**CIAC SUMMER 2020 OUT-OF-SEASON RULE GUIDANCE**

On Thursday May 7, 2020 the CIAC Board of Control passed the following two exceptions to the out-of-season rule. This was done to give all athletes an opportunity to interact with their coaches who are important to their growth and development. The CIAC Board of Control felt that because of these unprecedented times it was important to provide a social and emotional outlet to our athletes. Additionally, the second exception is intended to allow spring athletes the opportunity to make face to face contact with their spring coaches in the wake of their cancelled season due to Covid-19. It will NOT go into effect AND is subject to change until such time as the governor has moved the state into that phase and all the safety precautions, cleaning and social distancing are followed

**OUT-OF-SEASON RULE EXCEPTION (Summer 2020 ONLY)**

1. Virtual coaching will be allowed for spring sport coaches through May 31, 2020.  Starting June 1, all coaches will be permitted to have virtual contact, which includes skill instruction and conditioning, until August 17, 2020.
2. Provided the governors orders allows summer sports to resume, spring coaches may coach their spring athletes until August 17, 2020, provided it is a non-school affiliated program.

It should be understood that the board voted on this to enhance the social and emotional wellbeing of our spring athletes, especially seniors, who were deprived of the opportunity of interaction with their coaches and teammates. The following definitions and FAQ’s should help serve as a guidance as we move into the summer of 2020.

**Definitions for this 2020 Exceptions**

 Virtual Coaching - coaching any and all aspects of your program in a non-face-to-face setting.

Governor's Orders - when the governor has moved the state into a phase that would allow a safe number of people with adequate social distancing to congregate. The governor may use the terminology summer camps but those should not be mistaken for sports camps. Those include younger children who require daycare. The state wants daycare type camps to operate that are essential to allowing people to get back to work while we reopen the state.

Non-school Affiliated Program -   can be any spring sports program that operates  where the  school district does not provide- financial assistance, insurance coverage, use of facilities or non-safety equipment,  transportation, school name, uniforms  or anything else that directly links the  summer activity to the school district.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. May a coach of a fall or winter sport work with his/her team  for the purpose of conducting drills, installing plays, or instructing their players using social media or virtual coaching via a computer after June 1st 2020?**

*A.- Yes, provided the coach is voluntarily offering their services, there is no face to face meeting,  it is not mandatory for the athletes and all the virtual activity ends by August 17, 2020.*

**2. May a coach of a fall, winter or spring sport include incoming freshman (currently 8th Graders) starting June 1 when virtually coaching their team?**

*A - No, the incoming freshman cannot join the virtual coaching or any activities until they graduate from the 8th grade and they become 9th graders. That date will most likely be later in June and fluctuate by school district.*

**3. May a girl’s lacrosse coach who is employed by a non-school team and who would ordinarily be allowed to coach 6 players with eligibility remaining on that non-school team, now include more than 6 players for the summer of 2020?**

1. *Yes, provided the governor has moved the state into that phase and all the safety precautions, cleaning and social distancing is followed.  This is just for this summer 2020.*

**4. May a coach of a spring sport take their team and coordinate with several other high school spring sports teams for the purpose of conducting joint practices and scrimmages during the summer of 2020?**

*A. No they may not. This question as written shows a direct affiliation with the high school. However, this may be permissible if all the coaches involved were working through a non-affiliated program such as a recreation department, AAU, LLC, etc. and there is a legal transfer for use of school facilities to the non-school affiliate, and transportation, insurance, etc., are not provided by the school district AND provided the governor has moved the state into that phase and all the safety precautions, cleaning and social distancing are followed*.

**5. May a tennis coach meet with some of their athletes from their school team beginning June 1st 2020 and conduct tennis lessons?**

1. *Maybe, this may be permissible beginning June 1, 2020 if the coach is operating independently from the school district and  working through a non-affiliated program such as a recreation department, AAU, LLC, etc., and there is a legal transfer for use of school facilities to the non-school affiliate, and transportation, insurance, etc.,  are not provided by the school district AND  provided the governor has moved the state into that phase and all the safety precautions, cleaning  and social distancing are followed*.

**6. May a coach of a spring sport operate or work at a summer camp where more than 10% of their spring athletes that attend the camp are on their high school roster and have eligibility remaining?**

*A. Yes, just for spring sports in the summer of 2020 and the camp may not begin until after June 1st AND provided the governor has moved the state into that phase and all the safety precautions, cleaning and social distancing are followed.*

**7. Because spring football was cancelled may a football coach operate or work at a summer camp or conduct practices that involves their entire football team beginning June 1st 2020?**

1. *No, the summer coaching exceptions are only extended to spring coaches and their spring athletes and only for this summer 2020. Spring football is not considered a spring sport.*

**8. May the coach of a spring sport who works under the governance of a town’s park and recreation program conduct spring sport activities that involve their team between June 1st 2020 and August 17th 2020?**

*A. Yes, provided the coach is operating independently from the school district and working through a non-affiliated program such as a recreation department, AAU, LLC, etc. and there is a legal transfer for use of school facilities to the non-school affiliate,, and transportation, insurance, etc., are not provided by the school district AND provided the governor has moved the state into that phase and all the safety precautions, cleaning and social distancing are followed.*

**9.** **May a coach of any sport conduct weight lifting, fitness, and conditioning activities using their schools fitness center provided the governor has moved the state into that phase and all the safety precautions, cleaning and social distancing are followed.**

A. Yes, this aspect of the out of season rule has not changed and can be conducted as stipulated with the governor’s approval. The non-affiliated status only pertains to the portion of the rule where an exception is being granted for out of season coaching for spring sports. A coach cannot extend the schools conditioning program to include coaching and instructing.

**10. May a spring coach operate a skills clinic for their spring athletes as long as it is conducted off site on a town green?**  
A No, however if the coach is either hired by a non-affiliated program, has their own LLC or in some way be operating independently of the school district as part of a non-affiliated program then this may be permissible.

**11. What will be determination that a violation will occur when using school facilities?**

A. A violation will occur if it is determined the school district was responsible for the use of their facility without a legal transfer of use. Facilities should be secured whenever possible, signage should be posted prohibiting open use and there should be form on file from the non-affiliated program which shows they possess their own proof of insurance indemnifying your district.