

CIF SOUTHERN SECTION



SPRING 2024

Softball



PLAYOFF BULLETIN



BRONCO



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EXPLORER



RANGER



BRONCO SPORT

CALENDAR PLAYOFF DATES

PLAYOFF DATES: April 30 (Wildcard), May 2, 7, 9, 11, 2024

Note: If a bracket exceeds 48 automatic qualifiers an additional Wild Card date of Monday, April 29 will be required.

CIF Southern Section Finals: May 17 - 18, 2024

CIF State Regionals: May 28 & May 30, 2024

CIF State Regional Finals: June 1, 2024

PLAYOFF DATES – TIMES – LOCATIONS **16 TEAM BRACKET**

Wild Card Tuesday, April 30 – 3:15pm* (If necessary)

1st Round Thursday, May 2 – 3:15pm*

Quarter-Finals Tuesday, May 7 – 3:15pm*

Semi-Finals Thursday, May 9 – 3:15pm*

FINALS Friday, May 17th & Saturday, May 18, 2024 @ Deanna Manning Stadium, Colonel Bill Barber Marine Corps Memorial Park, Irvine.
(Times and what date each Division will play on TBA)

*Home Site

PLAYOFF DATES • TIMES • LOCATION	
	32 TEAM BRACKET
WILD CARD	Tuesday, April 30 – 3:15 pm* (If necessary)
1st ROUND	Thursday, May 2 – 3:15 pm*
2nd ROUND	Tuesday, May 7 – 3:15 pm*
QTR-FINALS	Thursday, May 9 – 3:15 pm*
SEMI-FINALS	Saturday, May 11 – 3:15 pm*
FINALS	Friday, May 17 & Saturday, May 18, 2024 (Times to be Determined)
	HOME SITE or DEANNA MANNING STADIUM @ Colonel Bill Barber Marine Corps Memorial Park Irvine.
*Designated Host Site	

GAME TIMES

All playoff games are scheduled for **3:15 p.m.**

When schools must travel extensive distances for a playoff game, it is recommended that the teams mutually agree to an earlier start time.

See page **14-15** for how to proceed if a game time / date / location must be changed. It is recommended that you notify your potential next round opponent should you mutually agree to change the time or date of a contest.

PLAYOFF TICKETS

Admission will **not** be required during playoff rounds leading to the Championship Final.

Championship Finals Ticket Pricing:

Child (5-13)/Student with proper high school I.D. \$5.00
General Admission/Student without high school I.D. \$12.00

All ticket sales will be conducted through our digital ticketing partner GoFan once the links are created at www.gofan.co after May 13, 2024.

PRE-FLIPS / RELEASE SCHEDULE

For ALL rounds, we will be conducting pre-flips to give the teams involved immediate notice of their next game location. The playoff pairings will be released on Saturday, April 27th at 10:00a.m. and the draw will indicate home and away teams.

Pre-flips will be available on the web at www.cifss.org under the Softball sports page www.cifss.org/sports/softball, after the conclusion of the wild card round, on the date of the coin flip by 11:00 a.m.

The coin flips schedule for games played on the following dates is listed below:

2nd ROUND:	Tuesday, May 7	COIN FLIP DATE: Wednesday, May 1
QTR-FINALS:	Thursday, May 9	COIN FLIP DATE: Friday, May 3
SEMI-FINALS:	Saturday, May 11	COIN FLIP DATE: Wednesday, May 8
FINALS:	Friday, May 17 or Saturday, May 18	COIN FLIP DATE: Monday, May 13

RESPONSIBILITY OF SCHOOLS

One designated representative of each school qualifying for the 2022-2023 CIF Southern Section Softball Playoffs is to check the website in accordance with the release schedule:

<https://cifss.org/sports/softball/brackets/>

An official school representative of EACH school MUST enter their score into www.cifsshome.org IMMEDIATELY after each playoff contest.

Pre-flips will only be done after the conclusion of the wild card round. You will locate this information under the Softball sports tab at www.cifss.org/sports/girls-softball.

CIFSS HOME 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) as well as update the scores immediately following your contests.

Log in @ 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 "**Softball** "

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 **Softball** 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 **Softball** 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 SOFTBALL coaches (Head & Assistants) into CIFSSHome (www.cifsshome.org) NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, MAY 10

Log in @ 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  sign 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)

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

CIFSS HOME REQUIREMENTS (cont.)

- Click on the “**Teams**” tab, click “**Teams Manager**”, click on “**Softball**”, click on the “**Team Photo**” tab, Click on the **PENCIL** icon 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 **SOFTBALL Varsity** roster into CIFSSHome (www.cifsshome.org) **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, MAY 10.**

Log in @ 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 “**Softball**”, select the **VR** button
You can **UPLOAD** your roster using the instructions below (1) or you can enter each player one by one (2).

Required roster information for Softball is:

First Name, Last Name, Birth date, Year, Number, Position & Eligibility

(1) To ADD roster players one by one:

- Click on **+ ADD PLAYERS ONE BY ONE** and complete fields required for **Softball** .

(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 SOCCER are: First Name, Last Name, Birth date, Year, Number, Position & Eligibility**

- Click on **CHOOSE FILE** to find your file, then click on **IMPORT**

- To confirm the roster has been uploaded, your players’ names will be uploaded in the “**Official Roster**” section.

- Click on the **PENCIL** icon next to the player’s name to view each player’s information.

SCHOOL LOGO

Log in @ www.cifsshome.org

- Click on the “**Configuration**” tab

- Click on “**School Info**”

- Click on “**Choose File**” (.PNG file format is preferred)

- Choose the “**No**” option for Hide from Directory?

- Click Save

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

Log in @ www.cifsshome.org

- Click on the “**Configuration**” tab

- Enter all school account names available next to the social media options (ie. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter)

- These accounts are used during playoffs and for Games of the Week



OFFICIAL BALL PROGRAM 2023-2024

Official Ball per sport:

Baseball:	Rawlings RCIF-SS	Must be CIFSS/ NOCSAE stamped ball
Boys Basketball:	Wilson NCAA EVO NXT GAME BALL Size 7 (Used in CIF-SS Championship) Wilson EVO NXT Game Basketball Size 7	
Girls Basketball:	Wilson NCAA EVO NXT GAME BALL Size 6 (Used in CIF-SS Championship) Wilson EVO NXT Game Basketball Size 6	
Football:	Wilson GTS GAME BALL Wilson GST Prime GAME BALL	
Lacrosse:	Champion Sports NOCSAE Balls	(White LBWNOCSAE, Yellow LBYNOCSAE, Orange LBO, Lime Green LBG)
Soccer:	Wilson NCAA Vivido Match Ball (Used in CIF-SS Championship) Wilson NCAA Veza Match Ball Wilson Forte Fybrid II NCAA Match Soccer Ball (<i>discontinued</i>)	
Softball:	Rawlings FPCIF-SS (Used in CIF-SS Championship)	
Tennis:	Penn ATP World Tour (Used in CIF-SS Championship) Pro Penn Marathon	
Volleyball, Indoor:	Mikasa VFC1000 Series (Used in CIF-SS Championship) Mikasa VQ2000 Series	
Volleyball, Beach:	Wilson NCAA OPTX Game Ball (Used in CIF-SS Championship)	
Boys Water Polo:	KAP7 model 105 with NFHS stamp (Used in CIF-SS Championship)	
Girls Water Polo:	KAP7 model 104 with NFHS stamp (Used in CIF-SS Championship)	

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.

MANTRA

The IMPROVED Rawlings softball bat is Here!!! **2.0**

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OF THE CIF-SS



PLAYOFF QUALIFYING CHECKLIST

Information contained in this booklet has been developed by the CIF Southern Section Staff for use by Athletic Administrators and other selected school personnel to assist in conducting an efficient playoff program.

With such a short period of time between playoff dates, early planning will greatly assist this office in securing officials, ticket distribution and notification of game sites and times to the media.

COIN FLIPS

The coin flips, where necessary, are conducted under the direction of the Commissioner at **8:00 A.M.** the day following the first contest at the CIF Southern Section Office. **Pre-flips will be available on the web at www.cifss.org under the Softball sports page after the first round.**

Schools in the 2024 CIF Southern Section Softball Playoffs are to complete the following in CIFSSHome:

PLAYOFF CHECK LIST

	Completed Date
1. Use cifsshome.org Team Roster – By April 23rd	_____
2. Eligibility list is included in roster on www.cifsshome.org Any potential player that could appear in a playoff match must be listed.	_____
3. Use www.cifsshome.org "SUBMIT TEAM PLAYOFF INFORMATION" DEADLINE: Monday, April 29th.	_____
4. Game Management under the "Finances" tab on www.cifsshome.org must be entered prior to first playoff contest.	_____
5. E-mail "ALL CIF-SS Form" BEFORE May 10 to your Division Representative (see page 22).	_____
6. Have field reserved if school is to "host" next round game.	_____
7. Arrange for emergency contacts with opponent.	_____
8. Rawlings FPCIF-SS NFHS Approved Playoff Game Balls Ready	_____

PLAYOFF ENTRY AND FORMAT

The 2023-2024 Softball Playoff brackets will be established based on submissions from the respective league within each division. There will be seven divisions of Softball.

As adopted by the CIF Southern Section Council, League Automatic Entries will be limited to the following:

- 4 Team Leagues – 2 Guaranteed Entries Only
- 5 Team Leagues – 3 Guaranteed Entries Only
- 6 Team Leagues – 3 Guaranteed Entries Only
- 7 Team Leagues – 4 Guaranteed Entries Only
- 8 Team Leagues – 4 Guaranteed Entries Only
- 9 or more Team Leagues – 5 Guaranteed Entries Only

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 340 (Playoffs) of the CIF Southern Section Blue Book. Please note, 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). Contest(s) that are necessary for determining a leagues automatic entry into the playoffs must be completed by Thursday, April 25, 2024.

LEAGUE CHANGE OF ENTRY

Once the draw sheet has been finalized by the CIF Southern Section Office and then notification is received that a league has made a mistake in submitting the proper entries in order of priority, this Office may exchange positions of the schools involved in the bracket from that league. Once the playoffs begin no changes due to incorrect information can be accepted and adjusted.

END OF COMPETITION

All league competition for entries must end on Thursday, April 25, 2024. Schools may compete until Saturday, April 27, 2024 in non-league contests. Any contest(s) played after the completion of league play and/or submission of league entries will not impact the entries (final record), seeding or ranking of a team or teams that were involved in those events.

BRACKET CONSTRUCTION

SEEDS - The initial step is to designate four teams in rank order as seeds, with No. 1, 2, 3, and 4 placed in the designated draw position in each quarter of the bracket. Now, designate the next four teams in rank order as seeds, with No. 5, 6, 7, and 8 being placed in each quarter of the designated bracket. Next, the teams designated as seeds No. 9, 10, 11, and 12 will be placed in each quarter of the designated bracket. The last four teams in rank order designated as No. 13, 14, 15, and 16 will now be placed in each quarter of the designated bracket.

ADJUSTMENTS

Adjustments to this procedure would be made if the seeds in the same half/quarter of the bracket were from the same league. If this occurs, using the example of the top half of the bracket, should the No. 1 and 4 seeds be from the same league, No. 4 would become the No. 3 seed and the No. 3 seed would fill the No. 4 designated position.

PLAYOFF ENTRY AND FORMAT (cont)

Adjustment may become necessary to ensure that the No. 1 and 2 entries from the same league are placed in opposite halves of the overall bracket.

Note: Throughout this process, a league No. 2 entry may not be seeded higher than the No. 1 entry from the same league, nor may a No. 3 league entry be seeded higher than the No. 2 entry from the same league. If there are First Round "byes" available in playoff brackets, those byes will be awarded to League Champions first, regardless of the overall seeding for that bracket. If all the League Champions in that bracket have been awarded a "bye", and there are still additional byes available, 2nd place teams will have priority to receive them.

FILLING THE DRAW

The next step is to begin completing the draw by placing any remaining No. 2 league entries in the opposite half of the bracket from the No. 1 entries from the same league. The final step to complete the draw is to place the remaining No. 3 entries (along with any No. 4 entries, At-Large and/or Freelance teams) from each of the respective leagues in the remaining open slots, attempting to place each in one of the remaining "quarters" of the bracket where the league is not represented. This process eliminates the aspect of schools from the same league meeting in the second round of competition (Exception: if the overall bracket holds less than 32 teams, it is possible for two teams from the same league to meet in the second round or if five (5) or more entries from the same league compete in the same division two teams from the same league will be placed in the same quarter).

WILD CARD CONTEST

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 entry into the main draw for the playoffs. Wild Card contest are only necessary and allowable when the number of automatic entries for the bracket exceeds the size of the bracket. For example, 37 teams earned an automatic entry into a 32-team bracket. Wild Card contests become necessary to trim the field down to 32 teams.

AT-LARGE ENTRIES / Must Have Overall Record of .500 or Better

AT-LARGE entries can only be considered when the number of automatic entries does not fill the size of the playoff bracket. For example, 30 teams earned an automatic entry therefore two (2) AT-LARGE entries are to be selected to fill the bracket to 32 teams.

The Coaches Advisory Committee will make selections based upon the following:

- (a) Head-to-head competition of teams under consideration
- (b) Strength of schedule and results vs. teams in division and higher
- (c) Overall strength of the league from which the team is entered
- (d) Overall win-loss record
- (e) Strength against common opponents

BYLAW 3500 PLAYOFFS

For additional information on bracket construction, filling of "byes", wild card entries, At-large entries, and determination of sites after the first round please review Bylaw 3500 in the CIF Southern Section Blue Book starting on page 215.

PLAYOFF HOSTING INFORMATION

DETERMINATION OF SITES FOR ALL PLAYOFF ROUNDS AND FINALS

To decide who shall be the host team **AFTER** the first round of competition will be the sole responsibility of the Commissioner. In cases where two teams are paired after the first round of the playoffs, the team having the fewest number of host games in playoff competition shall be designated as the host team. When both teams have had an equal number of host playoff contests, the Commissioner shall toss a coin to decide the host team. When a school has been designated as the host school for a playoff contest it shall (1) act in that capacity unless excused by the Commissioner, and (2) be considered the host team regardless of where the game is being played. **SPECIAL NOTE: Teams receiving a bye in the first round shall automatically be the host team in the next round of the playoffs.**

The designation of "host" does not guarantee the game will be played at the host school's facility. It does designate the responsibility for management of the contest which includes suggesting a site that will handle the anticipated crowd. A host school may use its home site facility if it can safely provide for the anticipated crowd.

The host school is charged with the responsibility of securing an adequate facility for the holding of a Softball playoff contest. It is recommended that where available and when approved, playoff games shall be played in rent-free high school facilities, but in cases where it is necessary to pay a rental fee for an outside facility; such an arrangement must be approved by the Commissioner prior to the contest.

Competing schools are reminded that CIF Southern Section playoff softball games, while they may be played at one school, are under the control of the CIF-SS. Both competing schools in any one game are given equal consideration regarding seating. If, in the Commissioner's opinion, the host team field is not large enough to accommodate the anticipated crowd, the host team will be required to reserve one-half of the facility's capacity for the visiting school's rooters.

PRE-GAME ARRANGEMENTS

A. The host school is responsible for:

- 1) Securing a site which meets the standards as outlined in the National Federation Softball Rule Book. (Rule 1, Section 1 & 2). Fields do **NOT** need to have an outfield fence but the "ground rules" should address balls that are hit through the outfield beyond the field of play.
- 2) **Fields with baseball pitching mounds may not be used for any playoff contest.**
- 3) Schools not playing on their high school campus must inform the CIF-SS Office of the location of their host site. **Do not secure a site which requires a time deadline.**
- 4) Typing the ground rules on a card with copies to both umpires and the opposing coach prior to the game.
- 5) Contacting the visitors prior to game day to establish any necessary ground rules should the field or equipment not meet required National Federation standards. (See Rule 1, Section 1 & 2)
- 6) Providing information to the visitors regarding directions to the school, locker room arrangements, visitor parking, or any other special circumstances relative to the contest.

PLAYOFF HOSTING INFORMATION (cont)

- 7) To prevent game delays – it is recommended that the home team have available a minimum of ten game balls for each game.
 - 8) **Game Ball** - The home team provides the game balls per National Federation Rules. The Rawlings FPCIF-SS will be the game ball for the Southern Section Championship Finals. The ball must have the NFHS stamp along with the COR and compression mark.
 - 9) **Infield/Outfield Practice**. For the Playoffs, each team is allowed a 10-minute pre-game infield and/or outfield warm-up on the playing field prior to the start of the contest. **For the Championship Final this time will be reduced to 7 minutes.**
- B. The CIF-SS office is not presently equipped to survey all sites during the coming post-season competition, and although it is necessary that one team be designated the HOST team, it shall be kept in mind that the game belongs equally to both competing schools. Therefore, it is recommended that a pre-game planning meeting be held to cover all details (field conditions, crowd control, supervision) connected with the staging of every playoff contest.
- C. During playoffs, teams competing in the playoffs are not allowed to work-out or practice at the site of Southern Section Softball Championships which will be played at Deanna Manning Stadium at Colonel Bill Barber Marine Corps Memorial Park (1 Civic Center Drive, Irvine).

GAME TIMES

All games are scheduled for **3:15 p.m.** When schools must travel extensive distances for a playoff game, it is recommended that the teams mutually agree to a later start time. A school may play at other times or on other days if it is mutually agreeable to both competing schools. If the date of a scheduled contest is changed it must be played before the next scheduled playoff round.

Any changes must be confirmed between your opponent prior to contacting our office or the game officials/local assignor. **Any game time, location change, or date change must be sent via e-mail to the CIF-SS office. The e-mail must include the following information:**

- **Division**
- **Teams in the Contest**
- **New game time / location / date**
- **The statement “I have confirmed this change with the Athletic Director, (insert name)”**
- **The visiting school’s Athletic Director has been included in the e-mail**

Send the e-mail to all the following individuals:

Assistant Commissioner: Thom Simmons at thoms@cifss.org
Program Coordinator: Taylor Martinez at taylorm@cifss.org
CIF Officials Rep: Vince Rosse at m1aman308@mac.com
Your local Assignor: *for games played in the Wild Card, 1st, 2nd or Quarter-final round.*

ADMISSION REGULATIONS

Due to the inability of several schools to secure a playing site which is enclosed, there will be no admission charge at the playoff contests. The exception to this rule will be the championship games at Deanna Manning Stadium or a designated "home" site for a championship final.

However, if two competing schools agree, and admission is charged, the following financial regulations will be in effect:

- A. Admission Prices: The admission prices shall be \$4.00 for adults, \$3.00 for students from the competing schools and \$3.00 for children under 12. **(Schools may agree to a lower price structure).**
- B. Host School: The designated host school is responsible for all costs incurred in hosting the contest. These would include officials, supervision, stadium rental, etc.
- C. Visiting School: The designated visiting school is responsible for all costs incurred in traveling, such as bus, meals, etc.
- D. Gate Split: When admission is charged, the gate is to be handled as a gross gate and split 50-50 between the competing schools (please refer to Article 10, Rule #143 on page 49 of the Blue Book).

PLAYOFF REQUIREMENTS – ALL TEAMS/HOST SITES

SQUAD SIZE

The squad size of the team should only include the regular season rostered varsity team up to **25 person maximum allowed in the dugout**; however, the CIF-SS will only provide **awards for 20 per team**. There is a seat limit at the Championship Finals and all overflow players/coaches/trainer/stats personal will be seated behind the team bench area.

ELIGIBILITY LISTS

The eligibility list is your updated and complete roster which is submitted to CIFSSHome.org **PRIOR** to your first playoff contest and will suffice for all remaining softball playoff contests. **Please update by April 29, 2024.**

GAMES OFFICIALS

Officials for all playoff matches will be coordinated through the CIF-SS. Schools will be notified well in advance of the names of officials assigned to their games. Out of area Officials will be assigned starting in the Semi-Final round. In all matches leading to the championship finals, the **Plate Umpire shall receive \$87 and Base Umpire \$87.**

When officials travel significant distances to officiate a playoff game, meals and mileage **may** also be authorized.

SCORE KEEPER

A qualified, experienced scorekeeper shall be provided by the host team. It is recommended that scorekeepers from both teams sit together for the duration of the game.

ANNOUNCER

The announcer should be a responsible adult who can set the tone of the game by calling the fans' attention to the following points of reference.

(Please read prior to start of each contest)

(1) CIF Southern Section Playoff contests are conducted under the strictest code of good sportsmanship. (2) The officials are neutral people, representing the Commissioner, and have been selected because of demonstrated ability. (3) Fans are encouraged to support their own team and are requested to display proper sportsmanship with respect to the visiting school and the officials. (4) Spectators are asked not to use flash photography. The CIF-Southern Section appreciates your attendance and support of high school volleyball.

CHEERING SECTION

Fan/Student cheering sections are encouraged to cheer and support their own team and should display proper sportsmanship with respect to the opposing team and the game officials. They are expected to follow the following guidelines and failure to do so may lead to removal from the contest and or/forfeiture of the contest.

1. Noisemakers (the use of artificial noisemakers, ball buckets, air horns, horns, cow bells, bells, victory bells, sirens, chimes, wooden blocks, thunder sticks, etc. and electronic amplifiers) by student-athletes and team personal is prohibited while on site for competition. For this rule, the field, bullpens and dugouts are considered "on site". Megaphones may only be used by the school's uniformed cheer squads.
2. Cheering devices such as rally towels, pom poms and pennants are acceptable when used within the bounds of good sportsmanship.
3. Face painting is acceptable from the neck up only and shall not include any inappropriate letters or symbols. Assigned school staff shall monitor their cheering sections regarding face painting.
4. It is the expectation that cheering section behavior will be monitored by the assigned staff of the school that they represent. All improper behavior/language should be addressed and corrected immediately by school staff supervisors.
5. Rules are subject to specific event and/or venue limitations. No standing or jumping on the team benches in the dugout. Please do not drag bats against the fencing in the dugout. In addition, any artificial noise that the umpire deems interferes with the contest must be terminated.

MUSIC

Music may be played by the host/home team prior to the contest and in between innings. No music may be played while the ball is "live" and/or in play.

PROTESTS

BY ACTION OF THE CIF-SS COUNCIL, PROTESTS OF PLAYOFF CONTESTS INVOLVING NATIONAL FEDERATION RULES WILL NO LONGER BE ENTERTAINED FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONTEST.

Coaches may direct questions to the game officials as they pertain to a possible misapplication of the rules in accordance with the National Federation rules governing that sport. No protest may be carried forth once the contest is completed.

Coaches are encouraged to carry National Federation rule books with them for all playoff contests. Schools will still have the opportunity to protest a contest in accordance with Southern Section rules, Bylaw 1111, as it pertains to use of ineligible player or violations of any CIF-Southern Section rule in accordance with the contest

INCLEMENT WEATHER

1) In an instance where games cannot be started due to inclement weather, teams will postpone that day's scheduled game until the next available date. Weekday games will be postponed until the next day, Saturday games will be postponed until the following Monday.

2) If games are started and then must be called due to inclement weather, the following NFHS rules apply:

A) If a game has reached 4 and one-half completed innings, with the Home team ahead, then it is an official game and the result will stand. In other words, the Visiting team has had 5 completed innings at bat and the Home team is ahead in the contest.

B) If the game has reached 5 completed innings, with the Visiting team ahead, then it is an official game, and the result will stand. In other words, if both teams have had 5 completed innings at bat and the Visiting team is ahead in the contest.

C) If a contest has not reached the required number of innings to be an official contest, and the game is called due to inclement weather, then the game is ended at that point. When the teams resume play on their next available date, the game starts over with no score. Also, no statistics from a game that ends before it is an official contest will be recorded.

D) If a contest has reached the required number of innings to be an official contest and is tied but must be suspended due to weather conditions or darkness interferes with play NFHS Rule 2-25-1 will be in effect.

Note: Lineup cards would remain the same from the point that the game was suspended.

3) We require that you communicate with our office immediately on any changes to your scheduled games.

TOURNAMENT RULES

1. **RULES (MERCY RULE)** (10 run rule - Blue Book Bylaw 2800.1) **Games shall end after five innings of a seven-inning game when a team is behind by 10 runs (applicable to Wildcard, rounds 1 and 2 only).** All playoff games after round 2 will be a minimum of seven (7) innings. All playoff games will be conducted under the 2024 National Federation Softball Rules, except where Blue Book rulings or this bulletin supersede.
2. **PRE-GAME BATTING PRACTICE** - Includes bunting or slap hitting. Teams entered in the softball playoffs **WILL NOT** be permitted to take batting practice on the day of the scheduled contest. (CIF Southern Section Blue Book Bylaw 2813.2)

Batting practice is construed as any type of pitching motion with ANY type of ball from in front of the batter (including pitching machines, underhand tossing, overhand throwing, or pepper).

SIDE SOFT TOSS and BATTING TEES WILL BE ACCEPTABLE FOR PRE-GAME BATTING WARMUP.

The player who tosses the ball must not be standing; they must be sitting or on a knee directly to the side facing the batter. The ball should be lifted, not pitched, to the batter. Coaches are responsible for instructing and alerting all players of this rule. Coaches should also instruct players on the correct allowable position a person tossing ball should be in. At no time should the person tossing the ball be any place other than directly to the side of the “plate” and directly facing the batter.

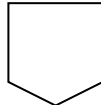
THE PENALTY FOR BATTING PRACTICE WITH A WIFFLE BALL, SOFTBALL, BASEBALL, FRONT TOSS, ETC. MAY BE FORFEITURE OF THE GAME.

Tosser



Located directly to the side of the plate not standing

Plate



Batter



Batter is facing the person tossing the ball

A potential batting practice violation is not a violation under NFHS rules that can be protested. If the situation occurs the coach must bring the issue to the attention of the home plate umpire at the pre-game meeting and ask that it be recorded. The umpire will then forward that information in a report to our office after the game is over. The game is not played under protest.

Question:

If a coach, during the home plate pre-game meeting, does not announce to the umpire and their opponent that a possible violation of the batting practice rule has occurred could that violation be considered at any time after?

Answer:

No, any perceived batting practice violation must be noted by the plate umpire prior the end of the pregame meeting to be reported to the CIF-SS Office.



CIF SOUTHERN SECTION PLAYOFF/CHAMPIONSHIP REQUIREMENTS - ALL TEAMS AND HOST SITES 2023-2024



Rosters & Scores:

- Complete schedules are to be submitted to CIFSSHOME prior to each season.
 - Update scores following every contest direct to CIFSSHOME
- Additional directions on accessing CIFSSHOME are included in this document.

TV/Web/Radio Rights:

Any TV or streaming webcast (video or audio) or radio transmission of a CIF-SS playoff or championship event requires a contract and rights fees through the CIF-SS office prior to the contest. The only 'exceptions' are: Games broadcast via The NFHS Network, Bally Sports West or Bally Sports SoCal.

'Official' Championship

Souvenirs: The exclusive vendor for CIF Southern Section Championship souvenirs (t-shirts, scarfs, pins, beanies, hats, etc...) is our long-time partner *CIF T-shirts*. These are the official items sold each year per sport. You are likely familiar with their annual shirts at the finals. You can order team and individual items through them at www.ciftshirts.com.

Official Ball Required:

Only the approved official ball in each ball sport may be played by either school during CIF-SS playoff contests. Violation of this rule will result in loss of your next home playoff game. The current Official Ball list for each sport is included and available at www.cifss.org in the "Resources" drop down. This policy has been in effect since 2002.

Gatorade Only:

Only Gatorade jugs, cups, bottles, ice chests may be used or visible during any CIF-SS playoff contest. (No Powerade, Body Armor, etc). The only acceptable alternative is a plain-wrap or Igloo labeled products. This rule does not apply to the actual liquid distributed to athletes. This policy has been in effect since 1995.

CIF-SS on Souvenirs:

The 'CIF Southern Section', 'CIF-SS', 'Southern Section' and 'CIF' marks and logos are registered trademarks with the State of California. Schools may only use the CIF Southern Section marks on rings, patches and banners, by doing business with a CIF-SS licensed vendor. **Schools may only use the CIF Southern Section marks on apparel and other souvenir items exclusively through ciftshirts.com. Schools creating items with CIF-SS registered marks from a non-licensed vendor will face sanction and/or will be required to purchase any unsold shirts/items at the Championship Final.** A list of the currently licensed vendors for these products is included and regularly updated on www.cifss.org.

Please note: The use of only "CIF" is strictly prohibited per the State CIF registered trademark. The "CIF", is not just the CIF Southern Section. Only those teams in State regionals, bowl games and individual sport finals actually qualify to use CIF without Southern Section attached. Any such use must be approved in advance by the CIF State office.

Host Site Requirements:

- Playoff Tickets:** (This pertains to revenue sports of basketball, football and volleyball): It is mandatory to sell tickets for admission to all CIF-SS playoffs and championship contests. Through the CIF-SS partnership with GoFan, all playoff tickets will be made available online for digital purchase and presented electronically at the event gate for entry. Patrons can purchase in advance via gofan.co, via private links made available by the participating schools or via QR code at the entry gate of the playoff event. All playoff revenue will be sent directly to CIF-SS. Both the host and visiting schools will be required to submit a financial/expense report following each playoff game in an effort to receive reimbursement for game expenses and revenue share split in the case of a profit game.
- CIF-SS/FORD Banner:** It is a requirement of each host school (including off-site) that the CIF-SS/Ford Championship banner be displayed at every playoff home game in football and the gymnasium sports post football season (or on the electronic signage where schools/venues do not display banners). If you need a banner please contact jackieg@cifss.org
- Gatorade:** It is a requirement of each school use only Gatorade product/jugs/cups/squeeze bottles during CIF-SS championship events. No other competitive product shall be used. Water can be placed in Gatorade merchandise.
- PA Announcements:** As a host of a CIF-SS playoff contest, the CIF-SS announcements take precedence over the host school's messaging and must be read in entirety at each playoff contest. Home schools are the host of a CIF-SS event in the playoffs. For contractual requirements, please read all the provided PA's each contest. PA's for each sport can be found on cifss.org under the designated sports page.
- Media Credential Access:** Accredited working media should be given admission to all playoff games by showing their CIF-SS Media credential.



**CIF SOUTHERN SECTION PLAYOFF/CHAMPIONSHIP
ADDITIONAL/CUSTOM POST SEASON AWARDS
2023-2024**



PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATES: Each member of a team participating in the CIF-SS playoffs can receive a Participation Certificate. These certificates will be downloaded and printed solely by your school. The certificate is in a ‘Type-In’ format and may be downloaded from the CIFSSHOME website under **AWARDS**.

NEED ADDITIONAL AWARDS: Feel free to order directly.

Plaques: If your team won or was a finalist in a CIF-SS championship and you need to purchase any additional champion/finalist plaques contact **All American Trophy by contacting at (323) 725-1962**.

**“Champion”, “Finalist”
“ALL-CIF” Patches** Champion, Finalist and ALL-CIF patches must be exclusively ordered through **JL Custom Jackets and Patches at www.jlcustomjackets.com, (951) 867-3200, or email lindseyjlcustomjackets.com**.

CUSTOM AWARDS/ RINGS/BANNERS/APPAREL SOUVENIRS USING CIF-SS:

Schools often seek to create custom patches, gym banners and championship rings that include both the school and CIF-SS marks/logos/names. Example: ‘ACME BOYS BASKETBALL 2022 CIF-SS CHAMPIONS’. Schools may create these items using CIF-SS marks only through a CIF-SS licensed vendor.

CIF-SS ‘registered’ trademark: The “CIF Southern Section”, “CIF-SS”, “Southern Section” and “CIF” marks and logos are registered trademarks with the State of California. Schools may only use the CIF Southern Section marks on rings, patches and banners by doing business with a CIF-SS licensed vendor. Schools creating items with CIF-SS registered marks from a non-licensed vendor will face sanction and/or will be required to purchase any unsold shirts/items at the Championship final if similar non-licensed items appear at the contest. A list of the currently licensed vendors for these products is included and regularly updated on www.cifss.org.

Please note: The use of only “CIF” is strictly prohibited per the State CIF registered trademarks. Only those teams in State regionals, bowl games and individual sport finals actually qualify to use CIF without Southern Section attached. Any such use must be approved in advance by the CIF State office.

CIF-SS vendors who are licensed to create custom items for schools that include CIF-SS:

Championship Patches (circle shape) Playoffs or Prelims, Finals Patches (shape of a shield) for participation in Cross Country, Track & Field or Swimming Finals, Masters Patches (oval shaped) for participation in a Masters Track & Field or Wrestling event and Wrestling Dual Meet (rectangle shaped) are sold “ON-SITE” by the CIF-SS vendor. Additional patches post event can be ordered through any of the licensed CIF-SS patch vendors:

•Chenille Patches

JL Varsity Jackets & Patches	www.jlcustomjackets.com	(951) 867-3200
CIF Tshirts	www.cifsstshirts.com	(951) 789-5858
C&L Custom Jackets	www.cljackets.com	(714) 828-6900
Embroidery & More	www.embroideryandmoredesign.com	(951) 471-5200
Fancy Stitchin'	www.fancystitchin.com	(951) 656-6505
Funky Monkey Designs	www.getfunkymonkey.com	(909) 592-2622
Logo Joe's	https://logojoes.net/	(951) 461-0388
PC & C Embroidery	https://pccembroidery.com/	(909) 403-4558
We Got 'Em Tees	www.wegotemtees.com	(760) 983-6087
TAS - The Advertising Specialists	www.tassigns.com	(626) 966-4770

- **Custom Banners/Souvenirs** Your school may now create custom items that include the CIF-SS mark or logo (championship banner, banners for your gym, etc...) through a licensed CIF-SS vendor (and their specialty).

Integrity Design www.IntegrityDesignUSA.com Larry Shoppa (855) 341-8817

• Rings

J. Lewis Small	www.jlewissmall.com
Jostens	www.jostens.com
Signature Style Jewelry	www.signaturestylejewelry.com
Baron Championship Rings	https://baronrings.com/
Herff Jones	https://www.herffjones.com/

PROTECT YOUR SCHOOL TRADEMARKS: The CIF Southern Section strongly suggests you double-check the status of *your school* licensed/registered marks and logos now. Some schools have permanently lost control of others selling their merchandise with no royalty or approvals because the proper State of California licensing/registering process had not previously occurred or been enforced.

For additional vendors licensing information, please contact CIF Southern Section, Director of Marketing, Jackie Gibson at jackieg@cifss.org or 562-493-9500.

ALL CIF INFORMATION

- Please visit our web site at www.cifss.org and click on the Softball sports page.
- The nomination flyer and contact page will be on the left side.
<https://s3.amazonaws.com/cifss.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/15114451/2022-ALL-CIF-SS-SOFTBALL-Nomination-Form.pdf>
- Entry deadline is Friday, May 10, 2024.
Nomination received after this date MAY NOT be considered
- Head Coaches must submit a nomination form to the advisory committee to have students recognized.
- ALL COACHES are asked to send their nominations and any additional pertinent information to their Divisional Representative. NOMINATIONS ARE NOT LIMITED TO PLAYOFF PARTICIPANT



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MEMO

To: CIF STATE REGIONAL QUALIFIERS

From: Thom Simmons, CIF-SS Assistant Commissioner, Softball Administrator

Date: April 2024

Subject: CIF STATE SOFTBALL REGIONAL CRITERIA

The CIF Southern Section will be granted 20 entries into the CIF State Regional Championships. Teams may be moved to a different State Regional Division than the one in which they competed in during the Southern Section playoffs. There are no enrollment parameters in any division. The CIF State Seeding Committee has the authority to adjust when necessary due to travel considerations or when a repeat match-up of a final or semi-final occurs, but every effort is made to keep the schools in the order they are submitted by the Section. If a team(s) elects not to compete in the Regional event a school will be selected from the previous rounds. The highest seeded team that did not advance to the semi-final, or the final, will be invited followed by the next highest seeded team followed by the next, etc. until the entries are filled. The entrants will be as follows:

4 Semifinalists from Southern Section Division 1

4 Semifinalists from Southern Section Division 2

4 Semifinalists from Southern Section Division 3

2 Finalists from Southern Section Division 4

2 Finalists from Southern Section Division 5

2 Finalists from Southern Section Division 6

2 Finalists from Southern Section Division 7

For additional information visit the CIF State website www.cifstate.org

or

<https://www.cifstate.org/sports/softball/index>

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