**The Hawk Golf Guide to College Golf:**

*Use this guide to help you contact coaches and navigate your way through the recruiting process.*

**Step 1:**

**Do I Want to Play College Golf?**

* Consider that question carefully. Golf in college is an entirely different atmosphere than high school. Competition is hard, courses are long, and practice schedules are brutal. You will be working out at 6am, and missing 2-3 days of school per week during golf season (and expected to keep grades up, do community service, and participate in other events). It is one of the most amazing experiences to be an athlete in college, but be sure you’re up to the task. If you’re not, no worries! All college towns have a golf course that you can still play with your friends.

**Step 2:**

**Play as Many Tournaments that you Can!**

* Playing with dad is great, but doesn’t lead to college golf. You need tournament scores. More than just Wheat Montana if you’re serious about playing in college. Take a look at the AJGA and Junior PGA events. These are the events that colleges really look at. Maybe commit to playing one each year if you can. There is an AJGA Tournament in Big Sky this Fall. Other good tournaments are State Amateur tournaments, amateur qualifiers, the Big I, and MHSA State Juniors.

**Step 3:**

**Look for colleges you’re interested in**

Things to consider

* What part of the country do you enjoy?
* Do you want to be close to family?
* Do you enjoy big campuses or small?
* What do you think you may want to study?
* How much can you afford to pay for college each year?
* What is the average score for the players on the team?
* Do you have the grades to get accepted to the university?
* In this stage, add multiple schools to your list. Chances are, a few will choose other players for their roster, and you need a backup.
* What do you enjoy besides golf? Can you do that at the university?
* Look at the tournament schedule on the team’s website. What is their season length? How many tournaments do they play? Where are the tournaments held?

**Step 4:**

**Contact the Coach(s)**

* For the most part, coaches will not recruit you. You will need to recruit yourself. Montana players do not get the recognition you deserve and you should reach out to any coaches you are interested in…chances are, they do not know about you.
* Most coaches have their email on the school website. Use that to initially reach out to them. Include both the coach and the assistant coach on the email.
	+ When you reach out to them: include two documents.
	+ **Document 1**
		- Create a “golf resume.” Include many of the tournaments from the past few years. Your What Montana results are on the Wheat Montana website, and your Hawk results are on the BHS Golf Weebly site. Highlight your best performances. You may leave off a few if you need. Do not include any scores that are not tournament scores.
	+ **Document 2**
		- Create a Bio/Profile. Tell the school why you want to go there. Personalize it for each school Include your grades, hobbies, interests, etc. Let the coach get to know you as much as possible. They want more than a golfer, they need an all-around asset: somebody who demonstrates leadership, academics, and well-roundness.
	+ **Important:** Be sure everything is proofread and free of errors. If it’s not, you will have a tough time earning your position on a roster over somebody else. Recruitment is competitive. Take the extra time and do it right.
	+ **Beware:** There are a few recruiting websites online that charge money to upload your scores and biography information. For the most part, these sites are a waste of money. Rarely do college coaches use them; you are much better off emailing them directly.

**Step Five:**

**Talk to the Coaches**

Tips for Talking to Coaches:

* Do’s
	+ Always call them Coach (last name). Don’t refer to them by first name
	+ More than talent, coaches like hard work, and dedication. Be sure to highlight these aspects.
	+ After your conversation, email them and thank them for the conversation.
	+ Always respond to emails within 24 hours when possible.
* Questions to ask the Coach
	+ What does practice look like?
	+ I want to become as good as I can possibly be. How will your school help me get there?
	+ What is the team atmosphere like?
	+ Are there golf scholarships available?
	+ Can I come meet with you and the team in person?
	+ What is the application process for University like?
		- Are there academic/outside scholarships available?
	+ What do you need from me in the upcoming weeks?

**Step Six:**

* Remember…DON’T GET DISCOURAGED! You will find that many colleges have full rosters already, or they will choose to have other recruits on their team. Not every coach will offer you a position on the team – in fact, most will not. Stay positive.
* Be open. Maybe the “Dream School” said no, but there may be another school you hadn’t considered as much that ends up being the perfect fit.
* Visit the school and the team.
	+ At some point, the coach will want to meet you in person and maybe have you practice with the team.
	+ Take a tour, meet people, see the course if possible – make sure you would want to live in that community.
* Stay open to walking on. There are limited numbers of scholarships for golf. Sometimes you can earn a scholarship in your 2nd year after walking on in your first.

**Letters of Recommendation:**

Many coaches or schools will ask for a letter of recommendation or a reference. Coach Matt, Connor, and Lauren are happy to provide them.