



To: NJSIAA Advisory Committee
From: Paul Popadiuk, Chief Compliance Officer
Date: November 30, 2022
RE: NJSIAA New Athletic Recruitment Proposal

NJSIAA staff proposes the following amendments to the Athletic Recruitment rule in the NJSIAA Bylaws as it believes it aligns with the direction of the new transfer proposal and is in the best interests of all NJSIAA-member schools. This proposal removes any violations for recruiting student-athletes prior to entering high school.

D. Athletic Recruitment – ~~Athletic Recruitment is prohibited.~~ This subsection prohibits the recruiting of high school students. For the purposes of this subsection, a student becomes a “high school student” on the first day the student attends ninth grade, or the first day the student attends fall sports practice prior to the student’s ninth grade year, whichever is earlier.

1. Athletic recruitment is contrary to the purposes and objectives of high school sports. Prohibiting athletic recruitment helps to keep athletics in its proper place and subordinate to academics; protects student-athletes from those having interests that might not be consistent with the interests of the student-athletes; and maintains competitive equity on a level playing field among member schools.
2. Athletic recruitment is defined as any effort to, proselytize, pressure, urge or entice a student to ~~enroll in or~~ transfer to a school for athletic purposes. It is a violation for a member school to engage in athletic recruitment or for a student-athlete to ~~enroll in or~~ transfer to a school as a result of athletic recruitment. Athletic recruitment includes, but is not limited to:
 1. Using mail, letters, brochures, or news media to compare high schools and to solely point out the athletic assets of the sender;
 2. Engaging in proselytizing interviews or communications, initiated by school personnel or associates;

3. Offering athletic scholarships, free tuition or other monetary assistance, either from the school directly or indirectly through some affiliated body or individual, to induce a student to attend the school for athletic reasons.
3. A member school shall be responsible for athletic recruitment by anyone associated with the school or acting at the direction of the school, including but not limited to administration, staff, coaches, students, parents, booster clubs, or any organization having a connection with the school.
4. Any evidence of recruiting by a member school shall subject the school to a hearing before the Controversies Committee. A school that is found to have violated the athletic recruitment rule shall be subject to the penalties set forth in Art. X
5. Any evidence of a student-athlete enrolling in or transferring to a school as a result of athletic recruitment shall subject the student-athlete to a prompt determination of eligibility by the Eligibility Appeals Committee. A student-athlete who is found to have violated the athletic recruitment rule shall be subject to a one-year period of ineligibility in all sports, except that the student-athlete may return to his/her original school without penalty.