

CIAC OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION
Advisory Board Minutes
MARCH 1, 2006

Members Present: Rose Carlucci, Kathy Cawley, Jane Dahle, Ray Faustich, George Ford, Barry Fowler, Lucy Goodridge, Kevin Holmgren, Dave Leete, Hank Luzzi, Joe Miller, Ed Schullery, Barbara Startup and Lev Torgerson. All sports were represented *CIAC Reps, Joe Tonelli and Paul Hoey, welcomed the group. Introduction of members followed.*

- The charge and purpose of the Advisory Board was articulated. It was emphasized that the Advisory Board will work together with the CIAC to shape the character and direction of the CIAC Officials' Association and provide excellent council to the CIAC on all matters relative to officiating.
- Approved the following Mission Statement - The CIAC Officials' Association exists to work in concert with school administrators, athletic directors, coaches and the CIAC to advance the best interest of high school athletics, serve the betterment of all member officials and their respective organizations, promote ethical standards, sportsmanship, professionalism, and high quality officiating.
- Mentioned the importance of establishing some goals and objectives for the association. These goals will be presented to the Advisory Board for their input and approval at the May meeting. One of the main goals is to be an "official friendly" organization responsive to the needs of officials and their respective organizations. Some other goals are as follows: To provide a conduit for an improved communication network between officials, the schools you serve, and the CIAC (our advanced technology network is already assisting some commissioners and can enhance and expedite all communication); To establish an organizational structure that provides officials with the opportunity to have direct input in the governance of CIAC by having representation, with voting privileges, on all sports committees and representation on the CIAC Board of Control; Also, all sports will have a representative on an advisory board whose main purpose will be to provide expert council to CIAC for the betterment of officials and to serve the best interests of high school athletics; To provide an opportunity for officials to work collaboratively with school administrators, athletic directors, coaches, and the CIAC staff to better serve the more than 95,000 student athletes in the State of Connecticut.
- Reviewed the tentative plan of the association and emphasized the importance of working together and seeking the input of all officials' groups.
- Reported that the CIAC is pleased and encouraged by the number of officials who joined the association and are taking advantage of this free, one time offer for the 2005-2006 school year.
- Discussed some of the membership benefits for the individual official and their respective association for the \$10.00 fee: Some of the membership benefits are as follows: Joining forces and speaking with one voice on important issues can bring about positive outcomes. There is strength in

numbers which could result in reduced premiums for liability insurance and other group benefits; All officials will receive additional support in the performance of their duties by being under the umbrella of the CIAC, who has the authority to sanction schools, coaches, and the participants; All officials will benefit from the communication network and technology of the CIAC; There will be an official added to all CIAC sports committees to insure that the point of view of the officials is considered on all CIAC decisions; An official representing each sport will serve on the CIAC Officials' Association Advisory Board for the purpose of bringing your individual and collective concerns to the table; CIAC will support your efforts to encourage and emphasize sportsmanship relative to coaches, players and fans; CIAC will support your efforts to enact legislation to further protect game officials; Officials will benefit by having a membership card that entitles them to free admission to all regular season games in all sports, and CIAC tournament games in the sport(s) in which they are enrolled; All members will benefit by being part of a state wide organization that has the personnel, network, and resources to be an advocate for all officials.

COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION / CIAC POLICY

- **Sports Committee Reps-** To provide officials a “voice” in the CIAC and to ensure that the officials’ point of view is considered on all issues affecting their sport. The official who represents a particular sport is selected by the State Board of Officials. In sports that do not have a State Board, in accordance with the CIAC policy, the rep will be selected by the largest group. Joe emphasize that the reps are chosen by the officials’ groups and not the CIAC.
- **Advisory Board Reps-** Selected in the same manner as the committee reps. It was noted that each rep on the advisory board and the CIAC sports’ committee should have an alternate to ensure 100% attendance at all meetings.
- **Advisory Board Meeting Schedule-** The board will meet a minimum of three times and year, prior to each season. We plan to meet more often in the earlier stages of the organization and whenever there is a need to convene.
- It was emphasized that reps establish a communication system with their sports to get input and to keep the lines of communication open to all officials and all other boards.
- Minutes of all meetings will be sent to the reps and a synopsis of the advisory board meetings will be distributed to the membership.
- **CIAC Board of Control-** The CIAC Officials' Association Advisory Board will select a rep to serve as a consultant to the CIAC Board. At the May meeting the board will determine who the rep will be and establish a rotation for this purpose.
- **Consultants to the Advisory Board-** The board, at the May meeting, will decide if we should add any consultants from the Ad’s or coaches association to serve on the Advisory Board.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- **Needs Assessment-** Each sport was asked to e-mail Joe Tonelli, jtonelli@casciac.org their top 5 issues in which they would like assistance from the CIAC and the CIAC Officials' Association. This should be sent to Joe by April 1 so the information can be collated.
- **Enrollment period-** Although we will establish a definitive enrollment period for membership at the May meeting, the group felt that June 1st to Sept. 30th seemed workable. Having a summer enrollment period will enhance organization, will ensure that multi-sport officials will get one card with all sports on it, and the officials will get full use of the cards. It was mentioned by Hank Luzzi that the IAABO State Board of basketball officials voted unanimously to join the CIAC Officials' Association for 206-2007. Each board will send Hank, who is the Secretary/Treasure, an Excel file with their roster with a check for \$10 per member. Hank will then forward all files to CIAC with one check to CIAC.
- **Membership Card Use-** According to the feedback Joe has received from the AD's and coaches, he reported that the cards are being used by many officials and they are being honored without question.
- **Recruitment of Officials-** It was mentioned that the first avenue of recruitment should be focused on the current officials. Try to convince them to work other sports. Using the CIAC website to post recruitment information for all sports was viewed by all as an excellent idea. More on this important issue will be discussed in May.
- **Liability Insurance-** Is a topic of unanimous interest and will be further studied to ascertain if we can get a group rate that could benefit everyone.
- **The Budget Process-** It was agreed that once we have a better idea of the membership income and the initiatives that the Advisory Board wishes to pursue for the members, we will be able to formulate the budget for 2006-2007. The CIAC Officials' Association is under the umbrella of the CIAC, and as such, we are answerable to the CIAC Board of Control relative to budget. However, the Board of Control has agreed that the Advisory Board will have control over the budget and the allocation of funds. All income and expense will be documented in a report which will be distributed at all meetings. After the initial start up costs that will be absorbed by the CIAC during the 2005-2006 school year, the CIAC Officials' Association will be expected to be self supporting. The CIAC philosophy relative to the CIAC Officials' Association budget is two folded. First and foremost, we are committed to keep the enrollment fee as low as possible. Secondly, the income should be used at the discretion of the Advisory Board to benefit the membership, and to further the goals and objectives of the association. An annual budget report will be shared with the membership.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- **The Assault Bill for the protection of sports officials-** We will continue to lobby for this to become a law in Connecticut. Since this is a short session, we encouraged all sports officials to write to their local legislators.
- **CIAC Sportsmanship Committee-** Paul Hoey shared the enthusiasm of his committee for this initiative which should be beneficial to all officials. One goal of the committee is to establish state wide standards for sportsmanship. There are two officials on Paul's committee.
- **Coaches Attendance At Pre Season Rule Interpretation Meetings-** CIAC believes we can work with officials' groups to increase attendance at these important meetings.
- **Idea Sharing-** All agreed that this board will be an excellent forum for sharing ideas for mutual benefit.
- **A Good Start-** It was the consensus of the group that the CIAC Officials' Association is off to a good start and by working together, many positive things can be accomplished.
- **Adjournment-** The 4:00 pm meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

NEXT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING WILL BE IN MAY ON A DATE TO BE DETERMINED.