

# Surf Cup & West Coast College Tour 2026

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### 1. What is the Surf Cup & West Coast College Tour?

The **Surf Cup & West Coast College Tour 2026** is a 10-day U.S. exposure experience designed for players who are serious about pursuing opportunities within the American college soccer system. The program combines a **West Coast university tour, training sessions, competitive matches against U.S. teams, and participation in the prestigious Surf Cup tournament**. This format allows players to both **experience the academic side of college life and compete in front of coaches and scouts in meaningful match environments**.

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### 2. When does the tour take place?

The tour runs from **19th – 28th July 2026** and includes time across **Los Angeles and San Diego**, two of the most important regions for college soccer recruiting on the U.S. West Coast.

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### 3. Who is this tour designed for?

The program is designed for **ambitious players who are interested in pursuing college soccer in the United States** and want to gain exposure while learning more about the student-athlete pathway. It is particularly beneficial for players approaching key recruiting years who want to showcase their ability in front of coaches and gain a better understanding of how the college system works.

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### 4. What is the West Coast College Tour portion?

The tour begins with a **West Coast college immersion experience**, where players will visit **10+ universities between Los Angeles and San Diego**. During these visits players will:

- Tour campus facilities and athletic complexes
- Meet **college coaches, admissions representatives, and current student-athletes**



- Learn about academic expectations and recruitment pathways
- Experience firsthand what life as a **U.S. college student-athlete** is like

This portion of the tour helps players and families better understand the **differences between NCAA divisions, academic requirements, and scholarship opportunities**.

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## 5. Will players compete in matches during the tour?

Yes. During the college tour portion, players will take part in **competitive fixtures against U.S. universities and club teams**. These matches allow players to:

- Experience the **speed and physicality of the U.S. college game**
  - Compete in front of invited coaches and scouts
  - Demonstrate their ability in real match conditions
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## 6. What is the Surf Cup tournament?

The **Surf Cup** is one of the **top three youth recruiting tournaments in the United States**, attracting **over 100 college coaches and scouts** each year. The tournament provides a highly competitive environment where coaches prefer to evaluate players **in full match situations rather than isolated training sessions**.

Competing in Surf Cup allows players to perform in front of coaches while representing a **carefully selected international touring squad**.

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## 7. Who coaches the team during the tour?

The team will be **coached by an NCAA college coach**, providing players with direct insight into:

- College coaching expectations
- Tactical and technical standards at the collegiate level



- What coaches look for when recruiting players

This coaching environment also allows players to **receive feedback and guidance directly from someone involved in the recruitment process.**

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## 8. Will matches be filmed?

Yes. **All tournament matches are professionally filmed**, giving players high-quality footage that can be used for:

- Highlight videos
- Recruitment emails to coaches
- Personal performance review

This footage becomes a valuable tool when contacting college programs after the tour.

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## 9. How many players are selected for the squad?

Squads are **limited to approximately 16 players** to ensure a balanced team and meaningful playing opportunities for each participant. Players are selected based on **football ability, positional needs, and overall squad balance.**

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## 10. How are players selected?

Players are invited or selected through a **vetting process** that includes:

- Coach or school referrals
- Video analysis and highlight footage
- Academy or club background
- Previous participation in our programs



Our aim is to build a **competitive team capable of performing well at Surf Cup**, which ultimately benefits every player's exposure.

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## 11. What preparation is provided before the tour?

Before travelling, players will participate in **pre-tour recruitment seminars** delivered online. These sessions cover:

- The **U.S. soccer recruiting timeline**
- How to **contact and communicate with college coaches**
- **Scholarship structures and NCAA regulations**
- An overview of the **U.S. university admissions process**

These sessions help players maximise the opportunities available during the tour.

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## 12. What are the main benefits of attending this tour?

Players gain several key advantages, including:

- Exposure to **100+ college coaches** at Surf Cup
- Firsthand experience of **U.S. college campuses**
- Competitive matches against **American teams**
- Professional **game footage for recruiting purposes**
- Insight into the **academic and athletic college pathway**
- Guidance from **NCAA coaching staff**

The program is designed to help players **develop both academically and athletically while positioning themselves for recruitment opportunities.**

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### 13. Can attending the tour lead to scholarship opportunities?

While scholarships are never guaranteed, the tour provides **credible exposure in environments where college coaches actively scout talent**. Many players use the tour as a platform to:

- Start conversations with coaches
- Build relationships with programs
- Showcase their ability in competitive matches

These connections can ultimately lead to **recruitment interest, admissions opportunities, and potential scholarship discussions**.

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### 14. What makes this tour different from standard soccer trips?

Unlike standard tours, this experience is **designed specifically around the college recruitment pathway**. The combination of:

- Campus visits
- Competitive fixtures
- A major recruiting tournament
- Coach interaction
- Recruitment education

creates a **complete pathway experience** rather than just a travel tournament.

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### 15. How can players register their interest?

Players interested in participating must **submit their player profile for consideration**, after which selections are made based on **playing ability, positional needs, and squad balance**.

Due to the competitive nature of the event and the limited squad size, **places are allocated on a rolling basis**.

