

CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

MISSION

The CIAC believes that interscholastic athletic programs and competition are an integral part of a student's academic, social, emotional and physical development. The CIAC promotes the academic mission of schools and honorable competition. As such, the CIAC serves as the regulatory agency for high school interscholastic athletic programs and exists to assure quality experiences that reflect high ethical standards and expectations for fairness, equity, and sportsmanship for all student-athletes and coaches. The CIAC provides leadership and support for member schools through the voluntary services of dedicated school administrators, athletic directors, coaches, and consultants.

Thursday, December 7, 2023

9:00 a.m. Call to Order

1.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 1.1 Review and Approval – CIAC Board of Control Minutes – November 9, 2023
- 1.2 Treasurer's Report - No Update
- 1.3 Letter of Self-Report – Middletown High School – Boys Basketball
- 1.4 Letter of Self-Report – Middletown High School – Girls Basketball
- 1.5 Letter of Self-Report – Harding High School – Boys Basketball
- 1.6 CAAD Boys and Girls Lacrosse Proposal – Expand from Three to Four Divisions
- 1.7 Sunday Play – Simsbury High School - Wrestling

2.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 2.1 Executive Director Update – Glenn Lungarini
- 2.2 FCIAC Proposal – Change in Start Date – Boys Basketball – Update

3.0 CONSULTANT REPORTS

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 3.1 CAS – Amy Yost | 3.6 Unified Sports – Bob Hale |
| 3.2 CAPSS - Gregg Shugrue | 3.7 CAAD – VJ Sarullo |
| 3.3 CABA | 3.8 CHSCA – Len Corto |
| 3.4 Sports Medicine –Dr. Carl Nissen | 3.9 Officials – Dan Scavone |
| 3.5 CATA – Marc Aceto | |

4.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 4.1 Eligibility Committee - 4 Cases – 3 Denied / 1 Approved
- 4.2 Eligibility Review Board - 1 Case – Denied
- 4.3 Cooperative Team Committee

5.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

6.0 STAFF REPORTS

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 6.1 John Holt | 6.5 Pat O'Neil |
| 6.2 Joe Velardi | 6.6 Gregg Simon |
| 6.3 Dan Scavone | 6.7 Glenn Lungarini |
| 6.4 Henry Rondon | |

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

Thursday, November 9, 2023

Present: John Holt, Gregg Simon, Glenn Lungarini, Vincent DeNuzzo, Chris Eckert, Ralph Mayo, Dan Donovan, VJ Sarullo, Kim Longobucco, Dana Mulligan, Bob Hale, Fred Balsamo, Karen Packtor, Dan Scavone, Dana Parades, Matt Ryan, Jim Wygonik, Pat O'Neill, Joe Velardi, Chris Cipriano, Greg Shugrue, Gray Franklin, Erin Guarino, Kristen St. Germain, Len Corto, Kristie Kaminski, Scott Aresco, Henry Rondon, Amy Yost, TJ Salutari, Matt Peel

9:00 a.m. Call to Order

1.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 1.1 Review and Approval – CIAC Board of Control Minutes – October 12, 2023 – Cipriano motion, St. Germain second, minutes approved
- 1.2 Treasurer's Report - Cipriano delivers report – Wygonik motion to approve, Paredes second, report approved
- 1.3 Fairfield Public Schools – Sunday Play – Ice Hockey – Request to play on Sunday at Sacred Heart University. DeNuzzo motion, Eckert second, motion passes
- 1.4 CIAC Cooperative Teams – Opt-Out Approval
 - * Fairfield Ice Hockey
 - * Eastern Connecticut Eagles
 - Peel motion, Eckert second, motion passes
- 1.5 CAAD / CHSCA Out-of-Season Coaching Committee Proposal
 - Member survey – 71% approved proposal, 29% not approved.
 - Concerns about how proposal would impact Alliance Districts
 - Out of season committee approved proposal 8-1 to move proposal forward to CIAC Board of Control
 - Motion to accept CAAD/CHSCA proposal as vetted by Out of Season Committee
 - Salutari motion, Cipriano second, motion passes.
- 1.6 CT High School Football Alliance Proposal
 - * Proposal would have central body do statewide scheduling vs. like sized schools
 - * Regular season schedule reduced to 9 games, including with option for 1 to be against geographical/traditional rival
 - * Elimination of Thanksgiving games. 12 teams qualify in each class, playoffs start earlier

Wygonik expresses concerns on behalf of Pequot Conference. Travel and opponents would be negatives.

DeNuzzo expresses concerns about travel and geography in determining opponents.

Mayo concerned about travel time, reducing schedule, and losing Thanksgiving

Peel concerned about community impact of loss of Thanksgiving games and schedule that would eliminate games versus “neighboring” schools

Shugrue mentions previous proposal that was similar. Does not think HS football should be played in December

St. Germain – Equity issues. Could other sports want changes?

Salutari – can parts of the proposal be considered, rather than the whole proposal? (**Answer: yes**)

Sarullo – Unanimous opposition from FCIAC (Alliance member) athletic directors to this proposal

Cipriano – What committee(s) would vet this? (**Answer: Football Committee, Season Limitations**)

Motion from Cipriano to send the proposal to football committee **to only consider central body state wide scheduling piece of the proposal**, Salutari second, motion passes (with 2 opposed).

(Note: Board made decision to take no action on discontinuing Thanksgiving games or altering playoff structure and reducing the number of regular season games)

- 2.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - 2.1 Executive Director Update – Glenn Lungarini
Fall tournaments and information have made transition to new website
Work continues on securing championship venues, in good shape.
 - 2.2 FCIAC Proposal – Change in Start Date – Boys Basketball – Update
(Simon) – Proposal to move start of boys season back to mirror girls season. Basketball committees
Reviewing the proposal.
 - 2.3 CAAD Boys and Girls Lacrosse Proposal – Expand from three to four divisions
(Simon) – Will bring proposal to boys and girls lacrosse committees.
- 3.0 CONSULTANT REPORTS
 - 3.1 CAS – Amy Yost – Recent event honored principals and assistant principals of the year
 - 3.2 CAPSS - Gregg Shugrue - n/r
 - 3.3 CABA - n/a
 - 3.4 Sports Medicine –Dr. Carl Nissen - n/a
 - 3.5 CATA – Marc Aceto n/a
 - 3.6 Unified Sports – Bob Hale – Fantastic Youth Leadership Summit at Rocky Hill High School (40 schools, 400 students and teachers). Fall soccer season ended yesterday with tournament at Farmington High School. Flag football events have been taking place. Corn-ho-ho-hole Tournament in December
 - 3.7 CAAD – VJ Sarullo – CAAD had 2-day PD development event last week. Well attended.
 - 3.8 CHSCA – Len Corto (Scott Aresco gives report) – 10/25 CHSCA meeting. Canzanella family given proclamation from Connecticut General Assembly.
 - 3.9 Officials – Dan Scavone – Officials Advisory Board meeting on 11/20 for first meeting of year, informed that flag football would be sanctioned by NFHS for purposes of being covered by officials.
- 4.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - 4.1 Eligibility Committee - 3 Cases – 1 Denied / 2 Approved
 - 4.2 Eligibility Review Board - 1 Case – 1 Approved
 - 4.3 Cooperative Team Committee
- 5.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
- 6.0 STAFF REPORTS
 - 6.1 Matt Fischer -n/a
 - 6.2 John Holt – NFHS network to stream upcoming fall championships, just surpassed 100 human interest video stories produced in last 2 years
 - 6.3 Joe Velardi – Fall golf tournament complete, girls swimming and volleyball ongoing
 - 6.4 Dan Scavone – Lacrosse will review proposal for adding 4th division
 - 6.5 Henry Rondon - Student Leadership Conference is Dec 1, Class Act training for interested schools continues
 - 6.6 Pat O'Neil – We've renewed just about all partners for '23-'24, looking forward to playoffs
 - 6.7 Gregg Simon – After attending Unified Summit last week, commends work Unified Staff does
 - 6.8 Glenn Lungarini - Calls for motion for executive session, DeNuzzo motion, Mayo second
- 7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

EXECUTIVE SESSION



Office of MPS Athletics/Activities

Unlocking the Potential in ALL Students

Elisha De Jesús, Director of Athletics, Student Activities, Physical Education & Health

dejesuse@mpsct.org | (860) 704-4558

200 LaRosa Lane, Middletown, CT 06457

www.middletownschoools.org

Dr. Glenn Lungarini, Executive Director
Mr. Gregg Simon, Assoc. Executive Director
CAS-CIAC
30 Realty Drive
Cheshire, CT 06410

November 21, 2023

Dear Dr. Lungarini & Mr. Simon,

It is with great embarrassment that I have to write this letter of self report to the CIAC and its Board of Control.

On the evenings of October 23, 2023 and October 30, 2023 between the hours of 6pm-8pm, our MHS boys basketball head coach, Eric Holley and the MHS assistant boys basketball coaches, Trey James and Kamren Belin held what was supposed to be strength and conditioning sessions with MHS students that played on the boys basketball team last year and students that had intention of playing on the boys basketball team this year.

On October 31, 2023 at 7:30am, I had been told by a staff member that the MHS gym doors and the MHS weight room door had been left unlocked the night before. In an effort to make sure our safety protocols were being followed, I started looking at our video surveillance cameras to find out who was responsible for leaving the doors unlocked.

Unfortunately, what I saw was in direct violation of the CIAC out of season rule. Our MHS boys basketball coaches were coaching and instructing the team using basketballs in dribbling drills, shooting drills, ½ court offensive sets, ½ court defensive sets, and full court 5 vs. 5 games.

Since I knew the team had another strength and conditioning session on October 23, 2023, I looked at the video surveillance footage during the boys basketball team's scheduled time of 6pm-8pm. What I saw was the same as what I saw on October 30th. A full boys basketball practice was taking place with our coaches instructing organized drills with basketballs.

Once I found out about the violations, the strength and conditioning sessions for the boys basketball team were canceled until further notice.



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As the Athletic Director, I review the CIAC regulations including the out of season rule with all of our coaches during our preseason meetings. Our coaches sign off on our Coaches Handbook where regulations and policies are stated.

On November 15, 2023 and November 20, 2023, the MPS Manager of Human Resources, the MPS Director of Operations and I held a fact finding meeting with Coach Eric Holley, Coach Trey James and Coach Kamren Belin individually. During these meetings our coaches admitted to violating the CIAC Out of Season rule and admitted to knowing that what they were doing was a violation. They also admitted to receiving training on what the out of season rule is from me on various occasions.

As a district we have taken internal disciplinary actions by doing the following:

1. Letter of discipline in each coach's employee file.
2. Suspension from the first 2 games (all levels) of the season for Head Boys Basketball Coach
3. Suspension from the 2nd game of the season (all levels) for the Assistant Boys Basketball Coach
4. Suspension from the 3rd game of the season (all levels) for the Assistant Boys Basketball Coach.
5. Completion of Coaching Module 5 - CIAC Rules and Regulations by **November 29, 2023**
6. Completion of Coaching Module 19 - Impact of Ethical Standards on Youth by **November 29 2023.**
7. The boys basketball coaches will communicate to their programs parents/guardians in the form of a letter taking ownership and acknowledging how the decision to violate the CT out of season rule compromised the boys basketball program, the athletics department and the district. The conversation with student-athletes and families will center around ethical practices and expectations. This letter needs to be approved by the Athletic Director and Principal by **November 30, 2023.**
8. The meeting with the boys basketball program and their families will occur on **December 4, 2023** at approximately 7:30pm in a room TBD at MHS.

We take the rules and regulations of the CIAC very seriously and accept full responsibility for this violation.



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Sincerely,

Elisha De Jesus

Director of Athletics & Student Activities
Director of Physical Education & Health
Middletown Public Schools

Dr. Dawn E. Brooks

Principal

Middletown High School

cc: Mr. Marco Garylord, Director of Operations - Middletown Public Schools
Dr. Dawn Brooks, Principal - Middletown High School
File.



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30 Realty Drive
Cheshire, CT 06410

November 21, 2023

Dear Dr. Lungarini & Mr. Simon,

It is with great embarrassment that I have to write this letter of self report to the CIAC and its Board of Control.

On the evenings of October 23, 2023 and October 25, 2023 between the hours of 6pm-8pm, our MHS girls basketball head coach, Rob Smernoff and one of our MHS assistant girls basketball coach, Taylor Nkonoki held what was supposed to be strength and conditioning sessions with MHS students that played on the girls basketball team last year and students that had intention of playing on the girls basketball team this year.

On October 31, 2023 at 7:30am, I had been told by a staff member that the MHS gym doors and the MHS weight room door had been left unlocked the night before. In an effort to make sure our safety protocols were being followed, I started looking at our video surveillance cameras from both days to find out who was responsible for leaving the doors unlocked.

Unfortunately, what I saw was in direct violation of the CIAC out of season rule. Our MHS girls basketball coaches provided basketballs to the team to shoot around and play pick up in an open gym atmosphere while the coaches watched.

Once I found out about the violation, the strength and conditioning sessions for the Girls basketball team were canceled until further notice.

As the Athletic Director, I review the CIAC regulations including the out of season rule with all of our coaches during our preseason meetings. Our coaches sign off on our Coaches Handbook where regulations and policies are stated.

On November 17, 2023 and November 20, 2023, the MPS Manager of Human Resources, the MPS Director of Operations and I held a fact finding meeting with Coach Rob Smernoff and



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Coach Taylor Nkonoki individually. During these meetings Coach Smernoff admitted to violating the CIAC Out of Season rule and admitted to knowing that what they were doing was a violation. The assistant coach admitted to running an open gym but only because the head coach told her that all procedures had been followed. Our assistant coach does not work in the building and there is really no way of her knowing if all procedures had been followed.

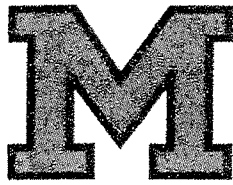
As a district we have taken internal disciplinary actions by doing the following:

1. Letter of discipline in each coach's employee file.
2. Suspension from the first 2 games of the season (all levels) for the Head Girls Basketball Coach.
3. Completion of Coaching Module 5 - CIAC Rules and Regulations by **November 27, 2023**
4. Completion of Coaching Module 19 - Impact of Ethical Standards on Youth by **November 27, 2023.**
5. The girls basketball coaches (Rob Smernoff & Taylor Nkonoki) will communicate to their programs parents/guardians in the form of a letter taking ownership and acknowledging how the decision to violate the CT out of season rule compromised the boys basketball program, the athletics department and the district. The conversation with student-athletes and families will center around ethical practices and expectations. This letter needs to be approved by the Athletic Director and Principal by **November 29, 2023.**
6. The meeting with the girls basketball program and their families will occur on **November 30, 2023** at approximately 4:45pm in a room TBD at MHS.

We take the rules and regulations of the CIAC very seriously and accept full responsibility for this violation.

Sincerely,

Elisha De Jesus
Director of Athletics & Student Activities
Director of Physical Education & Health
Middletown Public Schools



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Dr. Dawn E. Brooks

Principal

Middletown High School

cc: Mr. Marco Garylord, Director of Operations - Middletown Public Schools
Dr. Dawn Brooks, Principal - Middletown High School
File.

Monday December 4th, 2023

Dear Mr. Greg Simon & CIAC Board of Control,

This letter is to self-report what we believe to be a violation of CIAC rule "5.6.1 Scrimmage." The rule states "Teams must have a minimum of three (3) days of practice prior to scheduling any interscholastic activity."

On Saturday December 2nd, our boys' basketball Head Coach Lamar Kennedy, held a scrimmage with a team from out-of-state. This was the second day of our Boys Basketball season. Our team was unable to start on Thursday, November 30th because of a district wide emergency early dismissal due to a water issue. Additionally, this scrimmage was not planned with or communicated to, the Athletic Director or building Principal. The team was only scheduled to hold practice from 10am to 12pm. Once informed of the violation, we immediately began investigating. Our Athletic Director returned to the gymnasium and saw the out-of-state team present, along with other members of the community. A review of the gymnasium's security cameras confirmed this, and showed aspects of Rule 5.6.1 that defines a scrimmage:

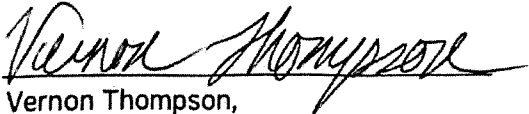
- Officials were used
- Scores were kept by quarter

After further investigation, we have found that no other CIAC rule violations have occurred. However, Mr. Kennedy did not follow building procedures to notify the building Athletic Director or Principal, resulting in no Athletic Trainer present and no Security personnel present.

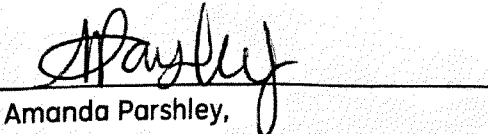
We have taken the action of suspending Mr. Kennedy from all basketball-related activities until we receive correspondence from the CIAC. At that time, Mr. Kennedy will be required to attend a meeting to review our athletics protocols. Further, Mr. Kennedy's use of the building on Saturdays will be limited to when other activities are being held in the building.

Please advise on any further action that must be taken due to this rule violation and if there are any further questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Vernon Thompson,
Principal



Amanda Parshley,
Building Athletic Director





CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF ATHLETIC DIRECTORS, INC.

30 REALTY DRIVE - CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT 06410 - (203) 651-3921 FAX (203) 250-1345

To: CIAC Girls & Boys Lacrosse Committee

From: CAAD

Date: October 27, 2023

Proposal - The CIAC Boys & Girls Lacrosse expand from 3 to 4 divisions.

Rationale:

- *More Teams - There are 17 more Boys teams than in 2010 and 19 more Girls teams than in 2011 (first year of 3 brackets).*
- *Too many "Qualifying" games - 2023 (18 Girls, 16 Boys). Moving to 4 divisions would reduce the number of play in games drastically. Would be beneficial for teams to feel like they have made the state tournament instead of feeling like they still have to "qualify".*
- *Avoid Memorial Day weekend impact - With the national girls lacrosse tournament along with community events, family obligations, etc., reducing the need for play during this weekend would be beneficial for communities and families alike. 1st Round games could start Tuesday or Wednesday after Memorial Day*
- *Allow for preparation time - Student athletes work all season to earn a spot in the state tournament and then some have less than 24 hours between their final conference game and their state tournament game eliminating the opportunity to prepare properly for an opponent. This diminishes the importance of the tournament.*
- *Provide additional programs an opportunity for success - In sports where similar teams are represented year in and year out in the later rounds of the tournament, this will provide additional teams an opportunity for elevated success, which can lead to further investment and excitement surrounding the sport.*