

## OVERALL REPORT — RECRUITING CALENDAR

*The following discussion will be reviewed by NCAA Division I coaches.*

### ***General Discussion:***

- Intent is to review new legislation each year. Basic premise for legislation was discussed. 1, 2
- Most coaches said they did more recruiting this fall than ever before. 2
- The intent was four weekends and now it is Wednesday through Sunday for four weeks. 1
- The most obvious effect has been on the size of the tournaments and the inability of college coaches to cover those tournaments. 2
- Do we need to reconsider this piece of legislation? Most people felt that we need to let it run its course through the next year. The 45-day window for practice next fall should help the practice situation on campuses if it passes. 2, 3, 5, 6
- We all want to make sure that we do not lose credibility with the NCAA. One coach had a conversation with their compliance office on campus and said that it is common for coaches' groups to change their mind about recruiting calendars. 2
- This hottest of all hot topics generated the most debate and discussion. The only agreement was that there would never be 100 percent agreement on a calendar by all coaches. An explanation of the HCC process that produced the change in the calendar was presented to the group. Opinions were mixed ranging from why we have a recruiting calendar at all, to others that stated they appreciated having the extra time with their teams in the fall and that they thought limiting the fall would place more emphasis on recruiting in the summer – how it used to be. It was noted that the change in the fall calendar did produce some unintended effects that were not originally anticipated. General consensus was that we have not had enough time to evaluate the calendar and that reacting after only one fall would be shortsighted and not favorably viewed by the NCAA. 4

- Much discussion on budget issues and differences between colleges. 6

***General Discussion/Negative:***

- Most coaches felt that there have been more negative effects than positive ones. Many felt this was an attempt to limit the number of games that prospects played and this did not happen. 2
- What if you miss your one opportunity to see a certain athlete due to weather? 1, 5
- For schools on quarter system or that start school later, it is too hard in middle of season to recruit and have a season. 1, 2, 3
- From a recruit standpoint: 1, 2, 4, 6
  - Complaints that they are not getting the exposure they used to get after the early signing period.
  - ACT/SAT testing time, and they are missing classes.
  - Less chance to be seen because tournaments are too large.
- Many coaches expressed concerns that it affected practice time with their own teams, negatively affected official visits and unofficials visits during that time. 2
- Difficulty getting recruits to come to campus for official visits. (Particularly for schools that start classes late in September or are on a quarter academic system). 4
- Start-up programs and those programs with late coaching changes are placed at a disadvantage. 4

***General Discussion/Positive:***

- Some of the freshmen and sophomores in college have stated that they would have liked to have had this in place when they were playing to relieve some pressure of playing every weekend. 1
- One coach commented that he did receive a call from a prospect thanking him for the four-week 2

window because it allowed that individual to be involved in more HS activities.

- Other positive that was discussed; once that 4<sup>th</sup> weekend happened, it was over. 2

***Suggestions/Areas of Further Exploration:***

- Break the four weekends up. 1
- There is a limit of 50 evaluation days; go back to old way. In Group 2, it seemed like the majority of people felt that coaches were talking out of both sides of their mouths. On one hand, coaches want to limit when they can be out. Yet, on the other hand, coaches want to increase the number of times they can be out. 1, 2, 5, 6
- Try to designate some weekends for exposure camps. 1
- Allowing three coaches to recruit. In a straw poll, in Group 1, it was 60/40 in favor of the three. In Group 2, they also discussed the possibility of three coaches on the road. It was clarified to everyone that this issue is a multipart issue, not just a softball issue. In order for softball to get this type of legislation passed, other sports need to get on board. There is fear that three coaches on the road would continue to help make the rich richer and keep the smaller schools down. It was also pointed out that by allowing three coaches on the road, it may help some of the schools who do not have three full time coaches get more paid positions. Group 4 said this should be looked at because the tournaments have grown. 1, 2, 4, 6
- The idea of eliminating fall recruiting totally was discussed in Group 2 as well. In Group 3, there was much favor for this. Let kids play other sports in high school. Quality of life for both athlete and coaches. College coaches would have more time to be with their own teams. Recruiting only allowed for high school and summer travel ball. Had pretty good feedback across many programs both large and small. In Group 5, there were proposals to recruit just June through August and January through August. 2, 3, 5, 6

- Let coaches pick which four weeks to work out of eight-week fall window. 3
- Reword the fall calendar so that evaluations can only take place on Saturday and Sunday. This might help with limiting travel during the week. 4
- Four weekends in a row proved to be difficult for prospects with regard to missing school. A possible solution of redistributing the four weekends to spread them out over the course of the fall was mentioned. This could also help the ACT/SAT conflict. 4
- Actual check-in for coaches at tournaments to keep track of their recruiting dates. 5