

**CIAC OFFICIALS ADVISORY BOARD
ADIVISORY BOARD MINUTES
FEBRUARY 3, 2011**

Members present: Chris Burns, Dom D'Aurio, Ray Faustich, Barry Fowler, Dave Leete, Debbie Martin, Terry Schanbacher, Barbara Startup, Lev Torgerson and Joe Tonelli, CIAC Staff.

Joe welcomed new board member Chris Burns who will be representing swimming. A moment of silence was observed in memory of George Ford.

Action Items/Discussion items

On a motion by Dom D'Aurio the minutes of October 14, 2010 were approved.

Membership Report

4,057 individual officials occupy 5,062 officiating slots. 1,376 officials are members of the NFHSOA. All of the baseball umpires in the state have committed to join the NFHS Officials Association in the near future.

CIAC / NFHS Officials Association Calendar

The board agreed that the 2011-12 membership calendar year will be July 1 to June 30, which is in line with other state associations around the country and the NFHS Officials Association.

CIAC / NFHS Officials' Membership Fees

Dave Leete reported that the budget committee recommends that the 2011-12 dues remain the same. On a motion by Dave, the 2011-12 CIAC membership fee of \$10 per sport, with a maximum fee of \$20 was unanimously approved. For those boards that opt to join the NFHS Officials Association, the membership fee is \$17, which includes insurance coverage (Liability and Excess Medical) and numerous other benefits.

Old Business / Information Items

Preseason Rules Meetings/Spring and Fall Dates

Joe Tonelli requested dates for rules meetings for coaches. He encouraged boards to accommodate the leagues, when possible. Joe emphasized that the CIAC Officials' Association will reimburse the local board presenters for their

round trip mileage and pays a \$50 honorarium for these rules sessions, when the sessions are for coaches only.

Payment of Officials Update

Barbara Startup apprised the board of the problems encountered in the past with the Hartford school system that came to a head last year when some officials did not get paid by some schools for 6 or 7 months. CIAC intervened and the Hartford Schools initiated a new system which proved to be a major step in the right direction. In addition, CIAC also included a clause in the membership agreement regarding the payment of officials. Barbara expressed appreciation to the CIAC and also praised the athletic directors and bookkeepers in the Hartford School System for their efforts to significantly improve the payment process.

NFHS Online Rules Meetings

Connecticut participated in all the NFHS rules meetings; Joe also used these meetings to review the state law on concussions that applies to all high school coaches. Joe also reviewed the CIAC concussion protocol for Connecticut officials.

CIAC Officials' Advisory Board Reps to CIAC Board

Feb 17 – Chris Burns; Marc 31 – Lev Torgerson; Apr 28 – Barry Fowler and May 19 – Joe Miller

Background Checks - Implementation Plan

Joe reviewed the tentative timeline for background checks. The results of the checks will affect the approved list of officials for the 2011-12 school year.

March, April and May

- Obtain the missing birth dates;
- Obtain verification from local boards that all of their members have consented to a background check;
- Provide the current membership template to all boards with instructions to simplify the confirmation of their roster and the consent status of all their members;
- New members can be submitted by the boards as they get them by completing the additional member's template that will be provided.

May, June, July, August, September

- Begin to submit CIAC Officials' Association members that provided a birth date and consent to the CRIS Company to be background checked;
- Priority will be given to officials for the upcoming season;
- Continue the process of submitting officials to the Cris Company while at the same time receiving reports on officials for whom the company has completed the background check;
- Inform those officials that are being considered for exclusion from the approved list via letter; (Officials can appeal)
- At the conclusion of the review process and when all appeals are exhausted, the board commissioner will be sent the approved list of officials for their Board.

Most of the reports will come back clean (No record found); Some may come back as a disputed record, which means the identity of the person cannot be confirmed with the info provided(More info needed); and a small percentage of people will be flagged as a result of having a conviction on their record.

It is important to note that a conviction does not automatically eliminate an official; Decisions are made on a case by case basis.

Refer to the Background Check Policy for Connecticut Officials on the www.ciacofficialsassociation.org website under downloads for the complete review process. If an official is notified by mail that he/she is being considered for exclusion from the approved list or the official has been excluded from the approved list, the review process outlines the appeal requirements.

October, November, December and throughout the 2011-12 school year

- Same as above

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT OFFICIALS WHO DO NOT PROVIDE THE INFORMATION REQUESTED OR DO NOT GIVE CONSENT WILL NOT BE BACKGROUND CHECKED AND THEREFORE CANNOT BE CLEARED TO OFFICIATE HIGH SCHOOL GAMES IN CONNECTICUT.

Birthdates

As of February 21, 2011, we have birthdates for more than 3,950 officials; We need approximately 100 more birthdates to have all of them.

New Business (Discussion)

CIAC Officials Association Grants Program

The CIAC Officials' Association is offering a Grants Program available to officials' organizations as an incentive for boards to initiate programs for the purpose of improving officiating and/or their service to CIAC member schools. The maximum amount of the grant is \$250 and boards are limited to one grant only in the initial phase of the program that starts now and will continue through the 2011-12 school year.

Grant funds must address one or more of the following areas: Recruitment of new officials, retaining current officials, training of officials (including mentor programs), assessing and evaluations of officials, improving rules knowledge, and the initial use of Arbiter.

By unanimous consent, the board approved initiating the Grants Program effective upon the notification of all boards which has done.

Concussion Update

Joe apprised the Board that the fall and winter officials did not experience any problems with the new concussion rule. The concussion protocol developed by CIAC for Connecticut high school officials has served us extremely well. The concussion law places the main responsibility on the coaches and school personnel who have been trained in concussion management. The CIAC officials Association purchased concussion cards for all officials. The cards were specifically designed for coaches. However, because the cards include the symptoms, we felt it was good information for officials.

Around The Table

The following are some of comments made by board members in the around the table dialogue:

Lev Torgerson, in commenting about the "improvement grants", recalled that one of our first initiatives was to ask boards to list how CIAC Officials Association can assist local boards and he believes that these grants and many other things we have done certainly meets that goal.

Dom D' Aurio mentioned that he attended a CIAC Board of Control meeting and he was amazed at the difficult issues that the board faces. He complemented the CIAC Board of Control for the manner in which they arrive at discussions.

Chris Burns said he enjoyed his first meeting with the group and he was pleased that the issues we discussed are geared to assist officials. He also praised George Ford for his numerous contributions to swimming and officiating and that he honored to serve in this capacity.

Dave Leete, in talking about the consent forms for background checks, said he distributed them to the boys lacrosse officials at a meeting and 100% of the membership signed them and turned them in that night.

Ray Faustich clarified that the local boards will retain the background checks consent forms and will simply have to verify that all of their members have consented. He also mentioned that the baseball umpires will soon be joining the NFHS Officials Association to take advantage of the many officials education type information that members have access to as well as the insurance beneficial that covers members while officiating both high school and non-high school leagues in all sports. The baseball boards recently learned that the insurance they had for many years did not provide adequate liability coverage or any medical coverage.

Terry Schanbacher added that it would be ideal if someday, every official in the state was covered by the same insurance plan through the CIAC dues structure, but he understood why CIAC continues to make it optional.

Barbara Startup & Debbie Martin had to leave just prior to the around the table dialogue but they both felt that the "Improvement Grants" initiative would be well received by all officials groups.

Barry Fowler surprised the group by announcing that this meeting of the Advisory Board was going to be his last one. He is relinquishing his position on the Colonial Executive Board and the State Board to pursue additional business opportunities. He will continue officiating football and he is also a USTA Track Official. He enjoyed being on the CIAC Advisor Board.

Joe Tonelli thanked Barry for his significant contributions to the board for the past 5 + years. Barry attended practically every meeting during his tenure and not only represented football extremely well, but his global perspective and insight was invaluable to the group. The board wished him well.

With no further business, and by unanimous consent the 5:30 P.M meeting was adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

The spring meeting of the Advisory Board will be held Wednesday, May 11, 2011 at 4:00 P.M. @ CIAC.

For your advanced planning, the State-Wide Officials Meeting with 2 reps from each board is scheduled for Thursday, June 16, 2011 @ 5:30 P.M @ CIAC.

