

CIAC OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION STATE-WIDE MEETING SUMMARY

JUNE 16, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was attended by approximately 100 officiating leaders representing practically all local or state boards. The main purpose of the meeting was to keep the lines of communication open, to update the members on important issues, share ideas for mutual benefit, to gain insight on various topics from guest speakers, and most importantly, to thank you for your dedicated service to high school athletics. The speakers were Dr Karisaa Niehoff, CAS-CIAC Executive Director, Dr Steve Wysowski, CIAC Associate Executive Director, Bhavin Parekh, Associate Director for Competitive Sports at UConn and a panel presentation and discussion on some topics of interest.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

The group observed a moment of silence for the officials in Ct. that died this past year. May they rest in peace!

WELCOME Steve Wysowski, CIAC Associate Executive Director

Steve brought a welcome from CIAC and expressed appreciation for the excellent working relationship that exists between the officials' groups, the member schools and the CIAC. Steve then introduced Karissa Niehoff, CAS-CIAC Executive Director.

REMARKS - Dr Karissa Niehoff, CAS-CIAC Executive Director

Karissa echoed Steve's comments regarding the excellent and challenging work of the officials in all sports. Then Karissa, on behalf of the CIAC and all member schools, thanked the group for agreeing to forgo their percentage increase for the upcoming 2016-17 school year, as a goodwill gesture. Karissa emphasized that given the state budget and the effect it will have on athletic programs, this goodwill gesture on the part of all sports officials' groups will help the member schools and is very much appreciated. She stated that the Officials Advisory Board and other officials' organizations identified some issues and concerns that CIAC can assist with that could help all officials. Karissa confirmed her support and willingness to bring these matters to the schools and ask for their cooperation. The group was very appreciative that Karissa attended the meeting to express her thanks and for her willingness to use her influence to support their efforts.

MEMBERSHIP TEMPLATE (2016-17) – Joe Tonelli and Administrative Assistant, Jadwiga Brown

Joe introduced Jadwiga, who is the administrative assistant to the CIAC Officials Association and the point person for the membership database. The Boards were instructed to send additions, deletions and new candidates to officialsupdates@casciac.org as per the instructions with the appropriate payment. Jadwiga emailed the individuals on each board responsible for sending in their database. The membership in the CIAC Officials' Association runs from July 1 to June 30 as does the NFHS membership for those boards that also join NFHSOA. No new members should be submitted until they have consented to a background check and provided the information required, including their date of birth and middle name. Local boards keep the consent forms on file. Joe mentioned that it is important to send your 2016-17 rosters to as soon as you can.

He also emphasized that we need full names, including the middle names or initials for the background checks. The CIAC membership fee is \$13 per sport and \$17 to join the NFHS Officials Association.

NFHS ELECTRONIC EXAMS / NFHS RULE BOOKS / ELECTRONIC COPIES OF EXAMS / ELECTRONIC ANSWER KEYS

These can be obtained through CIAC by contacting Joyce Smith at 203-250-1111 or email Joyce at jsmith@casciac.org. It is important that you are aware that the schools will only be getting rule books every other year. The new rules will be in the sports packets and posted on www.ciacsports.com on the specific sports pages.

NFHS ONLINE RULE INTERPRETERS MEETINGS

Joe T will notify the interpreters since the interpreters in all sports must register individually. A schedule of all online meetings was included in the packet as well as the contact info for Joyce Smith for rule books.

COACHES RULES INTERPRETATIONS MEETINGS

Boards were encouraged to provide this service which enhances the relationship amongst coaches, leagues, and officials' groups. Joe asked the interpreters to cover the CIAC protocol for lodging a complaint that was included in the packet as well as the new rules.

GUEST SPEAKER – Bhavin Parekh, Associate Director for Competitive Sports at UConn

Bhavin has been an IAABO basketball official for the past 16 years and works on the high school and college levels. For the past 12 years he has been responsible for the recruiting, training, development, and evaluation of officials for the extensive UConn Intramural program in the sports of softball, basketball, soccer, flag football, volleyball and ice hockey. Many of the alumni from the UConn program have continued their officiating careers at the high school varsity, collegiate, professional and international levels in basketball, volleyball, lacrosse and soccer. Therefore, Bhavin has been a great resource for some Ct Boards and he is willing to work more closely with other interested boards. Bhavin and his staff attempt to steer their better officials to the local boards and provide some incentive to enhance this initiative by helping to finance the membership fee in the first year to help them get certified. He is also willing to provide the names and contact info of his counter parts at other Connecticut colleges and universities throughout the state. Since the recruitment and retention of new officials is key for all boards in all sports, this concept is worth pursuing along with other recruitment strategies. Bhavin's presentation was very informative and very well received. Joe T stated that he will be invited to the October Advisory Board meeting in order to further develop this initiative.

PANEL DISCUSSION ON TOPICS OF INTEREST

Ray Faustich, a member of the CIAC Officials Association Advisory Board and the long time baseball rules interpreter coordinated a panel of experts that provided some valuable information which generated some idea sharing from the presenters and the audience. Here is the lineup of panelists and their topics: Hank Luzzi-Basketball, "Developing a "strategy" for dealing with coaches, players & spectators who "disagree" with an "officials calls. Art Hamm-

Soccer. "In-Service Training" for officials before, during and after each season. Pat Javorski- Field Hockey/Girls Lacrosse, "Evaluation of officials (formative & summative) and how is the evaluation accomplished? Hank Koritkoski- Softball "What percentage of time is spent on training new officials regarding rules vs mechanics," and Ray Faustich- Baseball-Dealing with assignments: "refusals" and "turn backs" by officials. This session provided an excellent exchange of ideas on variety of topics. There was something for everyone and very worthwhile.

PACKET HANDOUTS

The packet contained the following information: Agenda, CIAC & NFHS Membership counts, Instructions on Registering your board for 2016-17, Timeline for roster and payment, Background check Consent Form, Listing of the 2016-17 NFHS on line interpreters meetings, Info on ordering rule books from CIAC and obtaining the electronic exams and answer keys, a hard copy of a blank 100 question exam answer key, Communication Protocol between member schools and officials groups for lodging a complaint and the NFHS Network on Demand info (Joe T emphasized that the games can be viewed by anyone in the country at no cost after a 72 hour time period. Also included in the packet is Instructions for taking free on line Concussion in Sports course, the 2016 -17 Boys and Girls CIAC Game Limitations and Practice Dates, an article entitled "Choose to Defuse", and the Officials Fees for 2016-17.

WRAP UP

Joe T expressed his thanks for the excellent cooperation and support that CIAC has received from the Advisory Board and all officials' groups and for their dedicated service to high school sports. It seems hard to believe that the CIAC Officials Association has just completed 11 years of operation. Joe stated that he continues to enjoy his "behind the scenes" role in working together with the officiating leaders to better serve their respective officials' groups and the member schools.

THANK YOU!!! Have a great summer!