

SEASON LIMITATIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 7, 2016

Members present: Joe Canzanella, Brian Fell, Art Kohs, Joe Madaffari, Matt Perachi, Todd Stoeffler, Dr. Tom Neagle (Chair), Joe Tonelli (CIAC staff).

Call to Order – Dr. Neagle called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Review of Committee Roster Sheets – The lists were updated and revised as necessary.

Minutes – On a motion by Brian Fell, the minutes of May 16, 2016 were approved.

Season Limitations Committee

1. Formation and Purpose of the Season Limitations Committee – Joe reviewed the history regarding the formation and purpose of the Season Limitations Committee. The CIAC Board of Control approved this new committee in 1980. Prior to that time, each committee established their own dates that sometimes resulted in overlapping seasons and other inequities. This necessitated intervention by the CIAC Board of Control, which was time consuming. An ad hoc committee, chaired by Art Kohs was formed, and developed standards for the committee to follow when formulating the calendar of practice and game dates for all sports. Joe Tonelli, representing CAAD and Charlie Sharos representing CHSCA were also part of the ad hoc committee, and all of us were asked to serve on the newly formed Season Limitations Committee. This committee, which was made up of representatives from CAAD, CHSCA and other administrators, provided the type of impartial comprehensive coordination that CIAC recognized as a need as its programs and tournaments continued to grow. The calendar and scheduling pattern that was developed certainly passed the test of time and served CIAC extremely well for the next 30 plus years.
2. Current Committee Composition – The current committee composition has remained the same and we continue to have representation from CHSCA and CAAD, which is extremely important. In fact, there are now two representatives from each of these groups, which is a big plus for the committee.
3. Charge of the Committee – Since the recent changes that were made in the calendar we approved by the CIAC Board for a two-year period (2015-16 and 2016-17), no substantive changes can be considered until the trial has been completed and evaluated. The Season Limitations Committee will only consider proposals that have been properly vetted.

Current Calendar for Game Limitations and Practice Dates – In 2011-12, the notion of starting girls' basketball after Thanksgiving surfaced, as well as the concern that the winter season was considerably longer than the fall and the spring seasons. With these concerns and other calendar ideas being discussed in some committees, the CIAC Board formed a sub-committee that included representative from CHSCA, CAAD, the CIAC Board and other administrators. The sub-committee developed some suggestions for possible changes to the calendar, and subsequently asked CAAD to further study the issue and develop a proposal with a rationale. Then, the vetting process occurred during the next two years, before the new calendar was passed by the Season Limitations Committee in May of 2014. Shortly thereafter, a two-year trial was approved by the CIAC Board of Control to be implemented for the 2015-16 and 2016-17 schools years. This bring us to where we are now.

Committee Feedback on the Current Calendar – Although we are only in the fall season of the second year on the trial, which is early for a formal assessment, the committee was asked if they received any feedback. The consensus was that there has been general acceptance regarding the fall and spring calendars. The first practice in these seasons begin 2 days earlier than past years which increases the game season by two (2) days to provide for a little more scheduling flexibility. It also provides schools with the opportunity to play their first game on a Saturday followed by a full week of games. There was also very positive feedback from girls' basketball and wrestling about starting the Monday after Thanksgiving. Committee member, Joe Canzanella reported that he has heard from the coaches on the boys' basketball committee and the indoor track committee that they would like to get back some of the days they lost with the new calendar. Joe

Canzanella reported that he had not personally heard from the coaches' chairman of ice hockey, but since ice availability could be an issue, they may make a similar request. Joe Tonelli mentioned that Sal did bring up the calendar concerns at an ice hockey committee meeting. It was reiterated that all proposals must have a sound rationale and be thoroughly vetted before it would be considered by the CIAC Season Limitations Committee.

Evaluation and Vetting Process Time Table – All committee members are in agreement that since the trial runs through the spring of 2017, and schedules are formulated a year in advance, that it would not be feasible to expect that any changes will be made to the 2017-18 calendar. However, it is the goal of the committee to begin the evaluation and vetting process of any formal proposals in winter and spring of 2017, so that if there are any changes that garner the necessary support, the proposal can be finalized and supported by CHSCA and CAAD before it's brought to the Season Limitations Committee, prior to the calendar proposal be voted upon by mid-November of 2017. If this ambitious time table can be met, any approved changes can be implemented for the 2018-19 season.

Other Issues – None

Adjournment – With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m. The next meeting of the Season Limitations Committee will be Monday, May 15, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.