



**NCAA DI Legislation
Fastpitch Softball Early Recruiting Summary
December 2017**

The Problem: Early recruiting is a problem in softball – verbal commitments are happening as early as 7th grade. This is not good for the Prospective Student Athletes (PSAs), the coaches or the sport of softball. We need to do something.

NCAA Legislation is the only way to fix this problem.

The Solution: Coaches want change. No one thinks early recruiting is a good thing, but coaches are doing it to be competitive. Coaches want a **clear rule** that will stop early recruiting.

We recognize the work the Student Athlete Experience Committee (SAEC) has done on the issue of early recruiting (2017-112 & 113); however, there are two issues:

- 1) Incoming phone calls are not included
- 2) The date, sophomore year, is still relatively early

September 1 of junior year is a piece of legislation that passed this spring – that is what we want. (2017-1, lacrosse)

- We believe in lining up all recruiting contact to ONE DATE
- This legislation closes all loopholes by including all forms of recruiting contact: Incoming/outgoing, phone calls, correspondence, on campus/off campus visits.
- September 1 of junior year allows the recruiting process to start when PSAs are older, academically and emotionally ready to consider their college decision – a BIG decision, life-changing, they should at least be 16 yrs. old (not 12 or 13).
- Also, these PSAs will visit and meet current SAs with whom they will actually play if they choose this school.
- This also allows both coaches and PSAs to have more time and more information (2 years of high school & summer ball) to make this important decision.

⇒ We prefer this model of ALL recruiting contact beginning on **Sept. 1 of junior year** (lacrosse legislation) over current SAEC proposals.

NATIONAL FASTPITCH COACHES ASSOCIATION



The Plan: Coming out of our 2017 NFCA Convention, we have consensus and want to move forward for the betterment of our sport.

- 1) We are surveying our DI coaches to capture the vote in writing. At the DI Caucus at the Convention, the straw poll in favor of the lacrosse model was **200-3**.
- 2) We are working on communications to the SAEC and NCAA DI Council that asks for this change.
- 3) We are asking that it be made **effective immediately**.
 - This is ***critically important***. For this proposal to start off on the right foot out of the gate, we need it to begin BEFORE the summer recruiting season.
 - If not, this summer will be a recruiting feeding frenzy, as coaches try to secure commitments before the new rule.
 - Other sports have requested for an immediate effective date before (football asked last year for legislation to be made retroactive).
- 4) We have plans to educate the fastpitch softball community, so as to reset the whole culture and practice of recruiting.

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