

ICE HOCKEY COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 20, 2016

Members present: Al Cramer, Sal Follo, Tom Malin, Drew Pettola, Marty Roos, Steve Trifone, Tom Neagle (Chair), George Hall (Tournament Director), Joe Tonelli and Steve Wysowski (CIAC).

The meeting was called to order by Tom Neagle at 3:05 p.m.

Special Announcement by Steve Wysowski – Steve informed the committee that Al Cramer has been selected for induction into the CAS-CIAC Hall of Honor for his numerous contributions to the organization as a former principal and CIAC Assistant Executive Director. The recognition banquet will be held at the Aqua Turf in Southington on Saturday, October 29 at 6:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online. (Link – <https://ciacsports.ticketleap.com/2016-hall-of-honor-induction-ceremony/>)

Minutes – By unanimous consent, the minutes of April 12, 2016 were approved.

Tom Neagle confirmed the future meeting dates and announced that the annual coaches and captains meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at CIAC. Pizza will be served at 6:00 p.m. The remaining meetings are: Thursday, March 2 at 12:00 Noon (Penalty Review); Friday, March 3 (pairings) at 9:00 a.m.; Thursday, March 16 at 11:00 a.m. (hockey and boys basketball press conference at Aqua Turf; Tuesday, March 21 (division placement) at 3:00 p.m. and Tuesday, April 12 at 3:00p.m. (division appeals and the annual review). Please mark your calendars!

Correspondence – There were no formal letters that needed action by the committee.

Old Business – Tom Neagle reviewed and updated the status report with one change noted. A summary of the report is as follows: 19 schools received “Letters of Commendation” and only 2 schools were placed on probation. Two schools were placed on probation for the 2016-17 season. This information is invaluable and allows the committee to monitor the sport on an ongoing basis. On a motion by Sal, the corrected version of the status report was approved.

2016-17 CIAC Tournament Packet – George distributed the draft of the edited version of the packet which saved the committee significant time in reviewing and updating the 2016-17 tournament packet. George highlighted some of the additions to the packet such as, but not limited to, adding the specific dates that each division will play in the early rounds, committee meeting dates that indicate when the proposed divisions are formulated, the appeal deadline and the date that appeals will be heard, expanding the language to address overtime situations in the tournament when the first overtime ends and the teams are 5-on-4, and added for consistency the rule that all schools must follow during the regular season and the CIAC tournament rule when a game has to be suspended because of reasons that cannot be controlled by the game administration. We also added a blurb to emphasize the importance of complying with the NFHS rule regarding mouth guards and tooth protectors. We will make this a point of emphasis. After all the necessary date changes, revisions, additions and deletions were made and discussed, and on a motion by Drew Pettola, the 2016-17 CIAC ice hockey tournament packet was approved.

New Business – NFHS Rule Changes for 2016-17 – Tom Neagle, a former member of the NFHS rules committee informed the group that he, George, Joe and Sal participated in the NFHS online rules interpretation webinar where the new rules and points of emphasis were reviewed. The new rules will be included in the packet and covered by the NIHOA rule interpreters at the coaches and captains meeting on Wednesday, November 9. Lev Torgerson is a member of the NFHS Ice Hockey Rules Committee and has two years left on his term which is a big plus for Connecticut.

Tournament Sites – George announced that Ingalls Rink will continue to be the site of the 2016-17 semi-final and final games. The quarter-finals at Yale is always a hit or miss thing depending on Yale’s ECAC tournament rankings. Harbor Yard Arena remains an option for us in the quarter-finals depending on the match-ups. He will be finalizing the use in the near future.

Tournament Dedication – A discussion regarding the tournament dedication took place. On a motion by Sal Follo, the committee unanimously agreed that the 2016-17 CIAC tournament will be dedicated to Tom Cross, long-time Simsbury coach. George Hall will follow-up with Tom and report back to the committee.

Officials Fees for 2016-17 – Steve Wysowski reported that the NIHOA officials, along with all the officials' groups in the state made a goodwill gesture which will result in no increase in game fees for the 2016-17 school year, which will help schools and be viewed in a positive manner by the member schools, the athletic community, the general public and the CIAC. Tom Neagle followed up by praising the ice hockey officials and their leadership for their dedication and their willingness to consistently work in concert with our committee to help the sport of ice hockey.

Coaches Association Report – Sal said that plans are underway for their annual CHSCA All Star games and the Hobey Baker award. Sal also asked for clarification of the process for sanctioning schools for recruitment. Steve Wysowski explained the process and emphasized that proof is essential before sanctions can be considered and imposed.

Adjournment – With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m. The next committee function will be the coaches and captains meeting on Wednesday, November 9, 2016. Pizza will be served starting at 6:00 p.m. and the program will begin at 7:00 p.m. The next official meeting of the committee is Thursday, March 2, 2016 at 12:00 Noon.