

CIAC OFFICIALS ADVISORY BOARD

ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

OCTOBER 16, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gloria Bellucci, Chris Burns, Joe Delbuono for Joe Miller, Ray Faustich, Pat Javorski, Hank Luzzi, Hank Koritkoski, Dave Leete, Kelly Murphy, Lev Torgerson, Melissa Zigmont for Melissa Arms, and Joe Tonelli, CIAC. Guests at the meeting were Dan Scavone, CAAD President and Steve Wysowski, CIAC Associate Executive Director.

ACTION ITEMS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

On a motion by Dave Leete, the minutes of May 8, 2014 were approved.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of October 15, 2014, 3,808 individual officials occupy 4,870 officiating slots. 2185 officials are members of the NFHS Officials Association.

ATHLETIC DIRECTORS UPDATE

Dan Scavone told the group that one of the goals of CAAD, which is part of their strategic plan over the next 5 years, is to further enhance the relationship between athletic directors and officials groups. Dan would like to foster a cooperative working relationship and a greater appreciation and understanding of the role each plays, the challenges that each faces and identify some areas where we can help each other. Dan realizes that there are far too many schedule changes that could have been avoided with proper planning. A case in point is that there were time changes that resulted because of Columbus day, S.A.T tests and Halloween, which should have been anticipated when the schedules were formulated.

CAS/CIAC HALL OF HONOR

Steve Wysowski, CIAC Associate Executive Director announced to the officials advisory board that the Connecticut Association of Schools and the CIAC have launched a new Hall of Honor induction program that will begin in the fall of 2015 to recognize individuals for outstanding contributions in all of the categories of service that the CAS/CIAC organization represents. Those categories include educational leadership, athletic leadership, friend of education, contribution to education, contribution to athletics, service to education and service to athletics. Steve emphasized that officials are eligible for this honor and distinction. Steve has stated officials provide tremendous service to athletics and can certainly fit other categories as well. Nominations are now being accepted, and anyone can nominate deserving individuals for consideration for this award. The nomination packet was distributed to the Advisory Board.

Joe T will send a message to the list of board leaders in our data base that was provided to CIAC by the boards in order to get the word out.

OLD BUSINESS/INFORMATION ITEMS

PRESEASON RULES MEETINGS/WINTER AND SPRING DATES

Joe Tonelli requested the winter sports rules meeting dates for coaches. He encouraged boards to accommodate leagues, when possible. The CIAC Officials Assoc. will provide an honorarium of \$50, plus mileage reimbursement, to any official that provides a rules meeting for coaches. Joe encouraged the clinicians to continue to promote the communication protocol on page 180 in the CIAC Handbook and the proper way to address concerns relative to officiating.

NFHS ONLINE RULES INTERPRETATIONS MEETING SCHEDULE

Track & Field – Tuesday, Jan 20, 2015

Softball – Wednesday, Jan 21, 2015

Baseball – Thursday, Jan 22, 2015

Boys Lax - Tuesday, Jan 27, 2015

For your convenience, interpreters now have the ability to log on from their home, office, or a designated location. Also, Joe T has arranged for the interpreters to register directly for the on line meeting and he will send registration information at the appropriate time.

CIAC BOARD OF CONTROL MEETINGS

Reps for the CIAC Board Meetings. All meetings are at 2:00 PM

- October 30, 2014 – Lev Torgerson
- Dec 4, 2014 – TBA
- Jan 15, 2015- Dave Leete
- Feb 26, 2015 – Ray Faustich
- April 1, 2015 – Joe Delbuono or Joe Miller

Please mark your calendars and let me know if a conflict arises.

ARBITER REGISTRATION PROGRAM FOR CIAC & NFHS MEMBERSHIP

CIAC will be meeting with Arbiter again to make a final decision regarding the use of their registration program for our CIAC Officials Association and NFHS membership. The membership data base and membership template that we have used and improved during the past 9 years was specifically tailored to our needs and is working well. Therefore, we want to be certain that the Arbiter program is worth the extra cost and can provide the reports and easy access to the data that we currently experience before making a final decision.

ASSAULT BILL UPDATE

As was previously reported, the proposed assault bill did not get voted out of the committee last year. It may be wise to maintain a low profile, if possible, relative to the legislature in this session and not propose the assault bill this year. There is talk that concussion legislation for youth sports is likely going to be proposed and hopefully officials will not be part of any future legislation, however we cannot be certain. We successfully lobbied in the last session that it was not necessary to include officials in the law. Although assaults are a different topic, we could be giving mixed messages by advocating that a law is needed for officials relative to assaults, but we don't think that a law that pertains to concussions should include officials. Also, the sponsor of the assault bill and our most ardent supporter of this legislation and all CIAC initiatives shockingly lost his house seat in this election.

REF PAY (ARBITER PAY)

Ref Pay is now called Arbiter Pay. Currently only a small number of schools utilize this method of paying game officials, but judging from what has happened in other states, it is likely to grow. The system works well and the refs will like it once they experience it. According to Arbiter, it is the fastest growing program Arbiter ever initiated. The program is getting positive reviews throughout the country. I have heard many presentations about this at NFHS meetings and the officials in the states that use it think it is the best thing that ever happened.

CIAC membership agreements require schools to make payments to schools in a timely manner. But neither CIAC nor other state associations can dictate how the schools must execute the payment. Boards of Education and business managers make those decisions. We do not have the authority to dictate that they must pay by check. In fact, we think Arbiter Pay is a very efficient way for schools to pay refs and is more secure than the method many schools currently use to get SS #'s from officials, which most school systems require. The Arbiter Pay system provides an option for refs to get their game fees at no cost to the officials. Because the officials are afforded the opportunity to choose an option that provides the full fee, this payment system is acceptable to CIAC. The schools are paying for this payment service because their business office knows it is more efficient and cuts out many of the steps that could lead to errors. As long as the option exists for officials to receive the full fee from the school, any official that elects to be paid by check will be responsible for the service charge. The initial apprehension on the part of officials is understandable, but this system is definitely the wave of the future. CIAC has already had a request from one officials group for our business office to consider using Arbiter Pay for the CIAC tournament. With the astronomical number of checks that must be processed at the conclusion of each tournament season and the labor and costs involved, the business office feels it is worthy of consideration.

You would be pleased to know that we asked Arbiter to address the security of the system regarding the personal information that officials would have to provide. Below is the response from Clark Evans, Chief Operations Officer of Arbiter.

“The Arbiter Pay servers on the front end protect user information through validated Geotrust green-bar EV secure socket layer at 4096 bits. All source code is compiled and encrypted. The servers are continually monitored for unauthorized access and for security vulnerabilities by two providers, one internally managed by us and externally by McAfee. All user account passwords and account data are encrypted at the database level. Keys within the encrypted source code decrypt the data for transactional and login purposes only. User access to the servers is restricted. From the Internet the servers are protected by advanced SonicWall firewall IPS protection. All data entering the network is also scanned for viruses, spyware, and malware at the firewall/perimeter level. Physical access to the secure data center is restricted to 3 persons and logged and video recorded.”

Matt Fischer, who understands the security aspect of IT systems, agrees that Arbiter has gone above and beyond to provide excellent protection for the users.

NEW BUSINESS

CONCUSSION PROTOCOL FOR OFFICIALS

This was distributed and reemphasized. This protocol was approved by CIAC and should be followed by all officials in all sports. All Boards already provide a mandatory yearly rules clinic that includes a review of the signs and symptoms of concussion; All boards should distributed concussion cards for all refs; There is also a Free NFHS Concussion Course that can be accessed on the CIAC Officials Association website.

CIAC OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION GOAL

Continue to work cooperatively with athletic directors to further enhance the relationship between officials' boards and member schools. This goal will go "hand in hand" with the similar goal initiated by the athletic directors. I think we all believe that "Together Everyone Achieves More".

IDEA SHARING

POST GAME PROTOCOL

The CSOA State Soccer Board, after researching other states, initiated a post game protocol this season. Concerned about post game confrontations with coaches and players as well as the safety of the officials the protocol has the refs leaving the playing field after the match, rather than be present for the handshake, which is the responsibility of the schools and coaches. This seemed to work very well in the first year. I am sure the CSOA will evaluate this after the season and made some minor adjustments, if warranted. Joe T asked other sports to share their post game routine which confirmed that practically all sports follow a similar protocol. Only Ice Hockey and Gymnastics, because of the duties of the officials after the match, remained until their tasks were completed.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm. The next meeting of the CIAC Advisory Board will be held on Thursday, February 12, 2015 @ 4:00 PM @ CIAC