

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, October 12, 2023

9:00 a.m. Call to Order

1.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 1.1 Review and Approval – CIAC Board of Control Minutes – September 14, 2023
- 1.2 Treasurer's Report
- 1.3 Letter of Self-Report – The Morgan School - Volleyball
- 1.4 Letter of Self-Report – East Lyme High School – Girls Swimming & Diving
- 1.5 Eligibility Issue – Transfer from Hawaii
- 1.6 Vo-Ag Schools Proposal - Classified as Schools of Choice
- 1.7 FCIAC Proposal – Start Date of Boys Basketball
- 1.8 F-1 Visa Request – The Gilbert School

2.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 2.1 Executive Director Update – Glenn Lungarini
- 2.2 Out-of-Season Coaching Committee 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 Nissan | 3.9 Officials – Dan Scavone |
| 3.5 CATA – Mark Aceto | |

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

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Present: John Holt, Gregg Simon, Glenn Lungarini, Vincent DeNuzzo, Chris Eckert, Ralph Mayo, Dan Donovan, VJ Sarullo, Stacy Butkus, Kim Longobucco, Dana Mulligan, TJ Salutari, Bob Hale, Fred Balsamo, Karen Packtor, Dan Scavone, Kate Lawson, Miguel Pickering, Dana Parades, Matt Ryan, Jim Wygonik, Joe Canzanella, Pat O'Neill, Joe Velardi, Chris Cipriano, Greg Shugrue, Gray Franklin, Amy Yost, Erin Guarino, Matthew Peel, Marc Aceto, Kristen St. Germain

9:00 a.m. Call to Order

Welcome and Introduction of New Board Members

1.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 1.1 Review and Approval – CIAC Board of Control Minutes – May 4, 2023
Cipriano motion, Eckert second. Motion passes.
- 1.2 Treasurer's Report
Mulligan motion, DeNuzzo second. Motion passes.
- 1.3 Sunday Play Requests
Foran High School – Girls Wrestling Tournament
ND Fairfield – 2 Sunday requests (playing ice hockey at SHU)
Darien H.S. and Staples H.S. – Pennsylvania field hockey –
Wygonik motion, Eckert second. Motion passes.

Bristol Eastern, East Lyme, Enfield and Canton – Sunday Volleyball in Mass.
Lawson motion, Franklin second. Motion passes.
- 1.4 Letter of Self-Report – Weaver High School – Baseball
2023 spring, academically ineligible baseball player, played in 4 games when grades were changed to passing.
Wygonik Motion for \$400 fine and have AD retake Module 5, Cipriano second. Motion passes.
- 1.5 Letter of Self-Report – Newtown High School – Football
Football scrimmage with Fairfield Ludlowe came before mandated 3 full days of practice
Both schools took full responsibility when questioned – Peel motion for \$250 fine, Salutari second.
Motion passes.
- 1.6 Letter of Self-Report – Fairfield Ludlowe High School – Football
Football scrimmage with Newtown came before mandated 3 full days of practice
Both schools took full responsibility when questioned – Peel motion for \$250 fine, Salutari second.
Motion passes.
- 1.7 Letter of Self-Report – East Hampton High School – Minimum Practice Days
Varsity boys soccer player for East Hampton had not met mandated 10 practice rule before playing in a game.
School takes full responsibility. Cipriano motion to accept letter with no fine, Mayo second. Motion passes.
- 1.8 Southwest Conference Proposal – Start Date of Fall Season
Fall season starts on a Thursday. SWC proposal to start on a Monday (or Tuesday if Labor Day). Proposal vetted by CAAD and CTHSA. Change would allow more time for state tournament to be played, tournament can start earlier and avoid potential 3 games in 5-day span. Franklin motion to approve, Wygonik seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

2.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

2.1 Executive Director Update – Glenn Lungarini

* Legislative – Mental Health – CAS-CIAC not currently in compliance at this time, proposal has been sent to CSDE since CSDE said they indicated they would take the lead. Only heard back from CSDE in August with expectation that CAS-CIAC do the work this school year. CAS-CIAC did not sign. Would have needed to know this much earlier, and CSDE has indicated previously they would take the lead.

* Program Evaluation – Anticipate by January that NEASC will adopt modified version of CIAC's athletic evaluation program.

* Home School Student Eligibility – Gaining more traction nationally. Has long been CIAC policy to not allow sports participation for home schooled students. CIAC will need to research topic further and whether home schooled students are participating with our member schools in other extracurricular ways.

* NFHS Game of the Week – Kicked off a program to highlight schools, \$50,000 grant from NFHS Network. George "The Coach" DeMaio the play by play voice to start this fall in football. Partnering with WELI radio and WWAX TV. Will expand to multiple sports in the winter and the fall.

* CIAC Podcast – One podcast will focus on how CIAC works with rules and policies

* Sport Safety Work Group – CIAC reviewing effectiveness of throat guards in hockey, but different overall work group to review sport safety has not been established. CIAC reviewing medical handbook to improve sport safety without legislative created work group.

2.2 CHSCA Basketball Proposal – Player charged with first technical must be removed from court for minimum of one (1) tick of the clock.

3.0 CONSULTANT REPORTS

3.1 CAS – Amy Yost – First CAS board meeting later today, recently had a new member orientation

3.2 CAPSS - Greg Shugrue - Sub committees for superintendents have been formulated to meet

3.3 CABE - n/a

3.4 Sports Medicine –Dr. Carl Nissen - n/a

3.5 CATA – Mark Aceto - Thanks to CIAC for recent communications about heat and weather

3.6 Unified Sports – Bob Hale – Making plans for soccer season and upcoming Youth Leadership Summit

Also welcoming 2 new staff members, Kathy Davey and Steve Trifone

3.7 CAAD – VJ Sarullo – Thanks board for the support and New AD workshop hosted by CIAC went well

First of series of Zoom meetings with new ADs held yesterday

3.8 CHSCA –Joe Canzanella – Scott Aresco – membership dues \$35, website for dinners going well, Hall of Fame

Sept. 30th at UConn/Utah State game. Next meeting Sept 29 at CIAC offices.

3.9 Officials – Dan Scavone - Attending 2 training camps for officials, 3 officials basketball camp at Yale – well done – all 6 boards participated. Second one was statewide football officials camp held at East Haven High School. Over 200 attended. Credit to Billy Riccio.

4.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

4.1 Eligibility Committee - August 16 / 4 approved / 12 denied / 7 appealed / 3 approved, 3 denied, 1 rescheduled

4.2 Eligibility Review Board

4.3 Cooperative Team Committee - Meeting on September 22

5.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

6.0 STAFF REPORTS

- 6.1 Matt Fischer – n/a (Lungarini provided website update)
- 6.2 John Holt - Preparing for upcoming Oct. 3 CIAC Sportsmanship Conference
- 6.3 Joe Velardi – Annual early season girls volleyball invitational held last Saturday went well, boys golf will hold in season golf event at Orange Hills on September 28. Had a productive Sportsmanship Committee meeting this week, we've added 7 more Class Act schools. Two main goals of committee: 1) Do better job messaging parents about their behavior at sporting events and 2) Encourage leagues to have their own sportsmanship events following the CIAC Sportsmanship Conference.
- 6.4 Dan Scavone - New England council exploring a Girls Wrestling Championship. Good chance could be a girls New England wrestling championship this year
- 6.5 Henry Rondon - n/a
- 6.6 Pat O'Neil – Sponsorship partners are happy, championship venues have been impressive
- 6.7 Gregg Simon – n/r
- 6.8 Glenn Lungarini - Introduces Kristen St. Germain and Matt Peel

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

Executive Session Called For

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS, INC.
CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

TREASURER REPORT

As of September 30, 2023

1. THE CAS CHECKING, SAVINGS AND MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS HAVE A COMBINED BALANCE OF \$1,180,930 AT 09/30/23 COMPARED TO \$992,691 AT 09/30/22.
2. THE CAS RESERVE ACCOUNT HAS A BALANCE OF \$1,871,190 AT 09/30/23 COMPARED TO \$1,530,383 AT 09/30/22.
3. THE CAS FOUNDATION CHECKING, SAVINGS AND MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS HAVE A COMBINED BALANCE OF \$279,551 AT 09/30/23 COMPARED TO \$355,731 AT 09/30/22.
4. THE CAS FOUNDATION INVESTMENT ACCOUNT HAS A BALANCE OF \$2,640,678 AT 09/30/23 COMPARED TO \$2,372,980 AT 09/30/22.



Keri Hagness | Principal
71 Killingworth Turnpike | Clinton, CT 06413
Phone: 860-664-6504

Attn: CIAC Eligibility Committee

RE: Ineligible Athlete- Appeal to reinstate

September 22, 2023

Dear CIAC Eligibility Committee,

On behalf of The Morgan School, I am writing to inform you that we played an ineligible volleyball player, Amber Robayo, in 4 Junior Varsity matches this season (9/7 vs. Lyme-Old Lyme, 9/11 vs. North Branford, 9/13 vs. Valley Regional, and 9/15 vs. East Hampton). Amber transferred to The Morgan School on January 26, 2023 from Middletown High School where she was enrolled in the Agricultural Science program. Amber is a Clinton resident and did not have a legal address change. Amber did not participate in any winter or spring sports at Morgan during the 2022-2023 school year.

During her registration and enrollment to The Morgan School, there was a break in communication and the Athletic Director, Meagan Sears, was not aware that she was a new student to Morgan, therefore she did not file a Transfer Notification Form on the CIAC Online Eligibility Center. Meagan received an email from Amber's father on Friday, 9/15/23 and in that email Amber's father referenced playing volleyball for two seasons at Middletown High School. Meagan immediately realized that Amber was a new student athlete to Morgan and the proper paperwork had not been filed. On Monday, 9/18/23, Meagan contacted Gregg Simon at the CIAC office and notified him of this situation and confirmed that Amber was an ineligible athlete. Amber and her family, as well as her coaches, were immediately notified and provided notice that she is not eligible to participate in competitions (JV or Varsity). This is our notice to the Board of Control that we are aware that we violated the CIAC Rule of Eligibility II.C. (transfer rule). Meagan has taken full responsibility for this incident and has put additional systems and structures in place to prevent this from happening again including:

- Requiring all coaches to immediately notify the Athletic Director if they have a new student athlete who are upperclassmen (10, 11, or 12th grade) join their program to verify eligibility
- Include an Athletic Enrollment Verification Statement form that must be returned to the Athletic Director as part of the new student enrollment packet distributed to every new student enrolling at Morgan



THE
Morgan
SCHOOL

Keri Hagness | Principal
71 Killingworth Turnpike | Clinton, CT 06413
Phone: 860-664-6504

- Facilitating a professional development session with the school counseling staff to review the CIAC transfer rule and athletic enrollment verification form.

Meagan is also working with other local schools to identify best practices, and will implement the above as well as any additional strategies that seem fit to ensure that this does not happen again.

This letter also serves as a request to the Eligibility Committee to reinstate Amber Robayo's eligibility. I am aware that the Eligibility Committee will meet on 10/12/23. From the date that Amber was identified as ineligible athlete (9/18/23) to 10/12/23, Amber will have sat out the equivalent of the 50% sit out period (10 varsity matches: 9/18, 9/19, 9/25, 9/26, 9/27, 9/29, 10/2, 10/4, 10/6, 10/11). I am requesting the committee to review the above scenario, with the details provided and consider reinstating Amber eligibility to allow her to participate in the remaining games of the 2023 Volleyball season. Amber has mentioned how Volleyball has been such a positive outlet and bright spot in her day and we hope that with the committee's support we are able to get her back out on the court for the remaining dates of competition.

Thank you, in advance, for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Keri Hagness, Principal

EAST LYME HIGH SCHOOL

The East Lyme High School experience prepares students academically, emotionally, and socially to be positive forces in the world and to live responsible, purposeful, and healthy lives.

Deb Roselli Kelly, *Principal*
Henry E. Kydd III, *Assistant Principal*
Julie Shvets, *Assistant Principal*
David Fasulo, *Assistant Principal*
– *Coastal Connections*



30 Chesterfield Road • P.O. Box 210
East Lyme, Connecticut 06333-0210
Telephone: (860) 739-6946
Facsimile: (860) 739-1241

October 10, 2023

Dear CIAC:

This letter serves as a follow up to the phone conversation that our Athletic Director, Mr. Marcoux, had with Gregg Simon on October 5, 2023 regarding the use of an ineligible girl swimmer during the 2023 season this fall. Below is the information regarding this event as I learned it.

- I was made aware on October 4, 2023 that one of the members of our girl's swim team was enrolled in her 5th year of high school.
- Upon a self-investigation, I learned that the student was enrolled at Lyme-Old Lyme High School in 2019-20 as a grade 9 student and was a member of the swim team there.
- She remained enrolled at Lyme-Old Lyme HS in 2020-21 as a grade 10 student. I was informed she missed a significant amount of time out of school hospitalized for mental health reasons. She was only able to earn 1.375 credits as a result.
- She enrolled at East Lyme High School in the fall of 2021-22 as a grade 10 student again having earned only 1.375 credits from Lyme-Old Lyme the previous year.
- She was enrolled at ELHS as a junior in 2022-23.
- She is enrolled at ELHS as a senior in 2023-24.

Steps that were missed that led to this event:

- When she transferred to ELHS in the fall of 2021, she was listed as a grade 10 student due to her credit status (having earned only 1.375 credits the previous year due to significant missed school due to hospitalization). The fact that she was actually in her 3rd high school year was not relayed to the Athletic Director or coach at the time.
- Because of that information, her first year listed on the CIAC roster in the fall of 2022 at ELHS was incorrectly listed as 2020-21, it should have been 2019-20.
- The East Lyme Athletic Department did not complete a transfer notification form on the CIAC Eligibility Center which could have triggered a red flag to ELHS.

The student has participated in 4 meets this fall.

Upon reviewing this situation, we have implemented the following safeguards in an effort to not have this happen again:

"Learners today, leaders tomorrow."

- Athletic Director will add the 8 semester rule as one of the key teaching points in the pre-season coaches meeting (held in August, November and March).
- Implement a monthly report from the registrar's office to the athletic department to review all transfers to ELHS including those that transfer in having repeated a year of high school at any grade.
- Athletic Department will complete transfer notification form on the CIAC eligibility center for every transfer athlete at ELHS.

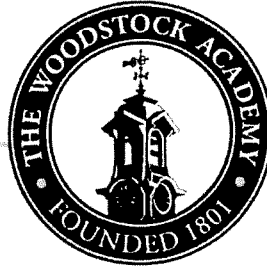
Please feel free to contact me at anytime regarding this matter.

Regards,

Deb Roselli Kelly, Principal
Athletic Director
East Lyme High School

Cc: Jeffrey R. Newton, Superintendent
Kevin Marcoux, Athletic Director

57 Academy Rd. Woodstock, CT 06281



(860) 928-6575 | woodstockacademy.org

Sean M. Saucier
The Woodstock Academy
57 Academy Rd.
Woodstock, CT 06281

September 26, 2023

CIAC
c/o CIAC Eligibility Committee
30 Realty Drive
Cheshire, CT 06410

Dear Eligibility Committee,

I'm writing on behalf of a newly enrolled student at our school, Jacques Djurberg, DOB 2/17/2006. Jacques enrolled at our school on September 15, 2023.

Jacques came to us from Lahaina, HI, on the island of Maui. Jacques was set to be a senior at Lahainaluna High School. On August 8th, the Maui wildfire destroyed the area of Lahaina.

As of early September, nearly 3000 Lahaina school district students were still displaced, over 500 of those being from Lahainaluna High School and in-person learning was not guaranteed. While Jacques' home was spared, the aftermath of dealing with a lack of water, along with air quality and humanitarian issues, forced his parents to search for schools stateside for their son to finish his high school career.

Jacques completed our admissions process on August 25, 2023 and was quickly accepted and now resides in our dormitory. Jacques played basketball as a junior at Lahainaluna High School and would like to play his senior year here at The Woodstock Academy.

I obviously believe that it was necessary for his family to seek a transfer because of unforeseen, unavoidable, or unusual circumstances and this transfer was not for athletic purposes and there was no undue influence. I am requesting that Jacques' hardship make him exempt from the normal circumstances of the transfer rule and that he is deemed eligible for a full basketball season.

Sincerely,

Sean M. Saucier

Director of Athletics

The Woodstock Academy

SUFFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

1060 Sheldon Street, West Suffield, Connecticut 06093

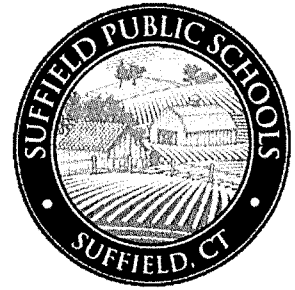
TELEPHONE: 860-668-3810

FAX: 860-668-3037

Carrie Apanovitch, Principal

Matthew Dobi, Assistant Principal

Shannon Insero, Assistant Principal



To: CIAC Board of Control

From: Vo-Ag High Schools With CIAC Athletics

Date: September 15, 2023

Re: Vo-Ag Schools Classified as "Schools of Choice"

The following proposal was submitted by the following CIAC Member Schools:

- EO Smith High School, Region 19
- Ledyard High School
- Northwestern Regional High School, Region 7
- Shepaug High School High School, Region 12
- Suffield High School
- Wamogo High School

Vo-Ag School of Choice Proposal

The Athletic Administrators and Building Administration of the above schools feel that Vo-Ag High Schools should not be classified as "Schools of Choice" and subjected to CIAC's Success in Tournament Factor. Charter, Magnet and Catholic Schools are able to connect and attract potential student athletes from anywhere as there are no boundary limitations. Students that attend Vo-Ag Schools are only from select towns in close proximity that have district lines and boundaries.

Rationale:

The majority of the students that attend Vo-Ag Schools are attending Vo-Ag High Schools for the curriculum of Agriculture and do not provide an advantage in Athletics. This is based on the data below.

Schools	Vo-Ag Boys 2021/2022	How many of those boys played a Varsity Sport	Vo-Ag Girls 2021/2022	How many of those girls played a Varsity Sport
EO Smith	23	11	74	23
Ledyard	59	6	138	12
Northwestern	25	4	27	4
Shepaug	22	4	55	11
Suffield	52	3	35	3
Wamogo	93	22	155	42

Schools	Vo-Ag Boys 2022/2023	How many of those boys played a Varsity Sport	Vo-Ag Girls 2022/2023	How many of those girls played a Varsity Sport
EO Smith	23	11	74	23
Ledyard	67	5	129	15
Northwestern	24	10	29	5
Shepaug	95	27	154	40
Suffield	45	6	48	3
Wamogo	95	27	154	40

We thank you in advance for your support and consideration of this request.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of:

CIAC Vo-Ag Member Schools Principals and Athletic Directors

EO Smith High School, Region 19

Principal Lou DeLoreto & Dan Uriano

Ledyard High School

Principal Amanda Fagan & Jim Buonocore

Northwestern Regional High School, Region 7

Principal Gary Franklin & Fred Williams

Shepaug High School High School, Region 12

Principal Donald Schels & Matt Perachi

Suffield High School

Principal Carrie Apanovich & Todd Zenczak

Wamogo High School

Principal Sabin Loveland and Mary Stolle

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carrie Apanovich', with a stylized, flowing script.

Carrie Apanovich
Principal Suffield High School



FAIRFIELD COUNTY INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE, INC.

108 Flax Road • Fairfield, CT 06824

(203) 650-5765 • Email: commishfciac@gmail.com

Commissioner: Dave Schulz • President: Chip Salvestrini

Proposal Draft Regarding Start Date of Boys Basketball

To: Gregg Simon; CIAC Executive Director

From: Fairfield County Interscholastic Athletic Conference

RE: CIAC Boys Basketball Start Date

Date: TBD

This proposal follows the change made by the CIAC to the start date of fall sports, which has moved up 3 days so that the state tournament can begin on the Thursday prior to the current following Monday start date. Our proposal is to move the start date for boys' basketball to the same date as girls' basketball, which is the Monday after Thanksgiving. The boys are currently starting 3 days later, on the Thursday after Thanksgiving. The change for fall sports was made so that the fall state tournaments could start 3 days earlier and not to have any compacting effect on the regular season or conference playoffs. We realize that tryouts for boys' and girls' basketball will now take place simultaneously and may result in later practices for the first few days but the boys' and girls' teams practice at the same time all season, so this won't cause a significant issue.

Playing 3 games during the first week of the state boys basketball tournament is difficult already and with any weather postponement like we had the last two tournaments, it has required schools to play back-to-back games. With this change the first-round games will be played on that Thursday and Friday and the next two weeks of the tournament will only require two games per week. The playing of 5 games in the current two-week span is not in the best interest of the student athletes and could be viewed as unsafe.

The second part of this proposal would be to have both the boys' and girls' state tournaments start on the Thursday proposed for the boys and not have the girls' tournament be spread out over 3 weeks. With the byes awarded in the girls' tournament, 7 of the 10 finalists only played 4 games in the tournament over the 3 weeks. The FCIAC girls' coaches are not in favor of the current format due to this issue. With both tournaments starting on that Thursday, there would be room to schedule the boys' and girls' games on different days if there are conflicts with the same school hosting early round games. Additionally, this change would benefit leagues in the state who would like to highlight their boys and girls league championship games at the same site on the same day.

The three other sports which currently start on the Thursday after Thanksgiving, (indoor track, boys swimming and gymnastics) do not have the same issues with head-to-head competition in their state tournaments, so they have not been included in this proposal. Wrestling and Boys' Ice Hockey already start on the Monday after Thanksgiving.

We appreciate your considering our proposal and if you would like further clarification on any aspect of it, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Dave Schulz; FCIAC Commissioner

September 11, 2023

Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference
30 Realty Drive
Cheshire, CT 06410

To Dr. Glenn Lungarini, CAS/CIAC Executive Director and CIAC Eligibility Committee,

I hope this letter finds you in good health as we embark on another new and exciting school year. As I commence my third year as Head of School at The Gilbert School, I find myself deeply concerned about the state of athletics at our school. It is with this concern and a sense of responsibility that I write to you today.

My concern primarily revolves around the limited participation in athletics, exacerbated by our small enrollment of just 281 students in grades 9-12. Adding to our challenges, we face CIAC limitations on Foreign Student Eligibility, further impeding our efforts. Currently, we have 85 students engaged in seven varsity programs, which include Cheerleading, Cross Country, Football, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, and Volleyball. Due to these modest numbers, we are unable to offer sub-varsity teams, and regrettably, our students with F-1 visas have no avenue for participation. I write to you today to express my profound concern and disappointment regarding the eligibility ruling outlined in section 6.8 of the CIAC Handbook, which mandates a 365-day waiting period for students with F-1 visas to engage in varsity athletics, while students enrolled in the CSIET (Council on Standards for International Educational Travel) program are granted immediate participation privileges.

I fully appreciate the need to ensure fairness and uphold the integrity of high school sports. However, I firmly believe that this particular rule creates an unjust and unequal playing field for students with F-1 visas, especially within programs like ours that do not offer sub-varsity alternatives. For the record, we have 14 international students. I contend that if CIAC genuinely endorses an education-based philosophy, it should extend this philosophy universally to all students, regardless of their visa status.

The current regulation places students with F-1 visas at a marked disadvantage and restricts their opportunities for integration, personal growth, and cultural exchange through sports. These students arrive in the United States with the dual purpose of advancing their education and actively participating in extracurricular activities, which facilitate the formation of friendships, cultural immersion, and the development of crucial life skills.

By compelling students with F-1 visas to wait a year for participation, while simultaneously granting immediate access to students in the CSIET program, we inadvertently exclude a deserving group of young individuals from the manifold advantages that accompany sports engagement. This not only



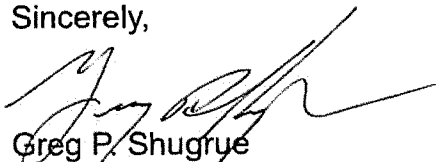
contradicts the very essence of educational and cultural exchange but also contravenes the principles of equality and inclusivity that high school sports should uphold.

I earnestly implore the CIAC Eligibility Committee to reconsider this policy and realign it with a more equitable and inclusive educational perspective. By permitting students with F-1 visas to participate immediately, we would be fostering an environment that embraces diversity, promotes cultural understanding, and ensures equal opportunities for all students, irrespective of their visa status.

I am more than willing to engage in a constructive dialogue on this matter and provide any supplementary information or support required to revisit and amend this policy. Our shared objective is to create a level playing field for all students and to ensure that their high school experience is both enriching and in harmony with the fundamental values of education and sportsmanship.

Thank you for dedicating your attention to this significant issue. I eagerly anticipate your response and the prospect of working collaboratively toward a positive change that benefits all students.

Sincerely,



Greg P. Shugrue
Head of School