

## CIAC Sports Committee Guidelines

### **I MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES**

Sports Committee members are composed of the following:

1. CIAC Liaisons are appointed by the Executive Director for the CIAC. CIAC Liaisons are not voting members.
2. Two (2) representatives from the Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors (CAAD) are recommended by the CAAD Executive Director and approved by the CIAC Staff Liaison and the CIAC Executive Director. CAAD reps are voting members
3. One (1) delegate from each tournament classification as recommended by the Connecticut High School Coaches Association (CHSCA). Representatives from the Connecticut High School Coaches Association (CHSCA) are recommended by the CHSCA Executive Director and approved by the CIAC Staff Liaison and the CIAC Executive Director. CHSCA reps are voting members.
4. Consultants are appointed by the CIAC Liaison and the CIAC Executive Director. Consultants are not voting members.
5. School administrators appointed by the CIAC Liaison and the CIAC Executive Director. School administrators are voting members.
6. One (1) official as appointed by the governing board for the respective sport. The official's rep is a voting member.
7. Committee Chairs are members of the committee as stated above and are appointed by the CIAC. Committee chairs may only vote in case of a tie.
8. The Tournament Director and Assistant Tournament Director are appointed by the CIAC and are voting members of the committee.
  - a. In sports that use officials, that committee may include a Tournament Officials Assignor. The Tournament Officials Assignor may be considered as an Assistant Tournament Director and therefore would be a voting member.

Important: Members represent their respective groups to the CIAC, not their own individual perspectives. For example, members appointed by the Connecticut High School Coaches Association should speak and vote for the CHSCA and not their own personal perspective. Therefore, it is vital that members are aware of the viewpoint of the organization that they represent and act as representatives for them even though their own personal perspective may differ from that group.

Note: Often committee members have suggestions and ideas. Ideas from committee members must fall under these guidelines and philosophy established under the power of the committee and may not be significant by-law changes without following the formal proposal process described below.

### **II COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP**

The chairperson works in conjunction with the CIAC Liaison. Together they:

1. Set the yearly meeting schedule
2. Set the agenda for each meeting
3. Guide the committee to stay within the guidelines set by the CIAC and the CIAC Board of Control
4. Assure that the responsibilities of the sports committee are carried out

Note: The CIAC Liaison holds the responsibility to control the process for vetting proposals.

### **III AUTHORITY OF COMMITTEES**

1. All CIAC sports committees act under the auspices of the CIAC Board of Control. Sports Committees may not make substantive changes to CIAC or sports by-laws nor make decisions which would in any way alter the structure of the CIAC. It is the responsibility of the CIAC Liaison to the sports committee to regulate decision making processes and to work with the CIAC Executive Director to assure proper procedures are followed when making any changes.
2. The CIAC Board of Control has vested in each of its sports committees the responsibility to regulate its activities. Therefore, in sports such as ice hockey and soccer the respective committee has the authority to regulate and monitor the CIAC rules governing that sport and discipline schools which are in violation of their rules and regulations. All actions of a CIAC sports committee are reviewable and appealable to the CIAC Board of Control.
3. Any significant changes to tournaments or to sports by-laws must be referred to the CIAC Board of Control. The CIAC Liaison will work with the CIAC Executive Director in determining if a proposal or recommendation from a sports committee must be vetted and approved by the Board of Control.
4. Committee members should attend tournament contests and championships as representatives of the CIAC and assist as needed.
5. Gender equity shall be an important principle when establishing tournament formats.
6. All sports committees will be required to justify the number of divisions.
7. All sports committees have the latitude to promote opportunities which will enhance the overall quality of their tournament as long as such opportunities conform with the heretofore listed regulations. Such opportunities must be made part of the published tournament regulations and be consistently applied to all teams that make the tournaments. Any change in tournament structure which departs from the usual procedure of determining divisions by size of school must be approved by the CIAC Board of Control.
8. The CIAC Board of Control directs all CIAC sports committees to follow National Federation rules, if such rules exist for their particular sport. Requested modifications may be considered by the CIAC Board of Control. Compliance with National Federation rules is an extremely important objective of the CIAC. Hence, modifications will be permitted only after clear evidence that the request has been well researched and sound documentation of evidence for modifications to rules is available.
9. CIAC sports committees may recommend to the Board of Control modifications of Federation rules for a duration of one year, "trial" only.
10. The committee may alter rules for tournament entry.
11. The committee may implement rules that ensure the adherence to CIAC sportsmanship policies.
12. The committee may make recommendations to the sports awards committee
13. The committee may make recommendations to the season limitations committee
14. CIAC sport committees are requested to notify the Officials Committee regarding any changes in rules or game conditions which may affect any provision of an agreement.

### **IV PROPOSALS - PROCESS FOR BY-LAW CHANGES**

1. The primary function of a sports committee is to consider formal proposals that would affect CIAC by-laws that come from the following groups: 1) CAAD, 2)CHSCA, 3)one of the CIAC recognized Conferences, 4) A member school principal
2. Unless there is a change initiated for the safety and welfare of student-athletes, any request for a change that affects a sport must be referred to that committee in the form of a formal written proposal.
3. After considering a proposal, the committee will decide to do one of the following:
  - a. Fully support the proposal endorsing it to become an official CIAC proposal.
  - b. Deny the proposal therefore preventing any change to the sport.

- c. Approve a review of the requested change so the CIAC can gather information so the committee can further study the impact of the changes requested.
4. The CIAC sport committee will then decide whether to make a recommendation to the CIAC board of control to implement the official CIAC proposal. The committee must consider an implementation date that allows for adequate time for notification and best serves the CIAC member schools.

Note: The CIAC continually receives requests for changes to sports rules; however, those requests for change should be considered an idea and not an official CIAC proposal. Once the idea is properly vetted by the committee it can be denied any further consideration or if overwhelmingly supported by the committee, can become an official CIAC proposal.