

Letters From College Coaches— Reading Between the Lines

So...finally...you are receiving recruiting mail! Are the letters unsolicited? Are they in response to a letter that you have written? What do the letters mean? Below are some excerpts from coaches' letters with a short comment on what the coach is really saying. Realize that, although these comments are taken from actual letters, the sentence structure has been condensed to emphasize the most important points and altered to eliminate references to specific colleges or sports.

Message One

Dear Liza,

We have watched you compete several times over the last year and are very impressed with your performance. We have spoken to your coach and he has emphasized your skill and dedication. It is obvious to us that you are a player who makes an impact. You are among a small group of select athletes that we would like to continue evaluating for a possible athletic scholarship.

This is the letter all parents and student-athletes dream of getting. It is uncommon. Any time that athletic money is mentioned, the interest is very serious. The coach has actually seen you compete and, at this time, he/she is very interested. If you do receive such a letter, contact the coach and assure him/her of your interest. If you do not have any interest, let him/her know immediately so that you can both get on with the recruiting process.

Message Two

Dear Liza,

You have been identified by our staff as one of the top junior recruits this year. We enjoyed watching you compete in San Diego. With the graduation of eleven seniors from this year's team, we are interested in and in need of bright young athletes to carry on our tradition of excellence. Please fill in the enclosed player profile as completely as possible. We look forward to seeing you compete again.

You have actually been seen by someone on the coaching staff. No mention of athletic scholarship money, but it may be a possibility. Be sure to fill out the player profile immediately and send it back. Keep the coaching staff updated on your schedule. If you are interested in the college, find out if any of the staff might be working at a summer athletic camp where they could evaluate you in more depth.

Message Three

Dear Liza,

You have been identified to us as an athlete that would have the potential to contribute to our college program. We are interested in the possibility of your becoming a student-athlete at our school. If you are interested in being evaluated by our staff, please complete the enclosed resume and send us your competition schedule so that we can arrange to evaluate you.

Someone that they trust has personally recommended you or your athletic accomplishments are documented and they are willing to give you a serious evaluation. They think you have potential. If you are interested, return the profile and update them about your schedule. The potential for scholarship money is unclear. But, some type of financial aid can't be ruled out. A lot depends on the future evaluations.

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Collegeinfo

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