



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:

The Use of Recruiting Service Ranking of players prior to entrance into high school

B. Suggested Stance/Position for NHSBCA

C. Brief Background

For many years high school players have been ranked by national recruiting services based on their projections of success and ability at the collegiate level. Over the past several years these rankings have included national rankings of players as young as the third grade, perhaps even younger.

D. Rationale, other information

The National High School Basketball Coaches Association is against the national ranking of youth basketball players prior to players entering high school. The reasoning for this position is based upon multiple factors. First, the ranking of players at younger ages is very difficult and a very inexact science. It is very difficult predicting future success for younger players based on the natural maturation of a player, attitudes, dedication, character of the player as well as many other factors. Secondly, there is not a governing body that oversees the ranking of youth players. Anyone may create a website with little to no qualifications and begin ranking players. There is no organization to oversee the people in charge of the rankings, to consider the source of the rankings, and/or to determine how those creating the rankings may benefit personally by ranking certain players over others, as well as any money rankers may receive for their list of ranked players. With no oversight organization the validity of the ranking of young players (before high school especially) is in jeopardy. With the validity in jeopardy why rank players? Finally, the ranking of youth players puts unneeded pressure on those players who are ranked and also on those players who feel they are good enough to be ranked, but aren't ranked. At younger ages this is not a healthy situation. Often players ranked highly at younger ages attracted the attention of people looking to profit off of the young players abilities or to simply be close to this player. This is a potentially dangerous situation that should be avoided at all costs if possible, especially before entering high school. For players not ranked, they may question if the hard work they are putting in is really worth it. The rankings may also lead players who are both ranked and unranked (especially those below high school age) to become more selfish players, simply because of a ranking. Unranked players wanting to become ranked and ranked players may feel pressure to promote their own game to maintain or improve their ranking. This selfishness only hurts our game and the development of the players unnecessarily at underdeveloped ages. It puts unneeded and often unwanted pressure on young people who aren't developed fully mentally.

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