

THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS
The Sixty-Fifth Annual Meeting
June 2017

2016-2017 Annual Report
CIAC BOARD OF CONTROL
Submitted by Paul Newton, Chair

The 2016-17 school year was a very busy one for the CIAC Board of Control. This year the board undertook actions in the following areas.

Running Clock Rule for Football - A running clock is now mandatory when the score differential reaches 35 points or more in the 3rd quarter or 4th quarter of the game. This rule was piloted for a year and received widespread support. It has been approved by the Board of Control and will be instituted permanently beginning in the coming school year.

Proposal for Basketball - The fill-the-brackets divisional playoff quota is now a permanent rule. It will be instituted for 2017-2018 season.

New Recruitment Penalties - The Board of Control is “tightening” the punishments administered to schools when a recruiting violation occurs. Sanctions for the offending coach have been approved and include: prohibition from coaching CIAC sports for a year (this sanction also follows the coach if he/she leaves the school at which the violation occurred and begins work at another CIAC member school); probation upon return to coaching in any CIAC school and any CIAC-sponsored sport; re-taking the appropriate coaching module in addition to a potential fine (already part of the rule); and rehabilitative instruction. The CIAC has never sanctioned coaches for recruitment violations but is moving in the direction of doing so now that it has the authority to sanction a coach for violating the out-of-season coaching rule.

Penalty for Violation of 6-Quarter Limit in Football - Football players cannot play in more than 6 quarters a week at any 2 levels of play. Coaches are responsible for tracking the amount play time for each athlete. The Board of Control voted to expand the penalty for violations of the 6-quarter limit rule by adding the following language: *“When a violation of this rule occurs, the Varsity head coach will be disqualified and will be ineligible to participate in all contests until he/she sits out for the next contest at the same level of play. The coach must re-take the appropriate coaching module by the end of the same school year. The athlete’s involvement will be reviewed and may (or may not) be assigned a period of ineligibility.”*

Penalty for Violation of the Out-of-Season Coaching Rule - The board voted to add clarifying language to Rule 4.6.D, Consequences for Coaching Out of Season, which outlines penalties for coaches who violate the out-of-season coaching rule. Currently, the rule states that, if a coach is assigned a period of disqualification, that period begins with the coach’s next scheduled contest. The new language allows the board the latitude to designate the period of disqualification. The new rule will read as follows (additions in bold):

*If the period is assigned, it will begin at the next scheduled contest for the sport that the coach is assigned **or the Board of Control may assign the period of disqualification.***

Participation in Elite Wrestling Matches - The board passed a proposal that allows up to four wrestlers, with the approval of their coach, athletic director and principal, to attend two elite level tournaments per season. All weekly and seasonal limitations will be upheld. The proposal is for a two-year trial that will be reviewed each year.

Pitch Count Rule - A pitch count has been approved that establishes limitations and complies with the National Federation mandate. The rule is currently being reviewed and the final wording will appear in the baseball tournament packet for 2018.

Semi-Final Contests Allowed on Sundays: Upon request from a sport committee, the CIAC Board of Control approved a proposal to pre-schedule the final OR semi-final game of a state tournament on a Sunday. Further, the board approved the use of Sundays after 12:30 p.m. for regular and league tournament make-up games in all sports upon the mutual agreement of both schools. The rule change will include the following language:

Should local board of education policy prohibit a member school from CIAC participation on a Sunday, reasonable attempts will be made to offer an alternate competition date.

“Opt-out” Option for Phased-out Co-op Teams - The board has approved a change that will allow a co-operative program which has completed a phase-out to apply for continued existence as a “non CIAC competitive” program for the season immediately following the completed phase-out. The following requirements must be met:

- All CIAC student eligibility standards, seasonal and weekly limitations will be adhered to.
- Schools knowingly taking this path remove themselves from CIAC post-season competition.
- A win/loss record will be counted only for opponents of the “opt-out” program and to calculate any CIAC tournament pairings and power rankings.
- Schools applying to opt-out must submit to the CIAC Co-op Committee a letter of approval from their league and each non-league opponent.
- The “opt-out” accommodation is for 1 year at a time.
- Once this “opt-out” accommodation request along with the required letters are received, the Co-op Committee will screen the documentation and determine if it should be forwarded to the CIAC Board of Control for approval.