

THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS
The 62nd Annual Meeting

2013-2014 Annual Report
CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE BOARD OF CONTROL
Submitted by Robert Hale, Jr., Chair

The CIAC Board of Control has an active year where it addressed several major issues related to concussion injuries in sports as well as legislative issues related to concussion. Additionally, the Board continues to review and update its bylaws and regulations to assure they are meeting the needs of our member schools. Some of the highlights of the 2013-14 year are as follows:

- Several vacancies on the Board of Control were filled due to retirements, change in positions or resignations.
- The Board reviewed and acted upon recruitment complaints from member schools.
- Initiated a new “success in tournament” factor for tournament placement of schools in both girls and boys soccer and basketball.
- CIAC signed on with the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) to participate in the NFHS Network which streams high school tournament games nationwide. This program has been a tremendous success and most major sport championship games in Connecticut can be viewed from anywhere in the world.
- Eighteen member high schools signed on to be part of an injury surveillance study using the Reporting Injuries Online (RIO) study. Information on Connecticut injury rates will become part of the national study and Connecticut data can be queried for local use.
- The Board chose four areas for bylaw review during the 2013-14 year:
 1. Transfer rules for students transferring to or from a public school of choice
 2. Eligibility of foreign students from a non-CSIET approved program
 3. Out-of-Season Coaching Rules – Camps
 4. Season Limitations – Possible changes in start time of each season
- CIAC rolled out a new web page that is more user friendly.
- The CIAC Board mandated non-public members of CIAC be required to implement the new state law regarding lifeguards or a qualified education/coach be present at all CIAC school swimming events.
- CIAC sponsored another successful sportsmanship/student leadership conference in November attended by over 650 students and advisors.
- The CIAC instituted new requirements of all member schools regarding concussion management:
 1. All member schools are required to educate athletes and their parents on the signs and symptoms of concussion and return-to-play requirements.
 2. All member schools must have parents and athletes sign-off they have received training or written material on concussion and return-to-play.
 3. Adopted regulations that limit person-to-person contests in football practice.

4. Adopted regulations that all officials must receive training in recognizing the signs and symptoms of concussion and the proper protocol to follow when a concussion is suspected.
 5. Decreased the CIAC football championship schedule to a two-game format to allow the appropriate number of days between games to limit injuries.
- The CIAC Board adopted the following bylaw changes:
 1. Transfers to and from a public School of Choice – eliminates the exception for choice school students and treats all student transfers equally.
 2. Requirement that all member schools educate parents and athletes on the signs and symptoms of concussion, return-to-play requirements and signed consent.
 3. Modification of Cooperative Team bylaws to allow the cooperative team committee the authority to deny an application if it results in some schools having no place to play when a co-op dissolves.
 - The CIAC conducted a Risk Management Workshop for Interscholastic Sports and After School Activities for member schools.
 - The staff began the initial planning for a CIAC Hall of Honor program designed to recognize individuals who have been instrumental in promoting CIAC and high school athletics.
 - The CIAC conducted another successful Scholar-Athlete Awards Banquet that was attended by over 1,700.
 - The 2013-14 sports seasons were all very successful despite the poor weather in the football championships. Over 20,000 fans attended the basketball finals at Mohegan Sun Arena in March.
 - The Board continues to contend with issues of rising expenses associated with tournaments while revenue remains level. Additionally, the Board was challenged this past year with legislative intervention which impacts the association's ability to regulate athletics in our member schools.

I want to thank all of the members of our Board for the dedication, commitment, and collective wisdom that they have brought to our deliberations this year.

The CIAC Board expresses its appreciation to the entire CIAC staff for the leadership, guidance and support they provide as we serve the needs of all Connecticut student-athletes.

Special thanks are in order to Paul Hoey, Associate Executive Director for CAS-CIAC, for his leadership over the past decade. His service as the lead staff member for CIAC he has provided important direction, ensured consistency, promoted growth, and improved our organization. Throughout his tenure he has proven his dedication, intelligence, wisdom, and sense of humor.