



The purpose of this communication is to provide CIAC member high school football and wrestling coaches with a better understanding of the approved CIAC Summer Series as an out-of-season coaching opportunity. The CIAC Summer Series is an education-based experience designed to address all administrative concerns that are the basis for the out-of-season coaching rule, promote the growth of sport participation by providing student-athletes with instruction from a variety of coaching experts, reduce the opportunity gap for summer camp participation, and provide opportunities for the development of new meaningful relationships or deepening of those that already exist. Before the CIAC takes its next step, it needs to know whether coaches support this opportunity and are willing to participate in instructing student-athletes out-of-season.

CIAC Summer Series Camp Education-Based Design

- Each camp must be comprised of a minimum of 4 teams. A multi-team model enhances opportunities for players to learn from multiple coaching experts, allows coaches to learn from each other, and provides a cultural opportunity for players and coaches alike to development meaningful relationships through a structured athletic setting.
- The cost of the camp will be \$75 per student-athlete, per week. Fee waivers will be available based on need. The \$75 fee is an estimated break-even cost based on expense projection of running these camps. The CIAC is pursuing potential supplemental funding sources to reduce this cost.
- Each team may participate in 1, 2, or 3 weeks of camp (maximum of 15 days).
- Each camp may not exceed 2½ hours. You may run camp days shorter than 2½ hours.
- Each day must include 30-minutes of CIAC provided curriculum and an equal division individual and team instructional time. For example, in a 2½ hour day, 30-minutes will be dedicated to CIAC curriculum, 1-hour will be dedicated to skill instruction where student-athletes and coaches gain the education-based benefit of learning from a variety of coaching experts and developing individual skills with peers from other teams, and 1-hour will be dedicated to team instruction where coaches may work exclusively with an unlimited number of their team's student-athletes. The coaches at each camp will have the autonomy to collectively decide what the design of the skills. Each team coach will have the autonomy to decide the design of their team session.

Recently, football coaches have expressed concerns to the CIAC Summer Series, which the CIAC believes is primarily due to this being a new undertaking and the relatively short time frame from approval to implementation. To move forward with the CIAC Summer Series for this summer, in the sports of football and wrestling, the CIAC needs to whether the concerns expressed are specific to one area of the state or shared statewide. The coaches' concerns that have been expressed validate the basis for the out-of-season coaching rule and suggest that opportunities to coach over the summer should not be permitted. The most consistent concerns expressed by coaches include:

- Coaches Not Getting Paid – The \$75 fee is a break even cost for expenses associated with running camps, which include site directors, trainers, insurance, registration software, facility expenses, etc. The cost per student would have to increase considerably if coaches were to get paid. Additionally, one of the administrative concerns that is the basis for the out-of-season rule



is that coaches receiving compensation for out-of-season work with student-athletes creates a perception of potential inequity and favoritism toward earning a spot on a team roster.

- Availability of Coaches and Athletes – Camp times will be determined by the coaches and site director participating in each CIAC Summer Series event. This provides optimum availability for coaches and players to avoid conflict for coaches and student-athletes. This design addresses an administrative concern that is the basis for the out-of-season rule that summer coaching create a conflict between work obligations, family time, and summer vacations for student-athletes and coaches. The CIAC Summer Series is voluntary. Student-athletes may choose to attend, or not, without fear or concern that attendance at these camps is connected to a position on next year’s roster.
- Travel Issues for Students – The CIAC Summer Series will provide multiple locations throughout the state that will reduce travel distance as compared to existing sport camp opportunities. Currently, teams attend collegiate camps or select events such as the Grip-It and Rip-It tournament. Unlike these existing opportunities, the CIAC Summer Series will take place at host sites that are geographically convenient for the 4 teams involved.
- 4-Team Design – An education-based camp model brings multiple schools/teams together at one facility. Coaches have the autonomy to work with their colleagues to organize a minimum of 4 teams that will participate at each camp location. The CIAC can assist in finding a location for a team, if necessary. This model addresses facility demand while implementing research-based strategies of coaches and athletes from multiple programs learning from each other to improve physical, mental, social, and emotional performance. It has been well established that athletes who learn from a variety of coaches are better able to adjust to a wide range of personalities and coaching/supervisor styles than athletes who engage with one coach through specialization. It has also been shown that coaches who have the opportunity to work with other coaches, who are experts in their field, experience a mentorship-like professional development benefit.

The success of these camps is dependent on the willingness of CT high school coaches to voluntarily coach student-athletes who attend the CIAC Summer Series camps. These camps are run independent of CIAC member schools and coaches should not view this solely as an opportunity to exclusively coach their players out-of-season, although that is a benefit, but also as a contribution to provide expert coaching to all CT high school student-athletes, thus closing the equity gap and contributing to the growth of the sport. Therefore, the CIAC is as requesting that each head football and wrestling coach respond to a short survey to indicate whether there is enough interest to continue with plan for the upcoming summer, or if there is concern regarding COVID-19 and a lack of comfort in beginning the CIAC Summer Series this year.

Please click this link to take the survey: [CIAC Coaches Summer Series Survey](#)

Thank you,

Glenn Lungarini
Executive Director
CAS-CIAC