



THE DIVISION III OPTION

Many high school student-athletes make a major mistake thinking that only Division I soccer is good and the only way to fulfill their wish to play in college. While this is understandable to a degree, it is shortsighted. Those fortunate enough to be able to play collegiate soccer should see it as something that will greatly enhance the entire college experience regardless of which division one may play. Opening your options up to Division III makes a lot of sense. Here are some action plans to assist you in opening your choices up to D-III programs:

- 1) Have D-III schools on your initial list of potential schools. Remember there are amazing academic D-III colleges and universities.
- 2) Be sure to contact D-III coaches when you are playing in a tournament. They will be automatically interested in players coming from a club like McLean.
- 3) Do some research. There are many, many more D-III programs than D-I, so there are many more schools that could be the perfect fit for you.
- 4) While D-III schools do not have athletic scholarships, most have excellent merit and need based financial aid – often better than what one may get in a scholarship offer!

Some interesting facts about D-III:

- While D-III schools do not offer any type of athletic scholarships, parents will be pleased to know that 80 percent of D-III athletes receive non-athletics aid, often in the form of grants or need-based scholarships to academically qualified athletes. Another big plus for both parents and student-athletes is that 87 percent of all D-III athletes graduate from college. Although the other two divisions are not that far behind, that's the highest percentage of any NCAA Division.
- You do not need to register for the NCAA "Clearinghouse" if you are going to play D-III sports. Each school determines your eligibility.
- One of the greatest advantages of D-III is the much lighter "off-season". If you are interested in programs such as Study Abroad, then you may have trouble doing them at a D-I program but at a D-III school it is very common. You will have the time to experience more elements of the college life overall, including other clubs and internship opportunities.
- D-III programs and coaches are just as serious about improving your game and trying to be successful. While it is not as much as D-I, it is still most certainly a big commitment.