

CIAC Executive Director Response to Governor's Office

In a statement provided to the Hartford Courant on August 12, 2020, a source close to the governor's office suggested that the CIAC moved forward with its position on fall sports without waiting for a consultation response from the governor's office or DPH. The following email experts demonstrate the continued efforts by the CIAC executive director to work with the governor's office and consult with DPH. These correspondences confirm that the source close to the governor's office that suggested CIAC moved forward with its position on fall sports without waiting for a consultation response is inaccurate and untruthful. In allowing such blatant misinformation to be presented to the press, the governor's office has left the CIAC with no choice but to share the facts of the numerous requests from CIAC to DPH and its consistent collaboration with the governor's office.

On May 29, 2020, the CIAC executive director consulted with the governors committee tasked with issuing sport guidance for Connecticut. CIAC's consultation with this group concluded around June 4, 2020. The REOPEN Connecticut guidance issued by the governor's office for sports, sports clubs & complexes, gyms, fitness centers, & pools links to the CIAC's resocialization guidance in the reference section of page 6. CIAC's resocialization guidance laid out a plan to return to all fall sports, including football.

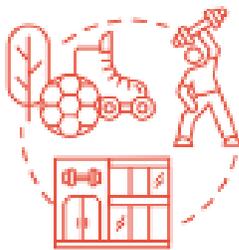
OVERVIEW

As sports, sports clubs and complexes, gyms, fitness centers, and pools the most important consideration will be the health and safety of athletes, coaches, employees, and customers. Businesses and leagues must exercise caution throughout the reopening, ensuring strict adherence to the protocols listed here. Those businesses and leagues that are not able to meet the rules listed here by June 20, shall delay opening until they are able.

While these rules provide a way for sports, sports clubs and complexes, gyms, fitness centers, and pools to reopen in as safe a manner as possible, risks to athletes, coach's, and employees, cannot be fully mitigated. Athletes, coaches, employees and customers who choose to visit/partake in these activities during this time should be fully aware of potential risks. Individuals over the age of 65 or with other health conditions should not visit/partake in gyms, fitness, sports clubs and facilities, and organized sports, but instead continue to stay home and stay safe.

Businesses and leagues should take these rules as the minimum baseline of precautions needed to protect public health in Connecticut. Individual businesses and leagues should take additional measures as recommended by industry guidelines or by common sense applied to their particular situation.

We urge athletes, coaches, employees, and customers to stay vigilant and pay attention as to whether the gyms, fitness, and sports clubs they frequent are faithfully implementing these rules.



IHRSA

<https://www.ihrsa.org/improve-your-club/coronavirus-resources-for-health-clubs/>

OSHA

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html>

CIAC

<https://www.ciacsports.com/site/>

On July 24, 2020, the CIAC executive director attended the CT Rules Committee meeting to review CIAC's fall sports plan proposal. DPH was part of this meeting. At this meeting, the CIAC executive director discussed the CIAC's plan to offer all fall sports, including football. The feedback from the committee was that the metrics in CT are as good as can be expected and that the CIAC should consider playing now. It was stated that there was no medical data at that time to suggest not playing fall sports.

Re: ReOpen CT Rules Committee

[Redacted]

Jul 22,
2020,
5:08 PM

to [Redacted]

iguell, Katie

Good evening all,

We are still developing Friday's agenda but would like to share the following documents ahead of time to be considered by the Rules Committee. Thanks to [Redacted]

[Redacted]
Docs 1 and 2: Arts Guidance and Executive Summary (Highlighted areas in particular)

Docs 3 and 4: Special Education Guidance and Executive Summary (Chart on last page is key)

Doc 5: Fall Sports Proposal (Glenn will join. Discussion on options presented and safeguards)

[Redacted]

Rules Committee Agenda 7/24

1. **Discussion on School Reopening**
 - a. Arts Guidance
 - b. Special Education Guidance
 - c. Fall Sports Proposal
2. **Discussion on pool tables and other non-essential amenities at restaurants**
3. **Discussion on fairs**
 - a. Response from Local public Health
4. **Discussion on medical exemption for mask usage**
5. **Discussion on Pratt and Whitney Stadium Reopening**
 - a. Masks required throughout the stadium unless seated or eating/drinking
 - b. 3rd floor club/lounge at 50% capacity
 - c. Guest Suite Capacity for President and A.D. capped at 38

On July 28, 2020, the CIAC executive director had a follow-up phone call to the Governor's Rules Committee meeting with DPH. Ahead of that call, the CIAC executive director asked direct questions of DPH to receive guidance on completing CIAC's official fall sports plan. Included in those questions and discussion was a direct question about DPH's position on youth, pop warner, and high school football. To provide a response to those questions, DPH included an infectious disease MD to the call. No position on football was provided, and no recommendation to move fall sports to the spring was suggested.

Re: CIAC

2 weeks ago at 5:03 AM

From "St. Louis, Thomas" > to 3 recipients

[More](#)

I would like to add one of our infectious disease MDs to the discussion and she is available at noon, so let's just go with that and I'll send one of my staff to cover my other meeting. I will try to get a conference line from DPH unless you have one we can call in to?

From: Glenn Lungarini [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 7:53 AM
To: St. Louis, Thomas <Thomas.St.Louis@ct.gov>
Cc: Mary Weber <mweber@casciac.org>; kpacktor@casciac.org <kpacktor@casciac.org>
Subject: Re: CIAC

How about 11AM?

My questions are:

Does DPH have a standard action plan that youth athletes / students should follow if they experience symptoms related to COVID?

How long will a student need to quarantine if he/she is experiencing COVID symptoms? Can a student return to school after receiving a negative test, or are 2 negative tests required?

At what threshold would DPH recommend a cohort of students isolate, whether it is a sports team or classroom cohort? Is it if one kid experiences symptoms, 2 kids, 3 kids, etc? Is a positive test necessary to isolate a cohort or is experiencing symptoms a trigger to do so?

Does DPH have a position on youth, pop warner, and high school football?

Thank you!

Glenn

On August 9, 2020, the CIAC executive director again reached out to DPH seeking specific guidance on high risk sports, specifically football. The result of that inquiry from CIAC was a phone conversation on August 10, 2020, which was prefaced by the DPH individual that the opinion being shared was a personal opinion and did not reflect the position of DPH.

From: Glenn Lungarini <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, August 9, 2020 6:56 PM
To: [REDACTED]@ct.gov>
Subject: CIAC Consult

Hello [REDACTED]

I hope you are well and with power. This week I will be reviewing every fall sport. We start with football and swimming tomorrow. In your opinion, would moving football to the spring be more appropriate than playing in the fall? Should CIAC reconsider football due to its high risk category given that many schools have elected to go back in a hybrid model?

Thank you for any insight and opinion you can offer.

Regards,
Glenn

In a final effort to receive an official position from DPH on the playing of high risk sports, specifically football, in the fall of 2020, the CIAC executive director again engaged DPH with a request for an official position on August 12, 2020.

From: Glenn Lungarini <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 1:49:34 AM
To: St. Louis, Thomas <Thomas.St.Louis@ct.gov>
Subject: CIAC Football Question

Hi Tom,

As CIAC considers the prospects of fall football, can DPH give us its position on that sport at this time? Based on CT's COVID health metrics, does the science suggest that it is not safe to play a "high risk" (CIAC and NFHS classification) sport, specifically football, at the present time or in the fall?

Thank you for running this by the appropriate people at DPH and providing any written position that CIAC can refer to in our consideration of a football opportunity.

With appreciation,
Glenn

On Aug 12, 2020, at 5:21 AM, St. Louis, Thomas <Thomas.St.Louis@ct.gov> wrote:

Hi Glenn,

I will work this morning to get you an official statement from DPH. I know that you are prepping for a meeting today so for the purposes of your planning and based on our internal discussions of the Monday meeting you and I had, I would expect that our official statement will not be supportive of fall high school football this year.

Sit tight and hopefully we can get you something by mid-morning.

Thanks,
Tom

From: Glenn Lungarini <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 7:02 AM
To: St. Louis, Thomas <Thomas.St.Louis@ct.gov>
Cc: Mathieu, Lori <Lori.Mathieu@ct.gov>; Gifford, Deidre <Deidre.Gifford@ct.gov>; Cartter, Matt <Matt.Cartter@ct.gov>
Subject: Re: CIAC Football Question

Hi Tom,
Thank you for your help. We are truly looking for what the science says. CIAC's medical advisors do not feel the science supports not playing football in CT. They feel we should stay with our original plan. I don't think there is a right answer. CIAC is doing our best to gather data that leads us to the most informed decision. So, whatever DPH believes is appropriate in CT, pertaining to high risk sports, would be extremely helpful information.
Thank you,
Glenn

Re: CIAC Football Question
Today at 8:33 AM

From "St. Louis, Thomas"

Hey Glenn, football, B/G soccer, B/G cross-country, girls volleyball, and girls swimming are the fall sports, correct? Are there others?

From: Glenn Lungarini [REDACTED]
Date: August 12, 2020 at 8:39:13 AM EDT
To: "St. Louis, Thomas" <Thomas.St.Louis@ct.gov>
Subject: Re: CIAC Football Question

Correct. Cheerleading is a non-CIAC sanctioned sport activity that also takes place. I know marching band is starting in districts as early as next week as well. What we have the hardest time defending is the successful playing of all those sports throughout the summer, and now. We are consistently asked whether all sport opportunities in CT will shut down if high school sports don't play.

Thanks
Glenn

On Aug 12, 2020, at 1:58 PM, St. Louis, Thomas <Thomas.St.Louis@ct.gov> wrote:

Just to update you Glenn, our Commissioner is currently reviewing. She is actually on vacation this week so that has delayed our turnaround a bit. Will get it to you as soon as we can.

Thanks,
Tom

From: Glenn Lungarini [REDACTED]
Date: August 12, 2020 at 2:18:00 PM EDT
To: "St. Louis, Thomas" <Thomas.St.Louis@ct.gov>
Subject: Re: CIAC Football Question

No worries. We are on the meeting now. We will likely not change football at this time and continue to monitor with medical and state leaders. Thanks for your work and collaboration.
Glenn