

CIF SOUTHERN SECTION



SPRING 2024

# Baseball



# SEASON PREVIEW



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BRONCO SPORT

TO: CIF-SS VARSITY BASEBALL COACHES

FROM: RICH SHEARER, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

DATE: JANUARY 11, 2024

RE: 2024 BASEBALL SEASON



## 2024 BASEBALL SEASON PREVIEW

In an effort to assist you with your organizational plans for the upcoming season, we have compiled the attached 2024 Baseball Preview. We hope its overall content will prove informative and serve as a reference point during the course of your daily routine. Hopefully, this preview will answer your questions, if not, do not hesitate to call. Enclosed you will find the following items. Please make sure they are shared with the other members of your coaching staff:

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## **CIF-SS BASEBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Over the years, the CIF-SS Office has worked with the concept of establishing committees in all of the 25 sports for boys and girls, and the success of this program is being continued into the 2023-24 school year. The role of the advisory committee, which is comprised of coaches in the respective sport and an administrator from the CIF-SS Office, may or may not include the following:

1. Meetings
2. Recommendations for playoff sites
3. Recommendations for rules and procedural changes
4. Evaluation of sport season
5. Assistance to coaches and/or official's organizations
6. Liaison between coaches and/or official's organizations

We urge that if you have suggestions or questions, make use of this excellent channel of communication, and pass the information along to one of the committee members. We will be meeting on a regular basis during the current baseball season and your items will become part of our agenda. Best of luck in your upcoming baseball campaign and if any of the below can be of assistance to you please do not hesitate to contact them personally.

For your reference, members of this year's Baseball Advisory Committee are:

Burt Call	Villa Park High School
Ricardo Cepeda	Garden Grove High School
Mike Gonzales	El Toro High School
Jess Gonzalez	Downey High School
Jared Halpert	Harvard-Westlake High School
Jake Haney	Crean Lutheran High School
Joe Hoggatt	Bishop Amat High School
Aaron Kavanagh	Quartz Hill High School
Brett Kay	JSerra Catholic High School
Samuel Lopez	Summit High School
Darren Murphy	South Hills High School
Iran Novick	Foothill High School/CBCA
Spud O'neill	Lakewood High School
Gerardo Perez	Gahr High School
Curtis Scott	Newbury Park High School
Matt Shupper	Maranatha High School
Alfred Tarazon	Oxnard High School
Phil Torres	Crescenta Valley High School
Estevan Valencia	Palm Desert High School
John Weber	Cypress High School
Rick Weber	Viewpoint High School
Jimmy Zurn	La Mirada High School

## TOP TEN POLL COORDINATORS

Listed below are the members of the CIF-SS Baseball Coaches Advisory Committee responsible for notifying the CIF-SS office of the weekly Top Ten Poll. Although these polls help create interest, they will also be used for playoff seeding. Therefore, it is very important for coaches to contact their respective advisory committee member on a weekly basis. It is understood that this is a coach's poll and that no students or parents are involved with it. The CIF-SS office will send the coach's poll as part of our media mailing.

<b>DIVISION</b>	<b>COORDINATORS:</b>		
Division 1	Joe Hoggatt Bishop Amat HS	(626) 962-2495	<a href="mailto:jhoggatt@bishopamat.org">jhoggatt@bishopamat.org</a>
Division 2	Aaron Kavanaugh Quartz Hill HS	(661) 718-3100	<a href="mailto:akavanagh@avhsd.org">akavanagh@avhsd.org</a>
Division 3	Sam Lopez Summit HS	(909) 357-5950	<a href="mailto:lopesq@fusd.net">lopesq@fusd.net</a>
Division 4	Jess Gonzalez Downey HS	(562) 754-0160	<a href="mailto:jgonzalez@dusd.net">jgonzalez@dusd.net</a>
Division 5	Alfred Tarazon Oxnard HS	(805) 278-2907	<a href="mailto:alfred.tarazon@oxnardunion.org">alfred.tarazon@oxnardunion.org</a>
Division 6	Ricardo Cepeda Garden Grove HS	(714) 318-7017-	<a href="mailto:rcepeda@ggusd.us">rcepeda@ggusd.us</a>
Division 7	TBD		
Division 8	TBD		
CBCA	Iran Novick	(714) 225-4495 (C) (714) 779-7520 (H)	<a href="mailto:inovick@aol.com">inovick@aol.com</a>

**It is important that coaches call or email their results to the committee members named above on the Sundays prior to the publish dates listed below:**

February 5 (Pre-Season Poll), March 4, March 11, March 18, March 25, April 3, April 8, April 15, April 22, and April 29 (Final Poll)

The CIF-SS Office will be doing ten polls during the season. **Please start your calls or emails on Sunday, March 3, 2024. The above committee members will send the poll results to the CIF-SS office on the Monday following each of the above dates.**

# **2024 BASEBALL PLAYOFF DATES AND SITES**

Listed below are the approved post-season playoff dates and sites for the 2024 baseball season in the CIF Southern Section.

## **WILD CARD ROUND - Designated home sites**

Divisions 2, 4, 6 and 8- Tuesday, April 30, 2024  
Divisions – 1, 3, 5 and 7 Wednesday, May 1, 2024

## **FIRST ROUND - Designated home sites**

Divisions 2, 4, 6 and 8 - Thursday, May 2, 2024  
Divisions– 1, 3, 5 and 7 - Friday, May 3, 2024

## **SECOND ROUND - Designated home sites**

All Divisions (1-8) - Tuesday, May 7, 2024

## **QUARTERFINALS - Designated home sites**

All Divisions (1-8) - Friday, May 10, 2024

## **SEMIFINALS – Designated home sites**

All Divisions (1-8) – Tuesday, May 14, 2024

## **FINALS**

Divisions 1-8– May 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Location TBD

**SCRIMMAGE DATE - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024**

**FIRST CONTEST - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024**

**LAST LEAGUE CONTEST - FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024**

By action of the Southern Section Council, all league entries must be in the Southern Section Office by **10:00 p.m., Friday, April 26, 2024.**

## ***APPROVED SANCTIONED EVENTS***

**Please refer to the CIF Southern Section website ([www.cifss.org](http://www.cifss.org)) for the latest Sanctioned Events, as events are updated daily.**

**Sanctioned Events download directions:**

**click on GOVERNANCE TAB,**  
**click on SANCTIONED EVENTS,**  
**select BASEBALL,**  
**click Search**

**This page will display the most up to date information on**  
**Baseball Approved Sanctioned Events**

# 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 "Baseball" To Add a game:

- On the left panel, click on "Events", select "Add Event", choose Game under "Event Type", choose date of game under "Event Date", choose **Baseball** under "Sport", choose Varsity under "Level", type the opposing school name in "Add Opponent", choose the type of game under "Select Game Type", click on Home, Away or Neutral under "Location", choose "Start Time" Click on "Save" to add one game or "Save & Duplicate" for multiple games.

- To Submit your score:


- On the left panel, click on "Teams", select "Teams Manager", scroll down to **Baseball** and click on VR to add Varsity scores Click on "Post Result" button, enter your team's score, enter the opponent's score, result should auto populate with either "W", "L" or "T" based on the correct match score entered. If the game was a forfeit, click on the Yes box, enter the set scores in "Notes".

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

## VARSITY COACHES

**Attention Athletic Directors/Coaches: It is very important that you enter your Baseball coaches (Head & Assistants) into CIFSSHome ([www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org)) no later than WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024.**


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).

- Click on the "Users" tab, click on "User Manager", click on the  in the upper right hand corner to add Coaches and Assistant Coaches. Enter the information requested on the "Add School User" page. Choose "Active" to provide the coach with access to CIFSSHome or "Inactive" for directory purposes only. Choose Yes or No to give the coach access to all sport, click **Submit**.

Choose the applicable options on the Assign Coach to Team page, click Save or Add Another to add additional coach(s).

## VARSITY TEAM INFORMATION (TEAM PHOTO) due no later than WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024.

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).

- Click on the "Teams" tab, click "Teams Manager", click on "Baseball", click on the "Team Photo" tab, Click on the  under "TEAM PICTURE", choose the file, click **Submit**.

## VARSITY TEAM INFORMATION (ROSTERS)

**Attention Athletic Directors/Coaches: It is very important that you enter your entire Baseball Varsity roster into CIFSSHome ([www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org)) no later than WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024.**

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).

- Click on the "Teams" tab, click on "Teams Manager", click on "Baseball", select 

You can UPLOAD your roster using the instructions below (1) or you can enter each player one by one (2).

**Required roster information for Baseball is:**

**First Name, Last Name, Birth date, Year, Number, Position, Height, Weight & Eligibility**

**(1) To ADD roster players one by one:**

- Click on  and complete fields required for Baseball.

**(2) To Import a Roster using an Excel 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.

- Only an excel file ([xls](#)) can be uploaded 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 Baseball are:**

**First Name, Last Name, Birth date, Year, Number, Position, Height, Weight & Eligibility**

- Click on to find your file,  then click  on

- To confirm the roster has been uploaded, your players' names will be uploaded in the "Official Roster" section.

- Click on the  next to the player's name to view each player's information.

## 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 Baseball. The At Large Application is to be submitted by your school no later than FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024 NO LATER THAN 10:00 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).

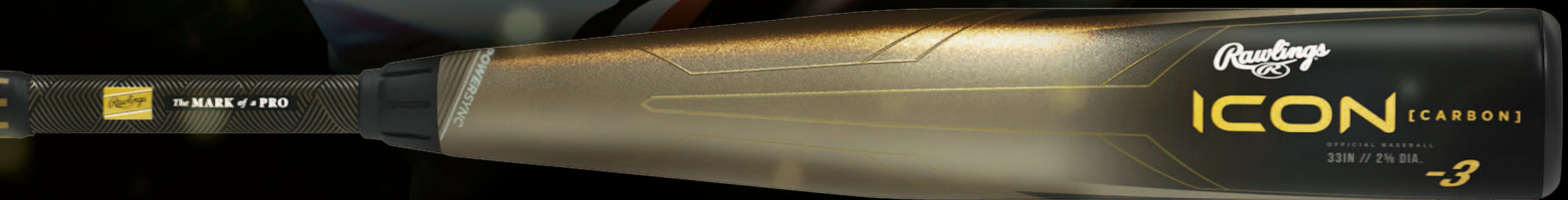
Once you are logged in:

-On the left panel, click on the "Forms" tab, select "At Large Petition"

-Select "Baseball" from the drop down menu, 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.**

# BE ICONIC



**THE OFFICIAL BASEBALL  
OF THE CIF SOUTHERN SECTION**







## OFFICIAL BALL PROGRAM 2023-2024

### Official Ball per sport:

Baseball:	<b>Rawlings RCIF-SS</b>	Must be CIFSS/ <b>NOCSAE</b> stamped ball
Boys Basketball:	<b>Wilson NCAA EVO NXT GAME BALL Size 7 (Used in CIF-SS Championship)</b> <b>Wilson EVO NXT Game Basketball Size 7</b>	
Girls Basketball:	<b>Wilson NCAA EVO NXT GAME BALL Size 6 (Used in CIF-SS Championship)</b> <b>Wilson EVO NXT Game Basketball Size 6</b>	
Football:	<b>Wilson GST GAME BALL</b> <b>Wilson GST Prime GAME BALL</b>	
Lacrosse:	<b>Champion Sports NOCSAE Balls</b>	(White LBWNOCSAE, Yellow LBYNOCSAE, Orange LBO, Lime Green LBG)
Soccer:	<b>Wilson NCAA Vivido Match Ball (Used in CIF-SS Championship)</b> <b>Wilson NCAA Veza Match Ball</b> <b>Wilson Forte Fybrid II NCAA Match Soccer Ball (discontinued)</b>	
Softball:	<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>	
Volleyball, Indoor:	<b>Mikasa VFC1000 Series (Used in CIF-SS Championship)</b> <b>Mikasa VQ2000 Series</b>	
Volleyball, Beach:	<b>Wilson NCAA OPTX Game Ball (Used in CIF-SS 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.

**\*Items in red are used in the final game for the CIF-SS Championships. Any model listed is compliant in CIF-SS post season play.**

### 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, tennis and beach volleyball.**



# 2024 Baseball Rules Changes

By NFHS on August 11, 2022

## **1-6-1 (NEW) SECTION 6 PLAYER COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT:**

ART. 1 . . . Any wristband with defensive shifts/offensive plays/pitching choices or game directions attached shall be considered non-electronic equipment and is permitted as long as it is a single, solid color. For pitchers, it may not contain the colors white, gray or be distracting. It does not have to match the color of the uniform or the sleeves worn underneath the uniform. It shall only be worn on a player(s) wrist or forearm and pitchers shall wear it on their non-pitching arm.

**PENALTY:** The umpire shall issue a team warning to coach of the team involved and the next offender(s) of that team will be ejected along with the head coach.

**Rationale:** Clarification. With the increase in popularity of these style of communication systems, confusion has been realized when the players wear them other than on their arm. This change will prohibit these types of products from being worn other places.

## **1-6-2 (NEW) SECTION 6 PLAYER COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT**

ART. 2 . . . One-way electronic communication devices are permissible from the dugout to the catcher while the team is on defense for the purpose of calling pitches. When using the electronic communication device, the coach cannot be outside the dugout/bench area.

**PENALTY:** The umpire shall issue a team warning to coach of the team involved and the next offender(s) of that team will be ejected along with the head coach.

**Rationale:** This rule allows for a team to utilize an electronic device for the purpose of calling pitches from the dugout. The device would only be able to be one-way, meaning the player cannot use an electronic device to respond or communicate back to the coach. Various technologies, earpiece, electronic band or a smart watch could be used giving teams several options at varying costs. No other player would be able to wear or use this device nor would the coach be able to communicate with any other player using electronic communication.

## **3-2-5 (NEW) SECTION 2 COACHING**

ART. 5 . . . A coach may use a one-way electronic communication device to communicate to the catcher for the purpose of calling pitches. Coaches may not use electronic communication device(s) to communicate with any other team member while on defense or any team member while on offense. When using the electronic communication device, the coach cannot be outside the dugout/bench area.

**PENALTY:** The umpire shall issue a team warning to coach of the team involved and the next offender(s) of that team will be ejected along with the head coach.

**Rationale:** Allows for the coach to communicate with the catcher using an electronic communication device for the purpose of calling pitches.

### **10-2-3h SECTION 2 UMPIRE-IN-CHIEF**

h. Forfeit the game for prescribed infractions by ~~spectators~~, coaches, players or team/bench personnel.

**Rationale:** Umpires have jurisdiction over the confines of the field, players, coaches and team/bench personnel. If there are issues with spectators, it is the responsibility of game management to deal with spectators and to ensure that the facility is safe for all involved.

### **Suggested Speed-Up Rules After Put Outs #3**

Rules 1 and 2 remain the same.

~~#3 Following the final out in any inning, the ball shall be given to the nearest umpire. The plate umpire shall give the ball to the catcher. The base umpire shall place the ball on the pitcher's plate.~~

**Rationale:** This is a NFHS Softball rule book mechanic that needs to be deleted from the NFHS Baseball rule book.

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS**

### **Electronic Communication Devices from Dugout to Catchers to be Permitted in High School Baseball**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Elliot Hopkins

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (January 11, 2024) – The use of a one-way communication device between a coach in the dugout and a team’s catcher for the purposes of calling pitches will be permitted in high school baseball beginning in 2024.

This change to Rules 1-6-2 and 3-2-5 was one of five rules revisions approved by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Baseball Rules Committee at its June 4-6 meeting in Indianapolis. The recommendations were subsequently approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

The new rules prohibit coaches from communicating with any other player besides the catcher on defense and with any player while batting. The coach must also be in the dugout when using the communication device.

“This change is consistent with the growth of the game and is indicative of a measured and responsible approach to enable technology into our level of competition,” said Elliot Hopkins, NFHS Director of Sports and Educational Services and liaison to the Baseball Rules Committee. “The committee has made these changes to maintain the balance between offense and defense; increase the pace of play; and will responsibly manage technology so there is no advantaged gained by schools that have more available resources than some of their contemporaries. Creating a level playing field is paramount to education-based athletics.”

Game management by umpires was addressed with a change to Rule 10-2-3h. The edit removes spectators’ behavior from the umpire-in-chief’s jurisdiction when deciding to forfeit a contest. Only infractions by players, coaches or team/bench personnel are under the umpire’s jurisdiction. The committee agreed that poor behavior by spectators should be handled by game administration.

“This change is a complementary rule to support schools’ game management role in addressing unacceptable behavior and will allow the umpire to focus on the action and players on the field,” Hopkins said.

Rule 1-6-1 was added and designates a wristband with defensive shifts, pitching choices or game directions as non-electronic equipment and must be a single, solid color and worn on the forearm. Pitchers’ cards must not be white, gray or a distracting color and worn on their non-pitching arm.

A complete listing of the baseball rules changes will be available on the NFHS website at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org). Click on “Activities & Sports” at the top of the home page and select “Baseball.”

According to the most recent NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey, baseball is the fourth-most popular sport for boys with 481,004 student-athletes in 15,925 high schools nationwide. The survey also indicated that 1,156 girls across the country play high school baseball.

# **NOCSAE Standards Reminders for Baseball**

## **High School Baseball Rules Changes Focus on Player Safety**

April 24, 2018

**(Effective January 1, 2019) Revised effective January 1, 2020 as reflected in Section Below**, all balls used in high school baseball competition shall meet the NOCSAE (National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment) standard at the time of manufacture.

This revision in Rule 1-3-1 was one of the four changes recommended by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Baseball Rules Committee at its June 4-6 meeting in Indianapolis. All changes were subsequently approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

“We are excited that our membership will now have equipment that meets a standard that is consistent across the country,” said Elliot Hopkins, NFHS director of sports and student services and staff liaison for baseball. “We are comfortable knowing that all baseballs for high school play will be the same size, same weight and have similar playability.”

The committee also revised Rule 1-5-3, which will require the catcher to wear a chest protector that meets the NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture, effective **January 1, 2020**. The NOCSAE standard has been developed to protect the heart and the cardiac silhouette from commotio cordis, which continues the committee’s focus on minimizing risk of injury for players.

“Being aware that a standard exists to protect players, this decision was easy to make,” Hopkins said. “When our catchers wear this chest protector, we are confident that the best protection for their heart is constructed into this equipment.”

## **Modified That Baseballs Meet a NOCSAE Standard**

**January 1, 2020 (1-3-1)**

To maintain a consistent and uniformed standard for high school competition, every baseball manufactured should meet the same level of quality and playability. However, due to the number of baseballs that some high schools have in their inventory, the implementation date was moved back to accommodate that surplus. The effective date is **January 1, 2020**.



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## **Memorandum**

DATE: January, 2024  
TO: CIF Coaches  
CIF Umpires  
COPY: Chris Fahey  
Section Commissioners  
FROM: Ken Allan,  
California State Baseball Rules Interpreter  
Former Member, NFHS Rules Committee  
RE: 2024 Rule Interpretations, Points of Emphasis

The following information is provided to commissioners, coaches, and umpires in an effort to provide consistency in rule enforcement and game management. Please see the Standards of Conduct section. Also, please note the definition of malicious contact has been added. Any questions should be directed to Ken Allan at: [kensport101@earthlink.net](mailto:kensport101@earthlink.net). (909) 861-7767.

These are the significant rule changes, points of emphasis and interpretations for the 2024 season. **Please be sure your lower division coaches have a copy.**

### **NOTE TO INSTRUCTIONAL CHAIRMEN**

Please do not add to or change any information in this memo. This material has been approved by the CIF State Office and is expected to be published as is.  
Thank you.

**SUMMON BATTER PROCEDURE**—The correct mechanic is to be stationed on the side of the field of the team coming to bat. When the pitcher has two pitches remaining, move to the foul line and verbally and visually indicate to the pitcher he has two pitches left. With one pitch left, facing the dugout, verbally and visually indicate to the leadoff hitter that the pitcher has one pitch left.

**MALICIOUS CONTACT**—The NFHS does not have a definition for malicious contact. In an effort to provide consistent enforcement, below is the California definition for malicious contact. California umpires are urged to use this as a guideline for determining malicious contact. Also, umpires are urged to carefully study the NFHS POE on malicious contact in its 2024 rule book.

*Malicious contact is violent, avoidable contact between two opposing players. It often occurs when a runner collides with a fielder in an effort to dislodge possession of the ball. Malicious contact can also occur when a fielder unnecessarily applies a hard tag to a runner. Intent and play situation must be a consideration in determining malicious contact. Hard contact is not, in itself, malicious contact.*

## CASE PLAYS

There is a collision between a runner and a fielder. (a) A runner legally slides at home plate. His momentum takes him past the plate into the catcher who is knocked to the ground (b) a runner rounding second on a base hit, collides with F6 who is knocked to the ground or (c) a runner trying to avoid a tag, collides with another fielder, knocking him to the ground. **RULING:** In (a) since it's a legal slide, there is no penalty on the runner. In (b) there is no penalty on the runner unless it's clear the runner initiated the contact and (c) there is no penalty on the runner unless the runner clearly initiated contact.

There are also a number of malicious contact situations on page 35 of the NFHS Case Book. Umpires are urged to familiarize themselves with this material.

**PROPER LINING OF THE FIELD**—There have been several reports of fields not properly lined. This includes fields that lack the lines of the coach's box and the on-deck circle. It also includes fields where the batters and catcher's boxes are not properly lined. Please see page 10 of the rule book. If you have control of your field, please be sure these rule-required markings are visible.

## COMMENTS ON THE 2024 RULE CHANGES

**1-6-1** Wrist bands must be worn on the player's wrist or forearm and not looped around their belts. Colors white or gray are not permitted.

**1-6-2**

**3-2-5**

One-way electronic communication is now permitted from the dugout/bench area to the catcher only. No other player is allowed to wear or use this device. A coach may only communicate with the catcher.

**PLAY:** Catcher looks toward the dugout a few moments then goes out to talk with the pitcher. It's apparent he is passing information from the coach to the pitcher. **RULING:** Legal. No trip is charged.

**10-2-3h**

Umpires no longer can forfeit a game due to spectator conduct. Any issue should be resolved by game management. If that's not available, the game should be suspended and information forwarded to either the league or school for final disposition.

**Speed Up**

**Rule #3**

Base umpire no longer needs to place the ball on the pitcher's plate after a half inning and the plate umpire no longer needs to hand the ball to the catcher.



## **POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

### **Malicious Contact**

Malicious contact is the third most discussed Point of Emphasis behind good sporting behavior and pitching restrictions. The majority of intentional collisions occur at home plate when the catcher is attempting to make a play on a base runner. Umpires must know the difference between a “train wreck” play in which a thrown ball, the fielder, and runner meet at the same time. It is often a violent convergence, but not intentional, nor is anyone trying to hurt the other. It is just a normal baseball play and is not to be considered malicious contact.

### **Profanity**

This can be a little tricky. If a profanity is loud enough to be heard by spectators, it's a no brainer. The individual should be ejected. The problem is if the profanity is low key and uttered by a player or coach in frustration. Umpires are advised that if it's a player, to call “time,” take the player to the coach, tell the coach what the player said and warn the coach that any further profanity by anyone on the team will be subject to ejection. Under similar circumstances, the coach should be warned. Any language that is intimidating, insulting, demeaning, or hurtful will not be tolerated. The goal is to treat everyone fairly and treat each other with respect.

### **Pace of Play**

The average time for a seven-inning high school game is about 2 hours 10 minutes. The philosophy of pace of play is to make players, coaches and umpires aware that certain continuous activities cause a definite slowdown in the game. Baseball games can be more efficient with a focus on time and game management. Here are five areas:

#### **20 second Time Limit Between Pitches/Plays (6-2-2-c)**

This rule is meant to be used when preventative officiating fails to provide the necessary outcome. Usually, a word with the coach between innings about a pitcher's delays will solve the issue. The rule is intended to be used when a pitcher is prolonging the delivery of the pitch because of gamesmanship or overall lack of game efficiency.

#### **Time Between Half-innings**

The rule book says one minute from the last out of the previous half-inning. The reality is that's it rarely, if ever, accomplished. I've observed a number of high school games over the years, and I've even timed it between innings. A minute 20 seconds is about the average. It's not necessary to change the time. What is necessary is for umpires be be proactive. An example would be to get a backup catcher out to warm up the pitcher if the starting catcher is on base or at bat on the third out. Umpires are urged to use good judgment in enforcing this rule.

#### **Batter Repeatedly Stepping Out of the Batter's Box (7-3-1)**

To my knowledge, this has not been a problem in games I have observed. However, this is one area of which the umpires should be aware.

### **Umpire's Time Management**

Time management is crucial to how the game progresses. Umpires must be consistent in motivating both teams to get on and off the field and to expedite conferences. These are areas an umpire can be a positive factor is keeping the game moving at an acceptable pace.

### **Excessive Player Conferences**

Umpires need to be aware of excessive player conferences. The game situation should be a guideline. It wouldn't make much sense to see numerous defensive player conferences with a team leading in a blowout game. The bottom line on these Pace of Play items in Points of Emphasis is to make players, coaches and umpires aware of repeated situations than can unnecessarily slow the pace of the game.

### **Facilities**

If there is an issue with field conditions that cannot be made reasonably hazard-free, the event should be relocated or rescheduled. An example would be standing water on the field.

## **STANDARDS OF CONDUCT**

Coaches and players are expected to maintain a standard of conduct which is necessary for the proper administration of the game and is consistent with behavioral expectations of students and staff in a classroom environment. Umpires have considerable latitude in removing coaches and players for various acts which interfere with the game. Many problems can and should be resolved with verbal cautions or warnings. Below, however, are examples of behavior that would likely require an ejection.

1. A player drawing a line on the dirt to indicate the location of a pitch.
2. Profanity by either a coach or player directed at an umpire or profanity loud enough to likely be heard by fans.
3. A coach refusing to return to the dugout or coaching lines after an umpire has explained a ruling.
4. Jumping up and down or other such actions to show displeasure over a call or ruling whether from the dugout or the field.
5. Any non-playing action related contact with an umpire, whether it's accidental or intentional.
6. The throwing of equipment such as bats or helmets in reaction to a call or ruling.
7. A coach or player who refuses to follow verbal directions from an umpire relating to the administration of the game.
8. A coach who leaves his position, after being warned, to argue balls and strikes.
9. Blatant violation of the rules such as cutting considerably short of third base in scoring a run.

## **POST-GAME EJECTIONS**

**POST GAME EJECTIONS**—In the event of a problem with coaches or players after the conclusion of a game, the umpires should write a report just as they would with an in-game ejection. This report should be reported in the same manner as an in-game ejection. Any post-game incidents that involve identifiable individuals should be filed as an ejection report and not an incident report. An incident report should be filed for any event that involves unidentifiable individuals (usually spectators/fans). Umpires should report any unsportsmanlike conduct that occurs involving them until they leave the game site.

## **REMINDERS WHICH ARE HELPFUL TO COACHES AND UMPIRES IN GAME ADMINISTRATION**

These items have appeared in the past and are repeated as an aid to proper game management and pace of play.

**FOUL BALLS**—In order to keep games moving more smoothly, it is strongly recommended that any ball retrieved by the on-deck hitter, or a long foul ball on the visitor's side of the field, be rolled to the home dugout as soon as possible. If you are the visiting team and your on-deck batter retrieves a ball at the backstop, please have him roll it to the home dugout rather than taking it with him back to the on-deck circle. Let's continue to give this a good effort as it is a big help in keeping the game moving. Umpires are asked to remind coaches of this at the pregame meeting.

**LINE UP CARDS**—COACHES, please do not separate lineup cards. Just hand everything to the plate umpire. It is acceptable to provide a copy of the lineup card to the opposing team scorekeeper before the pregame meeting at home plate. Umpires are instructed to take the home lineup card first, then the visiting lineup card before inspecting either of the lineup cards.

**LINEUP CARDS II**—If you are using a designated hitter, please list the DH either directly below or directly across from the player for whom he is hitting. Please do not list the DH at the bottom of the lineup card, unless of course, he is batting for the player ninth in the order.

**PREGAME MEETING**—It has been noted that during the pregame meeting at home plate, members of the visiting team have often been observed outside their dugout warming up with bats. Rule 2-10-2 provides that BOTH teams must remain in the dugout during the pregame meeting. Please remind your teams.

**LEAVING THE DUGOUT DURING A LIVE BALL**—Coaches are doing a much better job in helping umpires enforce this rule. Players who leave the dugout to congratulate a scoring runner during a live ball will receive a team warning. Any following violators are subject to ejection. Coaches are also asked to remain within the lines of the coaching box.

**COACHING ATTIRE**—Umpires are expected to enforce this rule. This is usually an issue in lower-level games. As per rule 3-2-1, coaches must be in the uniform of their team. As a guideline, the following is acceptable: Baseball shoes, baseball pants, a jersey top similar to what the team is wearing, either a tee shirt with a team logo, wind shirt with a team logo, a jacket, and a baseball cap. The following is NOT acceptable at ANY level: Coaches who are wearing shorts, or other non-baseball attire such as, but not limited to, sweatpants, jeans, tennis shoes, or sandals. These items are not permissible. The penalty for non-compliance is that the coach is restricted to the dugout. If the team's only coach is in non-compliance, he will be allowed on the field to participate in the pre-game meeting at home plate. He will also be allowed on the field to attend to an injured player. Otherwise, he must remain in the dugout.

**THANKS**—To all the coaches and umpires for their past cooperation and good luck for 2024.

## **CIF SOUTHERN SECTION BASEBALL GUIDELINES**

Following are key points of emphasis baseball coaches should review with their staffs and players in reference to CIF Southern Section rules and regulations as set down in the Blue Book. This list is NOT all-inclusive but only highlights some key areas.

### **1500. PITCHING LIMITATION RULE – 30 OUTS**

Sections shall adopt the following baseball pitching limitation rule: 30 outs and/or three (3) appearances in a calendar week through the season.

- A. The calendar week begins on Monday.
- B. Innings pitched in a no game (i.e., rainout, power failure, etc.) shall count toward the total.
- C. If the 30<sup>th</sup> out involves a double or triple play, the team will not be penalized.
- D. An appearance is defined as a pitcher pitching at least one (1) pitch. If a pitcher is removed from the mound to another position or to the dugout and later returns to pitch in the same game, the pitcher will be charged with a second appearance.
- E. Any violation constitutes a forfeit of the contest.

### **1501. PITCHING LIMITATION RULE – PITCH COUNT**

In addition to 1500 above, Sections shall adopt the following baseball pitching limitation rule with respect to pitch count and required days of rest:

Pitch count limits and required rest:

Level	Maximum Contest Pitch Limit	0 Days Rest Required	1 Day Rest Required	2 Days Rest Required	3 Days Rest Required
Varsity	110 Pitches	1-30 Pitches	31-50 Pitches	51-75 Pitches	76+ Pitches
Freshman; F/S; JV	90 Pitches	1-30 Pitches	31-50 Pitches	51-75 Pitches	76+ Pitches

- A. A pitcher may finish the current batter if the Maximum Contest Pitch Limit is reached during that at-bat.
- B. Pitches thrown and appearances made in a no game (i.e., rainout, power failure, etc.) shall count toward the totals.
- C. At the end of each half inning, the head coaches will confirm and both team books will record the pitch count for all pitchers who threw a pitch in that half inning. In the case of a discrepancy, the home book is considered the official book.
- D. Each school must keep a record of all pitches thrown by each of their players in each game and make this available to their respective Section Office upon request.
- E. Any violation constitutes a forfeit of the contest.

### **Questions & Answers:**

Q: If a pitch count mechanism is used that is visible to both teams, do the coaches still need to confirm the pitch count every half inning?

A: No. If the mechanism (i.e. scoreboard add-on, flip chart behind home plate, etc.) can be seen by both teams, the coaches may use that as verification of the pitch count.

Q: How is a day of rest defined?

A: A day of rest is defined as a calendar day. For example, if a pitcher throws 76 or more pitches in a Monday game thus requiring three-days rest before being allowed to pitch again, those days of rest would be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday allowing that pitcher to pitch again on Friday.

Q: If a pitcher exceeds the maximum number of allowable pitches with respect to the required days of rest while finishing a batter, how are the required number of rest days calculated?

A: The required days of rest is determined by the actual number of pitches thrown. For example, if a pitcher starts a batter with 48 pitches, finishes the batter with 53 pitches and is then removed from the game, that pitcher would be required to rest for two days before making another appearance.

Q: What, if any role, do the umpires play in the confirmation and recording of the pitch count after each half inning?

A: The umpires are asked to ensure that the teams are exchanging the required information, but the actual recording of the pitch count is up to the head coach from each school.

Q: If an intentional walk is issued to the batter and no pitches are delivered to home plate, are those pitches counted towards the pitcher's total number?

A: No. Those pitches would not count towards the pitcher's total number

Q: In the case of balk, when does a pitch count towards the pitcher's total number?

A: A pitch would only count if the ball is delivered to the batter.

Q: If a batter is awarded timeout by the umpire but the pitcher still delivers the ball to the batter, does that pitch count towards the pitcher's total number?

A: No. That pitch would not count towards the pitcher's total number.

Q: Does the Pitch Count reset each Monday like the 30 Out Rule?

A: No. While the 30 Out Rule will reset each Monday, the Pitch Count Rule will not. For example, if a pitcher throws 76+ pitches in a game on Saturday, they would have to rest on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday before being eligible to pitch again on Wednesday.

Q: May the same pitcher appear in two different games on the same day?

A: Yes. However, they may only do so if they threw 30 pitches or less in the first game and are not required to rest. Also, they may not throw more than 110 pitches total for the day.

Q: What is the protest protocol for a possible violation of the pitch count Bylaw?

A: A school wishing to protest should follow the normal protocol of immediately informing the umpire that it is playing the game under protest. The contest will continue, and the protest will be forwarded to the local league and/or CIF Section Office for review depending on the protocols in place for handling protocols in that Section.

Q: Does the above protocol preclude the Section from assessing a forfeiture for a violation of the pitch count Bylaw that is brought to them after the competition of the contest?

A; No. The above protocol simply outlines how a dispute is to be handled during a contest.

Q: Do pitches thrown and appearances made in an incomplete inning during a suspended game count towards the totals?

A; Yes.

### **1502. OFFICIAL NATIONAL FEDERATION AUTHENTICATION MARK**

Only balls with the National Federation authentication mark shall be used in the sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, lacrosse, soccer, softball, volleyball and water polo.

(Revised to include lacrosse November 2000 Federated Council)

All Baseballs must meet the current NOCSAE standard for baseballs at the time of manufacture and is required on balls that will be used in high school competition. (Effective January 1, 2020) The SEI/NOCSAE mark is required on all baseballs that meet the NOCSAE standard. The NFHS Authenticating Mark is required on all balls that will be used in high school competition. The CIFSS mark is required on all balls used for CIF playoff competition.

## **Mandatory Playoff Baseball**

During the 2024 CIF Southern Section Baseball Playoffs, the Rawlings RCIF-SS baseball will be the mandatory baseball for all playoff games. The home team will be responsible for supplying the required baseball for all playoff contests, beginning with the wild-card games and in each round to follow. The CIF Southern Section will supply all baseballs for the Championship Finals.

**Any school found to be out of compliance with the mandatory use policy will be sanctioned in the following manner:**

- **Following the CIF-SS office receipt of a non-compliance report, the offending school will lose its next opportunity to host a playoff game.**
- **For purposes of calculating future home game opportunities during the playoff season, any game for which a team is sanctioned will count toward its total of home games played.**
- **Should a sanctioned school not have the opportunity to host a playoff contest (eliminated from playoffs), the penalty shall be carried over to next year's playoff season.**

### **1503. PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

It is required that adult base coaches wear a protective helmet. Play will not continue until compliance with this rule is met. It is recommended that the helmet meet NOCSAE standards.

NOTE: NFHS rules govern use of protective equipment by a player/student. (Approved January 2015 Federated Council)

As per NFHS rules, players occupying coaches boxes must wear a NOCSAE approved helmet. (Double ear flaps) Adult coaches are not required to wear a NOCSAE approved helmet, but they must wear a protective helmet. This rule applies to any team playing in the state of California.

The plate umpire shall not put the ball in play to begin a new half inning until he is sure all base coaches are properly equipped. An adult coach who does not wish to be in compliance must remain in the dugout.

### **1507. MAXIMUM TEAM CONTESTS**

A baseball team will be permitted to play no more than 28 games during the season, including tournaments, but excluding CIF Southern Section, CIF State playoffs, Section Foundation or Scholarship Games or League culminating tournament.

1507.1 Faculty: Each team will be permitted to play one game with the faculty which will not count towards the allowable number of contest.

1507.2 ALUMNI: Each team will be permitted to play one Alumni contest, which will not count toward the allowable number of contests

### **1509. OUTSIDE COMPETITION (IN-SEASON)**

A member of a high school baseball team may NOT, during his or her season of sport, compete for an outside team in the sport of baseball. A season of sport is defined as that period which begins with a student's first interscholastic competition (non-league, tournament or league game) and ends with that student's last interscholastic contest (non-league, tournament, league or CIF-SS playoff game).

### **1224. LEVEL OF COMPETITION**

No student shall participate in more than one level of competition in the same sport in the same day.

### **DUGOUT**

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL COACHES BE ALLOWED TO SIT ON CHAIRS OR BUCKETS OUTSIDE THE DUGOUTS IN LIVE BALL TERRITORY.

### **SOFTBALL RULING**

The sport of baseball is considered to be separate and distinct from the sport of softball, and competition by a school baseball player on an outside softball team during the individual's baseball season IS PERMISSIBLE. Slow-pitch is considered to be softball.

### **TIE GAMES**

A regulation called game with a tie score shall be counted as 1/2 game won and 1/2 game lost for each team. This rule will apply to all contests and leagues MAY NOT WAIVE THIS RULE.

## **503.M STATEWIDE SPORTSMANSHIP AND EJECTION POLICY**

### **PLAYER CONDUCT**

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 96 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.

#### **COACH EJECTION:**

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:

(6) 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.

(7) 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.

(8) 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:

(9) 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 EJECTION:**

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

### **SPORTSMANSHIP**

There has been a great deal of concern about security for officials. It is strongly suggested that the home team have a representative to escort the officials to the playing field and back to your locker room and/or their car at the end of the contest. A responsible adult who can guarantee the security of the official should do this task.

### **RULE 125.1 - COACH EJECTION**

Upon the ejection of a coach from any CIF-SS contest, it is the responsibility of the principal of said school to file a letter of explanation with the CIF Southern Section Office, which includes the circumstances surrounding the matter, and what action the principal has taken to prevent a recurrence. Said correspondence is to be filed within THREE school days of notification of the ejection. Additionally, upon ejection, the head or assistant coach shall be disqualified from participating in the remainder of the game and will be ineligible for the team's next contest.

*QUESTION: What happens if unknowingly a coach or player who was ejected the previous game participates in the next contest?*

*ANSWER: Anyone playing or coaching in a contest after they have been ejected from a previous contest will be an ineligible participant and the contest must be forfeited.*

### **RULE 125.2 - FAILURE TO COMPLETE A CONTEST**

When a school fails to complete a contest, due to a coach pulling his/her team from the floor, court, or field, it is MANDATORY that the CIF-SS office be notified by the principal within 24 hours (excluding holidays and weekends). The competing schools and officials will be required to file written reports, and after review of the aforementioned material, the principal of the school involved will be required to respond to the CIF Southern Section office concerning his/her investigation of the incident.

*QUESTION: How serious is such action?*

*ANSWER: It has been the position of the CIF-SS Executive Committee to expect the principal of the school concerned to relieve the coach from his/her assignment for the balance of that season or the Executive Committee is empowered to consider recommendations for additional penalties.*

## **PLAYOFFS**

The 2024 Baseball Playoffs will be conducted in eight divisions, with each division made up of various schools. (See “Playoff Divisions” on the baseball page at [www.cifss.org](http://www.cifss.org) for division placement.)

All 4-team leagues will be guaranteed two entries into the playoffs, all 5-6 team leagues will be guaranteed three entries into the playoffs and all 7-8 team leagues will be guaranteed four entries into the playoffs. 9 or more team leagues are guaranteed 5 entries into the playoffs. Under the playoff format in all sports, leagues have the responsibility of developing and identifying the priority for their representatives into the playoffs as so noted under Article 330 (Playoffs) of the CIF Southern Section Blue Book. Please note that leagues may not conduct additional contests beyond the prescribed limits unless said contests are to determine ENTRY and not representative priority (leagues must have this as part of their constitution and must secure permission from the CIF-SS office before conducting such playoffs for entry).

### **3414.1 AT LARGE ENTRIES**

In all team sports other than football and wrestling, additional entries beyond a league’s guaranteed number of entries will only be permitted to enter the playoffs to fill any byes which exist in the opening round. Wildcard contests will be situations where the number of teams that are guaranteed entries from their leagues necessitate that additional contests be played to reduce the number of teams entered to the required number of the original draw. (For example, when there are 37 teams entered as guaranteed entries from their leagues into a particular playoff draw, there must be 5 wildcard contests played to reduce the number of teams from 37 to 32, the required number of the original draw.) At-large teams, teams meeting the at-large criteria (.500 or better overall record), can only be accepted into the playoffs if there are openings in the original draw after all of the league’s guaranteed entries are submitted. (For example, where there are 30 teams entered as guaranteed entries from their leagues into a 32-team draw, there would be 2 byes in the bracket and those byes could be filled by teams who were not guaranteed entries from their leagues who submitted at-large application forms for that particular sport and have an overall record of .500 or better in all games played during the regular season.)

In any playoff grouping, at-large selections will be considered from the next place beyond the guarantee that are .500 or better. After all those schools have been taken and there are still positions available, the next place teams that are .500 or better will then be considered.

### **3417. WILD CARD TEAMS**

Where the number of teams exceeds the number of openings in the draw, the Commissioner may order a special playoff contest (“Wild Card System”) to determine the draw for the playoffs. Insofar as host team designation in the regular playoff draw, this “Wild Card Contest” will have no bearing when such a procedure is used. The Commissioner, or his representative, will draw the contending 4<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> team representatives (and 2<sup>nd</sup> team representatives if required by the number of teams in a division in the draw) or free lance teams by lot and conduct a coin flip between same for the purpose of designating the host team in such a “Wild Card” contest. For all enrollment based playoffs, please refer to specific sport bulletins.

### **3410. FREE LANCE PLAYOFF ENTRY QUALIFICATION**

All freelance schools are reminded that in order to be considered for post-season competition, the CIF-SS office prior to the start of the season must evaluate their schedule. This can be done by completing the freelance petition and schedule at [www.cisshome.org](http://www.cisshome.org) . (See Rule 3510.)

## **RULE 514 - TOBACCO PRODUCTS PROHIBITED**

The use of tobacco products in conjunction with any CIF Southern Section athletic contest is prohibited. That is to include all those involved in the contest including players, coaches, and officials.

## **1223. SUMMERTIME RULES**

With the exception of the summer dead period, until the beginning of the first official starting date for fall sports, there shall be no restriction on high school coaches working with high school students, or entering them in summer baseball competition, provided approval is received from the school principal.

## **MEDIA COVERAGE**

National Federation Rule 1-2-8 states, "Media shall be prohibited from being in live-ball area. If a designated media area is to be used, it shall be established before the game begins. The home team or game management shall designate a lined area for the media, which shall be considered dead-ball area."

## **TEN-RUN RULE**

**National Federation Rule 4-2-2 states that the 10-run rule is optional, not mandatory.** If a league wishes to adopt the 10-run rule for their league games they can do so, but every league contest must be played under that rule. Tournaments may adopt it as well, but only if it is part of the tournament rules. Finally, the ten-run rule can be utilized in non-league contests, only if it is agreed upon by both schools, prior to the start of the contest. **All C.I.F. playoff games will be played without the 10-run rule.** If the 10-run rule is adopted by a league, tournament or utilized in a non-league contest, it shall be implemented as follows, "At the end of 5 innings, or 4 ½ innings with the home team ahead, if a team is ahead by 10 runs or more the game will be over."

## **ACCOUNTABILITY RULE**

The following is an excerpt from the article which appeared in the "Commissioner's Corner" in the CIF-SS January/February, 1982 Bulletin. We hope it will prove helpful to coaches in understanding the ACCOUNTABILITY RULE:

**Without question, the most serious breach within the realm of our programs presents itself when an individual coach removes a team from the playing facility prior to the conclusion of a contest.**

Ironically, the justification invariably lacks substance at a subsequent hearing -- personal dissatisfaction with an official or the citing of dangerous conditions is the usual tenor of that thrust.

It is also paradoxical that such action if spawned by the individual coach on the short end of the score at the time.

How serious is such an action?

**It has been the position of the CIF-SS Executive Committee to expect the Principal of the school concerned to relieve the coach from his/her assignment for the balance of that season.**

When one considers the focal point is to involve as many student-athletes in our programs as possible, we lack accountability to those considered the heart of our organization -- not to mention the officials, the entire student body, the district and the community.

Each individual contest, regardless of the sport, lasts but a few minutes. The damaging results from such an occurrence are timeless.

**Administrators are urged to review this aspect and the potential consequences with their staffs at the start of each sport season -- it takes but a few minutes**

## **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 2019-2020 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).

## **COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PROCEDURES**

While risk of one athlete infecting another with HIV/AIDS during competition is close to nonexistent, there is a remote risk that other blood borne infectious diseases can be transmitted. For example, Hepatitis B can be present in blood as well as in other body fluids. Procedures for reducing the potential for transmission of these infectious agents should include, but not be limited to, the following:

- < The bleeding must be stopped, the open wound covered and if there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform it must be changed before the athlete may participate.
- < Routine use of gloves or other precautions to prevent skin and mucous-membrane exposure when contact with blood or other body fluids is anticipated.
- < Immediately wash hands and other skin surfaces if contaminated (in contact) with blood or other body fluids. Wash hands immediately after removing gloves.
- < Clean all contaminated surfaces and equipment with an appropriate disinfectant before competition resumes.
- < Practice proper disposal procedures to prevent injuries caused by needles, scalpels, and other sharp instruments or devices.
- < Although saliva has not been implicated in HIV transmission, to minimize the need for emergency mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, mouthpieces, resuscitation bags or other ventilation devices should be available for use.
- < Athletic trainers/coaches with bleeding or oozing skin conditions should refrain from all direct athletic care until the condition resolves.

- < Contaminated towels should be properly disposed of/disinfected.
- < Follow acceptable guidelines in the immediate controls of bleeding and when handling bloody dressings, mouth-guards and other articles containing body fluids.

Additional information is available from your state high school association and from the NFHS.



The Baseball coaches advisory committee meeting to select the All CIF-SS team will take place after the CIF-SS Championship games.

All CIF Southern Section Baseball teams are eligible to nominate players.

If you have a player who you deem worthy of being part of the top 22 players in your division, please use the link provided in the 2024 Baseball Playoff Bulletin by the deadline to submit your player's information.

League champions may nominate up to three players, other playoff teams (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, At Large in league) may nominate up to two players and teams that did not qualify for the playoffs are limited to one player nomination.

In addition, if your team reaches the semi-finals of the playoffs, an additional player (up to 4 maximum per team) may be nominated after the final game.

A separate form is required for each player that you are nominating. You must submit full final season stats including southern section playoffs for each player. Coaches will nominate players (in the order they would have them considered).

A player and coach of the year will be selected for each respective division. There is a total of 22 players that will receive "All CIF" honors. If you have a player who you deem worthy of being part of the top 22 players in your division, please nominate your player(s).

**The deadline to submit nominations will be posted in the Baseball Playoff Bulletin.**

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