

# 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.

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*Thursday, May 4, 2023*

8:30 a.m. Call to Order

### 1.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 1.1 Review and Approval – CIAC Board of Control Minutes – March 30, 2023
- 1.2 Treasurer's Report
- 1.3 Letter of Self-Report – North Haven High School – Seven Day Practice Rule – Baseball
- 1.4 Letter of Self-Report – Bulkeley High School – Use of Ineligible Player – Boys Volleyball
- 1.5 By-law Change – 6.0 Eligibility – 6.9 Changing Teams
- 1.6 By-law Change – Article 8 – Eligibility – Section B – Eligibility Review Board

### 2.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 2.1 Executive Director Update – Glenn Lungarini
- 2.2 CIAC Football Committee Decision to Play on Turf
- 2.3 CAAD Golf Proposal – Adding two Matches to the Schedule
- 2.4 SWC Proposal – Fall Start Date

### 3.0 CONSULTANT REPORTS

- |                                       |                               |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 3.1 CAS – Mike Litke                  | 3.6 Unified Sports – Bob Hale |
| 3.2 CAPSS – Greg Shugrue              | 3.7 CAAD – VJ Sarullo         |
| 3.3 CABA                              | 3.8 CHSCA – Joe Canzanella    |
| 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 – 5 cases - 5 denied
- 4.2 Eligibility Review Board – 3 cases – 3 denied
- 4.3 Cooperative Team Committee – Meeting May 10

### 5.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

### 6.0 STAFF REPORTS

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 6.1 Matt Fischer | 6.5 Henry Rondon    |
| 6.2 John Holt    | 6.6 Pat O'Neil      |
| 6.3 Joe Velardi  | 6.7 Gregg Simon     |
| 6.4 Dan Scavone  | 6.8 Glenn Lungarini |

### 7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Including Invited CIAC Staff

**CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS, INC.**  
**CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE**

**TREASURER REPORT**

**As of March 31, 2023**

1. THE CAS CHECKING AND MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS HAVE A COMBINED BALANCE OF \$624,846 AT 03/31/23 COMPARED TO \$835,405 AT 03/31/22.
2. THE CAS RESERVE ACCOUNT HAS A BALANCE OF \$1,893,952 AT 03/31/23 COMPARED TO \$1,785,112 AT 03/31/22.
3. THE CAS FOUNDATION CHECKING AND MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS HAVE A COMBINED BALANCE OF \$308,456 AT 03/31/23 COMPARED TO \$251,938 AT 03/31/22.
4. THE CAS FOUNDATION INVESTMENT ACCOUNT HAS A BALANCE OF \$2,631,795 AT 03/31/23 COMPARED TO \$2,817,405 AT 03/31/22.

# CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

March 30, 2023

**Present:** John Holt, Gregg Simon, Henry Rondon, Glenn Lungarini, Vincent DeNuzzo, Chris Eckert, Ralph Mayo, Erin Guarino, VJ Sarullo, Stacy Butkus, Kim Longobucco, Gary Franklin, Dana Mulligan, TJ Salutari, Bob Hale, Dave Eustis, Greg Shugrue, Fred Balsamo, Karen Packtor, Nadine Gannon, Dan Scavone, Kate Lawson, Miguel Pickering, Dana Paredes, Matt Ryan, Jim Wygonik, Damian Frassinelli, Dane Brown, Joe Canzanella

8:30 a.m. Call to Order

## 1.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 1.1 Review and Approval – CIAC Board of Control Minutes – February 16, 2023  
Eustis motion / Mulligan second / minutes approved
- 1.2 Treasurer's Report – Lungarini in place of Cipriano (traveling)  
Eckert motion / DeNuzzo second / report approved
- 1.3 Letter of Self-Report – Old Saybrook High School – Use of Ineligible Athlete – Boys Soccer  
OS used ineligible player for multiple games. OS was Class S State Champion in Boys Soccer. Letter from school details what they plan to put in place to prevent this in the future. Discussion ensued.  
Pickering motion \$500 fine / 2 years of probation - / Franklin second – motion passes with one abstention

## 2.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 2.1 Executive Director Update – Glenn Lungarini – Don't see any further education committee meetings at legislature. Watching athletic fields bill and task force that's been formed to examine health and safety in athletics (not just CIAC). CAS-CIAC contingent visited Washington D.C. on March 29 for Capitol Hill visit, and student advocacy day.
- 2.2 By-law Change – 6.0 Eligibility – 6.9 Changing Teams – Simon – in process of vetting language change to bylaws. (re: eligibility / changing teams)
- 2.3 Out-of-Season Committee Update - DeNuzzo/Lungarini – 2 proposals received (FCIAC and CAAD/CHSCA proposals), weighed against 13 areas of concern. Potential out of season changes to two areas: 1) Summer 2) Within school year. Every member school will be surveyed on the potential to change out of season coaching rules.
- 2.4 Waterbury Career Academy – Locker Room Incident – Mohegan Sun – Lungarini – After winning Div. III state championship, WCA doused locker room with sparkling cider, \$1,000 worth of damage. WCA principal and AD were notified and were apologetic. WCA will pay the bill and will receive warning letter from CIAC.
- 2.5 Hall of Honor – April 6, 2023 – Simon – reminder that 2023 Hall of Honor event will happen next week. Class of six – Armand Fabbri, Dr. Karissa Niehoff, Joe Tonelli, Dr. Robert Lehr, Mike Rafferty and Lou Pear.

## 3.0 CONSULTANT REPORTS

- 3.1 CAS – Mike Litke – n/a
- 3.2 CAPSS – Greg Shugrue - Commend CIAC staff on hosting wonderful basketball championships. Want to commend Bob Hale and Unified Sports staff for Unified halftime games. CAPSS continues to monitor legislative session, particularly bills with unfunded mandates.
- 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 – Hale 18 teams played 8 games at Mohegan. Kristie Kaminski put together a great video wrap up. 25 basketball tournaments in 3 weeks. Working on a federal grant for next year.

- 3.7 CAAD - Sarullo Just concluded successful annual conference in Rocky Hill. Thanks to Fred Balsamo for coordinating the conference, highlighted by the banquet. Spring season starting Saturday.
- 3.8 CHSCA – Canzanella Have honored over 400 winter student athletes at banquets. Ice hockey, girls and boys basketball banquets still to come. Hall of Fame event is set for May 11.
- 3.9 Officials – Scavone Officials just finished rules committee meetings for spring sports. Been a good thing to have them on Zoom and available to watch/review at later time. Lacrosse has instituted 2 new policies – Opt Up option (2 boys schools have opted up - Wilton and New Canaan ) - 2 year commitment, Lax Numbers (mathematical algorithm) instituted for girls and boys lacrosse state tournament seeding. Lacrosse back to Sacred Heart for state finals. Boys games on Saturday, girls games on Sunday.

#### 4.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 4.1 Eligibility Committee – 4 cases - 1 approved / 3 denied
- 4.2 Eligibility Review Board – 1 case - denied
- 4.3 Cooperative Team Committee

#### 5.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

#### 6.0 STAFF REPORTS

- 6.1 Matt Fischer – n/a
- 6.2 John Holt – Video storytelling continues as does production of Hall of Honor videos. Will further consider who is credentialed for CIAC basketball championships (Instagram creators, etc.)
- 6.3 Joe Velardi – n/a
- 6.4 Dan Scavone - n/r
- 6.5 Henry Rondon – Baseball, softball, track meetings in recent days – strong attendance. Women in Leadership conference is May 17 at Cheshire High School.
- 6.6 Pat O’Neill - Sponsorship partners happy with exposure they received at championship events. Erin Guarino – things getting easier and smoother as we continue to work with outside venues for tournament games.
- 6.7 Gregg Simon - Successful winter championships, special thanks to Henry Rondon and Quinnipiac for how well hockey championships went. CIAC spoke at CAAD conference and that presentation included John Ramos from Bunnell High School speaking on Men of Color student group.
- 6.8 Glenn Lungarini – Been an increasing challenge to find high schools available and willing to host neutral site winter tournament games (semifinals, etc.)

#### 7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

Next meeting May 4

# NORTH HAVEN

221 Elm St, North Haven, CT 06473  
[Website](#) / [Daily Bulletin](#) / [Calendar](#)



# HIGH SCHOOL

Telephone Number: 203 239-1641  
Facsimile Number: 203 234-7436

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**Core Values and Beliefs:** *As a result of their experiences at North Haven High School, students become thoughtful, responsible, and independent members of a diverse global society. To achieve this goal, staff, students, parents, and the community create an atmosphere of mutual respect, shared responsibility, and support that encourages engagement within the school, community, and world.*

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RUSSELL J. DALLAI, EDD  
Principal

THOMAS J. BUSHNELL  
Assistant Principal (O-Z)

PATRICK H. LAWRENCE  
Assistant Principal (A-F)

KATHRYN RUSSO  
Assistant Principal (G-N)

STEVE BLUMENTHAL  
Athletic Director

Gregg Simon  
CIAC Board of Control  
30 Realty Drive  
Cheshire, CT 06410

April 17, 2023

## **Re: Self-Report of Team and Individual Practice Requirement Violation**

Dear Mr. Simon,

I am writing to self-report a violation of the 7-day practice rule, 5.6.G. by the North Haven High School baseball program.

As you know, Rule 5.6.G. states "No team/athlete shall practice/compete with their school more than six (6) consecutive days to provide a day of rest. Saturdays, Sundays and holidays may be used unless prohibited by local board policy." Unfortunately, our baseball team practiced seven days in a row recently.

Upon hearing about this potential violation, our Director of Athletics, Steve Blumenthal, contacted our new head baseball coach, Joe Romanelli. They discussed what had occurred, and Coach Romanelli put his explanation into writing:

"In regards to practicing 7 days last week, my thought process was to not have the players practice on Easter because I know most of the players celebrate that holiday. With this in mind and the consistent changes in our practice schedule the first week of the season due to cancellations of the Danbury game, I had an hour long light practice on Saturday morning to try and keep the boys fresh for our game on Monday. I did this instead of having two days off (Saturday and Sunday) especially now with the Danbury game moved to this Saturday and playing 4 games in 6 days. I now realize my error in this decision and I apologize. I will be more mindful in the future of the practice and game schedule of the week and not to practice 7 days consecutively."

As Coach Romanelli expressed personally and in writing, he will not make this mistake again and has learned from this situation. We appreciate his perspective, and we want you and the CIAC to know that we take very seriously this violation and our overall adherence to CIAC regulations.

Here is our plan to ensure that this mistake will not occur again:

- The head baseball coach will meet with the athletic director to review the CIAC Rule 5.6.G. and regularly to review general practices and any questions or issues the coach may have.
- The head coach of the baseball team will take CIAC Module 5, "CIAC Rules and Regulations."
- For the remainder of the 2023 spring season, the head coach will submit to the athletic director a practice plan for the upcoming week on the preceding Thursday.
- All preseason meetings with head coaches and sub-varsity coaches for all sports will continue to explain and reinforce CIAC rules and regulations.
- All new coaches will take CIAC Module 5, "CIAC Rules & Regulations" as a pre-employment requirement, in addition to other district professional development trainings.
- The athletic director will propose a professional development cycle with refresher training to keep coaches informed and updated on regulations, laws, and best practices. This PD cycle will include CIAC Module 5, "CIAC Rules & Regulations".

I appreciate your attention to this matter and apologize for the violation. Learning that this violation occurred was disappointing. The North Haven High School administration and athletic department hold ourselves to high standards. We will take the concrete steps defined above to ensure this error is not repeated. We welcome your feedback on this plan and input into making this situation right.

Sincerely,



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Russell J. Dallai, Ed.D.  
Principal  
North Haven High School



**Leslie Torres-Rodriguez Ed. D**  
**Superintendent**

**Matthew Espinosa, Acting Principal**  
**Bulkeley High School**



**Ms. Brooke Lafreniere**  
Assistant Principal

**Mr. Charles Buder**  
Assistant Principal

**Ms. Monique Frasier**  
Assistant Principal

**Mr. Justin Nolan**  
Assistant Principal

4/28/23

Mr. Simon,

Bulkeley High School is formally sending to the CIAC Board of Control a letter of self-report for a player that was academically ineligible for the 2<sup>nd</sup> marking period.

Tidy Joy is a member of the Bulkeley/SMSA Boys' Volleyball Cooperative team. When the 2<sup>nd</sup> marking period grades were checked for eligibility, an oversight was made as he did not pass 4 classes. He was given the green light to participate and play from the Athletic Director Diane Callis, as she determines the eligibility for all of our athletes. The oversight was recognized when the 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period grades were checked for all the athletes. We immediately notified the CIAC and did not allow Tidy to compete until he was cleared by CIAC. Tidy is now eligible with his 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period grades as he is getting support due to some home issues during marking period 2. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> marking period, the team played 5 games. Please see the schools, dates and results below. We understand that we will have to forfeit our wins during that time.

April 4<sup>th</sup> vs Rockville - loss 3-0  
April 6<sup>th</sup> vs Putnam - win 3-1  
April 12<sup>th</sup> vs Maloney - loss 3-0  
April 13<sup>th</sup> vs NFA - loss 3-1  
April 17<sup>th</sup> vs Innovation - win 3-0

As we continue to strive for excellence within our athletic program, we will take additional steps to ensure that grades are being looked at diligently. With cooperative programs, we can use the resource of our partner school AD to make sure we are checking and double checking. Bulkeley High School Athletic Department has worked hard with their student-athletes with behavior, sportsmanship and their academics as we have had a "C" rule in effect for many years. We as adults don't like to make these mistakes as we only hurt our student-athletes and the teams they are on.

Thank you for your understanding of this matter.

Sincerely,

Matthew Espinosa  
Principal, BHS

***Once a bulldog, always a bulldog***

## Current Language

### 6.0 Eligibility

#### 6.9 CHANGING TEAMS

An athlete may change sports up to the date of the first scheduled varsity contest in the sport he/she wishes to leave. However, an athlete may NOT change teams or sports after the first scheduled varsity contest in the sport he/she is leaving, even if athletic eligibility has not been declared.

## Suggested Language

### 6.0 Eligibility

#### 6.9 CHANGING TEAMS

An athlete may change sports up to the date of the first scheduled varsity contest in the sport he/she wishes to leave. However, an athlete may NOT change teams or sports ***once that student has participated in a contest at any level or seven days*** after the first scheduled varsity contest in the sport he/she is leaving.