

CIAC OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION
STATE-WIDE MEETING SUMMARY
JUNE 13, 2013

The meeting was attended by 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, and to share ideas for mutual benefit. It also provided CIAC with the opportunity to thank the officiating leaders for their dedication and numerous contributions to high school athletics.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

The group observed a moment of silence for the officials in Ct. that died this past year. Also included was Ricardo Portillo, the soccer ref that died in Utah as a result of being punched by a 17 year old player during a youth soccer game. May they rest in peace.

MEMBERSHIP TEMPLATE (2013-14)

The membership template is the same as last year except that a middle name column has been added. This is important for background checks. The Boards were instructed to send additions and deletions to officialsupdates@casciac.org as per the instructions and as soon as possible along with the appropriate payment. 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 unless they have consented to a background check and provided the information required including their date of birth and middle name. Jadwiga has also sent an electronic copy of the current roster to the appropriate individuals.

Payment should be sent to Joe Tonelli, CIAC Office, 30 Realty Drive, Cheshire, CT. 06410. The 2013-14 CIAC membership fee is \$10 per member; if your board also chooses to join the NFHS Officials' Association that fee is \$17 per member. Submission dates were reviewed. Boards should adhere to these dates.

For your advanced planning, after 9 years without an increase, the CIAC Officials Association Advisory Board agreed to a \$13 membership fee starting with the 2014-15 season. Although the advisory board reps may have shared this information already and it was announced at the state-wide meeting, official notification will be sent to all boards in mid July to be certain everyone is aware of the moderate increase for 2014-15.

EJECTION REPORTS

It was emphasized that officials are obligated to complete ejection reports in a timely manner and with precise accuracy. Mistakes are embarrassing and time consuming to rectify.

CIAC WEBSITE UPGRADE

Matt reported that the CIAC Website was upgraded and expanded to benefit the thousands of users that frequent the various sites. The www.ciacofficialsassociation.org can also be accessed by going to www.ciacsports.com and clicking on "CIAC for Officials" in the top banner. Matt also encouraged officials to sign up for and to make use of the postponement notifications for the schools on their assignment schedules.

GRANTS PROGRAM

Hank Koritkoski, chair of the "Grants Committee" distributed the list of approved grants and indicated that the deadline is June 30, 2013. It was emphasized that there are 2 additional standing grants for the initial use of arbiter and joining the NFHS Officials Assoc. The 2 standing grants of \$250 each can be applied for at any time (NO Deadline) and can be in addition to any other grant previously received. CIAC has awarded \$10,500 as of June 2013 and the deadline of June 30, 2013 was reconfirmed for all grants except the 2 standing grants. Since the meeting two additional grants have been awarded, bringing the total to the \$11,000 mark.

NFHS ELECTRONIC EXAMS / RULE BOOK ORDERS / NFHS ONLINE INTERPRETERS MEETINGS

Electronic exams, answer keys and rule books can be obtained through CIAC by contacting Joyce Smith at 203-250-1111 or jsmith@casciac.org. 5 logins per sport are permitted for the NFHS online interpreters meetings. Joe T will notify the interpreters since Joe must register all participants from CT. A schedule of all online meetings was included in the packet as well as the contact info for Joyce for rule books. NFHS members only will be allowed to do online testing. This is a NFHSOA membership benefit and the service is provided at no cost.

COACHES RULES INTERPRETATIONS MEETINGS

Joe T thanked the boards for providing these rules sessions for coaches and leagues. In appreciation, the CIAC Officials' Association will reimburse the presenters for their round trip mileage and provide a \$50 honorarium. Boards were encouraged to provide this service which enhances the relationship amongst coaches, leagues, and officials' groups. During this past year (2012-13) the CIAC expended more than \$6,000 to support this program and to insure that everyone is on the same page relative to the rule changes in all sports.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

At no additional cost to the boards or individual officials, CIAC expended more than \$14,000 to check more than 4,000 officials. Starting with this past season, a \$10 non-refundable background check fee payable to CIAC for all new applicants only was instituted. When meeting with new candidates it is helpful to provide them with a copy of the background check policy and consent form. Use the new

consent form that can be obtained on the officials' association website under downloads. The new form includes a place for the middle name which is required. It was emphasized that boards should submit their new officials for the background check when they become candidates and not wait until they have passed all requirements.

In accordance with the background check policy, officials that get arrested for crimes that could result in jail time must report the arrest to their local board and the local board will then notify CIAC. This is important especially when the arrest occurs during the season. Many boards have a statement to this effect in their constitution, which is advisable. In most cases the CIAC would let the board handle the matter unless it was advisable to do otherwise. Joe T included a brief explanation of the arrest policy in the meeting packet and it is also posted on line.

CURRENT TOPICS OF INTEREST

SOCIAL MEDIA / FACEBOOK / TWITTER USE BY OFFICIALS

Matt cautioned the group that officials should not be going on these sites to discuss games, players, coaches or fellow officials. It is never appropriate to "friend", "follow", or otherwise "interact" with student - athletes. This is unprofessional and inappropriate and officials groups were encouraged to educate their members. It is the responsibility of the local boards to deal with their members relative to the issue. CIAC was asked to provide the boards with some guidelines and that information is on the officials' association webpage and was part of the state-wide meeting packet.

DEATH OF SOCCER OFFICIAL – RICARDO PORTILLO, UTAH

Joe Tonelli included in the packet several local and national articles about this terrible incident. In the words of Barry Mano, President of NASO and publisher of Referee Magazine, "the yellow card that was given that day by Ricardo Portillo, which precipitated this tragedy, should serve as caution to all officials". Everyone has to be concerned about the safety of officials and that must begin with the officials being self-advocates and never letting their guard down.

HBO REAL SPORTS

Through the cooperation of Barry Mano and the folks at Referee Magazine, CIAC received special permission from HBO SPORTS to show the DVD of this program, which was very well done. Bryant Gumble featured the Richard Portillo incident and the need to protect game officials. The replay of this TV segment was well received by all officials at the state-wide-meeting.

POTENTIAL LEGISLATION

Democratic representations Paul Davis, District #117 and Republican David Labrioala, District #131 are interested in co-sponsoring an "Assault" bill in the 2014 legislative session. The efforts will begin in September and it will take a total team effort by all boards and every official to be successful. Any board that can document an officials' assault official during or after a game should document the

incident and contact Joe Tonelli at 203-250-1111. An email with the details of the incident should be sent to jtonelli@casciac.org.

ACCOUNTABILITY IN OFFICIATING – Are we doing a good job? - RAY FAUSTICH

CIAC Officials Association Advisory Board member Ray Faustich, long time baseball umpire, the state rules interpreter and former chairman of the NFHS baseball rules committee made an excellent presentation that was not only informational, but it provided food for thought for all groups. He reviewed how the Fairfield County Baseball Umpires Association prepared their members for the season and what they do during the season relative to ongoing education. The following points were covered: Personal and group accountability; Methods for teaching and reviewing rules, interpretations and mechanics; Rubrics used to assist umpires and statements of expectations; Interpersonal skills and continuing education; New member training and syllabus; Rules testing; In season on field/court evaluations by paid evaluators and others; Assigning of games. Ray concluded that the boards in Ct in all sports were doing a good job and he said we can learn from each other. He acknowledged that there are many ways to accomplish these goals and other board leaders shared some of their methods with the group. It was a very beneficial discussion.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR ATHLETES WITH DISABILITIES

Joe Tonelli reviewed the implications on schools of the recent ruling by OCR that re-enforced that disabled students should have the opportunity to participated on K-12 athletic teams. An article that appeared in Referee Magazine was included in the packet. Although the main responsibility of the OCR ruling falls on schools it is certain to have implications on officials. Officials must have a heightened awareness regarding these situations and approach these issues with sensitivity. CIAC will continue to share pertinent info on this topic from the NFHS and other sources.

INTERACTION BY OFFICIALS WITH COACHES / STUDENT ATHLETES / FANS

Professionalism and common sense should be your guiding principles. Poor judgment by officials in this area is certain to cause problems. Some ideas were shared regarding the proper protocol in addressing the participants before, during and after the game.

HANDOUTS

In an effort to share information the following items were included in the meeting packet:

- Registration info for CIAC and NFHS.
- Background check, consent form and process.
- Grants listing.
- Publication dates for electronic exams and how to get them.
- A 100 question answer key schedule of online interpreters meetings and how to participate.
- Interpretation of arrest policy.
- Social media guidelines.

- Barry Mano article on the death of Ricardo Portillo.
- Other articles: Fox News article that shines a light on violence faced by officials; Waterbury American newspaper –Joe Palladio’s 3 part Series “Officials protection and steps that can and should be taken”; Email exchange and CIAC agreement in order to show HBO Real Sports DVD; - Disabled students ruling means officials must adjust.
- CIAC Officials Advisory Board minutes of May 9, 2013.
- Ejection of a coach or athlete.
- CIAC by law changes regarding Sunday postponements.
- Communication protocol between member schools and officials groups.
- Membership counts in all sports/boards.
- NFHS OA membership benefits/insurance info.
- 2013-2014 Officials Fee Schedules
- Titles list of Board officials.
- Presentation outline by Ray Faustich.

OUTSTANDING PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES BY BOARDS.

Board leaders mentioned some of the outstanding programs and initiatives being conducted by boards to foster improvement and enhance awareness to meet the many challenges of officiating. Some initiatives mentioned were as follows: Soccer officials one mile run; baseball clinic conducted by former and current major league umpires; Basketball officiating camp held at the University of New Haven; Evaluation programs conducted by mentors and observers in several sports; On field State-wide football clinic sponsored by CFOA that includes stations covering important aspects of the games; Volleyball, field Hockey boys and girls lacrosse play days and many others worthwhile programs. Joe T mentioned that it is obvious that the boards are working extremely hard to better prepare their officials and to serve the member schools on all levels of play.

WRAP UP

Joe thanked the group for the excellent cooperation and support that CIAC has received from all officials groups and for their dedicated service to high school sports. Let us know how we can continue to support your efforts. It seems hard to believe that the CIAC Officials Association was resurrected in 2005-06. It has been a fast 8 years and I continue to enjoy my role in working together with you to better serve the officials groups and the member schools.

Have a great summer!