

*Season Preview*

# 2021- 2022

FOOTBALL

**CIF-SS FOOTBALL  
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER:**  
RICH SHEARER

**PROGRAM COORDINATOR:**  
SUSAN MILLER







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TO: CIF-SS FOOTBALL COACHES  
FROM: RICH SHEARER, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER  
RE: 2021 CIF-SS FOOTBALL SEASON  
DATE: AUGUST 2021

## FOOTBALL SEASON PREVIEW

We hope the contents of this season preview will answer many of your questions and be useful throughout the upcoming year. Please share this information with the other members of your coaching staff. Please note there are several rule changes for 2021. Good luck in the upcoming season. If I can be of assistance to you during the year, please do not hesitate to contact me at the CIF-SS office.

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## 2021 CIF-SS 11-MAN FOOTBALL COACHES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The CIF-SS is continuing to utilize the concept of advisory committees for virtually all sports. The role of the advisory committee, comprised of coaches in their respective sports and an administrator from the CIF-SS office, may or may not include the following:

- ✓ Meetings
- ✓ Recommendations for playoff sites, procedural changes and rule changes.
- ✓ Assistance to coaches and/or officials organizations
- ✓ Liaison between coaches and the CIF-SS office

We ask that if you have suggestions or questions, make use of this channel of communication and contact one of the committee members. We will be meeting on a regular basis during the current football season and your items will become part of our agenda. For your reference, members of this year's Football Coaches Advisory Committee are:

Ken Batdorf	Norte Vista HS	(951) 310-6823	<a href="mailto:Kenneth.batdorf@alvord.k12.ca.us">Kenneth.batdorf@alvord.k12.ca.us</a>
Margarito	Bell Gardens HS	(562) 972-1196	<a href="mailto:beltran_margarito@montebello.k12.ca.us">beltran_margarito@montebello.k12.ca.us</a>
Beltran			
Jim Benkert	Simi Valley HS	(805) 402-8966	<a href="mailto:Coachjb21@aol.com">Coachjb21@aol.com</a>
Dick Billingsley	Oak Park HS	(818) 735-3304	<a href="mailto:dbillingsley@opusd.org">dbillingsley@opusd.org</a>
Jason Bornn	Saugus HS		<a href="mailto:jbornn@harddistrict.org">jbornn@harddistrict.org</a>
Chris Brown	Chaffey HS	(909) 238-8726	<a href="mailto:Christopher_brown@cjuhsd.net">Christopher_brown@cjuhsd.net</a>
Kurt Bruich	Citrus Valley HS	(909) 389-2500 ext. 5055	<a href="mailto:kurt_bruich@redlands.k12.ca.us">kurt_bruich@redlands.k12.ca.us</a>
DeChon Burns	Linfield Chr. HS	(951) 676-8111	<a href="mailto:dburns@linfield.com">dburns@linfield.com</a>
Mark	Football Management	(949) 936-7780	<a href="mailto:Markcunningham@iusd.org">Markcunningham@iusd.org</a>
Cunningham			
Ken Drain	Rio Hondo Prep HS	(626) 484-3111	<a href="mailto:Kdrain44@yahoo.com">Kdrain44@yahoo.com</a>
Mike Enright	Rancho Alamitos HS	(714) 305-3410	<a href="mailto:Merancho13@hotmail.com">Merancho13@hotmail.com</a>
Bert Esposito	Temecula Valley HS	(951) 541-3179	<a href="mailto:besposito@tvusd.k12.ca.us">besposito@tvusd.k12.ca.us</a>
Steve Hagerty	Bishop Amat HS	(951) 536-4494	<a href="mailto:shagerty@bishopamat.org">shagerty@bishopamat.org</a>
Andrew Jones	Lompoc HS	(805) 742-3073	<a href="mailto:Jones.andrew@lusd.org">Jones.andrew@lusd.org</a>
Greg Marshall	Gahr HS	(562) 926-5566 ext. 22161	<a href="mailto:greg.marshall@abcusd.k12.ca.us">greg.marshall@abcusd.k12.ca.us</a>
L.D. Matthews	Rancho Mirage HS	760) 668-9925	<a href="mailto:lmattthews@psusd.us">lmattthews@psusd.us</a>
Josh McClurg	Santa Ynez HS	(805) 688-6487 ext. 3228	<a href="mailto:jmcclurg@syvuhd.org">jmcclurg@syvuhd.org</a>
Steve Mitchell	Santiago/Corona HS	(909) 739-5600 ext. 1026	<a href="mailto:smitchell@cnusd.k12.ca.us">smitchell@cnusd.k12.ca.us</a>
Mario Morales	Football Management	(562) 824-1186	<a href="mailto:moraleslb@yahoo.com">moraleslb@yahoo.com</a>
Scott Morrison	Santiago/Corona HS	(626) 290-6218	<a href="mailto:Scott.Morrison@cnusd.k12.ca.us">Scott.Morrison@cnusd.k12.ca.us</a>
Jason Negro	St. John Bosco HS	(562) 756-3602	<a href="mailto:jnegro@bosco.org">jnegro@bosco.org</a>
Dan O' Shea	Corona del Mar HS		<a href="mailto:cdmoshea@gmail.com">cdmoshea@gmail.com</a>
Carter	Football Management	(310) 717-1078	<a href="mailto:cpaysinger@bhusd.org">cpaysinger@bhusd.org</a>
Paysinger			
Tony Peralta	Elsinore HS	(951) 253-7200 ext. 3815	<a href="mailto:Anthony.Peralta@leusd.k12.ca.us">Anthony.Peralta@leusd.k12.ca.us</a>
Rick Sherwood	Officials Consultant	(760) 861-3987	<a href="mailto:wendynrick@earthlink.net">wendynrick@earthlink.net</a>

Jeff Steinberg	Beaumont HS		<a href="mailto:jsteinberg@beaumontusd.k12.ca.us">jsteinberg@beaumontusd.k12.ca.us</a>
Jeff Williams	Palmdale HS	(661) 400-4345	<a href="mailto:jwilliams@avhsd.org">jwilliams@avhsd.org</a>
Jahmal Wright	Culver City HS	(213) 308-0144	<a href="mailto:jahmalwright@ccusd.org">jahmalwright@ccusd.org</a>

### 8 MAN FOOTBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Committee Members	School	Phone Number	E-Mail Address
Al Allen	Maricopa HS		<a href="mailto:aallen@maricopaschools.org">aallen@maricopaschools.org</a>
Dan Spahr	Rolling Hills Prep HS	(310) 408-4371	<a href="mailto:Rhpfotball2002@gmail.com">Rhpfotball2002@gmail.com</a>
Jeff Hooper	Thatcher HS	(805) 646-8635	<a href="mailto:jhooper@thacher.org">jhooper@thacher.org</a>
John Alvarez	Lancaster Baptist HS		
John Rasmussen	Faith Baptist HS	(818) 262-1904	<a href="mailto:athletics@faithbaptist.org">athletics@faithbaptist.org</a>
Lincoln Dial	Calvary Baptist HS		<a href="mailto:pastorlinc@calvarybaptist-laverne.com">pastorlinc@calvarybaptist-laverne.com</a>
Michael Forcella	Avalon HS	(310) 510-0700	<a href="mailto:mforcella@lbschools.net">mforcella@lbschools.net</a>
Mike Nuno	Calvary Chapel/D HS	562 803-5151	<a href="mailto:MNuno@calvarydowney.org">MNuno@calvarydowney.org</a>
Perry Skaggs	Football Management	(323) 397-5436	
Ben Soto	Cate HS		<a href="mailto:Ben_soto@cate.org">Ben_soto@cate.org</a>
Ray Clifton	Football Management	(714) 965-1997	<a href="mailto:Rclifton44@hotmail.com">Rclifton44@hotmail.com</a>
Ricardo Olivas	Villanova Prep HS		<a href="mailto:rolivares@villanovaprep.org">rolivares@villanovaprep.org</a>
Tim Treder	California Lutheran HS	(951) 226-6757	<a href="mailto:tt@clhsonline.net">tt@clhsonline.net</a>
Wayne Lovett	Lutheran/LaVerne HS		<a href="mailto:wlovett@lhslv.org">wlovett@lhslv.org</a>

# **2021 CIF SOUTHERN SECTION FOOTBALL CALENDAR DATES**

## **FIRST PRACTICE**

11-Man Week Zero	August 2
11-Man Week One	August 9
8-Man Week Zero	August 9
8-Man Week One	August 16

## **LAST ALLOWABLE CONTEST**

8-Man	October 30, 2021
11-Man	October 29, 2021

## **PLAYOFF DATES**

<b>11-MAN</b>	First round	November 5, 2021
	Second round	November 12, 2021
	Semi-finals	November 19, 2021
	Finals	November 26/27, 2021
<b>8-MAN</b>	First round	November 5, 2021
	Second round	November 12, 2021
	Semi-finals	November 19, 2021
	Finals – Divisions 1 and 2	November 26/27, 2021

## **CIF STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Southern Regional Games – Friday, December 3 and Saturday, December 4

State Championship Bowl Games – Friday, December 10 and Saturday, December 11, 2021

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# CIFSSHOME REQUIREMENTS

## **SCHEDULES & SCORES** Complete your schedule in CIFSSHome prior to your season as well as update scores following each contest

**Attention Athletic Directors/Coaches:** It is very important that you enter your entire season schedule into CIFSSHOME ([www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org)) as well as update the scores immediately following your contests.

Log in @ [www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org) (If you do not have a log in & password as a coach, check with your Athletic Director). Once you are logged in:

-On the left panel, click on "Teams", select "Football (11-Man) or Football (8-Man)"

-To **Add a game**, click "Add Game" at the top right and fill out all of the required fields which are marked by a red (\*) to complete your schedule.

-To **Submit your score**, click on the "Teams", select "Football (11-Man) or Football (8-Man)" Scroll through your schedule and click on the green "Post Result" button.

-Make sure that your overall and team records are correct on your team page.

**Check out the Help video under the Help button on the bottom left, "Be CIF Prepared!"**

## **VARSITY TEAM INFORMATION (ROSTER) DUE no later than THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2021**

**Attention Athletic Directors/Coaches:** It is very important that you enter your entire "Football (11-Man) or I (8-Man)" Varsity roster into CIFSSHOME ([www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org)) no later than **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2021**.

Log in @ [www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org) (If you do not have a log in & password as a coach, check with your Athletic Director).

Once you are logged in:

-On the left panel, Click on the "Teams" tab, select "Football (11-Man) or Football (8-Man)"

-Here are the instructions for using the sample file.

- Download the sample file **and** delete the "contents only". Copy and paste or type your roster information into the file as the contents and save the file to your computer. You can only upload an excel file (xls) that is the exact same format as the sample file. Columns for information not required for your sport may be left blank, but the HEADER INFORMATION MUST REMAIN EXACTLY AS THE SAMPLE.

**Required Columns for Football are: First Name, Last Name, Birth date, Year, Number, Position, Height Weight & Eligibility.**

- Next - click Choose File, find your file, then click "Import Student".

- To confirm your roster has been uploaded, your roster will be uploaded in the roster section and all of the required columns are filled out.

**Check out the Help video under the Help tab on the bottom left, "Be CIF Prepared!"**

## **VARSITY COACHES**

**Attention Athletic Directors/Coaches:** It is very important that you enter your Football coaches (Head & Assistants) into CIFSSHOME ([www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org)) no later than **MONDAY NOVEMBER 15, 2021**.

Log in @ [www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org) (If you do not have a log in & password as a coach, check with your Athletic Director).

Once you are logged in:

-Click on the "Teams" tab on the left navigation bar. Click on the corresponding varsity team ("Football (11-Man) or Football (8-Man)").

-Click on "Add/Edit Coaches", select the information to add both your HEAD & ASSISTANT coaches

**Check out the Help video under the Help tab on the bottom left, "Be CIF Prepared!"**

## **VARSITY TEAM PHOTO DUE no later than MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2021**

**Attention Athletic Directors/Coaches:** It is very important that your Football Varsity Team Photo is uploaded to CIFSSHOME ([www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org)) no later than **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2021**.

Log in @ [www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org) (If you do not have a log in & password as a coach, check with your Athletic Director).

on Home Campus

-On the left panel, click **Teams** tab on the left navigation bar. Click on the corresponding varsity team ("Football (11-Man) or Football (8-Man)").

- Under Team Picture, click Add/Edit picture, click Browse, find your file and click "Upload Picture" – Team Photo can be no larger than 672 pixels x 480 pixels (7"x5")

**Check out the Help video under the Help tab on the bottom left, "Be CIF Prepared!"**

## **AT LARGE APPLICATION – MUST HAVE .500 RECORD OR BETTER**

**Attention Athletic Directors/ Coaches:** Please follow the instructions below to enter your school as an At Large Entry for "Football (11-Man) or Football (8-Man)". The At Large Application is to be submitted by your school no later than **Friday, October 30 @ 11:00 p.m.**

Log in @ [www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org) (If you do not have a log in & password as a coach, check with your Athletic Director).

Once you are logged in:

-On the left panel, click on At Large Petition

-Select "Football (11-Man) or Football (8-Man)" then click "Add"

Please be sure that your Schedule is updated in CIFSSHome as this is where the information for the At Large Petition will be created.

**Check out the Help video under the Help tab on the bottom left, "Be CIF Prepared!"**



## OFFICIAL BALL PROGRAM 2021-2022

### Official Ball per sport:

Baseball:	<b>Rawlings CIF-SS</b> <b>Rawlings RCIF-SS</b>	Must be CIFSS/ <b>NOCSAE</b> stamped ball; not an alternative Rawlings ball Must be CIFSS/ <b>NOCSAE</b> stamped ball; not an alternative Rawlings ball
<i>*Boys Basketball:</i>	<b>Wilson Evo NXT Game Basketball Size 7 (Used in CIF-SS Championship)</b>	
<i>*Girls Basketball:</i>	<b>Wilson Evo NXT Game Basketball Size 6 (Used in CIF-SS Championship)</b>	
<i>*Football:</i>	<b>Wilson GST NCAA 1003 Official Leather Football (Used in CIF-SS Championship)</b>	
Lacrosse:	<b>Champion Sports NOCSAE Balls</b>	(White LBWNOCSAE, Yellow LBYNOCSAE, Orange LBO, Lime Green LBG)
<i>*Soccer:</i>	<b>Wilson Forte Fybrid II NCAA Match Soccer Ball (Used in CIF-SS Championship)</b>	
<i>*Softball:</i>	<b>Rawlings FPCIF-SS (Used in CIF-SS Championship)</b>	
Tennis:	<b>Penn ATP World Tour (Used in CIF-SS Championship)</b> <b>Pro Penn Marathon</b>	
<i>*Volleyball:</i>	<b>Mikasa VQ2000 Series (will be used in the 2021-2022 Championship)</b> <b>Mikasa VFC1000 Series (will be used in the 2022-2026 Championship)</b>	
Boys Water Polo:	<b>KAP7 model 105 with NFHS stamp (Used in CIF-SS Championship)</b>	
Girls Water Polo:	<b>KAP7 model 104 with NFHS stamp (Used in CIF-SS Championship)</b>	

### Mandatory Playoff Use Requirement:

The mandatory "official" ball rule for all playoff rounds, excluding golf. The rule applies throughout the conduct of **all** CIF-SS **playoff** contests.

*\*There is a 1-year transition period for the following sports. The mandatory playoff use requirement goes into effect for these sports in the 2022-2023 season.*

### Playoff Ball Use Rule Enforcement:

Should a school fail to provide the correct game ball, the game will always be played. Teams/schools failing to utilize the correct official ball in CIF-SS playoffs will be reported by officials to CIF-SS and will not be allowed to host their next available home playoff game. Penalty will carry over to the next season if not enforceable this season due to elimination.

**Note: NFHS stamp is required in all sports *except in golf and tennis*.**

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE



## **2021 FOOTBALL RULES CHANGES**

### **Action in the Free-Blocking Zone [2-17-2c (NEW), 2-17-4]**

Blocking below the waist now requires the block to begin immediately following the snap.

### **2021 EDITORIAL CHANGES**

1-5-1b(3); 2-10-1; 2-10-2; 3-5-1; 9-4-4 PENALTY, NINE-, EIGHT- AND SIX-PLAYER RULES DIFFERENCES – GENERAL; SIX-PLAYER RULES DIFFERENCES – RULES 2 and 7

### **2021 POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

1. Sportsmanship
2. Intentional Grounding
3. Ineligible Downfield and Line of Scrimmage Formation

\*As of June 1, 2021

## **START OF FALL PRACTICE/“0” WEEK GAMES**

As fall practice begins, the following information is intended to remind you of some rules related to the start of fall practice and games.

Keep in mind that the Practice Allowance Blue Book Rule 506 is in effect during the season of sport which begins with the first official practice.

Summer Dead Period – Football Only

**2021.3 A Summer Dead Period must be declared by the school district and/or school principal for all sports. The dates of the dead period must be forwarded to the Southern Section Commissioner. The dead period must be the same for all levels and must be two (2) consecutive weeks, 14 days between the end of school in the Spring and the first day of school in the Fall. No class could be offered which could circumvent the rule. No weightlifting would be permitted. No running or other type of condition would be allowed. There are no exceptions to the summer dead period. THE SUMMER DEAD PERIOD BYLAW IS SUSPENDED FOR 2021**

All Other Sports:

A Summer Dead Period must be declared by the school district and/or school principal for all sports. The dates of the Dead Period must be forwarded to the Southern Section Commissioner. The dead



period must be the same for all levels and must be two (2) consecutive weeks, 14 days, between the end of school in the Spring, and the first day in the Fall. No class could be offered which could circumvent the rule. During the dead period, NO weightlifting would be permitted. No running or other type of conditioning would be allowed. There are no exceptions to the summer dead period.

## 2003. PHYSICAL CONDITIONING

A high school shall not conduct a physical conditioning practice session during the summer prior to the opening date of authorized football practice unless so authorized by the appropriate CIF Section. The start date for fall football practice for each individual school, will be determined according to the following formula:

2003.1 Week 0 Games – The first official day of football practice is August 2, 2021. The period of August 2 through August 4, 2021 is established as a physical conditioning period for prospective members of a high school team.

2003.2 Week 1 Games – The first official day of football practice is August 9, 2021. The period of August 9 through August 11 is established as a physical conditioning period for prospective members of a high school team.

2003.3 The conditioning Period of August 2 through August 4 (zero week) and August 9 through August 11 (week 1) may include various facets of football training (teaching techniques, chalk talks, pass patterns, etc.) but **MAY NOT** include any body contact such as tackling or blocking. Football shoes, helmets and footballs will be the only equipment allowed during the conditioning period of August 2 through August 4 (zero week) and August 9 through August 11 (week 1). There will be no equipment used such as blocking or tackling dummies, pads, etc.

**Schools will have the option to allow their players to wear full pads on the first day of their fall practice, if their summer dead period is arranged in a way that allows for a minimum of three days of conditioning in helmets, t-shirts and shorts only, prior to their first day of practice. These dates would be July 29 through July 31 (zero week) and August 5 through August 7 (week 1).**

Question: can a football team conduct a conditioning day on the Sunday prior to the official start of football practice?

Answer: No, Sunday practice is not allowed for the use of conditioning days prior to the start of official football practice as outlined in 2003.1 and 2003.2

- 
1. **Schools will be permitted to issue uniforms and equipment on the first day of conditioning after which a time may be designated for individual and team photos. No conditioning in any type of uniform will be permitted.**
  2. **The first official day of practice in full pads is set as:**  
**Zero Week Games – Thursday, August 5, 2021**  
**Week 1 Games Thursday August 9, 2021**
  3. **The two-week dead period is mandatory. Alternate dates may be requested as needed to accommodate the practice schedule. WAIVED FOR 2021**



## **FOOTBALL FULL CONTACT PRACTICE RULES**

Blue Book Rule 2001.B

Football teams are limited to two days per week of full contact practice with no more than 45 minutes of full contact on each of those days during the season of sport. For purposes of this Bylaw. Each team's season of sport is defined as the first day of practice, as allowed by the Section, until the final contest for the team. All full contact practices are prohibited in the off-season which includes team camps. Full contact practice is defined by state statute as a practice where drills or live action is conducted that involves collisions at game speed where player execute tackles and other activity that is typical of an actual tackle football game. For the purposes of this Bylaw, refer to the definition of "Live Action" as defined by USA Football (see below for excerpt from CIF Blue Pages).

**Live Action as defined by USA Football (as taken from the CIF Blue Pages):**

**A drill run in game like conditions and is the only time that players are taken to the ground. Thud is a drill run at an assigned speed through the moment of contact with no pre-determined winner. Contact remains above the waist and players stay on their feet. Thud is considered full-contact by the national Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).**

**Question: What are the allowable activities that would NOT be considered full-contact?**

**Answer: All of the activities below are NOT considered full-contact and would NOT count against the day/time limitations:**

A team may participate in air, bags/blocking sleds and control drills at any time unless the Section has implemented more restrictive rules. A team may continue to dress in full pads for practice when conducting any of these drills defined below:

- **Air** – Players run unopposed without bags or any opposition.
- **Bags/Blocking Sleds** – Activity is executed against a bag/blocking sleds shield or pad to allow for a soft-contact surface, with or without the resistance of a teammate or coach standing behind the bag.
- **Control**: Drill is run at assigned speed until the moment of contact with a pre-determined winner. Contact remains above the waist and players stay on their feet allowing an exit for the ball carrier when one is involved in the drill.

## **FOOTBALL GUIDELINES**

### **CIF State Bylaw 2001.B. – Policy Page**

State statute mandates that football teams are limited to two days per week of full contact practice, with no more than 45 minutes of full contact on each of those days during the season of sport. For the purposes of this CIF Bylaw, each team's season of sport is defined as the first day of practice, as allowed by Section, until the final contest for the team. All full contact practices are prohibited in the off-season which includes team camps

Full contact practice is defined by state statute as a practice where drills or live action is conducted that involves collisions at game speed where players execute tackles and other activity that is typical of an actual tackle football game. Live action is defined by USA football as a drill run in game like conditions and is the only time that players are taken to the ground. Thud is a drill run at an assigned speed through the moment of contact with no pre-determined winner. Contact remains above the waist and players stay on their feet. Thud is considered full-contact by the National Federation of State High School Associates (NFHS)

The CIF has developed the following regarding full contact football practices:

#### **Allowable Activities During the Season of Sport:**

- A team is allowed two days per week of full contact practice, with no more than 45 minutes of full contact on each of those days. This includes live action and thud.
- A team may participate in air, bags/blocking sleds-and control drills at any time unless the Section has implemented more restrictive rules. A team may continue to dress in full pads for practice when conducting any of these drills defined below:
  1. Air – Players run unopposed without bags or any opposition.
  2. Bags/Blocking Sleds – Activity is executed against a bag/blocking sleds, shield or pad to allow for a soft-contact surface, with or without the resistance of a teammate or coach standing behind the bag.
  3. Control: Drill is run at assigned speed until the moment of contact with a pre-determined winner. Contact remains above the waist and players stay on their feet allowing an exit for the ball carrier when one is involved in the drill.
- For purposes of this Bylaw, the season of sport for each team is defined as the first day of practice, as allowed by the Section, until the final contest for that team.

#### **Allowable Activities During the Off-Season:**

- No full contact practice is allowed during the off-season. Please consult Section Bylaws for allowable off-season activities.
- For the purposes of this Bylaw, the off-season is defined as the team's last football contest of the season until the first day of practice the following school year as set by the Section.

#### **Allowable Activities for Team Camps:**

- No full contact practice is allowed during the off-season.
- Team camps are considered practice.
- If allowed by the Section, a team may participate in air, bags/blocking sleds-and control drills (see above for definitions of these activities) while attending a team camp. A team may continue to dress in full pads for practice when conducting any of these drills at a team camp. Please consult Section and School District rules regarding the use of school equipment in the off-season.



- For purposes of this Bylaw, the off-season is defined as the team's last football contest of the season until the first day of practice the following school year as set by the Section.

## **Q&A's for Bylaw 2001:**

### **Q: What is the implementation date for this bylaw?**

A: In order to comply with AB2127, this bylaw will be implemented immediately.

### **Q: May teams continue to use Thud as a training drill?**

A: Yes. However, the time spent in Thud drills is considered full-contact and would count against the team's allotment in both for both days and minutes.

### **Q: Does unused time carry over to the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of allowable full-contact?**

A: No. Teams are allowed 2 days per week of full-contact with no more than 45 minutes on each of those days. If a team does not use the entire 90 minutes of full contact on one day, it may not carry over those unused minutes to the next day.

### **Q: Is a team allowed any type of contact outside of the two days per week with no more than 45 minutes on each of those days?**

A: Yes. A team may still engage in Control drills. See the Policy Page for Bylaw 1901 for the definition of Control.

### **Q: If allowed by the Section, may a team in the off-season, engage in drills that are not considered full-contact?**

A: Yes. However, no full-contact practice is allowed during the off-season at any time.

### **Q: Is full-contact allowed at team camps?**

A: No. According to AB2127, team camps are considered practice so full-contact would be prohibited.

### **Q: May teams attend a full-contact team camp outside of California?**

A: No. AB2127 and CIF Bylaw 1901 apply no matter where the team camp is conducted.

### **Q: May teams attend a team camp that only utilizes activities that are not considered full-contact?**

A: Yes. Teams may attend a team camp and participate in drills that are not considered full-contact such as Air, Bags/Blocking Sleds and Control.

### **Q: Are players allowed to attend individual camps and participate in full-contact drills?**

A: Yes. However, schools should consult their Section and School District (or school) policies regarding the use of school equipment by individuals. Also, schools may not use individual camps to circumvent AB 2127 and Bylaw 2001 regarding team camps.

## **ORGANIZED TEAM PRACTICE**

Organized team practice shall be interpreted as meaning the association of a coach with potential team members for the purpose of learning or practicing the skills of football. (**Note:** A school may not conduct a practice of any type on Sunday. Assembling a football squad of selected members for a "skull session" or for the purpose of reviewing game films is not permitted.)

## **FOOTBALL PRACTICE SITE**

All football practice sessions are to be conducted on campus or the regular home practice field of the school. No school or its allied organizations, such as booster clubs, may provide housing and/or meals free of charge to athletes during regular football practice prior to the opening of school.

## **AGE REQUIREMENT (BLUE BOOK RULE 2000)**

A student under 15 years of age may not participate in an interscholastic contest or scrimmage against the varsity team of another school. This Bylaw may be waived by Section action provided the Section adopts criteria for such a waiver which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- A. Participant must be at least 14 years of age;
- B. A signed consent statement from the parents or legal guardian, allowing participation at the varsity level;
- C. A statement from the head coach that the student-athlete has the physical and mental maturity to compete at the varsity level;
- D. A statement of compliance must be given by the principal to the respective Section office verifying that all required documentation has been completed and is on file in the appropriate school office. There is a 14 Year Old Football tab on [www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org) that needs to be completed and submitted electronically to the CIF Southern Section prior to a 14-year old student's participation on a varsity football team. The purpose of this form is to establish a database on the number of students participating. Please submit the enclosed form if you have any 14-year old students playing varsity football.

Students may not compete on a freshman team after he/she has reached their 16th birthday on or before June 15<sup>th</sup>, or on a sophomore or frosh/soph team after he/she has reached their 17th birthday on or before June 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **FREE LANCE SCHOOL**

Any freelance school wishing to enter the playoffs must submit its schedule to the Commissioner for approval of conditions under which the team may qualify for the playoffs. Schedules must be submitted prior to the start of each season of sport for evaluation. See CIF Blue Book Rule 3210.

## **SCOUTING PROHIBITIONS - PRACTICE SESSIONS**

Scouting of any type, which would include personal viewing, written notes, audio tape, motion pictures, video reproduction and/or any other type of reproduction, such as still pictures, etc., shall not be taken in any sport of a member school's practice sessions by anyone without written consent of the participating school(s).

Question: What is allowed with regard to scouting a contest or scrimmage?

Answer: There will be NO restrictions on the part of member schools regarding the filming/video taping of any contest or one allowable scrimmage. Home schools will maintain game management rights and responsibilities.

## **GAME FILMING**

Please share these suggested guidelines for filming with your game photographer:

- ✓ Picture should be clear and player's numbers readable
- ✓ Picture should include enough players on both teams to recognize offensive and defensive formations. During kick plays the camera should follow its own team

## **MERCY RULE**

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 4<sup>th</sup> quarter until the end of the contest. If schools wish to invoke a running clock prior to the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 has been approved for statewide adoption, for both regular and post-season contests. This is in accordance with NFHS Football Rules 3-1-2 and 3-1-3.**

1. Prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter or at any time during the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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; 1<sup>st</sup> 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

## **TIE-BREAKER SYSTEM**

The "25-Yard Tie-Breaker System" is authorized for use in the Southern Section for playoffs as follows:

1. Respective leagues have the option of adopting the plan for use
2. If adopted, all ties within league must be resolved with the "25-Yard Tie-Breaker System"
3. If adopted, the plan may be used for the V, JV or Frosh/Soph levels, or any combination of
4. By mutual consent, the plan may be used for non-league contests
5. The "25-Yard Tie-Breaker System" will be used for all CIF-SS playoff contests
6. May not be used beyond the last allowable playing date to determine entry into the playoffs

## **TIE GAMES**

The twenty-five yard line tiebreaker system will be used in all divisions and all games, **(including finals)**, of the CIF Southern Section football playoffs, when games end in regulation time with the score tied. Although the ball will be placed on the 25-yard line for tiebreakers, we will adopt the National Federation 10-yard tiebreaker rules, with the exception that teams will be able to make first downs and have the opportunity to score on a defensive interception or fumble recovery. Complete details for the 10-yard line tiebreaker are listed on [page 85 of the 2021 National Federation Official High School Football Rules](#).

## **HOW THE TIE-BREAKER WORKS**

If the score at the conclusion of regulation play is tied, there will be a timeout. The captains of the two squads will meet at midfield, with the officials, for a flip of the coin. The winner of the toss will have the option to defend a goal or to determine possession.

Then, each team will have the opportunity to score from the 25-yard line and the team which outscores the other in the "overtime" session will be the winner, following the rules of football.

.... For example, the team on offense first will have one series of downs in which to score a touchdown (and try to kick for a one-point conversion or a run-pass for a two-point conversion) or kick a field goal. The other team will have one series of downs in which to equal, or surpass, the points scored by the first team. If the second team on offense does not equal or surpass the first team on offense, the first team on offense wins. If the second team scores more points than the first team, the second

team wins. If the second team scores an equal number of points, the whole procedure is repeated until a winner is determined.

## **CA EDUCATION CODE RE: FOOTBALL EQUIPMENT RECONDITIONING**

17578. The governing board of each district maintaining a high school shall provide for annual cleaning, sterilizing, and necessary repair of football equipment of their respective schools pursuant to Sections 17579 and 17580.

17579. All football equipment actually worn by pupils shall be cleaned and sterilized at least once a year. Football equipment used in spring training shall be cleaned and sterilized before it is used in the succeeding fall term.

17580. Any contract with a dealer or craftsman for the repair of football equipment belonging to the district or state college shall specifically state or describe the materials to be used by the dealer or craftsman in repairing such equipment.

## **PLAYER CONDUCT**

### **1224. PLAYER CONDUCT – STATEWIDE SPORTSMANSHIP AND EJECTION POLICY (also 503.M) APPLIES TO ALL SPORTS SECTIONS**

#### **A. Statewide Sportsmanship and Ejection Policy**

Player:

A player who is ejected from a contest (for reasons other than fighting or leaving the bench area during a fight) shall be ineligible to participate in the remainder of that contest (event) and his or her team's future contest (s) as outlined below:

- (1)** First Ejection: Player is ineligible to participate in the team's next contest. Player may remain on the bench for the duration of that contest and may be on the bench in street clothes for the team's next contest. If the ejection occurs in the last game of the season, the player would be ineligible for the team's first contest the following season. If the player is a senior, he or she would be ineligible for the first contest of their next season of sport.
- (2)** Second Ejection: Player is ineligible to participate in the team's next three (3) contests. Player may remain on the bench for the duration of that contest and may be on the bench in street clothes for the team's next three (3) contests. If the season concludes prior to the player serving the three (3) contests suspension, he or she would be ineligible for the number of contests remaining on the suspension for the team's following season. If the player is a senior, he or she would be ineligible for the number of contests remaining on the suspension for their next season of sport.
- (3)** Third Ejection: Player is ineligible to participate for the remainder of that season. Player may remain on the bench for the duration of that contest and may be on the bench in street clothes for the team's remaining contest that season. If there are six (6) or fewer contests remaining in

the season, the player would be ineligible for up to six (6) contests for the team's following season as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter. If the player is a senior, he or she would be ineligible for up to six (6) contests for the next season of sport as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter.

A player who is ejected from a contest for fighting or leaving the bench area during a fight\* shall be ineligible to participate in the remainder of that contest and his or her team's future contests as outlined below:

- (4) First Ejection: Player (Fighting/Assaultive Behavior/Gross Unsportsmanlike Conduct) is ineligible to participate in the team's next three (3) to six (6) contests as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter. Player may remain on the bench for the duration of that contest and may be on the bench in street clothes for the duration of the suspension. If the season concludes prior to the player serving the full suspension, he or she would be ineligible for the number of contests remaining on the suspension for the team's following season. If the player is a senior, he or she would be ineligible for the number of contests remaining on the suspension for their next season of sport. \*NFHS Rules indicate automatic one game suspension for leaving the bench.
- (5) Second Ejection: Player is ineligible to participate for the remainder of that season. Player may remain on the bench for the duration of that contest and may be on the bench in street clothes for the team's remaining contests that season. If there are six (6) or fewer contests remaining in the season, the player would be ineligible for up to six (6) contests for the team's following season as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter. If the player is a senior, he or she would be ineligible for up to six (6) contests for their next season of sport as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter.

Before a player may return to participate in a contest following a multiple game suspension for any of the above infractions, the school principal must inform the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter that they have met with the student-athlete, his or her parent/guardian/caregiver and coach to discuss future behavioral expectations.

#### Appeal Process for All Multi-Game Ejections:

The school principal may appeal the penalties listed above in writing to the League Commissioner/President (for a regular season contest not including the final contest prior to Section playoffs) or CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter (for the final contest prior to Section playoffs and all playoff contests). The appeal must be received by the Section with 48 hours of the date of the ejection. Reasons for the appeal may only include misidentification of the ejected player or a misapplication of the rule. There will be no appeal regarding the judgement of an official.

Note: There is no appeal process for single game ejections.

Enforcement:

See Bylaw 503. M. and Article 22.C.(1)(2)(3)(4)

- B. The Executive Director and/or Executive Committee or Section Commissioner and/or Section Board of Managers shall have power to suspend, to fine or otherwise penalize any member school for the violation of any CIF or Section rules and regulations or for just cause. The period of suspension or other penalty shall be left to the discretion of the CIF governing body that has jurisdiction of the matter where the penalty is not fixed.

*Question: Sometimes an official will reverse their initial call at the conclusion of the contest. Can the official reverse his/her original call?*

Answer: If, in the review of the report filed by the official, it is determined that he/she made an incorrect ruling, the official may rescind the initial ejection.

(Approved May 2020 Federated Council)

QUESTION: Under what scenario may a school appeal a multi-game ejection? (Single game ejections are not subject to appeal)

ANSWER: A school may only appeal a multi-game ejection for misidentification of a player(s) or coach(es) involved. \*There is no appeal to the CIF Southern Section regarding the judgement of an official, in any circumstance.

QUESTION: What must be submitted to the Section office before a student can be cleared to rejoin his/her team?

ANSWER: The Section office will provide a form on their website that must be uploaded to CIFSS Home. The School must also indicate the date(s) of the contest in which the player will not be in attendance in the "School Action" portion of the misconduct.

QUESTION: What is meant by attendance at a contest?

ANSWER: Attendance is defined as being present at the location/site of the contest, which includes at the team bench/area, in the stands/spectator area, any location where the contest can be observed at any time, inside a gymnasium, stadium or playing area. The intent of this rule is that the ejected person is not present at the location/ site of the next contest.

QUESTION: What happens when a student engages in Fighting/Assaultive Behavior during an athletic contest that is not observed by game officials?

ANSWER: In cases when a student engages in Fighting/Assaultive Behavior that is not observed by game officials, it is the expectation of the CIF Southern Section Executive Committee that the building principal of the school involved will impose a minimum three- game suspension for the students who commit such offenses.

QUESTION: What happens if a student or coach receives a red card, misconduct of any kind, or an ejection during the last game of the season?

ANSWER: The game suspension(s) carry over to the first game(s) at the beginning of the subsequent season. For example, a sophomore soccer player receives a red card the last game of the 2020 season. He/she will serve a game suspension the first game of 2021 season. Suspensions carry over and must be served before the individual becomes eligible to compete in that sport. See next Q&A for answers regarding seniors.

QUESTION: What if a senior (12<sup>th</sup> grader) student receives a red card, misconduct of any kind or an ejection during the last game of the season?

ANSWER: If a senior (12<sup>th</sup> grade) student receives a red card or misconduct during the last game of the season, he/she must serve the penalty in the NEXT sport in which he/she participates. If the student does not participate in any other sports, the CIF Office WILL need a letter from the principal indicating the corrective action taken with that student. This letter will be uploaded to the ejection report in CIF-SS Home.

QUESTION: When a team has multiple player conduct issues within a game which will affect their ability to field a full team at that level in the next contest, can the school bring players up from a lower level to fill the roster?

ANSWER: No. If a level of sport involved in multiple player conduct issues to the extent where, it affects their ability to safely field a team, the subsequent game shall be forfeited.



## **1225. COACH EJECTION – STATEWIDE SPORTSMANSHIP AND EJECTION POLICY (also 503M) APPLIES TO ALL SPORTS SECTIONS**

A coach who is ejected from a contest (for reasons other than fighting) shall be disqualified from participating in the remainder of that contest and his or her team's future contest (s) as outlined below:

- (1)** First Ejection: Coach is disqualified from participating in the team's next contest. Coach must immediately vacate the playing area and the vicinity in and around the contest and refrain from having any communication with the team or other coaches for the remainder of that contest and for the team's next contest. If the ejection occurs in the last game of the season, the coach would be ineligible for the team's first contest the following season.
- (2)** Second Ejection: Coach is disqualified from participating in the team's next three (3) to six (6) contests as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter. Coach must immediately vacate the playing area and the vicinity in and around the contest and refrain from having any communication with the team or other coaches for the remainder of that contest and for the team's next three (3) to six (6) contests. If the ejection occurs in the last game of the season, the coach would be ineligible for the team's first three (3) to six (6) contests the following season.
- (3)** Third Ejection: Coach is disqualified from participating in the remaining contests of that season. Coach must immediately vacate the playing area and the vicinity in and around the contest and refrain from having any communication with the team or other coaches for the remainder of that contest and for the remaining contests of that season. If there are six (6) or fewer contests remaining in the season, the coach would be disqualified from participating for up to six (6) contest for the team's following season as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter.

A coach who is ejected from a contest for (Fighting/Assaultive Behavior/Gross Unsportsmanlike Conduct) shall be disqualified from participating in the remainder of that contest and his or her team's future contests as outlined below:

- (4)** Ejection for (Fighting/Assaultive Behavior/Gross Unsportsmanlike Conduct): Coach is disqualified from participating for the remainder of that season. Coach must immediately vacate the playing area and the vicinity in and around the contest and refrain from having any communication with the team or other coaches for the remainder of that contest and for all of the team's remaining contests that season. If there are fewer than six (6) contest remaining in the season, the coach would be disqualified from participating for up to six (6) contests for the team's following season as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter.

Before a coach may return to participate in a contest following a multiple contest disqualification, for any of the above infractions, the school principal must inform the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter that they have met with the coach to discuss future behavioral expectations.

**Appeal Process for All Multi-Game Ejections:**

The school principal may appeal the penalties listed above in writing to the League Commissioner/President (for a regular season contest not including the final contest prior to Section playoffs) or CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter (for the final contest prior to Section playoffs and all playoff contests). The appeal must be received by the Section within 48 hours of the date of the ejection. Reasons for the appeal may only include misidentification of the ejected player or a misapplication of the rule. There will be no appeal regarding the judgement of an official.

Note: There is no appeal process for single game ejections.

**Spectator:**

If a spectator is ejected from a contest, it is the responsibility of the school to ensure that person does not attend that team's next contest. If the same spectator is ejected a second time, it is the responsibility of the school to ensure that person does not attend any of the remaining contests for that season.

**Enforcement:**

See Bylaw 503. M. and Article 22.C.(1)(2)(3)(4)

- B. The Executive Director and/or Executive Committee or Section Commissioner and/or Section Board of Managers shall have power to suspend, to fine or otherwise penalize any member school for the violation of any CIF or Section rules and regulations or for just cause. The period of suspension or other penalty shall be left to the discretion of the CIF governing body that has jurisdiction of the matter where the penalty is not fixed.

*Question: Sometimes an official will reverse their initial call at the conclusion of the contest. Can the official reverse his/her original call?*

*Answer: If, in the review of the report filed by the official, it is determined that he/she made an incorrect ruling, the official may rescind the initial ejection.*

*(Approved May 2020 Federated Council)*

QUESTION:	Under what scenario may a school appeal a multi-game ejection? <u>(Single game ejections are not subject to appeal)</u>
ANSWER:	A school may only appeal a multi-game ejection for misidentification of a player(s) or coach(es) involved. *There is no appeal to the CIF Southern Section regarding the judgement of an official, in any circumstance.
QUESTION:	When will appeals for multi-game ejections (Non-league contests, playoff contests) be reviewed by CIF Southern Section administrators?
ANSWER:	Appeals for multi-game ejections will only be reviewed during regular business hours. Monday – Friday, 7:30 am – 4:00 pm.

## **PLAN FOR ALTERCATIONS**

- Coaches on the sideline should immediately yell “Red Alert”, step two yards onto the field, facing their sideline/bench area with arms outstretched and yell “Red Alert”.
- Use the “Red Alert” phrase that alerts all players that an altercation has started and to follow their procedure
- Instruct all players on the sideline to immediately turn to their bench, take a knee and remove their helmets.
- Players on the field, should sprint to their sideline, take a knee and remove their helmets.
- No athlete should attempt to interfere and/or join the altercation.
- A designated coach may need to go onto the field to assist the game officials, usually the Head Coach.

Developing a procedure for in case an altercation occurs and reviewing it with your football team prior to the start of your first contest. Practice the procedure during scrimmages. League play, and post season playoffs can help prevent disqualifications and possible forfeits.

## **WHEN CAN A BAND PLAY?**

While there is no specific rule cited in the 2021-2022 National Federation of High Schools Football Rule Book, or in the 2021-2022 C.I.F. Southern Section Blue Book regarding this issue, the standard procedure for football contests, as interpreted by this office and the California Football Officials Association is as follows:

A band can play during a contest, but only during breaks in the action. For example, between plays, during timeouts, between quarters, half-time, and so on. If a band is playing during the game, it is considered unsportsmanlike conduct by the team whose band is playing. The playing of music during the game can be a distraction to the competing teams, and the officials, and can result in placing teams at an advantage or disadvantage as a result. It is the expectation of the C.I.F., and the game officials, that the administration of the offending school will make sure that the band adheres to this standard. If the playing of music during game action continues, then the officials have the authority to penalize the offending team 15 yards for unsportsmanlike conduct, each and every time it happens.

## **DRONES**

Drones are not allowed during any 11 or 8-man football contests at all levels. Although there is not an actual State CIF rule against the use of drones, the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) in its June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 Summary of Small Unmanned Aircraft Rule states “Small unmanned aircraft may not operate over any persons not directly participating in the operation.” Based upon this federal

ruling the CIF State Office has instructed our section to deem it a safety hazard and to not allow drones.

A Drone flying to get pregame images for a later TV broadcast well before the start of a game and the arrival of the crowd would be an example of a drone flight within the FAA rules and outside of our concern for safety

## **GAME ANNOUNCER SUGGESTIONS**

The following information is provided for the benefit of the public-address announcer at your home playoff games: this capsule summary was developed by the late John McDonough and has been found to be very useful to our member schools.

1. Remember, you are NOT a radio announcer and should not give a play-by play account of the game. This is an insult to the intelligence of the spectators. In a normal game you will be speaking about 25 percent of the time and be QUIET about 75 percent of the time. The crowd came to see the game, not to hear your opinions about it.
2. Give the down and distance before each play. Simply say, "Third and eight on the Homestead 42."
3. When the ball is snapped, do not say, "Jones has the ball and is going around left end." Again, you are insulting the intelligence of the spectators. Merely give his name – "Jones is the ball carrier."
4. When the play is over, give the name of the man, or men, who made the tackle, and set up the down and distance again.
5. After a long run, pass, or kick, give the total yardage, but make no comment. Such comments as "What a beautiful run" are in bad taste. The crowd can see that it was a good run and as a PA announcer you must be 100 percent impartial.
6. NEVER try to outguess the officials. If you think you see a penalty, do not mention it. If one of the officials throws a yellow flag, simply say, "There is a flag on the play." Then wait – do not try to explain the foul. When the referee gives his signal, interpret it to the crowd. Get a copy of the rulebook or a program, which has the signals. If it is an unusual play, the arrangements you made prior to the game will get this information to you to pass on to the spectators.
7. Never use the names of officials during the game. You should read their names prior to the game. Do not say, "The foul was called by Head Linesman Jones" or "Referee Smith is explaining the foul to the Captain Brown".
8. Never comment on the penalties that are called, or the work of the officials, whether you think it is good or bad.
9. Never comment on the sportsmanship, or play, of either team, or either coach.
10. Never designate the player who committed a penalty. You probably will be wrong anyway, and this type of announcement tends to make the game get out of hand.
1. If a player is injured, give his name. You are not a doctor, so do not try to diagnose his injuries.

If you get a later report on the player's condition, give it with no comment. Never try to explain how a player was injured. This can be misconstrued by the crowd as an unsportsmanlike act on the part of an opponent and cause an unfortunate situation.

2. If the crowd starts to boo the visiting team, or the officials, to an extreme degree, say, "Ladies and Gentlemen, these people are our guests tonight, let's treat them as such."
3. A few minutes before the end of the game, preferably during a time out, thank the people for coming, announce convenient routes for leaving the stadium and remind them to drive carefully on the way home.

In summary, the public address announcer just covers the facts of the game, as impartially and objectively as possible. You should not give opinions of your own because the spectators are present and should be free to form their own opinions. A radio announcer gives his opinions because the listener is seeing the game through his description, but you are a public address announcer, and this is a totally different art.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCHOOLS RELATED TO OFFICIALS**

It is **required** that:

1. When contacted by official at least 24 hours in advance, the host school will have available someone who will handle the needs of the officials assigned to the contest.
2. The host school have available someone who will handle the needs of the officials assigned to the contest. This should include, but not be limited to, facility orientation, locker room assignment and parking.
3. The officials' locker rooms be open at halftime and immediately after the game.
4. At the completion of the contest, the officials' locker and dressing facilities remain secured for at least 30 minutes in football and 20 minutes in all other sports. Coaches and other school officials should not enter an officials' dressing area for the purpose of complaints.
5. Coaches not approach or confront the officials at the completion of a contest.
6. Coaches and school officials not make public statements to the new media criticizing officials.
7. School officials be alert to potential problem situations and, when necessary, provide security for officials to and from their dressing facilities and to the parking area after the contest.
8. Athletic administrators convey to their coaching staff that if there is a problem regarding the officiating, it should be handled first through the Area Officials' Liaison and secondly by the CIF Southern Section Office if the problem is serious in nature.
9. A representative from the host school shall handle financial matters prior to the start of the contest. This task should not be handled by the coach.
10. The participating schools should enforce the principles of Victory with Honor and Education Code 48900 and 48915 with regards to fan and spectator behavior. Schools are strongly encouraged to remove and sanction any spectator who engages in abusive verbal or physical behavior or who uses profanity.



11. Schools not in compliance with numbers 1-10, will be reported to their Area Liaison by the officials association within five (5) school days. Regardless of the infraction, the contest will be played.

The safety and security of officials is a prime concern of the CIF Southern Section. It is recommended that each school put together a packet to be sent to the liaison providing information to officials pertaining to the game including but not limited to:

- Map of School
- Location and availability of facilities
- Parking
- Officials security arrangements
- Contact person with phone number and availability
- Officials shall be paid in a timely fashion

## **PLAYOFF INFORMATION**

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION: 11-Man Formula for Guaranteed Entry Into CIF-SS Football Playoffs**

In all divisions leagues with:

**Leagues of 4 or 5 teams will get 2 guaranteed entries,  
leagues of 6-8 teams will get 3 guaranteed entries  
leagues of 9 or more teams will get 4 guaranteed entries**

(Blue Book Rule 3319.7) In the sport of Football, individual schools will be evaluated and placed into divisions on a yearly basis utilizing a formula based entirely on current regular season results. Final power rankings, and divisional placements, will be determined and released at the end of the current regular season. Seeding of all playoff brackets in each division will follow the final power rankings in that division, regardless of league affiliation or league finish. For example, in the First Round, the #1 seed, determined by the final power rankings for that division, will play #16, the #2 seed will play #15, etc. The higher seeded team will host the First Round contest and then CIF Southern Section Bylaw 3304, Host Team After the First Round, will be followed for all subsequent contests.

### **AT LARGE ENTRY**

Once Automatic Qualifiers have been placed into a division, any remaining spots will go to the highest ranked, .500 teams in that grouping. If there are not enough .500 teams, then the highest rated sub .500 team(s), will be taken.

**NOTE:** YOU MUST SUBMIT THE “AT-LARGE/FREELANCE ENTRY” TO BE CONSIDERED. INSTRUCTION FOR SUBMISSION WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF BULLETIN.

## **8-MAN FOOTBALL**

**Please familiarize yourself with the following information in this bulletin.**

- 1 The 8-Man Football Playoffs will consist of 2 divisions. Schools will be placed into their appropriate playoff divisions based on their CBEDS enrollment number on October 1, 2019. NOTE: By rule, if a school has experienced a 15% increase or decrease in their total school enrollment between October 1, 2020 and October 1, 2021, a school may petition for re-classification into another payoff division based on that increase or decrease in total school enrollment. Petitions for re-classification must be filed with the C.I.F.-SS Office prior to October 1, 2019, or they will not be considered.

The Division 1 and Division 2 playoff brackets will BOTH be 16-team draws. Only the champions of each league will be guaranteed automatic entry into the playoffs in each division, with the remaining berths in each draw filled by at-large teams, using the criteria listed below. Also, by rule, the total numbers of 8-Man football schools are to be split in half into these two divisions.

2. Guaranteed entries will only be accepted from leagues where members have **PLAYED** at least 3 league contests (forfeitures will not be accepted).
3. The remainder of the bracket will be filled by at-large teams, which include freelance teams, as well as league schools who do not qualify automatically.
4. No team may qualify for the playoffs, either as a guaranteed entry, or as an at-large team, unless they have actually played 6 contests (no forfeits).

**NOTE:** Should the number of guaranteed playoff entries fail to complete a full bracket, this will necessitate the inclusion of at-large teams. The following criteria and procedures will be used to accomplish this task.

(1) Leagues will have the option of entering at-large teams for consideration should they desire (see process below).

(2) All at-large entries must be submitted to the CIF-SS no later than 11:00 p.m. on the Saturday morning for the weekend in which the playoff draw will be completed.

(3) Schools which are being submitted as at-large entries **MUST** submit to this office by 11:00 p.m. the Saturday of the weekend in which the playoff draw is finalized, on the proper form which lists all contests played, results of same and any further background information the at-large selection committee should be appraised of in determining the teams which will be selected for the filling of byes.

(4)The Selection Committee, with the full support of the CIF-SS Football Coaches Advisory Committee, will utilize the following criteria in its selection process, with each category below having the specific weight listed:

AT-LARGE TEAMS FOR FOOTBALL ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A .500 RECORD OR BETTER FOR THEIR COMPLETE SCHEDULES TO BE CONSIDERED. A TIE WILL COUNT AS A ½ WIN AND ½ LOSS AS THE CRITERIA FOR .500 OR BETTER RECORD. (A record of 4-4-1 would be considered as qualifying.) IN THE SPORT OF FOOTBALL, IN ORDER TO ALLEVIATE BYES, IF THERE ARE NO .500 TEAMS ENTERED AS AT-LARGE ENTRIES, THE NEXT BEST RECORD AS SUBMITTED BY LEAGUES WILL BE TAKEN. HOWEVER, NO TEAM UNDER .500 WILL BE PLACED UNTIL ALL .500 AT-LARGE ENTRIES HAVE BEEN PLACED. (SEE BLUE BOOK RULE 3214.1.)

Criteria utilized by the At-Large Selection Committee:

- (a) Head-to-head competition of teams under consideration (4 points)
  - (b) Overall strength of the league from which the team is entered (1 point)
  - (c) Overall win-loss record (1 point)
  - (d) Strength against common opponents (1 point)
  - (e) Strength of schedule (2 points, using overall win-loss record of opponents)
  - (f) Free lance teams will be part of the pool for the filling of at-large berths
- (5) The At-Large Selection Committee will convene its meeting in the CIF-SS office on Sunday morning for the weekend in which the playoff draw is to be finalized. The administrator so designated from the CIF-SS office for that sport shall act as a resource person and chair the meeting.

It is again to be reviewed that all material relating to an at-large entry MUST be submitted to the CIF-SS no later than 9:00 a.m. on the Sunday for the weekend in which the playoff draw is to be finalized. If the material is not submitted, the team will not be placed under consideration in that the at-large selection committee will have no statistical data from which to draw.

## **IMPROVED MEDIA RELATIONS FOR HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL**

### **I ADVANTAGES – PURPOSE**

#### **A. Increased school notoriety**

- 1. Give the school name greater public recognition
- 2. Increase awareness of the athletic program
- 3. Generate community interest and support for the school as a whole

#### **B. Increased attendance at game**

#### **C. Increased recognition for individual athletes**

- 1. Make outstanding achievements known on community, state and national levels
- 2. Allow athletes to have a greater chance at receiving awards
- 3. Increase interest in college recruiters and give athletes more scholarship opportunities

### **II BASIC KEYS TO IMPROVED MEDIA RELATIONS**

#### **A. Report all varsity scores**

- 1. Make sure to have a responsible person (student, assistant coach, faculty member, booster club member, etc.) email in scores after each athletic event
- 2. Report to all media in your coverage area
  - a) Local newspaper(s)
  - b) Major metropolitan newspaper(s)
  - c) Local radio station(s)
  - d) Local television station/cable TV outlet

- e) Post email addresses for the above where they are easily accessible after any event. Be sure to take a copy on road trips
3. Always be prepared to report league and overall records for BOTH teams when emailing scores
4. Always report all Scores to [www.Scorebooklive.com](http://www.Scorebooklive.com) first!
5. Major Daily Metropolitan Newspapers in CIF-SS Coverage Area:
  - a) In the all areas: Los Angeles Times – [eric.sondheimer@latimes.com](mailto:eric.sondheimer@latimes.com)
  - b) In the 310 area: South Bay Daily Breeze – [sports@dailybreeze.com](mailto:sports@dailybreeze.com)
  - c) In the 562 area: Long Beach Press-Telegram; Whittier Daily News – [sports@sgvn.com](mailto:sports@sgvn.com)
  - d) In the 714 area: Orange County Register – Daily Pilot – [Andrew.turner@latimes.com](mailto:Andrew.turner@latimes.com)
  - e) In the 909/951 area: Riverside Press Enterprise – [preps@pe.com](mailto:preps@pe.com) ; San Bernardino Sun – Daily Bulletin – [sports@inlandnewspapers.com](mailto:sports@inlandnewspapers.com)
  - f) In the 818 area: Glendale News Press – [grant.gordon@latimes.com](mailto:grant.gordon@latimes.com) [sports@sgvn.com](mailto:sports@sgvn.com); L.A. Daily News – [dailynewsprepsports@gmail.com](mailto:dailynewsprepsports@gmail.com)
  - g) In the 626 area: San Gabriel Valley Tribune; Pasadena Star News – [sports@sgvn.com](mailto:sports@sgvn.com)
  - h) In the 661 area: Antelope Valley Press [sports@avpress.com](mailto:sports@avpress.com) ; Santa Clarita Signal – [sportstalk@signalscv.com](mailto:sportstalk@signalscv.com)
  - i) In the 619 area: San Diego Union Tribune – [utpreps@sportsngin.com](mailto:utpreps@sportsngin.com)
  - j) In the 760 area: The Desert Sun – [sports@desertsun.com](mailto:sports@desertsun.com)
  - k) In the 805 area: Lompoc Record – [estern@leecentralcoastnews.com](mailto:estern@leecentralcoastnews.com); Santa Barbara News Press – [sports@newspress.com](mailto:sports@newspress.com) ; Santa Maria Times – [estern@leecentralcoastnews.com](mailto:estern@leecentralcoastnews.com) ; San Luis Obispo Tribune – [difeletribunenews.com](mailto:difeletribunenews.com) ; Ventura County Star – [vcsportsdesk@vcstar.com](mailto:vcsportsdesk@vcstar.com)

#### B. Maintain accurate rosters for all varsity teams

1. Always include the following: Number, Name, Position, Height, Weight, Year in School
2. Always have programs for home varsity contests. Make sure they include complete and accurate rosters for BOTH teams
3. Always provide programs at no charge to members of the media covering your event
4. Keep accurate statistics throughout each season of sport
5. Update each week
6. Report outstanding statistical performances when reporting game scores  
(Note: If you know the game is being covered in person, this may not be necessary. This is a general guideline for minor sports which aren't regularly covered)
7. Watch for CIF-SS Bulletins and follow directions for reporting statistical information to the section office when requested

Maintain all-time school records and make available to the media upon request. (A great item for programs, a must for media guides)

#### C. Use of facilities

1. Always provide a seat in the press box or at the scorers table for working members of the media
2. Keep in mind that the press box and/or scorer's table should be reserved for authorized game personnel (announcer, spotter, scoreboard operator, timer, stat crew, etc.). Cheer and socializing should not be allowed in the press box or at the scorers table
  - a) This is a WORKING area. Maintain a professional atmosphere at all

times Schedule announcements

3. Schedule announcements are a sure way to gain media attention, as well as provide the public with the information they need to attend your games
4. Complete schedules well in advance of each season
5. Release schedules to local media as soon as they become complete
6. Meet the CIF-SS Master Schedule mail-in dates to be sure your school is Included

### III PERSONAL MEDIA RELATIONSHIPS

#### A. Coaches

1. Make yourself accessible to the media whenever possible, but know your limits
  - a) You are entitled to a 10 minute “cool-down” period after a contest. USE IT! Don’t try to answer any questions until you are composed and ready to concentrate
  - b) Remember, nothing is “off the record”. Anything you say can and probably will be printed
  - c) Try to set a consistent day and time when you can be reached during the week and make it known to the reporters covering your team
2. Assist reporters with statistics, records and general information about your athletes

#### B. Student-Athletes

1. Coaches should instruct players on the “do’s” and “don’ts” of media interviews at an early team meeting
  - a) Review good interview techniques – straight and to the point. Be informative, don’t “ramble” or get off the subject. Answer the questions asked
  - b) Stress the importance of good media relations
  - c) Remind players to stress the “team concept”
  - d) Prepare students to be ready when questions are asked and not fearful or under duress when the situation arises
  - e) Player interviews on the high school level can be a great learning experience – they should be enjoyable as well
2. Set policy on player interviews and stick to it
  - a) Where and when
  - b) Notify media of such policies

#### C. Maintain an accurate up-to-date list of coaches’ office and home phone numbers

1. This is especially important for “walk-on” coaches
2. Provide this list to your regular media outlets

### IV MISCELLANEOUS TIPS AND IDEAS

#### A. Be acquainted with the CIF-SS Media Department and its services

1. Contact Thom Simmons, Assistant Commissioner, at 562-493-9500 or email him at [thoms@cifss.org](mailto:thoms@cifss.org) or Program Coordinator, Anita Fopma at [anitaf@cifss.org](mailto:anitaf@cifss.org)
  - a) Report outstanding performances by your teams or athletes
  - b) Provide information on school activities, facts on athletes, coaching milestones, etc.
2. General CIF-SS Media Department Services
  - a) Weekly top ten polls; Publication of CIF-SS quarterly Bulletin; Maintenance of All Time CIF-SS records; Broadcast approval for all contests; Media contact for championship events

#### B. Communicate ideas for feature articles on coaches, athletes or teams to local media



outlets. If you think one of your team members might make an interesting feature article subject, let your local sports editor or beat writer in on it. They are in constant search of these types of items

C. Answer all written requests for information about your program

1. CIF-SS Schedule Requests, Playoff Information forms
2. Local newspaper, radio and TV questionnaires
3. State and national magazine questionnaires

D. Maintain a file of information forms on coaches and athletes. These may serve as a valuable reference when coaches or athletes are not available for interview

1. Forms should include age, height, weight, previous involvement in athletics, other sports, etc.
2. Include home and work phone numbers for parents in case of emergency

E. Maintain a photo file of individual athletes

F. Schedule a "Media Day" prior to the season

1. Excellent opportunity to get photo requirements out of the way
2. Notify and invite all local media outlets
3. Have team dressed in game uniform with accurate numbers
4. Provide complete roster, schedule and additional information such as final status and results of previous season

G. Call on your resources – get the help you need

1. School journalism department
  - a) Make "Sports Information Director" out of an interested student
  - b) Involve students in keeping stats, taking photos, etc. Reward them by taking them on a road trip, honor at banquet, possibly earning a letter
2. Request the school print shop to publish programs, schedule, media guide, posters, press release, etc.
3. Tap the booster club for assistance. Many parents would like to be involved...provide the opportunity

H. Create Social Media Platforms. (Facebook, Twitter, Foursquare, Google, Pinterest, etc.) and keep updated on a daily basis.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

It is the expectation of the CIF Southern Section that your Athletic Coaches and Administration will take every measure to ensure the health and safety of your student athletes.

The following are key points of emphasis coaches should review with their staff and players in reference to CIF Southern Section rules and regulations in the 2020-2021 CIF Southern Section Blue Book. This list is not all-inclusive but only highlights key areas. For necessary forms and additional information regarding Heat Safety, Hydration and other Sports Medicine resources, please go to [www.cifss.org](http://www.cifss.org) and click on the "Sports Medicine" tab on the blue toolbar.

Additional resources can be found at [www.cifstate.org](http://www.cifstate.org) under the "Sports Medicine" tab on the white toolbar

## **PHYSICAL EXAMINATION**

An annual physical examination, or a statement by a medical practitioner, is required for a student to take part in any authorized school practice session and/or pre-season conditioning period. This physical examination will be valid for a period of one year from the date of the examination. A student will be excused from this physical examination only if there is compliance with the Education Code (parent's refusal to consent). CIF Health and Safety Committee strongly recommends schools use the Pre-Participation Examination form that is endorsed by five major medical societies; American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Medical Society for Sports Medicine, American orthopedic Sports Medicine and the American osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine. All CIF schools must have school board approved forms.

## **CONCUSSION PROTOCOL**

A student athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or game shall be removed from competition at the time for the remainder of the day. A student-athlete who has been removed from play may not return to play until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in education and management of concussion and receives written clearance to return to play from that health care provider. If a licensed health care provider, trained in education and management of concussion determines that the athlete sustained a concussion or a head injury, the athlete is required to complete a graduated return to play protocol of no less than seven (7) full days from the time of diagnosis under the supervision of a licensed health care provider. On a yearly basis, a concussion and head injury information sheet shall be signed and returned by all athletes and the athlete's parent/guardian/caregiver before the athlete's initial practice or competition. (Approved May 2010 Federated Council/Revised January 2015 Federated Council)

Question: What is meant by "licensed health care provider?"

Answer: the "scope of practice" for licensed health care providers and medical professionals is defined by California state statutes. This scope of practice will limit the evaluation to a medical doctor (MD) or doctor of osteopathy (DO).

## **STEROID PROHIBITION**

All schools shall adopt policies prohibiting the use and abuse of androgenic/anabolic steroids. All member schools shall have participating students and their parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver agree that the athlete will not use steroids without the written prescription of a fully licensed physician (as recognized by the AMA) to treat a medical condition.

NOTE: Article 1-12.N. (Revised May 2005 Federated Council)

## **SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST PROTOCOL**

A student-athlete who passes out or faints while participating in, or immediately following, an athletic activity or who is known to have passed out or fainted while participating in or immediately following an athletic activity, must be removed immediately from participating in a practice or game for the remainder of the day. A student-athlete who has been removed from play after displaying signs and symptoms associated with sudden cardiac arrest may not return to play until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care provider and receives written clearance to return to play from that health care provider. On a yearly basis, a Sudden Cardiac Arrest information sheet shall be signed and returned by all athletes and the athlete's parent/guardian/caregiver before the athlete's initial practice or competition.

Question: What is meant by “licensed health care provider?”

Answer: the “scope of practice” for licensed health care providers and medical professionals is defined by California state statutes. This scope of practice will limit the evaluation to a medical doctor (MD) or doctor of osteopathy (DO).



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