To: Directors of Athletics  
From: Bob Lehr, CIAC  
Date: September 16, 2019  
Subject: Michael H. Savage Spirit of Sport Award and the NFHS Spirit of Sport Award

You may remember the story of Rachel Grusse, the courageous student-athlete from Glastonbury High School who was presented the first Michael H. Savage Spirit of Sport award at the Scholar-Athlete banquet in 2010. Or you may recall the heartfelt story of Bristol Eastern student-athlete Jamie Botteon, the 2011 recipient of the award. The 2012 recipient, James Burgoyne of Darien, was recognized as the National Federation’s Section One award winner as well as our state’s awardee. Michela Veillette of Killingly High School was the Spirit of Sport winner in 2013 and Tyler Mauriello of Branford was awarded the distinguished honor in 2014. Daniel Hand High School's Grace Cummings was awarded the 2015 Michael H. Savage Spirit of Sport award as well as the National Federation of High School's Spirit of Sport Award. Grace Wohlberg of Darien was an inspiration to every person in attendance at the 2016 Scholar-Athlete banquet. Danny Deitz of Simsbury was the Connecticut selection as well as the NFHS Section One award winner. Danny was also the NFHS runner-up in 2017. Marissa Kae Walker of Waterford was selected as the Connecticut Spirit of Sport awardee in 2018, and she went on to win the Section One award as well as the NFHS Spirit of Sport award. Alana Bochanis of Westbrook High School was the Connecticut Spirit of Sport winner in 2019, and she was selected as the Section One winner. Alana was also the runner-up in the NFHS Spirit of Sport award.

We are now accepting nominations from Connecticut’s high school athletics directors for the 2020 Spirit of Sport Award. If you have someone or a team that you feel is worthy of the award, please complete the information form and return it to me.

There are no specific criteria for the award. It could be a team or an individual, who through a one-time experience or through something that has been ongoing has demonstrated those qualities we generally associate with the positive values of sport. A special act of sportsmanship, a personal act of courage while participating in an interscholastic sport or some other selfless act that one of your student-athletes or teams demonstrated could be worthy of nomination.

If your nominee is selected, I will ask you for additional information.

A three member panel of judges will select the recipient of the 2020 award.
Please send your nomination to Bob Lehr before November 1, 2019. rlehr@casciac.org

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Director of Athletics

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School - Contact Information:

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Nominee's Name – Individual or team

Provide supporting information: