

**CIAC OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION
STATE-WIDE MEETING SUMMARY
JUNE 16, 2011**

The meeting was attended by officiating leaders representing 44 of the 50 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

The group observed a moment of silence for the officials that died this past year. May they rest in peace.

MEMBERSHIP TEMPLATE (2011-12)

Because the boards recently updated and submitted their membership rosters to CIAC for the background checks, these rosters will be used as a starting point for the 2011-2012 membership rosters for your board. The current board rosters were distributed and the method for making updates was explained. 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. No new members should be submitted unless they have consented to a background check.

Payment should be sent to Joe Tonelli, 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.

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.

MEETING PACKET

Many useful handouts were included in the meeting packet such as the 2011-12 fee schedules, online testing information, and a power point presentation illustrating an "Observer Program".

OFFICIALS' GRANTS PROGRAM

Hank Koritkoski, chair of the "Grants Committee" distributed the list of approved grants and indicated that that more than 50% of the boards have requested and received grants for mentor programs, observer programs, utilizing the Arbiter Sports assigning program, training programs etc. Hank emphasized that boards that can apply throughout the 2011-12 school year.

The group then discussed some of the programs being used by boards to improve the quality of officiating in our state. Many good ideas were shared.

NFHS ONLINE RULES EXAMS

Jay Elliot, rules interpreter for the Western Lacrosse board explained the mechanics of online NFHS exams. This is one of the many benefits of joining the NFHS Officials' Association. It is easy to manage and a most efficient way to meet the requirement of yearly testing for all members. The best part is that the service is free for NFHS members.

Joe T explained that the NFHS will no longer provide paper exams...All exams are electronic; CIAC will currently provide an electronic copy of the exam when requested.

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 as provide a \$50 honorarium. Boards were encouraged to provide this service which enhances the relationship amongst coaches, leagues, and officials' groups.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

The background checks are in progress and on schedule. The criminal conviction checks are being done by Criminal Investigation Services ("CRIS") from Oregon on all current and new candidates who provided a date of birth and consented. The majority of checks can be done with a date of birth and maiden name, if applicable. In some cases, and we common names, the full legal name or social security number may be needed to confirm the person's identity. To officiate high school sports in Connecticut, officials must be cleared through the CIAC background check process. A very small percentage did not comply and cannot be screened or approved to officiate until they submit the required information. Priority for notifying boards regarding the approved list will be given to fall sports and Joe will only communicate with the board designated contact person. The goal is to notify boards prior to the season, if possible, but that will depend of the timeliness of the submissions by the particular boards.

This is a great service to the local boards since all officials will be checked at no additional cost to the officials or their respective boards for the 2011-12 school year.

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. The CIAC background check 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 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. A new course on officiating will soon be launched by the NFHS. The course will be free for NFHS members. The NFHS is partnering with Arbiter Sports to be an online technology partner for NFHS members only. The NFHS members also get an excellent

insurance plan through K & K insurance that covers them while officiating high school and other non high school leagues. Boards that want more information should contact Joe Tonelli @ CIAC.

IDEA SHARING

This portion of the meeting was very beneficial. With the power point presentations on the "Observer Program" and the online rules testing demonstration providing the impetus for an excellent exchange of ideas, many worthwhile ideas surfaced. 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. Some boards purchased video cameras to film their officials during the game for teaching purposes.

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.