
• Increase the amount of student-host money.	15
• Permit the PSA and/or student host to be able to supplement entertainment expenses if the entertainment activities exceed \$40.	26
• To provide team entertainment (and associated meals and transportation) on official visit.	35
• Remove or increase the mileage restriction associated with entertainment expenses.	19
• Eliminate student-host money.	29
• Other.	1

13. If yes, what changes would you like to see? Other, please specify.

• Eliminate official visits.

14. Do you use unofficial visits to recruit PSAs?

Answer	Count	Percent
Yes	381	99.22%
No	3	0.78%

15. For an unofficial visit, not provided by the institution's admission department (Bylaw 13.7.3), the institution may only provide one on-campus meal for the PSA only. Would you want to see the meals legislation changed?

Answer	Count	Percent
Yes	195	50.78%
No	189	49.22%

16. If yes, what would you want to see changed? Select all that apply.

Answer	Count
• To provide more meals depending on the length of the visit.	154
• To provide the same amount of meals to the individuals accompanying the PSA.	130
• To provide meals off-campus at a restaurant or other venue.	66
• Other, please specify:	4

17. If yes, what would you want to see changed? Other, please specify.

• We would like the ability to provide a meal off campus on unofficial visits if the university dining services are closed.
• Would like to be able to provide meal to PSA and guest(s) one meal to all would be sufficient.
• Eliminate one on-campus prospect meal on unofficial visit.
• To allow the one meal on-campus to include any on-campus dining or restaurant facility (not only the dining hall/cafeteria).

18. Currently, the only entertainment the institution may provide on an unofficial visit is complimentary admissions for the PSA and individuals accompanying the PSA. The institution may not reserve additional game tickets or arrange special parking or special seating. Would you like to see the entertainment legislation changed?

Answer	Count	Percent
Yes	59	15.36%
No	325	84.64%

19. If yes, what would you like to see changed? Select all that apply.

Answer	Count
• To provide the PSA entertainment options consistent with the official visits' legislation, perhaps with a capped dollar amount.	34
• To provide team entertainment (and associated meal and transportation) on the unofficial visit.	29
• Other, please specify:	13

20. If yes, what would you like to see changed? Other, please specify.

• Ability to arrange special parking or seating.
• Special seating and parking should be allowed.
• Would like to see perspective student-athletes be able to have 'special seating' during contests on unofficial visits in order to learn about what it would be like to be a SA at that institution.
• Reserve additional game tickets or arrange special parking or special seating.
• Provide individuals accompanying the PSA with similar meal and event privileges.
• Special seating.
• Provide Game Tickets.
• Allow special seating - or sideline/bench access.
• I would like to discuss reserved seating for the unofficial visit. It would be nice to set aside a specific area for PSAs at venue to keep them all together, when the venue allows.
• For urban institutions, parking is a huge issue. would like this to be consistent with officials and allow institutions to pay.
• Reserving seating would be a great start and extra tickets would be good.
• Special parking and special seating.
• Special seating.

21. Currently, on unofficial visits, the institution may only provide a PSA transportation to view off-campus practice and competition sites in the PSA's sport or other institutional facilities. The PSA must be accompanied by an institutional staff member. Would you like to see the transportation legislation changed?

Answer	Count	Percent
Yes	85	22.14%
No	299	77.86%

22. If yes, what would you like to see changed? Select all that apply.

Answer	Count
• To provide the same benefits to individuals accompanying the PSA as the ones permitted for the PSA.	60
• To provide the PSA transportation to view the surrounding area/community of the institution's campus (within an established mileage restriction of the campus).	67
• To provide the PSA transportation to and from local airports, train or bus stations.	64
• To provide the PSA transportation to an off-campus meal.	43
• Other, please specify:	1

23. If yes, what would you like to see changed? Other, please specify.

• Allow SA to drive a prospect to an off-campus site.

24. The institution may not publicize the PSA's visit to campus; however, the PSA may publicize their visit to campus, provided it is not done at the direction of the institution. This publicity is most often seen in the form of social media posts. In response to the PSA's posts, the institution may take actions of approval of the PSA's social media content (e.g., like or repost). Would you like to see change to the social media legislation?

Answer	Count	Percent
Yes	125	32.72%
No	257	67.28%

25. If yes, do you support permitting the institution to directly publicize the PSA's visit to campus, beyond an action of approval of content published by the PSA?

Answer	Count	Percent
Yes	105	84.68%
No	19	15.32%

26. Should it to be permissible for the institution to comment on the PSA's post?

Answer	Count	Percent
Yes	190	49.87%
No	191	50.13%

27. If publicizing a visit is permitted, should it be permissible for both official and unofficial visits?

Answer	Count	Percent
Yes	166	43.57%
No	51	13.39%
N/A. Publicizing the visit should not be allowed.	164	43.04%

28. In July 2020, the Division III Management Council Subcommittee for Legislative Relief approved a blanket waiver allowing greater flexibility with virtual recruiting. Specifically, the waiver allows: Virtual athletics-recruitment-specific presentations to groups of multiple prospective student-athletes and their families, including outside groups, regardless of their age or grade level or who initiates the event; Virtual recruiting activities to occur any time of year. However, student-athlete involvement is restricted to the academic year and must be voluntary and may not result in missed class time; Participation by institutional athletics and coaching staff, other members of the campus community (e.g., admissions, financial aid), alumni and other permissible recruiters; and Institutions (and conferences) to publicize the informational details about the virtual recruiting event and prohibits promoting or publicizing the participation of individual or a group of prospective student-athletes. Would you like to see this waiver become a legislative proposal for the members to consider?

Answer	Count	Percent
Yes	355	94.67%
No	20	5.33%

29. If yes, would you like to see any of the provisions in the waiver change or be eliminated?

Answer	Count
Yes	41
No	312

30. If yes, what would you like to see changed or eliminated?

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I don't agree with "regardless of their age or grade level or who initiates the event." I don't think coaches should initiate virtual events for individuals or groups until they enter high school.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This would allow institutions with limited monetary resources to compete on an even platform.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No publicity.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The last statement, about publicize visit.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The only change I would suggest is eliminating the academic year only for PSAs. This vehicle could provide a significant cost savings for PSAs any time of the year.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lose this: "regardless of their age or grade level " and put limits in.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Age or grade level should be considered - only having started 9th grade.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I would propose virtual recruiting be permitted using the same age/grade restrictions for general recruiting guidelines.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student athletes being able to be involved all year.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SA involvement should not be limited to the academic year as they may be on campus for other reason when classes are not in session.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I would like for student athletes to able to participate on virtual zooms with PSAs during the summer as well.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allow institutions and conference to promote or publicize the participation of individual or a group of prospective student-athletes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allow student-athletes to be involved outside of the academic year - particularly during the semester break (Dec-Jan).
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allow current student/athletes to voluntarily be involved outside of the academic year.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The prohibition of student-athlete participation during the academic year. Student-athletes should be allowed to participate at any point, but the participation must be voluntary.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional permissible activity that is appropriate for the post COVID world of DIII recruiting. A review of all recruiting activities should take place, updated, and presented to the membership for consideration.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student-athlete involvement must be voluntary but can occur at any point in time.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allow voluntary SA participation during the summer.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Age / grade level restrictions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To allow a current student athlete to be able to participate in virtual recruiting activities at any time during the year and not just during the academic year.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allow student-athlete involvement at any time of the year.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The academic year requirement for SA participation. That should be allowed outside the academic year if voluntary.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remove restriction on SA involvement to academic year only.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allow student-athlete involvement at all times on a voluntary basis.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I would like to see students be allowed to participate outside of the academic year.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To allow student-athlete involvement at any point during the year as long as it's voluntary. Students report having more time outside of the academic year when they are not taking courses. To allow student-athletes who are continuing students (e.g. have completed their first full academic year) but are current students (e.g. have not withdrawn) and are not taking classes (e.g. currently on leave) to participate in recruiting activities on a voluntary basis. Students, again, report having more time when they are not taking classes and students are taking leaves for various reasons (e.g. loss of family income, mental health, taking care of loved one, etc.). The students of color are taking these leaves at higher rates. These numbers are putting more pressure on enrolled student-athletes to support recruiting efforts and do not help to support the recruitment of diverse student-athlete populations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current student-athletes should be allowed to voluntarily participate all-year in this process.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I think we should look at how these events are publicized and how many are allowed. Also, perhaps allowing only one group virtual event and more of the individual virtual experiences could be useful.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student-athletes can participate year-round if eligible and enrolled and still cannot miss classes to do so.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use of students during summer should be allowed, publicity restrictions should be relaxed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Institutions (and conferences) to publicize the informational details about the virtual recruiting event and prohibits promoting or publicizing the participation of individual or a group of prospective student-athletes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eliminate the summer restriction for PSA.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1) Student-Athlete involvement can occur at any time during the calendar year provided involvement is voluntary. 2) Non-enrolled student-athletes can participate in virtual

recruiting provided involvement is voluntary. (Sometimes sophomores and juniors who would be very effective in these sessions are abroad and not enrolled in our institution. During the pandemic, a number of student-athletes took leaves, which left few ambassadors to serve in these virtual sessions.)

- Virtual recruiting needs to be without restriction of any type on the DIII level.
- Current student-athletes should be allowed to participate outside of the academic year. However, it should remain that they cannot participate at any time that would cause them to miss class during the academic year.
- Institutions (and conferences) to publicize the informational details about the virtual recruiting event and prohibits promoting or publicizing the participation of individual or a group of prospective student-athletes, should be eliminated.
- Student athlete involvement not limited by academic year. Still voluntary.