



The National High School Basketball Coaches Association is the National Voice of Action for High School Basketball Coaches

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION

POSITION PAPER

A. Title/Topic:

Eliminating the three summer contact periods of high school student-athletes.

B. Suggested Stance/Position for NHSBCA:

The NHSBCA is against summer recruiting and would like to see it be an evaluation period only but non-contact and hands off. Contact periods to be during fall (for seniors only) and high school seasons and spring (all underclassmen).

C. Brief Background

Over the years, the summer recruiting period has seen a significant increase in the amount of non-scholastic teams that play during the off-season with the goal of getting their athletes to be seen as much as possible during the summer recruiting period. The NHSBCA would like to see this curtailed in some shape and by eliminating the contact time during the summer this would then have more of the communication and recruiting from collegiate coaches directed back to the high school basketball coaches.

D. Rationale, other information

The NHSBCA would like to see the recruiting of high school basketball players be more emphasized during the regular high school basketball season than the summer (July). As current and retired high school coaches comprise the NHSBCA membership, we would like to see the NCAA lessen the amount of actual contact time during the summer and have the full open contact periods during the fall for high school senior's and spring for underclassmen. The rationale behind this stance is based off a multitude of factors. College coaches when communicating with high school coaches are regularly going to be in touch with reputable coaches who have gone through background checks and professional development while also being held accountable by administrators and athletic directors that they are expected to be forthright and honest with student-athletes and their families. Non-scholastic coaches are not always held to these standards and come very varying backgrounds. Additionally, families are charged extraordinary amounts of money for participation on these elite teams, and people of questionable character are making money off families for false promises during the recruiting period in order to get the almighty dollar. If the main recruiting communication window is during the high school season, college coaches can have the opportunity to communicate and evaluate these student athletes within their own basketball programs system and with their long-time coaches. During this time there is greater emphasis on teamwork and accountability for their actions and behaviors. Further, even if the overall talent during high school games is not that of upper level AAU games, the fact that planning, scouting and strategizing is emphasized, while the stakes are higher in pressure situations, college coaches would get to see how these athletes respond in these pressure situations similar to what they will face in college. If summer recruiting is ended modified then young people will also benefit by spending less time having to deal with college coaches constantly or communicating with them year-round and shift it back to high school coaches during shorter windows of time where this can happen. College football has already scaled back their recruiting windows and since the NCAA has had open conversations about this why have they not done this for basketball also?

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