January 15, 2021

CAS-CIAC 2021 Cheer and Dance Winter Season

Dear CIAC Competitive Cheer and Dance Coaches,

We wanted to make you aware that, based on the current recommendations from the CT Department of Public Health (DPH), Competitive Cheer and Dance will be canceled for the 2021 winter season. Small group conditioning and non-contact skill building will, however, be allowed.

Guidance issued by the CT DPH on January 8, 2021, states, “For higher risk sports (competitive cheer, competitive dance, wrestling), DPH does not recommend any activities beyond small group conditioning and non-contact skill building for the duration of the winter season.”

Sideline Cheer and Exhibition dance will be permitted only if the local school district and local DPH approves. In addition, schools will have to follow the DPH mitigation strategies in order to participate. As stated in the CIAC Winter Sports Plan approved on January 14, 2021, “In alignment with DPH guidance for sports published on November 9, 2020, the low risk sport of sideline cheer (no stunting, lifts, or tumbling) and exhibition dance (no lifts, stunting, or tumbling) may continue provided participants wear masks and formations maintain 6 feet of distance between athletes.”

Please know that the CAS-CIAC staff, along with the members of the cheer and dance committees, put forth our best advocacy efforts, lobbying to get the high-risk classification changed so that these sports could proceed this winter. Unfortunately, our efforts were unsuccessful. While disappointing, we respect the guidance that the CT DPH has issued and are grateful that there are some low-risk activities in which our athletes can engage.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Warm regards,

Cherese Miller-Odukwe

Director of Student Activities