



Southern Section

Academics • Integrity • Athletics

10932 Pine Street, Los Alamitos CA 90720-2428
(562) 493-9500 • Fax: (562) 493-6266

TO: ATHLETIC DIRECTORS
HEAD FOOTBALL COACHES

FROM: ROB WIGOD, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

SUBJECT: CHANGES FOR THE 2011 FOOTBALL SEASON - UPDATED

DATE: MAY 3, 2011

As we continue to look ahead to the 2011 football season, I wanted to inform you about some significant rules changes that have just been voted in at the April 29, 2011 C.I.F. State Federated Council meeting.

Here they are...

New Rule for 2011: Mercy Rule

Effective Fall, 2011, a mercy rule will be in effect for all football contests in the C.I.F. Southern Section, which includes pre-season games, league games and playoff games, including Championship Finals. This means that if one team has a lead of 35 points or more at the end of three quarters, there will be a running clock for the 4th quarter until the end of the contest. If schools wish to invoke a running clock prior to the start of the 4th quarter, they can do so by mutual agreement of both schools. I have attached the relevant rule to this memo, so you can see the details.

This item is has been approved for statewide adoption, for both regular and post-season contests, starting with the 2011 season. The proposed rule is in accordance with NFHS Football Rules 3-1-2 and 3-1-3.

1. Prior to the 4th Quarter, by mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee, a “*running clock*” may be used if the point differential between the two teams reaches 35 or more;
2. If at the start of the 4th Quarter or at any time during the 4th Quarter, the point differential is 35 or more points, a running clock shall be used for the remainder of the contest;
3. Once the “*running clock*” is in effect during the 4th Quarter, it shall remain in effect for the balance of the contest, even if the team that is behind subsequently scores to make the deficit less than 35 points;
4. The “*running clock*” will be administered as follows:
 - A. The game clock will start with the snap or legal touch of a free kick on the first play following the establishment of the pertinent point differential, and continue to run uninterrupted when:
 - A 1st down is awarded to either team, including following a change of possession;
 - The ball or runner is out-of-bounds;
 - A legal or illegal forward pass is incomplete;
 - A play results in a touchback;
 - An inadvertent whistle occurs;
 - During all penalty enforcements.

- B. The game clock shall be stopped for:
 - A score (including touchdown: try; field goal; safety);
 - The free kick following a fair catch or awarded fair catch;
 - A charged team time-out;
 - A coach-referee conference;
 - An official's time-out (injury; equipment; 1st down measurement; other, as required);
- C. Following a stoppage for any reason in B. above, the game clock will start when the ball is next:
 - Marked ready-for-play; or
 - Legally touched on the free kick following a score, a fair catch or awarded fair catch

New Rule for 2012: State Regional Bowl Games

Beginning with the 2012 football season, there will be C.I.F. State Regional Football Games played, one week after our section championship games, with the winners of those games advancing to the C.I.F. State Championship Bowl Games. These Regional games will match section championship teams, as selected by the 10 C.I.F. Section Commissioners, from the Southern Section, Central Section, L.A. City Section and San Diego Section. **This change will result in our section having to move up the start of our football season one week, beginning in 2012.** I have attached the schedule for the upcoming 2011 football season and the schedule for the 2012 football season to help you in your planning efforts.

2011-2012

- 0 Week - September 2 – If you have a bye in your schedule – Season begins with a 0 Week game (Scrimmages still allowed prior to 0 Week contests)

- Week 1 - September 8 – If you do not have a bye in your schedule – Season begins with a Week 1 game (Scrimmages still allowed prior to Week 1 contests)

- Week 10 – November 11

- C.I.F. Southern Section Playoffs -

1st Round – November 18

2nd Round – November 25 – Thanksgiving Weekend

Semifinals – December 2 (All Semifinal contests, in all divisions, on Friday night)

Finals – Friday, December 9 and Saturday, December 10

- C.I.F. State Championship Bowl Games -

Friday, December 16 and Saturday, December 17

2012-2013 – State Regional Bowl Games Begin

- 0 Week – August 24 – If you have a bye in your schedule – Season begins with a 0 Week game
(Scrimmages still allowed prior to 0 Week contests)

- Week 1 – August 31 – Same as above, if you do not have a bye in your schedule
(Scrimmages still allowed prior to Week 1 contests)

- Week 10 – November 2

- C.I.F. Southern Section Playoffs -

1st Round – November 9

2nd Round – November 16

Semifinals – November 23 – Thanksgiving Weekend (All Semifinal contests, in all divisions, on Friday night)

Finals – Friday, November 30 and Saturday, December 1

- State C.I.F. Playoffs -

Southern Regional Games – December 7

State Championship Bowl Games – Friday, December 14 and Saturday, December 15

I hope this information will be helpful to you as we move forward.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best of luck to you.