

CIAC Football Committee

January 9, 2025

Agenda

1. Preliminary Financial Report for Football 2024
2. Approval of Minutes 9/19/24
3. Review of 2024 Championships
 - Overall Review
 - Championship Host Sites Review
4. Connecticut High School Football Alliance Proposal
5. Future Agenda Items
 - Review Success in Tournament Process
6. Next Meeting –Thursday, February 27

CIAC FOOTBALL COMMITTEE
MINUTES
9/19/24

I WELCOME - Leroy welcomed the committee to the meeting which was held via zoom.

II CHAMPIONSHIP SITES - Glenn Lungarini gave the committee an overview of the championship sites. There has been a significant increase in price up to \$40,000 for three games at Rentschler field this year.

The committee discussed this issue. Some comments...

- The experience at CCSU was very good last year.
- The expense at Rentschler is too high.
- The income from football needs to carry the costs for football.
- UConn is an out of the way site
- If it snows we need to get a different field from CCSU due to snow removal
- We should try for a northern site and a southern site
- Does online viewing affect ticket sales? Very little, most of the viewership is outside of CT.

The CIAC and the committee will continue to consider this issue and make a decision on sites for football as the season progresses.

III ALLIANCE PROPOSAL - A proposal from the Alliance was distributed to the committee for future considerations.



CT HS Football Alliance Proposal to CIAC Football Committee

September 16, 2024

Background

Established in 2017, the Connecticut High School Football Alliance, comprised of six leagues throughout the state, has provided teams with competitive, non-league matchups. Since 2017, the Alliance has scheduled 432 games. In fact, in the last two years, 11 of the 12 state champions have played "Alliance games" during the regular season.

In addition to its scheduling prowess, Alliance members generate important discussions about pertinent issues and changes with the sport of high school football and continues to work collaboratively to address issues and opportunities.

Over these eight-plus years, the Alliance has solicited some productive feedback from its stakeholders (administrators, coaches, and the media).

- It is clear, football programs want to play 10 regular season games, including Thanksgiving Week.
- The state's current playoff structure, comprising six divisions with 8 teams in each, has been well received, and has provided more teams the chance to compete for a playoff spot, especially in the final few weeks of the regular season.
- Most, if not all, conferences, despite not having their own league playoffs, along with "independent" teams still have challenges filling out their schedules with "good" matchups (based on classification), and often need the Alliance to schedule games "within their state classification."
- Typically, the best teams win state titles, but the "ranking of teams for the purposes of playoffs" varies from year-to-year as some teams and leagues' regular-season schedules are not consistent in terms of strength of schedule. For example, the number-one ranked team in Class L in 2023 played only one "Class L/LL" team during the regular season.

PROPOSAL

Every football program has to play a minimum of four varsity games* in its class or above during the regular season in order to qualify for the CIAC postseason; or any two games set forth by the Connecticut High School Football Alliance scheduling committee.

** Any cooperative team will be held of a standard of 50 percent of the games set for playoff participation. For example, co-ops would be required to have to play two games if this proposal passed.*