

# CIAC OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

## May 13, 2009 Meeting

Members present: Melissa Arms, Jane Dahle, Ray Faustich, George Ford, Barry Fowler, Lucy Goodridge, Kevin Holmgren, Hank Koritkoski, Dave Leete, Tony Barbaro, Joe Miller, Lev Torgerson, Joe Tonelli CIAC Staff,

### **Action Items/ Discussion Items**

On a motion by Dave Leete, the minutes of January 29, 2009 were approved.

### **Membership**

We have 3740 officials who occupy more than 4500 officiating slots. This is a membership record. Also, we have 100% membership from all 53 boards in the state.

### **Budget**

Dave Leete and George Ford reported that we continue to have a solid financial base. The actual expenditures including salaries, printing, postage, recruitment brochures, membership card processing including custom cards, printing of individual cards and envelopes, folding and stuffing letters and cards, mailing house charges, office supplies, office overhead, multi-sport refunds, NFHS meetings for state rules interpreters, committee expenses, special projects, and other miscellaneous expenses actually exceeds our income. However, because of the CIAC subsidy to help defray some of our expenses, the advisory board has the opportunity to allocate sufficient funds to serve our members extremely well. The budget committee and the board unanimously agreed that our financial arrangement is very favorable to the officials.

### **Membership Template / Date of Birth**

The revised membership template to be used for 2009-2010 memberships will be sent to all the board secretary/treasurers after Matt Fischer explains and demonstrates this simplified process at the upcoming meeting on June 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm at CIAC. Two reps from each local board will be invited.

Regarding the date of birth...After a thorough discussion, the board unanimously reaffirmed their earlier decision to request the date of birth from all of our members when the 2009-2010 rosters are submitted by local boards for the sole purpose of background screening. The information will be password protected and the board has a comfort level that the information will be secure. The privacy of the information will be protected in accordance with CIAC policy. All database companies that we have contacted require a date of birth or social security number to confirm a person's identity. CIAC does not want to ask for social security numbers so we do need the date of birth of all CIAC officials Association members to be prepared when a decision is made to move forward with background checks.

### **Exclusivity Clause**

This exclusivity clause has been part of the officials' agreement that was negotiated by CIAC more than 10 years ago with the representatives of the approved state boards in all sports and CIAC, acting as an agent for the member schools. Exclusivity means that at all levels of play the CIAC requires all member schools to use only officials who presently are members of a recognized officials group and are members of the CIAC Officials' Association. Since all officials who currently work high school games are in compliance with these requirements, the Advisory Board, by unanimous consent, supports the enforcement of this CIAC regulation.

### **State Wide Meeting**

The board approved a state wide meeting for Thursday June 18, 2009 @ 5:30 pm at CIAC. We will provide food and beverages starting at 5:30pm and the meeting will start shortly thereafter. Because of the capacity of the meeting room, each local board will be limited to two (2) representatives. If every board sends 2 people, the number of attendees would total 106 which we could handle. We will send the notices to the advisory board and the leadership of each of the 53 boards.

The purpose of the meeting is to update all local boards on the work of the CIAC Officials Association and answer any questions you may have. Also, we want to clarify the simplified method for submitting your 2009-2010 membership which will be demonstrated by Matt Fischer. We want to update on the progress of the background check committee and share other important information to further assist all the officials in our state. Although all of the minutes and summaries of all meetings are online for public view we want to continue to keep the lines of communication open to solicit your thoughts and ideas. A similar meeting was held 2 years ago and we received many positive comments for bringing reps from all boards in all sports together to share ideas.

### **NFHS Rules PowerPoint**

The board believes that the NFHS rules power point presentation would significantly enhance the rules presentations for the coaches and umpires. On a motion by Hank Koritkoski and seconded by Joe Miller the board voted to purchase one copy per sport of the power point presentation for the state interpreter. Our goal is to increase the rules knowledge of all officials and coaches. It will be the responsibility of the rules interpreter to coordinate the purchase and the use of the power point by the local boards in their respective sports. This will be an excellent service provided by CIAC.

### **Preseason Rules meetings**

Submit fall dates to Joe T as soon as possible.

### **NFHS Interpretation Meetings**

Joe T distributed the dates for the NFHS rules interpretation meetings for the remainder of 2009 and 2010.

### **Background Check Committee update**

A copy of the meeting summary from the February 4<sup>th</sup> background check committee was distributed to the board and is posted on line. It was reported by Melissa that Gymnastics officials have been required by U.S. Gymnastics to have background checks for years so they are all set. Ray Faustich apprized the board that the Fairfield County Baseball Umpires Association revised their constitution to require their new candidates and their membership to complete a background document as a means of screening their membership. The following questions are included: Have you ever been convicted of a felony? Have you ever been convicted of a crime involving misconduct with a minor? Have you ever been convicted of a crime involving the possession, use, or intent to sell any illegal drug? Are you on a sex offenders list in any state?

Other sports and boards have also taken some initial steps such as checking the sex offender list to screen their members. The committee will be working on a draft proposal to present to the Advisory Board and the CIAC Board of Control.

### **Letter from CIAC Board to Schools**

Joe T reported that the CIAC Board emphasized in a letter to schools that coaches should follow the proper protocol in lodging a complaint about game officials, and coaches should not make negative comments regarding officials in the media. The Advisory Board is very pleased to get this kind of support from the CIAC Board of Control. Also, CIAC has continued to remain steadfast on not allowing schools to appeal ejections which further support the game officials.

### **New Business**

The 2009-10 CIAC Officials Association Advisory Board meeting dates were approved.

Thursday October 8, 2009 @ 4 pm

Thursday January 28, 2010 @ 4 pm

Thursday May 12, 2010 @ 4 pm

### **NFHS Hall of Fame**

The board acknowledged the upcoming Hall of Fame induction of George Ford. The induction ceremony will take place in Chicago on July 1, 2010. George was recommended by Mike Savage for his 40 years of dedicated service to the high school swimming and diving. To be selected amongst all the nominees in the country is quite an accomplishment. Congratulations George!!

### **Supervision at night soccer games and other outdoor events**

Joe Miller expressed a concern about the safety of officials after night games and especially as they attempt to get to their cars. Schools should establish a protocol whereby a police officer, security guard or a school official accompanies the referees to their cars and remain until they safely depart.

## **Information Items**

### **List of priority items submitted by boards**

A quick perusal of the list reveals that the CIAC Officials Association has developed a strategy to deal with each of the areas mentioned. We consider these issues a work in progress, and although there is always room for improvement we have made many in roads on behalf of the officials in CT.

### **Commissioner's Tools set up by Matt**

Matt set up a special link for the use of commissioner's that will enhance their ability to have valuable information at their finger tips. We are pleased that Matt is responsive to the needs of commissioners in an effort to assist them in every way possible.

### **Around the table**

Joe T mentioned that Melissa will be traveling to Virginia Beach to officiate in the US Gymnastics Nationals; Kevin Holmgren mentioned that a wrestling coach from Mass caused a major disturbance in the NE meet which resulted in a suspension imposed by the MIAA; Ray mentioned that there seems to be an increase in the number of teams arriving late for baseball games because of busing issues; Regarding scrimmages, Joe T mentioned that as a result of the guidelines developed for scrimmages, practically all officials are now being paid something for scrimmages which wasn't the case a few years ago; Joe Miller requested that we schedule more time at a future meeting to discuss and share ideas of mutual concern.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:25P.M.