

THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS
The 71st Annual Meeting

CIAC BYLAW CHANGES - APPROVED JUNE 2023

CHANGE #1:

ARTICLE XII – IN SEASON/OUT-OF-SEASON RULES

Exception #6 under Sub-section 1.1a (In-Season Rules for Individual and Team Sports)

(found on page 70 of the current CIAC Handbook)

Explanation of change: The change adds language defining what constitutes a team event under Exception #6 of the regulations governing an individual student-athlete's participation in outside athletic activities during the authorized contest season.

Rationale for change: Exception #6 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.

ADDITIONS IN RED:

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.
 - 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 is 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.

CHANGE #2:

ARTICLE XIII – ELIGIBILITY

Section B (Committee on Eligibility)

(found on page 53 of the current CIAC Handbook)

Explanation of Change: The change shortens the window for appealing an Eligibility Committee decision from fourteen days to seven days.

Rationale for Change: This change will help expedite decisions of the CIAC Eligibility Review Board (ERB). Currently, member school principals have up to fourteen days to appeal a decision of the CIAC Eligibility Committee to the ERB. 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 appeals process.

CHANGES IN ~~STRIKEOUT~~/ **RED**:

Article VIII. Section B.6

A member school dissatisfied with a decision of the Eligibility Committee may, within ~~fourteen (14)~~ **seven (7)** days after said decision, request in writing that the Eligibility Review Board review the decision.”

CHANGE #3:

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

Section A.II.D (Residency as It Pertains to the Transfer Rule)

(found on page 210 of the current CIAC Handbook)

Explanation of change: The change removes language that prevents a student-athlete from changing teams/sports before actually competing in a contest in the sport he/she wishes to leave.

Rationale for change: The revised language brings this regulation into 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.

CHANGES IN ~~STRIKEOUT~~/ **RED**:

- D. A student shall not participate in or represent his or her school in more than one sport ~~after the date of the school's first contest in that sport season~~ **in a given sport season**, nor may that student represent more than one school during a season unless the student satisfies the conditions of Eligibility Rule II.C.