

CIF SOUTHERN SECTION | FOOTBALL (11)



# PLAYOFF BULLETIN



2025 - 2026

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**ATTN:** Athletic Directors and 11- Man Football Coaches  
**FROM:** Joe Hoggatt, Assistant Commissioner, Football Administrator  
 Brenda Bomgaars, Program Coordinator to Joe Hoggatt  
**SUBJECT:** 2025 CIF SOUTHERN SECTION FORD ~ FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS  
**DATE:** October 2025

**11-PERSON Football Playoff Brackets will be released  
 on SUNDAY NOVEMBER 2, 2025 AT 10:00 a.m.  
 At [www.cifss.org](http://www.cifss.org)**

**PLAYOFF CONTEST DATES**

First Round ..... November 7, 2025  
 Second Round ..... November 14, 2025  
 Semi Finals ..... \*November 21, 2025  
 Finals ..... November 28 or 29, 2025  
**\*ALL divisions must play their semifinal contests on Friday, November 21**

CIF State Regionals/Championships Opt Out Date ..... \*October 20, 2025  
**\*Last Date to notify CIF State office your team is opting out of CIF State Regionals.**  
 CIF State Regionals.....December 5 or 6, 2025  
 CIF State Championship Bowl Games.....December 12 or 13, 2025  
 For additional information on state regional and championship bowl games, visit [www.cifstate.org](http://www.cifstate.org).

**COIN FLIP DATES**

In an effort to give schools as much time as possible to prepare for football playoff contests, we will be announcing coin flips for home teams according to the following schedule.  
 Coin Flips results can be found on the Football page of the CIF website (<https://cifss.org/sports/football-11/>).  
 Quarterfinal Round..... Sunday, November 2, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.  
 Semi Finals .....Saturday, November 8, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.  
 Finals .....Saturday, November 15, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

**CHAMPIONSHIP CONTEST SCHEDULE**

This schedule is made to alleviate the conflict of all championship games being played on the same day. It is hoped that advanced planning will assist and accommodate students, as well as the respective communities involved.

**Division 1-** Friday, November 28, 2025 – Rose Bowl Stadium, Pasadena  
**Division 2 through 14** – Schedule announced on Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at [www.cifss.org](http://www.cifss.org). Games will be played on Friday, November 28 or Saturday, November 29 at 7:00 p.m.

**NOTE: Coaches are required to make film exchange arrangements with opponents an hour after pairings are released. (See page 23 on film exchange requirements).**



# Official Football

**Wilson** Contact: Craig Kalb - craig.kalb@wilson.com



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*\*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.

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**CIF STATE REGIONAL PLAYOFF OPT-OUT PROCEDURE:** Following the conclusion of the CIF Southern Section Championships on November 28/29, 2025, the State Regional and Championship games begin. All 14 CIF Southern Section Champions automatically advance to the Regional Championship games.

If you **DO NOT** want to participate in the State Regional/Championships you must submit an Opt-Out form to our office **no later than OCTOBER 20, 2025**. [CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE OPT-OUT FORM](#), email form to Joe Hoggatt ([ioeh@cifss.org](mailto:ioeh@cifss.org)) and Brenda Bomgaars ([brendab@cifss.org](mailto:brendab@cifss.org)) at the Southern Section office.

**Failure to comply will result in an automatic \$1,000 fine and may trigger additional sanctions as determined by the CIF State Office.**

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# CIFSSHOME REQUIREMENTS

**SCHEDULES & SCORES** Complete your schedule in CIFSSHome prior to your season as well as update scores following each contest  
**Attention Athletic Directors/Coaches:** It is very important that you enter your entire season schedule into CIFSSHOME ([www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org)) as well as update the scores immediately following your contests.

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

-On the left panel, click on "Teams", select "Football"

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 **Football** 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 **Football** 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".

## VARSITY COACHES

**Attention Athletic Directors/Coaches:** It is very important that you enter your Football coaches (Head & Assistants) into CIFSSHome ([www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org)) no later than **MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2025** to ensure your coaches receive all pertinent emails from the CIF.

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

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

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

## VARSITY TEAM INFORMATION (TEAM PHOTO) due no later than **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2025.**

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 "Football", 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 Football Varsity roster into CIFSSHome ([www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org)) no later than **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2025.**

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 "Football", 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 Football is:**

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

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

- Click on  and complete fields required for Football.

**(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 Football are:**

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

- Click on to find your file,  then click  on

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

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

## AT LARGE APPLICATION

**Attention Athletic Directors/ Coaches:** Please follow the instructions below to enter your school as an At Large Entry for Football. The At Large Application is to be submitted by your school no later than **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2025 NO LATER THAN 11:00 P.M.**

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

Once you are logged in:

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

-Select "Football" 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.**

## **PLAYOFF INFORMATION**

CIF Southern Section games will be played under the 2025 National Federation Football Rules, except where superseded by Blue Book rulings or this Handbook/Playoff Bulletin.

The 2025 Football Playoffs will be conducted in 14 playoff divisions. Schools will be placed in their divisions based on the competitive equity format. (refer to Blue Book rule 3519).

## **PLAYOFF INFORMATION**

### **11-Man Football Guaranteed Entries in all divisions:**

Leagues of 4 or 5 teams will get 2 guaranteed entries.

Leagues of 6-8 teams will get 3 guaranteed entries.

Leagues of 9 or more teams will get 4 guaranteed entries.

(Blue Book Rule 3519) In the sport of Football, individual schools will be evaluated and placed into divisions on a yearly basis utilizing a formula based entirely on current regular season results. Final power rankings, and divisional placements, will be determined and released at the end of the current regular season. Seeding all playoff brackets in each division will follow the final power rankings in that division, regardless of league affiliation or league finish. For example, in the First Round, the #1 seed, determined by the final power rankings for that division, will play #16, the #2 seed will play #15, etc. The higher seeded team will host the first-round contest and then CIF Southern Section Bylaw 3504, Host Team After the First Round, will be followed for all subsequent contests.

**Note: 3504.1** Teams receiving a bye in the first round shall be the host team in the next round of the playoffs.

### **11-Man Football At Large Entries in all divisions: :**

At Large teams must have a .500 record or better for their complete schedules to be considered. A tie will count as a ½ win and ½ loss as the criteria for .500 or better record. (A record of 4-4-2 would be considered as qualifying). In the sport of football, in order to alleviate byes, if there are no .500 teams entered or all .500 or better teams have been taken, then the next highest rated sub .500 team in a divisional grouping will be selected. However, no team under .500 will be placed until all .500 at large entries have been placed.

## **AT LARGE APPLICATIONS**

**MUST BE SUBMITTED IN CIFSSHOME BY THE SCHOOL  
NO LATER THAN 11:00 P.M. ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2025.**

**CIF STATE REGIONAL PLAYOFF OPT-OUT PROCEDURE:** Following the conclusion of the CIF Southern Section Championships on November 28/29, 2025, the State Regional and Championship games begin. All 14 CIF Southern Section Champions automatically advance to the Regional Championship games.

If you **DO NOT** want to participate in the State Regional/Championships you must submit an Opt-Out form to our office **no later than OCTOBER 20, 2025.** [CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE OPT-OUT FORM](#), email form to Joe Hoggatt ([joeh@cifss.org](mailto:joeh@cifss.org)) and Brenda Bomgaars ([brendab@cifss.org](mailto:brendab@cifss.org)) at the Southern Section office

**Failure to comply will result in an automatic \$1,000 fine and may trigger additional sanctions as determined by the CIF State Office.**

## **11-MAN FOOTBALL AT LARGE SELECTION**

The 11-Man Football At-Large Selection Committee will meet and the following criteria will be in place:

- (1) At Large entry must be submitted in CIFSSHome ([www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org)) by 11:00 p.m., Friday, October 31, 2025.
- (2) Schools submitting an at-large entry, MUST have a complete schedule and results in CIFSSHome ([www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org)) and verify the schedule and results listed at [www.hsratings.com](http://www.hsratings.com).
- (3) The At Large Selection Committee will meet in the CIF-SS office on the Saturday afternoon of the weekend in which the playoff draw is to be finalized. The administrator so designated from the CIF-SS Office for Football shall act as a resource person for the meeting.

**REMINDER:** All materials relating to at-large entries MUST be submitted to the CIF-SS office no later than **11:00 p.m. on Friday, October 31, 2025**. If material is not submitted, the team will not be under consideration, as the Selection Committee will have no statistical data from which to draw.

**Attention Athletic Directors/ Coaches: Please follow the instructions below to enter your school as an At Large Entry for Football. The At Large Application is to be submitted by your school no later than **Friday, October 31, 2025 @ 11:00 p.m.****

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

Once you are logged in:

-On the left panel, click on the "Forms" tab, select "At Large Petition", select "11-Man Football" 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.

## **LEAGUE DESIGNATION OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Under the playoff format, leagues have the responsibility of developing and identifying the priority for their representatives into the playoffs as noted under Article 350 (Playoffs) of the CIF Southern Section Blue Book.

**Leagues are guaranteed their appropriate number of entries into the Southern Section Championships, per current Southern Section Blue Book Rule 3514. The At-Large process outlined in the Football Playoff Bulletin will be used to select at-large teams to fill any byes in the draw or to eliminate teams from the draw, to create brackets for Divisions 1-14.**

**NOTE:** If two or three automatic entry teams from the same league are tied at the end of league competition, they may all carry the same designation into their respective playoff division. For example, if School A and School B tie for their league's championship, they can both be designated as League #1 in their respective playoff divisions. However, leagues may not exceed their total allowable guaranteed entries regardless of what playoff division those schools would enter.

**All league entries are to be submitted by 11:00 p.m., Friday October 31, 2025 through [www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org). Automatic qualifiers will be posted for verification on Saturday, November 1. Corrections must be made by 1:00 p.m. on that date. No revision of league entries will be allowed after that time. Corrections should be made in [www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org) as well as notifying [ned@hsratings.com](mailto:ned@hsratings.com).**

**It is critical for the accuracy of rankings and entries that school and league coordinators confirm their schedules/scores both at [www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org) and <http://www.hsratings.com/>.**

**DO NOT wait until the end of the season to verify your information.**

**No revisions can be accepted after 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 1, 2025.**

## PLAYOFF CHECK LIST

<b>Item</b>	<b>Completed</b>	<b>Date</b>
1. Update Player Roster into <a href="http://www.cifsshome.org">www.cifsshome.org</a>	_____	_____
2. Update 14 Year Old in <a href="http://www.cifsshome.org">www.cifsshome.org</a>	_____	_____
3. Uploaded team photograph into <a href="http://www.cifsshome.org">www.cifsshome.org</a>	_____	_____
4. Log into Gofan.co account to confirm accuracy	_____	_____
5. Have field reserved in event of home game next round	_____	_____
6. Pre-game planning with opponent	_____	_____
7. Contact and confirm with Officials	_____	_____
8. Secure Medical Coverage for Contest	_____	_____
9. Provide PA Announcements to Announcer	_____	_____
10. Arrange for Gatorade Coolers and Products	_____	_____
11. Confirm CIF/Ford Championship Banner is hung in visible location	_____	_____

## **PLAYOFF DIVISIONS**

The CIF Southern Section Football Playoffs shall be conducted in 14 playoff divisions. In 2025, all divisions will be 16-team brackets, with the exception of Division 1. Bracket size for Division 1 will be determined after the regular season has been completed.

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. If there are not enough .500 or better at large teams, then the highest rated sub .500 team(s), will be selected. The ranking of each team will be determined by a schools rating at the designated time Saturday afternoon, November 1, 2025.

The Division 1 representatives will be placed in the bracket and seeded one through the final team in the draw, as determined by the selection process. This will be regardless of league finish and designation. Division 2-14 Representatives will be placed in the bracket and seeded one through sixteen, as determined by the selection process. This will be regardless of league finish and designation. The higher seeded team, regardless of league finish, shall be the host school in the first round.

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 Saturday afternoon, November 1, 2025. Rankings will be taken from <http://www.hsratings.com>. As the rankings are dynamic, only these rankings, from that moment will be used. HS Ratings rounds to the nearest 10<sup>th</sup> in posting their rankings, however teams that are tied in rating, will be taken in the order posted on HS Ratings, as they will be put into order based on their true decimal rating, not reflected in the public number posted.
2. After all teams have been placed into division one, the next available automatic qualifier and all remaining teams after that will make up sixteen team brackets to form divisions 2-14.
3. With the recommendation of the 11-Man Football Advisory Committee, all divisions will start with an automatic qualifier, who will serve as the #1 seed in that division.
4. An average number of automatic qualifiers will be used to place teams into division. 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 178 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.)
5. Once automatic qualifiers have been placed into a division, and pending space, any remaining sports will go to the highest ranked, at-large teams in that grouping. If there are not enough at-large .500 teams, then the highest sub .500 team(s) will be taken.

A Sample Divisional Breakdown follows on the next two pages: The average number of automatic qualifiers per division is 13 for the example.

<b>EXAMPLE 2025</b>	<b>AVG 13 AQ Per Division</b>		
<b>Team - Overall Rank</b>	<b>HS Ratings Ranking</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Seed</b>
<b>Division 1 Potential 8 team bracket</b>			
1		Automatic Qualifier	1
2		Automatic Qualifier	2
3		Automatic Qualifier	3
4		Automatic Qualifier	4
5		Automatic Qualifier	5
6		At-Large (6-4)	6
7		Automatic Qualifier	7
8		At-Large (6-4)	8
<b>Division 2 16 Team Bracket</b>			
9		Automatic Qualifier	1
10		At-Large (5-5)	2
11		At-Large (6-4)	3
12		Automatic Qualifier	4
13		At-Large (4-6)	
14		Automatic Qualifier	5
15		Automatic Qualifier	6
16		Automatic Qualifier	7
17		Automatic Qualifier	8
18		Automatic Qualifier	9
19		Automatic Qualifier	10
20		Automatic Qualifier	11
21		Automatic Qualifier	12
22		Automatic Qualifier	13
23		Automatic Qualifier	14
24		At-Large (4-6)	
25		At-Large (5-5)	15
26		Automatic Qualifier	16
27		At-Large (7-3)	
<b>Division 3 16 Team Bracket</b>			
28		Automatic Qualifier	1
29		Automatic Qualifier	2
30		Automatic Qualifier	3
31		At-Large (6-4)	4
32		At-Large (4-6)	
33		Automatic Qualifier	5
34		Automatic Qualifier	6
35		Automatic Qualifier	7
36		At-Large (6-4)	8
37		At-Large (5-5)	9
38		Automatic Qualifier	10
39		Automatic Qualifier	11

40		Automatic Qualifier	12
41		Automatic Qualifier	13
42		Automatic Qualifier	14
43		Automatic Qualifier	15
44		Automatic Qualifier	16
45		At-Large (6-4)	
46		At-Large (4-6)	
47		At-Large (7-3)	
48		At-Large (5-5)	

Division 4	16 Team Bracket		
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49		Automatic Qualifier	1
50		Automatic Qualifier	2
51		Automatic Qualifier	3
52		Automatic Qualifier	4
53		At-Large (7-3)	5
54		Automatic Qualifier	6
55		Automatic Qualifier	7
56		Automatic Qualifier	8
57		Automatic Qualifier	9
58		Automatic Qualifier	10
59		Automatic Qualifier	11
60		Automatic Qualifier	12
61		Automatic Qualifier	13
62		Automatic Qualifier	14
63		Automatic Qualifier	15
64		Automatic Qualifier	16
65		At-Large (5-5)	
66		At-Large (6-4)	

Division 5			
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67	18.3	Automatic Qualifier	1

In the example above, Division 1 was created using the top 8 teams and any at-large candidates before the next automatic qualifier.

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19 Teams were considered for the 16 spots in Division 2. Team #25 was selected over sub .500 at-large teams #13 and #24. Team #27 was a .500 at-large, but was not included as the bracket was full. There are 13 automatic qualifiers and 3 at-large teams in Division 2

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20 Teams were considered for the 16 spots in Division 3. At-large team #33 was passed over due to other .500 at-large teams being available at #37 and #38. There are 13 automatic qualifiers and 3 at large teams in Division 3.

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18 Teams were considered for the 16 spots in Division 4. There are 15 automatic qualifiers and therefore room for only 1 at-large team in Division 4.

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# PLAYOFF HOSTING INFORMATION

## DETERMINATION OF SITES

In the first round of the playoffs, the arrangement shall be as follows: The Commissioner shall match the teams for first-round playoff contests and the host school for these games shall be pre-determined by the Commissioner. Teams will be placed in the bracket and seeded as determined by their rating. The higher seeded team, regardless of league finish, shall be host school in the first round.

The decision of who shall be the host team after the first round of competition, is the 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 in the entire draw, 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 that 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.

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. Approval of the site will be made by the Southern Section office, after taking into consideration input from the participating schools and evaluation of crowd sizes from previous years.

## CIF-SS OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS

With limited time between each round of the playoffs, a tremendous strain is placed on the staff at the CIF-SS office, in arranging myriads of details connected with insuring a successful playoff season. Game sites must be established, officials secured, ticketing set up, press credentials issued, and press releases distributed. To expedite matters, our staff will be in the office on Saturday, November 8, Saturday, November 15 and Saturday, November 22 during the playoffs. Saturday office hours are 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

With the numerous specifics involved in conducting playoffs, the host school **MUST SEEK APPROVAL FROM THE CIF-SS BY 3 P.M. MONDAY, AS TO THE EXACT SITE OF THE UPCOMING PLAYOFF CONTEST.** This deadline must be met for game officials to be assigned, information to be distributed to the press for advanced publicity and to allow ample time for field inspection, if necessary. As indicated earlier, schools are to have sites tentatively under reservation in advance, thus allowing for a quick answer by 3 p.m. each Monday.

## PHYSICIAN

Medical coverage for all C.I.F. Southern Section Football Playoff games is defined by Blue Book Rule 2222.2: A licensed medical doctor, or the primary health provider designated by the home team as team physician or team doctor, shall be in attendance at all playoff games. The fee shall be paid from the gross game receipts.

## **PLANNING MEETING**

Member schools, on occasion, have reported they have encountered problems in crowd control at night football games. In some instances, there have been fights, games suspended, reports of vandalism and serious problems in the parking lots. This again points up the extreme need for proper preparation and pre-game planning for all football playoff contests.

It is **required** that administrators from the two competing schools communicate to discuss details connected with the staging of the contest. Visiting students and supporters should be given detailed information regarding the best method of reaching the site of the contest, where to park, where to enter the stadium and where their allotted seats are located. The half-time entertainment, and all activities connected with the game, should be thoroughly worked out.

## **EQUAL FACILITIES**

Although it is necessary that one team be designated as the host team, it shall be kept in mind that the game belongs equally to both competing schools. **A pre-game planning meeting must be held to cover all details connected with the staging of every playoff contest.**

**Blue Book Rule 3516:** The visiting school in dual team playoff contests is entitled to equal facilities, including one-half of the seating, locker rooms, phone lines, spotting facilities, etc.

If headphones are provided for one team, they must also be provided for the other team. If equal headphones cannot be provided, neither team may use the phones. The same principle of equal facilities applies to camera sites, dressing facilities, press box seats for spotters, etc.

The time period between the first and second half should be equally divided so that each school will have an opportunity to present its band and drill team. If one school does not wish to provide any half-time entertainment, it may relinquish its time. If mutually agreeable to both teams, the half-time period may be extended to 20 minutes.

## **PRESS BOX ACCOMMODATIONS**

The host school is responsible for supervising proper accommodations in the press box. An adult should be assigned to handle this important function. Press box seats should be reserved for members of the news media. They have been advised to call ahead and reserve seats. Sometimes this is not possible and the person in charge of the press box should use sound logic in admitting bona fide members of the press to the Press Box.

Too often the press box loses its meaning when faculty members, friends, relatives, district personnel, board members, etc., occupy it. This is not the purpose of the press box. Schools are reminded of the importance of maintaining good public relations and are encouraged to cooperate fully with members of the media.

## **CHECK TIMER**

The check timer for playoff games shall be a faculty member or responsible adult. The host team will supply a faculty timer. It is recommended that a sound device be used to denote the end of each period.

## **BALL**

The NFHS rule book specifies that either a rubber covered, or leather covered football is legal. In cases where either school desires to use a different type of ball, each school will furnish its own ball for the game and there will be no charge made to game expenses. **Wilson is the official football of the CIF Southern Section. In all Championship Finals, a football for each team will be furnished by Wilson and the CIF Southern Section.**

## **CHEERING SECTIONS**

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. No noisemakers (horns, bells, victory bells, sirens, chimes, wooden blocks, balloons, thunder sticks, etc.). 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. It is the expectation that cheering section behavior will be monitored by the assigned school staff of the school that they represent. All improper behavior/language should be addressed and corrected immediately by school staff supervisors.
4. 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 in regard to face painting.

If your school is fortunate enough to advance to the Championship Finals, there is an added responsibility that we ask of your administrations. Our Championship Finals are an intense experience for all involved, as they should be. However, with the passion brought by your school and your communities comes your obligation to assist us in maintaining proper control of all students and fans. Our action plan always includes working with your administration first for assistance with any issues that relate to your crowd. To effectively manage all aspects of these contests, we ask your school for the following...

- 1) Participating schools will provide the required number of faculty supervisors we request at the event and make sure to inform our staff when they are present.
- 2) Assist in briefing those supervisors before the start of your game on the responsibilities they have in maintaining proper control of your students and fans.
- 3) Strongly emphasize with all involved that there will be swift action taken against anyone who behaves inappropriately.
- 4) Assist us in acting against those who violate appropriate standards of behavior and sportsmanship.

A school's failure to monitor their students and fans may result in sanctions being placed against your school such as loss of future home playoff contests, payment for damages caused, etc. Be sure to review with your constituents the seriousness of these consequences so we may prevent any problems from occurring.

It is our hope that we can provide a memorable championship experience for all of our stakeholders and with your help and cooperation there is no doubt that will be accomplished.

## **PRE-GAME PREPARATION**

1. Go to the official's dressing room or see the officials on the field. Get the proper pronunciation of their names and the positions they will work.
2. Go over the referee's signals with him and ask for any instructions he might have. It is up to you to interpret his signals to the crowd. If you have a person on the sidelines relaying information to you, explain this to the officials, so they can forward information about unusual rulings to you.
3. Go to each team and be sure you have the correct numbers and names of the players.
4. Be sure you have the proper starting line-up for each team. Coordinate the announcing of the starting line ups with any other pre-game activities (playing of the National Anthem) so that the game will start on time.
5. Check the accuracy of any information about the visiting team you plan on using before the game, or at halftime, with someone from that team. You should have done this for your own team during the week.
6. Always start your program by welcoming the crowd and introducing yourself. Example: "Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Memorial Stadium, this is Earl Richard, your game announcer."
7. Give the line-ups at a moderate pace – not too fast, but especially not too slow. Start with the left and go across the line, then the running backs, receivers, and quarterback.
8. After you give the line-ups, give the names of the officials in this order – Referee, Umpire, Head Linesman, Field Judge, Back Judge.
9. Give the winner of the toss and the options the captains chose.
10. If the national Anthem is used, invite the crowd to sing. For example: "Ladies and Gentlemen, would you please rise and join our director Al Rhienke and the Eagle Band in singing our National Anthem."

## **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING SPORTSMANSHIP**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, CIF SOUTHERN SECTION PLAYOFF CONTESTS ARE CONDUCTED UNDER THE STRICTEST CODE OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP...THE OFFICIALS ARE NEUTRAL, REPRESENTING THE COMMISSIONER, AND ARE SELECTED BECAUSE OF DEMONSTRATED ABILITY...SPECTATORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SUPPORT THEIR OWN TEAM, AND ARE REQUESTED TO DISPLAY PROPER SPORTSMANSHIP WITH RESPECT TO THE OPPOSING SCHOOL AND THE OFFICIALS...THE CIF SOUTHERN SECTION THANKS YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS...



# 2025 CIF-SOUTHERN SECTION FOOTBALL TICKETS

Through the CIF Southern Section's partnership with GoFan, ALL PLAYOFF TICKETS will be available online for digital purchase and presented electronically at the event gate for validation and entry.

Host school game management shifted away from ticket sales to ticket promotion prior to the event AND ticket validation at each entry point of the playoff event. Host schools will have access to live sales data via their Go Fan HQ account as well as the ability to manage and promote their events.

Venue capacity management is extremely important as each event (host, visitor, public and private) will have an assigned capacity available for purchase/entry. Each member school will be required to validate their gymnasium and stadiums capacities in CIFSSHome ([www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org)) to ensure the proper amount of tickets can be made available.

**The CIF-SS Executive Committee has required that the host school charge admission to 11-Man Football Playoff contest. (See financial policy Article 1, Section 143-145, CIF-SS Blue Book, page 48).** Information can be found at [www.cifss.org](http://www.cifss.org).

Playoff financial expense reporting is required via [www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org). Host schools do NOT report ticket revenue as CIF-SS assumes this responsibility as all ticket sales are reported on the day following each event from the GoFan captured sales report. However, host will maintain the responsibility of reporting game expenses via [www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org). Upon approval of the host submitted expenses, CIF-SS will distribute expense reimbursements and/or playoff splits.

For games reporting a profit, the completed financial report will be available for reviewing via [www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org). From the game revenue, the CIF Southern Section will distribute the net profit shares (20% to the host & 20% visiting school) as well as applicable game expenses. The distribution of money will be indicated at the bottom of the financial report.

For games reporting a loss, the completed financial report will be available for viewing via [www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org). The net loss will be split equally between the two participating schools. The CIF Southern Section will distribute the game revenue as indicated at the bottom of the completed financial report. There may be cases where the host or visiting school also owes it's opponent. In such case, the distribution of money will be indicated at the bottom of the completed financial report.

**SPECIAL NOTE:**  
**Financial reports MUST be submitted within TEN DAYS after the contest.**

This is a CIF-SS sponsored event. Participants and coaches along with band members carrying an instrument and cheerleaders in uniform will be admitted free of charge. All others will pay the regular admission prices.

CIF-SS courtesy cards and press credentials **MAY** be honored at this event depending on facility capacity.

## **COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS**

Each school participating will receive an allotment of 25 general complimentary admission tickets (11-Man), and 10 general complimentary admission tickets (8-Man) for each contest. The complimentary tickets can be accessed by the host school in their HQ.gofan.co account (click on the game-manage attendees-comp tickets). The host school will email the complimentary tickets to their site as well as the visiting school. The complimentary tickets can only be transferred 2 times in total.

If additional tickets are desired, they must be purchased at the prevailing rate by the school. Drivers of team and roter buses must be provided with tickets by the school; they will not be admitted without a ticket. These tickets are also to be used for scouting purposes.

## **ADMISSION PRICES**

### **Playoff Admission Prices (Non-Championship Games)**

Adult General Admission Ticket - \$12.00

High School Student Ticket (**With HS Identification**) - \$6.00

Children Ticket (Ages 3-13) - \$6.00

**Students who do not present a high school picture ID at the gate will have to pay \$12.00 for admission.**

### **Championship Games (Divisions 2-14)**

Adult General Admission Ticket - \$14.00

High School Student Ticket (**With HS Identification**) - \$7.00

Children Ticket (Ages 3-13) - \$7.00

**Students who do not present a high school picture ID at the gate will have to pay \$14.00 for admission.**

**There will be NO Courtesy Cards accepted  
for admission to the Division 1 championship football game.**

**CIFSS COURTESY AND PRESS CARDS  
WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED  
AT DIVISION 1 CHAMPIONSHIP GAME**

2025-2026

# CIF-SS APPROVED PASS GATE CARDS

## COURTESY CARD

GOOD FOR BEARER +1



This card is transferable and may be presented by an adult only.

Please admit one (1) ADULT bearer and one (1) guest upon presentation of this card to any athletic event conducted by the CIF Southern Section, or one of its member schools, except as noted below.

This card may only be used for one event. EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2026.

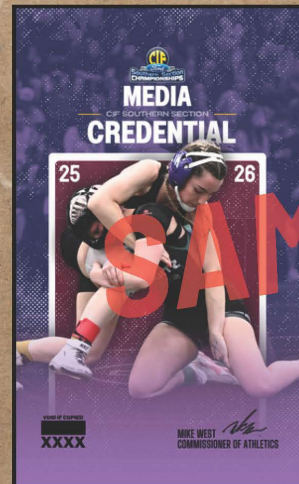
This card is NOT valid for use at:

- CIF-SS FORD High School Girls Masters Wrestling Meet
- Any special event so identified by the CIF-SS Commissioner of Athletics
- Any event in which the CIF Southern Section or a member school hosting institution has reached its venue capacity

Abuse or multiple use of this card at the same event will result in the permanent confiscation of this card and removal from the event. Misuse of this card will result in sanctions placed against the institution to whom this card was issued.

## MEDIA CREDENTIAL

GOOD FOR BEARER ONLY



Please admit the bearer upon presentation of this pass to all practice, league, invitational and playoff events within the CIF Southern Section through June 30, 2026.

This card is NOT valid for use at any special event so identified by the CIF-SS Commissioner of Athletics. Credentials for these special events will be issued by the CIF-SS Communications Department upon written request presented by legitimate media organizations.

This pass will entitle bearer to admission at both the entrance of the athletic contest and the working press facility, if such facility is available for the purpose of covering the event.

Acceptance of this credential constitutes agreement by the bearer and his/her organization to abide by the foregoing conditions and any rules stipulated by the host organization.

Any violation of these rules can and will result in ejection from the facility and immediate revocation of this credential.

Expires June 30, 2026

## MVP AD

GOOD FOR BEARER +1



## GOLD LIFE PASS

GOOD FOR BEARER +1



## STATE COURTESY CARD

GOOD FOR BEARER +1



## **GATE PROCEDURES**

All schools, hosting playoff games should make certain that gate personnel handling tickets are advised of the following procedures:

1. Tickets presented for admission are to be redeemed/validated at the admission gate.
2. All tickets are to be checked for appropriate date, opponent, and round verbiage. This is to prevent someone from entering with a ticket designated for another game, or with a ticket that is designated for another playoff game/round. This also prevents an adult from entering with a student ticket, a student with a child ticket, etc.

All schools hosting playoff games should have one entrance gate designated as the "Pass Gate". This gate, properly identified with an appropriate sign and staffed by a qualified person, would be used exclusively for the admission of all holders of CIF-SS Courtesy Cards, Press Passes, Photo Passes, and Gold Life Passes.

**It is highly recommended that the visiting team have a faculty member, or other representative, assigned to the main entrance gate prior to and during the game.**

## **ADMISSION OF FACULTY PERSONNEL** **BOTH SCHOOLS**

Only those regular faculty personnel from the competing schools, who have been assigned definite supervisory responsibilities for the playoff game, will be admitted free of charge. No other administrators, counselors, faculty, or staff members will be admitted free, without a complimentary ticket.

### **BLEACHER RENTAL**

**Schools complementing their spectator seating capacity by renting additional bleachers, are to request in advance for approval from the CIF-SS to charge the bleacher rental to game expense. If this is not done, the bleacher expense will be charged to the host school and may not be deducted from gate receipts.**

### **CONCESSIONS AND PROGRAMS**

**Where concessions and programs are involved in a playoff contest, the profit or loss from such enterprises shall not be included in the financial report. The CIF-SS will furnish electronic programs for all finals games. Additionally, CIF-SS T-shirts and hats will be provided at some finals sites. The programs, T-shirts, and hats income will not be part of the gate receipts. **No other programs, T-shirts, or hats will be allowed.** In all other games, the host school reserves the right to handle the program and concessions as a separate venture and need not share the profit, nor expect the CIF-SS or the visiting school, to share in any loss.**

## **GAME PERSONNEL**

The host management is responsible for staffing the stadium with the personnel necessary to conduct the contest. The same pay schedule followed for league contests should be used to reimburse ticket sellers, ticket takers, police, physician, and custodial help.

In playoff contests, payment to faculty personnel to supervise a rooting section is not an allowable expense and may not be charged to game expense. It is realized that some schools pay faculty persons to supervise rooting sections in league contests, but because this is **not** the policy in many schools, the Executive Committee has ruled that if a school (host or visitor) desires to pay such personnel, it shall do so out of its share of the net receipts and not charge the cost to game expense.

There is a wide disparity of staffing policies for athletic contests among schools in the Southern Section. Because of this, schools in the playoffs are asked to assign the minimum number of personnel necessary to assure efficiency and safety.

## **TRAVEL EXPENSE REPORT**

The visiting school shall pay its own traveling expenses and submit a statement of these expenses, after the game (within three days), via [www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org). These expenses would include mileage for transportation, lodging, and/or meals, where approved by the CIF. Traveling expenses of the visiting team are considered part of game expenses.

## **ALLOWABLE TRAVEL EXPENSES**

Traveling shall be limited to a maximum of 44 in the party including players, coaches, managers and administrators. Schools may take additional personnel if they wish, but at their own expense. A maximum subsidy of \$3.50 per mile, round trip, will be approved for either chartered or school bus transportation. Distances obtained from the [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com) shall be used, when available, for computing expenses.

## **MEALS AND LODGING**

**No subsidy will be permitted towards assisting with meals or lodging without prior approval of the CIF-SS.** This is necessary to ensure uniform subsidies for all schools. Where approved, maximum subsidies are:

- \$3.00 for breakfast, for a party of 44
- \$5.00 for lunch, for a party of 44
- \$8.00 for dinner, for a party of 44.

There will be no subsidy for after game snacks. The number of meals allowed each school will be determined by the CIF-SS on the basis of distance. **For trips less than 140 miles round trip, no meals will be approved.** Where lodging is authorized, the maximum shall be \$10.00 per person for a group of not more than 44 people. No lodging will be permitted unless the distance is over 550 miles round trip. Please contact CIF-SS Office for meal and lodging approval prior to the scheduled playoff contest.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

It is difficult to predict what the weather conditions will be like for our football playoffs. During late November and early December, the weather can pose many problems for school administrators charged with the responsibility of staging football playoff games. Rain and fog constitute major problems, and each must be handled in a different manner.

The accepted policy provides that the two schools administrations and the head official are responsible for determining whether the game will be started. After it is under way, the decision as to whether or not it should be continued, suspended, or called, rests solely with the game officials.

**RAIN**: A game can be played even though it rains prior to, or during, a contest. Some of the questions which should be considered in the decision to postpone a playoff football games due to rain are:

1. Has the rain made the field unplayable?
2. If a game is being played in a junior college or community owned stadium, will the stadium manager permit the game to be played in the event of rain?  
Do weather conditions, and the forecast for the following day, justify postponing the contest to the next afternoon or night?

**FOG**: Over the years fog has caused the most serious problem in the staging of playoff football games. In such situations it is foggy during the day, while at other times, the fog continues to increase in density as the evening progresses. Many times, the surrounding area has fog, while in the stadium itself it is fairly clear. The reverse of this can also occur.

When fog has been present during the week, or is predicted for the weekend, the host management should check out the stadium the night before the scheduled game and keep in close contact with weather personnel. If conditions are warranted, a decision to postpone the game should be made before the gates are opened. With nearly all games scheduled for Friday nights, a postponement to Saturday afternoon would be in order.

If fog conditions are uncertain, and it is the best judgment of the host management to attempt to play the game, the following precautions should be taken:

1. "Rain checks" should be prepared and given to each person entering the stadium.
2. Prior arrangements should be made regarding the time, date, and location of the game, in the event it is to be postponed due to rain or fog.
3. The public-address announcer should keep the spectators informed of the following:

Games interrupted because of events beyond the control of responsible administrative authority shall be continued from the point of interruption unless the teams agree to terminate the game with the existing score.

When weather conditions are construed to be hazardous to life or limb of the participants, the crew of game officials is authorized to delay or suspend the game. If a game is suspended due to events beyond the control of the administrative authority, then the game will resume at the point of interruption on the next calendar day.

*Further questions should be directed to the CIF-SS office, relative to rain and fog conditions.*

## **FILM EXCHANGE**

There shall be a **mandatory** exchange of **four** game films between the competing schools. Each coach will have his choice of any four of his opponent's game films which may include the most recent game. These original film copies shall be unedited and shall include all plays as originally filmed. In addition to the mandatory exchange, it shall be permissible for either coach to secure from other sources, any game videotape of his opponent that he may desire to view for the purpose of preparing for his next playoff game. If a school entering the playoffs has not videotaped any of its games, it should communicate that fact to the Commissioner, prior to the beginning of the playoffs.

It is mandatory that coaches exchange game film electronically or bring their film with them to a mutually agreed upon site on the day the initial pairings are announced. All subsequent exchanges will take place at a mutually agreed upon location by Noon, the day after each playoff game. The coaches shall return the tapes to one another the night of their playoff game.

Any violation of the mandatory film exchange rule (refusal to cooperate) should be reported at once to the CIF-SS office. Such violation may subject a team to disqualification from the playoffs.

### **Suggested Guidelines for Filming**

- A. Filming should be from a height of 30' or higher.
- B. Recording should include the entire contest.
- C. Recording should start before the snap/kick and continue until the play is over. The camera should not continue to run when the play is dead.
- D. Picture should be clear and numbers of players readable.
- E. Picture should include enough players on both teams to recognize offensive and defensive formations. The camera should follow its own team during kick plays.

## **LENGTH OF GAMES**

The timing of the game will be under current National Federation Rules.

## **JERSEYS**

The host team shall wear dark-colored jerseys and visiting team white colored jerseys for all playoff contests.

## TIE-BREAKER SYSTEM

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

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

## TIE GAMES

The twenty-five yard line tiebreaker system will be used in all divisions and all games, **(including finals)**, of the CIF Southern Section football playoffs, when games end in regulation time with the score tied. Although the ball will be placed on the 25-yard line for tiebreakers, we will adopt the National Federation 10-yard tiebreaker rules, with the exception that teams will be able to make first downs and have the opportunity to score on a defensive interception or fumble recovery. Complete details for the 10-yard line tiebreaker are listed on page 87 of the 2024 National Federation Official High School Football Rules.

## HOW THE TIE-BREAKER WORKS

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

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

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

## **MERCY RULE**

A mercy rule will be in effect for all football contests in the C.I.F. Southern Section, which includes pre-season games, league games and playoff games, including Championship Finals. This means that if one team has a lead of 35 points or more at the end of three quarters, there will be a running clock for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter until the end of the contest. If schools wish to invoke a running clock prior to the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, they can do so by mutual agreement of both schools. I have attached the relevant rule to this memo, so you can see the details.

**This item has been approved for statewide adoption, for both regular and post-season contests. This is in accordance with NFHS Football Rules 3-1-2 and 3-1-3.**

1. Prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, by mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee, a *“running clock”* may be used if the point differential between the two teams reaches 35 or more;
2. If at the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter or at any time during the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, the point differential is 35 or more points, a running clock shall be used for the remainder of the contest;
3. Once the *“running clock”* is in effect during the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, it shall remain in effect for the balance of the contest, even if the team that is behind subsequently scores to make the deficit less than 35 points;
4. The *“running clock”* will be administered as follows:
  - A. The game clock will start with the snap or legal touch of a free kick on the first play following the establishment of the pertinent point differential, and continue to run uninterrupted when:
    - A 1<sup>st</sup> down is awarded to either team, including following a change of possession;
    - The ball or runner is out-of-bounds;
    - A legal or illegal forward pass is incomplete;
    - A play results in a touchback;
    - An inadvertent whistle occurs;
    - During all penalty enforcements.
  - B. The game clock shall be stopped for:
    - A score (including touchdown: try; field goal; safety);
    - The free kick following a fair catch or awarded fair catch;
    - A charged team time-out;
    - A coach-referee conference;
    - An official's time-out (injury; equipment; 1<sup>st</sup> down measurement; other, as required);
  - C. Following a stoppage for any reason in B. above, the game clock will start when the ball is next:
    - Marked ready-for-play; or
    - Legally touched on the free kick following a score, a fair catch or awarded fair catch

## **TEAM BENCHES**

During CIF-SS playoff games, the team benches will be restricted to authorized personnel consisting of substitutes, coaches, student managers, trainer and team physician. Parents, members of booster clubs and other such unauthorized personnel must sit in the stands. Schools are urged to issue visible sideline tags to those that are authorized for easy recognition.

## **OFFICIALS**

Officials for all playoff games will be coordinated through the CIF-Southern Section. In the Semi-Final round 7 officials will be used. Please communicate with your out of area assignor to confirm officials. Whenever possible, out of area Officials will be assigned for every round of the 2025 Football Playoffs. In all matches leading to the championship finals, referees will receive \$155. For Championship games officials will be selected based on superior performance by their local units. Payment for all 11-person playoff contests will be done through the CIF Southern Section.

**The home school will be notified of the appointed officials for all playoff contests. If you have not been notified by Wednesday, please call Brenda Bomgaars ([brendab@cifss.org](mailto:brendab@cifss.org)) for those names.**

**There will be 7 Man Official Crews for Semifinal and Championship Rounds.**

## **CHAIN CREWS**

At all CIF-SS football games the persons assigned to the “Chain Crew”, responsible for marking down and distance on the field, shall be responsible adults.

## **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 rulebooks with them for all playoff contests.

Schools will still have the opportunity to protest a contest, in accordance with Southern Section Rule 1111.2, as it pertains to use of an ineligible player or violations of any CIF-SS rule in connection with the contest.

## **GAME BALL**

**Please be advised that Wilson football has been designated as the official ball for all playoff games.** The Southern Section office, along with Wilson, will be providing schools with footballs for the championship games only.

## **MEDIA INFORMATION**

Regular 2025-26 Media Credential, issued by the CIF Southern Section, will be honored at all football playoff games, **except the Division 1 Final game**.

Members of the media are urged to contact host schools and request press accommodation's in advance of scheduled games. There will be occasions when this is not possible. Therefore, the host school is requested to make every effort to arrange a suitable working area for the covering media.

In any championship contest directly managed by the CIF Southern Section (Division 1 Final) special media credentials will be issued. Credential requests should be requested through the credential request at [www.cifss.org](http://www.cifss.org).

## **CIF-SS PLAYOFF BROADCASTS**

The CIF Southern Section retains broadcast rights for all playoff contests and has the sole authority to approve radio and/or television coverage. Prior approval of any broadcast of any playoff contest must be secured from the Director of Communications one week in advance of the contest.

## **RADIO BROADCASTS**

Radio stations planning to broadcast a CIF-SS playoff contest in any sport must request prior permission from the CIF-SS. Please contact Thom Simmons ([thoms@cifss.org](mailto:thoms@cifss.org)) at the CIF Southern Section Office to obtain the charges for all rights fees.

All rights fees for radio broadcasts are to be filed directly with the CIF-SS, they are not to be included as part of the host school contest financial report.

The CIF Southern Section reserves the right to contract independently with a radio, television, cable-television production companies or Internet streaming entity for exclusive coverage rights to any CIF Southern Section playoff or championship event.

There will be no fee charged for periodic progress reports made by a radio station during a playoff contest, provided there are no more than six of these reports for any single game. Such reports may not exceed two (2) minutes in duration and may not contain play-by-play descriptions of live action.

## **TELEVISION & INTERNET BROADCASTS**

The CIF Southern Section retains the broadcasting and cablecasting and live streaming rights for all playoff contests, and permission for the same must be secured from the Director of Communications, who will have the sole authority to approve the coverage, a minimum of one week in advance.

DELAYED TELECASTS OF CIF-SS playoff games are permissible but may not be aired prior to 11:00 p.m. on the date of the contest. Consideration of any LIVE TELECAST will necessitate contractual negotiations with the CIF-SS Commissioner of Athletics, a minimum of 10 days prior to the event.

For CIF-SS football playoff and championship contests a rights fee shall be paid DIRECTLY TO THE CIF-SS in advance.

Rights fees for television broadcasts of CIF-SS playoff contests are to be filed directly with the CIF-SS and are not to be included in the host schools financial report. By action of the CIF-SS Executive Committee, the rights fee for all broadcasts will be retained by the Southern Section to offset costs for all schools.

Payment of rights fees shall be required for any television broadcast, cablecast or livestreaming coverage of CIF-SS playoff contests, regardless of the commercial, or non-commercial, intent of the coverage.

News report film or video tape of any CIF-SS playoff contest is permissible, without payment of fees or prior approval provided the intent of such film or tape is used for news reports only. Such reports may not exceed two (2) minutes in duration and may not contain play-by-play descriptions of live action.

## **AUDIO AND VIDEO REPRODUCTION EQUIPMENT**

All CIF Southern Section playoff contests are copyrighted events of the CIF-SS. Any rebroadcast of a CIF-SS playoff contest, live or delayed, by any medium, will be subject to an advance rights clearance from the CIF Southern Section Commissioner of Athletics.



## 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.

## **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.



**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.jlcustomjackets.com">www.jlcustomjackets.com</a>	(951) 867-3200
CIF Tshirts	<a href="http://www.cifsstshirts.com">www.cifsstshirts.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.tassigns.com/page/cif-southern-section-licensed-patch-provider">760-983-6087</a>   <a href="https://www.tassigns.com/page/cif-southern-section-licensed-patch-provider">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.



# CUSTOM JACKETS



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 Locations in: Moreno Valley and Anaheim





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