

## CIAC OFFICIALS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

October 17, 2013

**Members Present:** Melissa Zigmont for Melissa Arms, Marie Lavin for Gloria Bellucci, Hank Luzzi, Ray Faustich, Pat Javorski, Jay Kelleher, Hank Koritkoski, Dave Leete, Terry Schanbacher for Joe Miller, Lev Torgerson, and Joe Tonelli, CIAC

### **ACTION ITEMS/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

On a motion by Dave Leete the minutes of May 9, 2013 were approved.

### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

3,863 individual officials occupy 4,926 officiating slots. 2255 officials are members of the NFHS Officials Association. Joe T commented that these numbers are low because boards have not submitted members who most likely will continue on their board, but currently owe fees.

### **OLD BUSINESS/INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### **PRESEASON RULES MEETINGS/WINTER AND SPRING DATES**

Joe Tonelli requested the winter sports rules meeting dates for coaches. We will continue to provide an honorarium of \$50, plus mileage reimbursement for clinicians. This initiative has worked extremely well. Attendance is at an all time high and these meetings continue to enhance the relationship between the schools, coaches and the officials.

#### **NFHS ONLINE RULES INTERPRETATIONS MEETING SCHEDULE**

Softball –Wednesday, Jan 22, 2014

Baseball –Thursday, Jan 23, 2014

Track & Field – Tues, Jan 21, 2014

Boys Lax - Tuesday, Jan 29, 2014

5 logins are permitted. It is no longer necessary to come to the CIAC for these sessions.

Joe T will provide the registration instructions, when available.

#### **CIAC BOARD OF CONTROL MEETINGS**

Reps for the CIAC Board Meetings. All meetings are at 2:00 PM

November 21 – Dave Leete      March 6 – Ray Faustich

Jan. 23 – TBA                      April 3 – TBA

May 1, if needed –

Please mark your calendars and let me know if a conflict arises.

#### **INCENTIVE GRANTS PROGRAM**

Hank Koritkoski reported that the committee approved and awarded 45 grants thus far. Two standing grants, one for joining the NFHS officials' Assoc and the other for first time users of the Arbiter Assigning program can be in addition to a previously awarded grant.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **DISCUSSION ITEM – GUESTS**

##### **REPRESENTATIVE PAUL DAVIS AND ARNIE MANN**

Representative Paul Davis enlightened the advisory committee relative to the legislative process and what is involved in getting a bill of this nature introduced in a short session of the legislature which is the case this year. He outlined the process and reviewed the history of this proposed legislation in Ct. Paul shared his views on the reasons it was not

successful in the past and mentioned the following challenges: There are already assault laws that apply to all citizens; there have not been many reported assaults on refs in Ct; many lawmakers don't want to add another protected class of people; and officials have also been criticized for not wanting to report or press charges when situations have occurred. He also stated that the main dissenter of the previous litigation is no longer a law maker since he is now a State of Connecticut Supreme Court Justice.

Paul clarified that in a short session a bill of this nature would have to be raised as a committee bill. Since it would have to eventually be supported by the Judiciary Committee for this legislation to have any chance at all, Paul believes that we should actually start with the JD committee because without their support it would be dead in the water. In an attempt to show the need for a law in Ct, Paul suggested we ask officials to document any assault incidents that they experienced or witnessed that occurred in Ct. Other cases around the country that demonstrates the trend that assaults are happening with more frequency is also relevant, but it is important to localized the issue as much as possible. Paul is willing to test the waters to see if a bill of this nature has a chance to move through the process in a short session, and if the JD committee would be open to proposing the bill in committee. Once we get that feedback, we will know if it would be wise to proceed this session or continue to work on building a case, to pursue it at a future date. We cannot afford another defeat of this legislation so we have to take it one step at a time. We will have more information to report as we get closer to the start of the session.

The advisory committee was most grateful to Paul for taking time out of his busy schedule to lend his support and expertise. Arnie Mann was also invited to attend because he is a long time baseball commissioner and close friends with Paul.

### **FALL SPORT REPORTS**

Field Hockey – It was mentioned that even with the increased number of officials there are some days that commissioners need to work with the school AD's to stagger some game times or switch to a different day to have enough officials to cover the games, especially on postponements. One assigner mentioned to Joe T that the AD's were very cooperative with this. The problem does get exacerbated when non weather related changes are made.

Football – Echoed that this fall season was great weather - wise, but there seems to be a lot of non weather related date and time changes, especially on days off such as Columbus Day, SAT testing, and other school events that should have been taken into consideration when the original schedule was developed. It was also cited that football continues to attract new candidates which has helped the work force. Also mentioned was the annual state board clinic in the summer, which is well attended that combines a general session, film review, and on the field training through station work which continues to be very beneficial.

Soccer – Mentioned that some schools are using ref pay and provided an explanation of how officials can get paid without it costing them any money if they choose the direct deposit option. He also explained the other options. Joe T mentioned that Arbiter wrote to schools without informing CIAC and we were blind-sided when we received some calls by our member schools and some official's leaders. Arbiter apologized for that and told us that of all the programs that Arbiter initiated that this concept of refs getting paid immediately has received universal support. They said schools love it, and once the officials groups adapt to the concept, they soon begin to realize that the advantages to this system of payment. It is here to stay. Even one of the Hartford schools that normally take about 8 weeks to pay officials will experiment with Rep pay. The bottom line is that if it has not reached your place of business yet, it will, and most people will no longer

receive an actual pay check, since the amount of money owed to you will be directly deposited in your bank account.

Volleyball – Expressed a concern about the number of schools that they have to serve with an aging work force. Volleyball definitely has a need for new candidates to increase their numbers and they are working on ways to continue to attract new officials.

#### **OUTSTANDING INITIATIVES TAKING PLACE IN HS OFFICIATING IN CT**

Joe T started the discussion by mentioning an outstanding clinic that was conducted in August by Major League baseball at no cost to the 100 umpires that attended, but the Central Board of Umpires did expend some funds for lunches. They also applied and were approved for a \$250 grant from the CIAC Officials Association to help defray some of their costs. Joe stated that this is just one of the many quality programs that are provided by the various sports and boards.

The group shared several of these great programs designed to improve the skills of their officials. The boards that take the time to conduct these programs should be commended for their commitment to continually work to improve the service they provide to member schools.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm. **The next meeting of the CIAC Advisory Board will be held on Thursday, February 13, 2014 @ 4:00 PM @ CIAC.**