



## CIAC COVID-19 Update (April 2, 2020)

On April 2, 2020, the CIAC Board of Control held its regularly scheduled meeting. The Board's discussion focused on the current state of our member schools and spring sports.

The CIAC Board of Control continues to emphasize the importance of social distancing. We recognize how difficult the abrupt move to online instruction and life without extracurricular activities has been for our students, teachers, parents, administrators, and coaches. By engaging in the social distancing guidelines and mandates provided through the Governor and the State Department of Education, we can collectively flatten the curve and get back to our schools sooner.

We appreciate that our student-athletes miss their teammates and coaches. It is in the arena of athletics and physical fitness that our communities face the greatest challenge in enforcing social distancing. Social distancing standards must be maintained. Coaches and student-athletes must join the voices of school leaders in promoting the enforcement of social distancing. Remember, our fastest road back to regular season and tournament play is to engage in social distancing, get back into school, and then on the field of play.

### Spring Sports

At its April 2, 2020 meeting, the CIAC Board of Control maintained its position that spring sports are indefinitely suspended. The CIAC has intentionally not issued the constraint of deadline date to make any decision. Given the number of unknowns, we feel it is our responsibility to become as informed as possible before making any decision. Through our discussion with students, they have expressed their desire for CIAC and education decision-makers to hold off as long as possible before cancelling all spring sport experiences or graduation. CIAC leadership has learned from our students, especially our seniors, the need for closure that traditions such as senior night and graduation provide. It is with that understanding that the CIAC will explore every possibility for providing student-athletes a spring sports experience, if it is safe.

During this unprecedented time, the best interest of our kids remains at the center of our decision-making, which is informed by collaboration with the State Department of Education, governmental leaders, athletic leagues, member principals, superintendents, athletic directors, coaches, and students. We will make every effort to provide student-athletes experiences that bring closure to their high school sports careers, if it is safe. This will include consideration of activities beyond graduation and into July. All CIAC rules and regulations will be considered for a one-time exception, given the extreme impact of this pandemic, so we can do the best we can for our kids, if it is safe.

We at CIAC understand that the future holds many unanswered questions. Please take comfort in knowing that we are here to support you and will continue to lead in a positive and responsible manner. The next regularly scheduled CIAC Board of Control meeting is set for May 7, 2020. At that meeting, we expect to have more information regarding school closures and will provide an additional update, with more specific details, about spring sports.

Together, we will persevere. Stay safe. Stay home. When the time is right, Connecticut will play again!

Sincerely,

CIAC Staff