

KeepPlayingBaseball.org – Junior Year Checklist

Fall

- Check with your high school guidance counselor to make sure that you are taking the right classes to be eligible for your top-choice schools. The rules may change to be sure to check in at least twice per year to make sure you stay on track.
- Continue to work hard in the classroom. Get help if your grades are not as good as you need them to be to get into your top-choice schools.
- Set goals for yourself—both on the field and in the classroom. Set a goal to keep your grades *above* what you need to play at the *highest level* you hope to play.
- If possible, play competitive fall ball. Work hard to improve your skills.
- If possible, make a video to send out if you are asked to do that.
- Create a one-page summary of all your sports achievements and stats. Have it ready for any coaches that ask for it. Make every effort to let coaches at your top schools know that you are interested in their programs. Don't be obnoxious, but don't be shy.
- Study hard and take the SAT (taking it early gives you a chance to take it again).
- Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center (www.ncaa.org). Review the NCAA rules about eligibility, recruitment, and maintaining your amateur status.

Winter

- Learn as much as you can about what you have to do to get into your top choice schools. Don't rely on minimum requirements. Find the average GPA and test scores of successful applicants, and do your best to exceed these averages.
- Stay in shape and learn all you can to protect yourself from injury.
- Ask your parents or guardians to review the information that they will need to fill out applications for financial aid. Tell them about your plans and show them your list of top-choice schools.

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Spring

- Check with your guidance counselor to make sure that you are taking the right classes. Continue to work hard in the classroom.
- If possible, attend camps and showcases in the area or at your top-choice schools. Make sure you introduce yourself to coaches and ask questions.
- Talk to coaches and other trusted knowledgeable family and friends about what level of college baseball would be best for you.
- Go to college games and continue to be a student of the mental part of the game.
- Be the kind of player who is remembered for the right reasons every time you step onto the field. Hustle: be mentally and physically prepared for every game and practice. Be the first one on and off the field. Be the first guy to show up and the last guy to leave. You *never* know who might be watching you on the field or in the dugout.
- Create a list of supportive people who can help you with contacts, information, references, and resources that you might need. Make sure you ask for help whenever you need it.
- Take the SAT (if you need to), ACT, and any other tests that your top-choice schools require.

Summer

- Play competitive summer ball if you can. Stay in shape and work to improve your skills.
- Take summer school if you did not complete all of the NCAA required courses on your plan. This will be your last chance to do this within the NCAA timelines.
- Make sure you are a good prospect online as well as on the field. Make sure that everything on Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, or any other online service supports the fact that you are a good teammate and a dedicated athlete.
- Get all the materials you need to prepare your college applications in the fall.
- Remind your parents or guardians about the information and forms that they will need to provide so that you can finish your applications.

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