

CIAC OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION STATE-WIDE MEETING SUMMARY

JUNE 15, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was attended by approximately 100 officiating leaders representing practically all local or state boards. The main purpose of the meeting was to keep the lines of communication open, to update the members on important issues, share ideas for mutual benefit, to gain insight on various topics from speakers, and most importantly, to thank you for your dedicated service to high school athletics.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

The group observed a moment of silence for the officials in Connecticut that died this past year. May they rest in peace!

INTRODUCTION OF CIAC OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

The advisory board members introduced themselves to the group. Joe T expressed his thanks for the excellent cooperation and support that CIAC has received from the Advisory Board. They are a great group to work with and serve their respective sports well.

WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - Joe Tonelli, CIAC Executive Staff – Director, CIAC Officials Association

Joe welcomed the board leaders and expressed appreciation for the excellent working relationship that exists between the officials' groups, the member schools and the CIAC. Joe acknowledged that Steve Wysowski, CIAC Associate Executive Director is retiring on June 30th. In appreciation of his support of the officials in all sports, the CIAC Officials Association presented Steve with a gift certificate to one of his favorite restaurants in Cheshire. Steve was unable to attend the state – wide meeting because of retirement party for a friend, but sent a note of appreciation that Joe read.

INTRODUCTION – Gregg Simon, CIAC Associate Executive Director

Joe introduced Gregg Simon to the group as the former long – time athletic director at Newtown High School who will assume his new position as the CIAC Associate Executive Director in early July. Gregg is well known to the officials' groups that service the Southwest Conference (SWC) and the Fairfield County as an outstanding athletic administrator and quality individual, who always supported the game officials. He enjoyed an excellent working relationship with the assigners and the game officials in all sports. Gregg addressed the group and emphasized that officials have the toughest job in all of high school athletics, and pledged his support to their efforts. Like all of us, he recognizes the challenges that officials' groups face and the need for the continued recruitment and retention of new officiating candidates, and will lend his support to help in any way he can. CIAC is excited to welcome Gregg as the leader of the CIAC Staff and we know he will do an outstanding job!

MEMBERSHIP TEMPLATE (2017-18) – Joe Tonelli and Administrative Assistant, Jadwiga Brown

Joe introduced Jadwiga, who is the administrative assistant to the CIAC Officials Association and the point person for the membership database. The boards were instructed to send additions, deletions and new candidates to officialsupdates@casciac.org as per the instructions with the appropriate payment as soon as you can. Jadwiga emailed the individuals on each board responsible for sending in their database. The membership in the CIAC Officials' Association runs from July 1 to June 30 as does the NFHS membership for those boards that also join

NFHSOA. No new members should be submitted until they have consented to a background check and provided the information required. Local boards keep the consent forms on file. Joe emphasized that we need full names, including the middle names or initials for the background checks. The CIAC membership fee is \$13 and \$17 to join the NFHS Officials Association.

NFHS ELECTRONIC EXAMS / NFHS RULE BOOKS / ELECTRONIC COPIES OF EXAMS / ELECTRONIC ANSWER KEYS

These can be obtained through CIAC by contacting Joyce Smith at 203-250-1111 or email Joyce @ jsmith@casciac.org. It is important that you are aware that all schools will receive rule books for the 2017-18 school year at the appropriate time. The new rules will be in the sports packets and posted on www.ciacsports.com on the specific sports pages.

NFHS ONLINE RULE INTERPRETERS MEETINGS

Joe T will notify the interpreters since the interpreters in all sports must register individually. A schedule of all online meetings was included in the packet as well as the contact info for Joyce Smith for rule books. The list of meetings was distributed. It was noted that Basketball, Ice Hockey and Wrestling will have in person meetings in Indianapolis this year. There will be no online meetings in these sports. All others will have on line meetings as in the past. Each year, the plan is to conduct in person meetings in 3 sports on a rotating basis. The CIAC Officials Association will reimburse the CIAC state interpreter or his / her designee for these important meetings.

COACHES RULES INTERPRETATIONS MEETINGS

Boards were encouraged to provide this service which enhances the relationship amongst coaches, leagues, and officials' groups. Joe asked the interpreters to cover the important rules changes, which will be in all sports packets and will be posted on the sport pages in all sports. Compliments of the CIAC Officials Association, rule Interpreters will be sent preseason guides on the new rules in the sports in which the guides are published. Joe encouraged the rule interpreters to review the Communication Protocol that applies to schools, officials' groups and refs. It is always best to handle issues and concerns at the level in which they occur and with professionalism and mutual respect. In years that there are only a few rule changes, please use the meeting as an opportunity to review other important rules.

PANEL DISCUSSION ON TOPICS OF INTEREST / BEST PRACTICES – COORDINATED BY DAN SCAVONE

Dan Scavone, a member of the CIAC Officials Association Advisory Board, past CAAD President, former longtime athletic director and current high school basketball official coordinated a panel of experts that provided some valuable information which generated some idea sharing from the presenters and the audience. Dan Scavone not only coordinated the panel, but he also addressed the topic of the recruitment and retention of officials. Dan has volunteered to take a leadership role in the ramped - up recruitment effort in Ct to capitalize on the NFHS recruitment effort that was recently initiated through their marketing company. Dan will work with the CIAC Officials Association Advisory Board to organize a meeting of the new officials' contacts on each of the boards in the fall at the CIAC Office. Stay tuned! Dan will also work with Bhavin Parekh, who is a high school and collegiate official and the Associate Director for Competitive Sports at UConn. For the past 13 years Bhavin has been responsible for the

recruiting, training, development, and evaluation of officials for the extensive UConn Intramural program in a wide range of sports and is a great resource for us. He provided a list of the contact people at other colleges and universities in Ct, which is in the packet. Bhavin will attempt to create a closer working relationship between these contacts and the local boards of various sports. Bhavin steers their better officials to the local boards, which has benefitted the boards in the Eastern part of the state. If that can grow in other parts of the state it will be a big plus!

PANELIST MEMBERS

Scott Davis – Commissioner of the Eastern Umpires Board

Scott discussed their year - round training program for new officials, the less experienced umpers that are seeking to reach the varsity level, and all umpires that want to become tournament caliber officials or just improve their skills. They utilize many of their experienced umpires to serve as instructors and mentors to others which makes everyone feel invested in the program. They utilize both indoor and outdoor facilities and through the use of a “Go Pro” the umpers are videotaped and sent the tape for their viewing and review. The training program covered every aspect of umpiring from the time you get your assignment, to arriving at the field, to your pregame discussion with your partner, to the ground rules to the actual game situations. It turned out to be an extremely successful initiative.

Ken Devoe - Freelance writer, former member of the NFHS publications committee

Ken has authored many articles for the NFHS website and he addressed the NFHS need to solicit additional topics of interest to officials and to encourage interested individuals to author or contribute content for future articles for the NFHS website. Ken is part of a core group of former publication committee members who are working with the NFHS to secure content and articles that would benefit all officials. To illustrate his point, Ken mentioned that his article on Identity Theft, which was in the packet, mentions various ways that CT schools handle the payment of officials and the steps they have taken to safeguard officials’ information, including the use of Arbiterpay. He also told the group that his article about the Connecticut’s “Communication Protocol” that applies to schools, officials’ groups and refs received a lot of national exposure. He then asked if anyone in the group had an interest in writing articles or providing content for future articles. He assured the group that he would be willing to work with any individuals with interest. A few individuals expressed interest and a follow up will be sent to all attendees from Ken through Joe T in the near future. (Already Done). Dan mentioned the newsletter that Ken produces several times of year for Board “10” basketball, which has been shared nationally, and is truly outstanding.

Lev Torgerson - Ice Hockey Rules Interpreter / Member of the NFHS rules committee

Lev drew on his experiences as an official in soccer, volleyball and ice hockey for many years to show how times have changed relative to the payment of officials. In the past the fees were much lower and many schools paid in cash or a check on the day of the game, but now a growing number of schools use Arbiterpay and the fees paid to officials can be easily tracked. Also, many schools issue a 1099 to officials, and if the school uses Arbiterpay they can opt to have Arbiter issue the 1099 forms. Since Lev is an accountant we thought it would be beneficial to all officials for him to share some important tax tips and emphasize the officiating expenses that can be deducted to reduce the tax obligation for income earned through officiating. He

also reminded assigners that can deduct home office expenses. Officials who claim deductions for expenses and are independent contractors will do so on a Schedule C. However, if your expenses are \$2,500 or less and other qualifications are met, you may file Schedule C – EZ form 1040. The following are some types of expenses that officials may incur: car, legal and professional, travel, meals, dues, subscriptions, uniforms, supplies and home office expense. Lev mentioned that an advantage of Arbitrpay is that it creates an accurate log for you. Lev also mentioned that long time Greater New Haven Baseball Board commissioner was one of the Ct area directors of the IRS and was in charge of audits. Arnie reiterated the points that Lev made and stated emphatically that officials must file, especially if you are issued a 1099 since IRS has access to that information. This session provided an excellent exchange of ideas on variety of topics. There was something for everyone and very worthwhile. Thanks to Dan for coordinating the program and to the panelists for their willingness to share their expertise.

NFHS RULES / CIAC DQ RULE AND PENALTY/POST GAME EJECTIONS/WHEN OFFICIALS AUTHORITY BEGINS AND ENDS

Joe T mentioned that these important topics were discussed at length by the CIAC Officials Association Advisory Board and consensus was reached. CIAC follows the NFHS playing rules in all sports. The CIAC Board of Control wisely initiated this policy many years ago and will not deviate from this position. It has served us well. If possible, post - game ejections should be avoided. When a post - game ejection is warranted, officials should be sure that they have jurisdiction in accordance with the NFHS rules. Otherwise the ejection cannot be processed. There are other ways to address inappropriate behavior when officials no longer have ejection power or jurisdiction. Following the CIAC protocol and contacting the school is one way. The CIAC officials Association reviewed when the officials' jurisdiction begins and ends in accordance with the NFHS rules in all sports, and unanimously agreed, that no ejections can be made after the jurisdiction ends. The CIAC Disqualification / Ejection rule supports officials and it a deterrent since athletes and especially coaches do not want their school principal to receive an ejection report with their name on it. In many cases the report will result in a meeting with the coach, AD and principal and could also result in a letter in the coaches personnel file. When an athlete or coach gets ejected they must sit out the next game at that level. It is the 'responsibility of the school to carry out the penalty. It is not the responsibility of the official to explain the CIAC rule or interpret the rule. Refer all questions about the rule to the CIAC. Joe also reminded the group that any player that is ejected twice in the same season for fighting is out for the remainder of the season. Don't list the reason as fighting unless it is a fight. If A pushes B and B pushes A, and that's the extent of the incident, I would not classify that as a fight.

PACKET HANDOUTS

The packet contained the following information: Agenda, CIAC & NFHS Membership counts, Instructions on Registering your board for 2017 -18, Timeline for roster and payment, Listing of the 2017-18 NFHS on line interpreters meetings, Info on ordering rule books from CIAC and obtaining the electronic exams and answer keys, a hard copy of a blank 100 question exam answer key, Communication Protocol between member schools and officials groups for lodging a complaint and the NFHS Network on Demand info (Joe T emphasized that the games can be

viewed by anyone in the country at no cost after a 72 hour time period. Also included in the packet is recruitment and retention info which is part of the NFHS recruitment initiative with articles, a list of contact for the intramural directors of Ct college & universities, article on Identity theft and what can be done about it, Schedule of insurance benefits for the NFHSOA, Advisory Board minutes of May 11, 2017, the 2017 -18 Boys and Girls CIAC Game Limitations and Practice Dates, and the Officials Fees for 2017-18.

WRAP UP

It seems hard to believe that the CIAC Officials Association has just completed 12 years of operation. Please know that your individual and collective efforts and your dedication to high school athletics is very much appreciated.

THANK YOU!!! Have a great summer!