

ARTICLE XII-IN SEASON/OUT OF SEASON RULES

1.0 During Authorized Contest Season (Page 70)

In the CIAC In-Season rules, the CIAC Board of Control more clearly defined exception six(see below) as one of the exceptions to Rule 1.1a Individual and Team Sports.

6. A student-athlete may participate in practices or contests in cross country, golf, gymnastics, indoor track, outdoor track, swimming, and tennis as an individual (unattached – See 5.5.D.) and not as a member of a team *** during the authorized contest season without loss of interscholastic eligibility provided the following criteria are met:

- Compliance with weekly limitations for the specific sport. (Exception: golf)
- In cross country, gymnastics, swimming, indoor track, outdoor track and tennis, no more than four (4) unattached (See 5.5.D.) outside meets per season are permitted. In the sport of golf, no more than eight (8). Athletes in these sports may practice but not compete as a member of a non-CIAC team during the season. Such practices may not interfere with or replace member school practices.
- Prior approval of athletic director, coach, principal and parent.
- Prior arrangements to complete academic lessons, assignments, tests, etc. 70 3.0 CIAC BY-LAWS
- Student and parent agree to not accept, directly or indirectly, any awards, gifts, trips, merchandise, etc., which would be in violation of CIAC regulations.
- 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.

****The outside event will be defined as a team event, and therefore become a violation of the in-season rules, if any of the following criteria are met:*

- a. The athlete’s performance contributes to a team score.*
- b. The athlete wears the same apparel, or the same style and color clothing as other athletes or wears a similar logo.*
- c. The same group of students participate in a competition where they advance as a team.*
- d. The athlete’s name is part of a roster that is submitted to the event as a group.*
- e. The athlete qualifies as an individual for an event but represents a club, organization, municipality, or state, along with others, in a competition.*

Rationale

This exception allows student-athletes who are members of school teams which are considered individual sports to participate in practices or contests in cross country, golf, gymnastics, indoor track, outdoor track, swimming, and tennis as an individual (unattached – See 5.5.D.) and not as a member of a team. The terms “team” and a “team event” did not have a clear definition. This additional language seeks to define these terms more clearly.

ARTICLE XIII-ELIGIBILITY

Section B Committee on Eligibility (Page 53)

The current by-law language regarding appeals to the Eligibility Review Board reads “A member school dissatisfied with a decision of the Eligibility Committee may, within fourteen (14) days after said decision, request in writing that the Eligibility Review Board review the decision.” The CIAC Board of Control agreed to reduce the number of days from fourteen to seven to help expedite decisions of the ERB.

Rationale

The former language gave member school principals up to fourteen days to appeal a decision of the CIAC Eligibility Committee to the CIAC Eligibility Review Board. Most appeals to the ERB are received a day or two after the decision of the Eligibility Committee. This change will allow the ERB to meet seven days after the Eligibility Committee and will greatly accelerate the process.

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

Section A (Page 53)

CIAC eligibility rules state that “an athlete may change sports up to the date of the first scheduled varsity contest in the sport he/she wishes to leave. However, an athlete may NOT change teams or sports after the first scheduled varsity contest in the sport he/she is leaving, even if athletic eligibility has not been declared”. The CIAC Board of Control changed this language to “an athlete may change sports up to the date of the first scheduled varsity contest in the sport he/she wishes to leave. However, an athlete may NOT change teams or sports ***once that student has participated in a contest at any level or seven days*** after the first scheduled varsity contest date in the sport he/she is leaving.

Rationale

The CIAC Board of Control changed this rule because it is not in alignment with all other CIAC eligibility rules which establish eligibility in a sport once the student-athlete has actually played in a contest. The board believed that the rule was harmful to student-athletes who are usually freshman seeking to change a sport very early in the season.