

**THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS**  
*The Sixty-Third Annual Meeting*

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CIAC BYLAWS**  
*(To be voted on by the CIAC membership only)*

**CHANGE #1: ARTICLE XII (In Season/Out-of-Season Rules) / SECTION 1.1.a (Individual and Team Sports) Exceptions #3-6**

**Synopsis:** The proposed change calls for the removal of the limitation on the number of non-school sponsored contests, practices, try-outs, clinics, etc. in which student-athletes are allowed to participate during the authorized contest season

Additions are in ***bold italics***. Deletions are in ~~**bold-strikeout**~~

**1.0 DURING AUTHORIZED CONTEST SEASON (In-Season Rules)**

**1.1 Individual and Team Sports**

- a. Participation as an individual or as a member of a non-school sponsored team in a sports competition, practice, showcase, tryout, camp or clinic at any level of play including professional in the same branch of athletics during the authorized contest season will render the athlete ineligible for all interscholastic athletics unless said athlete is reinstated by the CIAC Board of Control. (Season is defined as the date of the first contest for that school and concludes with either the final CIAC Tournament Game or New England Championship).

**Exception to Rule 1.1.a**

1. Participation in Olympic/Pan American Games/tryouts
2. Participation in one national governing body (NGB) sponsored national tournament or international competition.
3. Participation in a college audition (Audition is defined as “when a student athlete is invited by the college coach to visit the campus and participate in workouts individually or with the team members to assess skills prior to admission.)
4. Participation in clinics offered by colleges
5. Participation in clinics offered by CIAC member schools or other state association member schools.
6. Participation in other clinics approved by the school and that are designed to enhance skill development and not used as a try-out of any nature for selection to a non-school team.

The following conditions must be met as part of the exceptions #3-6

~~• Each student is limited to (2) two events per season.~~

- Each event is limited to one (1) day in duration.
- The member school principal must grant permission if there is any loss of school time.
- The member school coach determines that the event does not interfere with any functions of the “in season” school program.
- Written consent is given by the school administration and athletic department prior to the student attending such activities.
- ***Member schools will inform the CIAC staff of students who are approved to attend.***

**Rationale for change:** The CIAC Board is proposing to eliminate the current restriction on participation in outside events during the sports season because there have been no abuses reported and because it does not wish to limit a student-athlete’s exposure to opportunities that could lead to college acceptance. It is adding the stipulation that member schools inform the CIAC of any outside events in which student-athletes participate to allow for tracking so as to determine if this exception is being over-used.

## **CHANGE #2: ARTICLE X (Recruitment) / SECTION A (General Principles) & B (Undue Influence)**

**Synopsis:** The proposed changes seek to tighten up enforcement of the Recruitment Rule by (1) allowing CIAC access to information needed to assess when/if a recruitment violation has taken place; and (2) adding language to expand the guidelines for what conduct constitutes undue influence.

Proposed language additions in *bold italics*:

### **Article X**

#### **Section A. General Principles**

1. Recruiting is the use of undue influence and/or special inducement by anyone associated with a school in an attempt to encourage a prospective student to attend or remain at that school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.
2. Recruitment of students or attempted recruitment of students for athletic purposes, regardless of their residence, is a gross violation of the spirit and philosophy of the bylaws of the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference and is expressly forbidden.
3. Member schools are responsible for any violation committed by any person associated with the school, including principals, assistant principals, athletic directors, coaches, teachers, any other staff members or employees, or any organization, such as booster clubs, having connection to the school. Member schools also are responsible for any violation committed by any person acting at the direction of the school or anyone associated with the school. Use of third parties such as students, parents, etc., is also a violation of this policy.
4. Member schools each year will be required to submit to the CIAC office with the membership application form a Certification of Compliance with the CIAC Recruiting Policy. The principal, athletic director and head coach in each varsity sport offered by the school will be required to sign a form provided by the CIAC office certifying that they have reviewed this policy and will comply with all provisions of this policy, and that they will review the provisions of this policy with other individuals or groups associated with the school such as athletic booster clubs.
5. ***When a school is requested to disclose the specifics of acceptance or enrollment policies and procedures, it agrees to do so as a condition of membership. Note: schools will not be randomly asked this; it may occur when accusations of recruitment are made and disclosure would eliminate any doubt about the procedure.***

#### **Section B. Undue Influence**

1. The use of undue influence, which is the use of direct or indirect communication by anyone associated with a school with a prospective student-athlete in an attempt to solicit or encourage the enrollment of a prospective student-athlete in that school, is prohibited. Additionally, no one associated with a school may request any third party to solicit or encourage the enrollment of a prospective student-athlete in that school, for in that case the third party also becomes associated with that school.
2. Undue influence includes, but is not limited to:
  - a. Initiating or arranging telephone, telegram or other written contact such as questionnaires, cards or letters, with a prospective student-athlete or member of his/her family for the purpose and intent of soliciting or encouraging the enrollment of the student in a school.
  - b. Visiting or entertaining a prospective student-athlete or member of his/her family for the purpose and intent of soliciting or encouraging the enrollment of the student in a school.
  - c. Providing transportation to a prospective student-athlete or member of his/her family to visit a school or to meet with anyone associated with a school for the purpose and intent of soliciting or encouraging the enrollment of the student in that school.
  - d. Attending grade school, junior high or middle school games for the purpose of evaluating and recruiting specific prospective student-athletes.
  - e. Requesting booster club members, students, parents or alumni from a school to discuss the merits of the school's athletic program with a prospective student-athlete or member of his/her family by phone, in person or through letters or other written communication.
  - f. Any other contact with a prospective student-athlete or member of his/her family for the purpose and intent of soliciting or encouraging the enrollment of the student in a school.
  - g. ***Offer or acceptance of the bypassing of the established policies and procedures for admittance/enrollment to a school.***

**Rationale for change:** In the past, the CIAC had no legal way to request that a school disclose its enrollment/acceptance policies or procedures. Consider a town's high school that runs an annual "activity fair." Accusations could be made that the school is recruiting by contacting students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade before the April 15 date for the purpose of getting them involved in a specific athletic program. The CIAC has the right to ask for and receive the school's (or district's) policies for enrollment/acceptance to determine if an allegation of recruitment has any validity.

**CHANGE #3: ARTICLE VII (Tournaments, Meets and Games) / Section F. Objectives and Regulations for Determining Tournament Divisions**

**Synopsis:** The proposed change removes the 40% tournament qualifying standard for the sport of Ice Hockey.

Additions are in ***bold italics***. Deletions are in ~~**bold strikeout**~~

**Article VII - Tournaments, Meets and Games**

**Section F. Objectives and Regulations for Determining Tournament Divisions**

Regulations

1. No team division qualifying standard shall go below a 40% win record in the sports of field hockey, soccer, volleyball, basketball, softball, football, ~~ice hockey\*~~, baseball, or lacrosse.

***In ice hockey, the tournament committee may fill the brackets to 16 teams with teams that achieve less than a 40% win record in accordance with the procedures outlined in the ice hockey tournament packet.***

~~\*The CIAC Board of Control approved a two-year trial (2013-14, 2014-15) where ice hockey may fill their brackets to 16 teams with teams with less than a 40% record.~~

2. No open or elite tournament formats for team sports.
3. Gender equity shall be an important principle when establishing tournament formats.
4. Any sport committee request to move to a lower qualifying standard from a previously adopted standard must be approved by the CIAC Board. Supporting rationale must accompany each request and be of sufficient merit to convince the Board that such a move meets the objectives of the CIAC.
5. All sports committees shall develop a tournament format that when fully implemented will approximate an equal number of teams or participants in each division.
6. All sports committees will develop a tournament format which will require only the number of divisions necessary to accommodate the number of teams that qualify for the tournament. To request an increase in the number of divisions, it is necessary to show that the existing divisional alignment cannot accommodate additional teams without playing several qualifying games.
7. All sports committees will be required to justify the number of divisions when there is evidence that the existing number of teams making the tournament can be accommodated in fewer divisions.
8. All sports committees have the latitude to promote opportunities which will enhance the overall quality of their tournament as long as such opportunities conform with the heretofore listed regulations. Such opportunities must be made part of the published tournament regulations and be consistently applied to all teams that make the tournaments. Any change in tournament structure which departs from the usual procedure of determining divisions by size of school must be approved by the CIAC Board of Control.

Individual Sports – Cross Country, Track, Golf, Swimming, Wrestling, Indoor Track, Tennis, Gymnastics  
Team Sports – Field Hockey, Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, Softball, Football, Ice Hockey, Baseball, Lacrosse

**Rationale for change:** Currently, 57 high school ice hockey teams compete in the 3 divisions, division I being the most competitive. For safety reasons, these divisions are based on skill level not size like other sports.

Allowing teams with less than 40% win records to enter the tournament:

- allows for a balanced three division tournament.
- guarantees a sufficient number of teams in all three divisions for tournament planning and budget purposes.
- keeps the number of teams in division one lower but, in that division one provides the most qualifiers, it makes it possible to continue to place more teams in divisions 2 and 3.
- provides an incentive for teams who are destined to finish below the 40% win standard to remain focused on playing the game the way it should be played, since hope exists for a tournament playoff berth.