

College Baseball Recruiting Questionnaires Explained

14-18

Recruiting

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Every spring after our 14U tryouts, I have the same conversation with a parent. A sophomore outfielder just ran a legitimate 6.8 60-yard dash and his dad pulls me aside: "He filled out the form on one school's website back in January. Nobody ever called." I ask which schools he targeted. He names three. I ask how many questionnaires they sent out total. Three. That is the whole problem.

A recruiting questionnaire is a short form on a college baseball program's athletics website that lets prospects introduce themselves to a coaching staff before any official recruiting contact begins. Fill one out for **every school you are genuinely interested in** — not just the ones that reach out first. Fill it out completely and accurately, and always pair it with a direct email to the position coach, because the questionnaire alone rarely triggers a personal response.

What a Recruiting Questionnaire Actually Is

College baseball programs operate under contact restrictions. Division I programs cannot initiate contact with recruits until September 1 of their junior year under current NCAA rules; D2 and D3 timelines differ. But prospects can contact programs any time they want.

A recruiting questionnaire is the formal mechanism for that first contact. Nearly every college baseball program posts a questionnaire form on its athletics site, and each submission gets logged into a database the coaching staff can search when a roster spot opens up.

Think of it less like a job application and more like getting your card into a coach's contact list. It does not get you offered a spot. It gets you visible. And visible is where every recruiting conversation starts.

What Fields to Expect and Which Ones Coaches Filter On First

Most questionnaires ask for the same core information, though the specific fields vary by school and portal.

Personal and academic fields: GPA and test scores are threshold filters — a program requiring a 3.2 GPA will not recruit below it regardless of talent. Intended major matters too; coaches need athletes who qualify for specific programs on campus. Fill these in completely.

Athletic profile: Height, weight, position(s), travel team, and upcoming showcase schedule. Coaches use the tournament schedule field to plan which events they will attend — a prospect who does not list upcoming appearances does not get flagged for a scout trip.

Performance metrics: - **Pitchers:** velocity (peak and average), ERA, strikeout-to-walk ratio - **Position players:** 60-yard dash, exit velocity, batting average - **All players:** a clean video link

The metrics fields are where players most often undersell themselves or, worse, inflate numbers. Both are mistakes, and one is a career-ending one.

The Stats Coaches Actually Use to Filter Their Lists

I played at the D2 level and have sat in on recruiting conversations since. Here is what actually gets a player flagged for follow-up.

For pitchers: Velocity is still the first filter. At D1, 88+ is a starting threshold for serious interest at most programs; D2 typically

For position players: Exit velocity is the first filter — it measures raw bat speed more honestly than batting average does. D1 programs typically look for 90+ EV; D2 is roughly 85-90+. The 60-yard dash separates outfielders and middle infielders from the crowd more than any other single number. Batting average is useful context, but coaches know it is park- and competition-dependent, so they will cross-reference your travel team schedule strength.

The rule we give every player we work with: **put what you actually produce.** Coaches have radar guns, stopwatches, and TrackMan access. A player who shows up at 83 after claiming 88 on the form does not get a second conversation. Put your honest current numbers and let your development tell a better story over time.

The Questionnaire Is Step One, Not the Whole Plan

Here is the sequence that actually moves the needle. I tell this to every family we work with through the recruiting process.

1. **Identify your target school list** — typically 25-40 programs split across realistic D1 targets, likely D2/NAIA targets, and safe D3 options. Understand each division level before you build that list; our breakdown of D1 vs. D2 vs. D3 baseball is the right starting point.
2. **Submit a questionnaire for every school on the list**
3. **Within 48 hours, send a direct email to the position coach** — three sentences, current numbers, a video link, and your next tournament

That pairing is what moves players from the database to an actual conversation. Read our full guide on how to email college baseball coaches for subject line templates and body copy that get responses.

The questionnaire alone rarely gets a callback. The email alone rarely gets a callback. Both together — timed to showcase season — is how players start real conversations with coaches.

Step-by-Step: How to Submit a Recruiting Questionnaire

Use this workflow every time you target a new program:

Step 1 — Find the form (5 min) Go to the school's official athletics website and navigate to Baseball > Recruiting or Prospective Athletes. Most programs link directly from their baseball homepage. If you cannot find it, Google "[School Name] baseball recruiting questionnaire" — the form is almost always publicly accessible. Do NOT email coaches asking for the link; it signals you have not done basic research.

Step 2 — Gather your numbers before you sit down (10 min) Have your current GPA, test scores, 60-yard time, exit velocity, and velocity (if a pitcher) ready before you open the form. Do not estimate — pull your most recent accurate numbers. For game stats, use your travel team season numbers since coaches weigh competition level. Building accurate stats comes from consistent work; a portable batting tee at theranchsports.com and a rented radar session are the two investments that give you honest numbers — and theranchsports.com offers 10% off and no sales tax on all gear.

Step 3 — Fill out every single field (10-15 min) Complete every question on the form, including optional ones. Staffs filter their questionnaire database by grad year, position, and numbers, and a half-empty submission gives them nothing to filter on. Fields labeled "optional" are differentiation opportunities — your intended major, financial aid interest, and coach references are what move a file from the database to a coach's desk.

Step 4 — Add one clean video link (2 min) Have a single YouTube or Hudl link ready to paste. The video should be unlisted (not private), titled with your name, grad year, position, and key metrics. A coach who opens the link should know who you are within the first ten seconds. One clean link, your best available footage.

Step 5 — Submit, then email the position coach within 48 hours (10 min) After submitting the questionnaire, send a direct email to the pitching coach or position coach (not the head coach for first contact). Reference the questionnaire. list your current

top three numbers, add your video link, and name your next tournament. Three sentences is plenty. See our college coach email templates for subject lines and body copy that get replies.

Step 6 — Track it and update every 6-8 weeks (ongoing) Keep a spreadsheet: school, form submitted, email sent, response status. Set a reminder every 6-8 weeks to update your stats and follow up with any school that has not responded. Numbers improve — coaches need to know. A player who adds 3 mph between sophomore fall and junior spring has a real recruiting story to tell.

How Volume Changes Everything

From conversations with coaches at multiple levels: high-profile D1 programs receive hundreds of questionnaires per recruiting class and run initial filters by grad year, position need, and performance thresholds. A center fielder who submits at the right time, for a position the staff needs, with accurate numbers that clear their threshold gets flagged for a second look.

This is exactly why our college baseball recruiting timeline covers the specific windows to submit and follow up based on your graduation year. Timing your submissions around showcase season meaningfully improves the response rate.

The practical lesson: submit to 30-40 programs. Cast wide, then narrow your active follow-up to the 10-15 who respond or who you have the strongest interest in.

The One Mistake That Quietly Ends Recruiting Conversations

I have watched it happen to players I was personally trying to help place. They inflated a number — usually velocity or 60-yard dash — by more than a few ticks, got invited to an unofficial visit, and the coach clocked something very different in person. The conversation ended that day.

College coaches talk to each other across programs, conferences, and showcase circuits. A player who wastes a coach's time with padded numbers does not just lose that school's interest — word travels. A player who arrives and throws exactly what they put on paper, or slightly better, makes a great first impression. A player who shows up at 82 after writing "87-88" does not get a second one.

Undersell slightly if you have to. Put what you genuinely produce right now. Then do the work to make those numbers better, and let the updated questionnaire and follow-up email tell the story of your development.

Let Prospect Athlete Handle the Tracking

We know how time-consuming this process gets at scale — keeping stats updated, formatting 30+ outreach emails, tracking which schools responded, and timing follow-ups around a full practice and tournament schedule. That is exactly what our Prospect Athlete service was built for. Our coaching team works with serious prospects to manage the full recruiting communication workflow so nothing falls through when it matters most. Check out the Prospect Athlete section on this page to learn more.