CIF SOUTHERN SECTION | BASKETBALL





SEASON PREVIEW

CIF Ford Southern Section Championships

2025-2026



F-150 Mustang Mach-E Bronco Explorer

Our vehicles. Your athletes.

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

CIF Ford Est. 1913 Southern Section CHAMPIONSHIPS

SoCalFordDealers.com | CIFSS.org

Table of Contents – Basketball 2025-2026

2025-2026 BASKETBALL CALENDAR DATES 4

IN-SEASON RANKINGS 5

WHY THE COLLEY ROYALTY RANKING? 5

BASKETBALL APPROVED SANCTIONED EVENTS 8

CIFSSHOME.org REQUIREMENTS 9

2025-2026 BASKETBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE 11

BALL PROGRAM MEMO 12

RULES - BLUE BOOK BYLAWS - SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST 15

NFHS RULE CHANGES 15

BLUE BOOK RULES 17

- STANDARDS OF ELIGIBILITY 17
- BASIC ELIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION 17
- ACCOUNTABILITY 17
- PLAYER CONDUCT 17
- SUMMERTIME RULES/SUMMER DEAD PERIOD/SUNDAY RESTRICTION 17
- PRACTICE ALLOWANCE – BYLAW 506 17
- OUTSIDE COMPETITION **–** BYLAW 600 17
- BYLAW 600 PENALTY – BYLAW 601 17
- PLAYOFFS – BYLAW 3500 17

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST 18

SPORTSMANSHIP/RESPONSIBILITY OF SPORTSMANSHIP 18

COACHES BOX 19

BASKETBALL COURT DIAGRAM 20

CIF RULE MODIFICATIONS 21

INSTRUCTIONS TO AND DUTIES OF SCORERS FOR BASKETBALL GAMES 24

INSTRUCTIONS TO AND DUTIES OF TIMERS FOR BASKETBALL GAMES 25

PLAYOFF INFORMATION 26

CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT 26

AT LARGE ENTRY CONSIDERATION 26

FREELANCE QUALIFICATION 27

CIF-SS BASKETBALL OPEN DIVISION 27

CIF STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS 29

ALL CIF INFORMATION 29

HEALTH & SAFETY 30

2025-2026 BASKETBALL CALENDAR DATES

Following is a capsule of the CIF Southern Section calendar for the upcoming Boys and Girls Basketball season:

FIRST CONTEST:
The initial date on which a school may schedule and conduct an interscholastic contest is MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2025.

LAST CONTEST:
All league and non-league competition must end on or before WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026.

MAXIMUM TEAM CONTESTS: 28 games during the season, including tournaments.

CIF SOUTHERN SECTION FORD BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

BOYS - DIVISIONS

February 11,13,17,20 Finals: February 27/28

BOYS - OPEN DIVISION – Pool Play (subject to change)
Game 1 – February 13
Game 2 – February 17
Game 3 – February 20 Finals: February 27/28

GIRLS – DIVISIONS

February 12,14,18,21 Finals: February 27/28

GIRLS - OPEN DIVISION – Pool Play (subject to change)
Game 1 – February 14
Game 2 – February 18
Game 3 – February 21 Finals: February 27/28

CIF STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

STATE REGIONALS – March 3, 4, 5, 7, 10 - 2026

STATE FINALS – March 13-14, 2026

IN-SEASON RANKINGS

With the passage of the new competitive equity playoff system in January 2024 and changes to Bylaws 3519 and 3520, a weekly Top 10 poll is not necessary. The playoff divisions will be created at the end of the regular season based on current year's data.

It is IMPERATIVE that COACHES enter their full schedule and record results constantly & consistently throughout the season. Member schools who fail to accurately enter complete regular season results into the CIFSSHome system will not be placed into a playoff division and will be **INELIGIBLE** to participate in the Southern Section Championship playoffs.

For this season the SBLive's Colley Royalty Method will be used to provide the basketball overall team rankings. SBLive's linear algebra-based ranking algorithm, which has long been tentatively referred to as the "Colley Royalty" Method, was inspired by the Colley Bias-Free Ranking Matrix Method. For more information on this, please refer to the next couple of pages.

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

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

At the half-way point of the season and then each week that follows until the end of the regular season on Monday, December 30 we will post in-season rankings of all Southern Section teams participating in boys' and girls' basketball.

Posting dates (subject to change): (Updated January 2026)

- Tuesday, December 30, 2025
- Tuesday, January 6
- Tuesday, January 13
- Tuesday, January 20
- Tuesday, January 27
- Saturday, February 7

WHY THE COLLEY ROYALTY RANKING?

Background on SBLive's "Colley Royalty" formula: How/why we took inspiration from Colley's Bias-Free Ranking Matrix Method

HISTORY OF THE COLLEY METHOD

SBLive's linear algebra-based ranking algorithm, which has long been tentatively referred to as the "Colley Royalty" Method, was inspired by the Colley Bias-Free Ranking Matrix Method.

Wesley Colley, Ph.D., an astrophysicist at the University of Alabama at Huntsville, devised his algorithm in order to help address the subjectivity and controversy regarding poll based BCS college football selections in the 1990s and early 2000s.

The method was one of a small handful used by the NCAA from 2001-2014 to rank football teams for bowl games and the national championship. Taking only wins, losses, and strength of schedule into account, Colley's Method used no subjective variables.
The NCAA used Colley's Method until 2014, when it instituted the College Football Playoff in which teams and seedings are voted on by a 13-person committee. To this day, Colley Method's remains one of the most accurate and well-known linear algebraic rating systems in the field, and a staple of contemporary sports betting models as well.

THE MATH BEHIND COLLEY'S ORIGINAL FORMULA
Colley's Method base equation is derived from Laplace's Rule of Succession, which boils down to the formula:

Every team's rating = (1 + its number of wins) / (2 + its number of games played).

In order to take strength of schedule into account, Colley replaces number of wins in the numerator with ((wins – losses)/2) + sum of opponents' ratings.

That leaves the final equation, that each team's rating = (1 + ((number of wins – number of losses)/2) + sum of opponents' ratings) / (2 + number of games played).

Using variables as abbreviations, every team's rating = (1 + ((W – L)/2) + SOR) / (2 + G)

The ensuing system of equations can be solved directly or iteratively.

BENEFITS OF COLLEY'S ORIGINAL METHOD, AND ITS SYNERGIES WITH HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS
Not only does the Colley Method have a slew of advantages over most of its competitors. In fact, the qualities that made it so effective for the NCAA are at least as relevant and desirable in the high school space.

"Simple" and transparent

While few people would describe linear algebra and matrix math as simple or intuitive, Colley's core formula couldn't be more accessible. The equation for each team's rating consists only of wins, losses, total games played, and the sum of its opponents' ratings in a relatively short equation. The better a team's record and strength of schedule, the better its rating – it's that simple.
Schedule-centric

Needing precision within an NCAA Division I dataset consisting of hundreds of teams, Colley designed his algorithm with strength of schedule as one of its core components.

Compared to NCAA Division I football, or most other D-1 sports, the high school realm has exponentially more teams, talent disparity, and variation in strength of schedule. And unless every team in a given data

population plays every other team – like in an NBA schedule – winning percentage means little without accounting for strength of schedule.

Based on linear algebra

As linear algebraic systems took over during the BCS era, most rating systems based on index points and/or adjusted winning percentage quickly became obsolete. The interconnective nature of linear algebraic systems means that teams' on-field (or on-court) performances tell the whole story, regardless of what division, conference, or geographic region they come from.

Using statistical firepower in place of human subjectivity when comparing the resumés of teams who played no common opponents, Wes Colley – in addition to Ken Massey, Peter Wolfe, David Rothman, and other renowned pioneers of linear algebra – ushered in an era of increased mathematical sophistication throughout the world of sports rankings.
User-friendly

Individual teams' ratings are easy to track in Colley's Method. Every team starts the year with a 0.5 rating, and 0.5 remains the mean rating across the data set as the season progresses.
Already mathematically precise without MOV

In professional and college sports, Colley's Method remains one of the most accurate predictive models to this day, and unlike most of its competitors, it does so without involving margin of victory.
While utilizing MOV increases models' mathematical precision dramatically, margin of victory does constitute an additional data input, and one that is not without complication. The original Colley Method is even used as a playoff criterium by some high school state associations, such as the OSAA.

Clearly, the Colley Method is in many ways an ideal base model for a high school ranking system. But even more mathematical precision is necessitated to work with populations of hundreds or thousands of high school football or basketball teams. Across broad high school data populations, there's much less statistical interconnectivity, and the amount of disparity between the best and worst teams isn't comparable to anything at the college level.

SBLIVE'S "COLLEY ROYALTY" METHOD
The only major difference between SB Live's proprietary algorithm and the original Colley Method is the incorporation of margin of victory using our proprietary concept of "royalties".

For every game a team plays, it gets one royalty, which uses linear regression to provide a Colley rating value for how it performed in that game relative to its opponent's rating. For any given game, a team's royalty is calculated by starting with the opponent's rating and going up or down from there based on that game's outcome and MOV.

In a one-game example, if Team A defeats Team B by six points, and Team B's rating was 0.95 coming in, Team A's royalty for that game would be 0.95 + (6 x the linear regression coefficient), which would come out to something between 0.96 and 1.00.

After calculating all teams' royalties, recentering is applied evenly to the whole dataset to fix the average of all royalties to exactly zero, thus avoiding inflation and deflation. As a result, this unique algorithm maintains proportionality to Laplace's Rule of Succession.

Going back to Team A's initial equation, the sum of Team A's recentered royalties times the royalty coefficient is inserted in parentheses into the numerator between "sum of opponents' ratings" and the end parenthesis. The royalty coefficient turns the royalty/MOV component of the algorithm up or down as a coefficient of the recentered royalty sum; a coefficient of zero effectively deletes the royalties, whereas the royalties factor in more as the coefficient gets closer to 1.0.

The final equation for Team A's rating = (1 + ((Team A's number of wins – Team A's number of losses)/2) + sum of Team A's opponents' ratings + (sum of Team A's recentered royalties x royalty coefficient)) / (2 + number of Team A's games played).

Abbreviated, Team A's rating = (1 + ((W – L)/2) + SOR + (RC x SRR)) / (2 + G).

Using royalties to incorporate margin of victory – but not to an overwhelming extent – SBLive's algorithm successfully improved on Colley's Method in terms of precision.
When tested on 10 years of NFL data, the Colley Royalty Method outperformed Colley's Method by an average of 1.5-2%, which is a sizable jump given the efficacy of Colley's Method to begin with.

In addition to its improved precision, the Colley Royalty Method has two distinct conceptual benefits in the high school space. By nature, royalties add yet more of an emphasis on strength of schedule to the original Colley Method. Additionally, the concept of royalties opens up the mathematical structure to address the few conceptual drawbacks of using Colley's Method and of incorporating MOV.

We cap margin of victory at a certain threshold so that particularly lopsided blowout results don't help or hurt teams beyond reason. When teams with overwhelming rating differences play, there's a catch in the calculations referred to as "the Margin Adjustment Rule" that ensures that the higher-ranked team won't receive a detrimental royalty despite winning by the maximum margin of victory, and vice versa. (In that instance, each team's royalty for that game would be its own individual rating.) And in any instance, the MOV cap eliminates the incentive to run the score up in a game that's already lopsided.

As a product of the Colley Method, the Colley Royalty Method will always give teams a high baseline of credit for playing elite schedules. But the royalty system works to offset the benefit of playing highly ranked teams if those games aren't competitive, and to diminish the harm highly ranked teams incur for occasionally playing a particularly overmatched opponent.

One last minor tweak is that our method counts draws as half a win and half a loss, whereas Colley's Method shuns draw results entirely.

BASKETBALL APPROVED SANCTIONED EVENTS

Please refer to the CIF Southern Section website (www.cifss.org) for the latest Sanctioned Events, as events are updated daily.

Sanctioned Events download directions:

Click on *GOVERNANCE TAB* > click on *SANCTIONED EVENTS* > select *Basketball* > click Search

This page will display the most up to date information on
Basketball Approved Tournaments and Sanctioned Events

CIFSSHOME.org REQUIREMENTS

SCHEDULES &SCORES **Complete your schedule in CIFSSHOME.org 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 (as well as update the scores immediately following your contests.

Log in @ 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:
- 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 Basketball, Boys or Basketball, Girls under "Sport"
- Choose Varsity under "Level"
- Type the opposing school name in "Add Opponent"
- Choose the type of game under "Select Game Type"
- Click on Home, Away or Neutral under "Location"
- Choose "Start Time"
- Click on "Save" to add one game or "Save & Duplicate" for multiple games.
- To **Submit your score**:
- On the left panel
- Click on "Teams"
- Select "Teams Manager"
- Scroll down to Basketball, Boys or Basketball, Girls and click on VR to add Varsity scores
- Click on "Post Result" button
- Enter your team's score
- Enter the opponent's score
- The result should auto populate with either "W", "L" or "T" based on the correct match score entered.
- If the game was a forfeit, click on the Yes box
- Enter the set scores in "Notes".
- Make sure that your overall and team records are correct on your team page.

VARSITY TEAM INFORMATION (ROSTER)
Attention Athletic Directors/Coaches: It is very important that you enter your entire Girls Tennis Varsity roster into CIFSSHOME.org (no later than MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026.
Log in @ 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 "Basketball, Boys or Basketball, Girls", select "Vr"

You can UPLOAD your roster using the instructions below (1) or you can enter each player one by one (2).
Required roster information for Boys/Girls Basketball is: First Name, Last Name, Birth date, Year, & Eligibility

(1) To ADD roster players one by one:
- Click on "+Add Players One By One" and complete fields required for Boys/Girls Basketball.

(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 Boys/Girls Basketball are: First Name, Last Name, Birth date, Year, & Eligibility**
- Click on "Choose File" to find your file, then click on "Import"
- To confirm the roster has been uploaded, your players' names will be uploaded in the "**Official Roster**" section
- Click on the "Pencil" edit button next to the player's name to view each player's information.

CIFSSHOME.org Requirements continued)

VARSITY COACHES

Attention Athletic Directors/Coaches: It is very important that you enter your Boys/Girls Basketball coaches (Head & Assistants) into CIFSSHome (www.cifsshome.org) no later than MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026.

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

To add additional users (Principal, Assistant Principal, coaches, etc) to your account:
-Click on "**Users**"
-Select "**User Manager**"
-Click the **(+)** in the upper right hand corner, complete the users basic information and click the **Submit** button at the bottom of the page.
-To give specific access to each user, click on the "**pencil**" **edit symbol** in the user manager for that person, scroll down to the "Jobs" portion and select their Job (Principal, Assistant Principal, Bookkeeper, Head Coach, Assistant Coach, etc.)
-To assign a user/coach to a specific sport, click "**pencil**" **edit symbol**, use the drop downs to select "Sport", Level" and "Coach Type" as well as click the boxes for permissions that they should have.

VARSITY TEAM INFORMATION (TEAM PHOTO) -Due no later than MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026.

Log in @ **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 "**Basketball, Boys or Basketball/ Girls**"
-Click on the "**Team Photo**" tab
-Click on the "**Pencil"** edit symbol under "**Team Picture**"
-Choose the file, click **Submit**

AT LARGE APPLICATION – MUST HAVE .500 RECORD OR BETTER

Attention Athletic Directors/ Coaches: Please follow the instructions below to enter your school as an At Large Entry for Boys/Girls Basketball. The At Large Application is to be submitted by your school no later than WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026 @ 9:00 p.m.

Log in @ www.cifsshome.org (If you do not have a log in & password as a coach, check with your Athletic Director)
- Click on the **"Forms"** tab
- Click "**At Large Petition**"
- Add Sport: Select "**Basketball, Boys or Basketball, Girls**", select **ADD**
- Message will display that you have added

NOTE: Schools/Teams **MUST** enter results, **game-by-game**, into CIFSSHOME during the regular season as well as submit team rosters. This information is vital to rankings during the season & bracketing for the playoffs. Failure to do so **will** affect Schools/Teams ability to participate in the playoffs. See BYLAW 3519.3 & 3519.4

#3519.3 It is MANDATORY that all Southern Section member schools enter the results of ALL regular season contests and Southern Section playoff contests into the CIFSSHome system (www.cifsshome.org) within 2 weeks of your team's last contest.

#3519.4 Member schools who fail to accurately enter full and complete regular season results and/or Southern Section playoff results into the CIFSSHome system will not be placed into a playoff division for the upcoming season and will be ineligible to participate in the Southern Section Championships in that sport.

2025-2026 BASKETBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The CIF-SS office is continuing to utilize the concept of advisory committees for virtually all sports. The role of the advisory committee, comprised of coaches in their respective sport and an administrator from the CIF-SS office, may or may not include the following:

- Meetings
- Recommendations for playoff sites, procedural changes and rule changes
- Assistance to coaches and/or officials' organizations
- Liaison between coaches and CIF-SS Office

We ask that if you have suggestions or questions, please make use of this channel of communication and contact one of the committee members. We will be meeting on a regular basis during the current basketball season and your items will become part of our agenda.

Leslie Aragon, Rosary Academy	Mike LeDuc, Damien
Jon Bahnsen, Capistrano Christian	Russ McClurg, Huntington Beach
Melissa Barajas, Sonora	Jim Martin, Laguna Hills
Ernest Baskerville, South Pasadena	John Moore, Officials Representative
Bill Blades, Montclair	Reggie Morris Redondo Union
Rich Boyce, Edison	Nate Harrison, Canyon Anaheim
Jason Carney, Thacher	Jim Perry, HBUSD
Greg Coombs, SCIBCA	Chris Ruffinelli, Rio Mesa
Matt Dunn, St John Bosco	Alicia Seevers, Orange
Johnny Dukes, Roosevelt	Steve Smith, Oakwood
Marcelo Enriquez, Redondo Union	Charles Solomon, Brentwood
Josh Giles, Centennial/Corona	Jeff Staniland, Oxnard
Jessica Barber, Mission Viejo	Ray Walker, Santa Fe
Tom Hegre, Knight	Richard Wiard, LaSalle
Lauren Kamiyama, North Torrance	Todd Wolfson, St. Francis
Ann Larson, Ventura	

BALL PROGRAM MEMO

OFFICIAL BALL PROGRAM

2025-2026

Official Ball per sport (updated 7-2-25):

Baseball	**Rawlings RCIF-SS**	Must be CIFSS/**NOCSAE** stamped ball
Basketball, Boys	**Wilson NCAA EVO NXT GAME BALL Size 7 (Used in CIF-SS Championship)** **Wilson Evolution Game Basketball Size 7**	
Basketball, Girls	**Wilson NCAA EVO NXT GAME BALL Size 6 (Used in CIF-SS Championship)** **Wilson Evolution Game Basketball Size 6**	
Football, Flag	**Wilson GST SPEEDSKIN HEIR** **Wilson GST TDY** **Wilson GST SPEEDSKIN**	
Football (8/11)	**Wilson GST** **Wilson Omega** **Wilson GST Prime** *(discontinued)*	
Lacrosse	**PEARL X (Used in CIF-SS Championship)** **PEARL LT**	
Soccer	**Wilson NCAA Vivido Match Ball (Used in CIF-SS Championship)** **Wilson NCAA Veza Match Ball** **Wilson Forte Fybrid II NCAA Match Soccer Ball** *(discontinued)*	
Softball	**Rawlings FPCIF-SS (Used in CIF-SS Championship)** **Rawlings Dream Seam** **Rawlings Red Dot**	
Tennis	**Penn Tour (Used in CIF-SS Championship)** **Pro Penn Marathon** **Penn Championship**	
Volleyball, Beach	**Wilson NCAA OPTX Game Ball (Used in CIF-SS Championship)**	
Volleyball, Indoor	**Mikasa VFC1000 Series (Used in CIF-SS Championship)** **Mikasa VQ2000 Series**	
Water Polo, Boys	**KAP7 HydroGrip Size 5 with NFHS stamp (Used in CIF-SS Championship)**	
Water Polo, Girls	**KAP7 HydroGrip Size 4 with NFHS stamp (Used in CIF-SS Championship)**	

Mandatory Playoff Use Requirement:
The mandatory "official" ball rule for all playoff rounds, excluding golf. The rule applies throughout the conduct of **all** CIF-SS **playoff** contests.

*Items in red will be provided for use in the **Championship final** game only. Any model listed above is approved for play in CIF-SS post season play.

Playoff Ball Use Rule Enforcement:
Should a school fail to provide the correct game ball, the game will always be played. Teams/schools failing to utilize the correct official ball in CIF-SS playoffs will be reported by officials to CIF-SS and will not be allowed to host their next available home playoff game. Penalty will carry over to the next season if not enforceable this season due to elimination.

Note: NFHS stamp is required in all sports *except in girl's flag football, golf, tennis and beach volleyball.*

Official Basketball

Wilson Contact: Craig Kalb – craig.kalb@wilson.com

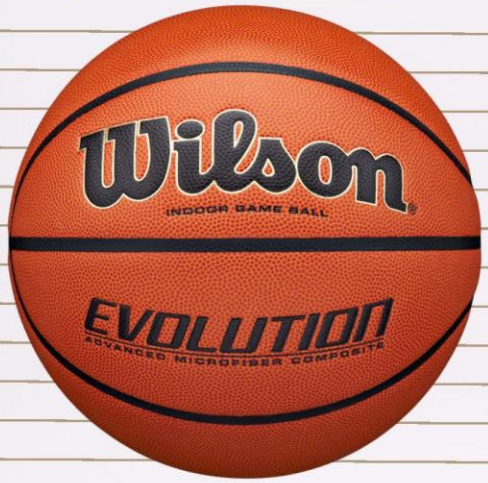


OFFICIAL BALL

NCAA EVO NXT

Boys – Size 7
Girls – Size 6

*This ball will be provided for the championship final game



APPROVED FOR PLAY

Evolution

Boys – Size 7
Girls – Size 6

*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.





SHOW OFF YOUR TRUE COLORS

NCAA® basketball is back. Show up to shootaround with the Official Basketball of March Madness® and show off your school colors–the Wilson EVO NXT is available in 8 new colorways.

@wilsonbasketball @wilsonbasketball facebook.com/wilsonbasketball

GET MORE AT **WILSON.COM**

RULES - BLUE BOOK BYLAWS - SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Following are key points/highlights coaches should review with their assistants and participants in reference to the NFHS Rule Book and CIF-SS rules and regulations as defined in the 2023-2024 Blue Book.

NFHS RULE CHANGES

Basketball Rules Changes - 2025-26

4-22-1 & 2: This change removes the offensive team from goaltending violations, simplifying enforcement for officials and reducing ambiguity over whether a ball was a shot or a pass. It also encourages more scoring opportunities and minimizes confusion for players and coaches.
Rationale: The change eliminates the possibility of an offensive goaltending violation, which simplifies the rule for officials and players. It removes the need to judge whether a ball in flight is a try or a pass, resulting in clearer enforcement, greater consistency, and more opportunities for scoring plays near the basket.

4-22-3 (NEW): This rule change establishes that once the ball contacts the backboard, it is automatically considered to be on its downward flight. Therefore, if a player touches the ball after it hits the backboard, and the ball has a possibility of entering the basket, it is ruled as goaltending.
This clarification helps protect legitimate shot attempts, reduces rough rebounding situations, and addresses a common rules misconception among coaches and players. It provides officials with a clearer standard for enforcing goaltending in backboard-related plays.
Rationale: This change enhances officiating clarity and protects legitimate shot attempts. It also addresses a common misconception among coaches and players by explicitly defining goaltending, leading to more consistent enforcement.

4-34-1: This rule change updates the definition of a player to clarify that a player is one of the five team members legally on the court at any given time, except during time-outs or intermissions. The change ensures consistency in rule enforcement by recognizing that it is difficult to distinguish between players, substitutes, and bench personnel during time-outs and intermissions. This clarification also supports the accountability of coaches for all team conduct during these periods and helps avoid misapplication of penalties such as technical fouls.
Rationale: This change ensures consistent enforcement of penalties for unsporting conduct by bench personnel. It allows officials to issue technical fouls to bench personnel during time-outs, aligning with the current rules for intermissions. It eliminates confusion and potential misapplication of rules and ensures fair and consistent enforcement of penalties for unsporting behavior, regardless of the individual's role.

7-5-4: This rule change updates the procedure for determining the designated throw-in spot following a stoppage of play (not due to the ball going out of bounds) in the frontcourt and backcourt. Instead of relying on an imaginary line, officials now use existing court markings, specifically the three-point line, to determine the location. This change improves accuracy, consistency, and clarity for officials by using visible floor markings rather than imaginary lines, which were often misjudged.
Rationale: By using the visible three-point line as the line of demarcation, officials will have a clearer and more consistent method for determining throw-in locations. This improves accuracy and reduces confusion, resulting in more reliable throw-ins.

9-2-12 & 9-3-4 (NEW): This rule change addresses situations where a thrower purposely and/or deceitfully delays returning inbounds after legally stepping out of bounds and then becomes the first player to touch the ball upon re-entering the court. Previously penalized as a technical foul, this action is now treated as a violation, aligning it with similar out-of-bounds scenarios. The change reduces the severity of the penalty to encourage more consistent enforcement by officials and prevents players from gaining an unfair advantage through deceptive re-entry tactics.
Rationale: This change lessens the penalty for players who delay their return after being out of bounds, shifting the penalty from a technical foul to a less severe violation. This rule aligns with the penalty structure of similar violations, such as Rule 9-3-3 (where a player steps out of bounds on their own volition). The change is intended to make it easier for officials to recognize and penalize these actions consistently while reducing the severity of the penalty, encouraging more accurate enforcement.

10-4-4b: This rule prohibits players from illegally contacting the backboard or ring in ways that create an unfair advantage or interfere with a scoring attempt. This rule is designed to maintain fair play and protect the integrity of scoring opportunities by penalizing actions affecting the outcome of a shot, with a technical foul.
Rationale: The rule change aims to standardize and clarify the enforcement of basket interference, leading to fairer outcomes and more consistent officiating. The removal of subjective judgments around intent allows for clearer rulings and better alignment with current game dynamics.

4-6-1a & b (NEW): This rule change clarifies and expands the definition of basket interference to include additional actions that unfairly affect the ball while it is in a scoring position. Basket interference now occurs when a player slaps or strikes the backboard, causing the backboard or basket to vibrate, while the ball is on or within the basket, touching the backboard, or within the cylinder.
Rationale: This clarification helps officials consistently identify interference that affects scoring plays and ensures the integrity of the basket area during shot attempts.

2025-26 Basketball Editorial Changes
4-19-3c, 4-47, 5.2.1 SITUATION C, 6-3-2a, 6-3-5b, 10-5-2

2025-26 Basketball Points of Emphasis
1. Bench Decorum and Communication
2. Faking Being Fouled
3. Contact on the Ball Handler

BLUE BOOK RULES

- **RULE 1600/1601 – PLAYING RULES -** All basketball games in the CIF Southern Section will be played under National Federation basketball rules unless otherwise provided herein-(shot clock rules).

- STANDARDS OF ELIGIBILITY – BYLAW 201
  https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=53

- BASIC ELIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION – BYLAW 220
  https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=87

- ACCOUNTABILITY – BYLAW 125

  125.1 - COACH EJECTION
  https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=47
  https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=101

  125.2 - FAILURE TO COMPLETE A CONTEST
  https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=47

- PLAYER CONDUCT – BYLAW 503.M
  https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=101

- SUMMERTIME RULES/SUMMER DEAD PERIOD/SUNDAY RESTRICTION
  – BYLAW 1223
  https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=140

- PRACTICE ALLOWANCE – BYLAW 506
  https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=107

- OUTSIDE COMPETITION **–** BYLAW 600
  https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=114

- BYLAW 600 PENALTY – BYLAW 601
  https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=116

- PLAYOFFS – BYLAW 3500
  https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=213

#3519.3 It is MANDATORY that all Southern Section member schools enter the results of ALL regular season contests and Southern Section playoff contests into the CIFSSHome system (www.cifsshome.org) within 2 weeks of your team's last contest.

#3519.4 Member schools who fail to accurately enter full and complete regular season results and/or Southern Section playoff results into the CIFSSHome system will not be placed into a playoff division for the upcoming season and will be ineligible to participate in the Southern Section Championships in that sport.

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

(1) **Rule 1224:** LEVEL OF COMPETITION -- No student shall participate in more than one level of competition in the same sport on the same day.

(2) **Rule 1611:** MAXIMUM ATHLETIC CONTESTS -- 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.

(3) **Rule 1614:** COLOR OF JERSEYS -- In all basketball games played between member schools of the CIF-SS, the host team shall wear **white** jerseys, and the visiting team shall wear dark-colored jerseys. If a team has only one set of jerseys, it will be its responsibility to notify the opponent in sufficient time in advance of any scheduled contest, so that proper arrangements can be made to make certain both teams have contrasting colored jerseys.

SPORTSMANSHIP/RESPONSIBILITY OF SPORTSMANSHIP

THE COACH'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR TEACHING SPORTSMANSHIP AND MAINTAINING CROWD CONTROL - When all is said and done, the coach bears the greatest burden of responsibility for sportsmanship. He/She has an unequaled influence upon the activities and behavior of players, the student body, and other spectators. The coach's behavior on the bench certainly influences player and spectator actions and reactions to calls and their overall conduct on the court or in the stands. Therefore, the coach should --

- Set a good example for players and spectators at all times.
- Instruct the players in their sportsmanship responsibilities.
- Discipline student athletes who display poor sportsmanship. If necessary, remove them from a game or the team for stipulated periods of time as appropriate.
- Be a good host to opponents and officials. Treat them as guests.
- Show respect for the officials' judgment and their interpretation of the rules. If you must question a call, do it calmly and quietly. All arguments with officials should be held in private, away from fans and players.
- Shake hands, in public, with the officials and the opposing coach after the contest.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF SPORTSMANSHIP

1. THE PLAYER

   a) Treats opponents with respect.
   b) Plays hard but plays within the rules.
   c) Exercises self-control at all times, setting the example for others to follow.
   d) Respects officials and accepts their decisions without gesture or argument.
   e) Wins without boasting, loses without excuses, and never quits.
   f) Always remembers that it is a privilege to represent the school and community.

2. THE COACH

   a) Treats own players, and opponents with respect.
   b) Inspires in the athletes a love for the game and the desire to compete fairly.

c) Is the type of person he/she wants the athletes to be.
d) Disciplines those on the team who display unsportsmanlike behavior.
e) Respects the officials' judgment and interpretation of the rules.
f) Knows he/she is a teacher, and understands the athletic arena is a classroom.

3. THE SPECTATOR

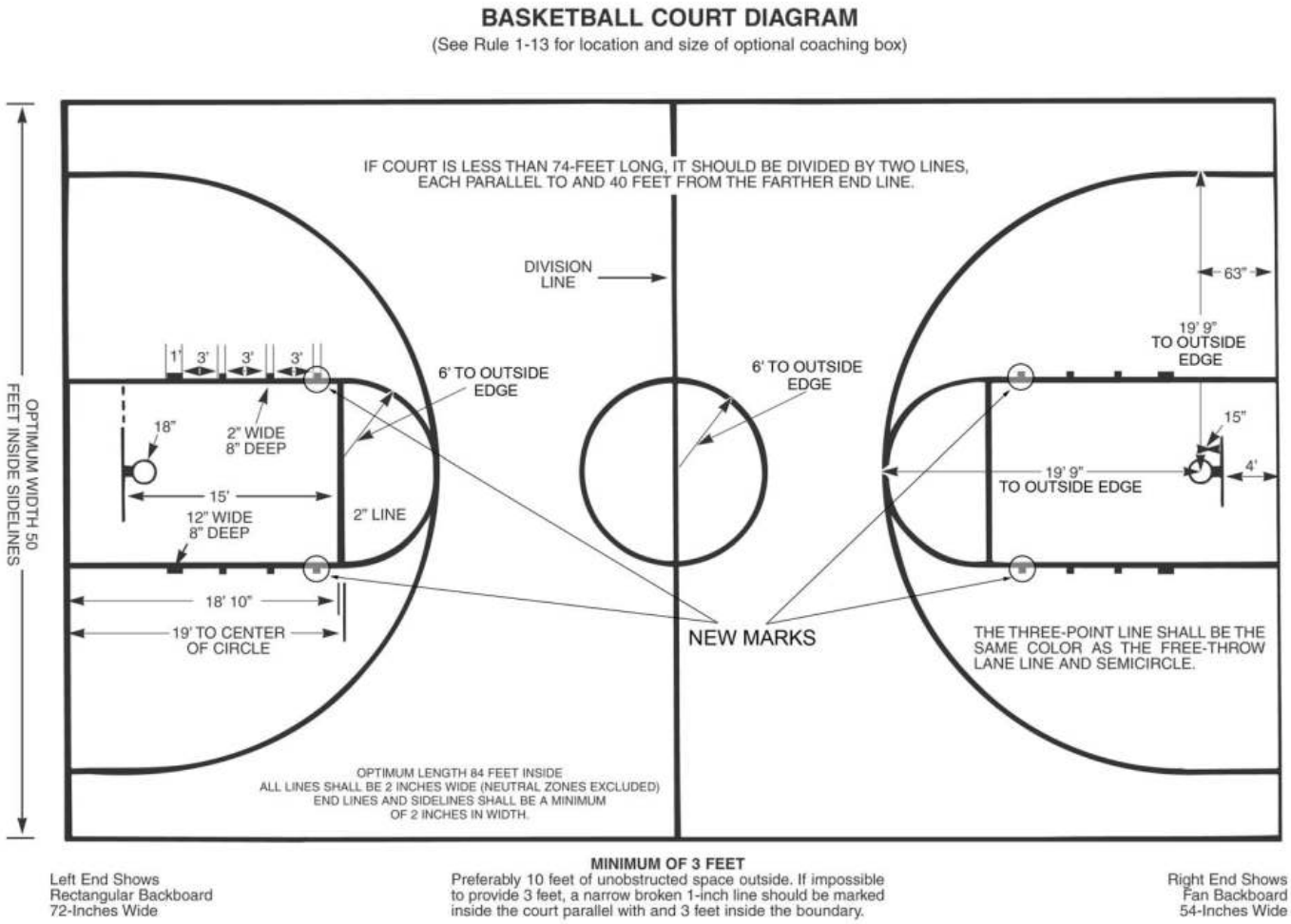
a) Attempts to understand and be informed of the playing rules.
b) Appreciates a good play no matter who makes it.
c) Cooperates with and responds enthusiastically to cheerleaders.
d) Shows compassion for an injured player; applauds positive performances; does not heckle, jeer or distract players; and avoids use of profane and obnoxious language and behavior.
e) Respects the judgment and strategy of the coach and does not criticize players or coaches for loss of a game.
f) Respects property of others and authority of those who administer the competition.
g) Censures those whose behavior is unbecoming.

COACHES BOX

As approved by the State Federated Council, the coaching box, under provisions of National Federation Rules and Regulations, has been adopted for all boys and girls contests in the State of California.

- The coaching box shall be outlined outside the side of the court on which the scorer's and timer's table and team benches are located. The area shall be bounded by a line drawn 28 feet from the end line towards the Division line. At this point a line drawn from the sideline toward the team bench becomes the end of the coaching box going towards the end line.
- **Note:** State Associations may alter the length and placement of the 28-foot (maximum) coaching box.
- Tape may be used to extend the 14-foot line to 28 feet.

BASKETBALL COURT DIAGRAM



CIF RULE MODIFICATIONS

The National Federation (NF) Basketball Rule Book is, and shall be, the official rule book for boys and girls play with the exception of USE OF A SHOT CLOCK FOR BOYS AND GIRLS PLAY, and NFHS Associations provisions which, allow for individual state adoptions of seven specific items covered in the High School Rule Book. The State CIF Federated Council has adopted two of these options as listed below.

STATE ADOPTED OPTIONS:

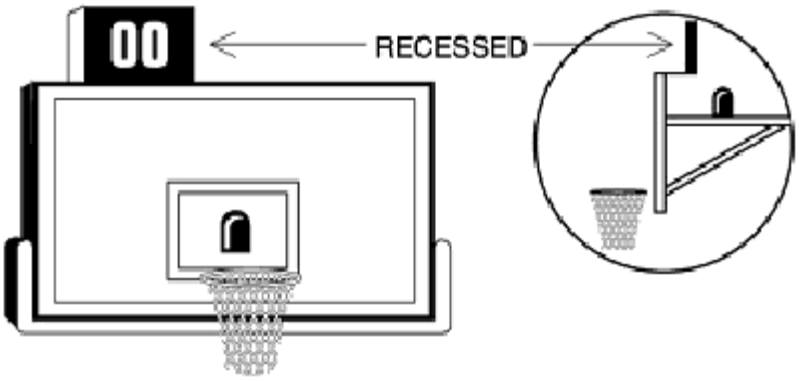
1. **The use of a fourteen (14') foot Coaching Box during the game for Head Coaches.**
2. **The use of a running clock during the fourth quarter when the point spread reaches 40 points.**

SHOT CLOCK FOR BOYS AND GIRLS PLAY

RULE 1 - <u>COURT AND EQUIPMENT</u> (ADD THE FOLLOWING SECTION)

<u>SECTION 19</u> - Shot Clock Displays

<u>ART 1</u> A visible shot clock is required for high school boys and girls basketball games. When two visible shot clock floor displays are used, they should be placed 6 feet beyond the endlines intersecting the sidelines extended and shall be positioned in the corner of each front court to the right of the basket. The two visible clocks may also be displayed above or behind each backboard, or on scoreboards located at the ends of the court. If this is not possible, an alternative timing device must be available and operated at the scorers table. This may be in the form of a stop watch or stop/start clock, etc.



Rule 1 Section 19
The shot clock shall be recessed on top of each backboard. If it is not possible to recess the clocks, they shall be mounted on the wall and positioned to the left of each basket as viewed from the center of the courts. If impossible to recess or mount on the wall, they shall, as a last resort, be located on the floor at each end of the court.

RULE 2 - OFFICIALS AND THEIR DUTIES (ADD THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS)

SECTION 14 - Shot Clock Time Period

A 35-second shot clock is used in the boys game and a 30-second shot clock is used in girls basketball. The shot clock is used for the entire game, including overtime periods.

SECTION 15 - Duties of the Shot Clock Operator

The shot clock operator shall control a separate timing device which shall have a horn with a different sound from that of the game clock. An alternative timing device shall be available. In addition, the shot clock operator shall:

ART 1 Start the timing device when:
A) A player in-bounds touches the ball on a throw-in.
B) A team initially gains possession of the ball from a:
1) jump ball
2) rebound
3) loose ball.

ART 2 Stop the timing device and reset the shot clock:
A) When team control is re-established after the team loses possession of the ball;
B) When a foul occurs (except double and simultaneous fouls);
C) When a held ball occurs (except when the alternating-arrow favors the offensive team);
D) When a try for goal strikes the ring or flange and then possession is gained by either team;
E) When a violation occurs (including kick ball)
F) When an inadvertent whistle occurs and there was no player or team control at the time of the whistle.
Note: The mere touching of the ball by an opponent does not start a new shot-clock period when the same team remains in control of the ball.

ART 3 Stop the timing device and continue time without a reset when play begins under the following circumstances:
A) The ball is deflected out-of-bounds by a defensive player;
B) A player is injured or loses a contact lens;
C) A charged timeout has concluded; and
D) During team control a defensive player causes a held ball and the alternating-possession arrow favors the offensive team;
E) After a double personal foul; a double technical foul; or a simultaneous foul when there is team control, play shall be resumed at point of interruption;
F) After an inadvertent whistle when there is team control;
G) After a simultaneous held ball occurs during a throw-in and the alternating-possession arrow favors the throw-in team.
Note: The offensive team, upon regaining possession of the ball for the throw-in, shall have the unexpired time on the shot clock at attempt a try.

ART 4 Sound the horn at the expiration of the shot clock period. (This does not stop play unless recognized by the official=s whistle.)

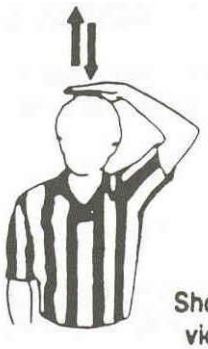
ART 5 Allow the timing device to continue:
A) During a loose ball situation if the offense retains possession
B) When a field goal is attempted at the wrong basket
C) A field goal try does not hit the rim or enter the basket

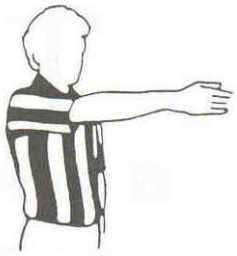
ART 6 Turn off the timing device when the game clock has less time then the shot clock.

SIGNALS TO BE USED FOR SHOT CLOCK VIOLATIONS

Boys and **Girls**: The signals are the SAME for both. The following **signals** are to be used **sequentially** when a shot clock violation occurs.


Stop clock


Shot clock violation


Direction signal

SIGNAL TO BE USED TO INDICATE A RESET OF THE SHOT CLOCK


Shot clock reset

The SHOT CLOCK RESETS when any of these situations occur:

1. The ball hits the rim on a try or tap.
2. A foul by any player
3. A change of possession
4. Kicking of ball by the defense
5. Striking the ball with the fist (any player)
6. Ball passes through the basket from **below**.
7. Other situations when the official needs to direct the shot clock operator to reset the clock.

INSTRUCTIONS TO AND DUTIES OF SCORERS FOR BASKETBALL GAMES

RULES COVERAGE:
Rule 2. Section 4 The referee designates the official score book and the official scorer.

Rule 2. Section 11: The duties and responsibilities of the scorers are indicated. In case of doubt, signal the floor official as soon as conditions permit to verify the official's decision.

The Rules Committee strongly recommends that only the official scorer wear a black and white striped garment and his or her location at the scorer's and timer's table be clearly marked.

RESPONSIBILITY:
The scorer's responsibility is so great that floor officials must establish the closest cooperation and understanding with them. Scorers must be accurate.

EQUIPMENT:
Score book, pencils, possession arrow and signaling device with sound different from that of the timer. The score book must be available for inspection at the table from 10 minutes prior to game time until the referee has approved the final score.

BEFORE THE GAME:
1. Ten minutes before scheduled game time, the scorers shall be supplied with each team's roster and numbers.
2. Ten minutes before scheduled game starting time, the scorers shall be supplied with the starting lineup.
3. Notify the referee if either list is not submitted on time or is altered after time specified.
4. If there are discrepancies, notify the referee before the ball is tossed.

DURING INTERMISSIONS:
1. Either the official scorer or a delegated assistant must be at the scorers' table with the official score book at all times.
2. Verify the lineup after all intermissions and notify either floor official if a player, who has not reported, has entered the court.

DURING THE COURSE OF THE GAME:
1. The nonofficial scorers should check each entry with the official score book.
2. The scorers should:
a. Announce to each other and record the total running score.
b. Announce the name and number of the player who scores.
c. Verify the scoreboard score.
d. Compare the summary of individual scores with the total running score at the end of the half.
e. Exchange the name and number of the player committing a personal foul and indicate the total fouls charged to the player.
f. Be responsible for the alternating possession arrow.
3. In case of controversy, the record of the official score book is accepted unless the referee has knowledge which permits him or her to rule otherwise.

SCORING: (Use the following recommended symbols.)
1. P for personal foul, followed by proper numeral indicating number of personal fouls charged to player as P, P , etc. or cross out appropriate number.
2. T for technical foul.
3. Successful field goal: figure 2. or 3.
4. Free throw attempt:
5. Successful free throw:
6. 2 free throws awarded:
7. First of one-and-one:
First made, bonus awarded:
Bonus free throw made:
8. List the number of charged time-outs for each team.
9. Check the scoreboard often and have the progressive team totals available at all times. Points scored in the wrong basket are never credited to a player but are credited to the team in a footnote. Points awarded for basket interference or goal-tending by the defense are credited to the thrower. When a live ball goes in the basket, the last player who touched the ball causes it to go there.

NOTIFY THE NEARER OFFICIAL WHEN:
1. The bonus penalty is in effect, and the proper bonus panel (H for home and V for visitors) shall be displayed, immediately after the penalty has been administered for a teams 4th personal foul in a given half (for games played in quarters) or 6th personal foul (for games played in halves). When a teams bonus panel (H or V) is on display, it indicated to the official that their opponents shall be entitled to a 2nd free throw for all common fouls (excluding player control fouls) for which the 1st free throw is successful. Another widely used method is as follows: When a team is to receive a bonus throw, a light or device nearest its basket is displayed.
2. Any player is charged with his or her 5th personal foul or the 3rd technical foul is charged to any squad member of bench personnel.
3. Either team has 4 time-outs charged or an excess time-out.
4. The ball is dead or in control of offending players team if:
a. player has not reported;
b. player's number changed without reporting
c. player is illegally in game.
5. The ball is dead if there is a score dispute or doubt about an official's decision.
6. Any player enters while wearing an illegal number.
7. The ball is dead and the clock is stopped or running, if the coach requests that a correctable error as in 2-10, or a timing scoring or alternating possession mistake be prevented or rectified.

SUBSTITUTIONS:
1. A substitution may be made when the ball is dead and time is out. A player who has been withdrawn may not reenter before the next opportunity to substitute after the clock has been properly started following the player's replacement.
2. A substitute who is entitled and ready to enter must report to the official scorer. However, substitutions between halves shall be made to the official scorer by the substitute(s) or a team representative prior to the signal which ends the intermission.
3. A substitute enters and must withdraw before a jump ball or free throw is administered, the substitute may not reenter until the next dead ball and time is out.
4. If a substitute enters and must withdraw before a jump ball or free throw is administered, the substitute may not reenter until the next dead ball and time is out.
5. A substitute may be beckoned after any successful free throw or after the first throw of a multiple throw, or after any throw for a false double foul except the last throw when the ball is to remain alive if the throw is unsuccessful but touches the ring.
It is not permissible for a substitute to replace a designated jumper, or a free thrower when the free throw is for a personal foul unless such jumper or thrower is disqualified or injured. The scorer should not signal after the free thrower or thrower-in has been handed the ball or the ball is at the disposal of such player or team, or until the official has completed reporting a foul.

INSTRUCTIONS TO AND DUTIES OF TIMERS FOR BASKETBALL GAMES

RULES COVERAGE:
Rule 2. Section 4: Instruct the referee to designate the official timepiece and its operator. The second timer should assume responsibilities of operating the time-out stop watch and checking the official timepiece.

Rule 2. Section 12: Duties and responsibilities of timers are indicated. An efficient timer will carefully study these sections and become thoroughly familiar with all their aspects. The timer shall sound a warning signal 15 seconds before the end of an intermission or a charged time-out and signal the referee when it is time to resume play following a charged time-out or intermission or the 30 seconds allowed to replace a disqualified or injured player.

EQUIPMENT:
Electric clock timer and one stopwatch, or a table clock timer and one or two stopwatches. A gong, loud siren or electric air horn to signal the end of playing time.

BEFORE THE GAME:
1. The official timer should ascertain the game starting time and suggest that the referee and coaches synchronize their watches.
2. Review the official signals for starting the clock, time-out a foul or violation.
3. Locate the dressing rooms and notify the scorers 10 minutes prior to the starting time.

TIMING REGULATIONS:
1. Playing time shall be:
a. For teams of high school age - 4 quarters of 8 minutes each with intermissions of 1 minute after the 1st and 3rd quarters and 10 minutes between halves.
b. For teams younger than in (a) - 4 quarters of 6 minutes each with intermissions same as for (a).
c. For teams of college - 2 halves of 20 minutes each with an intermission of 15 minutes between halves.
2. Overtime Play:
a. If the score is tied at the end of the 2nd half, play shall continue without change of baskets for one or more extra periods, with a 1 minute intermission before each.
b. In games played in quarters, the length of each extra period shall be 3 minutes.
c. In games played in halves, the length of each extra period shall be 5 minutes.
d. As many such extra periods as are needed to break the tie shall be played. Game ends, if, at end of any extra period, the score is not tied.
3. A time-out charged to a team is of 1 minute duration unless both teams are ready to resume play sooner.
4. No time-out is charged to a team when:
a. An injured player is ready to play immediately or is replaced until at least the next opportunity to substitute after the clock has been properly started following his or her replacement.
b. The floor official grants a player's request because of displaced eyeglasses or lens.
c. A correctable error as in 2-10, or a timing, scoring, or alternating possession mistake has been prevented or rectified.
5. The sounding of the scorer's signal does not cause the game timepiece to be stopped.

START THE OFFICIAL TIMEPIECE WHEN:
1. A tossed ball is legally tapped when play is started by a umpire.
2. The ball touches a player on the court during a throw-in (if clock has been stopped).
3. An official signals "start the clock". If he or she neglects to do so, the official timepiece should be started unless an official specifically signals that it should not be started.
4. The ball touches or is touched by a player on the court provided the ball is to remain alive if the free throw is missed. In these cases, the official will give the start the clock signal, but if he or she neglects to do so, the official timepiece should be started when it is apparent the ball touches a player and is to remain alive.

STOP THE OFFICIAL TIMEPIECE WHEN:
1. Any period ends.
2. An official gives a time-out signal. The official will order time-out when:
a. A foul is called by holding hand with fingers closed at arm's length above head.
b. A jump ball is declared by giving the jump ball signal (holding thumbs up at shoulder height away from body and motioning upward with both arms extended).
c. A violation occurs by giving the time-out signal (holding hand with fingers extended at arm's length above head) after which the proper violation signal is given.
d. There is to be a charged time-out, or an official's time-out for a technical foul, or other stoppage indicated by a floor official who holds a hand at arm's length above the head with fingers extended.

NEAR THE END OF PLAYING TIME:
1. If a watch is being used as the official timepiece, place it so both timers may see it and the ball. The watch must be stopped the instant the signal ending the game is sounded.
2. When an timing device other than a watch is the official timepiece, the timers must coordinate their efforts in determining the position of the ball when time expires.
3. Some timers, in order to avoid misunderstanding concerning the position of the ball when time expires, have one timer watch the official timepiece and count aloud 10-9-8-7, etc., while the other timer watches the ball and notes its position at the exact moment time expires.
4. If a quarter or extra period ends and:
a. The timer has been unable to make an official hear the signal, the timer must immediately notify the official.
b. The timing signal fails or is not heard by an official, the timer must be prepared to advise the referee as to whether the ball was in flight when time expired, or whether a foul occurred before or after the period had ended.
c. The timing signal is not heard by the officials, testimony of the timers may determine whether a score shall count or a foul shall be charged, unless the referee has information which would alter the situation.

PLAYOFF INFORMATION

CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT

CIF SOUTHERN SECTION FORD BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS PLAYOFF FORMAT

As adopted by the CIF Southern Section Council, **LEAGUE ENTRIES WILL BE LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:**

4 Team Leagues - 2 Entries Guaranteed Only
5 Team Leagues - 3 Entries Guaranteed Only
6 Team Leagues - 3 Entries Guaranteed Only
7 Team Leagues - 4 Entries Guaranteed Only
8 Team Leagues - 4 Entries Guaranteed Only
9 Team Leagues - 5 Entries Guaranteed Only

Each championship divisional tournament bracket will be maintained at 32 team draws, depending on the number of entries submitted.

CIF-SS Basketball Playoff Division Breakdown Criteria -

1. Schools will be placed into divisions based on Colley Royalty Rankings. The 10 divisions (OPEN,1-9) will have a varying number of teams in each division based on the average number of automatic qualifiers in each division.

2. CIF-SS Playoff brackets will be filled to 32 teams unless the number of automatic and at-large qualifies is less.

3. At-large teams must have a .500 or better overall record and will be selected only to fill to 32 team brackets in each division using selection criteria discussed in the basketball preview and bulletin.

AT LARGE ENTRY CONSIDERATION

If your schools team does not automatically qualify for playoffs and your team has a .500 or better overall record, in divisions where there are openings in the 32-team bracket, At-Large entries will be considered in each division to fill the bracket openings. Schools wishing to be considered for an At-Large berth **MUST** have a .500 or better overall record and **MUST** submit the official At-Large petition form which includes their entire completed schedule. Instructions on completing this form and criteria for consideration will be provided in the basketball bulletin on the CIF-SS website

FREELANCE QUALIFICATION

(**CIFSS Blue Book Rule 3510**) Freelance schools interested in participating in the basketball playoffs must submit schedules into www.cifsshome.org for evaluation by the Commissioner prior to the start of the season.

- In CIFSSHome, select the **Freelance** button in www.cifsshome.org (go to "**Forms > Freelance Petition**") and upload your schedule into your school's portal. Be sure to constantly update game results throughout the season for review and playoff eligibility.
- Game results must be updated in the CIFSSHome.org on a regular basis.
- Submit and At-Large Petition in CIFSSHome by Wednesday, February 4, 2026 @ 9:00PM

CIF-SS BASKETBALL OPEN DIVISION

Selection of Open Division Teams:

Teams will be chosen at the end of the regular season for the CIF-SS Open Division using the Colley Royalty Rankings. The size of the Open Division (8-16), will be determined at the end of the season.

Open Division Pool Play: See example for pool of 8 teams on next page

Open Division Home Playoff Site Selection:

- In the Open Division, the higher seeded team in each pool play game will have the home game.

Open Division Gym Size Minimum Requirement:

Open Division games generate tremendous interest and require adequate facilities to accommodate the expected crowds for these Open Division games. A site may be changed by the CIF-SS Office, if the home gym would not accommodate the expected ticket sales, attendance and community interest. In the Open Division Bracket, it is mandated that the host school secure a gymnasium that has a posted basketball seating capacity of no less than **2000** spectators for boys and **1,000** for girls. Venues with less than these capacities **must be approved by the CIF-SS Office**. It is recommended that Open Division schools plan ahead to secure a site that meets this requirement.

Open Division Pool Play

Pool Seeding:	**Pool A**	**Pool B**
	1	2
	4	3
	5	6
	8	7

Games Schedule: * indicates home team

(Boys-Girls)	**Pool A:**		**Pool B:**	
Fri./Sat. (2/13-2/14)	*1 v 8	*4 v 5	*2 v 7	*3 v 6
Tue./Weds.(2/17-2/18)	*1 v 5	*4 v 8	*2 v 6	*3 v 7
Fri./Sat. (2/20-2/21)	*1 v 4	*5 v 8	*2 v 3	*6 v 7
Friday Finals (2/27 or 2/28)	A v B @ TBD			

Tie Breakers: 2 way tie - head to head
3 way tie - lowest seed number of wins in pool play

3 Way Tie: The team with the lowest combined seed points from games they won in pool play, will advance out of pool.

3 Way Tie Breaker Example:	Record	Seed Points
Seed 1- beats 8, beats 5, loses to 4	**2-1**	**13**
Seed 4- loses to 5, beats 8, beats 1	**2-1**	**9**
Seed 5- beats 4, loses to 1, beats 8	**2-1**	**12**
Seed 8- loses to 1, loses 4, loses 5	**0-3**	**X**

* **Seed 4** advances by accumulating the lowest number of opponent seed points (9) in their pool play wins.

CIF STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION PLACEMENT OF SCHOOLS
Boys and girls Regional and State Championships will be held following the completion of Section playoffs. The CIF Seeding Committee will determine the divisional placement of the Section entries for their respective regional tournament.

SECTION REGIONAL ENTRIES
(1) AUTOMATIC QUALIFIERS: CCS – 21; CS – 16; LACS – 15; NCS – 25; NS – 12; OS – 2; SDS – 18; SFS – 2; SJS – 23; **SS – 44**

(2) OPEN DIVISION There will be four regional Open Division brackets. Each regional Open Division bracket will have a maximum of eight (8) teams but could have less if the tournament committee feels that there are not eight qualified teams. The tournament committee will select the teams for the Open Division before they seed the five (5) divisions of the State Tournament. Teams selected by the committee for the Open Division will compete in the Open Division ONLY and cannot opt out.

The regional seeding meetings will take place on **Sunday, March 1, 2026**. Competition among the teams in each gender will be held in one Open Division and five (5) competitive equity based divisions. Tournament brackets will range from 8 to 16 team brackets (unless out of bracket games are required) depending on the number of entries forwarded by each CIF Section.

CIF-SS Section to State Basketball Entries

Open Semi		4
Open 5-8		4
Division 1		4
Division 2		4
Division 3		4
Division 4		4
Division 4		4
Division 6		4
Division 7		4
Division 8		4
Division 9		4
		44

All berths available to the Southern Section will be seeded based upon the Colley Royalty Rankings and Section playoff results.

ALL CIF INFORMATION

Forms for All CIF Nominations will be available on the CIF-SS website www.cifss.org. These forms will be available in January 2024 on the boys or girls basketball sports page in the download section.

IMPORTANT: Please review date information is due to SCIBCA for consideration:

- **Deadline for submitting All CIF Boys/Girls nominations is Monday, March 2, 2026**

HEALTH & SAFETY

It is the expectation of the CIF Southern Section that your Athletic Coaches and Administration will take every measure to ensure the health and safety of your student athletes.

Resource information and additional information regarding heat safety, hydration and other health and safety related articles can be found on the CIF-SS website @ www.cifss.org. Click link to “Sports Medicine” tab on the blue toolbar.

Additional resources can be found at www.cifstate.org under the “Sports Medicine” tab on the white toolbar.



SHOW OFF YOUR TRUE COLORS

NCAA® basketball is back. Show up to shootaround with the Official Basketball of March Madness® and show off your school colors–the Wilson EVO NXT is available in 8 new colorways.

@wilsonbasketball @wilsonbasketball facebook.com/wilsonbasketball

GET MORE AT **WILSON.COM**


THE BEST USE THE BEST
GATORADE
GATORADE
FROST
COOL
THIRST QUENCHER
GLACIER CHERRY®

CUSTOM JACKETS

SPECIALIZING IN CIF PATCHES, LETTERMAN JACKETS, VARSITY LETTERS AND CUSTOM PATCHES

- Official CIF-SS Patch Manufacturer for: Champions, Finalists, All-CIF, Athlete of the Year and Unified Sports
- Official CIF-SS Letterman Jacket Partner
- League patches, custom patches, varsity letters, & emblems available
- Banquet dates guaranteed
- 2 – 3 Week turnaround time on all orders



Place your order online today at
www.jlcustomjackets.com
Contact us at: 951-867-3200 or
customerservice@jlcustomjackets.com
Locations in: Moreno Valley and Anaheim

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

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

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

Hoag Orthopedic Institute.

SPORTS MEDICINE



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

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