



2025-26 Annual Report
CT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE BOARD OF CONTROL
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Review of CIAC Transfer Rule

The CIAC Board of Control instructed staff to form a subcommittee to review the current CIAC Transfer Rule. The current rule has only been modified once in the last decade. A subcommittee consisting of principals and representatives from CAAD and the CHSCA was formed. The subcommittee met several times and concluded that future meetings should be held to examine the recruitment rule in relation to the transfer rule. Meetings will be scheduled in the fall.

Education Based Athletics Curriculum

Under the leadership of CIAC executive staff member Joe Velardi, the CIAC Sportsmanship Committee wrote and approved an education-based athletics curriculum which can be accessed on the [CIAC website](#).

ACES at Chase Joins the CIAC

ACES at Chase became the newest member of the CIAC when its application was approved by the CIAC Board of Control at its November meeting. The school is looking to compete in cross country, soccer, basketball, baseball and softball during the 2026-2027 school year.

CAS-CIAC Hall of Honor

On the evening of Wednesday, April 22, CAS-CIAC inducted a class of seven individuals into its Hall of Honor. The induction ceremony took place at the TPC River Highlands in Cromwell. The esteemed Hall of Honor class of 2025-2026 included Anthony "Butch" Azzara, Dr. Dennis Carrithers, Dr. Robert Hale, George Hall, Dr. Beth Smith, Donna Vavrinec, and Dr. Leroy Williams. This is the ninth class of inductees.

Meeting With State Legislators

For the third consecutive year, CAS and CIAC staff members traveled to the state capitol to host a breakfast meet-and-greet with state legislators. The staff answered questions and enjoyed an opportunity to discuss the current state of high school athletics.

Boys Volleyball – Three Divisions

The CIAC Board of Control approved the CIAC Boys Volleyball Committee's recommendation for the addition of a third division – L, M, and S. There has been good growth in the sport, with 58 schools participating in spring 2026.

Growth of Girls Wrestling

Female participation in the sport of wrestling continues to grow at a very fast pace, which parallels the national rate of growth. We have reached a point where the CIAC Wrestling Committee is exploring qualification standards that will support a successful and appropriately sized championship tournament. We currently hold a Girls Invitational State Open Championship and the top three finishers in each weight class move on to the New England Championship Tournament. This year we had five (5) female wrestlers in Connecticut win their respective weight classes in the New England Championship Tournament.

Athletic Trainers

For the first time, CIAC representatives set up meetings with the state's athletic trainers. These collaborative meetings between the CIAC and athletic trainers focused on addressing professional challenges, including contract negotiations, pay, staffing shortages, and burnout, while establishing improved communication channels for cross-school coordination. Technical and safety discussions prioritized the strict implementation of Emergency Action Plans (EAPs), clinical workflows, and high-risk protocols. The groups also reviewed procedures for documentation, parent-doctor disputes, and return-to-play protocols to help ensure consistent care and compliance.

Girls Soccer Qualifying Percentage Change

The CIAC Board of Control approved a proposal from the CIAC Girls Soccer Committee to reduce the qualifying percentage for the state tournament from 40% to 35%. Some brackets in the girls' tournament lack adequate numbers of teams that qualify for the tournament. The committee hopes that the change in qualifying percentage will allow more teams to qualify for the tournament.

Legislative Challenges

CAS-CIAC continues to monitor proposed legislation that will impact high school athletics. This year, bills concerning allowing home schooled students to participate in high school sports, allowing schools to use participation in high school sports as physical education credit, and prohibiting schools from raising academic eligibility standards beyond those set by CIAC were discussed by state legislators.