



## **FAIRFIELD COUNTY INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE, INC.**

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Commissioner: Dave Schulz • President: Chip Salvestrini

### **Proposal Draft Regarding Start Date of Boys Basketball**

To: Gregg Simon; CIAC Executive Director

From: Fairfield County Interscholastic Athletic Conference

RE: CIAC Boys Basketball Start Date

Date: TBD

This proposal follows the change made by the CIAC to the start date of fall sports, which has moved up 3 days so that the state tournament can begin on the Thursday prior to the current following Monday start date. Our proposal is to move the start date for boys' basketball to the same date as girls' basketball, which is the Monday after Thanksgiving. The boys are currently starting 3 days later, on the Thursday after Thanksgiving. The change for fall sports was made so that the fall state tournaments could start 3 days earlier and not to have any compacting effect on the regular season or conference playoffs. We realize that tryouts for boys' and girls' basketball will now take place simultaneously and may result in later practices for the first few days but the boys' and girls' teams practice at the same time all season, so this won't cause a significant issue.

Playing 3 games during the first week of the state boys basketball tournament is difficult already and with any weather postponement like we had the last two tournaments, it has required schools to play back-to-back games. With this change the first-round games will be played on that Thursday and Friday and the next two weeks of the tournament will only require two games per week. The playing of 5 games in the current two-week span is not in the best interest of the student athletes and could be viewed as unsafe.

The second part of this proposal would be to have both the boys' and girls' state tournaments start on the Thursday proposed for the boys and not have the girls' tournament be spread out over 3 weeks. With the byes awarded in the girls' tournament, 7 of the 10 finalists only played 4 games in the tournament over the 3 weeks. The FCIAC girls' coaches are not in favor of the current format due to this issue. With both tournaments starting on that Thursday, there would be room to schedule the boys' and girls' games on different days if there are conflicts with the same school hosting early round games. Additionally, this change would benefit leagues in the state who would like to highlight their boys and girls league championship games at the same site on the same day.

The three other sports which currently start on the Thursday after Thanksgiving, (indoor track, boys swimming and gymnastics) do not have the same issues with head-to-head competition in their state tournaments, so they have not been included in this proposal. Wrestling and Boys' Ice Hockey already start on the Monday after Thanksgiving.

We appreciate your considering our proposal and if you would like further clarification on any aspect of it, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Dave Schulz; FCIAC Commissioner