

**CIAC OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION
STATE-WIDE MEETING SUMMARY
JUNE 17, 2010**

The meeting was attended by more than 80 officiating leaders representing 50 of the 53 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.

MOMENT OF SILENCE – Joe T asked the group to join him in a moment of silence for 6 officials (now 7) that died this past year. Mike Burke (Western CT Lax), Nick Koules (Fairfield Baseball, Basketball), Lucy Goodridge (Girl's Lax, Field Hockey), Harold Mayo (Hartford Basketball), Jack McDonald (Eastern Baseball, Football, Basketball) and Tim Walsh (Western CT Swimming). Sadly, we lost a 7th official in the Manchester Beer Distributing Company tragedy. His name was Craig Pepin (Central CT Soccer, Hartford Basketball). May they rest in peace.

MEMBERSHIP TEMPLATE – All membership templates for 2010-11 were sent by Jenn Sylvester to the person on each local board that submitted the template to CIAC last year. Specific step by step instructions to simplify the submission of membership rosters were distributed and illustrated. Membership templates should have been returned no later than August 1, 2010. Next year the submission date will be July 1.

Payment should be sent to Jenn Sylvester, CIAC Office, 30 Realty Drive, Cheshire, CT. 06410. The CIAC membership fee is \$10 per member; if your board also chooses to join the NFHS Officials' Association that fee is \$17 per member. Please enclose separate checks, but both checks should be made payable to the CIAC Officials' Association. Please write "NFHS" on the memo line of the check for the NFHS Officials' Assoc that includes insurance coverage.

JENN SYLVESTER – Jenn was introduced to the group. She is the CIAC secretary that works with the officials association and a tremendous help to Joe. She does all the record keeping and the handling of your checks, membership cards, and much more. Jenn will make all the changes and handle additions and deletions that are made during the year. Her email address is

jennsylvester@casciac.org.

Jen's phone # is 203-250-1111.

MEETING PACKET – The following handouts were distributed and reviewed: Communication Protocol to resolve concerns between officials and member schools; CIAC regulation on criticizing officials in the media; Membership Agreement that schools sign agreeing to abide by CIAC regs that now includes a statement about payment of officials; A complete listing of the 2010-11 officials' fee increases; A schedule of the NFHS online rule interpretation meetings; NFHS Officials' Assoc membership benefits, Insurance Info, and Officials' education; Referee Magazine articles that featured CT; A tribute to the career and retirement of Mike Savage by WTIC1080 sports Caster Scott Gray.

COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL TO RESOLVE CONCERNS BETWEEN MEMBER SCHOOLS AND OFFICIALS' GROUPS

Joe T emphasized the importance of keeping the lines of communication open for mutual benefit and for resolving conflicts that may arise. The key is for officials' groups and member schools to follow the established protocol outlined on page 166 in the CIAC Handbook which can be accessed on line through the www.casciac.org website. Just click CIAC Athletics Division then select CIAC Handbook from the list. Things can always be worked out when all parties handle the situation with professionalism and mutual respect.

BACKGROUND CHECKS – It was reported that the CIAC Board of Control approved the background check document for implementation in 2011-2012. The document, which was distributed at the meeting, was unanimously endorsed by the background check committee and the officials' advisory board.

The lead time will provide the opportunity to obtain the information needed on all officials to implement the plan.

As you know, the policy on background checks was developed with significant input from the Background Check Committee, unanimously endorsed by the CIAC Officials' Association Advisory Board, and finalized by one of the most respected education attorneys in our state, Tom Mooney. The CIAC Board of Control was very pleased with the policy, praised the work and support of the both background check committee and the advisory board, and they were appreciative that we involved Attorney Mooney. The background check committee is grateful to the CIAC Board of Control for their willingness to make it a CIAC Policy, and as such, will accept the responsibility of implementing and defending the policy, rather than placing that burden on the local boards. This is a great service to the local boards and all officials will be checked at no additional cost to the officials or their respective boards.

RESPONSIBILITY OF LOCAL BOARDS – The local boards are responsible for obtaining the DOB for all members and getting their consent. The consent forms will be kept on file by the local board, not the CIAC. We would also need the maiden name or previous name, if applicable. During the 2010-2011 school year, and no later than April 1, 2011, all local boards must inform CIAC that all of the members currently in the CIAC membership database as submitted by their particular board have provided their DOB, Maiden or previous name, and consented to a CIAC background check. It is important that we have this information to begin the actual background checks in June, 2011 and can compile the approved list of officials for the 2011 – 2012 school year in a timely manner. The policy and the consent form can be downloaded on the www.ciacofficialsassociation.org website. Just click downloads in the banner on the top of the page.

NFHS CONCUSSION RULE / CT STATE LAW – In part, the new CT. state law mandates that all coaches complete a course in the management of concussions that includes the recognition of the signs and symptoms of a concussion or head injury. The law also places the primary responsibility for the athlete's health and safety on the coach and requires the coach to remove

a student from participating in a game or practice who is observed to exhibit signs and symptoms of a concussion following an observed or suspected blow to the head or body. In light of the state law in Connecticut and in keeping with the intent of the NFHS concussion rule, the primary role of the official is to assist coaches, trainers, and health care professionals in identifying athletes that need to be checked out for a possible concussion or head injury, and then defer to the judgment of these trained individuals. The official should stop play to provide the opportunity for the coach, trainer, or other appropriate health care professionals to check out the athlete. More information will be obtained through the NFHS online rule interpretation meetings that the CT interpreters will attend.

NFHS OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION BENEFITS – Boards that decided to join the NFHS for \$17 per member, that includes insurance coverage for high school and all other games you officiate, except pro games, will have password protected access to the following information: educational videos and animation, online rule books and case books, a searchable rules database, the online Officials' Quarterly magazine, free online testing, and much more. The NFHS is partnering with Arbiter Sports to be an online technology partner for NFHS members only. Boards that want more information should contact Joe Tonelli @ CIAC.

IDEA SHARING - This portion of the meeting was very beneficial. Some of the ideas currently being done by various officials' groups include a state-wide clinic to foster consistency, various mentoring and observer programs (some paid and some on a volunteer basis), sportsmanship awards to athletes, coaches, and schools, all star games sponsored by the local board that includes the awarding of scholarships, on field clinics both indoor and outdoor, and game film sessions to evaluate the performance of officiating teams.

MEETING 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.