

To: CIAC Out of Season Committee

From: CHSCA & CAAD

Date: August 17, 2023

Re: Resubmission of Recommendations for Change to the CIAC Out of Season By Law

The CHSCA and the CAAD have collaborated on this joint proposal to address the growing concern from athletic directors, coaches, and school districts about the competitive and inequitable divide between communities that have significant financial resources and those that do not. To this end, we are offering 3 different proposals that will allow some restricted summer coaching opportunities for all communities as well as further clarify the existing rule.

Proposal 1 - To modify the CIAC Out of Season regulation to permit coaching in the summer on a restricted basis as follows:

Member schools' coaches may allow their coaches to coach their member school athletes during the summer months beginning on the Monday following the designated spring state championship weekend (Prior to Decathlon) and concludes no later than the second Saturday of August provided ALL the following conditions are adhered to:

- a. Coaching is restricted to no more than 2 days per week per sport.
- b. **Each day may not exceed 2 total hours of practice time per day OR the amount of time needed to complete an official single game/contest. (Note: Multi-contest events, round robin tournaments, double header games, etc. are not permitted)**
- c. Although NOT required, coaches may receive compensation provided it is not directly or indirectly derived from fees charged to student-athletes. However, coaches may collect fees from member school student-athletes to cover administrative costs such as transportation, entry fees, Insurance, officials, Etc.
- d. Any person providing instruction during this summer activity must hold a valid State of Connecticut coaching permit.
- e. Any summer activities conducted by member schools, or their coaches cannot be mandatory for their student-athletes.
- f. School Districts may allow the use of school equipment, transportation, and insurance ONLY for these 2 per week activities.
- g. None of the above exception/conditions may be used in any other part of the existing restrictions for the out of season summer regulation.
- h. Note: In the sport of football full contact is prohibited.

Rationale – Over time the CIAC summer regulations have contributed to a competitive divide in our state. School districts that have greater financial resources at their disposal create greater opportunity in the summer months thus creating is an imbalance in the preparation of our athletes for the CIAC sports seasons. Although this proposal provides opportunity for all schools, it takes into account the integration of summer programs that already exist and are being utilized by just those schools with the resources. This proposal will provide equal access to athletes and opportunities among ALL CIAC member schools thus leveling the playing field.

Proposal 2 – All language in 2.1e (4) dealing with summer clubs be removed from the out of season regulation.

Rationale – This language is very often misunderstood and is intended for

activities that require a family membership such as a country club. This rule has benefited school districts that have greater financial resources at their disposal, this does not stand up to a modern-day equity lens.

Proposal 3 – Modify the Language in 2.2a (7) to read “A member school coach working in the camp as a volunteer, employee or employer during the summer or portion thereof, may not coach their athletes at any time during that camp.

Rationale – The elimination of the wording in 2.2a (7) designating 10% of the attendees better clarifies the intent of this rule and it will allow an entire team to attend without consequences if all other camp regulations are followed. This camp rule has very often been misinterpreted and has benefited school districts that have greater financial resources at their disposal. Additionally, there is has never been sufficient way to substantiate the 10 % attendance portion of the rule.

Questions and Answers to help interpret this Rule

Q. May a coach continue to have conditioning workouts in addition to two practice sessions per week?

A. Yes, provided that the established restrictions for conditioning are followed.

Q. May more than 1 coach on the same sport staff each coach a different session 2 days per week?

A. No, the 2 day per week is PER SPORT, not per coach.

Q. May a member school coach enter the entire member school team in a summer league and coach them in that summer league?

A. Yes, provided the summer league begins after the Monday following the end of the spring sports and concludes no later than the second Saturday of August AND the total number of games or practices per week does not exceed 2 sessions that are no more than 2 hours each (**OR the amount of time needed to complete an official single game/contest**) AND the coach does not receive compensation directly or indirectly from fees charged to the student-athletes.

Q. May a member school coach host their own camp during the summer months?

A. Yes, provided it begins after the Monday following the end of the spring sports and concludes no later than the second Saturday of August AND the total sessions per week does not exceed 2 sessions that are no more than 2 hours each AND the coach does not receive compensation directly or indirectly from fees charged to the student-athletes.

- Q. May a member school coach hold 2 events/ practice sessions per week on the same day?
- A. Yes, provided the accumulated time does not exceed 2 hours per day. However, a coach may not host a second session of 2 hours in the same day in the same sport. Also, an athlete may attend a second session for a different sport on the same day.
- Q. Does the 2 days per week have to be the same 2 days each week?
- A. No, the days can be different each week which would better accommodate multi-sport athletes. The start of each week begins on Sunday.
- Q. May a member school basketball coach who has been coaching a non-school team with only 3 players from his member school eligibility list on the non-school roster now coach their entire team on the non-school team?
- A. Yes, provided the summer Team activities begins after the Monday following the end of the spring sports and concludes no later than the second Saturday of August AND the total number of games or practices per week does not exceed 2 sessions that are no more than 2 hours each **(OR the amount of time needed to complete an official single game/contest)** AND the coach does not receive compensation directly or indirectly from fees charged to the student-athletes.
- Q. May a member school coach host or take their entire team to a camp for 1 week during July and coach their member school athletes?
- A. No, this proposed “coaching in the summer” language does not carry over to the camp regulation which have restrictions which has always prohibited this.
- Q. May a member school coach host other member school programs, joint practices, games, or scrimmages as long as they follow all the parameters of the 2 per week summer rule?
- A. Yes, teams may get together for instruction, practice, and competition however in the sport of football full contact is prohibited.
- Q. If my member school administration will allow summer coaching but will not fund insurance, how do I protect myself and my student athletes?
- A. Coaches who coach in the summer independent of the member school can be covered by liability insurance as a member of the CHSCA and can also purchase student accident insurance for a minimal amount per athlete.
- Q. May a member school, their coach or their booster club collect funds from their student-athletes for the purpose of covering the administrative costs such as registration, transportation, or insurance for these allowable 2 per week summer activities?

- A. Yes, provided none of the funds collected will be paid to the coach, and funds collected are used specifically for the 2 per week permissible activities outlined above and the funds cannot be collected for weeklong camps or clinics which have those restrictions.
- Q. As a member school coach, I work at a summer camp where my student-athletes attend. May I coach them during the camp?
- A. Proposal #1 does not permit two rules specific to the summer to intersect and under proposal #3 a coach would have to make sure someone else working that camp coaches their athletes in attendance in addition to the other requirements specified in Rule 2.2a (1-6).
- Q. In the question above can an individual coach their member school athletes at a weeklong camp for only 2 days of that camp?
- A. No, this new proposed summer coaching rule that allows a coach to coach 2 days per week cannot be mixed or comingled with an existing rule that prohibits coaching.
- Q. May a coach still coach a non-school team as described in Rule 2.1(3a) (with X amount -50% rounded up of players with eligibility remaining for team sports)?
- A. If the non-school team operates during the summer months as defined in this proposal, then the X formula does not have to be followed and the coach can coach their entire team as long as the program is limited to no more than twice a week for no more than 2 hours each day(**OR the amount of time needed to complete an official single game/contest**) . It starts after the Monday following the end of the spring championships and concludes no later than the second Saturday of August and the coach is not being compensated from funds directly or indirectly from the student-athletes. If the non-school team operates during the school year (September-June), then the answer is yes but the number of athletes with eligibility remaining must comply with rule 2.1(3a).
- Q. What if an individual coaches more than 1 sport?
- A. The limitations are 2 days a week per sport, therefore a coach would be able to have events twice a week for each different sport provided each session is for no more than 2 hours each day(**OR the amount of time needed to complete an official single game/contest**). It starts after the Monday following the end of the spring championships and concludes no later than the second Saturday of August and the coach is not being compensated from funds directly or indirectly from the student-athletes.
- Q. May incoming 9th graders participate in the 2 per week summer activities?
- A. Yes, by CIAC rule a student enters grade 9 once they graduate from the eighth grade at the close of school in June.

- Q. May a coach decide to coach a summer non-school team using the X factor in the existing CIAC rule 2.1(3a) with the prescribed number of student-athletes with eligibility remaining on that non-school team roster AND also conduct team activities twice a week?
- A. No, the addition of this new rule does not allow the comingling of 2 different summer regulations, The coach may do one or the other but not both.
- Q. May a coach decide to coach a summer non-school team using the X factor in the existing CIAC rule 2.1(3a) with the prescribed number of student-athletes with eligibility remaining on that non-school team roster AND also conduct team activities twice a week?
- A. No, the addition of this new rule does not allow the comingling of different summer regulations. The coach may do one or the other but not both, however, keep in mind the coach may coach their entire member school team on a non-school team as long as it begins after the Monday following the end of the spring sports and concludes no later than the second Saturday of August AND the total number of games or practices per week does not exceed 2 sessions that are no more than 2 hours each day (**OR the amount of time needed to complete an official single game/contest**) AND the coach does not receive compensation directly or indirectly from fees charged to the student-athletes. Furthermore, it would be permissible for a member school coach to coach a non-school as long as none of their member school athletes on that non-school roster.

New Questions 8/17.23

Q. - May a coach schedule 1 practice day per week for 2 hours and also schedule a single (1) game/contest on another day in that same week?

A. - Yes, and the day of the scheduled single (1) game, the time is not bound by the 2 hour limitation.

Q. - May a coach continue to perform their duties during an official game/contest if there is an overtime situation?

A. - Yes, provided it was a scheduled single (1) game/contest.

Q.- May a baseball coach hold a practice session equivalent to the amount of time it would take to complete a 7 inning game?

A. - No, a practice session cannot exceed 2 hours per day.

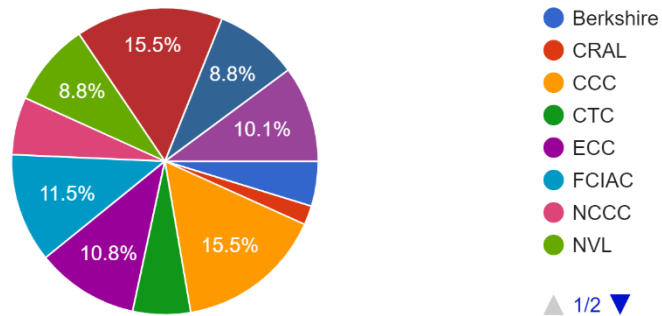
Q. - May a coach exceed the 2 hour limitation if they are engaged in a scrimmage?

A. - No, only an official single game can exceed the 2 hour limitation.

CIAC Principal Summer Series Survey Results

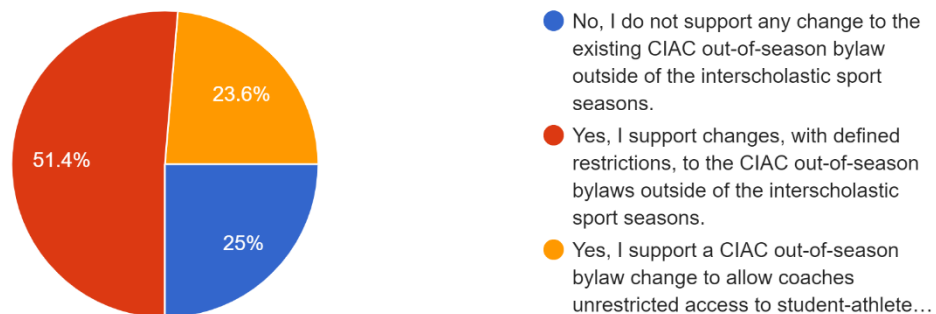
Please select the league to which your school belongs.

148 responses



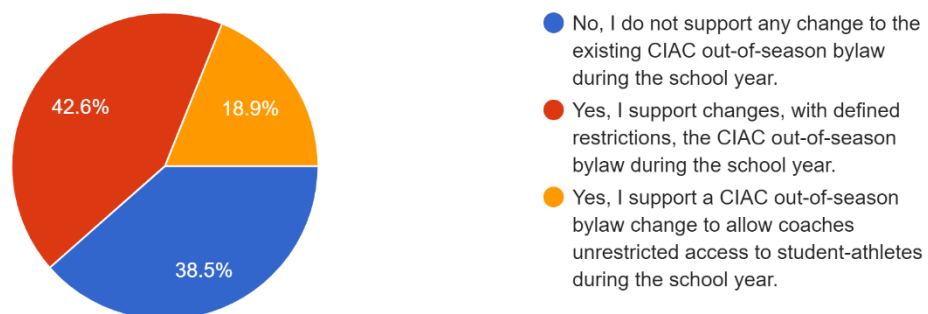
Do you support a change to the existing CIAC out-of-season bylaw in the summer (the Monday after the last spring sports championship in June to the first weekend in August)?

148 responses



Does your school athletic community support a change to existing CIAC out-of-season bylaws during the school year interscholastic sport season...side of the sports designated competition season.

148 responses



Glenn Lungarini, CIAC Executive Director,
CIAC Out of Season Committee

Dear Glenn and the Entire Out of Season Committee,

We thank you for your detailed letter outlining the CIAC "Out of Season" Committees feelings about our joint proposal. In response to the questions, you raised please allow us to offer the following:

You requested that we further articulate why we feel the bylaw needs to be changed, how alliance district students will access the proposed opportunities and how schools will equitably access the joint proposal's experiences. The proposal we submitted has stated rationale which was vetted by both the CAAD and CHSCA membership. Many people who have been against change for years now agree that the competitive divide that is occurring has grown substantially due to the CIAC Out of season regulations and its time for modification. An analysis for the past 5 years of school districts that have won CIAC state championships will show an overwhelming number of schools from the higher DRG's. Our proposal was developed with equity in mind but as you pointed out the task of closing a financial divide would be nearly impossible, but we believe our proposal offers a way to close the equity gap when considering opportunity. We believe that some members of the committee are misunderstanding how our proposal can accomplish that objective. Simply, those districts that currently have a competitive edge are doing so without district funds but rather with resources available to them within the community. The CIAC rule has always forbidden the use of school funds for the sake of equity. However, clever coaches who have parents with tremendous financial resources have found "work around" methods to enhance their high school program. Our proposal would allow those districts that have less non-school financial resources to utilize various methods of using their own staff to provide instruction and enhance their program thus closing the competitive gap.

You also requested further detail on how the joint proposal addresses district concerns with potential increased costs that may inevitably be incurred if by the schools. The strength of our proposal is the flexibility and various design methods that can be developed to implement a simply written rule to allow contact two days per week. Our proposal allows schools to tailor their summer activities to what is a best fit for their district. Again, we remind you this proposal went out to every league in the state for vetting and there were many ideas that were shared which led to overwhelming support to submit this proposal. Some schools may take an informal approach restricting access to school facilities allowing coaches to engage in outside activities such as summer leagues and park and recreation programs. Other schools may take a more formal approach and want to administer every aspect of their summer activities. Costs associated with summer activities under our proposal will differ depending on the implementation model that is developed. Please keep in mind the CHSCA offers ample liability insurance to all its members and can arrange student insurance for less than fifty cents per athlete for those districts who want to absolve themselves of any involvement in the summer.

Lastly, you suggested we meet with the FCIAC to see if there is any common ground with the two proposals. We have in fact met and we will continue to meet with the FCIAC. We are resubmitting the proposal to reflect the modifications suggested by the FCIAC.

Hopefully, this reply provides the committee with a better understanding of our joint proposal. In summary our proposal is simple to understand and to regulate, allows flexibility for implementation, provides school districts a lot of latitude on how financially involved they want to be and most importantly allows opportunity for our student-athletes, especially in alliance school districts, to receive instruction and training from our coaches during the summer.

Sincerely,

On Behalf of the CHSCA & CAAD