

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, November 9, 2023

9:00 a.m. Call to Order

1.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 1.1 Review and Approval – CIAC Board of Control Minutes – October 12, 2023
- 1.2 Treasurer's Report
- 1.3 Fairfield Public Schools – Sunday Play – Ice Hockey
- 1.4 CIAC Cooperative Teams – Opt Out Approval
 - * Fairfield Ice Hockey
 - * Eastern Connecticut Eagles
- 1.5 CAAD / CHSCA Out-of-Season Coaching Committee Proposal
- 1.6 CT High School Football Alliance Proposal

2.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 2.1 Executive Director Update – Glenn Lungarini
- 2.2 FCIAC Proposal – Change in Start Date – Boys Basketball – Update
- 2.3 CAAD Boys and Girls Lacrosse Proposal – Expand from three to four divisions

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 Nissan | 3.9 Officials – Dan Scavone |
| 3.5 CATA – Mark Aceto | |

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 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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

Thursday, October 12, 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, Kate Lawson, Dana Parades, Matt Ryan, Jim Wygonik, Pat O'Neill, Joe Velardi, Chris Cipriano, Greg Shugrue, Gray Franklin, Erin Guarino, Kristen St. Germain, Amanda Forcucci, Jessica Testani, Len Corto, Kristie Kaminski

9:00 a.m. Call to Order

1.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 1.1 Review and Approval – CIAC Board of Control Minutes – September 14, 2023
Cipriano motion, Franklin second. Minutes approved.
- 1.2 Treasurer's Report – (Chris Cipriano) Eckert motion to approve, Longobucco second. Report approved.
- 1.3 Letter of Self-Report – The Morgan School – Volleyball
 - A) Volleyball athlete transferred from Middletown and participated in 4 junior varsity matches as ineligible athlete. Did not sit out required time. Morgan wrote detailed letter. Longobucco motion for \$400 fine (\$100 per match), St. Germain second. Motion passes.
 - B) Motion to reinstate athlete immediately Wygonik, Eckert second. Motion passes
- 1.4 Letter of Self-Report – East Lyme High School – Girls Swimming & Diving
Ineligible varsity swimmer competed in 4 meets. Athlete was out of 8 semester eligibility. East Lyme has new Athletic Director who would have been unfamiliar with returning athletes. Eckert motion to fine school \$400 (\$100 per meet) and require AD to take module 5, Wygonik second. Motion passes.

East Lyme asking for medical waiver to compete for missing significant school time in 2021 school year, only receiving 1.375 credits. Cipriano motion to make student eligible if Eligibility Review Board grants 5th year, Lawson second. Motion passes.
- 1.5 Eligibility Issue – Transfer from Hawaii – Woodstock Academy student-athlete transferred in after fires in Hawaii, but parents continue to live in Hawaii. In-person learning was not guaranteed at his Hawaii High School. Woodstock requesting that he be granted immediate eligibility for basketball season.
Wygonik motion to grant immediate eligibility, Mayo second. Motion passes.
- 1.6 Vo-Ag Schools Proposal - Classified as Schools of Choice – Group of Vo-Ag schools asking for School of Choice designation to be removed for Vo-Ag schools. Eckert motion to form committee to review CIAC's school of choice designation, Franklin second. Motion passes.
- 1.7 FCIAC Proposal – Start Date of Boys Basketball – FCIAC requesting that boys basketball season begins (earlier) on same date as girls basketball. Would also align the boys and girls basketball tournaments as 3 weeks in length. Wygonik Motion to send to Girls and Boys Basketball Committees to review this proposal, Mayo second. Motion passes.
- 1.8 F-1 Visa Request – The Gilbert School – Request to review how F-1 Visa rules impact schools with small enrollments. Current rule says students with F-1 Visas must sit out first year and can participate for a total of just two years. Eckert motion for F-1 Visa subcommittee to be formed to review the rule, St. Germain second. Motion passes.

- 2.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - 2.1 Executive Director Update – Glenn Lungarini –
 - Investigation going on regarding recruitment, should be complete soon.
 - Meeting next week with statewide athletic directors will walk them through new CIAC website
 - 2.2 Out-of-Season Coaching Committee Update
 - Proposal out for vetting from member schools for feedback. Survey (one vote per school) will be sent out soon to represent opinion of school community to allow restricted opportunities to coach during summer months.
- 3.0 CONSULTANT REPORTS
 - 3.1 CAS – Amy Yost – n/a
 - 3.2 CAPSS - Gregg Shugrue - n/r
 - 3.3 CABA – n/a
 - 3.4 Sports Medicine –Dr. Carl Nissen
 - 3.5 CATA – Marc Aceto – (Jessica Testani) – Held recent emergency practice skill session in Meriden for athletic trainers. 18 schools represented.
 - 3.6 Unified Sports – Bob Hale – Busy with soccer and cornhole tournaments starting, will host Unified youth leaders on Saturday for statewide meeting, looking forward to Youth Leadership Summit in Rocky Hill on Nov. 1. Coginchaug High School has received \$95,000 grant to do an exchange with Unified team in Panama.
 - 3.7 CAAD – VJ Sarullo – CAAD held new AD workshop via zoom yesterday, 2 day PD opportunity for ADs to be held at the start of November
 - 3.8 CHSCA – Len Corto – Thanks CIAC and others for condolences on sudden passing of Joe Canzanella, and CIAC for obtaining a proclamation from General Assembly recognizing Joe's passing, National Coaches Day was on Oct. 6, Hall of Fame Class for 23-24 was presented at UConn football game 2 weeks ago vs. Utah State, UConn also paid tribute to Joe Canzanella, CHSCA adding an ESports All-State Banquet in June, Updating Committees with CIAC staff.
 - 3.9 Officials – Dan Scavone – CIAC has partnered with Timing is Everything to have training sessions on implementation of shot clock, CIAC has put together a written document for shot clock operation, and NFHS has supplied video on shot clock use.
Language now in place that basketball player charged with technical foul must leave floor for at least one tick of the clock. Document developed around this.
- 4.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - 4.1 Eligibility Committee - 4 Cases – 3 Denied / 1 Approved
 - 4.2 Eligibility Review Board - 1 Case – 1 Approved
 - 4.3 Cooperative Team Committee - 43 Applications – 4 denied / 36 approved
2 moved to January / 1 moved to May
- 5.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
- 6.0 STAFF REPORTS
 - 6.1 Matt Fischer – n/r
 - 6.2 John Holt – 17th annual CIAC Sportsmanship Conference successfully held last week. Game of the Week continues on NFHS Network. CIAC Glory Days podcast has been launched.
 - 6.3 Joe Velardi – Acknowledges staff work put into Sportsmanship Conference, Sportsmanship Committee to meet next week with a focus to have leagues carry out messages from sportsmanship conference at their own league sportsmanship events. Swim sites all set for Girls Swimming State Championships – SCSU, Wesleyan, Yale and Cornerstone. First in season CIAC golf tournament at Orange Hills in September went very well
 - 6.4 Dan Scavone – New England council has approved first ever Girls Wrestling New England Championship in March in Rhode Island.
 - 6.5 Henry Rondon – Men of Color Conference coming up Oct. 25 at Berlin High School. Cross Country Class State Championships to be held Saturday October 28 at Wickham Park. Student boards helping schools with Class Act training.
 - 6.6 Pat O'Neil – Quinnipiac University will be presenting sponsor for ESports fall and spring championships. Working on some other sponsorships.
 - 6.7 Gregg Simon – n/r
 - 6.8 Glenn Lungarini - First episode of Glory Days podcast is out. PD next Tuesday with Jethro Jones on artificial intelligence and education.
- 7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS, INC.
CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

TREASURER REPORT

Preliminary as of October 31, 2023

1. THE CAS CHECKING, SAVINGS AND MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS HAVE A COMBINED BALANCE OF \$1,095,547 AT 10/31/23 COMPARED TO \$1,052,672 AT 10/31/22.
2. THE CAS RESERVE ACCOUNT HAS A BALANCE OF \$1,826,257 AT 10/31/23 COMPARED TO \$1,580,153 AT 10/31/22.
3. THE CAS FOUNDATION CHECKING, SAVINGS AND MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS HAVE A COMBINED BALANCE OF \$280,403 AT 10/31/23 COMPARED TO \$355,743 AT 10/31/22.
4. THE CAS FOUNDATION INVESTMENT ACCOUNT HAS A BALANCE OF \$2,577,301 AT 10/31/23 COMPARED TO \$2,471,264 AT 10/31/22.

Fairfield Public Schools



Thursday, October 24, 2023

Subject: Fairfield Public Schools Boys Hockey Program

Dear CIAC,

Please accept this letter as a formal request for the Fairfield Boys Co-Op Hockey team to host the Darien Boys Hockey team on Sunday, January 7, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at the Martire Hockey Arena at Sacred Heart University.

The Martire Hockey Arena is the home facility for the Fairfield Hockey programs and due to limited ice time availability and a number of other conflicts for both schools, this date and time best fit the schedules of both schools and was mutually agreed upon by both the Fairfield and Darien athletic departments.

Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paul A. Cavanna".

Paul A. Cavanna
Head Principal, FWHS

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dr. Greg Hatzis".

Dr. Greg Hatzis
Head Principal, FLHS

Cc: Gina Digiacomio, Athletic Director, FWHS
Todd Parness, Athletic Director, FLHS

To: CIAC Out of Season Committee

From: CHSCA & CAAD

Date: August 17, 2023

Re: Resubmission of Recommendations for Change to the CIAC Out of Season By Law

The CHSCA and the CAAD have collaborated on this joint proposal to address the growing concern from athletic directors, coaches, and school districts about the competitive and inequitable divide between communities that have significant financial resources and those that do not. To this end, we are offering 3 different proposals that will allow some restricted summer coaching opportunities for all communities as well as further clarify the existing rule.

Proposal 1 - To modify the CIAC Out of Season regulation to permit coaching in the summer on a restricted basis as follows:

Member schools' coaches may allow their coaches to coach their member school athletes during the summer months beginning on the Monday following the designated spring state championship weekend (Prior to Decathlon) and concludes no later than the second Saturday of August provided ALL the following conditions are adhered to:

- a. Coaching is restricted to no more than 2 days per week per sport.
- b. **Each day may not exceed 2 total hours of practice time per day OR the amount of time needed to complete an official single game/contest. (Note: Multi-contest events, round robin tournaments, double header games, etc. are not permitted)**
- c. Although NOT required, coaches may receive compensation provided it is not directly or indirectly derived from fees charged to student-athletes. However, coaches may collect fees from member school student-athletes to cover administrative costs such as transportation, entry fees, Insurance, officials, Etc.
- d. Any person providing instruction during this summer activity must hold a valid State of Connecticut coaching permit.
- e. Any summer activities conducted by member schools, or their coaches cannot be mandatory for their student-athletes.
- f. School Districts may allow the use of school equipment, transportation, and insurance ONLY for these 2 per week activities.
- g. None of the above exception/conditions may be used in any other part of the existing restrictions for the out of season summer regulation.
- h. Note: In the sport of football full contact is prohibited.

Rationale – Over time the CIAC summer regulations have contributed to a competitive divide in our state. School districts that have greater financial resources at their disposal create greater opportunity in the summer months thus creating is an imbalance in the preparation of our athletes for the CIAC sports seasons. Although this proposal provides opportunity for all schools, it takes into account the integration of summer programs that already exist and are being utilized by just those schools with the resources. This proposal will provide equal access to athletes and opportunities among ALL CIAC member schools thus leveling the playing field.

Proposal 2 – All language in 2.1e (4) dealing with summer clubs be removed from the out of season regulation.

Rationale – This language is very often misunderstood and is intended for

activities that require a family membership such as a country club. This rule has benefited school districts that have greater financial resources at their disposal, this does not stand up to a modern-day equity lens.

Proposal 3 – Modify the Language in 2.2a (7) to read “A member school coach working in the camp as a volunteer, employee or employer during the summer or portion thereof, may not coach their athletes at any time during that camp.

Rationale – The elimination of the wording in 2.2a (7) designating 10% of the attendees better clarifies the intent of this rule and it will allow an entire team to attend without consequences if all other camp regulations are followed. This camp rule has very often been misinterpreted and has benefited school districts that have greater financial resources at their disposal. Additionally, there is has never been sufficient way to substantiate the 10 % attendance portion of the rule.

Questions and Answers to help interpret this Rule

Q. May a coach continue to have conditioning workouts in addition to two practice sessions per week?

A. Yes, provided that the established restrictions for conditioning are followed.

Q. May more than 1 coach on the same sport staff each coach a different session 2 days per week?

A. No, the 2 day per week is PER SPORT, not per coach.

Q. May a member school coach enter the entire member school team in a summer league and coach them in that summer league?

A. Yes, provided the summer league begins after the Monday following the end of the spring sports and concludes no later than the second Saturday of August AND the total number of games or practices per week does not exceed 2 sessions that are no more than 2 hours each (**OR the amount of time needed to complete an official single game/contest**) AND the coach does not receive compensation directly or indirectly from fees charged to the student-athletes.

Q. May a member school coach host their own camp during the summer months?

A. Yes, provided it begins after the Monday following the end of the spring sports and concludes no later than the second Saturday of August AND the total sessions per week does not exceed 2 sessions that are no more than 2 hours each AND the coach does not receive compensation directly or indirectly from fees charged to the student-athletes.

Q. May a member school coach hold 2 events/ practice sessions per week on the same day?

A. Yes, provided the accumulated time does not exceed 2 hours per day. However, a coach may not host a second session of 2 hours in the same day in the same sport. Also, an athlete may attend a second session for a different sport on the same day.

Q. Does the 2 days per week have to be the same 2 days each week?

A. No, the days can be different each week which would better accommodate multi-sport athletes. The start of each week begins on Sunday.

Q. May a member school basketball coach who has been coaching a non-school team with only 3 players from his member school eligibility list on the non-school roster now coach their entire team on the non-school team?

A. Yes, provided the summer Team activities begins after the Monday following the end of the spring sports and concludes no later than the second Saturday of August AND the total number of games or practices per week does not exceed 2 sessions that are no more than 2 hours each **(OR the amount of time needed to complete an official single game/contest)** AND the coach does not receive compensation directly or indirectly from fees charged to the student-athletes.

Q. May a member school coach host or take their entire team to a camp for 1 week during July and coach their member school athletes?

A. No, this proposed "coaching in the summer" language does not carry over to the camp regulation which have restrictions which has always prohibited this.

Q. May a member school coach host other member school programs, joint practices, games, or scrimmages as long as they follow all the parameters of the 2 per week summer rule?

A. Yes, teams may get together for instruction, practice, and competition however in the sport of football full contact is prohibited.

Q. If my member school administration will allow summer coaching but will not fund insurance, how do I protect myself and my student athletes?

A. Coaches who coach in the summer independent of the member school can be covered by liability insurance as a member of the CHSCA and can also purchase student accident insurance for a minimal amount per athlete.

Q. May a member school, their coach or their booster club collect funds from their student-athletes for the purpose of covering the administrative costs such as registration, transportation, or insurance for these allowable 2 per week summer activities?

- A. Yes, provided none of the funds collected will be paid to the coach, and funds collected are used specifically for the 2 per week permissible activities outlined above and the funds cannot be collected for weeklong camps or clinics which have those restrictions.
- Q. As a member school coach, I work at a summer camp where my student-athletes attend. May I coach them during the camp?
- A. Proposal #1 does not permit two rules specific to the summer to intersect and under proposal #3 a coach would have to make sure someone else working that camp coaches their athletes in attendance in addition to the other requirements specified in Rule 2.2a (1-6).
- Q. In the question above can an individual coach their member school athletes at a weeklong camp for only 2 days of that camp?
- A. No, this new proposed summer coaching rule that allows a coach to coach 2 days per week cannot be mixed or comingled with an existing rule that prohibits coaching.
- Q. May a coach still coach a non-school team as described in Rule 2.1(3a) (with X amount -50% rounded up of players with eligibility remaining for team sports)?
- A. If the non-school team operates during the summer months as defined in this proposal, then the X formula does not have to be followed and the coach can coach their entire team as long as the program is limited to no more than twice a week for no more than 2 hours each day(**OR the amount of time needed to complete an official single game/contest**) . It starts after the Monday following the end of the spring championships and concludes no later than the second Saturday of August and the coach is not being compensated from funds directly or indirectly from the student-athletes. If the non-school team operates during the school year (September-June), then the answer is yes but the number of athletes with eligibility remaining must comply with rule 2.1(3a).
- Q. What if an individual coaches more than 1 sport?
- A. The limitations are 2 days a week per sport, therefore a coach would be able to have events twice a week for each different sport provided each session is for no more than 2 hours each day(**OR the amount of time needed to complete an official single game/contest**). It starts after the Monday following the end of the spring championships and concludes no later than the second Saturday of August and the coach is not being compensated from funds directly or indirectly from the student-athletes.
- Q. May incoming 9th graders participate in the 2 per week summer activities?
- A. Yes, by CIAC rule a student enters grade 9 once they graduate from the eighth grade at the close of school in June.

- Q. May a coach decide to coach a summer non-school team using the X factor in the existing CIAC rule 2.1(3a) with the prescribed number of student-athletes with eligibility remaining on that non-school team roster AND also conduct team activities twice a week?
- A. No, the addition of this new rule does not allow the comingling of 2 different summer regulations, The coach may do one or the other but not both.
- Q. May a coach decide to coach a summer non-school team using the X factor in the existing CIAC rule 2.1(3a) with the prescribed number of student-athletes with eligibility remaining on that non-school team roster AND also conduct team activities twice a week?
- A. No, the addition of this new rule does not allow the comingling of different summer regulations. The coach may do one or the other but not both, however, keep in mind the coach may coach their entire member school team on a non-school team as long as it begins after the Monday following the end of the spring sports and concludes no later than the second Saturday of August AND the total number of games or practices per week does not exceed 2 sessions that are no more than 2 hours each day (**OR the amount of time needed to complete an official single game/contest**) AND the coach does not receive compensation directly or indirectly from fees charged to the student-athletes. Furthermore, it would be permissible for a member school coach to coach a non-school as long as none of their member school athletes on that non-school roster.

New Questions 8/17.23

Q. - May a coach schedule 1 practice day per week for 2 hours and also schedule a single (1) game/contest on another day in that same week?

A. - Yes, and the day of the scheduled single (1) game, the time is not bound by the 2 hour limitation.

Q. - May a coach continue to perform their duties during an official game/contest if there is an overtime situation?

A. - Yes, provided it was a scheduled single (1) game/contest.

Q.- May a baseball coach hold a practice session equivalent to the amount of time it would take to complete a 7 inning game?

A. - No, a practice session cannot exceed 2 hours per day.

Q. - May a coach exceed the 2 hour limitation if they are engaged in a scrimmage?

A. - No, only an official single game can exceed the 2 hour limitation.

commissioner southernconnecticutconference.org

Tue, Nov 7, 6:51 PM (14 hours ago)

to Glenn, me, Fred, chscaevents@outlook.com, Mark, James

Good evening Glenn –

We understand there is a CIAC Board of Control meeting this Thursday and we know that the Alliance's football scheduling proposal, dated October 19, may be discussed.

Since the Alliance submitted the proposal to the CIAC and CIAC Football Committee on October 19, it is apparent that the proposal's intent to start the conversation about Thanksgiving football, a nine-game season, and increased playoffs has been successful.

Unfortunately, that was not the main intent of the Alliance's proposal.

The Alliance, through its member league leaders, remains focus on its request to "have an appointed centralized group assume the role of scheduling high school football games in the state of Connecticut" and that this group schedule games within the classifications set up by the CIAC.

To this end, the Alliance members understand that this proposal should be taken in pieces; and discussing it as "a whole" will be too much. If the topic of a centralized scheduling within class sizes is discussed and moved forward, the Alliance will be willing participants in whatever the CIAC Board of Control deems appropriate -- whether that be a 1-year pilot, or a limited number of games scheduled at first. Regardless, the Alliance is ready to assist, and we are thrilled that conversations about how to make the sport of high school football even better are taking place.

We also know, based on the recent reaction and discussion (on all sides of the issue), from the various stakeholders in the Connecticut high school football community, that there will be much more to discuss about the sport and changes to it. Be assured, the Alliance stands ready to assist in any and every way we can.

As always, thank you for your interest and support of the Connecticut High School Football Alliance.

If you have additional questions, please let us know.

Best wishes,

Mark Berkowitz, SWC

Jim Buonocore, ECC

Al Carbone, SCC



Proposal to CIAC Football Committee – October 2023

Request:

Have an appointed centralized group assume the role of scheduling high school football games in the state of Connecticut.

Background:

With the recent move to six playoffs divisions for football, it is now clear that regular season scheduling needs a centralized force to oversee it. With more opportunities to qualify for the playoffs and more data available, it is imperative that schools play competitive like-minded schedules that assure their student-athletes get the best experience possible, and the best (and right) teams can earn qualification to the state playoffs.

While the Connecticut High School Football Alliance has had a profound impact with its goal to schedule competitive games in the regular season and generate excitement and interest in the sport, the time is right to start these important conversations.

Rationale:

Look at the Alliance: Since its formation in 2017, the Connecticut High School Football Alliance has grown to include six leagues and has scheduled more than 400 intra-league football games with the goal of providing competitive matchups based on empirical data that add excitement, interest, and credibility to the sport during the regular season. A statewide scheduling model will be the next step!

Consistency: A statewide scheduling model would put all eight high school football leagues on the same pattern for scheduling. No longer would teams, because they play in a certain league, be forced to have to play non-competitive games for the sake of “filling out a league schedule.”

For example – an SS team that plays in a league with larger schools (LL, L, etc.) should be able to play a majority of its games against like-sized opponents. And with no “league” championship games, and no league champion crowned any longer, leagues should be focused more on making sure teams play these types of games which are in the best interest of student-athletes, coaches and communities, rather than force feeding games against teams that are 2-3 times their size.

Fairness: It is much easier to compare teams by ranking in a class, and then set a schedule. Empirical data such as records, playoff appearances, but also squad size, starters/returning lettermen have become an important source of information as you compare teams. All of this important information will give this “centralized scheduling body” additional information to consider and enable this group to come up with consistent/fair schedules matching schools in the same, or similar divisions, against each other.

Flexibility. With the state, or centralized body, doing the scheduling for a majority of regular-season games (ex. scheduling 8 games and leaving the 9th date open for traditional rivalry matchups), it does leave the flexibility for teams to play their “traditional” league rivals and/or Thanksgiving opponents albeit on a different weekend.

New and Old Rivalries: While a statewide football scheduling model would still keep traditional rivalries intact to an extent, it will also be the catalyst to creating new ones that would bring interest to high school football programs and communities, especially in a small state like Connecticut where travel from one end to another is no more than two hours. Football’s once-a-week (Friday night/Saturday) schedule should be embraced and has little impact on academic schedules nor will it create school disruptions.

Moving the Sport High School Football Forward

Since the creation of the Connecticut High School Football Alliance with its six leagues and 100 schools participating (out of a total of 137), it is apparent that that there is group of invested, yet diplomatic high school athletic leaders who are interested in improving the sport of high school football.

As we saw with the collaborative effort of the Alliance to propose a strength-of-schedule playoff point structure, and this “centralized” schedule approach, there is also opportunity for the CIAC Football Committee to begin to look at several other factors such as increasing the playoff field to 12 teams– thus giving more teams the opportunity to compete in the postseason.

The Committee should also take the responsibility to look at the impact of “season limitations” in the sport of football.

- Questions like, how many regular-season games do you play? (we are proposing 9).
- Do you end the season earlier? (Connecticut is the latest-ending Region 1 state for the sport of football).
- What happens to Thanksgiving (we are proposing that it be included in the playoffs and those rivalry games get moved to Columbus Day Weekend)?

All of these questions and topics are vitally important, and the Alliance leadership is ready and willing to assist. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this proposal and move the sport of football forward in the state.



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.*

