

CIAC BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING MINUTES  
April 5, 2018

Present: Matt Ryan, Mike Fritch, Robert Cecchini, Robert Lehr, Trish Witkin, Damian Frassinelli, Erin Clark, Janice Saam, Daniel Moleti, Anna Mahon, Karissa Niehoff, Anthony Azzara, Gregg Simon, Beth Smith, George Synnott, Linda Iacobellis, Neil Rinaldi, Michelle Cordeau, Carl Nissa, Dave Telesca

The meeting began at 2:30 pm with Chair Anthony Azzara presiding.

1.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 1.1 Review and approval of the Board of Control Minutes for February 15, 2018 – After review and discussion the Board voted to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion: To approve minutes – D. Moleti / second – J. Saam / motion approved.

- 1.2 Treasurer’s Report – Beth Smith presented the financial report as of February 18, 2018.

- 1.3 Letter of Self-Report – Out-of-Season Coaching – [ ] – The Board considered a letter of self-report from [ ] High School regarding out-of-season coaching violation from the [ ] boys tennis program. The head boys tennis coach worked with some of the student-athletes during clinics through his position at the Middlebury Racquet Club. The coach misinterpreted the “summer club” portion of the out-of-season coaching rule.

Motion: To fine the school \$750 for the violation of the out-of-season coaching rule and require the coach to complete Module 5 of the Connecticut Coaching Education Program (CIAC Rules & Regulation) – D. Moleti / second – B. Smith / motion approved.

- 1.4 Letter of Self-Report – Student-Athlete Eligibility-Middle School Participation – [ ] – The Board considered a letter of self-report from [ ] for a violation of the rules regarding middle school athlete participation for the varsity boys lacrosse program. The boys lacrosse coach permitted a middle school student to participate in a high school practice on one occasion.

Motion: To fine the school \$250 for violation of the middle school participation and require the coach to complete Module 5 of the Connecticut Coaching Education Program (CIAC Rules & Regulation) – L. Iacobellis / second – A. Mahon / motion approved.

- 1.5 Letter of Self-Report – Out-of-Season Coaching – [ ] – The Board considered a letter of self-report from [ ] for violations of the out-of-season coaching rules by its baseball program. The school discovered the head baseball coach was conducting and charging student-athletes for instruction for out-of-season workouts for an extended period of time in violation of out-of-season coaching rules. The school had removed the coach after discovering the violations. The Board members discussed potential penalties for the violations that could be applied to the coach and the logistics that might be involved in those penalties carrying to a subsequent coaching position. There was also discussion of whether the Department of Education coaching certification process could be a part of any sanctions.

Motion: To fine the school \$750 for violation of the out-of-season coaching rules, require two years of probation from the beginning of any affiliation with another baseball program as either paid or volunteer coach, and request that Karissa Niehoff contact the State Department of Education to discuss coaching behaviors that may influence certification status – B. Smith / second – A. Mahon / motion approved.

- 1.6 Sunday Play Request – Pomperaug High School – The Board considered a request for an exception to the Sunday play rule for a baseball game between Pomperaug High School and Masuk High School. The game was a special event scheduled for Dodd Stadium.

Motion: To approve the Sunday play exception request – B. Smith / second – A. Mahon / motion approved.

- 1.7 Cooperative Team Opt-Out Approval Request – Bristol – The Board considered an approval of a cooperative team opt-out for the Bristol girls lacrosse program. As part of the recently passed co-op team opt-out for CIAC tournament the Board of Control approval is the final stage of the opt-out procedure.

Motion: To approve the request for a cooperative team opt-out for the Bristol girls lacrosse team – L. Iacobellis / second – D. Moleti / motion approved.

## 2.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 2.1 F-1 Visa – Karissa Niehoff updated the Board on CIAC concerns regarding increasing numbers of students on F-1 Visas attending CIAC member schools. Many of these students are coming to the US through non-CSIET programs and there is an increasing challenge in determining any previous level of athletic competition, which is required for current CIAC rules. The Board members expressed interest in forming a sub-committee to consider amending the current CIAC policies. Dr. Niehoff indicated she would create a survey of other state associations to discover what policies existed in other states.
- 2.2 Woodstock Academy – Provided an update on the continuing situation with Woodstock Academy and its determination of continuing as a CIAC member school. She explained that she and Gregg Simon had a meeting with the school personnel in the recent weeks to go over the situation and that at this point CIAC was awaiting a decision from Woodstock Academy. A representative from Woodstock Academy was present and indicated the final decision would be made at its Board of Trustee meeting on April 12.
- 2.3 Boys Basketball Tournament – Gregg Simon updated the Board on the boys basketball tournament format following the one-year trial from this past season. A proposal for the upcoming year would be coming to the Board soon. There was discussion about the possibility of lowering the qualification mark to .350 to create more balanced tournament. There were some concerns that creating additional differences between the boys and girls tournaments warranted further evaluation.
- 2.4 Season Limitations Exception – The Board heard an update on the regular season girls volleyball event featuring teams from Connecticut and other states that will be held next fall, and the idea that the Board may be asked to approve an exception to seasons limitations for the teams that take part in the event to allow for additional competition. There were concerns raised that this exception would only be for the teams invited to participate in this event.

## 3.0 CONSULTANT REPORTS

- 3.1 CAS – No report
- 3.2 CAPSS – No report
- 3.3 CABE – No report
- 3.4 Sports Medicine – No report
- 3.5 CATA – No report
- 3.6 Unified Sports – George Synnott reported that Unified Sports held 26 basketball tournaments over the winter. This included seven leagues holding their own tournaments, and culminated with four games taking place at halftime at Mohegan Sun. He also noted

- the Unified Sports Michaels Cup recognition dinner was approaching and that an attendance of more than 1,000 people is expected.
- 3.7 CAAD – Damian Frassinelli reported CAAD held its annual conference which went well, as well as its annual awards banquet which included inducted CIAC staff person Joe Tonelli into the organization’s Hall of Fame.
  - 3.8 CHSCA – Michelle Cordeau reported the Coaches Association has updated its website along with its All-State selection procedures. There are a number of recognition banquets still coming up including some winter sport and spring banquets as well as the Coach of the Year event. The Association will be holding a golf outing and picnic on May 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - 3.9 Officials – Joe Tonelli reported that recruitment of officials continues to be a significant challenges and priority and that the officials association is working with ADs and coaches to try and increase recruitment. This is expected to be an ongoing effort.
- 4.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS
- 4.1 Eligibility – Linda Iacobellis reported that the Eligibility Committee heard seven cases; two were approved; five were denied.
  - 4.2 Eligibility Review Board – Linda Iacobellis reported that the Review Board did not meet last month as there were no cases.
- 5.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
- 5.1 Schools of Choice enrollment process and reporting
  - 5.2 Review of CIAC Sunday Play By-laws
- 6.0 STAFF REPORTS
- 6.1 Joel Cookson noted that Unified Sports, and Connecticut’s program in particular, had been highlighted in the recent edition of High School Today magazine.
  - 6.2 Joe Tonelli reported that the CIAC Hockey Committee had done its divisional placements for the upcoming year and for the first time in memory there were no appeals.
  - 6.3 Gregg Simon reported a reminder that the CIAC Scholar Athlete Banquet is scheduled for Sunday, May 6.
  - 6.4 Karissa Niehoff provided information about the J. Robert Ford Athletic Grant which is nearly finalized and will be presented to schools in the coming weeks. She also noted the CEO of Unified Sports International would be the guest speaker at this year’s Michaels Cup recognition banquet. She informed the group about the D.R.E.A.M. Sports Summer Learning Camp which would be held for the first time this summer, providing education and sports activity for students during the summer. This is the first time CAS-CIAC has worked to provide summer programming and has created a program specifically for non-High School students. She reported on the great work from the CT State Student Advisory Council and its creation of the CT SEES Program to help encourage positive school climate. The program is being launched in April. She reported on a conversation with the ownership of the AquaTurf Club regarding the negative publicity the Club received for an event it hosted for the NRA. She indicated the Club ownership made clear it would not be hosting the event again in the future. Finally she updated the Board on proposed legislation of interest.
- 7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS
- 7.1 NFHS Executive Directors update January, 2018
  - 7.2 NFHS Executive Directors update February, 2018

NEXT MEETING: May 3, 2018, 2:30 p.m.