

CIAC OFFICIALS' ADVISORY BOARD

ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

February 11, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gloria Bellucci, Chris Burns, Ray Faustich, Pat Javorski, Jay Kelleher, Hank Koritkoski, Dave Leete, Joe Miller, Lil Perone, Lev Torgerson, Ray Vanacore for Hank Luzzi, Dan Scavone, CAAD President and Joe Tonelli, CIAC Staff

ACTION ITEMS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

On a motion by Jay Kelleher, the minutes of October 15, 2015 were approved.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

3,866 individual officials occupy 5,010 officiating slots. 2182 officials are members of the NFHS Officials Association.

STANDING GRANT AWARDED – USE OF ARBITER ASSIGNING PROGRAM

IAABO Northeast Board #35, the newest member of the CIAC Officials Association applied and received the standing grant for becoming a first time user of the Arbiter Assigning Program. They have already received their \$250 grant. The total distributed in the CIAC Officials Association Grant Program has reached \$12,250. This program has contributed too many excellent programs initiated by the local boards for the benefit of their members and the schools they service.

FINANCIAL UPDATE – MULTI-SPORT REFUNDS

Joe T reported that \$3,354 was distributed to the multi – sport officials who are enrolled in 3 or more sports. This was an increase of \$854 over the previous year since the Advisory Board approved an increase in the refund amount to \$13. These officials increase the officiating pool. Also, providing an honorarium and mileage reimbursement to clinicians for the preseason rules meetings for coaches is another initiative and financial investment that has reaped numerous benefits for schools while enhancing the relationship between officials and coaches. Thus far in 2015-16, we have invested \$4,300 for these rules meetings and NFHS rule interpreters meetings. It is money well spent.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Dan Scavone, president of CAAD mentioned that he really enjoys attending the Officials' Advisory Board meetings since it provides the opportunity to be apprized of issues of concern from the assigners and the perspective of the officials. It also is an excellent forum for Dan to express the concerns from the athletic directors regarding officiating issues which is very helpful. Dan

mentioned that sportsmanship issues is a concern, and since Dan is a basketball ref, he knows first-hand that the officials are often the target of poor sportsmanship by coaches and fans. Dan informed the group that the sportsmanship committee, where students are represented along with athletic directors, coaches, administrators, officials and others, are trying to come up with guidelines that everyone can support regarding what behaviors at games are appropriate.

OLD BUSINESS / INFORMATION ITEMS

PRESEASON COACHES' RULES MEETINGS FOR SPRING COACHES

These spring rules clinics are being finalized and will be posted on line and emailed to athletic directors.

NFHS ONLIN RULE INTERPRETERS MEETINGS

Many of our rule interpreters continue to take part in these meeting to get the new rules from the national interpreters and rules editors. Because we are considered a 100% state by the NFHS, we can have an interpreter from each board participate in the online rules meetings. We can also include some assistant interpreters who wish to attend.

CAS – CIAC HALL OF HONOR NOMINATIONS

All nominees are screened by an initial screening committee and the final selections are made by a second committee whose identities are not known. The first induction dinner was a huge success. Joe T encourages officials groups to put forth worthy nominees.

NFHS FREE CONCUSSION COURSE

The CIAC Officials Association website provides access to a free NFHS Concussion Course that can be shown to all boards or better yet each individual official can chose to take the 25 minute course. It will provide good information for your members, not only as officials, but also as a spouse, a parent or grandparent.

NEW BUSINESS

SPORTS REPORTS - AROUND THE TABLE

Those in attendance shared some info about their respective sports; Swimming mentioned that they are working with their officials on improving their skills in judging diving. Volleyball mentioned that that they re-rated all their officials; Softball mentioned that ASA is re-branding and officially changing their name to USA Softball. Therefore, the Ct group will be known as USA Softball Connecticut; Girls Lacrosse mentioned that Arbiter was doing an upgrade which was time consuming, but should be beneficial in the long run; Football mentioned the importance of game management and they try to stress that with all their officials; Baseball mentioned that another trait they stress is professionalism in dealing with players and coaches; Field Hockey and Girls Lacrosse mentioned that that they are attracting new officials but prep school days are a challenge to cover all games; Basketball stated that if they can keep a new official for 3 to 5 years then they usually stick it out for many years; Ice Hockey stated that in New Jersey 2 officials were assaulted by two parents in the refs locker room after the game; Boys Lacrosse has been asked to assign youth lacrosse games so they are working on a strategy to cover these games. They pay a little more than sub varsity games; and Soccer said that some of their officials have been followed to the parking lot after games and stressed the need for administrative oversight to insure the safety of the officials.

CONCUSSION AND CRUM RUBBER RAISED BILLS

Joe T mentioned that two (2) raised bills were being considered by the legislature in this short session. The concussion bill involves youth athletic activities conducted on public fields. The crum rubber bill seeks to put a moratorium on constructing any new playgrounds with this substance if used by children. We will keep you posted.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST AND OTHER INFORMATION

NASO Email – Speakers – We received a solicitation promoting the NASO speakers bureau that provided some incentives to groups that recommend an organization that uses their service.

Message from Rob Melanson, Ice Hockey state rules interpreter that provided positive fan feedback regarding the caliber of officiating in ice hockey this season. The fan also praised the coaches for teaching safety techniques and the players for making a noticeable effort to avoid hitting from behind. Thus far the penalty reports support his contention.

Recruitment of Officials – Every board should continue to make a concerted effort to recruit and retain new members. Joe mentioned creating an informal relationship with the ECAC to raise the awareness that new officials are needed at both the high school and the intercollegiate levels. No one recruitment idea will suffice. The bottom line is that we have to try a number of strategies to attract new refs. Recruitment of officials needs to be a team effort involving CIAC, athletic directors and the coaches in order to spread the word that officials are needed. It is a great way for former athletics and other interested people to stay involved with sports.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm. The next meeting of the CIAC Advisory Board will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2016 @ 4:00 PM @ CIAC.

The state- wide meeting will be held on Thursday, June 16, 2016. Food 5 P.M - Meeting start time 5:30 P.M.