

CIAC OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES JANUARY 29, 2009

Members present: Mike Almeida, Melissa Arms, Tony Barbaro, Ray Faustich, George Ford, Barry Fowler, Ruth Hewston, Sue Kennedy, Dave Leete, Joe Miller, Lev Torgerson, Jenn Whelan, and Joe Tonelli, CIAC.

Action Items /Discussion Items

Minutes

On a motion by George Ford, the minutes of October 2, 2008 were approved.

Membership

Membership is at an all-time high. We have 3,687 officials who occupy 4,559 slots. All 53 boards in the state have registered all of their officials in the CIAC Officials' Association. This fact assures all member schools that every official who works high school games is a member of a local board and is registered with the CIAC. This is important because it now puts us in compliance with a long standing CIAC By-Law requiring member schools to use only those officials registered with CIAC.

Budget

The board reviewed the budget picture including the expenditures to date. We are pleased to report that the projections of the budget committee are in line with the actual expenditures. The CIAC Officials' Association continues to have a solid financial base as a result of increased membership and the subsidy from CIAC to help offset the costs of running the association.

Refunds

The refunds to multi-sport officials were sent out much earlier than in past years as a result of the excellent cooperation we received from the boards in submitting their rosters and registration fees in a timely manner. The total amount of the refunds thus far is \$1,950.00.

Membership Template

Matt Fischer received the approval of the CIAC Officials' Association Advisory Board to revise the membership template to include three additional fields. The new fields are date of birth, male or female, and maiden name. Also to simplify and improve the accuracy of the information submitted to CIAC by the local boards, Matt will provide a template from the previous year which can be easily updated, rather than starting from scratch. Matt will provide specific instructions to the secretaries of all boards.

Old Business/ Information Items

Preseason Rules Meetings

Joe requested the dates of the preseason rules meetings for coaches from the various boards. Joe was pleased to report that we are ahead of schedule in getting the spring dates from the boards. Regarding the fall dates, the goal is to finalize the dates by late May in order to get the rules clinic schedule out to the schools before summer break.

Dates for the NFHS Interpreters Meetings

The dates were distributed. Advisory board members who are also rule interpreters reported on the many benefits of attending these very well run meetings. Ray Faustich apprised the group of the new initiative of the NFHS to expand the use of online video clips as an educational tool available to all officials. Ray stated that if this project continues to be developed as planned it will be a great asset as a teaching tool for new and veteran officials.

CIAC Board of Control Representatives

The schedule of advisory board members attending the CIAC board meetings is as follows: Feb 26- George Ford; March 19 Jane Dahl; April 23- Lev Torgerson; and May 21- Barbara Startup. If your plans have changed please inform Joe T.

Background Check Subcommittee Report

The January 28th meeting was postponed to February 4th because of the snow. We have an excellent committee and the first meeting held on November 19, 2008 resulted in an excellent discussion. The summary of the meeting is posted on the www.ciacofficialsassociation.org website. We want to proceed deliberately and provide local boards with as much information as possible so they can make an informed decision relative to background screening.

It was noted that local boards have historically taken steps to ensure that their members are in "good standing". Over the years many boards have had to deal with officials who were not in "good standing" for a variety of reasons, to protect the integrity of their respective boards. The manner in which they handled the situation was usually governed by their constitution and/or by-laws. These issues were usually handled by the executive board, a better officiating committee, or in some cases, an ethics committee.

Scrimmages

A letter was sent to all Board Commissioners by Dr. Steve Wysowski, chairman of the Officials' committee, encouraging boards to have a dialogue with the schools they service to arrive at a mutually agreeable fee for scrimmages. For the most part, this seems to be working out okay. The Advisory Board agreed that practically all officials now get paid for working scrimmages which is certainly a step in the right direction. The advisory board supports the concept of discussing the fees with the member schools, but most would like to see more consistency down the road.

New Business/Discussions

Sportsmanship memo to Principals and Athletic Directors from the CIAC Board of Control

CIAC Officials' Association board member and Soccer Representative, Joe Miller, attended the January 22, 2009 CIAC Board of Control meeting. He reported that the CIAC Board approved a request from the CIAC Staff to send a memo to all the member school principals and athletic directors regarding sportsmanship, and to specifically address "coaches publically criticizing the officials in the media." The memo also addressed the role of coaches as a role model for good sportsmanship, especially in their interaction with the officials during the game. Joe Miller said it was great to witness the support of the CIAC Board of Control for all officials. Joe emphasized that all boards should have a protocol to deal with legitimate complaints lodged through their athletic director to the board of commissioners. It is important that Boards look into and respond to all concerns from the schools we service.

Joe Tonelli stated that a suggested protocol will be formulated by the Advisory board and included in the CIAC Handbook to serve as a guide to all member schools and officials boards.

Around the Table Comments

Some of the comments were as follows: It was mentioned that the advisory board meetings are very informative and provide an opportunity to address issues of mutual interest. All meeting minutes or summaries can be found on the www.ciacofficialsassociation.org webpage. Barbara Startup has been named to the NFHS Volleyball Rules Committee. Joe Miller has been elected President of the National Intercollegiate Soccer Officials Association for a two year term. Congratulations to Barb and Joe. Along the same lines Ray Faustich, former chair of the NFHS baseball rules committee did some good PR with our neighbors in Rhode Island by doing a rules clinic for all their coaches and a second clinic for all the umpires to assist Rhode Island in their first year of transition to NFHS rules; a concern was raised about the sub-varsity fees in comparison to what some youth leagues are paying.... Some officials would rather work multiple games at the youth level, rather than accept a J.V. game because the games are shorter and they are getting higher fees; the sub varsity fees are currently about 65% of the varsity fee and any concerns should be addressed to the attention of Dr. Steve Wysowski, chairman of the CIAC Officials Committee. It was noted that this is the worst time to surface issues involving increases in fees, but if it is truly becoming a problem it is wise to make it known; Regarding the recruitment of officials, it was mentioned that the brochures' should be available at all championship games; Finally one more board member mentioned that the CIAC Officials Association has not only brought all officials groups together, but it has created a forum for officials, coaches, administrators, and the CIAC to work together to solve problems that benefit high school athletics. He emphasized that it should not be coaches against officials. We are the adults and we have to work together to send the right message to all participants in high school athletics.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

The next meeting of the Advisory Board is Wednesday, May 13, 2009.

