

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

A SHORT SUMMER AND THE NEW YEAR IS HERE

This was the shortest summer I can remember in my 18 years working for the CIF Southern Section. I say that because we had our final championships of the 2017-2018 school year on the first weekend of June, for the last time, and with the move forward of the 2018-2019 sports calendar, we will begin and end this school year earlier than ever before. That being said, there is much to look forward to as the upcoming school year begins and here are some of the highlights...



Expanded Communications – With the addition of Chelsea Heyward, our new Digital Media Coordinator, be looking for more information coming your way. Examples of these increased visual communications include: our social media platforms, webinars and SSTV video features on past, current and future subjects. We are excited to make this commitment toward advancing our messaging and you will see the results of our efforts each and every day.

Competitive Equity Playoffs – Year 3 – As we move into the third year of our competitive equity playoff system, we look to continue to build upon the successes we have enjoyed in our first two years. We will now have better data from which to draw upon as our playoff divisions the last two years are now formatted in the same way that they are today, which was not the case in Years 1 and 2. Also, many of you are asking about including the current regular season in our playoff formulas. We are still moving toward the opportunity to include current regular season results in our playoff formulas, but the progress on that issue will be determined by the ability of our member schools to correctly enter every score, of every contest, in every sport, in a timely manner. We have seen improvement in the ability of our schools to get this job done, but we are still not where we need to be yet. Once we can obtain that information consistently, and accurately, we will be able to further examine the possibilities that lie ahead.

Transfer Rules Discussion – In my Message from the Commissioner in April, 2018, I asked the question, “Is it time for us to have a conversation about transfer rules?” Based on the feedback I received from principals, athletic directors and coaches, the answer is a resounding Yes. Therefore, the first step in the process will be to survey our member schools with some suggestions on potential changes to our current transfer rules. The survey will be sent out on August 1, and will be open for responses until Friday, September 7. Be sure to respond soon and give us your thoughts on this most important issue.

New Championship Events – We are excited to bring two new championship events to the Southern Section in 2018-2019 and they are...

- Traditional Competitive Cheer Championships – On January 11-12, 2019, we will be conducting our inaugural Traditional Competitive Cheer Championships in 4 divisions at Cal Baptist University. The Traditional Competitive Cheer Championships will be open to any school who wishes to participate. Specific information on this championship will be available in the Traditional Competitive Cheer Playoff Bulletin, which will be released in October.

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Highlights (Cont.):

- Unified Sports Track and Field Championships – On Saturday, May 11, 2019, we will hold our first Unified Sports Track and Field Championships at Trabuco Hills High School. The top 9 place winners in selected events that day will advance to compete at the Southern Section Masters Track and Field Meet at El Camino College on Saturday, May 18, 2019. The Unified Sports Track and Field Championships will be open to any school who wishes to participate. For now, save the dates, and we will be sending out more information later.

Online Ticketing – We began utilizing online ticketing this past school year for selected championship events and found it to be very successful. This year, our goal is to grow this opportunity and enlist as many schools as possible to join us in this venture. What that means is each member school, if they have not done so already, can become a GoFan school and use this online ticketing system for any and all playoff games that they participate in. We will be presenting more information on how schools can sign up to become GoFan schools at our first Southern Section Council meeting on Tuesday, October 2, 2018, and we will be hosting a session on this topic at the Athletic Administrator Summit on Monday, October 15, 2018.

Each year, it has been our primary goal to serve our member schools, and all of our stakeholders, in the very best way possible. Included in that effort is a desire to continue to move forward, to advance and improve what we do and make each year better than the one before. I believe in working together as we have, we have been able to accomplish many things in years past and I have no doubt that we will be able to add to that legacy of achievement in 2018-2019.

I wish you good luck this upcoming year, and always, and I sincerely thank you very much for your help and support, it is truly appreciated.

All the best,

Rob Weigal

