

CIF SOUTHERN SECTION | SOCCER



# PLAYOFF BULLETIN



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**ATTN: Boys & Girls Athletic Directors and Boys & Girls Soccer Coaches**  
**FROM: Mike Middlebrook, Assistant Commissioner, Soccer Administrator**  
**SUBJECT: 2025-2026 CIF SOUTHERN SECTION FORD ~ SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
**DATE: January 2026**

**PLAYOFF RULES**

All playoff games will be conducted under 2025-26 NATIONAL FEDERATION SOCCER RULES except where superseded by this bulletin or the Southern Section Blue Book.

The following bulletin is designed to assist your school in planning should you qualify for a berth in the post-season championship tournament conducted by the CIF Southern Section.

**DATES / TIMES / LOCATIONS**

All playoff game times (except for the championship finals) are set for 3:00 pm or 5:00 pm. **Schools must call our office and their officials assignor with the selected time.**

The **HOME TEAM has the option** of these two times based on availability of the field and/or if the field has lights. If an alternate time, other than the two times listed above, is necessary mutual consent to the game time change is required by the two schools.

All game times are to be confirmed between the opponents and then communicated to the Southern Section office and officials immediately for confirmation.

**PLAYOFF DATES – BOYS**

Date of Last League Contest/Allowable Contest .....	February 4
First Round (Wednesday) .....	February 11
Second Round (Friday) .....	February 13
Quarterfinal Round (Tuesday) .....	February 17
Semi Final Round (Saturday) .....	February 21
CIF Southern Section Finals .....	February 28*
CIF State So Cal Regionals & Final .....	March 3, 5, 7
CIF State Championship .....	March 13 – 14

**PLAYOFF DATES – GIRLS**

Date of Last League Contest/Allowable Contest .....	February 4
First Round (Thursday) .....	February 12
Second Round (Saturday).....	February 14
Quarterfinal Round (Wednesday) .....	February 18
Semi Final Round (Saturday).....	February 21
CIF Southern Section Finals .....	February 28*
CIF State So Cal Regionals & Final.....	March 3, 5, 7
CIF State Championship.....	March 13 – 14

\* indicates that an alternate date of the championship final may take place earlier with office approval

# 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 **Soccer, Boys or Soccer, Girls**

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 **Soccer, Boys** or **Soccer, Girls** 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 **Soccer, Boys** or **Soccer, Girls** 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 **SOCCER** coaches (Head & Assistants) into CIFSSHome ([www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org)) no later than **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11.**

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)

**Attention Athletic Directors/Coaches:** It is very important that you enter your entire **SOCCER** Varsity roster into CIFSSHome ([www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org)) no later than **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11.**

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 **"Soccer, Boys** or **Soccer, Girls"**, 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 **SOCCER** Varsity roster into CIFSSHome ([www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org)) no later than **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11.**

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 **"Soccer, Boys** or **Soccer, Girls"**, 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 Soccer, Boys or Soccer, Girls is:**

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

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

- Click on  and complete fields required for **Soccer, Boys** or **Soccer, Girls**.

**(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 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 Soccer, Boys or Soccer, Girls The At Large Application is to be submitted by your school no later **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4 @ 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 **"Soccer, Boys** or **Soccer, Girls"** 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.**



# Official Soccer Ball

**Wilson** Contact: Craig Kalb - [craig.kalb@wilson.com](mailto:craig.kalb@wilson.com)



OFFICIAL BALL  
NCAA Vivido  
Match Ball

*\*This ball will be provided for the championship final game*



APPROVED FOR PLAY  
NCAA Veza  
Match Ball



APPROVED FOR PLAY  
Forte Fybrid II  
NCAA Match Ball

*\*This ball is discontinued*

*\*The official ball rule is mandatory for all CIF-SS playoff rounds.*

*Contracted through: June 30, 2026*

### Official Ball Rule:

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.



# W

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1. **SCHEDULES & SCORES**

**ALL SCHEDULES & SCORES MUST BE UPDATED IN CIFSSHOME ([www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org)) NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026.**

**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.**

2. **END OF COMPETITION**

All league competition for entries must end on or before **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4<sup>th</sup>**. Any contest(s) played after the completion of league play and/or submission of league entries will not impact the seeding or ranking of a team or teams that were involved in those events.

3. **PAIRINGS**

First round pairings in all divisions will be announced by **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7<sup>th</sup>**. Pairings will be available on the CIF-SS website ([www.cifss.org](http://www.cifss.org)):

**Boys and Girls Divisions by ..... 10:00 a.m.**

4. With the passage of the new competitive equity playoff system (CIFSS Council, January 2024), and changes to Bylaws 3519 and 3520, grouping of playoff divisions has changed. To summarize, playoff divisions will be created at the end of the regular season based on a team’s current win/loss/tie data. It is imperative that coaches and/or Athletic Directors enter their full schedule, and score results consistently throughout the season. Member schools who fail to accurately enter complete regular season results into the CIFSSHome system will not be placed into a playoff division and will be ineligible to participate in the Southern Section Championship Playoff Tournament. Massey Ratings, the same power ranking system the CIFSS has used in various sports since 2014, will continue to be used.

**A Score Reconciliation document will be posted to the [cifss.org](http://cifss.org) public website by Thursday, February 5 at 2:00pm. Schools will have the ability to correct schedule information until Friday, February 6 at 10:00am by contacting our office directly via phone or email. After 10:00am Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup> no new information will be accepted or corrected. The entries will be locked, and brackets created. Due to the complexity of this system no adjustments will be considered or made after this deadline.**

5. There will be nine (9) total playoff divisions this year in both girls’ and boys’ soccer. There will be an “Open” through Division 8. Division one (1) through eight (8) will either be a 16-team or 32-team bracket.

The top division will be identified as the “Open” Division. The top eight teams will be based solely on their individual power ranking. The teams selected for the Open Division will be straight seeded #1 - #8. In this format it is possible for two league mates to play in the opening round. Teams selected for the Open Division will not have an option to decline.

**OPEN DIVISION PLAYOFF FORMAT**

The Open Division teams will compete in a “Champions League” style format for the 2025-2026 playoffs.

1. Home and away format (same opponent two games in a row)
2. Cumulative score from both games used to determine winner who will advance.
3. Lower seed hosts the first game (#8 host #1)
4. Higher seed hosts the second game (#1 host #8)
5. First game may end in a tie after the conclusion of 80 minutes plus stoppage time.
6. If cumulative score is tied at the end of the second contest, traditional CIF Southern Section tie breaker of overtime and penalty kicks will be applied to determine a winner.
7. Round 1 & Round 2: (Girls) Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> and Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>  
 Quarter-Final & Semi-Finals: (Girls) Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> and Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>  
 Finals: (Girls) 28<sup>th</sup> (single contest)

8. Round 1 & Round 2: (Boys) Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> and Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>  
Quarter-Final & Semi-Finals: (Boys) Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> and Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>  
Finals: (Boys) Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> (single contest)

### **PLAYOFF PAIRINGS – Division 1 through 8**

The size of the bracket will be determined at the end of the regular season.

Seeding for playoff brackets in each division will follow the final power rankings in the division, regardless of league affiliation or league finish. For example, in the First Round, the #1 seed, determined by the final power rankings for that division, will play #32, the #2 seed will play #31, etc. in a 32-team bracket. The higher seeded team will host the First-Round contest and then CIF Southern Section Bylaw 3504, Host Team After the First Round, will be followed for all subsequent contests.

If a 16-team bracket is used the first round will match the #1 seed hosting the #16 seed and the #2 seed hosting the #15 seed, etc., until all first-round matches are set.

It will be the responsibility of the Commissioner, and his staff to establish the pairings in each first round game for all divisions. Playoff groupings will be created using an average of the total number of automatic qualifiers across all the divisions. A **playoff division will start with an automatic qualifier** and include all teams until the automatic qualifier which begins the division below it. Once Automatic Qualifiers have been placed into a division, any remaining spots will go to the highest ranked, .500 or better At-large teams in that grouping. The ranking of each team will be determined by a schools rating at the designated time Friday afternoon, February 6, 2026.

### **6. DETERMINATION OF SITES**

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.**

### **7. TIME OF GAME**

All playoff game times (except for the championship finals) are **set for 3:00 pm or 5:00 pm**. The HOME TEAM has the option of these two times based on availability of the field and/or if the field has lights. If an alternate time, other than the two times listed above, is adjusted mutual consent to the game time change is required by the two schools. All game times are to be confirmed between the opponents and then **MUST** be communicated to the Southern Section office and officials immediately for confirmation.

**ALL game times, 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
- Gender
- Teams in the Contest
- New game time / location / date
- The visiting school's Athletic Director has been included in the e-mail

**E-mail the following individuals:**

Assistant Commissioner: Mike Middlebrook at [mikem@cifss.org](mailto:mikem@cifss.org)  
Program Coordinator: Chelsea Olson at [chelseao@cifss.org](mailto:chelseao@cifss.org)  
CIF Officials Rep: Debbie Dakouzlian at [dakooz@earthlink.net](mailto:dakooz@earthlink.net)  
Bubba Barnett at [refbubba@gmail.com](mailto:refbubba@gmail.com)  
Your local Assignor: *for matches played in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or Quarter-final round.*

## 8. PRE-FLIPS

For ALL Rounds we will be conducting pre-flips to give the teams involved immediate notice of their next game location. When the pairings are released on **Saturday, February 7th** the draw will indicate home and away teams. **Coin flips schedule for games played on the following dates listed below:**

### BOYS - Rounds

2nd - Thursday, February 13  
QF – Wednesday, February 17  
SF - Saturday, February 21  
Finals – Sat., Feb 28

COIN FLIP DATE: Monday, February 9  
COIN FLIP DATE: Thursday, February 12  
COIN FLIP DATE: Monday, February 16  
COIN FLIP DATE: Sunday, February 22

### GIRLS- Rounds

2nd - Friday, February 14  
QF - Tuesday, February 18  
SF – Saturday, February 21  
Finals – Sat., Feb 28

COIN FLIP DATE: Monday, February 9  
COIN FLIP DATE: Friday, February 13  
COIN FLIP DATE: Monday, February 16  
COIN FLIP DATE: Sunday, February 22

## 9. OFFICIALS

Officials through the quarterfinals will be from the home school's area. Keep your traditional assignor in the loop on all game changes. Should your school advance to the semi-finals officials will be coordinated from outside your local area.

Officials for all playoff contests will be coordinated by the CIF-SS based on merit of the official's work during the regular season. In all playoff games (excluding the finals), the officials shall receive **\$109** in the two-person system and **\$100 / \$94** in the three-person system.

## 10. OFFICIAL GAME CLOCK TIME

Will be kept by the official on the field until the championship final at which time a clock will be used.

## 11. PRE-GAME ARRANGEMENTS

(a) The host school is responsible for:

- 1) Securing an adequate site for use in all playoff contests.  
See NFHS guidelines on field size in 2025-2026 rulebook. Minimum width is 55 yards wide.
- 2) Confirming uniform colors (jerseys) meet NFHS rule.
- 3) Contacting the visitors prior to game day to establish any necessary ground rules should the field or equipment not meet National Federation standards.
- 4) Providing official **Wilson NCAA Veza Match Ball** or **NCAA Vivido Match Ball** be used, directions to the school, locker room arrangements, visitor parking or any other special circumstances relative to the contest.

(b) **GOALS MUST MEET SPECIFICATIONS OF NATIONAL FEDERATION RULE 1 SECTION 4**  
**Goals MUST be anchored to the ground.**

(c) **NOISEMAKERS PROHIBITED** No noisemakers (horns, bells, victory bells, sirens, chimes, musical instruments other than those in the band, etc. will be permitted inside the gymnasium, stadium or playing fields at any CIF Southern Section contest (non-league, league, tournament or playoff). Cheering devices such as wooden blocks, or other similar objects, are prohibited. Megaphones shall be used only by uniformed cheerleaders for the purpose of directing and controlling rooting sections. The improper use of any of the above listed devices by supporters of a team would subject that team to possible forfeiture of the contest. The use of music is allowed by the home team during pre-game, half-time and when the ball is "dead" if it does not interfere with the safety of the contest as determined by the game official.

(d) **ANNOUNCER**

A game announcer is permitted for introduction of line-ups, substitutions, goal scorers, etc. but not play-by-play as this becomes a potential safety issue for the players and officials.

12. **TEAM ROSTER**

As per National Federation Rule 3-1-3, each coach must submit a roster, bench personnel and coach names to the officials at least five minutes prior to the start of the contest. The game shall not begin until this is complete.

13. **UNIFORMS**

**THE VISITING TEAM SHALL WEAR SOLID WHITE JERSEYS AND SOLID WHITE SOCKS, AND THE HOME TEAM SHALL WEAR DARK JERSEYS AND DARK SOCKS.**

**ALL UNIFORMS MUST BE NUMBERED PER NATIONAL FEDERATION RULE 4-1-h-1.**

14. **SQUAD SIZE**

The squad size must be restricted to the Varsity team only. This is a Varsity event and should not include Frosh or Junior Varsity players. The CIF-SS will only provide 22 awards for the championship contest per team.

15. **INCLEMENT WEATHER** – Whenever there is a situation involving inclement weather during the Soccer Championship Playoff Events, we feel it necessary to review with you the policies regarding rainouts, games called due to weather, etc. Here is the relevant information...

- 1) In instances where games cannot be started due to inclement weather, teams will postpone that day's scheduled games 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) The head referee shall declare it an official game if one complete half or more of the game has been played. If less than one-half of the game has been played, the game must be rescheduled from the start of the contest.

**We ask that you please communicate with our office immediately on any changes to your scheduled games.**

16. **TIE BREAKING PROCEDURES**

The following tie breaking procedures will be in effect for all playoff games:

(A) Play will consist of two ten-minute "Golden Goal" (or sudden victory) periods. If a team scores during the first ten-minute period, the contests is complete. If a tie still exists after the second ten-minute period, the National Federation Rules pertaining to kicks from the mark will be followed:

**PLEASE NOTE: ONE COACH FROM EACH TEAM SHALL BE ALLOWED ON THE FIELD WITH THEIR PLAYERS DURING KICKS FROM THE MARK.**

- 1) All coaches, officials and team captains shall assemble at the halfway line to review the procedure as outlined below:
  - a. The head referee shall choose the goal at which all kicks shall be taken.
  - b. Each coach will select any five players, including the goalkeeper, on or off of the field (except those who may have been disqualified) to take the kicks from the mark.
  - c. A coin toss shall be held. The team winning the toss shall have the choice of kicking first or second.
  - d. Teams will alternate kickers. There is no follow-up on the kick.
  - e. Following five kicks for each team, the team scoring the greatest number of these kicks shall be declared the winner.
  - f. Add one goal to the winning team score and credit the team with a victory.
- 2) If the score remains tied after each team has had five kicks from the mark:
  - a. Each coach will select five different players than the first five who already have kicked to take the kicks in a sudden victory situation, wherein if one team scores and other team does not score, the game is ended without more kicks being taken.
  - b. If the score remains tied, continue the sudden victory kicks with the coach selecting any five players to take the next set of alternating kicks. If a tie remains, repeat 2a.

**17. MEDIA**

Any radio broadcast or telecast, whether delayed or live, of any playoff soccer game, must be approved by the CIF-SS Office.

**18. AUDIO AND VIDEO REPRODUCTION EQUIPMENT**

The CIF Southern Section Office retains the right of all audio and video reproduction of any CIF-SS playoff contest. Permission for ANY audio or video reproduction equipment at CIF-SS soccer playoffs must be secured in advance from the Commissioner's office for which a fee will be charged.

**19. CREDENTIALS**

Each school and/ or school district will determine if media credentials and/or courtesy cards will be honored based on the guidelines established by the CDPH, local county health department regulations, school districts, and individual schools/private schools.

**20. ADMISSION REGULATIONS TO PLAYOFF CONTESTS**

Due to the inability of schools to secure a playing site which is enclosed, there will be no admission charge at playoff contests. If two competing schools wish to conduct an admission charge, the principals of those schools must receive permission from the CIF-SS Office in advance of the scheduled contest. If granted, the two schools then have the responsibility of conveying this information to their respective spectators/crowd.

In the event the competing schools agree, and admission is charged, the following financial regulations will be in effect:

- (a) **ADMISSION PRICES** - The admission prices shall be no higher than \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for students and 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 team traveling, such as bus, meals, etc.
- (d) **GATE SPLIT** - When admission is charged for rounds prior to the finals, the gate is to be handled as a gross gate and split 50-50 between the competing schools (please refer to Article I, Section 143 of the Blue Book).
- (e) **FINALS** - The admission price for **Friday, February 27 or Saturday, February 28, 2025**, will be:
  - \$14.00 General Admission**
  - \$7.00 Student with High School I.D. & Children under 13**

**Through the CIF-SS partnership with GoFan, ALL CHAMPIONSHIP TICKETS will be available online for digital purchase and presented electronically at the event gate for entry.**

The Southern Section Championship venues this year will be Veterans Memorial Stadium in Long Beach and Fred Kelly Stadium in Orange, CA.

The dates of the Open Division final and Divisions 1 – 8 will take place on Saturday, February 28. Two “neutral” sites will be used along with designated “home” sites to conduct the 18 championship matches. The “neutral” sites will host eight Championship matches. The teams/games selected to these sites will be determined after the semi-finals have been complete on Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>

Teams/games not selected for one of the “neutral” sites will be assigned to a “home” team following the normal coin flip process. The “home” team will be responsible for securing a site for the section championship. The host school must secure a football stadium like field (no park fields). They may use their home site if it meets the facility requirements and can provide for the anticipated crowd. The facility must have a working scoreboard clock, seating for a minimum of 600 and an secured entrance to allow for ticket sales. A date and/or time change may be adjusted if the two opponents can mutually agree on the adjustment **and upon approval from the CIF-SS office.**

**21. PROTESTS**

By action of the CIF-SS Council at its March 1983 meeting, 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 may still protest a contest in accordance with Southern Section rules, Rule 1112, as it pertains to use of ineligible players or violations of any CIF-SS rule in connection with the contest.

**22. CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS MANDATORY MEETING**

If your soccer team advances to the CIF Southern Section championship finals, a school administrator and coach will be required to attend a meeting on Tuesday, February 24th in the CIF-SS office (9:00am & 11:00am) regarding the Championship game, on-line ticket sales, post-game awards ceremony and packet pickup. Please review the Championship Bulletin prior to calling our office. Uniform information and squad size will be addressed in the bulletin which must be adhered to.

**23. ALL CIF INFORMATION**

Any team that advances to the CIF Southern Section playoffs is eligible to nominate players for the 2025-2026 ALL CIF team selection.

Nominations will only be accepted using a Google Doc found on the website at [www.cifss.org](http://www.cifss.org) under the girls and boys soccer webpages.

Each school may only submit one nomination entry.

Each playoff division will recognize 22 position players including one MVP and one coach of the year.

Nominations must be submitted by Monday, March 2, 2026.

Late submissions will not be accepted.

# **SOCCER GAME MANAGEMENT AND CROWD CONTROL**

**Failure to follow crowd management control may result in loss of home playoff contest.**

With the 2025-2026 Soccer Playoffs about to begin, administrators should review supervisory and crowd control procedures for the winter soccer season. Review this information with your principal and athletic director. These are the National Federation minimum requirements for crowd control.

## **As a review:**

NATIONAL FEDERATION RULES **REQUIRE** THAT SPECTATORS BE CONFINED TO AN AREA **AT LEAST** 10 FEET FROM THE TOUCH LINE, TEAMS, OFFICIALS AND GOAL LINE.

(Rule 1, Section 6 in the NFHS Soccer Rules Book)

**IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED THAT THERE BE NO OTHER ACTIVITIES TAKING PLACE ON THE FIELD OR IN THE STADIUM WHILE YOUR PLAYOFF SOCCER MATCH IS TAKING PLACE. SPORTS PRACTICES BOTH SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY AND/OR OTHER SIMULTANEOUS ACTIVITIES ON THE FIELD IS HIGHLY DISCOURAGED AS IT BRINGS LIABILITY AND RISK TO ALL INVOLVED.**

**IF THE GAME OFFICIAL(S) DETERMINES THE FIELD IS UNSAFE (DUE TO SIMULTANEOUS ACTIVITY), THEY CAN ORDER ALL OTHER ACTIVITIES TO CEASE PRIOR TO THE CONTESTS BEING PLAYED.**

\*\* The **CONFINED AREA** must be marked with a barrier of some kind.

No one shall be permitted directly behind the goal line unless seated in bleachers.

Home School Supervision – Faculty supervisors should be individuals who are as familiar as possible with the members of the student body to facilitate identification of students whenever necessary.

Visiting School Supervision – The visiting school should assign enough supervisors such that adequate crowd control can be accomplished.



CIF SOUTHERN SECTION PLAYOFF/CHAMPIONSHIP  
REQUIREMENTS - ALL TEAMS AND HOST SITES  
2025-2026



- 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, Spectrum Sports Net, Spectrum.
- '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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

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## **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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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.
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**CIF SOUTHERN SECTION PLAYOFF/CHAMPIONSHIP  
ADDITIONAL/CUSTOM POST SEASON AWARDS  
2025-2026**



**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](http://www.jlcustomjackets.com), (951) 867-3200

**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](http://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	<a href="http://www.ilcustomjackets.com">www.ilcustomjackets.com</a>	(951) 867-3200
CIF Tshirts	<a href="http://www.cifstshirts.com">www.cifstshirts.com</a>	(951) 789-5858
C&L Custom Jackets	<a href="http://www.cljackets.com">www.cljackets.com</a>	(714) 828-6900
Embroidery & More	<a href="http://www.embroideryandmoredesign.com">www.embroideryandmoredesign.com</a>	(951) 471-5200
PC & C Embroidery	<a href="https://pccembroidery.com/">https://pccembroidery.com/</a>	(909) 403-4558
The Advertising Specialists	<a href="https://www.tassigns.com/page/cif-southern-section-licensed-patch-provider">https://www.tassigns.com/page/cif-southern-section-licensed-patch-provider</a>	(626) 966-4770
We Got Em Tees	<a href="https://wegotemtees.com/">https://wegotemtees.com/</a>	<a href="https://www.760-983-6087/909-727-7699">760-983-6087/909-727-7699</a>

- **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	<a href="http://www.IntegrityDesignUSA.com">www.IntegrityDesignUSA.com</a>	(855) 341-8817
C&L Custom Jackets	<a href="http://www.cljackets.com">www.cljackets.com</a>	(714) 828-6900
The Advertising Specialists	<a href="https://www.tassigns.com/page/cif-southern-section-licensed-patch-provider">https://www.tassigns.com/page/cif-southern-section-licensed-patch-provider</a>	(626) 966-4770

- **Rings**

Herff Jones	<a href="https://highschool.herffjones.com/">https://highschool.herffjones.com/</a>
J. Lewis Small	<a href="http://www.jlewissmall.com">www.jlewissmall.com</a>
Jostens	<a href="http://www.jostens.com">www.jostens.com</a>
Signature Style Jewelry	<a href="http://www.signaturestylejewelry.com">www.signaturestylejewelry.com</a>
Baron Championship Rings	<a href="https://baronrings.com/">https://baronrings.com/</a>

**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 & Corporate Partnerships, Jacquelyn Gibson at [jackieg@cifss.org](mailto:jackieg@cifss.org) or 562-493-9500.

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# MEMO



**To:** CIF SOUTHERN SECTION SOCCER COACHES

**From:** Mike Middlebrook, CIF-SS Assistant Commissioner, Soccer Administrator

**Date:** January 2026 (**Revised 1/15**)

**Subject:** CIF STATE SOCCER REGIONAL CRITERIA

The CIF Southern Section is allotted 20 entries per gender into the State CIF Regional Soccer Tournament. The breakdown of those 20 entries per gender are as follows:

Division Open: (4) Total Entries. Teams that reach the semi-finals are automatic qualifiers.

Division 1: (4) Total Entries. Teams that reach the semi-finals are automatic qualifiers.

Division 2 – 6: (10) Total Entries. Teams that reach the championship final are automatic qualifiers.

Division 7 – 8: (2) Total Entries. Only the championship team will automatically qualify for the regional playoffs.

If the championship or runner-up team elects not to compete in the event, they must notify Mike Middlebrook via e-mail no later than Monday, February 23, 2025. [mikem@cifss.org](mailto:mikem@cifss.org)

The 20 teams that are submitted to the State Regional event will be listed and entered based on the division in which they competed in during the Southern Section Championships. For example, the Division 3 Runner-up will be submitted and entered for the Regional before the Division 5 Champion. 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 State CIF 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.

## **ENTRIES** – SEEDING PROCEDURES

The CIF SoCal Regional Soccer Championships will be conducted using eight-team (8) brackets in each of the five (5) divisions for both boys and girls.

**If a school elects to opt out of participation in the Regional Playoffs, the Principal is REQUIRED to provide written notification to the Section Commissioner prior to the school's Section Semi-Final contest.**

**Failure to comply will result in an automatic \$1,000 fine and may trigger additional sanctions as determined by CIF. [CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE OPT-OUT FORM.](#)**

For additional information visit the CIF State website [www.cifstate.org](http://www.cifstate.org)

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