



## Memorandum

**To:** State Association Executive Directors/Commissioners

**From:** Karissa Niehoff, Executive Director

**Subject:** Information Regarding NCAA Basketball Changes

**Date:** August 16, 2018

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As you know, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Board of Governors and the Division I Board of Directors are implementing new changes in college basketball specific to Division I Men's Programs. On August 8, the NCAA released those changes.

In a previous memo, we noted that we are in the process of summarizing the pertinent issues and specifics regarding those changes, and that we would be communicating those to you as soon as possible. Attached please find a summary of the proposed changes as well as the new Division I Men's Basketball Recruiting Calendar. As the summary is quite lengthy, we are providing the following information that focuses on the priority issues facing high schools and state associations.

The changes are outlined in six major categories:

- *Flexibility for Going Pro and Getting a Degree*
- *Minimizing Harmful Outside Influences*
- More Efficient Binding Enforcement System
- Stronger Accountability, Penalties
- Independent Investigators and Decision-makers
- Adding Public Voices

While the changes described in each of the six categories are important, many pertain primarily to professional and collegiate level experiences. Most relevant to high schools are the changes in the two italicized areas. As you read through those particular changes (page two) we ask that you pay special attention to items 1B and 2B.

Please know that we are pursuing numerous points that we feel require clarification. More information will be forthcoming. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us. In addition,

we would encourage you to be prepared for a thorough discussion regarding these rules changes at our upcoming Section Meetings.

For more information, you can access: [ncaa.org/commitment](http://ncaa.org/commitment)

## **1. Flexibility for Going Pro and Getting a Degree**

Basketball student-athletes have more freedom and flexibility to decide about going pro or getting a college education. Among the changes regarding that are:

### **A) More chances to visit colleges during and after high school**

Basketball student-athletes can make more frequent campus visits that are paid for by colleges (referred to as “official visits”). They can begin as soon as August 1 the summer before their junior year in high school. They can take:

- Five visits between August 1 and the end of their junior year of high school.
- Five visits between the end of their junior year and October 15 after high school graduation.
- Five visits between October 15 after high school graduation and the remainder of their college eligibility.

These rules are effective August 15, 2018.

### **B) Agent representation for high school students**

Pending a decision by the National Basketball Association (NBA) and National Basketball Players Association (NBPA), high school basketball players can be represented by an agent beginning July 1 before their senior year in high school, provided they have been identified as “elite” senior prospects by USA Basketball.

**IMPORTANT:** The effective date will be decided if/when the NBA and the NBPA permit high school students to enter the draft. And, only those identified as “elite” by USA Basketball will be eligible to obtain an agent.

### **C) Agents can pay for expenses**

Agents can pay for meals and transportation of players and their families if the expenses are related to the agent selection process. Also, the student cannot miss class, and the money must be spent where the student lives or attends school. Additionally, high school and college student-athletes and their families can have meals, transportation and lodging paid for by an agent if those expenses are associated with meetings with the agent of a pro team.

## **D) Agent agreements**

All agreements between agents and high school or college student-athletes must be:

- In writing.
- Terminated when the student enrolls in or returns to college.
- Disclosed to the NCAA (for high school students) or the school (for students already in college).

## **E) Agent certification**

To work with a high school or college athlete, agents must be certified by an NCAA program with standards for behavior and consequences for violations.

The deadline for agents to become certified is undetermined, but will be no later than August 1, 2020. Until then, NBPA-certified agents will be considered to be NCAA-certified.

## **2. Minimizing harmful outside influences**

### **A) Certification of youth basketball events**

(Non-scholastic) Basketball-related events for high school students will be subject to more rigorous certification requirements to ensure transparency in operations and finances.

### **B) Recruiting changes**

The recruiting calendar, which creates more restrictions around non-scholastic events, will allow coaches to attend additional high school-sponsored events. The new rules add four-day recruiting periods (Monday through Thursday) in April.

College coaches will be allowed to attend and evaluate recruits at the National Basketball Players Association Top 100 Camp in mid-June.

Also in June, college coaches will be able to attend events during the last two weekends in June if the events are approved by the National Federation of State High School Associations; organized by groups affiliated with high schools or high school coaching associations; and occur at middle schools, high schools or colleges.

Coaches also can attend one weekend youth basketball (non-scholastic) event in early July.

And, attend NCAA youth development camps in late July – a new collaboration among the NCAA, USA Basketball, the NBA and the NBPA.

These new rules are effective April 1, 2019.