

THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS

The Sixty-Seventh Annual Meeting

Adopted by the membership 6-30-19

PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE CIAC BYLAWS

CHANGE #1: ARTICLE IX (Rules of Eligibility), SECTION II.A (Student Eligibility)

Explanation of Change: Change in rules that apply to F-1 Visa students who wish to participate in athletics.

PROPOSED ADDITIONS IN **BOLD**:

ARTICLE IX – RULES OF ELIGIBILITY

II. STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

A. The student shall be a member of that school in grade 9, 10, 11 or 12 and is only eligible to participate in the athletic program associated with that school. A graduate from any secondary school is ineligible and is eligible to participate in the athletic program associated with that school. In local public school districts where grade 10-12 high school exist, 9th grade students in a public JH/MS school, with local public school district approval, may participate at the local public school, where grades 10-12 exist. No student below grade 9 is allowed to practice or participate in any CIAC controlled sport. All situations which are not covered by this rule are to be referred in writing to the CIAC Board of Control prior to participation. **HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS:** Eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics is not to be extended to any student whose program is not under the direct supervision of a CIAC member school. This prohibition includes any recognition by member schools of home schooling as school district sponsored “alternative programs.” Alternative programs, for the purposes of interscholastic athletics, are only to be recognized if they are developed by and function under the direct control of the local school system to serve the educational needs of a targeted group of students. Such programming generally relates to modifications in existing courses or placement in an alternative school which a district may sponsor and is available to all eligible students. **STUDENT-ATHLETES PARTICIPATING AT ANY STATE AUTHORIZED PUBLIC SCHOOL OF CHOICE OR ANY STATE AUTHORIZED CHARTER, MAGNET, REGIONAL COOPERATIVE, INTER-DISTRICT SATELLITE SCHOOL STUDENTS:** Eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics at the sending school or school from which he/she would normally matriculate is extended to any student when the school does not offer any interscholastic athletic program. (1) The above listed alternative schools must be state authorized. (2) The above listed alternative schools need not be members of CIAC in order for their athletes to be allowed to play for the sending (home) school. (3) The principal of the CIAC member school at which the athlete would normally matriculate has the right to make the decision on the acceptance of these students in his/her athletic programs. The CIAC will allow such participation. However, the CIAC member school must approve of such participation before an alternative school athlete can participate. (4) The CIAC member school which accepts students from state approved alternative schools will be fully responsible for determining their eligibility status. An ineligible player from an alternative school will have the same impact on the status of the team from which he/she plays as all other athletes. (5) The CIAC will evaluate the eligibility of an alternative school athlete in the same manner that it now handles all other athletes. Student-athletes from the alternative school shall comply with all eligibility requirements of the sending school. Eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics at the sending school or school from which he/she would normally matriculate is **NOT** extended to any student when the receiving school does provide an interscholastic athletic program regardless of its offerings. However, choice programs housed in a member high school where academic programs and services are shared between the choice program and the member school, and the students who attend said programs receive their diploma from the host member high school, may participate in athletics in the high school in which their choice program is located.

The student must have been in membership at a secondary school for at least twelve (12) school weeks immediately preceding the time of participation, or regularly admitted from an elementary, middle, or junior high school within ten (10) school days from the opening of the succeeding school term. The time of summer vacation spent in summer school or private tutoring shall not be counted in the required twelve (12) weeks of school membership.

FOREIGN STUDENTS: A foreign exchange student who is placed in a CIAC member school by an exchange program approved by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) is eligible to participate in CIAC-sponsored sports providing (1) the student is not considered a high school

graduate or its equivalent; and (2) the student meets CIAC age requirements. A foreign exchange student not in an approved CSIET program will be eligible providing (1) the student is living with a parent or legal guardian (as determined by Probate Court); (2) the student is not considered a high school graduate or its equivalent; and (3) the student meets all other CIAC eligibility requirements – age, academic standards, number of seasons played (eight consecutive semester rule), etc. Students attending a CIAC member school while on an F-1 Visa are ineligible for participation in varsity athletics for 365 days upon enrollment and may only participate in varsity athletics for two years.

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

The number of F-1 Visa Students entering CIAC member schools is on the rise. In the past, these students had to comply with the CIAC transfer rule which would have them sit out 365 days or at least 50% of the varsity schedule for the first sport played previously. However, it has become very difficult to document their athletic involvement in the country from which they are entering and the transfer rule was being applied inconsistently. Furthermore, the guardianship for F-1 Visa students has been redefined creating vagueness to whether the CIAC transfer rule could continue to be applied. The proposed rule is necessary so student-athletes enrolling in a CIAC member school on an F-1 Visa are not being afforded opportunities that are not provided to students who already reside in Connecticut and to prevent the circumventing of the CIAC transfer rule. (NOTE: The entire section concerning FOREIGN STUDENTS is being added to Article IX, Section II.A.. However, the rules regarding foreign exchange students not on F-1 Visas are not new. They are longstanding regulations that have been in place for many years. We are simply moving them to this section for the purposes of organization and clarity.)