

Minutes from Hot Topic Early Verbal Discussion

2008 NFCA National Convention

December 11, 2008

Comments

- How do prospects get personal invitation?
- Process will continue to go earlier and earlier
- Does impact budgets for institutions.
- Regulation vs. de-regulation; issues with both
- Travel ball coaches becoming “agents”
- Without regulation, it is becoming “rat race”; we cannot control it ourselves.

Pros of Early Commitments

- Mid-major schools are getting better athletes because of players who were overlooked by larger schools
- Allows institutions not to waste money or time on student-athletes who already know that they are going to be at a certain institution.
- Transfers help smaller schools.
- More initiative from student-athletes to go see schools they have interest in, at no cost to institutions
- Unofficial visits help relieve the financial burden of smaller schools that don't have large budgets.
- With early commitments, prospects are much less likely to take all five official visits.

Cons of Early Commitments

- Welfare of prospective student-athletes:
 - A. Financial burden on student-athlete family
 - B. Bad recruiting experience and pressure to commit early
 - C. Student-athletes may play on certain travel team in order to get more fall exposure, thus missing school for fall tournaments
 - D. Socio-economic inequity to visit institutions, which affects some families.
- Academic and athletic evaluations is much more limited.
- Red-shirt dollars are lost for current student-athletes (medical redshirt).
- Coaching changes (have years of players that may not work for direction of program)
- Transferring and de-committing.
- Soft verbals, going back on commitments.
- Having to communicate with parents more, due to maturity level of prospect.

Proposed Solutions

- Allow five official visits within high school time frame, not just senior year.
- Add legislation to not allow any communication with travel ball coaches to slow down process.
- Look at recruiting calendar to see how it impacts early commitments.
- No off-campus fall recruiting; could take pressure off players to commit early, and it could change the culture of early commitments.
- No regulation and let the cycle take its course.
- Move up contact period with prospects so coaches can actually know whom they are recruiting.
- Have only recruiting camps and combines in the fall.
- HCC create task force for long-term solutions (e.g., recruiting subcommittee).