



HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA
INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION
SOUTHERN SECTION
(CIFSS)



12th historical “tidbit.”

FIRST CONSTITUTIONS OF THE C.I.F. SOUTHERN
SECTION AND THE STATE CIF

The founding date of the CIFSS was March 29, 1913 at the Y.M.C.A. Field. A second meeting was held at Los Angeles High School with five leagues present on May 15, 1913. “The object of the meeting was to make a schedule, agree on eligibility rules, and the general management of a series of Base-Ball games to determine the championship of Southern California,” (SCIAC Minutes of May 15, 1913). The SCIAC (Southern California Interscholastic Athletic Council) would change its name to the California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section (CIFSS) on September 26, 1914. From that meeting came the first CIFSS Constitution.

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One year later, almost to the exact date, a convention of California high school principals and teachers representing the four California Teachers’ Associations of the state met at the YMCA Clubhouse in Boyle Heights, Los Angeles, at 10:30 a.m., March 28, 1914. A committee had developed a State constitution for a federation of sections to regulate interscholastic competition in California. The meeting was referred to as the Los Angeles High School Athletic Convention and the constitution (formatted from the CIF-SS Constitution) was submitted to the Principals of California High Schools by the Commissioner of Secondary Education for their approval.



California Interscholastic Federation
Southern Section
Constitution.

Name- This organization shall be known as the (Southern California Interscholastic Athletic Council.)

Object- The object of this organization shall be

1. To promote interscholastic athletic in Southern California and to exercise a broad general supervision over the same.

2. To act as a court of appeal in any dispute involving a Southern California championship or in any dispute when appealed to by all parties concerned.

3. To provide ways and means for athletic championships which seem advisable.

4. To provide uniform eligibility rules for championship athletic contests.

5. It is understood that each league reserves the right to decide questions of eligibility within its own ranks or other questions not affecting any other league.

Members- Any high school athletic league may become a member of this organization by accepting this constitution and by-laws enacted in accordance with the same. When the organization is perfected new members may be admitted by accepting the constitution and by-laws after having been voted in by the Council. Any high school not a member of a league may become a member in the same manner and have a voice in the Council but not a vote.

The Council- The Council shall be composed of the Presidents of the leagues having membership in this organization. In case of any league having a student President such league shall appoint a faculty member as its representative to the Council.

The Los Angeles City League because of the great number of students represented shall have two delegates in the Council.

Officers- The officers shall be a President, a Vice-President, and a Secretary-Treasurer. Their duties shall be such as the names imply. Their term of office shall be for one year or till their successors shall be elected.

Meetings- The annual meeting shall be during the meeting of the Southern California Teachers Association. The President may call a meeting at any time and must do so upon request of two members of the Council.

Quorum- A majority of the Council shall constitute a quorum.

Amendments- This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Council at the annual meeting provided the proposed amendment had been submitted, in writing, to each member of the Council one month before the annual meeting. It may be changed or amended at any meeting by a unanimous vote.

Eligibility rule.

No one shall represent his school in any championship event or contest between any of the leagues--

- (1) Who is not passing in 15 hours work per week.
- (2) Or who has taken part in any athletic contest of higher grade than secondary schools.
- (3) Or is a post graduate of any four year course in any secondary school.
- (4) Or is 21 years of age or over.
- (5) Or after the first eight semesters (four years) residence in any secondary school. Ten weeks or over of participation in one or more athletic contests between teams of different schools or organization shall count as a semesters residence. (Practice games shall count the same as league games.



CONSTITUTION OF THE CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION.

Art. I. Name and Purpose.

SECTION 1. This organization shall be known as The California Interscholastic Federation.

SEC. 2. The purpose of this organization is: (1) So to direct and control athletics (and other high school activities) of the State that boards and faculties will regard them as educational resources to be encouraged and fostered rather than decried and suppressed; (2) To locate the responsibility for their administration with reference to satisfactory supervision; (3) By means of constitutions, by-laws, and efficient organization to simplify and make definite their administration; (4) Through the observance of good standards of sportsmanship to cultivate more cordial and friendly relations between schools.

Art. II. Jurisdiction.

SECTION 1. The State shall be divided into four sections, corresponding to the sections of the California Teachers' Association, subject to change by the Federated Council.

SEC. 2. Each section that organizes as hereinafter provided, and by vote of its governing board accepts the Constitution and By-Laws of the Federation, shall be under its jurisdiction, and be one of the geographical constituencies of the Federation, having equal representation with other sections and equal voting power.

SEC. 3. All high school pupils, both public and private, in any section under the jurisdiction of the Federation will be subject to the rules of eligibility of the Federated Council for participation in contests between schools, and amenable to said body for violations of the same in contests between sections.

SEC. 4. This Constitution shall become effective when two or more sections shall have adopted it.

Art. III. Government.

SECTION 1. *Definition.* The governing body of this organization shall be known as "The Federated Council." It shall consist of two members elected from each section, together with the President of the California High School Teachers' Association, who shall serve as ex officio member.

SEC. 2. *Election and Eligibility of Members.* The governing body of each section shall determine how its own delegates to the Federated Council shall be elected, provided that such election occurs before July 1st, in time to report to the summer meeting of the Federated Council. City Superintendents and High School Principals, and high school teachers actively engaged in teaching, shall be eligible to hold office on this Council.

SEC. 3. *Powers and Duties.* The Federated Council shall be the highest governing body in the State, and shall exercise the following powers:

- a. It shall determine the credentials of its own membership.
- b. It shall have jurisdiction over all athletic games and meets between sections and semi-final and final contests leading to or determining State championships.
- c. It shall determine the time and place such contests are to be held; prescribe the conditions; appoint the officials; arrange for the competing schools to provide for expenses of same; act as a final court of appeal in protests from semi-final and final contests; define the powers and duties of referees, umpires and other officials; fix and enforce penalties for any violation of the Constitution, By-Laws, or other rules of the Federation; determine what forms of athletic sport shall be conducted by the Federation; devise ways and means by which the standard of eligibility shall be met; elect its own officers; institute and conduct the impeachment of officers of the Federation or sections thereof; exercise, or provide for the exercise of all functions of the Federation not specifically provided for in the Constitution and By-Laws.

Art. IV. Meetings.

SECTION 1. *Time of Meetings.* The Federated Council shall hold two meetings annually—one in conjunction with the sessions of the California High School Teachers' Association, and the other in connection with the annual Interscholastic Track Meet held under the auspices of the California Interscholastic Federation.

SEC. 2. *Order of Business.* At the summer meeting, the Federated Council shall pass upon the credentials of the new members, and organize by electing its officers. It may appoint one delegate each to the Rugby Union, and to the two associations of the A. A. U. It shall appoint its standing committees, receive reports from officers and committees, adopt a schedule of games and sports for the semi-final and final contests, consider new policies and new business, and such other matters as may seem necessary.

Art. V. Eligibility of Pupils.

A. *Age.* No pupil shall contest in any game or meet with another school who is twenty-one years old or over.

B. No pupils shall compete in athletic contests with another school after the first eight semesters (four years of actual residence) in any secondary school. Ten weeks or over in participation in one or more athletic contests between teams of different schools or organizations shall count as a semester's residence. Practice games shall count as league games.

C. Postgraduates shall be ineligible to compete.

D. 1. No person shall take part in any games held under the auspices of this Federation who has not been a member of his school for the semester, or its equivalent, immediately preceding; provided this does not apply to students entering from the grammar school, nor to students who are compelled to change schools from one district to another because of change of residence of parents.

2. Pupils who are compelled to leave school on account of illness, or other unavoidable cause, may make application to the Board of Managers of their section for a permit to participate in contests, and said Board of Managers may waive the requirement set forth in D (1) above.

E. No pupil shall compete in any game with another school who is not making a passing grade in nine units of new work according to University of California entrance credit. By new work is meant studies in which pupils have not previously made a passing grade.

F. Pupils taking part in contests leading to the section championship shall be required to register with the secretary of the Section Council, giving such data as to age, studies, amateur standing, etc., as may be prescribed by the Federated Council.

G. The Principal of each school shall be held responsible for the amateur standing and eligibility of his teams under the rules, and shall certify to each member in a line-up to be exchanged with, and in the hands of, the Principal of the opposing team at least twenty-four hours before a practice game. For league games such line-ups shall be exchanged not less than three days before the meet or game.

H. In the event that a member of a team is shown to be ineligible for any championship game in which he has participated, the entire team shall become liable to suspension from interschool athletics for the remainder of the year, or for the succeeding semester if the violation occurs during the spring semester.

I. No visiting team shall be recognized by the Captain of the home team, or the Principal of the school, unless accompanied by a faculty representative who shall be responsible for the conduct and line-up of his team; and it shall be the duty of the respective faculty representatives in charge of the two teams, to exchange lists of the players that go out on the field and these lists shall be filed with the respective principals.

Art. VI.

SECTION 1. Referees for the final and semi-final games of football shall be provided by a committee of three members of the Federated Council (appointed by the President thereof), after advising with the Principals of the schools involved. The members of this committee shall not be connected with either school playing the game.

SEC. 2. Referees and umpires shall have full and absolute authority over their contests—the conduct both of players and spectators, and shall have the power to remove any person guilty of objectionable conduct.

Art. VII. Protests.

Protests between sections must first be filed by the complaining school with the governing board of the league to which it belongs. If the complaint is approved, a brief shall be filed by the President or Secretary of the league with the Secretary of the Section Council. If the ruling of the lower body is approved, the Secretary of the Section Council shall file the brief with the Secretary of the Federated Council and the action of this body shall be final. If the protest fails of approval by any of the lower tribunals no further hearing shall be given to it.

Art. VIII. Finances.

SECTION 1. The expenses of each representative of the Sections of the Federation for attendance at meetings of the Federated Council shall be met by the section represented. The other expenses of the Federation shall be apportioned according to registration among the sections and raised by each section as it may provide.

Moved by Mr. Simons that the Constitution of the California Interscholastic Federation be adopted as a whole. Carried unanimously.