

THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS
The Sixtieth Annual Meeting
May 10, 2012

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CIAC BYLAWS
(To be voted on by the CIAC membership only)

CHANGE #1: ARTICLE VII (Tournament Meets and Games) / SECTION B.3

Explanation of Change: The proposed change seeks to add a new exception to the rule prohibiting athletic contests on Sundays.

Proposed language (additions in ***bold italics***):

ARTICLE VII, Section B.

(Conference members MAY NOT participate in any of the following meets and games)

3) Tournaments, meets and games played on Sundays, either home or away, ***EXCEPT that the CIAC Board of Control, upon request from a sport committee, may grant permission on a case-by-case basis to pre-schedule the final game of a state tournament when the site necessary to conduct the championship is only available on a Sunday. This exception is limited to the final game only in a sport championship and is not extended to any regular season game, league tournament or event nor any other student activity.***

Rationale for change:

CIAC sports committees and tournament directors in some sports are finding it more and more difficult to secure appropriate, affordable championship venues, particularly for the sports of basketball, football, baseball and ice hockey. There are few sites that can accommodate large crowds and are economically feasible. To secure these sites, it may be necessary to pre-schedule some of our championship games on Sunday. At present, CIAC regulations allow Sunday play for make-up games in football during the regular season, for quarter-finals on in softball and baseball, once during a league tournament in all sports and the finals in all sports if necessary.

CHANGE #2: ARTICLE IX (Rules of Eligibility) / Section II.B (Student Eligibility)

Explanation of Change: The proposed change seeks to stipulate that a student-athlete can only be granted a waiver of the eight semester rule one time during his/her high school sports career.

Proposed language (changes in *bold italics*)

ARTICLE IV – Section 2. B (a/k/a the eight-semester rule)

Proposed language (additions in *bold italics*):

A student has eight (8) consecutive semesters or four (4) consecutive years of eligibility from the date of entry into the ninth grade to be eligible for interscholastic competition. No student-athlete shall participate in the same branch of athletics more than four (4) seasons in grades 9-12 at any school. Date of entry is defined as the first date of enrollment as a grade 9 student taking four (4) or more high school subjects. (1) Students who are not eligible or elect to not participate do not preserve additional semesters for use at a later time. That is, there is no fifth year of eligibility per se. (2) Once a student has attended 15 days or more, may apply through the member school for consideration of a hardship waiver. Hardship waiver requests will be considered for unforeseen, unavoidable or unusual circumstances that were beyond the control of the student and resulted in the student being unable to complete their academic requirements in four (4) years or eight (8) consecutive semesters. All such requests must be well documented. Waivers for serious medical situations that are well documented will also be considered when it is demonstrated the student was unable to complete any significant school work due to their medical condition and it is verified the school made every effort to provide an appropriate alternative program to the student. Injuries sustained in playing a CIAC-sponsored sport will not constitute grounds for a medical waiver for an additional semester/year of play in the sport in which the injury occurred. A waiver will be granted for a student who has been absent one or more semesters because of required military service. If a waiver is granted in any situation, the semester granted must be the same as the semester waived – fall for fall, spring for spring. ***A waiver of the eight consecutive semester /four consecutive year rule will be granted only once to any athlete.***

Rationale for change:

Following an appeal for a second waiver of the eight-semester rule, the Eligibility Committee Review Board requested that the CIAC clarify its bylaw to reflect the original intent of the rule which was to grant only one additional semester/year of eligibility.

CHANGE #3: ARTICLE XII (In Season - Out-of-Season Rules) / Section 1.0 (During Authorized Contest Season)

Explanation of Change: The proposed changes seeks to limit the number of unattached outside contests in which track and field athletes can participate during the sports season.

Proposed language (additions in ***bold italics***):

ARTICLE XII - In Season / Out-of-Season Rules – 1.0 During Authorized Contest Season
(Individual and Team Sports Camps, Clinics, Lessons)

Section 1.1 Individual and Team Sports – Exceptions to rule 1.1a - Select Sports (Only)

2) In golf, gymnastics, swimming, ***indoor track, outdoor track*** and tennis, no more than four (4) unattached outside meets per season are permitted. Athletes in these sports may practice but not compete with a non-CIAC team during the season. Such practices may not interfere with or replace member school practices. For track refer to individual sport section. Athletes in these sports may practice but not compete with a non-CIAC team during the season. Such practices may not interfere with or replace member school practices. ~~For track refer to individual sport section.~~

Rationale for change:

The CIAC Bylaws currently permit unlimited unattached competitions for indoor and outdoor track and field athletes while limiting athletes in the sports of golf, gymnastics, swimming and tennis to four outside competitions. The proposed change will provide equity in all sports for which there is an allowance for individual participation in outside contests (during the sport season).