

Stafford Soccer Club



COLLEGE GUIDANCE NIGHT!

COLLEGE GUIDANCE

- STAFFORD SOCCER WEBSITE
- <http://www.staffordsoccer.com/Default.aspx?tabid=538634>
- PACING GUIDE PER GRADE LEVEL
- HELPFULINFORMATIONAL LINKS

RecruitChute

- Why Stafford invested in RecruitChute for the players?
 - Personal platform (your organization, your notebook)
 - Research abilities with all the different filters
 - Accountability back on the player
(with parent support 😊)
-
- Should I pay for extra features?

Can I Play College Soccer?

- Every player can play college soccer—there is a place for everyone. However, you may have to sacrifice certain schools as options in order to play college soccer... more on that later....

- **Fun Facts:**

- Over 500 Men & Women Division 1 Colleges
- Over 400 Men & Women Division 2 Colleges
(Not many in VA)
- Over 800 Men and Women Division 3 Colleges

College Guidance

- **Difference in D1/D2/D3?**
 - Levels of Play
 - Division III College levels have increased the past 5 years. A lot of Division III coaches are now recruiting division I type players which makes it even harder to play college soccer. There are still lower level Division III colleges, but not as many as 5-10 years ago.
 - Training
 - **In-Season (Fall):**
 - 8am Morning practices
 - Training room for treatment before/after practice
 - Attend Classes
 - Film/Video/Team Meetings
 - Mandatory Study Hall (2 hours)
 - Team meals
 - Away trips for games
 - Taking tests early due to away games
 - **Out-of-Season (Winter/Spring)**
 - Same as In-Season plus individual sessions with coaches
 - Additional Weight Lifting/Conditioning

College Guidance

- **Difference in D1/D2/D3?**
- **Soccer Vs. Degree**
 - **Example:** Small college like Bridgewater (D.III) wants you to play and JMU (D.I) accepted you only as a student. What would you do????
- **Money \$\$\$\$\$ - In State vs. Out-of-State**
 - More expensive for a college coach from a different State to offer you a scholarship than a player who is in-state.
 - State Schools, Merit Scholarships, FAFSA, etc

**What it takes?*

- **Sacrifices & Commitment level**
 - Would you give up a HC or Prom for a showcase club event?
 - Have you stayed up all night playing video games on a weekend club game night?
 - Are you working out on your own during non club nights?
 - Would you quit if you don't play your freshmen college year?
- Review class of 2017-2018
 - 18 Players committed this Fall from Stafford
 - Statistically, how many will play all 4 years?
 - A.) MV Boys & Girls B.) Max Academy example
 - Coaches interviewing players really hard to see **commitment level**
 - First question: Good kid? Good Character?
 - Second Question: Grades?
 - Third Question: Can he play? What level? Committed to team?
- Fear Vs. Regret

COLLEGE GUIDANCE

- **Grades/Testing**
 - Number 1 recruiting tool a coach looks at is your GPA and SAT. Focus on keeping good grades all 4 years of HS.
- **NCAA Clearinghouse**
 - In order to play Division I or Division II you must apply to NCAA Clearinghouse. This is a scale between your GPA and SAT score. Scale is on our Stafford Guidance Website.

How to start the process...

- **Step 1:** Communicate with coach & Fernando on your interest in playing college soccer. An honest evaluation will take place regarding level of play.
- **Step 2:** Creating a top 3-10 college list depending on how far into college path you are in.
- **Step 3:** Use the “draft email” on this presentation as a guide when creating email to coaches.
- **Step 4:** Player will email/call coaches
- **Step 5:** Coaches & Fernando can follow up with conversations with college coaches on your behalf.

Sample Email

Dear Coach _____,

(Try to make it personal upfront by adding a sentence about a recent game they just had or something about their program you really love. This is similar to the first sentence in an essay that grabs the reader's attention, and in this case will also make the email look like it is not a generic "canned" email. End the opening paragraph with a sentence that outlines the intent of your email. Example: I wanted to connect with you because I would love the opportunity for you to evaluate me for your program and to ultimately be a part of your competitive world class team.)

My name is _____, I currently play for Stafford Soccer on the '00 Blue Team and am a junior at North Stafford High School, graduating in 2018. I currently have a 3.6 GPA and will be taking the SAT this spring. *(One or two sentences with player position and a stat or two that you think the coach would find interesting and highlight your athletic accomplishments. Example: I learned All-State Honors my sophomore year and am currently a member of the Virginia ODP State Team.)* My player profile from RecruitChute is available for your review at *(link directly to player profile, sometimes an additional attachment in the email that includes the player profile is also helpful).*

I feel that _____ University would be a great fit for me, and I am especially interested in the opportunity to be a part of your strong soccer program, as well as the University's *Physical Therapy* program *(or reference a specific college or school at the university this will once again indicate you have done your research)*. I think that my strong work ethic and playing abilities would be a great match for your program.

I will be attending the following showcases/tournaments with my Stafford Soccer '00 Blue Team:

- *Showcase 1
- *Showcase 2
- *Showcase 3

***My jersey number is 15**

If you will be attending any of these showcases/tournaments, I would greatly appreciate it if you would come see me compete in person, and for the opportunity for you to evaluate me for your program. As I mentioned above, I am very interested in _____ and would love to be a part of your program! I hope to hear from you soon. I will send you the showcase/tournament schedules as soon as I receive them, and also update you with any changes that may occur. Thank you in advance. Go _____!

Sincerely,

Player Name

Cell Number

Email Address

References

Head Coach Name

Head Coach Cell

Head Coach Email

Stafford Director of Player Development

Fernando Ramos

540-903-6010

ramos@staffordsoccer.com

Italics indicate section will need to be changed/personalized by individual player

COLLEGE GUIDANCE

- **What to research?**
 - Size of School – Small, Medium, Large
 - See same people every day, see some new faces everyday, or meet new people every day:?????
 - Team Rosters/Positions?
 - What is the chance you can have an immediate impact based on current roster????
 - Distance from home/parents??
 - Will your parents be able to see you play??
- How to research & create your “list”?* -
 - **Soccer Recruit chute – Filters**
 - Research on your own – google/stafford soccer website
 - Directors
 - Staff Coaches

COLLEGE GUIDANCE

- **Leaving this meeting you should focus on.....**
- Have your list of 5-10 colleges
 - Spoken with Staff Coach and Directors for feedback on current level of play
 - Why we have to be honest about your level?
 - Why we have to be honest about your behavior?
 - How much effort you put in will dictate how much assistance Staff Coaches and Directors will put in!
 - Create draft emails with assistance
 - When do Stafford Staff/Directors start makings calls?

Getting Recruited

- Showcase Tournaments (Travel)
- League games if communicating
- ODP/DC Academy/Super Y
 - District, State, Region, National
- College ID Camps we've marketed so far:
 - UMW
 - ODU
 - Shenandoah
 - Stafford
 - CNU
- High School Soccer
 - Least likely but can happen

During recruiting process...

- Social Media Positives vs. Negatives
 - BE CAREFUL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
 - College coaches are looking at social medial pages to try to find out what type of personality and character you have even before your visit.
 - Can go from number 1 recruit to not being recruited anymore!
 - Applies to recruit emails, face-to-face communication, parent communication on visits, etc

What's next?

- Future College Guidance Dates & Events
 - Follow us on website
 - Follow us on social media
 - Future email announcements

10th – 12th Grade Guidance

- Review 9th Grade Presentation
 - Home for everyone
 - Level of Play
 - Recruit chute
- Positive Demeanor starts now!!
 - How's your attitude?
 - How's your body language?
 - How's your eye contact?
 - You are going to be evaluated as a player and a person...

10th – 12th Grade Guidance

- What not to do.....
- Send emails without staff coach or Ramos editing
- Example Email of what not to do.....

Coach Max,

Sir, it has been a great while since I have heard back from you despite me sending you 3 separate emails over the last 6 weeks. I fully understand that folks get busy and that you have a lot on your plate. However, I am really growing frustrated with college Coaches and not being given a straight answer... so I'm going to shoot 100% straight with you and I ask that you do the same to me when you have a moment.

I love soccer, its my life and has been my life since I was 4 years old. I don't know exactly what I want to do for the rest of my life, but I know I love playing soccer and I know I don't want to stop playing when I graduate HS. I also know that I can be an asset your team because I will do whatever is needed of me to help the team succeed. I don't want personal glory, I want to continue to be apart of something greater than just me and play the game I love. So can you please tell me if your even considering me for apart of your team.. I have attended multiple camps of yours and the feedback has been positive, but everyone says you should know by now what colleges are considering you for a roster spot, and I really don't. So please give it to me straight, if it's a no then that's fine. If there's anything you want to see from me, please tell me. I have tournaments coming up and as I'm sure your aware we just finished our fall season (I led the team in assists and scored 3 goals).

I'm in no way ready to give up on my dream and will continue working that direction regardless, I just really need to know what/if at all you guys are considering me... Thank you for your time and I look forward to your response

10th – 12th Grade Guidance

- What else not to do.....
 - Selfish behavior on the pitch
 - Examples:
 - Poor ejection
 - Talking back to your coach
 - Degrading your teammates
 - **ALL VISIBLE TO COLLEGE COACHES!!!!**
 - Committing to multiple colleges
 - Committing before reviewing it with coach/Ramos

What to do... Draft Email

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Email Address

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Head Coach Name

Head Coach Cell

Head Coach Email

Stafford Director of Player Development

Fernando Ramos

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10th – 12th Grade Guidance

- How to communicate through phone/text?
 - Coach Keith with poor example
- How to communicate in person?
 - Why should players, not parents, be asking/answering majority of the questions??
 - Body language
 - Eye Contact
 - Good Manners go a long way.....
 - You are being interviewed for a place on the team or possible \$\$\$\$ offer.

10th – 12th Grade Guidance

- What next.....
- 10th Grade:
 - Still in practice phase but you never know
 - Emailing 1 a month
- 11th Grade:
 - Prime time for Division 1 Recruiting
 - Emailing your top 3-5 College List at least 2 a month
 - Starting to take unofficial visits to interested colleges
 - Attending College ID's
 - Asking Ramos/Coach to follow up on communication
- 12th Grade
 - Prime time for Division 2-3 Recruiting
 - Emailing your top 3 College List at least 2 a month
 - Taking unofficial/official visits to top 3 colleges
 - Attending College ID's
 - Asking Ramos/Coach to follow up on communication

10th – 12th Grade Guidance

- Showcase Events
 - Must send showcase schedule at least 1 week before event!
 - Use your phones to Email/Update college coaches on SITE about any changes to fields or times!!!!
 - Don't focus on which colleges are at the games, focus with your teammates and the game in hand.
 - Wait at least 1 week after event to ask for feedback, give coaches time to reflect.

LAST WARNING!

- SOCIAL MEDIA
 - Negative Posts and Images will.....
 - END YOUR RECRUITING.....
- Enough Said...

Fear Vs. Regret