

CIAC OFFICIALS ADVISORY BOARD

ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

October 19, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chris Burns, Ray Faustich, Jay Kelleher, Hank Koritkoski, Dave Leete, Bud Chernovetz for Hank Luzzi, Lev Torgerson, Donna Vavrinec for Lil Perrone, Melissa Zigmont, Dan Scavone, and Joe Tonelli, CIAC.

ACTION ITEMS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

On a motion by Dave Leete, the minutes of May 11, 2017 were approved. In addition, the summary of the June 14, 2017 State-Wide Meeting was included in the packet for reference.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of October 17, 2017, 3,651 individual officials occupy 4,708 officiating slots. 2115 officials are members of the NFHS Officials Association.

ATHLETIC DIRECTORS UPDATE

Dan mentioned that he is part of an athletic director's strategic planning committee that has a goal of further enhancing the working relationship between athletic directors and officials groups. He emphasized that continuing to work together is the best way to address issues of mutual concern. He mentioned that he recently was appointed as the commissioner of the Central Connecticut Conference (CCC) and that he will continue to use his influence to encourage the league athletic directors to plan ahead to avoid unnecessary schedule changes.

CAS/CIAC HALL OF HONOR

Joe T mentioned that the third annual Connecticut Association of Schools Hall of Honor induction program will be held Friday, November 10, 2017 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Aqua Turf. Advisory Board member and long time CIAC Boys Lacrosse tournament director and officials assigner, Dave Leete will be honored for his tremendous contributions to officiating in the sport of lacrosse and CIAC. He is also serving a four-year term as a member of the NFHS rules Boys Lacrosse rules committee, and had an outstanding career as a teacher-coach and athletic director at Bolton High School. Joe also informed the group that nominations are now being accepted for the 2017 induction class. Anyone can nominate deserving individuals for consideration for this award. The nomination packet can be accessed on the www.ciacofficialsassociation.org website.

OLD BUSINESS/INFORMATION ITEMS

PRESEASON RULES MEETINGS/WINTER DATE

Joe Tonelli requested the winter sports rules meeting dates for coaches.

NFHS ONLINE RULES INTERPRETATIONS MEETING SCHEDULE

Track & Field – Tuesday, Jan 16, 2018

Softball – Wednesday, Jan 17, 2018

Baseball – Thursday, Jan 18, 2018

Boys Lax - Tuesday, Jan 23, 2018

Lev mentioned that the NFHS is experimenting with face to face interpreters meetings in some sports. This year it was ice hockey, basketball and wrestling. Lev and state basketball rules interpreter Peter Palermino attended the 2 day meeting and both felt that the sessions were very worthwhile and a great experience. Their expenses were covered by the CIAC Officials Association.

CIAC BOARD OF CONTROL MEETINGS

If you wish to represent the Advisory Board at any of the meetings, call or email Joe Tonelli. When no one is available to attend, the advisory board is represented by Joe T, who also attends as a CIAC staff member.

CIAC PRACTICE AND GAME START DATES

Joe distributed a calendar of these dates for 2017-18.

OVERVIEW OF THE OFFICIATING MEMBERS IN CT

Number of officials per sport, including multi-sport officials.

B & G Basketball - 1,358;	Baseball – 699;	Football – 632;
B & G Soccer – 597;	Softball – 365;	B & G Volleyball – 232;
Boys Lacrosse – 249;	Girls Lacrosse – 131;	B & G Swimming – 130;
Ice Hockey – 117;	Field Hockey – 98;	Wrestling – 68;
Gymnastics – 16.		

The numbers are down in Ct in many sports which mirror the rest of the country.

A quick go round of the advisory board members in attendance produced the following snap shot: Field hockey, gymnastics and softball need more officials to be able to meet the demands. Football, because the frosh, JV and varsity play on different days is holding their own, but the numbers are slightly declining. Swimming is doing okay because the sport is played mostly on the varsity level which reduces the demand. Boys and girls lacrosse is a growing sport so the need and challenge is present to increase numbers. There are many more officials for boys lacrosse than there are for girls. In baseball the larger boards are holding their own, but the smaller boards need to increase their work force. Ice hockey takes a special skill. Although they can always use more officials, the fact that many schools don't field JV teams helps with the supply and demand. However, the prep schools and girls ice hockey does add to the challenge. Soccer needs more officials because of boys and girls teams and the fact that schools play the sport on 2 or 3 levels. Girls volleyball needs officials but the sport is helped by the fact that officials work double or triple headers in the same day. There are plenty of officials for boys volleyball because there are only about 40 schools that field teams.

There is no question that athletic directors, coaches, officiating leaders, the current refs themselves and the CIAC need to work together to encourage people to become officials and treat them in a manner that encourages them to stay in it. This must be a priority now and in the years to come. Dan Scavone has offered to assist in this area.

NEW BUSINESS / DISCUSSION ITEMS

NEW OFFICIALS CONTACT MEETING

After the holidays Joe T and Dan will survey the new officials contacts regarding the strategies they use to “recruit and retain officials” from getting the initial inquiry to assigning them to games. From the info gained we will be able to identify individuals to invite to a meeting to formulate best practices and plan other strategies.

OFFICIALS' JURISDICTION – WHEN DOES IT END?

In most sports, the jurisdiction of the official ends when they leave the confines of the court or field. In the sport of football the rule book specifies that the game ends when the Referee declares that the game is over by raising the football.

Once the officials' jurisdiction ends, by rule, no ejection can take place. Any extremely unsporting behavior that takes place after jurisdiction ends should be reported to the board assigner. If the situation warrants further discussion, the assigner can contact the CIAC, if necessary, or follow the CIAC protocol and contact the athletic director of the school. Although the official cannot issue an ejection after jurisdiction ends, the CIAC Ejection /Disqualification rule does allow an official the opportunity to reevaluate an ejection that occurred during the game. Until the official(s) leaves the site the game official(s) is in charge and may take any action deemed to be appropriate, even to the extent of reversing an earlier decision to eject a player or coach. Both schools (coaches on site) must be made fully aware of all final decisions on game disqualifications. Once the game official(s) leaves the site of the contest all decisions on game disqualifications are final. There is NO appeal procedure that a school may use relative to disqualifications. Disqualification is a judgment call by an official and as such is not appealable.

USE OF CIAC BUILDING FOR MEETINGS – Groups using the building must contact Joe Tonelli to reserve a room. They will need the instructions to open and lock the building. Care must be taken to leave the room as you found it and be sure to shut all lights and doors and secure the building.

NATIONAL ANTHEM – There is no CIAC policy or NFHS rule that applies to schools or officials regarding individuals taking a knee during the National Anthem. CIAC is an association of member schools, and since coaches, players and other school staff are under the jurisdiction of their local school districts, it is best that this sensitive issue be handled by school personnel. Therefore, game officials do not have duties or responsibilities with regard to individuals taking a knee.

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 exchange of information.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm. The next meeting of the CIAC Advisory Board will be held on Thursday, February 8, 2018 @ 4:00 p.m. @ CIAC. The last Advisory Board meeting is Thursday, May 10, 2018 @ 4:00 pm. The State-Wide Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 14, 2018 @ 5:30 pm. Food at 5:00 pm