

**CIAC OFFICIALS ADVISORY BOARD  
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES  
MAY 8, 2014**

Members present: Chris Burns, Ray Faustich, Rick Gentile for Lev Torgerson, Pat Javorski, Jay Kelleher, Hank Koritkoski, Marie Lavin, Dave Leete , Kelly Murphy, Lil Perone, Terry Schanbacher, Ray Vanacore for Hank Luzzi, Melissa Zigmont for Melissa Arms and Joe Tonelli, CIAC Staff.

**Action Items/Discussion Items**

On a motion by Dave Leete the minutes of February 20, 2014 were approved.

**Membership Report**

4,031 individual officials occupy 5,166 officiating slots. Also, there are approximately 2,328 NFHS Officials Association members who obtain accident, medical and liability coverage along with many other benefits and on line access to a wealth of educational information relative to officiating. As members of the CIAC Officials Association, boards can enroll in the NFHS for a special rate of \$17 per member. To encourage membership the CIAC has a standing grant of \$250 to help defray the cost of membership in the first year.

**CIAC / NFHS Membership Fees for 2014-15**

CIAC = \$13; NFHS = \$17

The membership year runs from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

**Membership Templates**

The current rosters will be emailed to the boards in June, prior to the state-wide meeting. The electronic copy of the 2013-14 rosters will serve as the starting point for the 2014-15 rosters.

**State-Wide Meeting**

The Advisory Board was invited to attend the state-wide meeting on June 19, 2014. Sandwiches will be available at 5:00 pm and the meeting starts at 5:30 pm. The email invitations have been sent to all 54 boards and there can be 2 reps from each board.

**Background Checks**

It is important when meeting with new candidates to provide them with a copy of the background check policy and also inform them it can be accessed on line at [www.ciacofficialsassociation.org](http://www.ciacofficialsassociation.org) Utilize this opportunity to get the full name of the new candidates, including their middle name or initial. All agreed CIAC is providing a valuable service to the boards and the schools by doing background checks.

**Old Business**

**Preseason Rules Meetings for Coaches**

Joe needs the fall dates and details as soon as they are available. Officials' groups should send the dates of their preseason rules meetings for coaches to Joe Tonelli.

**NFHS on Line Rule Interpreter's Meeting Dates**

Joe distributed the 2014-15 online interpreters meeting schedule and emphasized that interpreters will be able to register individually.

**Legislative Updates**

Concussion Bill (HB 5113) –Those testifying on behalf of the CIAC Officials Association at the public hearing ( Ray Faustich, Bill Riccio, Jeffrey Smith and Joe Tonelli) emphasized that all boards already provide a mandatory yearly rules clinic for all officials that includes a review of the signs and symptoms

of concussion. Also, when the first concussion went into effect in 2010, CIAC provided concussion cards for all refs that included the signs and symptoms of concussion and CIAC established a concussion protocol for Ct officials that boards review with refs so all officials will know their role if a head injury is suspected.

Additionally, all boards must meet the CIAC Recognition Standards to officiate high school sports. Clarifying language in recognition standard 6 was approved by the CIAC Board of Control that requires that a review of the signs and symptoms of concussion will be done on a yearly basis. In summary, the lobbying effort on the part of CIAC, CAAD and the CIAC Officials Association worked very well and as a result all references to referees and officials has been removed from the new law, which will go into effect July 1, 2015. Basically, in addition to the requirements in the current law for education for coaches, the new law (HB 5113) mandates education for athletes and parents before a youngster can participate sports.

Assault Bill (HB 5486) – The Judiciary Committee did raise the assault bill and held a public hearing. Once again, the CIAC lobbying effort and testimony given by Representative Paul Davis, Dan Scavone, Arnie Mann and Joe Tonelli was well received by the Judiciary Committee. However, because the Judiciary Committee had so many critical and time sensitive bills that required immediate action, the committee chairs informed Paul Davis that there is simply not enough time to do what is necessary to act on HB 5486 in this short session, which ended May 7, 2014. The chairs were forced to prioritize the abundance of bills on their plate, and since there are current laws in place that would apply if an official was assaulted, the chairs could not justify including HB 5486 as a top priority. Paul suspected that this could be the case, but given the past history of the bill, he felt it was a good strategy to test the waters in this short session to access if there was any strong opposition from the current law makers. Paul was pleased to report that he did not receive any strong opposition regarding the bill. This concept is not an easy sell in Ct. for many reasons that Paul Davis shared with the CIAC Officials Advisory Board.

### **Arbiter Registration Program Update**

Matt Fischer and Joe T will meet with Arbiter Sports executive Clark Evans at the NFHS summer meeting at the end of June regarding the feasibility of utilizing the Arbiter Sports registration program for the 2015-16 school year. We will continue to use the current registration system for 2014-15. We want to be certain that the Arbiter System can provide all the reports needed and worth paying for the service. A switch to Arbiter will make it easier for boards to enroll their members in CIAC and the NFHS.

### **New Business / Discussion Items**

Meeting Dates for 2014-2015 - Fall Meeting – October 16, 2014; Winter – February 12, 2015;

Spring – May 14, 2015; State – wide meeting – June 18, 2015

Possible Topics for State-wide meeting – Sensitivity training for officials...concussion info...assault bill update...rules review...interpersonal skills in dealing with coaches and players...NFHS Network.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

The next CIAC Officials Association Advisory Board meeting will be Thursday, October 16, 2014 @ 4:00 pm.