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MEDIA RELEASE

GRACE BRETHERN FORFEITS EAST VALLEY DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP; SADDLEBACK VALLEY DECLARED CHAMPION

LOS ALAMITOS – Grace Brethren High School has self-reported the use of an ineligible player on their varsity football team during both the regular-season and post-season. Due to that fact, Grace Brethren will be forfeiting their East Valley Championship contest scheduled for tomorrow at San Clemente High School.

CIF Southern Section Constitution and Bylaws Rule 500.2 states:

Forfeiture Status - Any athletic contest in which an ineligible student has participated either intentionally or unintentionally, must be forfeited unless provided for otherwise in the adopted playing rules of that sport. When a school must forfeit any games, a win and a tie must be counted as losses in the standings. This would apply to any practice, league, or playoff game, match, meet or sanctioned event. Report of such forfeiture must be filed with the CIF Southern Section Office and the opposing school.

As this situation regards playoffs CIF-SS Bylaw 3211 states:

An ineligible player is one who is in violation of any State CIF or Section scholastic residence, transfer, age, semesters of attendance, or other eligibility rules.

A. Games in which the student participated, after the occurrence of the violation shall be forfeited (See Bylaw 500.2)

B. From the time the CIF Southern Section Office receives the entries from the league, violations discovered will be assessed only against the individual(s) and will not affect the advancement of a team into the playoffs.

C. Violations discovered after the first round of any playoff will result in disqualification of the ineligible player's team from the playoffs and forfeiture of its last playoff competition. In such cases, the losing team will advance provided the date of the next scheduled contest has not elapsed (In this case, the next scheduled contest would have been after Grace Brethren's first-round game making it impossible to advance the three teams Grace Brethren subsequently defeated).

Saddleback Valley Christian will be declared the CIF Southern Section East Valley Division Football Champion and will move on to the CIF State Football Championship Regional Finals next week against an opponent and on a date and time to be decided later.

The CIF Southern Section will have no further comment on this matter and will direct all inquiries back to Grace Brethren High School to comment as they see fit.

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