

CIAC Football Committee

January 20, 2026

Agenda

1. Review of Minutes 5-6-25
2. Preliminary Financial Report for Football 2025
3. Review of 2025 Championships
 - Overall Review
 - Championship Host Sites Review-Feedback from Coaches
4. Report from Winter NFHS Meeting
5. Possible Sub-Committee to Review Use of Instant Replay at Championship Games
6. Future Agenda Items
 - Review Success in Tournament Process

Next Meeting---Thursday, February 26, 2026

CIAC FOOTBALL COMMITTEE
MINUTES
5/6/25

- I.WELCOME - The committee met on zoom.
- II.SHOWCASE - Thank you to Corey Plasky for organizing the showcase.
 - A. Corey reported on the first football showcase
 - B. Modeled after NFL combine
 - C. Over 130 registered members, 50 different schools, 20 college schools attended
 - D. The entire event went very well
 - E. Hoping to grow the event in the future
 - F. The committee discussed future dates
- III.CO-OPS IN DIVISIONS - There will be language in the packet about schools dropping out of divisions.
 - A. 22 coop teams
 - B. The committee would like to look at co-ops relevant to divisions
- IV.DIVISIONS AND PACKET - Gregg will send the divisions and the packet to the committee

Connecticut Association of Schools
Football Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison
July 2025 through June 2026

	<u>Jul '25 - Jun 26</u>	<u>Jul '24 - Jun 25</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
552 30 · Football Income		
552 32 · Football Gate Receipts	212,635.00	223,410.00
552 34 · Football Rule Books	3,980.00	9,200.00
552 38 · Football Entry Fees	6,150.00	7,050.00
552 30 · Football Income - Other	0.00	1,000.00
Total 552 30 · Football Income	222,765.00	240,660.00
Total Income	222,765.00	240,660.00
Gross Profit	222,765.00	240,660.00
Expense		
745 30 · Football Expenses		
745 32 · Football NFHS Rule Books	43.41	3,764.50
745 33 · Football Awards	2,925.04	2,799.83
745 36 · Football Tourn. Expenses		
745 36b · Site Director	5,520.00	7,680.00
745 36c · Tournament Labor	7,312.00	12,160.00
745 36d · Special Events	0.00	4,818.47
745 36j · Media/Programs/Printing	13,940.40	11,987.06
745 36k · Tourn Miles/Food/Phone	2,118.35	4,074.64
745 36l · Security	1,100.00	0.00
745 36o · Doctor	2,500.00	1,500.00
745 36r · Site Rental/Workers	5,308.00	70,787.72
745 36u · Ambulance	0.00	2,583.00
745 36w · Quarter/Semi Expense Cap	35,048.17	49,268.46
745 36 · Football Tourn. Expenses - O...	5,875.00	0.00
Total 745 36 · Football Tourn. Expenses	78,721.92	164,859.35
Total 745 37 · Football Officials	48,597.00	48,407.77

Connecticut Association of Schools
Football Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison
July 2025 through June 2026

	Jul '25 - Jun 26	Jul '24 - Jun 25
745 38 - Football Tourn Dir Fee	1,931.00	1,931.00
745 30 - Football Expenses - Other	0.00	6,543.87
Total 745 30 - Football Expenses	132,218.37	228,306.32
Total Expense	132,218.37	228,306.32
Net Ordinary Income	90,546.63	12,353.68
Net Income	90,546.63	12,353.68

1. What worked particularly well in the championship experience?

Coaches overwhelmingly praised the overall quality and professionalism of the championship experience, especially at higher-level venues. Facilities such as CCSU's Arute Field and Veterans Stadium were repeatedly described as top-notch and memorable for players and staff. Media days, press conferences, and championship ceremonies were cited as highlights that enhanced the student-athlete experience and gave appropriate recognition to teams. Several coaches emphasized that CIAC staff and host-site personnel were welcoming, organized, and supportive throughout the event.

2. Biggest challenges during the championship run

The most consistent concern was the compressed playoff timeline. Coaches repeatedly cited the difficulty of playing four games in roughly 16–18 days, especially for teams coming off Thanksgiving games. This short turnaround placed significant physical and mental strain on student-athletes and limited meaningful preparation time. Schedule disruptions caused by weather postponements further compounded these issues, often forcing games onto non-ideal days and tightening recovery windows.

3. Impact of weather conditions

Weather impacts were mixed. Some programs reported minimal disruption, while others highlighted significant challenges, particularly when games were played on grass fields in cold, wet, or snowy conditions. Slippery or frozen surfaces were viewed as unsafe and not reflective of championship-level football. Several coaches suggested that grass fields should be avoided late in the season and that turf facilities provide a more consistent and safer experience.

4. Effectiveness of tournament communication and management

Communication was generally viewed as solid to very strong, with several coaches rating it highly. However, frustrations arose when game times or procedures changed on short notice, including earlier-than-scheduled kickoffs or altered coin toss times. While coaches understood that weather forced some of these changes,

they noted that even small timing shifts had ripple effects on travel, warm-ups, and athlete readiness.

5. Championship logistics (arrival, locker rooms, warm-ups, officiating, etc.)

Logistics produced the widest range of feedback. While facilities were praised overall, multiple coaches raised concerns about:

- Small locker rooms, especially at Veterans Stadium
- Non-ideal warm-up locations, including frozen or uneven auxiliary fields
- Very early arrival times, particularly for morning games
- Four championship games at a single site, which created a rushed feel

Officiating was also a major concern for some coaches. A few expressed strong frustration with inconsistent or minimal penalty enforcement, lack of communication from officials, and a perception that games were hurried to stay on schedule.

Despite specific concerns, the tone of the feedback was largely appreciative and constructive. Coaches consistently acknowledged the complexity of planning championships under variable weather conditions and expressed gratitude for the effort put forth by CIAC and the Football Committee. Many emphasized that, even with challenges, the experience remains special, meaningful, and memorable for student-athletes—and they shared feedback with the goal of making a strong event even better.

Potential Action Items from the Championship AAR

1. Adjust the Playoff Timeline

- Explore **starting the playoffs earlier** in the season to reduce the need for four games in 16–18 days.
- Reevaluate the **bye-week structure**, especially for teams that play on Thanksgiving.

2. Limit the Number of Championship Games at One Site

- Avoid scheduling **four championship games at a single venue in one day**.
 - Splitting games across **two venues**, or
 - Extending championships across **two days**

3. Prioritize Championship-Level Venues

- Continue exploring additional venues (e.g., CCSU-type facilities)

4. Improve Warm-Up and Locker Room Logistics

- Ensure **safe, on-site warm-up areas** whenever possible.
- Review locker room capacity at championship sites and identify **overflow or staggered access plans** if space is limited.

5. Stabilize Game-Day Timing and Communication

- Minimize **day-before or morning-of schedule changes**, especially:
 - Earlier kickoff times
 - Coin toss timing adjustments
- When changes are unavoidable, establish:

- **Clear communication windows**
- A consistent protocol for notifying coaches and athletic directors

7. Reevaluate Equipment Policies

- Revisit the requirement for championship-specific footballs.
- Consider allowing teams to use their **regular-season approved game balls** to reduce unnecessary adjustments during the playoffs.

8. Enhance the Student-Athlete Experience

- Ensure all planned elements that make the day “feel special” (e.g., signage, recognition items) are **consistently delivered**.
- Continue and protect high-impact elements that received strong praise:
 - Media day
 - Press conferences
 - Post-game ceremonies

9. Weather Contingency Planning

- Develop clearer **weather-based decision criteria** for:
 - Field selection
 - Game rescheduling