Student-Athlete Boarding School Visit Checklist

For families evaluating academic and athletic opportunities together

A Parent's Guide by Global Education & Sports Partners (GESP)

Student-athletes are still boarding school students first. Their families need to evaluate academics, residential life, emotional well-being, and overall fit, not just sports.

Use this checklist WITH the Boarding School Campus Visit Checklist. That checklist covers academics, student life, dormitories, breaks, health and advisory support, college counseling, costs, and overall fit. This checklist adds the athletic questions that change the answer for a student-athlete.

How to use this guide: Ask these questions to the coach and to the school, not only to one or the other. Focus on what your child would realistically experience, not only on what the school offers.

Before Your Visit

School: _____

Visit date: _____

Student's sport: _____

Student's current grade: _____

Intended enrollment year: _____

Our biggest athletic question or concern:

_____

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1. Athletic Fit

Competitive level, team selection, realistic opportunities

- What level of competition does the team currently play?
- How are players evaluated and selected for teams?
- What opportunities might realistically be available for my child to compete and develop?

- A strong player at home can find themselves on the bench. The best player on a team can stop improving if no one pushes them. Where would my child realistically play, and what would they learn there?

Notes: _____

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2. Coaching

Coaching philosophy, development, individual attention

- What is the coaching staff's experience and approach to player development?
- How much individual attention do players receive, and are individual training plans available?

Notes: _____

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3. Training

Strength and conditioning, offseason development

- Is structured strength and conditioning available?
- What training is available outside the main competitive season, and what does offseason development look like?

Notes: _____

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4. Sport Specialization

Three-season requirements, year-round training

- Does the school require students to participate in sports or activities during all three seasons?
- Can students specialize in one sport year-round, and what happens if they do?

Notes: _____

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5. Academics

Missed classes, travel, assignments, tests

- How does the school support athletes who miss classes because of competitions or tournaments?
- If my child misses two or three days of classes for a tournament, what happens to their assignments, tests, and academic responsibilities?

Notes: _____

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6. Health

Injury care, recovery, sports medicine

- Are athletic trainers or sports medicine professionals available?
- What support is available for sports nutrition, recovery, and injury prevention?
- How are injured athletes supported during recovery, academically and athletically?

Notes: _____

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7. College Athletics

Recruiting guidance, eligibility, realistic pathways

- What support does the school provide for students interested in college athletics?
- How does the school help students understand NCAA eligibility and recruiting requirements?
- How has the school helped a student with goals similar to my child's prepare for college athletics?

Notes: _____

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8. Costs

Additional athletic expenses, travel, equipment

- What additional athletic expenses should families expect, including travel, equipment, and specialized training?
- Can students participate in outside clubs, private training, or showcases, and are there additional costs?

Notes: _____

After the Visit: Athletic Fit

- Where would my child realistically play in the first year?
- What would my child's typical weekly training schedule look like?
- What is the one athletic concern that could change our decision?

Our overall athletic impression: [ ] Strong potential fit [ ] Promising, more information needed [ ] Significant concerns [ ] Not the right fit

Our next step: _____

Global Education & Sports Partners (GESP)

GESP helps domestic and international families explore U.S. boarding school options based on each student's academic needs, athletic interests, personal goals, and family budget.

Take the GESP Boarding School Assessment at gespeducation.com/assessment.

www.gespeducation.com