

CIAC BOARD OF CONTROL IMPOSES SANCTIONS ON
COACHES WHO PUBLICLY CRITICIZE GAME OFFICIALS

The CIAC Board of Control at their February 25, 2010 meeting unanimously passed regulations that sanction a coach who chooses to publicly criticize a game official(s). The Board took such action as a result of an increase in the number of incidents where a coach has made negative comments about the game official(s) in a public forum.

The CIAC has worked diligently over the past several years to establish standards of sportsmanship in all schools for players, coaches, spectators and officials among others. Clearly one of the major tenets of the CIAC sportsmanship effort is for everyone to show respect for the game officials and that coaches refrain from criticizing officials in the media or in other public forums. Furthermore, the coaching Code of Ethics clearly states that “public criticism of officials or players is unethical.”

Consequently, the CIAC Board of Control has passed the following regulations which goes into effect immediately. Therefore, school officials need to inform their athletic director(s) and coaches of this policy. Member schools are expected to self-report any known or potential violations to the CIAC.

Consequences for Coaches Who Criticize Game Official(s) in a Public Forum:

Any coach who criticizes a game official(s) in a public forum will be subject to the following:

- **First Offense** – One game disqualification and the school be fined \$250.
- **Second Offense** – Two (2) game disqualification and the school be fined \$500.
- **Third Offense** – Disqualification for the remainder of the season * and the school be fined \$750.

*The coach will be disqualified for a minimum of five (5) games. If the season ends prior to completing the five (5) game disqualification the remaining days will carry over to the next season.

Each confirmed incident will be evaluated on a case by case basis by CIAC staff and appropriate action invoked.

Additionally, the school administration will be required to file a report with the CIAC Board of Control delineating the steps the schools and athletic administration have taken to address this issue to assure no reoccurrence.

When a coach is disqualified for such actions the following disqualification rules shall apply:

1. The coach will be disqualified from the next contest at the same level of play after notification from CIAC that an infraction has occurred (even if the next contest does not occur until league or CIAC tournament play or next year).
2. Coaches cannot be in attendance at the game(s) for which they are serving their suspension and may not participate in any pre-game warm-up activities at the site.
3. Disqualifications from the last contest of one season carry over to the next season in that sport for coaches.
4. The school’s first incident of non-compliance, for reasons other than defiance of the disqualification rules, will result in forfeiture, a \$250 fine and the coach must serve the

disqualification penalty; a school's second incident of non-compliance will prohibit the school from entry in the next CIAC tournament for that sport, or from the remainder of the current tournament if the disqualification occurs during a CIAC tournament or during the last regular season contest/day of competition. However, when a school willfully defies this regulation the school and/or coach will be subject to further action by the CIAC Board of Control.

Appeals Procedures:

The CIAC will honor appeals of a coach disqualified for criticizing game official(s) in a public forum. Appeals to the CIAC filed by the school administration will be heard by a committee consisting of the following: CIAC chairperson or his/her designee, the CIAC Executive Director or his/her designee, CAAD Executive Director or his/her designee. Appeals will be honored when received in the CIAC office within 48 hours after notification from CIAC of the infraction.

3/9/10