

Key Legislative Topics for the 2008 Convention

- **Recruiting – Electronic Transmissions**
 - a. **Recommendation.** Cosponsor the Centennial and New England Men’s and Women’s Conferences’ Recruiting – Electronic Transmissions legislation for the 2008 Convention to specify that electronically transmitted correspondence that may be sent to a prospective student-athlete is limited to electronic mail and facsimiles.
 - b. **Effective date.** August 1, 2008.
 - c. **Rationale.** The unlimited use of certain forms of electronic communication to contact prospects is being abused and is intrusive to those prospects. Coaches are in competition with each other for prospects and therefore often feel compelled to contact prospects continually. Prospects are often receiving text messages, IM, etc. at all hours of the day, which interferes with their learning in the classroom and their homework. In addition, Division III should hold institutions of higher education to an elevated standard of communication and should not be comfortable with a coach representing the institution in such an informal manner. Text messaging, IM, social networking sites and similar methods of communication are not appropriate avenues for coaches to disseminate information to prospective student-athletes. While text and instant messenger are convenient and effective communication tools, e-mail can be equally as effective

In its discussion of the proposal, the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee assumed that communicating with prospects via social networking sites would be prohibited by this proposal.
 - d. **Estimated Budget Impact.** Reduced costs to institutions, coaches and prospects.
 - e. **Student-Athlete Impact.** Reduced costs and intrusiveness to the lives of prospective student-athletes.