



## THE CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

### CIAC's Intent to Return to Interscholastic Athletics and Activities Programs

Dear Superintendents, Principals, and Athletic Directors:

The Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) is proud of the collaborative efforts from our athletic directors and coaches in meeting the social emotional needs of our student athletes throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the onset of school closures in mid-March, two topics have drawn on the emotions and passions of our students and parents more than any other, sports and graduation.

As our student-athletes coped with the loss of their winter championship dreams and their fears of spring sports cancelations became reality, it has been the athletic directors and coaches who, through their innovative efforts to virtually engage student-athletes, have guided them through this trauma.

While interscholastic athletics came to a halt, the duties of our athletic directors remained rigorous. Evaluations of coaches were completed; budgets were developed and modified; coaching education certification was conducted; scheduling of equipment reconditioning and uniform collection/refurbishment was organized; facility safety walkthroughs with maintenance staff occurred; coaching certification and first aid/CPR files were reviewed for all coaches; and, support for the more than 70,000 high school athletes in CT was led by our dedicated athletic directors.

As Governor Lamont's Reopen CT committee plans for our state's next phase, sports are scheduled to return. The time is right, and CT sports will indeed play again. In the coming weeks, the CIAC will release our "CAS-CIAC Resocialization to Interscholastic Athletics and Activities Programs Guidelines". Not only will CIAC interscholastic athletic competition return in fall of 2020, but the preparation will begin sooner than ever. Due to the significant three-month time period away from structured physical activity, all athletes have experienced some level of physical and skill deconditioning. Currently, athletic directors are overseeing virtual coaching sessions conducted by our coaches for spring athletes. On June 1, this responsibility will extend to oversight of virtual coaching opportunities for all sports. Beginning July 6, a return to small group in-person conditioning and skill development activity will begin to address the re-conditioning needs of our high school athletes. Lower to moderate risk sport competition is expected to start by mid-August, and higher risk sport competition in September. In addition to their normal extensive slate of duties, athletic directors will be responsible for assisting with the development and implementation of COVID-19 related protocols and procedures. Athletic directors will be an integral part of any school or district COVID-19 advisory board.

As superintendents and boards of education prepare for the unconventional year ahead, the CIAC offers our support for the critical role of athletic directors in returning our student-athletes to interscholastic athletic competition and meaningful relationships with your schools and communities.

Sincerely,

Glenn Lugarini  
Executive Director  
CAS-CIAC

#### OFFICERS:

##### Chair

Anthony Azzara, Principal  
Sacred Heart High School,  
Waterbury

##### Vice Chair

Sheila Riffle, Principal  
Old Saybrook High School

##### Secretary

Matthew Ryan, Principal  
East Hartford High School

##### Treasurer

Daniel Moleti, Principal  
Bloomfield High School

#### CENTRAL OFFICE STAFF:

##### Executive Director

Glenn Lugarini

##### Associate Executive Director

Gregg Simon

##### Executive Staff

Joel Cookson  
Matthew Fischer  
Dr. Robert Lehr  
Dan Scavone  
Joe Velardi

##### Directors of Marketing

Stephanie Ford  
Mary Lee Weber

##### Unified Sports®

Robert Hale, Jr.  
Paul Mengold  
Henry Rondon

#### The CT Interscholastic Athletic Conference

30 Realty Drive  
Cheshire, CT 06410  
Phone: (203)250-1111  
FAX: (203)250-1345

Affiliated with the  
National Federation  
of State High School  
Associations