4.6.A. DISQUALIFICATION / EJECTION RULE – ATHLETE/COACH

The CIAC establishes guidelines and tone for acceptable and appropriate behavior at all CIAC contests including league tournaments and playoffs. Given this charge, it is CIAC’s responsibility to be pro-active and responsive to the growing issues of sportsmanship and violence in sports. A strong consistent statement reflecting zero tolerance for violence in sports must become standard operating procedure for all schools. This is to be considered a minimum standard.

The CIAC Disqualification / Ejection Rule is in effect for all CIAC contests including league playoffs and tournaments that engage officials who have been assigned by Board commissioners from CIAC registered officials organizations, or directly by the school or by the CIAC.

There is NO appeal procedure that a school may use relative to disqualifications. Disqualification is a judgment call by an official and as such is not appealable. Until the official(s) leaves the site the game official(s) is in charge and may take any action deemed to be appropriate, even to the extent of reversing an earlier decision to eject a player or coach. Whenever possible, both schools (coaches on site) must be made fully aware of all final decisions on game disqualifications. Once the game official(s) leaves the site of the contest all decisions on game disqualifications are final.

The following policies for disqualification by an official shall apply in all sports:

1. Any student-athlete who physically assaults an official, coach, opposing player, spectator or other person in attendance at the event may be deemed immediately ineligible for the remainder of the season.
2. **When an athlete is ejected from any CIAC contest the athlete is ineligible to participate in the next contest at the same level of play (even if the next contest does not occur until league or CIAC tournament play or next year). If one or more different level contests are scheduled prior to the next contest at the same level of play, the athlete shall be ineligible to participate in the next (but no more than one) contest at each level of play. The ejected player cannot be in attendance at the game(s) for which he/she is serving their suspension.**
3. **When a player is ejected from a contest he/she can remain on the bench or sidelines as long as their presence does not interfere with the contest in any way. Never should an athlete be sent away from the site without adult supervision. Coaches are responsible for the care and safety of students and should not be placed in a position which does not allow them to provide reasonable care and supervision.**
4. **When a coach is ejected from any CIAC contest the coach is ineligible to participate in the next two contests at the same level of play (even if the next two contests do not occur until league or CIAC tournament play or next year). If one or more different level contests are scheduled prior to the next two contests at the same level of play, the coach shall be ineligible to participate in the next two contests at each level of play. The ejected coach cannot be in attendance at the games for which he/she is serving their suspension.**
5. **When a member school’s coach is ejected from a game for an infraction as prescribed by the rules, the game may not continue until the member school replaces the ejected coach with a certified coach. The coach must leave the premises. If this cannot be accomplished within fifteen (15) minutes after the ejection, the official in charge will declare a forfeit win for the opposing team.**
6. Upon receiving a second disqualification for initiating a fight or retaliating in a fight (as determined by the game official), that student-athlete will be declared ineligible for the remainder of the season.
7. The school’s first incident of non-compliance, for reasons other than defiance of the disqualification rules, will result in forfeiture, a $250 fine and the athlete or coach must serve the disqualification penalty; a school’s second incident of non-compliance will prohibit the school from entry in the next CIAC tournament for that sport, or from the remainder of the current tournament if the disqualification occurs during a CIAC tournament or during the last regular season contest/day of competition. However, when a school willfully defies CIAC disqualification rules and regulations the school and/or coach will be subject to further action by the CIAC Board of Control.
8. Any CIAC team that accumulates five (5) or more disqualifications during the regular season including the league’s tournament will be barred from CIAC post-season competition. All disqualifications must be reported to CIAC by the school and the officials group. Any misconduct or disqualification of a coach will count towards the team’s total number of disqualifications. Multiple disqualifications during CIAC tournaments are subject to disciplinary action by the CIAC sports committee and the CIAC Board of Control.

Note: Please see the ice hockey and soccer sports packets for additional penalty regulations specific to these sports.

1. Disqualifications from the last contest of one season carry over to the next season in that sport for undergraduates and coaches, or the next season of participation in any sport for seniors.
2. If the CIAC or National Federation playing rules for a sport specify an additional penalty, the additional penalty will apply. The CIAC disqualification rule applies to all game or meet disqualifications with the exception of reaching the limit of personal fouls in basketball and lacrosse; reaching the limit of technical violations in wrestling; or being disqualified by the rules in ice hockey and lacrosse, which does not require a next game disqualification. This rule does not apply to individual event disqualifications such as in swimming or track and field.
3. Each game official will notify their assignor for that game who will notify the CIAC office via the online disqualification notification system. The athletic director or principal of the school having the disqualified player/coach must notify their next opponent. The school is responsible to implement all CIAC disqualification rules even if the official does not report the disqualification in a timely manner.

Definition of ASSAULT – An assault is defined as an attack which attempts to injure one physically.

Definition of TAUNTING – Taunting includes, but is not limited to any actions or comments by coaches or players which are intended to bait, anger, embarrass, ridicule or demean other players, coaches, or game officials. Included in this is conduct that berates, needles, intimidates or threatens based on gender, ethnic origin or background and conduct that attacks religious beliefs, size, economic status, speech, family, special needs, or personal matters. Examples of taunting that would lead to ejection include, but are not limited to, physical and verbal intimidation outside the spirit of the game (“trash talk”), reference to sexual orientation, “in-the-face confrontation” by one player to another, standing over, straddling a tackled or fallen player, etc.

PENALTY – In all sports, game officials are to consider taunting a flagrant, unsportsmanlike foul that disqualifies the offending bench personnel or athlete from that contest/day of competition and the player or coach from the following contest/day of competition, i.e. the CIAC player/coach ejection rule will be invoked. A warning may be given, but is not required before ejection.

In soccer, an accumulation of two yellow cards in one game against the coaching personnel or team bench will constitute a red card against the head coach and all disqualification rules will apply. (Refer to soccer red card rules and the soccer tournament document.)

***Disqualification Rule – The head coach shall be ineligible to participate in the next contest at the same level of play (even if the next contest does not occur until league or CIAC tournament play or next year). If one or more different level contests are scheduled prior to the next contest at the same level of play, the head coach shall be ineligible to participate in the next (but not more than one) contest at all other levels of play. REMOVE***

***4.6.B. EJECTION OF A COACH***

***When a member school’s coach is ejected from a game for an infraction as prescribed by the rules, the game may not continue until the member school replaces the ejected coach with a certified coach. The coach must leave the premises. If this cannot be accomplished within fifteen (15) minutes after the ejection, the official in charge will declare a forfeit win for the opposing team.***

***MOVE 4.6B To #4 under 4.6A***