

ARTICLE XII-IN SEASON/OUT OF SEASON RULES

1.0 During Authorized Contest Season (Page 69)

In the CIAC In-Season rules, the CIAC Board of Control removed exception six(see below) as one of the exceptions to Rule 1.1a

“6. Participation in other clinics approved by the school and that are designed to enhance skill development and not used as a try-out of any nature for selection to a non-school team.”

Rationale

During the authorized contest season, CIAC rules state that “participation as an individual or as a member of a non-school sponsored team in a sports competition, practice, showcase, tryout, camp or clinic at any level of play including professional in the same branch of athletics during the authorized contest season will render the athlete ineligible for all interscholastic athletics unless the athlete is reinstated by the CIAC Board of Control.” There are six exceptions to the rule. Exception six is a problem for CIAC staff members who are trying to determine if the exception applies to certain clinics. It is impossible to determine whether a clinic is being used as a try-out of any nature for selection to a non-school team. The language in this exception is just too broad and schools will often use exception six to argue that their student-athletes should be permitted to attend a clinic that staff members have deemed against the rules.

ARTICLE XI- COOPERATIVE TEAM SPONSORSHIP

Forming A Cooperative Team Program Outside Of Established Student-Athlete Limits(Page 62)

The following language will be added to the CIAC Cooperative Team Rules

Schools/Existing Programs may apply to form a cooperative team even though one or more of the existing programs exceeds the prescribed listed limit provided the following requirements are met:

1. Schools must adhere to all CIAC student eligibility standards, seasonal and weekly limitations.
2. **Schools knowingly taking this path remove themselves from CIAC postseason competition.**
3. A win/loss record will be counted only for opponents of the “opt-out” program and to calculate any CIAC tournament pairings and power rankings.
4. Schools applying to opt out must submit to the CIAC Cooperative Team Committee a letter of approval from their league and each non-league opponent. They also must provide a statement from all of the schools involved in the co-op that their parents and student-athletes have been informed that they are applying for a team that will operate outside of CIAC rules that may cause a concern about student displacement within the team.
5. The opt-out accommodation is for one (1) year at a time and **there will be no phase out period.**
6. Once the opt-out accommodation request along with the required letters are received, the CIAC Cooperative Team Committee will screen the documentation and determine if it should be forwarded to the CIAC Board of Control for approval.

Rationale

This new rule will allow high schools who are over currently over prescribed participation limits to form a cooperative team with another high school if they choose to opt out of the CIAC State Tournament.

ARTICLE IX-RULES OF ELIGIBILITY AND CONTROL FOR BOYS AND GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS IN CONNECTICUT

Appendix B Section II Student Eligibility pg. 203

The CIAC Board of Control approved additional language to the CIAC Rules of Eligibility which pertains to the ability of a student-athlete to play back at the high school where he/she resides when the high school which he/she attends does not have an athletic program.

Student-athlete participation at any state authorized public school of choice or any state authorized CHARTER, MAGNET, REGIONAL COOPERATIVE, INTER-DISTRICT SATELLITE SCHOOL STUDENTS: Eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics at the sending school or school from which he/she would normally matriculate is extended to any student when the school does not offer any interscholastic athletic program. (1) The above listed alternative schools must be state authorized. (2) The above listed alternative schools need not be members of CIAC in order for their athletes to be allowed to play for the sending (home) school. **(3) A student who chooses to attend any authorized public school of choice or any state authorized CHARTER, MAGNET, REGIONAL COOPERATIVE, INTER-DISTRICT SATELLITE SCHOOL and upon entering ninth grade has the choice of designated schools as defined by the student's home district will be permitted to participate in athletics at one of the designated schools. Once the choice of school has been made, the student will only be permitted to participate in athletics at that school for his/her entire high school tenure.** (4) The principal of the CIAC member school at which the athlete would normally matriculate has the right to make the decision on the acceptance of these students in his/her athletic programs. The CIAC will allow such participation. However, the CIAC member school must approve of such participation before an alternative school athlete can participate. (4) The CIAC member school which accepts students from state approved alternative schools will be fully responsible for determining their eligibility status. An ineligible player from an alternative school will have the same impact on the status of the team from which he/she plays as all other athletes.

Rationale

The additional language addresses a school district which does not have a high school and allows multiple choices of high schools upon graduation from middle school. If a student from this district chooses to attend a state authorized charter, magnet, regional cooperative, inter-district satellite school which does not have an athletic program it was never clear where that student could participate in athletics. The new language defines athletic participation for these students.