

EARLY RECRUITING

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Background

Current recruiting rules prohibit college coaches from contacting prospective student-athletes (PSAs) prior to their junior year. However, PSAs and college coaches circumvent these rules by coordinating phone calls from the PSA to the college coach, having the PSA make unofficial visits, or attending a camp on the institution's campus. During the 2016 legislative cycle, more than 30 different proposals calling for major changes to the recruiting process hit the NCAA's desk, including NFCA supported proposals. The NCAA tabled all but one recruiting proposal in an effort to streamline legislation. The Lacrosse proposal of no contact of any kind prior to Sept. 1 of the junior year was implemented immediately as a "pilot program". Fast forward one year and **the recruiting landscape has continued to accelerate**. At least 45 girls in junior high (or younger) have made verbal commitments to a college program and those are just the ones we know about!

How to "Fix" the Problem

Currently the NCAA solution is known as the "Student-Athlete Experience Committee" Proposal. This proposal would make it impermissible to meet with a coach during an unofficial visit on campus prior to September 1 of the junior year and it will also be impermissible to have recruiting conversations while attending an institutional camp prior to September 1 of the junior year.

While the NFCA applauds the efforts of the NCAA on this front, **by continuing to allow incoming phone calls from the PSA to the college coach, the belief among more than 80% of DI softball coaches is that nothing will change**. College coaches and travel / high school coaches, as well as parents will continue to push very young student-athletes into calling coaches, going on visits (now without meeting the softball staff) and create pressure for these kids to make a decision on their college choice all before entering high school **DI softball coaches voted overwhelmingly to join the more restrictive legislation moved forward by lacrosse a year ago** as they believe it is the only way to truly take a stand against early recruiting. Without closing the incoming phone call loophole nothing will change.

ALL CONTACT, ONE DATE #SEPT1JRYR #LETTHEMBEKIDS



DID YOU KNOW?

- Nearly 50% of Division I softball athletes received a scholarship offer during or prior to 10th grade.
- **Softball leads all Division I sports in the number of student-athletes who commit to a college in or before 9th grade.**
- Nearly 40% of Division I commitments are occurring prior to or during the 10th grade.
- **38% of softball student-athletes who made a verbal commitment prior to or during their sophomore year are no longer enrolled at that institution.**
- 42% of student-athletes who make a commitment prior to or during the 10th grade report the head coach the committed to left prior to their enrollment
- **A staggering 60% of student-athletes had "no idea" of an academic major at their time of commitment.**

GET MORE INFORMATION

Visit the Early Recruiting Action Center at NFCA.org for more information and to sign the petition.