

**CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE
MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT
2009-2010**

The Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) is a private, voluntary, nonprofit subsidiary of the Connecticut Association of Schools, Inc. (CAS). The Conference is comprised of public and non-public high schools which are approved by the State Board of Education for certification and tuition purposes, whose boards of education/governing bodies have voluntarily applied for and received membership on behalf of their secondary schools. No school may be considered for membership in CIAC which has not been admitted to general membership in CAS. CIAC sponsors statewide tournaments and makes eligibility rules with respect to participation in such CIAC-sponsored tournaments in various sports. Each board of education/governing body that wishes to participate in such meets and tournaments must join the CIAC and agree to abide by and enforce the rules, regulations and qualifications concerning eligibility, game rules, and tournament policies and procedures of CIAC.

Institutional members of CAS-CIAC participating in any interscholastic activity or contest shall be subject to the rules and regulations established by the appropriate board of control for that activity or contest.

**AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF MEMBER SCHOOLS REGARDING
CIAC BY-LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

As the voting representative to the association and as a condition of membership, member school principals will be responsible for the following: (CIAC By-law Article III, Section B)

1. Knowing and adhering to the rules and regulations of CIAC.
2. Requiring appropriate school personnel to attend CIAC rules and regulations workshops on an annual basis.
3. Educating athletic director, guidance faculty and other appropriate faculty and staff on the rules and regulations of CIAC.
4. Requiring mandatory meetings at the start of each season with coaches, student-athletes and their parents (guardian) to review CIAC rules and regulations.
5. Developing a written athletic handbook and contract for all student-athletes which delineates CIAC rules of eligibility and is signed by the student-athlete and parent prior to participation.
6. Requiring all members of the certified coaching staff to attend pre-season game rules interpretation meetings in their sport at the local, regional or state level.
7. Reporting all violations of CIAC rules and regulations in a timely manner.
8. Establishing a protocol for processing eligibility questions from student-athletes, parents, and coaches within their school.
9. Requiring all newly appointed athletic directors to attend the CIAC summer workshop on CIAC rules and regulations.

Legal Action (CIAC By-law Article III, Section I)

1. Legal Action Against the CIAC Board of Control by a Member School – Any institutional or individual associate member which initiates legal action to overturn, stay or enjoin an eligibility ruling not appealable beyond the CIAC Board of Control, and is unsuccessful in seeking such an award, will be liable for reasonable costs and attorneys' fees incurred by the Association in defending against such action. Further, should the Association be forced to initiate legal action to collect the aforementioned costs and attorneys' fees, the institutional or individual associate member shall be additionally liable for the Association's reasonable costs and attorneys' fees resulting from the collection action.

2. Legal Expenses Incurred by the Board of Control or CAS Board of Directors in Due Process Proceedings – Any institutional or individual associate member which, in the exercise of due process, employs legal counsel to initiate and/or conduct hearing procedures which then require the CIAC Board of Control or the CAS Board of Directors to engage legal counsel to assist in or moderate procedures or to defend an action of the Board of Control or the Board of Directors, and is subsequently unsuccessful in its attempt to overturn, alter or stay a ruling of either Board, shall be liable for reasonable costs and attorneys’ fees incurred by either Board in the matter at issue. Further, should the Association be forced to initiate legal action to collect the aforementioned costs and attorneys’ fees, the institutional or individual associate member shall be additionally liable for the Association’s reasonable costs and attorneys’ fees resulting from the collection action.

3. Notwithstanding other costs as otherwise described in Sections E.1. and E.2. of this Article, no student-athlete or legal guardian shall be assessed any legal fees or costs incurred by the CAS Board of Directors or the CIAC Board of Control for any appeal initiated by and processed by an individual athlete or individual legal guardian.

The undersigned is authorized to enter into a membership agreement with the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) for the 2009-10 academic school year. By signing this agreement, the school agrees to abide by the Connecticut Association of School’s (CAS) Constitution, CIAC By-laws, rules and regulations established in the 2009-10 CIAC Handbook, and to abide by the decisions of the Executive Director, the CAS Board of Directors and the CIAC Board of Control. The undersigned also agrees to comply with all provisions of the CIAC appeals procedures as outlined in the Handbook.

Further, as a member of the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference, I agree that the principal of each member school is responsible to enforce all rules, guidelines, regulations and policies set forth in the CIAC Handbook and other CIAC publications as well as any interpretations of the same by the CIAC that pertain to interscholastic activities. CIAC understands that local school districts may have rules that exceed CIAC minimum standards.

This membership agreement is to be signed by the school principal or headmaster annually, on behalf of the school district, and be on file at the CIAC office prior to the school or district being permitted to participate in any interscholastic activity, or prior to September 15, whichever comes first, of each school year.

By signing this agreement, I acknowledge that I have read the above information and agree to the terms and conditions of this membership agreement.

Principal/Headmaster

School

Date

This agreement must be on file at the CIAC office by September 15, 2009.