

CIAC Girls' Volleyball Committee

Minutes from the August 24, 2020 meeting.

1. Joe Velardi welcomed the committee for this special meeting to discuss the guidelines for the 2020 season.
2. Joe explained the current situation and that this meeting was being held at the request of the CIAC Board of Control to gain feedback from the volleyball committee. In particular there were three areas we were asked to discuss: wearing masks while playing; modifications to the preseason guidelines; and feedback on the feasibility of playing games outside.
3. The committee reviewed changes to the volleyball guidelines.
4. This is the summary of the committee's feedback:
 - a. To keep the season alive, holding preseason and conditioning practice outside, while not ideal, would be made to work.
 - b. There is a concern about the balls. Schools would need to purchase outdoor balls. Leather balls would disintegrate if they got wet.
 - c. Slippery conditions are a concern. Students would have to purchase footwear other than their regular indoor volleyball sneakers. Slippery conditions could cause orthopedic injuries.
 - d. Many kids would opt to play other sports. (transition to soccer)
 - e. College-bound quality volleyball players would play club volleyball instead.
 - f. The committee felt strongly that playing indoors wearing masks is a much better alternative and felt it could be done safely.
 - g. As the fall wears on, it gets darker earlier. Would volleyball have access to lighted fields?
 - h. The committee felt they would opt to play outside if there were no alternatives but would much prefer to play indoors wearing masks.
 - i. There would be a loss of officials. Many officials in volleyball are older. There is a 20 percent loss of volleyball officials already this season due to COVID-19 concerns. More would leave if volleyball were outside.
 - j. A suggestion was made that the Under Armour mask is a good mask to use during exercise.
5. Joe emphasized that we are trying to adhere to Department of Public Health (DPH) guidelines and keep the volleyball season alive.
6. Joe will modify the guidelines and send them out to schools.

7. The CIAC Board of Control requested a survey be sent to schools. The committee discussed the survey questions. Joe indicated he will discuss the survey with the CIAC leadership and send the survey and the rule modifications to school Athletic Directors and Coaches soon.