
Men's Basketball Recruiting Rules & Calendar

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2018-19 NCAA Basketball Recruiting Rules and Calendar

Student-athletes possess an extraordinary, lifelong passion for the game of basketball. For many, the ultimate goal of competing at the college level begins at an early age. Players, parents, and coaches all fight to remain one step ahead of the pack. Though each and every recruitment scenario is unique to its own, it is crucial to understand all of the NCAA basketball recruiting rules and be aware of the NCAA basketball recruiting calendar.

So when can student-athletes expect to hear from interested programs? The date varies at each level. Division 1 and D2 coaches can make initial contact, aside from general promotional materials, on June 15th prior to the recruit's junior year of high school. D3, National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) coaches have no restrictions on how early they can contact recruits.

The NCAA basketball recruiting rules and calendar outlines when - and how - coaches can proactively begin the recruiting process. These regulations are set in stone to protect elite athletes from the overwhelming amount of communication by college coaches, and creating an even playing field for all institutions.

Insider tip: The NCAA basketball recruiting rules and recruiting calendar is designed with college coaches in mind. There are no regulations against student-athletes contacting coaches prior to the recruiting calendar's defined start date, so long as the recruit is the one initiating the contact.

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What you need to know about the college basketball recruiting rules

The NCAA basketball recruiting rules can certainly feel daunting and difficult to understand. The most important thing to remember is that the rules and the recruiting schedule were designed to control the college coaches and protect the student-athletes. As a coach, it is vital to know how the dates and modes of communication coincide to avoid infractions and violations.

Student-athletes should be aware of the major dates, which take place in the summer leading into their junior year of high school, and recognize if a coach contacts them prematurely in violation of the rules. Recruits and their families should also familiarize themselves with the recruiting calendar, understanding the terminology and ensuring that they are on track in the recruitment process.

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New college basketball recruiting rules

In response to the [Commission on College Basketball](#)'s recommendations, the following changes were made to the 2018-19 NCAA basketball recruiting calendar at the **D1 level only** to increase the importance of high school basketball in the recruitment process.

-April 29-May 2: A **new** recruiting period allowing coaches to contact or evaluate recruits immediately following the April 26-28 evaluation period which is only for certified events.

-June 13-14: A **new** evaluation period at the National Basketball Players Association (NBPA) Top 100 Camp, a collaboration between the NCAA and the NBPA.

-June 21-23 and 28-30: **New** evaluation periods at scholastic events approved by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) or a two-year college athletics governing body (i.e., NJCAA).

-July 11-14: A **reduction** in the evaluation period at NCAA-certified nonscholastic events (e.g. AAU and Club Team competitions), down from three weekends in July to one weekend in July.

-July 23-28: An evaluation period at **new** youth development camps conducted by the NCAA and member schools/conferences.

How early recruiting works for men's basketball

Early recruiting is a term for the ever-growing trend of college coaches recruiting prospective athletes before the NCAA basketball recruiting rules allow them to initiate contact. Most D1 and D2 coaches start proactively contacting recruits in the months before their junior year of high school, but many coaches - especially at D1 and top-tier D2 programs - will offer scholarships to athletes [as early as 7th or 8th grade!](#)

While the NCAA basketball recruiting calendar outlines when a coach is allowed to contact recruits, programs work around the calendar and NCAA recruiting rules by contacting the high school, club team or AAU coach of a young, stellar athlete. They can get more information and use that coach as a middle man to set up a call between the college coach and the athlete.

Remember: if a recruit makes the phone call, the coach can always pick up, no matter how old the athlete. From there, the coach can request the recruit send videos, transcripts and other information for further evaluation. In addition, a recruit can email college coaches as often as they would like, the coach is just prohibited from responding to any of them until the proper date in accordance with the NCAA basketball recruiting rules and calendar.

Early recruiting has significantly altered the youth sports landscape and [it's not always for the best](#). This played a major role in NCAA basketball recruiting rules changes in 2017 and again in the new rules for 2019.

When can college basketball coaches contact you?

For D1 men's basketball, coaches can make initial contact with prospective recruits starting June 15th prior to their junior year of high school via text, email, DM or any other form of electronic communication. That date applies to coaches at D2 programs as well, though they are allowed to communicate with recruits off-campus and on official visits in addition to electronic communication.

There are no restrictions at the D3 and NAIA levels, and coaches can contact recruits at any point in time. NJCAA coaches can also contact recruits at any point, but they can't schedule an official visit until the recruit completes their junior year of high school.

NCAA Division 1 Men's Basketball Recruiting Rules

D1 men's basketball coaches can only send general recruiting materials such as questionnaires, camp brochures and non-athletic institutional publications prior to the summer of the recruit's junior year of high school. The remainder of the process, according to the NCAA basketball recruiting rules, is as follows:

- **June 15 prior to junior year:** Coaches can call, email, text, direct message and correspond with athletes in any form of private communication.

- Calls from coaches are unlimited at this time *except* during dead and quiet periods.
- **Start of classes junior year:** Coaches can initiate off-campus contact and coaches can only conduct this contact at the recruit's school or home, with the exception of the April recruiting period.
 - Coaches *cannot* contact recruits the day of a competition or at a time during the day while the athlete's classes are in session.
- **January 1 of junior year:** Recruits can begin official visits. They can have an official visit at up to five schools, with one official visit at each school.
 - Official visits *cannot* occur during the dead period, as the NCAA basketball recruiting rules explain.

NCAA Division 2 Men's Basketball Recruiting Rules

D2 men's basketball coaches are allowed to send the same general recruiting materials as D1 coaches prior to the summer of the recruit's junior year of high school. In addition, athletes can take as many unofficial as they want at any time. These recruiting rules are the same across all D2 sports:

- **June 15 prior to junior year:** Coaches can begin to make telephone calls, can conduct off-campus communications with athletes and/or their parents and athletes may start taking official visits.
- **July 15 prior to junior year:** Coaches can begin sending recruits printed recruiting materials.

NCAA Division 3 Men's Basketball Recruiting Rules

The NCAA basketball recruiting rules for D3 coaches are far more relaxed than those for D1 and D2, though there are still some restrictions. Athletes can receive recruiting materials and can take as many unofficial visits as they want at any time. There is *no limit* on when coaches can contact recruits via telephone call or digital communication.

D3 men's basketball coaches cannot **conduct off-campus communications** until *after* the athlete's sophomore year of high school, and athletes can only **begin taking official visits** *after* January 1 of their junior year.

NAIA Men's Basketball Recruiting Rules

The NAIA is a separate entity from the NCAA and follows a separate set of basketball recruiting rules. Much like D3, NAIA coaches are free to contact recruits as soon as they start high school in any mode of communication. The NAIA does not follow the NCAA basketball recruiting calendar and there are no restrictions as to when or how often coaches make communication with athletes.

In lieu of NCAA showcases, individual or group tryouts can be conducted on the school's campus. The regulations for tryouts are:

- A tryout can not last more than two days for one specific athlete

- The school/coach can not make special arrangements or cover any travel expense, meals or lodging of the athlete.
- The tryout ca not involve loss of school time for the athlete, except where it is part of a full visit of the school approved by both the host institution and the athlete's high school.

Junior College Men's Basketball Recruiting Rules

Much like the NAIA, NJCAA rules are separate from the NCAA basketball recruiting rules. They are similar to the NAIA in that coaches can communicate with recruits as soon as they begin high school with no limits on what modes of communication they use, when they contact athletes and how often they do so.

Athletes are allowed one official visit per school. The visit can't extend past two days and two nights and must be completed no less than 10 days prior to the start of classes. NJCAA coaches can hold high school tryouts/showcases as long as it is allowed by existing State High School Activities Association regulations in the athlete's home state.

2018-19 Division 1 Men's Basketball Recruiting Calendar

The NCAA basketball recruiting calendar is categorized into four periods of regulation. The calendar is not split into four equal and consistent periods, and instead bounces back and forth between each. For this reason, it is especially important to note what dates coincide with each period to avoid a recruiting violation. For D1 men's basketball, the recruiting calendar is laid out below.

- **Evaluation Period:** The period when coaches are allowed to watch an athlete compete in person or visit their school, to evaluate their talent and character. Coaches are not allowed to communicate with the athlete (or parents) off the college campus. They can still contact recruits through text, email and direct messages.

On the NCAA basketball recruiting calendar, there are two distinct evaluation periods. During April, coaches can only evaluate players at NCAA-certified events (AAU/Club team tournaments typically qualify, but always double-check to be certain). The remainder of evaluation periods must take place at high school, prep school or two-year college tournaments, practices or games (with the exception of two periods in July).

- **April 26-28, 2019:** Only at certified events
- **NBA Draft Combine:** Only at the NBA Draft Combine
- **June 13-14, 2019:** Only at the NBPA Top 100 Camp (a new collaboration between the NCAA and NBPA)
- **June 21-23, 2019:** Only at scholastic events approved by the National Federation of State High School Associations or a two-year college athletics governing body (i.e., NJCAA)
- **June 28-30, 2019:** The same restrictions as June 21-23.
- **July 10 (5 pm)-14 (5 pm), 2019:** Only at NCAA-certified nonscholastic events (a new reduction from three weekends to one weekend in July).

- **July 23-28, 2019:** Only at **new** youth development camps conducted by the NCAA and member schools/conferences

- **Contact Period:** The period of active recruiting. All communication between athletes and coaches is fair game. Coaches are allowed to contact athletes and/or parents through all NCAA-approved digital communication methods and in-person. Contact can occur on the school's campus, as well as at tournaments, at the recruit's school and home.
 - **September 9-November 11, 2018**
 - **November 16-December 23, 2018**
 - **December 27, 2018-March 31, 2019**
 - **April 11 (Noon)-14, 2019**
 - **April 19-24, 2019**
 - **April 29-May 2, 2019:** new recruiting period allowing coaches to contact or evaluate recruits *immediately* following the April 26-28 evaluation period

- **Quiet Period:** The period when a coach is only permitted to make in-person contact with recruits on their college campus. Coaches are restricted from having face-to-face contact with college-bound student-athletes (or their parents) off the college campus, including watching athletes compete or visiting their high school. Digital and telephone communication is still permitted in this period on the NCAA basketball recruiting calendar.
 - **August 1-September 8, 2018**
 - **April 1-3, 2019**
 - **April 25, 2019**
 - **May 3-NBA Draft Combine**
 - **NBA Draft Combine-May 15, 2019**
 - **May 25-June 12, 2019**
 - **June 14- 20, 2019**
 - **June 24- 27, 2019**
 - **July 1-5, 2019**

- **Dead Period:** The most restrictive period in the NCAA basketball recruiting calendar. Coaches may not have *any* in-contact communication with the recruit and/or their families. This period gives
 - **November 12-15, 2018**
 - **December 24-26, 2018**
 - **April 4-11 (noon), 2019**
 - **April 15-18, 2019**
 - **May 16-24, 2019**
 - **July 6-10 (5 pm), 2019**
 - **July 14 (5 pm)-July 22, 2019**
 - **July 29-31, 2019**

2018-19 Division 2 Men's Basketball Recruiting Calendar

The D2 NCAA basketball recruiting calendar is less complex than the D1 calendar, but there are still distinct periods of time when certain communication is limited or restricted.

- **Evaluation Period:**
 - **June 15-August 1, 2019**
 - **The period of time** between the recruit's first and final high school or junior college game.
 - **Any high school all-star game** that occurs in the same state as the college or university.
 - **April 5-9 (12:01 pm), 2019:** Evaluations are allowed at any all-star game held during the final weekend of the NCAA D1 Men's Basketball Championship that's held in the host city of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

- **Contact Period:**
 - **September 7-October 14, 2018**
 - **March 1- April 3, 2019**
 - **April 9 (noon)- May 20, 2019**

- **Quiet Period:**
 - **August 2- September 6, 2018**
 - **October 15, 2018 until recruit's first regularly scheduled game**
 - **June 1-14, 2019**

- **Dead Period:**
 - **November 12 (7 am)- November 14 (7 am), 2018**
 - **April 4-9 (noon), 2019**

2018-19 Division 3 Men's Basketball Recruiting Calendar

For D3 schools, there are no restrictions on contact through the NCAA basketball recruiting rules and coaches are free to communicate with recruits at any point in time.
