

CIAC Officials' Association  
Advisory Board Minutes  
May 15 2007

Member Present: Frank Begen, George Ford, Kevin Homgren, David Leete, Hank Luzzi, Lev Torgerson, Sr., Terry Shanbacher for Joe Miller, Paul Swords for Ray Faustich, Candy Perez for Barbara Startup and Mike Geenty for Gymnastics.

Absent Members: Jane Dahle, Lucy Goodrich, Barry Fowler,  
CIAC Rep, Joe Tonelli welcomed the group and the meeting began by observing a moment of silence for *Ro Carlucci*. Ro was a tireless leader for gymnastics, tennis and all girls' sports. She will be missed by her many friends and colleagues in the coaching and officiating ranks.

#### ACTION ITEMS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

**Approved the minutes** of January 9, 2007

Motion – Hank Luzzi, Second – George Ford, Action - Passed

Distributed the membership report. Total members as of 5-15-07 3821 which surpassed all expectations.

#### **Membership Income**

As of 5-15-07 our membership income is \$38,210.

#### **Financial Report**

Budget committee members George Ford, Hank Luzzi and Dave Leete reported that the financial picture for the CIAC Officials' Association remains healthy as a result of the support of the CIAC and Executive Director Mike Savage. As was reported in January when the 2006-2007 budget was approved, the CIAC will subsidize the CIAC Officials' Association so that a minimum of 50% of the membership income can be spent for member services and to benefit all officials and their respective organizations.

#### **Approved Expenditures**

The Advisory Board unanimously approved the following expenditures:

- \$100 contribution to the RoseMary Carlucci Memorial Scholarship Fund;
- \$1,000 to print 6,000 colored recruitment brochures;
- Approximately, \$ 1,000 for Refreshments for three (3) State-wide meetings for Presidents, Secretary-Treasurers, Commissioners, and Rule Interpreters;
- Approved \$400 per sport for the State Rules Interpreters to attend the NFHS interpretation meetings in Indianapolis;

#### **Recruitment Brochure**

The Advisory Board agreed that the brochure provides excellent information for new officiating prospects and commended the committee for their effort.

## **NIHOA Letter**

The Connecticut Ice Hockey Officials expressed concerns regarding negative comments by coaches being directed towards officials in the media in post game interviews. The Ice Hockey Officials suggested that the penalty for this type of conduct, which is a violation of NFHS Coaches Code of Ethics, should be a game disqualification. Although the Advisory Board agreed that this type of coach's conduct is inappropriate, the board recommended that we first bring this concern to the athletic directors, coaches, and the CIAC as an initial step in addressing this concern. Joe Tonelli reported that the CIAC Handbook and tournament packets will emphasize that commenting to the media about the officiating is inappropriate. Also, it was suggested that Rule Interpretation cover this issue with the coaches at the mandatory preseason rules meetings. Since the reported incidences of this nature are low, the board is confident that educating the coaches and focusing attention on it will produce positive results. The matter will be reviewed and monitored. The Board's action was supported by Lev Torgerson who represents ice hockey on the Advisory Board.

## **OLD BUSINESS/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**Preseason Interpretation Meeting** – Fall dates are needed as soon as possible. Selecting the right date is the key to attendance. We will also take the winter and spring dates when available.

**NFHS Rules Interpretation Meetings** – George Ford, who attends these meetings yearly for swimming, said they last about 6 hours and the information acquired is invaluable. We strongly encourage the state interpreter in every sport to attend, and then meet with other local board interpreters to pass on the information to ensure consistency throughout the state. IAABO has a great slogan for all sports to follow... "One rule, One Interpretation."

**Interpretation Protocol** - The CIAC wants to establish a protocol for providing rules interpretations:

List all interpreters in all sports on the CIAC website;

Encourage schools to call their local interpreter when they have a rule question;

Encourage the local interpreter to confer with the state interpreter to be 100% certain before giving a ruling;

Inform the CIAC of the issue and how it was handled; and

Share the question and correct interpretation with all officials to ensure that everyone is on the same page.

**Insurance Committee Report** – A chart was distributed and posted on the officials' Association web page that outlines the insurance coverage for all groups. A detailed report will be presented to the Secretary Treasurers and Presidents of all boards on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Because many groups have long standing commitments regarding insurance, it is not practical to negotiate one rate for all members at this time. However, we will share rates from some large companies which are very reasonable and could provide another

option for groups that may not be satisfied with their present policy or the coverage they are getting.

**Assault Bill** – The Assault Bill did not receive the necessary support to be passed by the Judiciary Committee. In short, the committee chair, Senator Andrew McDonald of Stamford, does not believe the bill is necessary since the current assault laws protect officials and all citizens. The sponsors of the bill are considering asking that a legislative study be conducted. It may be time to switch strategies and push for a bill that limits the liability of sports officials regarding litigation.

**Recruitment of Officials** - *Mark Jaffe*, Sports-writer for the Waterbury Republican American Newspaper wrote an excellent Sunday feature about the recruitment of officials. The CIAC Officials' Association, the Advisory Board, and the Recruitment Committee provided much of the support material for this very well written article.

**June State Wide Meetings** – The schedule is as follows (all meetings @ 6:00 pm)  
June 11 (Mon) @ Cheshire High School – Secretary/Treasurers, Presidents, Officers  
Limited to 3 people per board  
June 18 (Tues) @ CIAC – Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners. If the designated person can not attend, it is our hope that someone will represent your board in order to bring the information back;  
June 20 (Wed) @ CIAC – Rule Interpreters .If the designated person can not attend, it is our hope that someone will represent your board in order to bring the information back;

The CIAC Advisory Board believes that these meetings will further open the lines of communication which is necessary for growth to take place in any quality organization.

**IAABO International Convention / CFOA Football Hall of Fame** - These two very successful events took place in April and were supported by the CIAC Officials' Association. The highlight of the basketball official's convention was that Connecticut's own Peter Carroll, the long time commissioner of the Fairfield County Board, was installed as the 69<sup>th</sup> President of the IAABO International. The football Hall of Fame dinner featured the induction of 19 officials (current, past and deceased) who made significant contributions to the game of football. Both events will be mentioned in the May edition of the CIAC bulletin.

**Scrimmage Guidelines** – Dr. Jerome Auclair, longtime chairman of the CIAC Officials' Negotiating Committee, and his committee members met with some veteran officials to informally discuss the best and fairest way to handle scrimmages. The result of this very congenial meeting was some guidelines that should provide some direction for schools and officials. The committee and the officials who attended the discussion agreed that it was one of the most positive and cooperative meetings that has ever taken place between the groups. The guidelines will be posted on the CIAC Officials' Association webpage and distributed at the state-wide meeting in June. The guidelines were sent to all schools last week. The CIAC Officials' Association Advisory Board recommends that all officials groups should be cognizant that schools that have not been

paying for scrimmages may not have the funds this year because their budgets have already been finalized. Working together during this period of adjusted seems to a reasonable course of action.

#### NEW BUSINESS

**Enrollment Period for the CIAC OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION FOR 2007-08** – By unanimous consent the Advisory Board reaffirmed the enrollment period as June 1 to September 1. This will provide a two week period to get the 4,000 plus cards out to officials before the first game. Matt Fischer will develop a template for submitting membership rosters to CIAC to ensure that the data can be processed efficiently. PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR MEMBERS TO PROVIDE US WITH A VALID E-MAIL ADDRESS TO EXPEDITE COMMUNICATION.

#### **2007 - 2008 Advisory Board Meeting dates –**

Fall meeting – Thursday, October 11, 2007 @ 4:00 PM @ CIAC

Winter Meeting – Tuesday, January 8, 2008 @ 4:00 PM @ CIAC

Spring Meeting – Wednesday, May 14, 2008 @ 4:00 PM @ CIAC

**Around the Table** – Lev Torgerson mentioned that Chuck Waimon was installed as the National President for NIHOA, a great honor for Chuck and Connecticut; Paul Swords, long time State Board Secretary – Treasurer for baseball, mentioned how spring sports can collect their dues in order to meet the summer enrollment calendar and why it is advantageous to their organization to do so; Dave Leete mentioned that when schools arrive unreasonably late for afternoon contests, it causes the officials problems especially if they booked off work early or have been scheduled by necessity to officiate an afternoon evening double header. He wondered if any sports or leagues had a policy regarding the length of time that officials are expected to wait. If so, send Dave the info; Mikki Geenty thanked the board for the invite and informed the board that the gymnastics officials will meet to select a Rep to the Advisory Board and the gymnastics sports committee; Candy Perez mentioned that the scrimmage guidelines could be a burden on some schools and reemphasized a cooperative spirit, especially in the first year; Hank Luzzi emphasized the importance of the leadership of all boards being represented at the June meetings; Terry Schanbacher stated that the State Board of Soccer Officials voted that their entire membership will join the officials' Association and CIAC will be sent one check to cover all memberships; Frank Begen mentioned that the softball umpires had a concern regarding the use of a double first base, and when brought to the CIAC, the situation was quickly addressed and a clear policy was developed and distributed to all concerned. Just one small example of the benefits of working together; and Kevin Holmgren mentioned that he would be attending the Wrestling officials meeting immediately after this meeting and it is great opportunity to inform the group about the up coming meetings in June.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM