



THE CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

August 30, 2024

Memo: Sheff District Charter/Magnet School Designated School Pilot Program

From: Glenn Lungarini, CAS-CIAC Executive Director

To: CIAC Member School Principals and Athletic Directors

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The CIAC Board of Control, based on the recommendation of the CIAC Sheff Committee, approved the following pilot program for the 2024-2025 school year to enhance interscholastic athletic opportunities for students enrolled in Sheff district charter/magnet schools. Under this pilot program, the CIAC permits Sheff district charter/magnet schools to partner with a geographically close public high school to serve as the designated option for school sports participation. In this scenario, students attending Sheff district charter/magnet schools who play for the designated school would no longer be allowed to play back at their sending district. However, if students previously playing back at their sending school choose to participate in any sport at the designated school, they must play all sports at the designated school.

For clarity:

- Designated schools must be agreed upon between each school's principal and athletic director with consent from the superintendent. Schools choosing not to participate in this pilot program will continue to follow the current CIAC policy of students playing back to their sending school, provided the sending school district permits such playback.
- The goal of this pilot program is to increase opportunities for interscholastic athletic participation for Sheff district charter/magnet school enrolled students and to provide stability in program offerings to designated public schools.
- Sophomores, juniors, and seniors are grandfathered into playing back at their sending district, provided they have already played back in previous years. Freshmen will be required to play at the designated school. Once an upperclassman decides to play for the designated school, he/she may no longer play back at a sending school.
- The transfer rule does not apply to students leaving their playback school to play for the designated school. CIAC rules do not penalize student-athletes who leave a school when an athletic program is dissolved. Similarly, in this pilot program, a student-athlete will not be penalized for playing at a school establishing an athletic program for the first time.
- This pilot program is limited to Sheff district charter/magnet schools for the 2024-2025 school year. The pilot program will be evaluated throughout the school year and considered for expansion beyond Sheff district charter/magnet schools in future years.
- If the CIAC Sheff Committee deems this option a success, it will develop a proposal for an affiliate CIAC membership to continue the program. It would submit that proposal to the CIAC Board of Control for consideration in the 2025-2026 school year and beyond.

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