

CIAC OFFICIALS' ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES - February 20, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gloria Bellucci, John Chernovetz, Chris Burns, Ray Faustich, Jay Kelleher, Hank Koritkoski, Dave Leete, Joe Miller, Kelly Murphy, Lil Perone, Lev Torgerson, Dan Scavone, CAAD President Elect / Official and Joe Tonelli, CIAC

ACTION ITEMS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

On a motion by Joe Miller, the minutes of October 17, 2013 were approved.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

3,991 individual officials occupy 5,090 officiating slots. 2284 officials are members of the NFHS Officials Association.

CT BOARDS USING ARBITER ASSIGNING PROGRAM

With the exception of Eastern Basketball, Eastern Football, Eastern Soccer, two swimming boards and two very small softball boards, all other boards use the Arbiter Assigning Program. Nine boards applied and received Incentive Grants for becoming first time Arbiter users. Two others are expected to submit grant applications.

CIAC ACTION PLAN FOR ONGOING CONCUSSION EDUCATION / STRATEGY

Ct Public Act 10-62 (AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH ATHLETICS AND CONCUSSIONS) – The concussion law, enacted July 1, 2010 mandates concussion education for coaches which included an initial course and thereafter an annual review. Officials were not mentioned in law.

A Fairfield County lobbying group is looking to change the law and expand the mandate to also require concussion education for athletes, parents and officials as well. Their group has done extensive research regarding concussion laws in other states. Because they are championing a cause for the safety of kids playing sports it makes it difficult for educational and athletic groups to publicly oppose it. CIAC reps have met with this group on several occasions in an attempt to convince the group and law makers that such education is already taking place, and therefore a new law is not needed.

CIAC action plan specific to officials to show new law is not needed!!

All Boards already provide mandatory yearly rules clinics that include a review of the signs and symptoms of concussion; CIAC has distributed concussion cards for all refs that include a reminder about the signs and symptoms of concussion; CIAC has established a Concussion protocol for Ct Officials that boards review with refs; Boards must meet the CIAC Recognition Standards to officiate high school sports; There is now clarifying language in recognition standard 6 that further demonstrates that a review of the signs and symptoms of concussion is already being done and required by CIAC as a condition to be a CIAC recognized officials' group; November 11, 2013 – Concussion Info / Memo to Board Leaders commending interpreters for their continued efforts to educate their officials on the signs and symptoms of concussion; and finally the

CIAC Officials Association website provides access to a free NFHS Concussion Course that can be shown to all boards and each individual official can chose to take the 25 minute course. We will keep you posted.

OLD BUSINESS / INFORMATION ITEMS

CIAC Board of Control Reps – Remaining Meetings – Sign - up sheet in packet.

Feb 27 – Ray Faustich; Volunteers for the April 3 and May 1, 2014 meetings should contact Joe T.

Preseason coaches' rules meetings – Send Spring 2014 rules clinics for coaches to Joe T for master list. We continue to provide an honorarium for the clinicians and this program has served a positive purpose for all concerned.

Ref pay (Arbiter pay) - Additional Info - This was brought up at the last meeting in discussion and to assist you I asked Arbiter to send me the Ref pay (Arbiter pay) information. I also asked the COO of the company about the security of the site and he sent me an email that I included in your packet. It is rapidly growing. In the last 2 years, 4,000 schools became first time users of the program and Arbiter believes that it will become as popular as their assigning program in a few years. They are receiving the most positive feedback from this program than any other program that they have ever launched. They are confident that officials will embrace this program if it grows in Ct.

Assault Bill Update – Rep. Paul Davis and Rep. Dave Labriola have asked the chair of the Judiciary Committee to discuss the concept of an assault bill for officials and the chair was provided some of the proposed bill language that was used in the past attempts. Labriola is a member of the committee and he will follow up with the co-chair. As was previously mentioned in a short session a bill of this nature would have to be a committee bill. We will keep you posted.

GUEST – DAN SCAVONE – CAAD PRESIDENT ELECT / LONG TIME OFFICIAL

Strategies to improve these areas of concern.

1. Adult Site Manager for "security of officials" at all games (Especially varsity games);
2. Parking space close to the field. Fans are following officials into the parking lot. (Security of officials);
3. Private locker rooms for officials, if requested;
4. Guidelines to start and finish a contest delayed by late bus, weather condition etc - Recommendation: officials think a one hour delay maximum may be reasonable but common sense should rule the day. Obviously, it is expensive and an inconvenience for all concerned when teams have to come back another day. A late arriving team should be willing to warm up and start the game as soon as prudent and feasible. Positive PR can result when officials go out of their way to get the game in when these emergency situations arise. Again, if this is a concern it can be discussed with the schools or leagues you service.
5. Payment of officials within 30 days – (Some do not pay for 60-90 days or more); Again, rather than use a wide brush, let's identify the schools that are problematic.
6. Non weather related changes to game dates, times and/or sites occur more now than ever; Example - Very little rain during 2013 fall season and many schools changed 40%-50% of their schedules for reasons that were not weather related; (Same song – let's identify the problem schools and if all efforts to address the issue on the local level fail, bring the matter to the attention of the league commissioner or the CIAC.

7. To avoid errors, encourage AD's to check Arbiter to insure their game info is accurate so game officials will be at the right venue at the correct time. This needs to be done on a weekly basis. Assigners also need to check CIAC website. If either party notices an error, in a spirit of cooperation, communicate the discrepancy to each other so the matter can be solved.

These issues are challenging and will not go away completely but we can work together to try to make things better. It was agreed that the strategies to help improve these areas is multi-faceted and includes the following...COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY!

Communication between the assigners and the schools or leagues you service...Joe T provided a case in point from his AD days...Soccer Commissioner Joe Miller used to meet with the AD's in the SCC to discuss concerns and that was an effective strategy...Having someone like Dan who understands both sides of the issues can help also and that's why I invited him here today...CIAC can also help because we have an opportunity to conduct a workshop for new AD's with CAAD and we also speak at the CAAD conference. With some of these concerns we will be spinning our wheels unless the officials groups identify the problem schools, attempt to solve the problem through communicating with those schools and inform CIAC about schools when our influence is needed. Some of the issues listed below (#2 & 3) are in the official's contract and the payment policy for officials (# 5) was added to the membership agreement. This was added when the Hartford schools had a payment system that was destined to fail...The Hartford AD's banded together and their system was changed and greatly improved. Although no officials group has pushed to withhold service because of the unintended consequences it causes, in fairness to officials, they performed the services and should expect to be paid within a reasonable time which is specified in the membership agreement. In his role as CAAD President Dan offered to work together and do what he can to assist in this regard and continue to enhance the relationship between AD's and the schools. All agreed, this is a two way street and AD's and Commissioners need to continue to show mutual respect and professionalism in all matters. Working together and communication avoids most errors and makes everyone look good.

NEW BUSINESS – CIAC OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION REGISTRATION - ARBITER REGISTRATION PROGRAM

Matt Fischer attended a two day meeting with Arbiter to discuss several topics that could benefit the CIAC Officials Association and the local boards. He is working with Arbiter on a registration system for enrolling members in the CIAC Officials Association to simplify the process for local board secretaries since practically all boards already use Arbiter. The boards that are not arbiter users will be allowed access for the CIAC Membership process only. Matt will provide all the necessary instructions when we are ready to launch the program. The CIAC Advisory Board has approved this concept if and when CIAC is ready to move forward with it. We will keep you posted.

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 8, 2014 @ 4:00 PM @ CIAC. The state- wide meeting will be held on Thursday, June 19, 2014. Food 5 P.M - Meeting start time 5:30 P.M