A close up of a sign

Description automatically generated

**CIAC Subcommittee on Out-Of-Season Regulations Review**

The CIAC Board of Control, at the request of the SCC, has established a subcommittee to examine the current out-of-season regulation. The full out-of-season coaching rule can be found in the CIAC handbook, available on our website at [www.ciacsports.com](http://www.ciacsports.com/), in section 2.0, which begins on page 73. The scheduled completion o this work was interrupted by the shutdowns resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. It is relevant to note the following which occurred during that shutdown:

* Spring coaches were granted a waiver by the CIAC to coach an unlimited number of student-athletes from their roster on summer teams that had no affiliation with a member school. The CIAC did receive any complaints or concerns from that experience.
* The New Haven Athletic Advisory Council and the New Haven Public Schools Director of Physical Education, Health, Athletics/Floyd Little Athletic Center met with the CIAC executive director to discuss equity in high school sports. Access to their student-athletes in the summer was topic of concern.

This report will identify the key components of CIAC’s current out-of-season regulation as it pertains to coaches and athletes, will identify pros and cons of the current regulation, and provide a timeline for the establishment of the current regulation.

Based on the language and intent of the current regulation, the following breakdown identifies what a coach can and cannot do:

**A coach can:**

* coach his/her own child as an individual.
* coach the defined number of athletes, with eligibility remaining, from a school team.
* work as a bona fide employee, earning at least $2,000 in salary, of a recreational program as long as there is no teaching of skills.
* work a summer camp where athletes from that coach’s team make up 10% or less of the total camp enrollment.
* organize conditioning programs.
* supervise open gym provided there is no instruction and 50% of the participants are not on the school team’s eligibility list.

**A coach cannot:**

* individually coach or instruct athletes on his/her school roster and who have eligibility remaining.
* organize, operate, or supervise an out of season practice or contest for athletes on his/her eligibility roster or for potential athletes of that program.
* raise funds toward financing out of season leagues, practices, or sport activities.
* issue school owned equipment unless for a specified safety necessity.
* provide or arrange for the use of school facilities.

organize or condone captains’ practices.

Based on the language and intent of the current regulation, the following breakdown identifies what an athlete can and cannot do:

**An athlete can:**

* participate in his/her sport out of season and during the summer.
* participate in clinics outside of school time, provided he/she does not wear school uniforms and the clinic is not sponsored by the school.
* participate with other members of the school team on out of season teams provided the coach and school are not involved.
* receive individual lessons during the season.

**An athlete cannot:**

* participate in an out of season sport specific camp, team, or league organized or funded by the coach or school.
* wear school uniforms or equipment unless for specified safety reasons.
* participate on a non-school team, in that same sport, during the school season.
* participate in captains’ practices.

**Pros and Cons of a Rule Change**

**Reasons to Allow Summer Contact Reason NOT to Allow Summer Contact**

1. Overuse injuries.
2. Demands on facilities.
3. Increased parental issues.
4. Pits students against jobs.
5. Pits students against family vacation.
6. Increase workload on AD.
7. Coaching contacts/compensation.
8. More beneficial to affluent communities.
9. Increased cost for insurance, maintenance, custodial, etc.
10. Program equity within a school.
11. Opens the door for non-school programs to infiltrate the CIAC season.
12. Perception coaches will be extorting funds from athletes for out-of-season programs as a condition of team membership.
13. Elimination of spring football.
14. Athletes will receive better off season coaching.
15. Will give idle students something to do.
16. May address equity concerns expressed by urban districts.

**CIAC Out-of-Season Rule Timeline Summary**

The purpose of this summary is to provide member school principals with an understanding of the timeline of our out-of-season rules from inception to current day. The timeframe spans from 1980 to the present, as our current CIAC sub-committee undertakes its examination of the out-of-season rule. While the rule has adapted over time, each iteration has maintained the following themes:

* Encourage multisport athletic participation;
* Reduce pressure on student athletes to play for the same coach year-round;
* Maintain an education-based philosophy where the primary mission is to enhance a student’s academic, social, emotional, and physical development.

The CIAC philosophy of athletics states that at all times the athletic program must be conducted in such a way as to justify it as an educational activity; and, should place the total educational curriculum primary in emphasis and constantly strive for the development of well-rounded individuals capable of taking their place in modern society.

The identified themes and athletic philosophy appear to have served as the foundation for the out-of-season rule throughout its existence.

**1980**

The first proposed out-of-season guidelines and regulations were proposed by a CIAC Out-of-Season Subcommittee. A document was presented to the CIAC Board of Control; however, no action was taken.

**1984 (October)**

The CIAC Board of Control approved the formation of a second out-of-season subcommittee to review the 1980 document and make recommendations to the board by April 1985. This resulted in the creation of the 5 Cs committee (CIAC, CAPSS, CABE, CHSCA, and CASA). No report was made to the CIAC Board of Control until 1987.

**May 1987**

The 5 Cs committee reported to the CIAC Board of Control a consensus position that out-of-season coaching regulations were needed. However, there was not consensus among the 5 Cs committee representatives about the direction of that position.

**January 1988**

The CIAC Board of Control considered information provided by the 5 Cs committee and reached a consensus of opinion on out-of-season language. However, no bylaw was formally proposed.

**September 1988**

The CIAC Board of Control discussed concerns raised by member principals about the negative impact of football camps being conducted during the summer months.

**April 1989**

The 5 Cs committee completed its work and reached an agreement on recommendations which were presented to the CIAC Board of Control. The CIAC Board of Control approved the committee’s proposed recommendations as new bylaw language. The new out-of-season bylaw language was sent to the CAS-CIAC legislative body for approval at the annual May meeting.

**May 1989**

The CAS-CIAC legislative body approves the establishment of an out-of-season regulation under Article XII Sections 2, 2.1.b and 3.1.a (summer rule).

**February 1990**

The CIAC Board of Control voted to recommend language changes tightening the out-of-season regulation to the CAS-CIAC legislative body.

**March 1990**

The CIAC executive director and assistant executive director updated the out-of-season language to better align with other regulations. The language around conditions for coaching out-of-season was tightened to resolve inconsistencies with interpretations, adherence, and enforcement.

**May 1990**

CAAD issues a letter to the CIAC Board of Control asserting that the “newly” proposed language regarding summer regulations contradicted the 5 Cs committee’s intent and would be detrimental to student-athletes.

**March 1992**

The CHSCA and CAAD recommend that the CIAC Board of Control combine the out-of-season summer rule and the out-of-season during the school year rule into one regulation. The CIAC Board of Control directs the executive director to draft such language.

**April 1992**

The CIAC Board of Control approves language that merges the out-of-season summer rule with the out-of-season during the school year rule. The CHSCA, via a formal letter, opposed the language proposed by the CIAC.

**May 1992**

At its annual meeting, the legislative body adopts the merging of both out-of-season rules as approved by the CIAC Board of Control.

**September 1992**

The CIAC Board of Control studies the effect of the out-of-season rule on a coach’s ability to earn income. This was prompted by two letters received from two separate attorneys on behalf of coaches. The CIAC Board of Control established an ad hoc committee to explore this complaint.

**October 1992**

The ad hoc committee recommended the CIAC Board of Control adopt language defining a full-time bona fide employee. The CIAC Board of Control approves the recommendation.

**March 2002**

The CIAC Board of Control receives, and unanimously defeats, proposed out-of-season rule language changes by the CHSCA.

The CIAC Board of Control approves changes to language concerning team sports in the out-of-season rule.

**May 2002**

The legislative body ratifies the proposed language changes concerning team sports in the out-of-season rule.

**September 2003**

The CIAC Board of Control reviews the number of players from a team sport that a coach can coach out-of-season. No changes are made.

**October 2003**

A proposal is approved to clarify 2.1.b.3., the number of players from a team sport that may be coached out-of-season.

**December 2003**

A proposal is approved to define an eligible athlete who may be coached under 2.1.b.3. and the number of players from a team sport that may be coached out-of-season.

**May 2008**

The legislative body approves updated out-of-season language from the CIAC Board of Control which increases the compensation of a bona fide paid employee to $2,000.

**May 2011**

The legislative body ratifies proposed language from the CIAC Board of Control that is more permissive in allowing student-athletes to attend clinics, tryouts, and showcases under the out-of-season rule.

**2012-2013 School Year**

A proposal to allow coaches a two-week period to work on skill development during the summer is discussed at a CAAD meeting. No consensus is reached as some thought the rule was not permissive enough and others didn’t want any change. The proposal never comes forward to the CIAC Board of Control.

**August 2015**

The CIAC associate executive director discussed the results of surveys of coaches, athletic directors and principals on whether or not the current out-of-season coaching restriction should be relaxed. A majority of coaches were in favor of relaxing the rules, while the administrators were more split. This prompted a lengthy discussion as to which direction the CIAC should move given that there are different constituencies who are at odds on the issue. The idea was suggested that a sub-committee that includes superintendents could work to bring forward a plan the entire board could discuss. The associate executive director also discussed the sire visits staff members made during the summer to try and address concerns about violation of out-of-season rules. He said that no clear violations were observed, though the condition at some of the venues made it challenging to know which students were affiliated with a particular school. The general thoughts and concerns from the site visits were shared with all athletic directors.

No sub-committee was formed.