



objectifs 2021

**Fixez les objectifs avec votre junior
- Et le tennis universitaire?**

version française

**Goal-setting with your junior player
- What about college tennis?**

english version



leysin
TENNIS

Goal-setting

When goal-setting with our juniors, we see a common trend. The 10&U and 12&U players dream to become professional tennis players and more specifically, world champion, or at least club champion. Once they become 14&U and 16&U players, we find their goals become more specific and short-term, such as achieving ranking X or beating player Y.



Some players will maintain the goal to become a professional player; however, tennis is one of the most difficult sports for progressing to the professional level. One of the most common reasons for failure is the lack of funding. Additionally, academics in Switzerland are demanding and sport-study programs are limited. We find many players, girls in particular, give up competitive tennis by age 16, partly because they did not have a realistic goal to keep them motivated.

As a team of coaches and professionals dedicated to developing junior tennis players, we are surprised that college tennis is rarely mentioned to players in these goal-setting sessions. Colleges in the United States offer student athletes a unique opportunity to continue developing their tennis while obtaining a university degree. College tennis can be a path to professional tennis or a great foundation for a successful career after gaining an accredited University degree, English proficiency, and an international network of friends and contacts.

College tennis takes a team approach. If the player loves the interclub season, then he or she will love the comradery of college tennis, playing singles and doubles for their University against other colleges. In addition to talented coaches, the player has access to top class facilities including physiotherapy, weight rooms, strength and conditioning coaches, training gear with your University logo and more. All travel related to competition is covered by the university.



In the USA there are almost 1150 universities that offer a Tennis program and therefore college tennis can be played at almost all levels. To review the level of a player for consideration for a spot in the team, college coaches use the Universal Tennis Rating ("UTR"). UTR is a global rating system intended to produce an objective, consistent, and accurate index of the player's skill in the game of tennis.



Scholarships

Keeping in mind that all the tennis expenses (coaching, facilities, team travel, equipment) are covered by the University, the costs of studying in the US can still be high. The good news is that student athletes often qualify for scholarships. Depending on your tennis and academic level, the player can receive financial assistance and even a full scholarship that covers all tuition, rent, living expenses and sometimes attractive pocket money.

There are different types of scholarships: sports scholarships (tennis scholarships), academic scholarships (based on grades and standardised test scores) and international scholarships. It is also possible to get a combination of the different scholarships.



Eligibility

In order to be eligible to play college tennis a player must meet the specific NCAA/NAIA eligibility requirements, much of which center on the player's academic background (if they meet the core course requirements). Given that Switzerland's academic options vary from canton to canton, and that students often choose a path at an early age, for instance "matura" or an apprenticeship or "école de commerce", it is important that players and their parents know the implications of these decisions on their eligibility to play college tennis in the US, and the University options (for example, Division 1 or Division 2 University, Community College etc.)

English Level

In Switzerland, the high english level in school gives many Swiss athletes a good language base. All athletes will need to take an exam to test their level of english (TOEFL). With the exception of Junior Colleges, the player will also need to take a college placement exam in english (SAT or ACT). Each University will have their own test score requirements for acceptance, or to qualify for an academic scholarship. Obviously, the better the english level, the easier the integration and the more options for players looking for a University with a high academic ranking.

At the same time, players that are not comfortable with their current english level should not be deterred. English immersion is the best way to learn a language and the university will have options for extra language assistance.



Learn More

We invite coaches, parents and players that are passionate about tennis, regardless of their ranking, to contact us to learn more about opportunities for college tennis in the United States. It might be just what the player needs to hear to stay motivated, keep training and focus on improving.

Leysin Tennis teams with college recruiting agency Made Scholarships. Their goal is to provide international student-athletes the opportunity to have a unique and valuable college experience in the United States.

We are here to support you in the process and to reach your goals. Leysin Tennis Directrice, **Christine Suard**, and Made Scholarships founder, **Dennis den Boer** both played college tennis, and thank the rewarding experience for the life and career opportunities they enjoy today.



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