

Minutes from Hot Topic Recruiting Calendar Discussion

2008 NFCA National Convention

December 11, 2008

General Comments

The Hot Topic Recruiting group felt (quite overwhelmingly) that the present recruiting calendar was not working the way we had intended and had created even more pressure in recruiting — a crazier, busier period for the coaches, and the players.

- The Big East Conference coaches felt that we should go back to a 50-day only recruiting calendar so that everyone could utilize their time as best needed.
 - Proponents of this want to use their time and money as they see fit for their individual program, not be tied to a "period of time" to get their work done. They felt this would improve their ability to be with family, etc.
 - The opponents of this believe that the unlimited tournament structure, with tournaments/showcases going on year round, still creates a "culture" in recruiting that is driving the entire population. faced several roadblocks in moving forward. The NCAA does not want to get into bat testing business, plus the speed of the game was not shared.

Early Commitments

Early commitments have become of high concern, and the culture itself becoming “less competitive” and money driven. Also, it has caused us as college coaches to be much more “recruiters,” i.e. "hustlers," and we focus less on teaching and coaching the sport.

The proponents of maintaining a calendar recognize that we may need to look at changing the structure, but maintain that we need some order and structure within the 50 days.

Moving Forward

All seemed to agree that we need develop a vision of what recruiting should look like down the road, and then make some recommendations to moving forward, as opposed to continually making small rule-change fixes. It was suggested that an HCC subcommittee be developed to focus on recruiting, since recruiting is continually a topic that is ever-changing, and will always be one of the major issues that coaches deal with in college athletics. In the future, the group may decide to recommend creation of a standing committee, which is a bylaw change in the NFCA bylaws, with elected representatives (possibly two or three year terms). The subcommittee would be able to focus solely on recruiting, looking at what other sports are doing, for instance. The general feeling was that softball coaches needed to realize that this is the dominant issue in college athletics and treat it as such.