

**ARTICLE 170  
CHEER**

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**1700. COMPETITIVE CHEER DEFINITIONS**

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- A. Traditional Competitive Cheer (TCC)**  
For all CIF Bylaws, Traditional Competitive Cheer (TCC) will be defined as any competition using or following the traditional competitive format. TCC coaches must meet education requirements and safety of Bylaws 22.B.9 and 1702. (Ca. Education Code 35179-35179.7, 49032 and 45125.01-45125.1)
- B. Competitive Sport Cheer (CSC)**  
For all CIF Bylaws, Competitive Sport Cheer (CSC) will be defined as any cheer competition that consist of four quarters of play with a halftime in between the second and third quarters. CSC coaches must meet education and safety requirements of Bylaws 22.B.9 and 1702. (Ca. Education Code 35179-35179.7, 49032 and 45125.01-45125.1)
- C. Competition Cheer (see A. and B. above) shall not be counted towards a school Title IX compliance unless the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights deems Competition Cheer compliant with its definition of a sport.**

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**1701. OFFICIAL RULES BOOKS**

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As per Bylaw 1201 A., the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) Spirit Rules Book shall be the official rule book.

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**1702. SAFETY CERTIFICATION OF COACHES**

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Schools must ensure that all TCC and CSC coaches paid and unpaid, will have completed safety education program that emphasizes the following components:

- A. A philosophy of safety awareness,**
- B. Understanding and assessing legal liability in cheerleading.**
- C. Knowledge of cheerleading safety equipment, including apparel and training aids such as spotting belts and mats.**
- D. Spotting techniques for tumbling and partner stunts.**
- E. Skill progressions for tumbling, partner stunts, and pyramids.**
- F. Physical and psychological performer readiness.**
- G. Medical responsibilities, including injury prevention, the development of an emergency plan, and the assessment, treatment, and rehabilitation of injuries.**

(Approved April 2017 Federated Council)

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**<>1703. STARTING DATES FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTESTS**

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For Traditional Sport Cheer, interscholastic contests may be scheduled during the Fall, Winter, and/or Spring seasons of sport. For Competitive Sport Cheer, no interscholastic contest (non-league, tournament or league) may be scheduled prior to February 23.

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**<>1704. END OF COMPETITION**

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For Competitive Sport Cheer, all league competition must end on or before Friday, May 10. Schools may compete until May 11 for non-league contests.

**QUESTION:** Will contest(s) played after the completion of league play and/or submission of league entries impact seeding or rankings?

**ANSWER:** No, once the league entries have been submitted a school will be seeded and ranked based on a team's results as of May 10.

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**1705. SUMMERTIME RULES/SUMMER DEAD PERIOD/SPORTS CAMPS**

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1705.1 With the exception of the summer dead period, until the beginning of the first official starting date for fall sports, there shall be no restriction on high school coaches working with high school students registered and/or attending their respective high school or entering them in summer competition, provided approval is received from the school principal.

**QUESTION:** Who may participate in high school summer athletic programs approved by the principal?  
**ANSWER:** Only students registered for the upcoming school year in grades 9 through 12. Additionally, it would be a violation to allow elementary students (8th grade and below) to participate with the high school team. For students enrolled in more than one school, all summer practice and competition must be confined to one school.

1705.2 High schools may sponsor sport camps and/or allow non-school sponsored sport camps to use their facilities.

- \* High school students and individuals from the general community can attend.
- \* The high school name, nickname and identifying marks can be used in the title and/or promotion of the camp.
- \* The principal of the high school must give permission for the camp to take place; non-school sponsored camps must secure a facility permit for use of any facilities and equipment.
- \* The camp must comply with all CIF rules, including those pertaining to undue influence and dead period.
- \* Non-school sponsored camps should provide required liability insurance for the use of any school facilities.

1705.3 A summer dead period must be declared by the school principal for all sports. The dates of the dead period must be forwarded to the Southern Section Commissioner. The dead period must be the same for all levels and must be three (3) consecutive weeks between the end of school or the first Friday in June, whichever is first, and the last Monday in August. No class could be offered which could circumvent the rule. There are no exceptions to the summer dead period.

During the dead period, weight lifting ONLY would be permitted. No running or other type of conditioning would be allowed.

Special nationally recognized programs in various sports that require a national or regional championship format, such as Bobby Sox Softball, American Legion or Mickey Mantle Baseball, etc., would be allowed to continue, until completion, during the dead period.

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#### **1706. OUTSIDE COMPETITION BY AN INDIVIDUAL**

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*During Individual's Season of Sport* - A member of a high school Traditional Competitive Cheer team may, during his or her season of sport (Fall, Winter and Spring), *compete* for an outside team in the sport of Traditional Competitive Cheer. A member of a high school Competitive Sport Cheer team may not, during his or her season of sport (Spring), *compete* for an outside team in the sport of Competitive Sport Cheer. A season of sport is defined as that period which begins with student's first interscholastic competition (non-league, tournament or league game) and ends with that student's last interscholastic contest (non-league, tournament or CIF Southern Section playoff). (See Bylaw 504.)

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#### **1707. LEVEL OF COMPETITION**

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No student shall participate in more than one level of competition on the same sport one the same day.

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#### **1708. MAXIMUM ATHLETIC CONTESTS IN ONE DAY**

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All interscholastic contests are to be arranged in such a way that no student shall take part in more than two athletic contests in any one day.

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#### **1709. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

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Standards for school attendance are determined by local school governing boards.

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#### **1710. SUNDAY RESTRICTION**

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A school may not compete in a Traditional Competitive Cheer or Competitive Sport Cheer competition nor conduct a Traditional Competitive Cheer or Competitive Sport Cheer practice of any type on Sunday during the season of sport.

QUESTION:	May a team be assembled on Sunday for a “skill session” or review a game film?
ANSWER:	Neither of these activities would be permitted.
QUESTION:	Does a meeting on Sunday of a single student with a coach constitute a violation of Bylaw 1710?
ANSWER:	Yes, the intent of Bylaw 1710 is to allow no contact with student athletes on Sundays.
QUESTION:	What constitutes a practice on Sunday?
ANSWER:	Any preparation of an upcoming competitive cheer competition in which a player or players meet with the coach(es) on a Sunday is prohibited.

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### 1711. PLAYER CONDUCT

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Any player who is ejected for any reason shall be disqualified from participating in the remainder of the game and will be ineligible for the team’s next contest and may not attend. A second ejection will constitute a two-contest suspension and a third ejection will cause suspension for the remainder of the season. A player who was ejected from the previous contest, who knowingly, or unknowingly, participates in or is in attendance at the next contest, will result in the forfeiture of that contest.

Any player whose conduct merits ejection from a game by an official for fighting or assaultive behavior shall be disqualified from participating in the remainder of the game and will be ineligible for the team’s next contest. After the suspension from play, the student may only return after certification by the school principal that the student(s) has completed a conference with a school administrator. The appropriate form (post-ejection return to competition form) indicating the completion of the conference must be uploaded to the CIFSSHome misconduct manager for that specific misconduct. The School must also indicate the date(s) of the contest in which the player will not be in attendance in the “School Action” portion of the misconduct.

A second ejection from a game or contest for fighting or assaultive behavior will cause suspension for the remainder of the season.

A player who was ejected from the previous contest, who knowingly, or unknowingly, participates in or is in attendance at the next contest, will result in the forfeiture of every contest until the suspension is completely served.

Any player who leaves the confines of the bench or team area during a fight that has broken out or may break out will be ineligible for the team’s next contest. After the suspension from play, the student may return only after certification by the school principal that the student(s) has completed a conference with a school administrator. The appropriate form indicating the completion of the conference must be filed with the Section office prior to rejoining the team. The School must also indicate the date(s) of the contest in which the player will not be in attendance in the “School Action” portion of the misconduct.

In the case of any suspension from play, the next contest may not be a forfeited, postponed or canceled game.

QUESTION:	What must be submitted to the Section office before a student can be cleared to rejoin his/her team?
ANSWER:	The Section office will provide a form on their website that must be uploaded to CIFSSHome or directly emailed to the CIF Office. The School must also indicate the date(s) of the contest in which the player will not be in attendance in the “School Action” portion of the misconduct.
QUESTION:	What happens when a student engages in Fighting/Assaultive Behavior during an athletic contest that is not observed by game officials?
ANSWER:	In cases when a student engages in Fighting/Assaultive Behavior that is not observed by game officials, it is the expectation of the CIF Southern Section Executive Committee that the building principal of the school involved will impose a minimum one-game suspension for students who commit such offenses.
QUESTION:	What is meant by attendance at a contest?
ANSWER:	Attendance is defined as being present at the location/site of the contest, which includes at the team bench/area, in the stands/spectator area, any location where the contest can be observed at any time, inside a gymnasium, stadium or playing area. The intent of this rule is that the ejected person is not present at the location/ site of the next contest.

QUESTION:	What happens if a student is ejected from the first contest at a tournament when there are two contests on that day?
ANSWER:	When a game ejection of any kind occurs, the student should not be present at the next contest except in situations where supervision is necessary (i.e.: in a tournament). In tournament situations, it is understandable that the student remain in an area where they can be monitored (i.e.: bleachers, stands, etc.) however, they are still ineligible to compete or participate in any way. It is not the expectation that the student leave the facility unsupervised.
QUESTION:	What happens if a student receives a red card, misconduct of any kind, or an ejection during the last game of the season?
ANSWER:	The game suspension(s) carry over to the first game(s) at the beginning of the subsequent season. For example, a sophomore soccer player receives a red card the last game of the 2017 season. He/she will serve a game suspension the first game of 2018 season. Suspensions carry over and must be served before the athlete becomes eligible to compete in that sport. See next Q&A for answers regarding seniors.
QUESTION:	What if a senior (12 <sup>th</sup> grader) student receives a red card, misconduct of any kind, or ejection during the last game of the season?
ANSWER:	If a senior (12 <sup>th</sup> grade) student receives a red card, misconduct or ejection during the last game of the season, he/she must serve the penalty in the NEXT sport in which he/she participates. If the student does not participate in any other sports, the CIF Office WILL need a letter from the principal indicating the corrective action taken with that student. This letter will be uploaded to the ejection report in CIF-SS Home.

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### 1712. COACH EJECTION

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Upon ejection, the head or assistant coach shall be disqualified from participating in the remainder of the game and will be ineligible for the team's next contest. The next contest may not be a forfeited, postponed or canceled game. A second ejection will constitute a two contest suspension and a third ejection will cause suspension for the remainder of the season. A coach who was ejected from the previous contest who, knowingly or unknowingly, participates in or is in attendance at the next contest, will result in the forfeiture of every contest until the suspension is completely served

QUESTION:	What is meant by attendance at a contest?
ANSWER:	Attendance is defined as being present at the location/site of the contest, which includes at the team bench/area, in the stands/spectator area, any location where the contest can be observed at any time, inside a gymnasium, stadium or playing area. The intent of this rule is that the ejected person is not present at the location/ site of the next contest.
QUESTION:	How does the Accountability Rule affect a coach who coaches more than one level of a particular sport?
ANSWER:	A coach who has been ejected from a contest may not be in attendance at ANY contest prior to serving his/her mandatory suspension at the level in which the coach was ejected. (i.e.: An ejected JV coach who is also a varsity assistant may NOT be in attendance at any contest until his/her mandatory JV suspension has been completed.)

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### 1713. NOISEMAKERS PROHIBITED

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No noisemakers (horns, bells, victory bells, sirens, chimes, musical instruments other than those in the band, etc.) will be permitted inside the gymnasium, stadium or playing fields at any CIF Southern Section contest (non-league, league, tournament or playoff). Cheering devices such as wooden blocks, or other similar objects, are prohibited. Megaphones shall be used only by uniformed cheerleaders for the purpose of directing and controlling rooting sections. The improper use of any of the above listed devices by supporters of a team would subject that team to possible forfeiture of the contest.

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### 1714. PLAYOFFS

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Refer to #Article 33 (Playoffs) for information regarding playoff information.

1714.1 TRADITIONAL SPORT CHEER CHAMPIONSHIPS (No playoffs - See Bylaw #3300.3)

1714.2 COMPETITIVE SPORT CHEER CHAMPIONSHIPS (No playoffs - See Bylaw #3300.3)