

# CIAC OFFICIALS ADVISORY BOARD

## ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

February 16, 2012

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### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gloria Bellucci, Chris Burns, Bud Chernovetz for Hank Luzzi, Tom DeMartino for Lev Torgerson, Ray Faustich, Hank Koritkoski, Dave Leete, Kelly Murphy, Lil Perone, and Joe Tonelli, CIAC Staff

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### ACTION ITEMS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

On a motion by Joe Miller the minutes of October 20, 2011 were approved.

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### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

4,140 individual officials occupy 5,232 officiating slots, an increase of 152 officiating slots since fall. With the addition of the baseball umpires, NFHS membership has increased to 2172 officials. The CIAC Officials Assoc membership has increased by 102 since the last meeting.

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### BUDGET / EXPENDITURES

It was reported that we continue to have a solid budget to meet our financial obligations, benefit our members, and support the grant program, NFHS rules meetings, the coaches rules meetings and other special projects.

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### INFORMATIVE WEBSITES

The following websites can be very beneficial to the officials since they provide a wealth of information:

- CIAC ([www.casciac.org](http://www.casciac.org)) ([www.ciacsports.com](http://www.ciacsports.com))
- CIAC Officials Association ([www.ciacofficialsassociation.org](http://www.ciacofficialsassociation.org))
- NFHS ([www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org)) – Open to everyone!

Additional Officials Education below is **password protected** for NFHSOA Members Only!!  
NFHS Officials Association Members Only - Online Official's Education, Rule and Case Books, Videos, Searchable specific rule references, and much more that can be accessed through:

- ([www.nfhs.arbitersports.net](http://www.nfhs.arbitersports.net)) - NFHSOA Members Only New Officials Course – Free to NFHSOA Members Only
- ([www.nfhs.learn.com](http://www.nfhs.learn.com)) – Free Concussion course - Open to everyone!

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## OLD BUSINESS / INFORMATION ITEMS

- An Instruction sheet was distributed to keep your board membership data base up to date with CIAC that included the protocol for adding and deleting members.
  - NFHS Online rules meetings can be done by rule interpreters at their home or office computer. We are permitted 5 logins per sport. Joe will inform the various groups at the appropriate time.
  - The representative for the CIAC Board of Control meetings are as follows:  
**March 1 @2:30 p.m.** – Chris Burns,  
**March 26 @ 2 p.m.** – Joe Miller,  
**April 26 @ 2 p.m.** – Lev Torgerson,  
**May 24 (if needed) @ 2 p.m.** – Dave Leete.
  - A list of boards that received incentive grants was distributed. A list was also distributed that showed the boards that have not applied as yet. These boards have until **June 30, 2012** to avail themselves of this opportunity. This program has been highly successful and our goal is to have 100% participation from all boards.
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## BACKGROUND CHECKS

- The background checks are going well. The process for spring sport officials is nearly complete with the exception of the new members. The company has been very accommodating in expediting the checks for the new members. It is important that boards submit the full name of new candidates that includes middle name or initial and maiden name.
  - Boards were encouraged to include in their local board constitution, perhaps under members in good standing, a requirement that members report an arrest that could result in jail time to board president or a person selected by the board. The board would then report it to the CIAC Director of the CIAC Officials Association. The CIAC, in the vast majority of cases, would defer to the local board to handle the matter in a manner that they deem appropriate. This clause would assist in addressing situations that may occur after the initial background checks were performed by CIAC and guard against any embarrassing situations for the local board or CIAC.
  - There is no charge to your members or your local association until next school year. The cost is being covered for the entire 2011-12 school year.
  - Please charge your new members only \$10 for the background checks and another \$10 for CIAC membership dues for the 2012-13 school year. As you know this is a one - time charge.
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## NEW BUSINESS (DISCUSSION)

- Recruitment strategies were discussed. A recruitment meeting summary was distributed. It was mentioned that a member of a local board who heads up their recruitment program wanted to know if any other boards or sports were interested in a state-wide “Recruiting Fair” for officials. After discussion, the advisory board felt that recruitment efforts work best on the local level and practically all boards have also

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benefitted by the brochures, the officials association website, and the partnership with CIAC. There was no interest by any of the sports to pursue this concept at this time.

- The NFHS free online rules testing program is a membership benefitted for only the boards that have joined the NFHS Officials Association. Other boards do their rules testing in various ways with the assistance of CIAC.
- **Other Business (Sharing Ideas)**

The committee shared ideas that focused on the questions below. These minutes reflect a brief sampling of the responses.

**How does your sport or board train new officials?**

Through new candidate programs for first and second year members. Both classroom and on the field, court, pool etc....through use of videos...by reviewing test questions...by providing handouts and instruction guides...The NFHS new officials course that is free for NFHS Officials Assoc members is another good tool.

**When and how do you assign first year officials?**

Most boards assign new members in the first year...many assign new refs to mentors...most assign new members to appropriate level games with veteran refs....evaluate new members in game situations and provide feedback.

**Does your sport have a better officiating committee?**

Many do...some call it their executive board...one board calls the group the officials improvement committee.

**What is the function of the better officiating committee?**

Observation of officials...review complaints from officials, coaches, and schools...discuss ways to improve the quality of instruction and officiating...act as a sounding board for officials that think they should get a better schedule and make recommendations to the assigner.

**How does your board handle and process complaints?**

Complaints are either handled by the Officers, exec committee, or the better officiating committee. The call usually first comes to the assigner. All agreed that the communication between official's boards and member schools has been enhanced now that officials are part of the CIAC team with representation on all sports committee and with the CIAC protocol on page 167 in the CIAC Hand Book. Communication, professionalism and mutual respect are the keys to dealing with all situations that arise.

**Does your sport or board teach preventive officiating through communication?**

Yes, most sports advocate this but it takes good communication skills that must be taught. It was mentioned that there is a fine line between using this technique to your advantage and going overboard in this area.

The topics produced food for thought and good discussion. This concept will be an important aspect of all future CIAC Officials Association meetings.

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

The next meeting of the Advisory Board is Thursday, May 10, 2012 @ 4 p.m. @ CIAC.

For your advanced planning the state-wide annual meeting with 2 reps from each board is scheduled for Thursday, June 14, 2012 @ 5:30 p.m.