

BALLOT PROPOSAL NO. 1
Proposal to Amend the Athletic Recruitment Rule

NJSIAA staff has proposed amending the Athletic Recruitment Rule to remove violations for recruiting student-athletes prior to their entering high school, remove potential penalties against the student-athletes, and add language stating that evidence that a student has moved to a residence provided by a person associated with the school shall be considered prima facie evidence of recruiting.

The Advisory Committee and the Executive Committee have endorsed this proposal.

This proposal requires a majority vote of the membership at the Annual Meeting, based on the total number of ballots cast at the Annual Meeting.

BYLAW CHANGE

(Additions to the current Bylaws are shown underlined; deletions are ~~struck through~~.)

NJSIAA Bylaws, Article V, Section 4.D, “Athletic Recruitment,” (*Handbook* pages 39-40) shall be amended as follows:

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:
 - a. Using mail, letters, brochures, or news media to compare high schools and to solely point out the athletic assets of the sender;
 - b. Engaging in proselytizing interviews or communications, initiated by school personnel or associates;

- c. 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.~~
5. Any evidence that a student has moved to a residence associated with, leased, or provided 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, shall be considered prima facie evidence of recruiting.