

THE ROUTE TO A US SOCCER SCHOLARSHIP

US SOCCER SCHOLARSHIPS

A step-by-step guide for players and families, aged 15 to 19.

ABOUT

US SOCCER SCHOLARSHIPS

US Soccer Scholarships is EFC's dedicated route into funded US college football, open to any player aged 15 to 19 with the ability and academic standing to pursue it seriously.

We host US Showcase Events for this age group, giving players the chance to be seen directly by college coaches and recruiters. This runs alongside recruitment profile support, SAT exam support, scholarship guidance, and placement support through to a confirmed offer.

The process is genuinely selective on the US side. College coaches have a limited number of scholarship places and specific needs each recruiting cycle, and we're direct with players and families about where they realistically stand.

15–19

AGE RANGE

Included

SAT SUPPORT

In person

SHOWCASE EVENTS

End to end

PLACEMENT SUPPORT

WHAT IS A SCHOLARSHIP?

A soccer scholarship is financial support awarded to a student-athlete by a US college, based on athletic and academic ability, to help fund their education there.

PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Part of the college's costs are covered by the university, with the remainder paid by the student and their family. Most student-athletes placed in the US are on a partial scholarship.

FULL SCHOLARSHIP

The university covers all, or close to all, of the college costs on behalf of the student-athlete. These are awarded to a small number of players with exceptional athletic and academic ability.

Scholarship contributions can also increase after the first year if a student-athlete performs well, both athletically and academically — at the discretion of the coaching staff.

COLLEGE SOCCER IN AMERICA

College soccer in the US runs through three separate governing bodies, each with its own structure, standards, and route in. Which one fits a player depends on their level, their academic profile, and what they're looking for from the experience.

NCAA

The largest and most well-known college sports organisation in the US, split into Divisions I, II, and III. NCAA schools range from large public universities to smaller private colleges, and it's the most competitive route overall.

NAIA

A separate governing body, generally made up of smaller private universities. It's a genuinely popular route for international student-athletes, often with a more accessible pathway to meaningful playing time.

NJCAA

Governs two-year community colleges. Entry requirements are typically more accessible, and it's often used as a stepping stone into a four-year NCAA or NAIA programme once a player's level and academic record are established.

REQUIREMENTS

WHAT IT TAKES

ATHLETIC

US programmes assess a player on football ability first — technical level, physical profile, and match performance. We assess this directly through recruitment footage and US Showcase Events, and give players and families an honest read of where they stand before recommending a route.

The stronger a player's football level, the wider the range of institutions and scholarship opportunities available to them.

ACADEMIC

Academic standing is assessed alongside football ability, not as an afterthought. Requirements vary by division and by institution, so we review each player's academic record individually rather than applying one fixed threshold across the board.

Where a player's academic record needs strengthening, that's part of the conversation early — not something discovered too late in the process to act on.

SAT SUPPORT

Not every US programme requires the SAT, but for those that do, it's typically treated as a predictor of academic performance alongside a player's grades. A strong score can open up a wider range of scholarship and placement options.

We support players through SAT preparation as part of the process, so it strengthens a player's academic profile rather than becoming an obstacle in it.

If a player doesn't yet meet the level needed for a particular route, we say so — and set out what closing that gap actually looks like, rather than leaving a family to assume.

THE ROUTE

1

A player aged 15 to 19 joins US Soccer Scholarships with genuine ambitions in US college football.

2

We assess the player's football level and academic standing honestly, including SAT support where it's needed, so the route we map out from here is realistic, not just aspirational.

3

We build a recruitment profile — football ability, academic record, and footage — in the exact format US college coaches expect to see.

4

The player attends US Showcase Events, performing in front of college coaches and recruiters in person, while the recruitment profile is circulated to relevant programmes at the same time.

5

As coaches respond, we manage contact on the player's behalf, following the etiquette of US recruitment so the first impression with a programme is the right one.

6

When offers start to come in, we guide the player and family through what's realistic, how the scholarship funding actually works, and how each offer compares.

7

We help the family weigh up multiple offers against playing time, coaching staff, academic fit, and programme culture, then support the practical steps of securing the place.

8

EFC stays involved after the player commits, supporting the transition into US college football and college life rather than stepping back once the offer is signed.

TRAINING, MATCHES, AND THE CLASSROOM

US college soccer is a full-time commitment, on top of a full academic course load. Regular training sessions, matches, and travel for away fixtures run alongside coursework, deadlines, and the academic standing needed to maintain playing eligibility. There's no separate track for athletes — the same deadlines apply to everyone.

That's exactly why academic preparation, including SAT support, is built into a player's route from the start: so the discipline needed to handle US college life isn't something they're building for the first time thousands of miles from home.

It's also, for the right player, worth it. A US college career typically runs several years longer than most UK players get in a comparable full-time environment, in facilities and with coaching resources that are usually well beyond what's available domestically at the same age.

- Structured training, most days of the week, alongside a full course load
- Away fixtures that can mean multiple days off campus
- Academic standing reviewed continuously, not just at year-end
- A genuine step up in structure from school-age football

QUESTIONS, ANSWERED

Who can apply?

Any player aged 15 to 19 with genuine ambitions in US college football and the academic standing to back it up.

Do I need to take the SAT?

Not every institution requires it, but for those that do, we support players through SAT preparation as part of the process, so it strengthens rather than limits their options.

What's the difference between a full and partial scholarship?

A full scholarship covers all, or close to all, of a student-athlete's college costs. A partial scholarship covers part of the cost, with the family covering the remainder — this is the more common outcome for student-athletes placed in the US.

How long is a US college degree?

Generally two to four years, depending on the type of institution — a two-year route through a community college (NJCAA), or a four-year route through an NCAA or NAIA university.

What happens once I commit to a programme?

EFC stays involved. We support the transition into US college football and college life, rather than stepping back once an offer is signed.

What if my level or grades aren't quite there yet?

We're direct about where a player realistically stands. If a player isn't there yet, we set out what closing that gap looks like rather than either overselling the route or turning the conversation away.

START HERE

HOW TO ENQUIRE

Enquiries about US Soccer Scholarships go straight to the EFC team by email — there's no form, no portal, and no queue.

- 1 Email Info@elitefootballcollective.com with the subject line "Enquiry: US Soccer Scholarships" — the same routing the button below uses.
- 2 Tell us the player's age, current level, and academic situation — the more context, the more useful the first reply.
- 3 A member of the EFC team replies directly, and the route mapped out in this guide starts from there.

[EMAIL US ABOUT US SOCCER SCHOLARSHIPS >>](mailto:Info@elitefootballcollective.com)