

THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS  
*The Sixty-First Annual Meeting*  
May 9, 2013

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

**CHANGE #1: ARTICLE III (Membership) / SECTION A.**

**Explanation of Change:** The proposed change prevents member schools from picking and choosing the CIAC sports in which they wish to participate.

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

Article III – Membership – Section A.

Section A. Any general member of the Connecticut Association of Schools, Inc. as defined in Article III, Section A.1. of the CAS Constitution shall, upon approval of additional application and payment of additional dues and assessments levied by the Association for such purposes, be admitted into membership in the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference, Inc. (CIAC).

***CIAC member school must participate in all CIAC-sponsored sports that are offered by the member school. Failure to comply may result in action by the CIAC Board of Control including termination of membership or appropriate action as determined by the Board.***

**Rationale for change:** At present, no specific language exists in the CIAC by-laws or regulations that stipulates that, as a condition of membership, a school must participate in all CIAC-sponsored sports that the member school offers. This language protects the association from schools picking and choosing the CIAC sports in which it wishes to participate. It has been a long-standing expectation that a school will be a member in all sports and this language clarifies that expectation.

**CHANGE #2: ARTICLE VII (Tournaments, Meets and Games) / SECTION B.3**

**Explanation of Change:** The proposed change identifies make-up games as an allowable exception to the rule prohibiting athletic contests on Sundays

**Proposed language** (changes in *bold italics*)

ARTICLE VII (Tournaments, Meets and Games) – Section B.3

Proposed language (additions in *bold italics*):

Section B. CIAC Member Schools MAY NOT Participate in Any of the Following Tournaments, 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. ***Further, the Board approves the use of Sundays after 12:30 p.m. for make-up games in all sports upon the mutual agreement of both schools.***

**Rationale for change:** Due to the very unusual weather patterns we have been experiencing, we have been allowing the use of Sundays for make-up games as we near the end of a season. In order to complete their schedule, schools play an inordinate number of make-up games in a short period of time in addition to their scheduled games. Having Sundays as an available option allows the rescheduling of make-up games in a more prudent manner.

**CHANGE #3: ARTICLE VII (Tournaments, Meets and Games) / SECTION A.4**

**Explanation of Change:** The proposed change increases (from 2 to 3) the number of days in which an “unattached” athlete can participate in outside competitions during the regular season.

**Proposed language (changes in *bold italics*)**

ARTICLE VII (Tournaments, Meets and Games) – Section A.4

Proposed language (additions in *bold italics*):

Section A. CIAC member schools MAY ENTER the following Tournaments, Meets and Games  
When:

4. Member schools permit athletes to participate “unattached” and where selection for participation is based on performance of an individual, and when such competition is limited to ~~two calendar days of which only one is on a school day~~ ***a maximum of three (3) days.***

**Rationale for change:** Previous language prohibited student-athletes from entering competitions that were more than two days in length, and only one of those days could have been a school day. Elite level student-athletes would have been forced to choose between competing in a high level competition or with their high school team. By extending the permissible number of days of competition to three, student-athletes would be able to compete in an event that is important to them while still maintaining eligibility on their high school team.

**CHANGE #4: Article XII (In-Season / Out-of-Season Rules) / SECTION 1.1.a (In season rules)**

**Explanation of Change:** The proposed changes empowers the school administration to determine whether or not a student-athlete would be permitted to compete in a non-school contest as an “unattached” competitor.

**Proposed language** (changes in *bold italics*)

Article XII – In Season / Out-of-Season Rules – 1.1 Individual and Team sports – Select Sports (Only)

6. Athletes will not miss any CIAC-sponsored tournament contest for which he/she is eligible unless excused by the CIAC Board of Control. It is the philosophy of the conference that student-athletes owe loyalty to their school and team. ***During the regular season, the school administration will make the determination as to whether a student-athlete may be excused from a contest to attend an event as an “unattached” competitor.***

**Rationale for change:** As a corollary to change #3, this proposed revision gives the school administration the authority to determine whether or not a student-athlete would be permitted to compete in a non-school contest as an “unattached” competitor during the regular season. Language would remain in place regarding procedures for CIAC tournaments - i.e. only the Board of Control would be able to permit a student-athlete to compete in an outside competition as an “unattached” competitor during the CIAC tournament season.

**CHANGE #5: ARTICLE XI (Cooperative Team Sponsorship) / Sections I-3**

**Explanation of Change:** The proposed change allows allow more than three schools to form a cooperative team in any sport.

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

**ARTICLE XI – COOPERATIVE TEAM SPONSORSHIP**

The CIAC Board of Control shall have the authority to approve the formation of cooperative athletic teams of two, ~~but no more than three~~ ***or more*** member high schools under the following conditions:

1. The determination of the proper set of circumstances which will allow ~~multiple two or three (but not more than three)~~ ***multiple two or three*** schools to form a cooperative team will depend significantly on the issue of competitor displacement. When the CIAC believes that a cooperative arrangement will cause an unreasonable displacement of potential competitors from one of the schools, the request to form a cooperative will be denied. Schools having sufficient numbers of competitors are advised not to request the formation of a cooperative team in that sport. It is only when two, ~~but no more than three~~ ***or more*** schools are experiencing difficulty in obtaining the desired number of competitors to form a team that the request for a cooperative team should be initiated. Cooperative teams may not be formed for financial reasons.
2. Cooperative teams will not be permitted to add ~~a third~~ ***teams*** if the total number of players on the existing co-op team exceeds the maximum determined limit in each sport. Co-op programs exist until they have finished the phase-out period of if the agreement between the schools involved ceased for at least one full season.
3. ~~Three~~ ***Multiple*** team cooperative programs cannot exceed two (2) times the maximum determined limit in each sport.

**Rationale for change:** The requested change, to allow more than three schools to form a cooperative team, was precipitated by an issue in ice hockey; however, it will apply to all team sports. A cooperative team can consist of more than three teams as long as no one team exceeds the maximum number of allowed participants and no combination of players exceeds two times the maximum allowed. Allowing more schools to join a cooperative program, as long as the maximum numbers are not exceeded, meets the original intent of the cooperative team program – to allow as many students to participate in a sport a school would not otherwise be able to offer.

**CHANGE #6: ARTICLE XI (Cooperative Team Sponsorship) / Individual Sports Participation Limits**

**Explanation of Change:** The proposed change allows schools to use either their grades 9-12 or grades 10-12 enrollment when they apply or re-apply for a cooperative team.

Proposed language (additions in *bold italics*):

**ARTICLE XI – COOPERATIVE TEAM SPONSORSHIP**

**Individual Sport Participation Limits**

<u>Fall Sports</u> <i>(9-12)/(10-12)</i>	<u>Winter Sports</u> <i>(9-12)/(10-12)</i>	<u>Spring Sports</u> <i>(9-12)/(10-12)</i>
Cross Country ..... 5 / <b>4</b>	Basketball ..... 8 / <b>6</b>	Baseball ..... 14 / <b>10</b>
Field Hockey ..... 16 / <b>11</b>	Gymnastics ..... 3 / <b>2</b>	Golf ..... 4 / <b>3</b>
Football ..... 32 / 25	Ice Hockey ..... 15 / <b>10</b>	Lacrosse ..... 16 / <b>11</b>
Soccer ..... 16 / <b>11</b>	B. Swimming ..... 14 / <b>10</b>	Outdoor Track ... 14 / <b>10</b>
G. Swimming ..... 14 / <b>10</b>	Indoor Track ..... 10 / <b>7</b>	Softball ..... 14 / <b>10</b>
G. Volleyball ..... 10 / <b>7</b>	Wrestling ..... 13 / <b>9</b>	Tennis ..... 7 / <b>5</b>
		B. Volleyball ..... 10 / <b>7</b>

**Rationale for change:** The option to use either grade 9-12 or grade 10-12 enrollment was allowed in the sport of football three years ago and we are now proposing that the option be applied to all sports. It is the intention of the Cooperative Team Committee to recommend, after a three-year period, that only 10-12 enrollments be used. This will allow the committee to base its decisions to grant cooperative status on accurate enrollment data based upon the eligibility list submitted by the school(s). The formula used to establish appropriate participation figures based upon 10-12 enrollments is as follows:

<u>Current limit based on 9-12 enrollment</u>	<u>Reduction (allowing for elimination of freshmen)</u>
15-16	-5
13-14	-4
10-12	-3
7-9	-2
2-5	-1

**CHANGE #7: ARTICLE IX (Rules of Eligibility) / SECTION B (Transgender Participation)**

**Explanation of Change:** The proposed language will replace the existing language governing the eligibility of transgender students to participate in interscholastic athletics.

The language below will replace the existing language of Article IX, Section B in its entirety:

*The CIAC is committed to providing transgender student-athletes with equal opportunities to participate in CIAC athletic programs consistent with their gender identity. Hence, this policy addresses eligibility determinations for students who have a gender identity that is different from the gender listed on their official birth certificates. The CIAC has concluded that it would be fundamentally unjust and contrary to applicable state and federal law to preclude a student from participation on a gender specific sports team that is consistent with the public gender identity of that student for all other purposes. Therefore, for purposes of sports participation, the CIAC shall defer to the determination of the student and his or her local school regarding gender identification. In this regard, the school district shall determine a student's eligibility to participate in a CIAC gender specific sports team based on the gender identification of that student in current school records and daily life activities in the school and community at the time that sports eligibility is determined for a particular season. Accordingly, when a school district submits a roster to the CIAC, it is verifying that it has determined that the students listed on a gender specific sports team are entitled to participate on that team due to their gender identity and that the school district has determined that the expression of the student's gender identity is bona fide and not for the purpose of gaining an unfair advantage in competitive athletics. Students who wish to participate on a CIAC gender specific sports team that is different from the gender identity listed on the students' current school records are advised to address the gender identification issue with the local school district well in advance of the deadline for athletic eligibility determinations for a current sports season. Students should not be permitted to participate in practices or to try out for gender specific sports teams that are different from their publicly identified gender identity at that time or to try out simultaneously for CIAC sports teams of both genders. Nothing in this policy shall be read to entitle a student to selection to any particular team or to permit a student to transfer from one gender specific team to a team of a different gender during a sports season. In addition, the CIAC shall expect that, as a general matter, after the issue of gender identity has been addressed by the student and the school district, the determination shall remain consistent for the remainder of the student's high school sports eligibility. The CIAC has concluded that this criteria is sufficient to preclude the likelihood that a student will claim a particular gender identify for the purpose of gaining a perceived advantage in athletic competition.*

**Rationale for change:** Given the recently released guidelines from the CT Safe Schools Coalition concerning compliance with Connecticut's non-discrimination law, Public Act No.11-55, the board felt it was appropriate to update its regulation regarding transgender students. The new language was drafted in collaboration with an attorney following extensive legal research and review.