

THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS
The Sixty-Second Annual Meeting

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

CHANGE #1: ARTICLE IX (Rules of Eligibility) / SECTION II.C (Transfer Rule) Exception #14

Explanation: The proposed change requires that, beginning on July 1, 2015, transfers to and from a public school of choice are treated in the same manner as all other transfers.

The following language will be deleted from ARTICLE IX, Section II.C

(14) Athletes will be permitted to transfer upon entering grade ten to participate in any public school open choice plan enacted by the State Legislature or any state authorized charter, regional cooperative, vo-tech, inter-district satellite, magnet or other public school choice option. Transfers in or out of a school of choice may only take place once during grades 10, 11 or 12. Student-athletes who transfer in or out of a school of choice at the start of the school year will retain their eligibility providing they are otherwise eligible. Student-athletes who transfer out of a school of choice at the end of a school year must return to the school to which they would have been normally assigned by the board of education or be subject to the transfer rule. Student-athletes who transfer during the school year will be subject to all the provisions of the transfer rule unless they have a legal change of address to a new school district or meet one of the exceptions to the transfer rule. If a new charter, regional cooperative interdistrict satellite magnet or other public school choice option receives state approval subsequent to the year of a transfer, the athlete may transfer at the start of the school year to that school without loss of eligibility. Transfers during the school year will be subject to the transfer rules.

Rationale for change: At the time that the exception #14 was adopted, the CIAC wanted to support the state's then new schools of choice initiative. Since, at their outset, a great deal of uncertainty existed regarding their very existence, the hope was not to create any undue influence as a potential deterrent for enrollment. The initiative has since passed the test of time successfully. By eliminating the exception, at the conclusion of the 2014- 2015 school year, all student-athlete transfers at member schools will receive similar consideration.

CHANGE #2: ARTICLE III (Membership) / SECTION B (Authority and Responsibilities of Member Schools Regarding CIAC By-laws and Regulations)

Explanation: The proposed change requires all member schools to design and implement a concussion education program for students and parents.

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

Article III, Section B - Authority and Responsibility of Member Schools Regarding CIAC Bylaws and Regulations

As the voting representative to the Association and as a condition of membership, member school principals will be responsible for the following:

1. Knowing and adhering to the rules and regulations of CIAC.
2. Requiring appropriate school personnel to attend CIAC rules and regulations workshops on an annual basis.
3. Educating athletic directors, guidance faculty and other appropriate faculty and staff on the rules and regulations of CIAC.
4. Requiring mandatory meetings at the start of each season with coaches, student-athletes and their parents (guardian) to review CIAC rules and regulations.
5. Developing a written athletic handbook and contract for all student-athletes which delineates CIAC rules of eligibility and is signed by the student-athlete and parent prior to participation.
6. Requiring all members of the certified coaching staff to attend pre-season game rules interpretation meetings in their sport at the local, regional or state level.
7. Reporting all violations of CIAC rules and regulations in a timely manner.
8. Establishing a protocol for processing eligibility questions from student-athletes, parents, and coaches within their school.
9. Requiring all newly appointed athletic directors to attend the CIAC summer workshop on CIAC rules and regulations.
10. Meeting financial obligations for CIAC dues by September 15 annually.
11. Filing a signed annual membership agreement by September 15.
12. Meeting financial obligations for all CIAC tournament fees by the stated deadlines.
13. Meeting all financial obligations to game officials within thirty (30) days of the event.
14. ***Ensuring that its regional or local board of education is in compliance with the legislation requiring the implementation of a state- and CIAC-approved concussion education plan. Such plan shall utilize written materials, online training videos or in-person training and shall address, minimally, the signs and symptoms of a concussion; the means of obtaining proper medical treatment for a person suspected of sustaining a concussion; the nature and risks of concussion; the danger of continuing to play after sustaining a concussion; the proper method of allowing a student-athlete who has sustained a concussion to return to play; and current best practices in the prevention and treatment of a concussion. Parents and student-athletes must also sign a unified consent form indicating that they have been made aware of and understand the material contained in such plan.***

Failure to comply with all of the above responsibilities may result in action by the CIAC Board of Control including termination of membership, removal from CIAC tournaments, or other appropriate actions as determined by the Board. Failure to meet financial obligations to game officials within sixty (60) days of the event will result in loss of game officials unless otherwise directed by the CIAC Board of Control.

Rationale for change: Given the increased incidence of concussions among young athletes and given the long-term and potentially fatal consequences of a mismanaged concussion, the CIAC board believes that all member schools must educate athletes and their parents about the signs and symptoms of concussions prior to the student engaging in interscholastic activities.

CHANGE #3: ARTICLE XI (Cooperative Team Sponsorship) / SECTION 12 (Dissolution of Cooperative Teams) C

Explanation: The proposed change extends the authority of the Cooperative Team Committee to deny a cooperative team application if any of the schools applying were previously part of a disbanding cooperative that will leave a school(s) without a program.

Proposed language (changes in *bold italics*)

Article XI – Cooperative Team Sponsorship

12. Dissolution of Cooperative Teams
 - c. Dissolving an active CIAC approved co-op lies solely between the schools involved. ***However, the cooperative team committee can deny a co-op application if ANY of the schools applying were previously part of a disbanded co-op that has left schools without a program in which to compete.***

Rationale for change: There were some incidents in previous years in which a school left an existing cooperative team to form a new cooperative team and, in so doing, left schools and athletes without a team on which to compete. The CIAC board felt it was necessary to put in place safeguards to protect schools involved in a co-op in the event that one of the schools initiated an unwanted dissolution.