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MEDIA RELEASE

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CIF SOUTHERN SECTION TO BEGIN OPEN DIVISION IN BASKETBALL

LOS ALAMITOS – Beginning this basketball championship season the CIF Southern Section has created an Open Division for boys' and girls' basketball.

"We believe the Open Division will showcase the most elite teams drawn from every league in section," said CIF-SS Commissioner of Athletics Rob Wigod."

"I want to express my sincere thanks to Assistant Commissioner Rainer Wulf and the CIF-SS Basketball Advisory Committee for all of their hard work and extra efforts in moving our section forward."

Divisions for the 2013 CIF Southern Section-Ford Boys' and Girls' Basketball championships will be as follows: Open Division, 1AA, 1A, 2AA, 2A, 3AA, 3A, 4AA, 4A, 5AA, 5A, 6.

Open Division play dates: Round one (Feb. 21-22), Round two (Feb 28, March 1), Semifinal (March 4-5), Consolation Final (March 7 or 8), Open Division Final (March 7 or 8)

Number of Teams per Division:

1. Open Division: Up to 16 teams selected at end of season (teams announced on Friday, February 14, 2014)
2. All other Divisions: 42- 54 teams per division (32 team playoff brackets)

Selection of Open Division Teams:

1. Up to 16 teams will be chosen at the end of the regular season for the CIF-SS Open Division.

Criteria for Selection of CIF-SS Open Division teams and Seeding

A Blue Ribbon committee will be formed by the CIF-SS to select the Open Division teams. Committee will be made up of current and former representatives of the CIF-SS Executive Committee, CIF-SS Basketball Coaches Advisory Committee, SCIBCA Executive Board, CIF State Basketball Coaches Advisory Committee and Media members.

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OPEN DIVISION SELECTION CRITERIA (Cont.)

1. Any team who is ranked in Top Ten of their division in the Final Poll will be eligible for Open Division consideration
2. Teams will be selected and seeded by the committee using the following criteria: (unweighted)
 - Strength of schedule
 - Overall Record
 - Freeman/Max Preps rankings
 - Strength at end of season (including roster additions/eligibility changes/winning & losing streaks/etc.)
 - Head to Head vs. Open Division Entries
 - Overall Record vs. Open Division Entries
 - Victory vs. Quality opponents
 - Quality loss
 - Unexpected loss

Power Points for Future CIF-SS Playoffs:

1. All first round participants = 6 power points
2. All Quarterfinalists = 6 power points
3. All Semifinalists = 10 power points
4. All Finalists = 15 power points

Open Division Home Playoff Site Selection:

1. Teams will use the same criteria for home team selection as CIF-SS Blue Book dictates.
 - a. First round home team will be selected by higher league placement or seeding (IE. Champions over 2nd place, number 8 seed over number 9 seed)
 - b. Byes in first round will receive automatic home game in second round (quarter finals)
2. For quarterfinal and semifinal games
 - a. Team with the least number of home games
 - b. Coin flip if equal number of games

Champions and Consolation Brackets:

Champions Bracket- First round game winners – Automatic CIF-State Playoff bid

CIF-State Bid Consolation Bracket- First round game losers- winner of this bracket gets an automatic CIF-State Playoff bid

At-Large State consideration: CIF-SS Open division teams not winning first round games or the CIF-State Bid Consolation Bracket.

California State Playoff Placement:

1. All first round winners in the CIF-SS Open Division will be guaranteed an automatic bid into the CIF-State Regional Playoffs. Also, the winner of the CIF-State Bid Consolation Bracket will receive an automatic bid to the CIF-State Playoffs.
2. All Open Division teams are guaranteed a second round game (champions and consolation brackets)
3. All CIF Southern Section Champions will be guaranteed a CIF-State Playoff berth
4. Additional teams need for CIF-State playoff berths will selected using the same At-Large criteria that is currently in place

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CALIFORNIA STATE PLACEMENT (Cont.)

5. Open Division teams not eligible or selected for the CIF- State Open Division will be placed in their respective CIF-SS division for the CIF-State playoffs (D-1, D-2, D-3, D-4, D-5)

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