

CIAC BOARD OF CONTROL MINUTES

April 7, 2016

Meeting called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Chair Paul Newton.

Members present: Eric Baim, Joe Canzanella, Jiggs Cecchini, Butch Azarra, Barb Hedden, Suzanne Koroshetz, Joe Monroe, Paul Newton, Karissa Niehoff, Lee Panagoulas, Sheila Riffle, Dan Scavone, Dan Sullivan, Trish Witkin, Steve Wysowski.

1.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 1.1 CIAC Board of Control Minutes of February 2016 approved unanimously.
- 1.2 Treasurer's Report – Note: Two months – reports were approved unanimously.
- 1.3 2016-17 Calendars – Board of Control, Eligibility Committee, Eligibility Review Board – all were approved.
- 1.4 Proposal – Football Committee – Running Clock – Motion to accept – J. Monroe, second E. Baim – unanimously approved.

Application – The following running clock rules would apply to all CIAC-sanctioned football games played in the State of Connecticut including varsity, junior varsity, sub-varsity and freshmen games. These rules would apply to playoff games but would not be applied to state championship games. This is a one-year trial.

Point Differential for Consideration:

1. When one team leads by 42 or more points in the third quarter or leads by 35 or more points in the fourth quarter, the officials shall use a running clock to time the game.
2. If the score differential is reduced to less than 42 points in the third quarter or less than 35 points in the fourth quarter, the officials shall revert to regular timing until the point differential again reaches 42 (third quarter) or 35 (fourth quarter) points.

Running Clock Operations Rules

1. The clock will run continuously when:
 - First down is awarded to either team, including following a change of possession;
 - Ball or runner with the ball goes out of bounds;
 - Legal or illegal forward pass is incomplete;
 - Penalty enforcement.
2. The clock shall be stopped for:
 - End of a period;
 - Scores (touchdown, field goal, safety):
 - Try plays following a touchdown;
 - Charged team timeout;
 - Official's timeout;
 - Injury timeout.

Rationale: The CIAC rules that limit the number of levels a student may appeal in football games during a week and limit the number of quarters a student may participate during a week may make it difficult for coaches to follow appropriate score management protocols and ensure that the team has enough players eligible to play all games at all levels.

Current CIAC rules do allow for a running clock but only by mutual consent of both coaches. Making the running clock mandatory eliminates potential conflicts that can arise when a game is out of hand and one or both coaches refuse the use of a running clock. There are two choices below.

A mandatory running clock will make everyone's (coaches, players and officials) jobs easier in managing games with high score differentials and may reduce the risk of injuries by reducing the number of exposures in a "lopsided" game. A mandatory running clock will also help coaches and programs to adhere to the "levels" and "quarters" limitation rules.

Note: The message regarding the importance of consistently adhering to score management protocols has been heard loud and clear by CIAC member school football coaches, athletic directors and principals. The fifty point rule may no longer be necessary. CIAC member school coaches have done an exemplary job of adhering to the principals of good sportsmanship in games where the score differential was significant and the game outcome no longer in doubt. There are score management protocols in the handbook that would remain to remind coaches of what they can do even with the running clock in place.

Replaces "Football Score Management Policy DQ Ejection Rule for one year.

- 1.5 Proposal – Cross Country Committee – The proposal was read and concern by CHSCA representative Barb Hedden that the proposal needed stronger language giving the coach the right to refuse and not be overruled. The Board offered support noting that the proposal's intent was for that to happen and on a motion by Dan Sullivan seconded by Brian Mignault, the following language was added: "with the approval first by the coach, and then with the approval of both the Athletic Director and the principal a member of the cross country team ... Discussion ensued and Barb Hedden indicated that this language would satisfy any concern by coaches and CHSCA. Unanimous approval.

New proposal during the cross country season – road races (replace 4.2.c.)

With the approval of the coach, athletic director and principal, a member of the cross country team may:

- Enter a road race of 5K or less as an "unattached athlete" in a maximum of four (4) road races per season provided he/she complies with weekly limitations and satisfies all of the requirements of an "unattached athlete" stated in the CIAC Handbook.

To avoid any misunderstanding, the requirements that must be satisfied by the "unattached cross country athlete" are as follows:

The unattached athlete must:

- Obtain the approval of the school (coach, athletic director and principal);
- Comply with the maximum number of outside events per season (4) and comply with weekly limitations (2 per week in XC, including invites and road races);
- Not represent the school or the state association in any way, nor are the high school or state association legally responsible for the athletes. Athletes must not use the school name or school uniforms, and the school cannot sponsor the athletes in any way, financial or otherwise;
- Compete as an individual and not as a team member;
- Entry fees may not be paid by the school;
- Schools may not benefit in any way from the athlete's participation.

2.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 2.1 2016-17 Calendar – Board of Control, Eligibility Committee, Eligibility Review Board (see above)
2.2 Proposal – Football Committee – Running Clock (see above)
2.3 Board Proposal – Cross Country Committee (see above)

3.0 CONSULTANT REPORTS

- 3.1 Unified Sports – George Synnott indicated that the four games at Mohegan Sun were a great success. He thanks tournament directors Maloney and Cecchini for their support.
3.2 CAAD – Dan Scavone reported that the CAAD Conference was a great success. He thanked Karissa and Steve for presenting. He indicated that the workshop was timely and helpful. The Executive Director of NIAAA was a speaker and CAAD honored two former athletic directors by inducting them into the first class of the Hall of Fame.

- 3.3 CHSCA – Barbara Hedden spoke about the upcoming May 12 coaches’ banquet. She mentioned the concern (addressed above) by the Executive Board for the cross country proposal but agreed that adding the language above rectifies that concern. Congratulated Karissa on her recent award by UConn for contributions as a NEAG School of Education alum.
- 3.4 Officials – Joe Tonelli – No report

4.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 4.1 Eligibility Committee – Brian Mignault – Two cases heard – one waiver granted, one denied
- 4.2 Eligibility Review Board – No cases heard

5.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 5.1 Other items to discuss and be aware of for this year – Football proposal for 2017 – Concern by members over the need to allow “down time”. What other sports may also want. The possibility of a universal start date because of regional scheduling was mentioned and that superintendents are opposed as are principals and many board members of extending a date to allow for practice after the school year.
- 5.2 Sportsmanship Standards – For “ratings week” – CIAC “class act schools” – Dan Scavone presented the work of CAAD, all acknowledged that it was a great piece and that it should eventually be a launch point for Michaels Cup recipients. The Sportsmanship Committee has scheduled a meeting in April to see the proposal and either accept or amend it.

6.0 STAFF REPORTS

No report – Matt Fischer, Joe Tonelli, Joel Cookson, Stephanie Ford, Karissa Niehoff
Robert Lehr – Bowling tournament on March 19 was a great success.
Steve Wysowski – Great winter season

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

- 7.1 Bloomfield Investigation
- 7.2 Golf Partnership – No change of seasons – no proposal
- 7.3 Winter Season
- 7.4 Florida Article

Next Board of Control meeting – August 25 – 4:00 p.m. No meeting on May 5.