



# INTERNATIONALS *Soccer Club*



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ALL



Internationals Soccer Club: A History of Excellence

## Parents Beware

[www.4goals.net](http://www.4goals.net)

I think back to when I was recruiting as the Head Coach at The University of Michigan. I have had hundreds of recruits and their parents in my office on a visit - either officially or unofficially. On many occasions, I have asked the student-athlete a questions such as, "Suzie, tell me how your last game went?". Without hesitation, the DAD would answer, "Oh well, her game was amazing. She had a goal and two assists!" I would look at him, politely smile and then turn back to ask his daughter another question. "So Suzie, what is your favorite subject in school?" DAD, once again, chimes in and says, "She loves math - got all A's last semester". At this point, he has just about ruined any chances for his daughter to be a part of my program.

Coaches are very, very careful to pay attention to the dynamics between parents and their daughter/son. Four or five years is a long time to deal with an overbearing parent who constantly injects themselves into the coach/player relationship. A major quality for a top recruit is their confidence, maturity, leadership, ability to articulate and "hold their own". Can they leave the nest and be an independent young adult? Can they contribute to my team? There are not many submissive, sheltered players that are going to score the winning goal in the championship game or hit the World Series winning homerun.

Going through the recruiting process with you child can be exciting, overwhelming, exhausting, fun, unnerving, and yet critically important. Of course, mom and dad are heavily invested in the future, well-being, and happiness their daughter. So naturally, you, as a well-intended parent, want to know the details of these college programs and be a part of the decision making process.

Choosing the right college is a huge decision which parents most definitely should participate in. However, there are a few "Do's and Don'ts" to interacting with the college coaching staffs.

Do:

- Allow your daughter to correspond with the coaches. You can proof read and assist them in creating the emails or letters but have your child be invested in their own process.
- Have your child make the phone calls and speak with the coaches. It is good practice for them to be outside their comfort zone. It also shows the coach that they are mature enough to have that adult dialogue.
- Go on the visits to meet the coaches. Allow your child to take the lead in the meetings so they can ask and answer questions.
- Sit back and listen to the coach, their staff, and team. You can learn much about their style, personality, values, discipline style, etc. from observing. After all, you want to make sure that this coach and their program are a good fit for your family. The coaching staff and team will be mentoring and having an influence on your daughter for 4 or 5 years.

With all of that said, it is perfectly fine to ask for details of how the admissions process works, the financial piece to the puzzle, and other questions you may have. I just remind parents to be careful and mindful of their presence and not to overstep their daughter's ability to present herself in a confident manner. For more information and answers to your questions, please visit [www.4goals.net](http://www.4goals.net). We specialize in helping families navigate the recruiting process for collegiate athletics.

[www.internationalsoccer.com](http://www.internationalsoccer.com): Internationals Member Resources: Parents Beware