

Collegiate Webinar FAQ:

1. How will evaluations be handled since there was no US Nationals, Junior Olympics, etc. in 2020?

Since the COVID-19 pandemic has halted plans for all competitions in 2020, other methods of evaluation will become more important. Recent video, practice video, results from previous competitions are all helpful in demonstrating your skill. Additionally, if you can show a pattern or trend in your achievements, this could be helpful for demonstrating your potential. For rising sophomores and juniors, in-person evaluations may be possible in 2021, depending on the course that COVID-19 takes.

2. What is the email for the club director/ who could I contact to start a new club?

Elizabeth Gerdin is our Program Development Chair. You can reach any member of the Collegiate committee by using our shared email: collegiatesynchro@gmail.com

3. How would starting a new club work if classes are virtual due to COVID-19?

As we wait to see how the 2020-21 academic year will unfold, plans for new clubs may need to be adjusted accordingly. Although it may be possible to do team bonding activities or team culture building, a university closure would make it difficult to get a new club off the ground.

4. Is it harder for people who are on smaller teams to get recruited than people who are on bigger or better known teams?

There are pros and cons for athletes coming from all situations. If you are from a smaller/ lesser known team, you may need to demonstrate your athletic skill for prospective teams that you are interested in. However, as we mentioned on our call, the expectation for all collegiate participants is that they are both students and athletes. If you are able to demonstrate the strength of your academics, this may help to offset having less experience or exposure.

All collegiate programs are looking to fill different roles on their teams from year to year. In a Varsity setting, if there are a number of other strong athletes in your high school graduation year, it may make being recruited more difficult. In this case, you could still become a walk-on, and once you join the team your day-to-day experience as a student-athlete would not differ. If you are in a Club setting, there are typically no club maximum numbers. In this case, the club may or may not have the power to recruit, but you would be able to participate no matter your previous experience.

5. If I am named to a National Team program, would I be able to take time off from college to compete?

Yes, it is possible for an athlete to take a leave of absence in order to pursue training and competition with the National Team (US or International). Collegiate programs will support athletes who have goals beyond the Collegiate competitive realm, but it is a conversation that should be started early on with your coaches. The further in advance that you can plan, academically and athletically, the more prepared for the transition you can be!

6. Do the schools that have varsity programs also have club programs?

No, at this point each school has either a Varsity or a Club program, but not both.

7. Is it too late to contact teams/ coaches if I am already going into my senior year of high school?

No! Although the recruiting process may start as early as July 1 following your sophomore year of high school, it does not mean that you are too late. Some schools may have finalized their recruit lists, but many are still looking to solidify their rosters.

What this timeframe does mean is that you have less opportunities to change your academics should a university want to see stronger scores or courses. For athletes entering senior year of high school this Fall 2020, you may reach out to collegiate coaches right away!

8. I sent an email to a coach hoping to be recruited, but I haven't heard anything back yet. What should I do now?

First, think about where you are in the recruiting process. If you are a freshman or sophomore, a collegiate coach is not allowed to contact you yet. If they are unsure about how old you are, they may not respond in an effort to follow the rules!

Don't get discouraged if you don't hear back right away! Make sure that you have signed up for the recruit list on the USAAS website, and make sure that you have included who you are (with high school graduation year) in your correspondence.

9. Can a club team switch to a varsity team?

Although it is possible for a club team to become a varsity team, this has typically not been the case. If it were to happen, the switch from a club to a varsity program would require a substantial increase in the resources provided by the university.

10. If a college makes the ACT/ SAT optional, will a coach still want to see a score?

Typically, coaches are after these ACT/ SAT scores so that they can get a feel for whether a PSA would be a good fit for their university academically. If a school decides to waive their standardized testing requirements, this will likely be unnecessary.

11. Are there dues for Club programs?

Yes, you should expect to pay dues for Club programs. The amount of financial backing that each club receives, if any, is largely dependent on the individual institution. In addition, factors such as number of travel competitions and overall squad size can often factor into how much an athlete may owe for dues. Many clubs participate in fundraising efforts to offset these costs, which can help reduce the financial requirement from each individual.

12. How would D1 programs handle homeschooling students?

Each university likely has its own academic standards and expectations. Depending on the curriculum and setup of the independent learning program, a university may handle that student's application differently. This would be especially important to discuss with the coach of any program that you are interested in. They can offer you additional guidance in regards to their institution's admissions requirements.

13. Do you still practice 20 hours a week in the off-season?

No. Our 20 hour weeks typically run from the fall through the Collegiate National Championship at the end of March. Outside of that portion of the year, a maximum of eight hours of organized practice per week are conducted. Collegiate programs do not practice/ compete through the summer. This is a time when many student-athletes are pursuing professional opportunities or taking advantage of extracurricular activities like study abroad.