

**THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS**  
*The Fifty-Third Annual Meeting*  
May 12, 2005

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CIAC BYLAWS**  
*(To be voted on by the CIAC membership only)*

**CHANGE #1: ARTICLE XI - COOPERATIVE TEAM SPONSORSHIP**

**Explanation of change:** The following proposed bylaw revision represents several changes:

1. The addition of language relative to the number of athletes allowed on two- and three-team cooperative teams (NOTE: This language does NOT change the CIAC's existing practices and procedures governing cooperative teams. It simply articulates those practices in the bylaws, whereas previously they were only referenced in the Q&A section of the CIAC Handbook.);
2. A change in the "**Decision Making Power**" provision to allow athletic directors and coaches serving on the Cooperative Team Committee to have full voting privileges; and,
3. Some minor language revisions.

**PROPOSED LANGUAGE** *(changes in bold italics)*

**Article XI - Cooperative Team Sponsorship**

The CIAC Board of Control shall have the authority to approve the formation of cooperative athletic teams by two, but no more than three member high schools under the following conditions:

1. The determination of the proper set of circumstances which will allow two or three (but not more than three) schools to form a cooperative team will depend significantly on the issue of competitor displacement. When the CIAC believes that a cooperative arrangement will cause an unreasonable displacement of potential competitors from one of the schools, the request to form a cooperative will be denied. Schools having sufficient numbers of competitors are advised not to request the formation of a cooperative team in that sport. It is only when two, but no more than three schools are experiencing difficulty in obtaining the desired number of competitors to form a team that the request for a cooperative team should be initiated.
2. ***Cooperative teams will not be permitted to add a third team if the total number of players on the existing co-op team exceeds the maximum determined limit in each sport.***
3. ***Three team cooperative programs cannot exceed two (2) times the maximum determined limit in each sport.***
4. The schools are located in the same geographical area.
5. All schools participating in the cooperative must be members of the CIAC, Inc.
6. The combined boy or girl enrollments in grades 10, 11 and 12 of the schools involved in the cooperative team will be used to determine the classification of the cooperative for the participation in CIAC tournaments.

7. The cooperative sponsorship agreement is established for a period of two consecutive school years. However, approval may be granted for a one year period.
8. The governing boards of all schools participating in the cooperative team agreement jointly make application to the CIAC Board of Control for approval of the cooperative team agreement.
9. Written assurance that a “no cut” policy will govern the cooperative.

**NOTE: THERE IS A PRINTED COOPERATIVE TEAM APPLICATION FORM WHICH MUST BE USED. A COPY MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CIAC OFFICE. (See Appendix R)**

10. The joint application includes:
  - a. Written approval from the league(s) of which the cooperating schools are members, or, in the event the cooperative team will not be affiliated with a league, written approval from a minimum of six schools included in the cooperative team’s schedule of competition.
  - b. The application form signed by the principals of all cooperating schools designating the name under which the cooperative team will compete.
  - c. A report of the potential number of students from each of the cooperative schools expected to participate on the cooperative team.
  - d. A report of the number of students, if any, from each of the cooperating schools who have been participating in the sport involved, in programs offered on a non-cooperative basis by their own schools.
  - e. A statement expressing the reasons for the formation of a cooperative team.
  - f. Written assurance that the cooperative team will not limit or lessen participation opportunities for students in any of the cooperating schools. A “no cut” policy must be in place.
  - g. Eligibility lists from the previous season in the sport in question.
  
11. Dissolution of Cooperative Teams
  - a.. When the decision of the CIAC co-op committee is to dissolve or discontinue a co-op program, there will be a maximum of a two (2) year phase-out (grandfather period, renewable yearly, and athletes will be eligible from their schools throughout the two year phase-out period. Eligibility is not restricted to only those athletes who were on the original co-op team roster at the time of discontinuation
  - b. ***During the phase-out period***, all schools must agree to remain in the co-op agreement on a yearly basis. League approval is not required. During the two year grandfather period all athletes are to be notified by their school that a limited period of eligibility exists because the program is in a maximum of a two year phase-out period.
  - c. In a two (2) team co-op, if during the phase-out period both the teams exceed the co-op ~~minimum~~ ***maximum*** limit at any time, the co-op will be rescinded and grandfathering will not be allowed.

- d. In a three team co-op, if *during the phase-out period* two (2) teams exceed the co-op limit and one does not, then the CIAC co-op committee will determine, with the approval of each school affected, which one of the teams over the co-op limit will be removed from the co-op.
- e. In a three team co-op, if *during the phase-out period* the numbers of *any* two teams combined do not exceed the ~~minimum~~ maximum co-op limit, all three (3) teams can remain in the co-op.
- f. *During the phase-out period*, no three (3) team co-op program can exceed two (2) times the ~~minimum~~ maximum limit for a co-op team.

Application deadlines for cooperative teams during any school year are: *(Schools are encouraged to submit their applications well in advance of the deadline)*

Fall sports -- June 1;

Winter sports - October 1;

Spring sports - February 1

### **Decision Making Power**

~~The CIAC Executive Committee consisting of the Chairperson, Past Chairperson, Assistant Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer and two member school principals who do not have CIAC Board of Control voting rights and one at-large principal will serve as the Cooperative Team Review Committee, whose power it will be to approve or disapprove all applications. Assisting the review committee will be two consultants one each representing CAAD and CHSCA. The review committee will meet monthly September through June to act on all requests. The Executive Director of CIAC or his designee will be responsible for having all appropriate documents and applications available for committee action.~~

*Decisions to approve or disapprove all cooperative team applications are relegated to the Cooperative Team Committee by the CIAC Board of Control. The Cooperative Team Committee shall consist of the chair person of the CIAC, a minimum of two high school administrators, one representative of CAAD and one representative of CHSCA, all with voting privileges. The Cooperative Team Committee will meet a minimum of three times per year to act on all requests.*

**Reasons for change:** (1) To reconcile the language of the CIAC Bylaws with the interpretations set forth in the Q&A section of the CIAC handbook (the limits placed on two and three-team coops were addressed in the Q&A section of the CIAC Handbook but not in the bylaws themselves.) (2) To grant full voting privileges to athletic directors and coaches serving on the Cooperative Team Committee. These individuals are the ones who are working at the grass-roots level and, as such, have first-hand knowledge and well-informed opinions that are critical to making decisions affecting cooperative team sponsorships.

**CHANGE #2: ARTICLE XII. SECTION 1.1.A.**

**Explanation of change:** The proposed revision will allow an athlete participating in any CIAC-sponsored sport the opportunity, if selected by the national governing body regulating the sport, to participate in an NGB-sponsored national or international competition during the sports season.

[OLD] **Article XII. 1.1.a.**

**Exception to Rule 1.1.a.**

**All Sports**

The CIAC board of control may grant exceptions to athletes to participate in those contests legitimately organized for the sole purpose of preparing for and selection to the next Olympic Games or other international competition. These contests must be recognized by the U.S. Olympic Committee and the national governing body for the sport as having as its sole purpose the selection to the next Olympic or international team. All decisions will be decided in accordance with the ***Restricted Competition*** provisions of the U.S. Olympic Sports Act wherein state athletic associations shall have “*exclusive jurisdiction*” to conduct their programs without interference by NGB’s.

[NEW] **Article XII. 1.1.a.**

**Exception to Rule 1.1.a**

**All Sports**

The CIAC board of control may grant exceptions to athletes to participate in those contests legitimately organized for the sole purpose of preparing for and selection to the next Olympic Games or the Pan-American Games. In sports not sponsored by the International Olympic Committee or the Pan-American Games an athlete may participate in **one (1)** National Governing Body (NGB) sponsored national tournament event or other NGB sponsored international competition during the sport season. These contests must be recognized by the United States Olympic Committee, the Pan-American Games and/or the NGB for the sport as having as its sole purpose the selection to the Olympic, Pan-American, national or international team. All decisions for participation will be made in accordance with the **Restricted Competition** provision of the U.S. Olympic Sports Act wherein state athletic associations shall have “**exclusive jurisdiction**” to conduct their programs without interference by any NGB.

Athletes wishing to compete in any of the above mentioned events must first seek the consent of their school administration prior to the school requesting permission to participate from the CIAC. Athletes granted permission to compete are subject to CIAC weekly limitations for the specific sport and the athlete is prohibited from missing a school competition to participate on a non-school team. Exceptions to these regulations may be granted by the CIAC Board.

**Reason for change:** To provide an athlete competing in a sport not governed by the International Olympic Committee (e.g. lacrosse) with the opportunity to participate in a tournament or event which serves as a try-out for an international competition in which the athlete would be representing the United States. This change is being made in an effort to ensure that opportunities for participating in “outside contests” during the regular school sports season are applied consistently to ALL CIAC-sponsored sports. Currently, these opportunities are only available to athletes participating in sports recognized by the U.S. Olympic Committee.