

2024-25

PLAYOFF BULLETIN



2025



POWER

SPEED

AGILITY

SMARTS

F-150

Mustang Mach-E

Bronco

Explorer

Our vehicles. Your athletes.

The Southern California Ford Dealers proudly support SoCal High School Athletics.

SoCalFordDealers.com | CIFSS.org





With the 2025 Southern Section CIF Softball Championship Playoffs approaching, this bulletin is designed to assist you with your organizational plans. Please review this bulletin, and after reviewing its contents if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Table of Contents

CALENDAR (PLAYOFF DATES).....	3
CIFSSHOME REQUIREMENTS	4
PLAYOFF INFORMATION	5
PLAYOFF ENTRY & FORMAT	6
PLAYOFF HOSTING INFORMATION.....	9
PLAYOFF REQUIREMENTS – ALL TEAMS/HOST SITES.....	11
NFHS SOFTBALL RULES & POINTS OF EMPHASIS.....	14
BLUE BOOK RULES	16
TOURNAMENT RULES	18
ALL CIF INFORMATION	20
STATE REGIONAL QUALIFIER INFORMATION	22

PLAYOFF DATES

Brackets for all divisions will be released on
Monday, May 12 @ 12:00 p.m. on the CIF website (www.cifss.org).

First Round Thursday, May 15, 2025

Second Round Saturday, May 17, 2025

Quarterfinal Round Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Semifinal Round Saturday, May 24, 2025

Championship Finals Friday, May 30 and Saturday, May 31, 2025
DEANNA MANNING STADIUM @ Colonel Bill Barber Marine Corps Memorial Park, Irvine

**Specific date, time and locations for each divisional final game will be posted
on Wednesday, May 28 no later than 10:00 a.m. on the CIF website (www.cifss.org).**

CIFSSHORE REQUIREMENTS

CIF SOUTHERN SECTION BYLAW 3519 REQUIRES ALL SCHEDULES/SCORES TO BE UPDATED IN CIFSSHORE (www.cifsshore.org) FOR TEAMS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR SOUTHERN SECTION PLAYOFFS.

SCHEDULES & SCORES Complete your schedule in CIFSSHore 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 CIFSSHore

(www.cifsshore.org) as well as update the scores immediately following your contests.

Log in @ www.cifsshore.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, click "Add Game" at the top right and fill out all of the required fields which are marked by a red (*) to complete your schedule.

-To Submit your score, click on the "Teams", select "SOFTBALL" Scroll through your schedule and click on the green "Post Result" button.

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

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

VARSITY TEAM INFORMATION (ROSTER) DUE no later than WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2025

Attention Athletic Directors/Coaches: It is very important that you enter your entire SOFTBALL Varsity roster into CIFSSHore

(www.cifsshore.org) no later than WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2025.

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

Once you are logged in:

-On the left panel, Click on the "Teams" tab, select "SOFTBALL"

-Here are the instructions for using the sample file.

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

Required Columns for SOFTBALL are: First Name, Last Name, Birth date, Year, Number, Position, Height, Bats, Throws & Eligibility.

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

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

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

VARSITY COACHES

Attention Athletic Directors/Coaches: It is very important that you enter your SOFTBALL coaches (Head & Assistants)

into CIFSSHore (www.cifsshore.org) no later than WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2025.

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

Once you are logged in:

-Click on the "Teams" tab on the left navigation bar. Click on the corresponding varsity team "SOFTBALL"

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

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

VARSITY TEAM PHOTO DUE no later than FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2025.

Attention Athletic Directors/Coaches: It is very important that your SOFTBALL Varsity Team Photo is uploaded to CIFSSHore

(www.cifsshore.org) no later than FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2025.

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

on Home Campus

-On the left panel, click "Teams" tab on the left navigation bar. Click on the corresponding varsity team "SOFTBALL"

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

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

AT LARGE APPLICATION – MUST HAVE .500 RECORD OR BETTER

Attention Athletic Directors/ Coaches: Please follow the instructions below to enter your school as an At Large Entry for SOFTBALL

The At Large Application is to be submitted by your school no later than **Wednesday, May 7, 2025 @ 10:00 p.m.**

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

Once you are logged in:

-On the left panel, click on At Large Petition

-Select "SOFTBALL" then click "Add"

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

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

PLAYOFF INFORMATION

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 # 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.	\$7.00
General Admission/Student without high school I.D.	\$14.00

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

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 Friday, May 9th 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:	Saturday, May 17	COIN FLIP DATE: Monday, May 12
QTR-FINALS:	Wednesday, May 21	COIN FLIP DATE: Friday, May 16
SEMI-FINALS:	Saturday, May 24	COIN FLIP DATE: Thursday, May 22
FINALS:	Friday, May 30 or Saturday, May 31	COIN FLIP DATE: Tuesday, May 27

RESPONSIBILITY OF SCHOOLS

One designated representative of each school qualifying for the 2024-2025 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.cifsshhome.org **IMMEDIATELY** after each playoff contest.

PLAYOFF ENTRY AND FORMAT

DIVISIONS

The 2024-2025 CIF Southern Section Softball Playoffs will be conducted in the following divisions: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8

PLAYOFF ENTRIES

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.

All 7-8 team leagues will be guaranteed four entries into the playoffs.

All 9 or more team leagues will be guaranteed five entries.

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 3500 (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). If a league includes such conditions in its constitution, it is still obligated to play said contest on or before the last specified allowable playing date **(WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2025)**.

DETERMINATION OF PLAYOFF DIVISIONS/PAIRINGS

With the passage of the new competitive equity playoff system (CIFSS Council, January 2024), and changes to Bylaws 3519 and 3520, the way we group playoff divisions has changed. Playoff divisions will be created at the end of the regular season based on a team's current win/loss data. It is imperative that coaches/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 CIFSSHome will not be placed into a playoff division and will be ineligible to participate in the Southern Section Championship Playoff Tournament. Please review your results carefully, entering actual tournament opponents played, correct dates the contest was played, and the game scores. Please look through your schedule and scores on CIFSSHome (not another platform) as all data retrieval will be from CIFSSHome. Massey Ratings, the same power ranking system the CIFSS has used in various sports since 2014, will be used.

PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL SCHEDULES AND SCORES
ARE COMPLETED BY **WEDNESDAY, MAY 7th**.

Last League and Contest Date: Wednesday, May 7th
NO GAMES MAY BE PLAYED AFTER THIS DATE

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. **Each division will start with an automatic qualifier** and include all teams until the automatic qualifier which begins the next division. 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 that have submitted an at large application. The ranking of each team will be determined by a schools rating at a designated time on **Thursday May 8, 2025.**

Important information to be considered regarding the formation of the 2025 playoff divisions:

1. Rankings for all teams will be determined at a designated time on **Thursday May 8, 2025.**

Rankings will be taken using the Massey Reporting system. As the rankings are dynamic, only these rankings, from that moment will be used. Massey rounds to the nearest 10th in posting their rankings, however teams that are tied in rating, will have their strength of schedule used to break an exact matching power ranking value.

2. After all teams have been placed into division one, the next available automatic qualifier and all remaining teams after that will make brackets to form divisions 2-8.
3. An average of automatic qualifiers will be used to place teams into divisions. It is an average, with some divisions having more, and some less than the average depending on the order of automatic qualifiers and number of at-large teams in a grouping of teams. There are currently **237** automatic qualifiers for the 2025 season. (This number is subject to change based on participation of all teams during the league portion of our season).
4. Once automatic qualifiers have been placed into a division, and pending space, any remaining spots will go to the highest ranked, .500 overall record or better at-large teams in that grouping. **A team MUST be .500 or better to qualify for the playoffs regardless of their power ranking.**

AT LARGE ENTRIES

At Large entries **must** be submitted by the school no later than **10:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 7** in CIFSSHHome (www.cifsshhome.org).

FREELANCE

Freelance schools are reminded that in order to be considered for post-season competition, they **must** complete a freelance petition in CIFSSHHome (www.cifsshhome.org) prior to the start of the season. CIF Blue Book bylaw 3510: A freelance school must schedule 80% of the allowable contests at the varsity level. In order to be considered for the playoffs, the school must have a .500 or better record in all contests played and there must be openings in the bracket. Additionally, teams that win 80% of their contests played will be guaranteed entry. Freelance schools should use the At-Large Entry submission through www.cifsshhome.org for consideration into the playoffs.

OFFICIAL 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.





VISIBILITY IS VITAL!

**MACH
HI-VIZ**

WITH A 30% LARGER VIEWING WINDOW THAN
TRADITIONAL HELMET/FACEMASK COMBOS, AND A
STAINLESS-STEEL CAGE WITH OPTIMAL, VARIED THICKNESS,
THIS NEWLY ENGINEERED DESIGN WILL ENSURE YOU
SEE AND EXPERIENCE THE GAME LIKE NEVER BEFORE!

TRADITIONAL



NEW HI-VIZ



JOCELYN ALO

COLLEGIATE SOFTBALL'S
ALL-TIME HOME RUN LEADER

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO SEE THE
DIFFERENCE FOR YOURSELF**



**THE OFFICIAL SOFTBALL
OF THE
CIF SOUTHERN SECTION**



RAWLINGS.COM

©2024 RAWLINGS SPORTING GOODS COMPANY, INC. ST. LOUIS, MO

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.
- 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:	Alex Lagos at alexl@cifss.org
CIF Officials Rep:	Vince Rosse at m1aman308@mac.com
Your local Assignor:	<i>for games played in the 1st, 2nd or Quarter-final round.</i>

PLAYOFF REQUIREMENTS – ALL TEAMS/HOST SITES

REPORTING SCORES

For all rounds of the playoffs, both teams **must** post the game result into cifsshome.org under teams tab, schedules and scores. All game results should be entered as soon as possible after the completion of the contest so that the next round, in terms of host team assignments and officials, may be finalized

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.

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 \$91 and Base Umpire \$91.**

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.

AWARDS

The Southern Section will present awards to the champion and finalist teams in all NINE divisions of the playoffs. CIF-SS patches and t-shirts will be awarded to the 20 members of the championship team in all divisions. Individual patches will be provided for 20 members of the finalist team in all nine divisions.



OFFICIAL BALL PROGRAM

2024-2025

Official Ball per sport (updated 1.21):

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 Evolution Game Basketball Size 7	
Girls Basketball:	Wilson NCAA EVO NXT GAME BALL Size 6 (Used in CIF-SS Championship) Wilson Evolution Game Basketball Size 6	
Football, Flag	Wilson GST SPEEDSKIN HEIR – WF1006201XBYH Wilson GST TDY – WTF1320IB	
Football (8/11):	Wilson GST – WTF1003 Wilson Omega – WF1005301IDOF Wilson GST Prime – WTF1103 (<i>discontinued</i>)	
Lacrosse:	PEARL X (Used in CIF-SS Championship) PEARL LT	
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) Rawlings Dream Seam (Playoffs Only) Rawlings Red Dot (Playoffs Only)	
Tennis:	Penn 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 approved for play 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 flag football, golf, tennis and beach volleyball.*



THE BEST USE THE BEST

GATORADE





2025 NFHS SOFTBALL RULES CHANGES

1-8-6 EXCEPTION & PENALTY: A high school softball coach is now able to use electronic devices in the dugout for one-way communication to the catcher while the team is on defense. The penalty from Rule 3-6-11 was added to Rule 1-8-6 as well, with violators subject to ejection unless the offense is ruled to be of a minor nature.

Rationale: The committee has made these changes to support the use of emerging technology within the sport of softball. Being a permissive rule, the use of this one-way electronic communication will allow those who choose to embrace the technology an additional option to communicate with the catcher while on defense.

3-6-11: This rule change specifies that coaches are prohibited from using the device to communicate with any other team member while on defense or any team member while on offense and the coach cannot use the device outside the dugout/bench area.

Rationale: Clarifies that a coach may use an electronic device for one-way communication to the catcher while the team is on defense.

9-3-2b: When a baserunner who is declared out for being hit by a fair batted ball, the batter-runner is credited with a fielder's choice in the scorebook.

Rationale: This change corrects an error in the rules book that awarded a base hit in this instance.

2025 SOFTBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES

Figure 1-1, Figure 1-3, 1-3-4, 1-3-5, 1-6-6, 1-7-1, 2-47, 3-2-3, 3-2-12 NOTE, 3-6-12, 5-1 Table, 5-1-1o, 6-12c, 8-1-2a EFFECTS 3, 8-6-4, 10-1-6

2025 SOFTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Team's Role in Pace of Play
2. Situational Awareness



2025 NFHS Softball Points of Emphasis

TEAMS' ROLE IN PACE OF PLAY

Coaches play a vital role in creating and maintaining pace-of-play standards for their individual players and teams. Every effort should be made to educate players on the rules involved and the timing protocols related to breaks between innings, as well as during gameplay.

Between innings, 60 seconds is provided for (a) the defense to take the field and throw warm-up pitches, and (b) the offense to prepare to bat. There are several ways that coaches can expedite this process with simple instructions to players. For example, if the catcher was batting when the third out was made, have another teammate or coach prepared to receive warm-up pitches while the catcher gets equipped. For the team coming to bat, coaches should encourage their lead-off batter to gather their batting equipment while the remainder of the team huddles in an appropriate area that doesn't pose a safety risk for the defense warming up.

There are prescribed penalties associated with excessive time between innings. Once the allowed 60 seconds has passed, the offensive team has 10 seconds for its batter to enter the batter's box (NFHS Rule 7-3-1). Similarly, once the allowed 60 seconds has passed, the pitcher has 20 seconds to legally deliver a pitch (NFHS Rule 6-2-3). The respective penalties for violations of these time constraints are either a strike or a ball on the batter, depending on the tardy party.

These same time constraints exist on each pitch thrown. Once the ball has been returned to the pitcher to prepare for the next pitch, the pitcher has 20 seconds to release the pitch. Coaches who delay in calling pitches risk a penalty for exceeding the allowed 20 seconds. The same applies to the offense when a batter fails to enter the batter's box within 10 seconds after the ball is returned to the pitcher.

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

Participant well-being should be a priority for all those involved in game management. Coaches and umpires can help minimize risk and injury to players by understanding and enforcing existing bench and field conduct rules. NFHS rules stipulate that once the game has begun, only the batter, runner(s), on-deck batter, coaches in the coach's box, bat/ball shaggers or one of the nine players on defense are permitted to be outside the designated dugout/bench or designated warm-up areas (i.e. batting cage or bullpen). Additionally, during game play, hitting the ball to teammates on defense is prohibited. Between innings, bench personnel are permitted to engage in throwing and running activities.

Field structure and dugout protection vary from facility to facility. Team personnel should assess and be aware of potential hazards associated with foul balls and overthrows. For example, if a bullpen is in an area where a foul ball or overthrow could contact the pitcher or catcher, the team might assign bench personnel with a glove to stand nearby to shield those warming up.

On-deck batters should be mindful of potential foul balls and overthrows and be prepared to move as necessary to avoid contact. On-deck batters must use the on-deck circle closest to their own dugout. (NFHS Rule 7-5-1)

BLUE BOOK RULES 2024-2025 – GENERAL

Following are key points coaches should review with their assistants and participants about CIF-SS rules and regulations as set down in the Blue Book. This list is NOT all-inclusive and only highlights some of the key areas.

201. STANDARDS OF ELIGIBILITY

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=55>

210. PHYSICAL ASSAULT OF A GAME OFFICIAL OR EVENT OFFICIAL

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=86>

212. AMATEUR STATUS

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=88>

220. BASIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=92>

500. AUTHORIZED PARTICIPATION

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=98>

503.G ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT / PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=103>

503.H ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT / CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=103>

503.M PLAYER CONDUCT

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=105>

503M. COACH EJECTION

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=105>

506. PRACTICE ALLOWANCE

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=110>

600. COMPETITION ON AN OUTSIDE TEAM

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=120>

1227. SUNDAY RESTRICTION

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=148>

1228. NOISEMAKERS PROHIBITED

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=148>

BLUE BOOK RULES 2024-2025 – SOFTBALL

Following are key points coaches should review with their assistants and participants about CIF-SS rules and regulations as set down in the Blue Book. This list is NOT all in-inclusive and only highlights some of the key areas for Softball.

2800. LENGTH OF GAMES

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=191>

2801. OFFICIAL NATIONAL FEDERATION AUTHENTICATION MARK

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=191>

2802. PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=191>

2805. SCRIMMAGES

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=191>

2807. MAXIMUM TEAM CONTESTS

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=192>

2808. END OF COMPETITION

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=192>

2809. OUTSIDE COMPETITION BY AN INDIVIDUAL

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=192>

2813. PLAYOFFS

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=192>

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 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 2025 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.

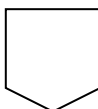
THE PENALTY FOR BATTING PRACTICE WITH A WIFFLE BALL, SOFTBALL, BASEBALL, FRONT TOSS, ETC. MAY BE FORFEITURE OF THE GAME.

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.

JL CUSTOM JACKETS

Official CIF Licensed Patch
& Jacket Manufacturer

- ONE STOP SHOP FOR CIF PATCHES, VARSITY LETTERS, CUSTOM PATCHES & EMBLEMS
- COMPETITIVE PRICING
- ALL ORDERS 2 - 3 WEEK TURNAROUND TIME
- BANQUET DATES GUARANTEED
- ALL PRODUCTS MADE IN THE UNITED STATES



You can design and purchase your own custom patches on our website.

To Order Call: 951-867-3200

customerservice@jlcustomjackets.com

or visit us on the web:

www.jlcustomjackets.com

7161 Old 215 Frontage Road, Moreno Valley, CA

Fax (951) 867-3277

EXCLUSIVE
DISTRIBUTOR FOR
ALL
CHAMPIONS
FINALISTS
RUNNER-UP &
ALL CIF Patches

* Prices subject to change without notice

ALL CIF INFORMATION

The All CIF-SS teams are decided by the coaches' committees for each sport.

To be considered, your coach must submit their nominations to the CIF Southern Section by the given date.

SOFTBALL NOMINATIONS ARE DUE BY MAY 23, 2025

**Complete the form on the following page and email it to Thom Simmons,
thoms@cifss.org at the CIF Southern Section office.**

The CIF-SS will receive the first team list from the committee and release those on www.cifss.org.

We will also mail the first team certificates to the athlete's school.

The CIF-SS office does not collect 2nd or 3rd team information. If the sport has a 2nd or 3rd team, that information will be available through the coaches committee.

ALL CIF SOUTHERN SECTION SOFTBALL 2024-2025 SEASON – NOMINATION FORM

HIGH SCHOOL: _____ LEAGUE: _____

OVERALL RECORD: W _____ L _____ LEAGUE RECORD: W _____ L _____ DIVISION: _____

COACH'S NAME: _____ COACH'S CELL: _____

HOW TO NOMINATE YOUR ATHLETES:

- ONLY PLAYERS SELECTED LEAGUE MVP OR 1ST TEAM ALL LEAGUE ARE ELIGIBLE
- ONLY TWO PLAYERS CAN BE NOMINATED. ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS WILL NULIFY THE ENTRY
- IF YOU NOMINATE A PITCHER, ENTER BOTH HITTING AND PITCHING STATS
- INCLUDE ALL REGULAR SEASON STATISTICS, NO PLAYOFF STATISTICS
- THE LEAGUE MVP MUST BE LISTED AS YOUR NUMBER 1 RANKED PLAYER
- UTILITY PLAYER IS DEFINED AS A PLAYER WITH A MINIMUM OF 6 GAMES AT 2 OR MORE POSITIONS
- NOMINATION DOES NOT GUARANTEE SELECTION

RANK	LEAGUE HONORS	NAME	YEAR	POSITION	GAMES PLAYED	FIELDING AVG	CHANCES	STOLEN BASES	BATTING AVG	ON BASE AVG	AT BATS	HITS	RBI	RUNS SCORED
1														
2														

PITCHER, ONLY IF LISTED ABOVE	WON	LOST	INNINGS PITCHED	BATTERS FACED	HITS ALLOWED	TOTAL RUNS	EARNED RUNS	ERA	K' S	BB

UTILITY POSITIONS, ONLY IF LISTED ABOVE	POSITION	GAMES PLAYED	POSITION	GAMES PLAYED	POSITION	GAMES PLAYED	POSITION	GAMES PLAYED	POSITION	GAMES PLAYED

BATTING AVG = HITS/OFFICIAL TIMES AT BAT (OTAB)
OTAB = TOTAL TIMES AT BAT MINUS (WALK+SAC+HIT BY PITCH)
OBA = HITS+WALKS+HIT BY PITCH/OTAB+WALKS+HIT BY PITCH
ERA = EARNED RUNS X 7/INNINGS PITCHED
CHANCES = PUT OUTS+ASSISTS+ERRORS
FIELDING AVERAGE = PUT OUTS+ASSISTS/CHANCES



MEMO

To: CIF STATE REGIONAL QUALIFIERS

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

Date: April 2025

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

2 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

2 Finalists from Southern Section Division 8

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

or

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

INTENT TO OPT OUT DECLARATION

THIS INFORMATION MUST BE RETURNED TO YOUR SECTION
OFFICE **BY THE FRIDAY (5 PM) OF YOUR WEEK OF SECTION
PLAYOFFS**. IF YOUR SCHOOL CHOOSES TO OPT OUT OF THE
REGIONAL/STATE PLAYOFFS

School Year

Sport

Gender

School

BY SIGNING BELOW, WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT OUR SCHOOL WILL NOT
PARTICIPATE IN THE ABOVE MENTIONED REGIONAL/STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP.

School Principal (Signature)

Date

Coach (Signature)

Date

**COMPLETE THIS FORM, THEN EMAIL IT TO YOUR RESPECTIVE SECTION (SPORT
REPRESENTATIVE).**

When pain gets in the way of doing what you love ...

Trust the experts at Hoag & Hoag Orthopedic Institute
Sports Medicine to get you back on the field.

Hoag & Hoag Orthopedic Institute Sports Medicine are proud
to be the Official Orthopedic & Sports Medicine Partner of the
CIF Southern Section.

**Hoag
Orthopedic
Institute.**

SPORTS MEDICINE



We are proudly founded by our premier physicians in partnership with Hoag.

© 2024, Hoag is a registered trademark of Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian. All Rights Reserved.