

CIAC OFFICIALS ADVISORY BOARD

ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

October 15, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Al Carfora for Hank Luzzi, Ray Faustich, Jay Kelleher, Hank Koritkoski, Dave Leete, Paul Powers for Joe Miller, Carl Pignone for Gloria Bellucci, Lev Torgerson, Donna Vavrinec, Melissa Zigmont for Melissa Arms, and Joe Tonelli and Steve Wysowski, CIAC.

ACTION ITEMS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

On a motion by Hank Koritkoski, the minutes of May 14, 2015 were approved. In addition, the summary of the June 18, 2015 State-Wide Meeting was included in the packet for reference.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of October 14, 2015, 3,759 individual officials occupy 4,871 officiating slots. It was noted that this is a decrease of 49 individuals as compared to October of last year, but the number of officiating slots increased by 1, as a result of multi-sport officials. 2164 officials are members of the NFHS Officials Association.

ATHLETIC DIRECTORS UPDATE

Dan Scavone was unable to attend as a result of numerous athletic events at Berlin High School. However, he reported via email that the athletic directors committee that is part of their strategic plan over the next 5 years has not met since our last meeting. The mutual goal of both the athletic directors association and the officials association is to further enhance the relationship between athletic directors and officials groups. Dan would like to foster a cooperative working relationship and a greater appreciation and understanding of the role each plays, the challenges that each faces and identify some areas where we can help each other. Dan realizes that there are far too many schedule changes that could have been avoided with proper planning. Dan's committee will look at the data after the fall season to see how the number of changes compares to last year.

CAS/CIAC HALL OF HONOR

Steve Wysowski, CIAC Associate Executive Director mentioned that the first annual Connecticut Association of Schools Hall of Honor induction program will take place this coming Saturday, October 17, 2015 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Aqua Turf. There are 9 inductees and the officials are represented by "Ro" Carlucci who will be honored posthumously for her tremendous contributions to officiating, especially in the sport of Gymnastics. "Ro" was a leader on the state and national levels serving on FCIAC, CIAC and NFHS committees for many years. She was a member of the CIAC Officials Association Advisory until her life was cut short as a result of a car accident while she was returning home from a gymnastics meet. Steve also informed the group that nominations are now being accepted for the 2016 induction class. Anyone can nominate deserving individuals for

consideration for this award. The nomination packet can be accessed on the www.ciacofficialsassociation.org website. The deadline is December 15, 2015. The completed nomination forms can be sent to Joe Tonelli at CIAC and he will forward the nominees to Steve.

OLD BUSINESS/INFORMATION ITEMS

PRESEASON RULES MEETINGS/WINTER AND SPRING DATES

Joe Tonelli requested the winter sports rules meeting dates for coaches. He encouraged boards to accommodate leagues, when possible. The CIAC Officials Assoc. will provide an honorarium of \$50, plus mileage reimbursement, to any official that provides a rules meeting for coaches. Joe encouraged the clinicians to continue to promote the communication protocol on page 183 in the CIAC Handbook and the proper way to address concerns relative to officiating.

NFHS ONLINE RULES INTERPRETATIONS MEETING SCHEDULE

Track & Field – Tuesday, Jan 19, 2016

Softball – Wednesday, Jan 20, 2016

Baseball – Thursday, Jan 21, 2016

Boys Lax - Tuesday, Jan 26, 2016

For your convenience, interpreters now have the ability to log on from their home, office, or a designated location. Also, Joe T has arranged for the interpreters to register directly for the on line meeting and he will send registration information at the appropriate time.

CIAC BOARD OF CONTROL MEETINGS

Reps for CIAC Board Meetings. All meetings are at 2:00 PM. If you wish to represent the Advisory Board at any of the meetings below, call or email Joe Tonelli. When no one is available to attend, the advisory board is represented by Joe T.

- Dec 4, 2014 – TBA
- Jan 15, 2016- TBA
- Feb 18, 2016 – TBA
- April 7, 2016 – TBA
- May 5, 2016 – (If Needed)

ARBITERPAY

ArbiterPay is being used by several states to pay officials and this payment method is expanding at a steady pace. As you know ArbiterPay is already being used by several schools in Ct. If the use of this method of payment follows the pattern that has occurred in other states, the number of schools may increase. In fact, at the request of the leadership of the ice hockey officials in our state, the CIAC used ArbiterPay for the 2015 ice hockey tournament and it worked out very well. In fact, it saved the business office a significant amount of time and it eliminated mailing issues. CIAC will consider using this method in a few other tournaments during the 2015-16 school year.

CIAC membership agreements require schools to make payments to schools in a timely manner. But neither CIAC nor other state associations can dictate how the schools must execute the payment. Boards of Education and business managers make those decisions. We do not have the authority to dictate that they must pay by check. In fact, we think ArbiterPay is a very efficient way for schools to pay refs and is more secure than the method many schools currently use to collect officials

information. The ArbiterPay system provides an option for refs to get their game fees at no cost. Because this option exists, this payment system is acceptable to CIAC.

NEW BUSINESS

NFHS RULES QUESTIONNAIRES

The NFHS has asked all state associations to encourage all officials and coaches to complete the online rules surveys. CIAC will continue to send the rules surveys to all officials and coaches and we are counting on the leadership of both the officials associations and the coaches association to do their part to encourage their colleagues to complete the surveys. It doesn't take long to complete the survey and it provides valuable input to the rules committees. The NFHS posts a report card as to the number of respondents and we want Connecticut to do better than the other states.

RECRUITMENT STRATEGIES

The group discussed the concept of training interested individuals that are below the age of 18. Several groups reported doing that as a means of getting youngsters interested in officiating on the high school level when they turned 18. Joe T mentioned that he suggested to the NFHS leaders at the Section I meeting that the NFHS consider the idea of Public Service Announcements aimed at the recruitment of game officials. All agreed that the recruitment and retention of the newer officials is an important factor for all groups in order to accommodate the requests for service.

NFHS OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION MEMBERS ONLINE EDUCATION BENEFITS

Joe T encouraged the NFHS Officials Association members to take advantage of the free online publications, rules information, articles and videos that are available to them as a benefit of NFHSOA membership. The information is password protected for members only. If you forgot your password it can be easily reset when signing into the website. There are also free courses relative to officiating that members can take. The NFHS Officials Association not only provides an excellent liability and accident/injury insurance plan, but also continues to expand their educational materials available to members only. They will also be adding sports specific courses on officiating that will be available to the all officials for a fee. Once again, NFHSOA members will get a reduced rate for these courses. If you don't log onto this site you are missing an opportunity to gain valuable officiating information.

IDEA SHARING

POST GAME PROTOCOL – SOCCER UPDATE

Paul Powers, the President of the Greater New Haven Soccer Officials Association reported that the protocol that was initiated last year by the CSOA State Soccer Board seems to be working well. It has reduced the potential for post game confrontations with coaches and players and it enhances the safety of the officials. Paul emphasized that this is a protocol and not a mandate from CSOA. Most sports follow a similar protocol unless otherwise mandated by the NFHS rules. All agreed that the handshake and other post game activity is the responsibility of the school and coaches.

REFEREE COMMUNICATION CHECK LIST

An excellent article appeared on the NFHS Central Hub in their password protected area for NFHSOA members. The article was included in the meeting packet. The author emphasized the importance of officials understanding the importance of the human relations aspect of their jobs.

Some important concepts were as follows: You are hired to make the calls that control the game. Make them; Don't be a tough guy. Some refs develop irritating characteristics. Don't be one of them; Don't bark. If you don't like to be shouted at don't shout at players and coaches; Show confidence but don't be cocky; Answer reasonable questions. Treat coaches and players in a courteous manner; Choose your words wisely; Stay cool and establish a calm environment for the game; The ability to "handle" players and coaches is crucial to becoming a complete official; Don't always insist on getting the last word; and lastly, you as an official must be under control when everything around you is chaotic. Above all else, be professional and approachable.

All agreed it is a challenge to guide officials in the area of game management as well as verbal and non verbal communication skills. In many cases, the ability to control your emotions and deal with people often is directly proportionate to your success or failure as an official. Many of the advisory board members shared some methods they employ to develop officials in this important area.

AROUND THE TABLE

As has been our custom at all meetings, we go around the table to ask if anyone has anything to share with the group for the good of the order or to seek input from other sports. This is always worthwhile. One of the members summed up the discussion very appropriately in stating that many groups share the same challenges and talking about some of the ways various sports handle these matters, is very helpful.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm. The next meeting of the CIAC Advisory Board will be held on Thursday, February 11, 2016 @ 4:00 p.m. @ CIAC. The last Advisory Board meeting is Thursday, May 12, 2016 @ 4:00 pm. The State-Wide Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 16, 2016 @ 5:30 pm. Food at 5:00 pm.