

CIF SOUTHERN SECTION

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VOLLEYBALL

2026-2027



**PLAYOFF
BULLETIN**





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F-150 RAPTOR



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EXPLORER



RANGER



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Determination of Playoff Divisions – Girls Volleyball

With the new competitive equity playoff system (CIFSS Council, January 2024) and changes to Bylaws 3519 and 3520, we have changed how we group playoff divisions. To summarize, playoff divisions will be created at the end of the regular season based on a team's current win/loss data. Coaches/athletic directors must enter their full schedule and score results consistently throughout the season. Member schools that 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 Playoff Tournament. Schools (via the coach and/or AD email) have been getting updates of missing scores throughout the season. Those vacancies must be filled. Schools tend to use "TBA" as opponent names in tournament situations as placeholders. Please review your results carefully, entering the actual tournament opponents played, the correct date the contest was played, and the game scores. Please review your schedule and scores on CIFSSHome (not another platform), as all data will be pulled from CIFSSHome. Massey Ratings, the same power ranking system the CIFSS has used in various sports since 2014, will continue to be used. The only change is the timeframe of the data used to feed this system. Previously, the two most recent years' results would determine pre-season divisional placement. Now, only the current year will be used for in-season divisional placement. The benefit of this is being placed in a division based on the accolades of the team a school currently has, rather than the success of the team in the two previous years.

PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL SCHEDULES AND SCORES ARE COMPLETED BY WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14th (end of the day) or sooner!

Last League and Contest Date: Wednesday, October 14th (NO GAMES MAY BE PLAYED AFTER THIS DATE, AT ANY LEVEL).

Score Reconciliation: Thursday and Friday, October 15th and 16th (NO GAMES ARE BEING PLAYED; THE SEASON HAS ENDED FOR ALL LEVELS). Playoff Bracket Release: Friday, October 16th.

The CIF Southern Section Girls Volleyball Playoffs shall be conducted in 11 playoff divisions. In 2026, all divisions will be 32-team brackets, except for Division 1 and possibly Divisions 2 and 3. Bracket size for Divisions 1, 2, and 3 will be determined after the regular season is completed.

The Commissioner and his staff will establish the pairings for each first-round game in all divisions. Playoff groupings will be created using an average of the total number of automatic qualifiers across all 32-team playoff divisions. A **playoff division will start with an automatic qualifier** and include all teams until the automatic qualifier that 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. Each team's ranking will be determined by a school's rating at the designated time: Thursday afternoon, October 15, 2026.

IF Division 1 consists of only eight (8) teams, they will compete in a pool play tournament. See below for the construction of that event. The eight (8) teams will be placed into the pool based on their power ranking regardless of league finish and designation. If the power rankings determine that Division 1 will have more than eight (8) teams, they will compete in a traditional single-elimination bracket with no more than 16 teams. Next, Division 2-11 representatives will be placed in the bracket and seeded 1 through 16, 24, or 32, 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 2026 playoff divisions:

1. Rankings for all teams will be determined at a designated time Thursday afternoon, October 15, 2026. Rankings will be taken using the Massey Reporting system. As the rankings are dynamic, only these rankings from that moment will be used. Massey rounds to the nearest 10th in posting their rankings; however, teams that are tied in rating will have their strength of schedule used to break an exact matching power ranking value.
2. After all teams have been placed into division one, the next available automatic qualifier and all remaining teams after that will make up 16- to 32-team brackets to form Divisions 2-11.
3. An average of automatic qualifiers will be used to place teams into divisions. It is an average, with some divisions having more, and some less than the average depending on the order of automatic qualifiers and number of at-large teams in a grouping of teams. There are currently 287 automatic qualifiers for the 2026 season. (This number is subject to change based on participation of all teams during the league portion of our season.)
4. Once automatic qualifiers have been placed into a division, and pending space, any remaining spots will go to the highest-ranked .500 overall record or better at-large teams in that grouping. **A team MUST be .500 or better to qualify for the playoffs regardless of their power ranking. A school MUST submit an At-Large petition to be considered for playoff selection.**
5. **Teams from the same league may face each other in the first round of the playoffs.**

CALENDAR PLAYOFF DATES

PLAYOFF MATCH TIME: 6:00 PM - ALL DIVISIONS

Division 1: IF a 16-Team Tournament or 8-Team Pool Play
October 21, 27, 31, November 7.

8-Team Pool Play - The highest-seeded team will host each pool-play contest.

All eight (8) teams selected to participate in the Southern Section Division 1 Championship Tournament will receive an automatic entry into the State CIF Regional Girls' Volleyball Tournament.

Pool A:
Seed 1,4,5,8

Pool B:
Seed 2,3,6,7

Game Schedule: * indicates home team

	<u>Pool A</u>	<u>Pool B</u>
Wednesday, Oct. 21 @ 6:00pm	*1 v 8, *4 v 5	*2 v 7, *3 v 6
Tuesday, Oct. 27 @ 6:00pm	*1 v 5, *4 v 8	*2 v 6, *3 v 7
Saturday, Oct. 31 @ 6:00pm	*1 v 4, *5 v 8	*2 v 3, *6 v 7
Saturday, Nov. 7 @ TBA	Pool A winner	Pool B winner

Tie Breakers: 2-way tie: head-to-head result will be used

First 3-way tie breaker:

The total number of sets won divided by the total number of sets played by each team in all pool play matches.

Example:

Team A: 2 – 1 Overall	Team B: 2 – 1 Overall	Team C: 2 – 1 Overall
Wins Match 1 (3 – 0)	Wins Match 1 (3 – 0)	Wins Match 1 (3 – 2)
Wins Match 2 (3 – 1)	Wins Match 2 (3 – 2)	Wins Match 2 (3 – 2)
Loses Match 3 (1 – 3)	Loses Match 3 (1 – 3)	Loses Match 3 (1 – 3)
Total sets won = 7	Total Sets won = 7	Total sets won = 7
Total sets played = 11	Total sets played = 12	Total sets played = 14
Set Percentage = .636	Set Percentage = .583	Set Percentage = .500

Team A would advance with a higher win percentage v. the other two teams.

If two teams are tied after this process and one team is eliminated based on a lower set percentage, the remaining two teams will be evaluated based on the head-to-head result.

If the three teams are still tied after the process, a second phase will be used. The team with the lowest combined seed points from games won in pool play will advance

Example:

	<u>Record</u>	<u>Seed Points</u>
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 to 4, loses to 5	0 – 3	X

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

Additional Playoff Dates:

Division 1:

If a 12 or 16-Team Tournament:

October 21, 27, 31 November 7 (Final)

Divisions 3, 5, 7, 9, 11:

32-Team Tournament:

October 21, 24, 28, 31 November 7 (Final)

Divisions 2, 4, 6, 8, 10:

32-Team Tournament:

October 20, 22, 27, 31 November 7 (Final)

CIF SOUTHERN SECTION FINALS:

November 5th, 6th, or 7, 2026

LOCATION:

Cerritos College and Designated Home Team Sites.

Determination of sites will be made after the semi-final play is completed on Saturday, October 31

If a school in a championship final has a conflict, both schools may agree to play on November 5th, 6th, or 7th, pending CIF approval, at the designated “home” site. If an agreement can’t be reached, the CIF Southern Section office will select the date of the championship contest.

CIF STATE REGIONALS:

November 10 - 17, 2026

CIF STATE FINALS:

November 20 - 21, 2026

All Southern Section playoff games are scheduled for **6:00 p.m.** When schools must travel long distances for a playoff game, we recommend that teams mutually agree on an earlier start time.

See page 16 for how to proceed if a game time / date / location must be changed.

It is recommended that you notify your potential next-round opponent should you mutually agree to change the time or date of a contest.

TICKET PRICES FOR PLAYOFF CONTESTS

Preliminary Rounds

Child (5-13) / Student with proper high school I.D. \$6.00

General Admission/Student without high school I.D. \$12.00

Tickets for all rounds will be available for purchase via our digital ticketing partner GoFan. See page 24 for additional ticket information.

CIF SS GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS SCHEDULE

Friday, November 6 or Saturday, November 7, 2026

Division 1 Championship Site:

Cerritos College
11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650

Divisions 2 – 11

Sites will be determined after play is completed on
Saturday, October 31, 2026

AWARDS FOR ALL DIVISIONS WILL BE
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING EACH MATCH

CHAMPIONSHIP TICKET PRICES:

Child (5-13) / Student with proper high school I.D. \$7.00

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

PRE-FLIPS / RELEASE SCHEDULE

For ALL Division 1-11 playoff rounds, we will be conducting pre-flips to give the teams involved immediate notice of their next game location. The playoff pairings will be released on Friday, October 16th, no later than 9:00 pm and the draw will indicate home and away teams for the first round based on the higher-ranked team.

Pre-flips will be available on our website at www.cifss.org under the Girls' Volleyball sports page www.cifss.org/sports/girls-volleyball, by 11:00 a.m. the following day of your playoff contest.

The championship schedule, home/away determination, and game site selection will be posted on Monday, November 2, 2026.

RESPONSIBILITY OF SCHOOLS

One designated representative of each school qualifying for the 2026-2027 CIF Southern Section Girls' Volleyball Playoffs is to check the website in accordance with the release schedule:

The Office will close at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 17, 2026

MATCH RESULTS

An official representative of EACH school **MUST** enter their score into www.cifsshome.org **IMMEDIATELY** after each playoff contest. You may also contact the CIF-Southern Section Office between **8:00 a.m.** and **8:30 a.m.** the morning following the contest to verify scores.

CIFSS HOME REQUIREMENTS

SCHEDULES & SCORES: Complete your schedule in CIFSSHome prior to your season, as well as update scores following each contest

Attention Athletic Directors/Coaches: Please enter your entire season schedule into CIFSSHOME (www.cifsshome.org) and update scores immediately after each contest.

Log in @ www.cifsshome.org (If you do not have a login and 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 **Volleyball, 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 **Volleyball, Girls**, and click on VR to add Varsity scores. Click on the "Post Result" button, enter your team's score, and 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 and enter the set scores in "Notes".

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

VARSITY COACHES

Attention Athletic Directors/Coaches: It is very important that you enter your Girls Volleyball coaches (Head & Assistants) into CIFSSHome (www.cifsshome.org) no later than **Wednesday, October 14**.

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

- Click on the **"Users"** tab, click on **"User Manager"**, and  click 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)

Attention Athletic Directors/Coaches: It is very important that you enter your Girls Volleyball team photo into CIFSSHome (www.cifsshome.org) no later than **Wednesday, October 14**.

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

- Click on the **"Teams"** tab, click **"Teams Manager"**, click on **"Volleyball, Girls"**, 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 Girls Volleyball Varsity roster into CIFSSHome (www.cifsshome.org) no later than **Wednesday, October 14**.

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

- Click on the “Teams” tab, click on “Teams Manager”, click on “Volleyball,  Girls”, 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 Girls Volleyball is:

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

(1) To ADD roster players one by one:

- Click  on and complete the fields required for Girls Volleyball.

(2) To Import a Roster using an Excel sample file:

- Download the [sample file](#) **and** delete the “contents only”.

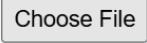
- Copy and paste or type your roster information into the file as the contents and save the file to your computer.

- 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 Girls Volleyball are:**

First Name, Last Name, Birth date, Year, Number, Position, Height & 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 – 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 Girls Volleyball. Your school must submit the At Large Application no later than **WEDNESDAY, October 14th @ 6:00 P.M.**

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

Once you are logged in:

-On the left panel, click on the “Forms” tab and select “At Large Petition”

-Select “**Girls Volleyball**” 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.



OFFICIAL INDOOR VOLLEYBALL

OFFICIAL BALL

V200W-USAN

*THERE IS A 1-YEAR GRACE PERIOD TO
TRANSITION THE NEW BALL INTO PLAY



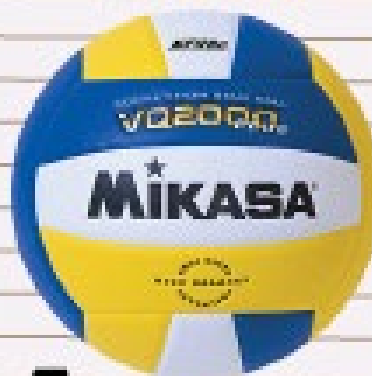
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APPROVED FOR PLAY

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CONTRACTED THROUGH: JUNE 30, 2031

*THE OFFICIAL BALL RULE IS MANDATORY FOR ALL CIF-SS PLAYOFF ROUNDS.

NFHS STAMP IS REQUIRED IN ALL SPORTS EXCEPT GIRLS FLAG FOOTBALL, GOLF, TENNIS AND BEACH VOLLEYBALL.*

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.

PLAYOFF QUALIFYING CHECKLIST

CIF Southern Section staff developed the information in this booklet for Athletic Administrators and other selected school personnel to help run an efficient playoff program.

With such a short period between playoff dates, early planning will greatly assist this office in securing officials, distributing tickets, and notifying the media of game sites and times.

PLAYOFF CHECKLIST

	Completed Date
1. Use cifsshome.org Team Roster – By October 14th .	_____
2. Eligibility list is included in roster on www.cifsshome.org Any potential player who could appear in a playoff match must be listed.	_____
3. Use www.cifsshome.org "SUBMIT TEAM PLAYOFF INFORMATION" DEADLINE: Wednesday, October 14th .	_____
4. Game Management under the "Finances" tab on www.cifsshome.org must be entered prior to the first playoff contest.	_____
5. E-mail "ALL CIF-SS Form" BEFORE November 9th to your Division Representative (see page 29)	_____
6. Make arrangements for online tickets (see page 26)	_____
7. Have court reserved if school is to "host" next round game	_____
8. Arrange for emergency contacts with opponent	_____
9. Have Playoff Game Balls Ready Mikasa V200W-USAN Series, VFC1000 Series	_____

PLAYOFF ENTRY AND FORMAT

The 2026 Girls Volleyball Playoff brackets will be established based on submissions from the respective league. There will be eleven (11) girls' volleyball divisions.

The playoff bracket size for Division 1 will be determined once all entries have been submitted.

If, based on the power rankings, only 8 teams will be selected, they will be placed into two equal pools. See page 5 for an explanation of pool play and contest dates.

In the Division 1 tournament, the higher-seeded team in each pool play contest will be the home team.

In all playoff brackets, the seeds will not be adjusted to avoid league members from meeting in any round. Therefore, in any division, two teams from the same league may meet in the first round or first pool play contest.

All recognized leagues will be guaranteed entries based on league size. All 4-team leagues will be guaranteed 2 entries; 5- and 6-team leagues will be guaranteed 3 entries; 7- and 8-team leagues will be guaranteed 4 entries; 9- or more-team leagues will be guaranteed 5 entries. Under the playoff format, in all sports, leagues have the responsibility of developing and identifying the priority for their representatives into the playoffs as noted under Article 350 (Playoffs) of the CIF Southern Section Blue Book. Please note, leagues may not conduct additional contests beyond the prescribed limits unless said contests are to determine GUARANTEED ENTRY and not representative priority (leagues must have this as part of their constitution and must secure permission from the CIF-SS office before conducting such playoffs for entry).

LEAGUE ENTRIES / CHANGE OF ENTRY

It is critical for the accuracy of rankings and entries that school and league coordinators confirm their schedules/scores both at www.cifsshome.org

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

The list of Automatic Qualifiers from each League will be posted by 11:00 am on Thursday, October 15.

Any corrections must be made by 1:00pm on Thursday, October 15th. Corrections should be made in CIFSSHome.org. Also, send an email to mikem@cifss.org with the correction and a contact number.

No revisions to league entries or team records/results will be allowed after 2:00 pm on October 15th.

Once the draw sheet has been finalized by the CIF Southern Section Office and posted, it is final. Under the new playoff format, NO CHANGES can be accepted.

END OF COMPETITION

All league competition for entries must end on Wednesday, October 14, 2026.

BRACKET CONSTRUCTION

A **playoff division will start with an automatic qualifier** and include all teams until the automatic qualifier that 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.

The bracket will be constructed using a school's power ranking value. In a 16-team bracket, the number 1 power-ranked team will host the number 16-ranked team. The number 2 power-ranked team will host the number 15 power-ranked team. This process will continue until all automatic entries and any eligible power-ranked At-Large teams fill the bracket. In a 32-team bracket, the number 1 power-ranked team will host the number 32 power-ranked team. The number 2 power-ranked team will host the number 31 power-ranked team. This process will continue until all automatic entries and any eligible power-ranked At-Large teams fill the bracket.

No adjustments will be made to avoid a league opponent in any round.

AT-LARGE ENTRIES

At-Large entries must have an overall record of .500 or better to qualify.

AT-LARGE entries can only be considered when the number of automatic entries does not fill the size of the playoff bracket. For example, if 30 teams earn an automatic entry, two (2) AT-LARGE entries will be selected to fill the bracket to 32 teams.

Schools MUST submit an AT-LARGE Petition on CIFSSHome.org to be considered.

To submit an AT-LARGE petition, log in to cifsshome.org, click on FORMS>AT LARGE PETITION>Select Sport>Click on the ADD button.

AT-LARGE entries will be based on a team's final power ranking value.

BYLAW 3500 PLAYOFFS

For additional information on bracket construction, filling of "byes", and determination of sites after the first round, please review Bylaw 3500 in the CIF Southern Section Blue Book.

PLAYOFF HOSTING INFORMATION

COIN FLIPS

The coin flips, where necessary, are conducted under the direction of the Commissioner by **10:00 A.M.** the day following the first contest in the lobby of the CIF Southern Office. **Pre-flips will be available on the web at www.cifss.org under the girls' volleyball sport page after the first round.** If any coach or school administrator would like to attend, they must notify the CIF office and make arrangements in advance. **Telephone number for the CIF-Southern Section Office: (562) 493-9500**

DETERMINATION OF SITES FOR ALL PLAYOFF ROUNDS AND FINALS

The Commissioner will decide who will be the host team after the first round of competition. When two teams are paired after the first round of the playoffs, the team with the fewest host games (not including a wild card contest) in playoff competition shall be designated as the host team. When both teams have had an equal number of host playoff contests, the Commissioner shall toss a coin to decide the host team. When a school has been designated as the host school for a playoff contest, it shall (1) act in that capacity unless excused by the Commissioner, and (2) be considered the host team regardless of where the game is being played. ***SPECIAL NOTE: Teams receiving a bye in the first round shall automatically be the host team in the next round of the playoffs.***

The designation of "host" does not guarantee the game will be played at the host school's facility. It designates responsibility for managing the contest, including suggesting a site that can handle the anticipated crowd. A host school may use its home site if it can safely accommodate the anticipated crowd.

The host school is responsible for securing an adequate gymnasium for a volleyball playoff contest. Where available and approved, playoff games should be played in rent-free high school gymnasiums; however, if a rental fee is required for an outside gymnasium, the Commissioner must pre-approve the arrangement before the contest.

MINIMUM AND RECOMMENDED EXPECTATIONS FOR SITES: The volleyball court and equipment must conform with all requirements stated in the NFHS volleyball rules book. The gym's bleacher seating capacity must exceed 500 for Divisions 1, 2, and 3, and 300 for Divisions 4-11. If your gym does not meet these specifications, the host school is responsible for finding an alternative location. Recommended ceiling height is 28' and clear of any obstructions above the playing surface.

Competing schools are reminded that CIF Southern Section playoff volleyball games, while they may be played at one school, are under the control of the CIF-Southern Section. Both competing schools in any one game receive equal consideration for seating. If, in the Commissioner's opinion, the host team's gym is not large enough to accommodate the anticipated crowd, the host team must reserve one-half of the gym's capacity for the visiting school's rooters.

For the Southern Section Championship, one team will be designated as the "Home" team and will be responsible for securing a site for the Section Championship. The Section Championship can be played at the "home" team's facility if it can safely provide for the anticipated crowd.

A date and/or time change may be adjusted if the two opponents can mutually agree to the adjustment and the CIF-Southern Section office approves.

GAME TIMES

All games are scheduled for **6:00 p.m.** When schools must travel long distances for a playoff game, we recommend that teams mutually agree on an earlier start time.

Confirm any changes with your opponent before contacting our office or the match officials/local assignor. **Any game time, location change, or date change must be sent via e-mail to the CIF-SS office.**

The e-mail must include the following information:

- **Division**
- **Teams in the Contest**
- **New game time / location / date**
- **The statement “I have confirmed this change with the Athletic Director, (insert name)”**
- **The visiting school’s Athletic Director has been included in the e-mail**

Send an e-mail to all the following individuals:

Assistant Commissioner: Mike Middlebrook at mikem@cifss.org

Program Coordinator: Chelsea Olson at chelseao@cifss.org

CIF Officials Rep: Todd Frost at frostmay@sbcglobal.net

Your local Assignor: *for matches played in the 1st, 2nd, and Quarter-final round.*

PRE-GAME ARRANGEMENTS

The host school is responsible for:

- 1) Securing an adequate court for use in all playoff games which meets the regulations as outlined in the National Federation Rules Book. **A court that does not meet NFHS Rule 2, Article 6 (minimum 6 feet of service area) may not host a playoff contest on that court/gym.**
- 2) Contacting the visiting school prior to game day to establish any necessary ground rules should the court or equipment not be within specified standards.
- 3) Teams will remain on the same bench throughout the match. Teams do not switch sides after each set unless the R1 official has determined that one side of the court creates a competitive disadvantage to one team over the other. Examples are basketball rims in play, sunlight, overhead obstructions, etc.

Student/Fan/Parent rooting sections must be arraigned in a way that the home team fans are not seated directly behind the visiting team bench, or the visiting Students/Fans/Parents are seated directly behind the home team bench.

- 4) Game Ball – Mikasa V200W Series or VFC1000 Series. Ball must have the NFHS stamp.
- 5) Providing information to the visitors regarding directions to the school, locker room arrangements, visitor parking, anticipated crowds, or any special court conditions.

- 6) The CIF-SS Office is not presently equipped to survey all sites in use during the coming post season competition. Therefore, we depend upon the good judgment of the host school management to notify the Southern Section office and all opponents if a given site does not meet **minimum** standards as outlined in the National Federation Rules Book.

SQUAD SIZE

The squad size of the team should only include the regular season rostered varsity team. However, the CIF-Southern Section will only provide **awards up to 18 per team**. In addition, there is a seat limit at the Championship Finals, and all overflow (players/coaches/trainer/stats personnel) will be seated behind the team bench area if possible or in the bleachers off the court.

GAMES OFFICIALS– SCHOOLS DO NOT PAY FOR OFFICIALS – CIF WILL PAY

Officials for all playoff matches will be coordinated through the CIF-Southern Section and your local assignor

Officials for the 1st, 2nd, and Quarter Finals will be assigned by your local assignor.

Starting with the Semi-Final round, all officials in the Division 2 – 10 tournaments will be from outside your local area. In all matches leading to the championship finals, **First Referee shall receive \$110 and Second Referee \$110.**

In the Division 1 tournament, officials will be selected based on merit and unit ranking regardless of where or what unit they are from.

LINE JUDGES

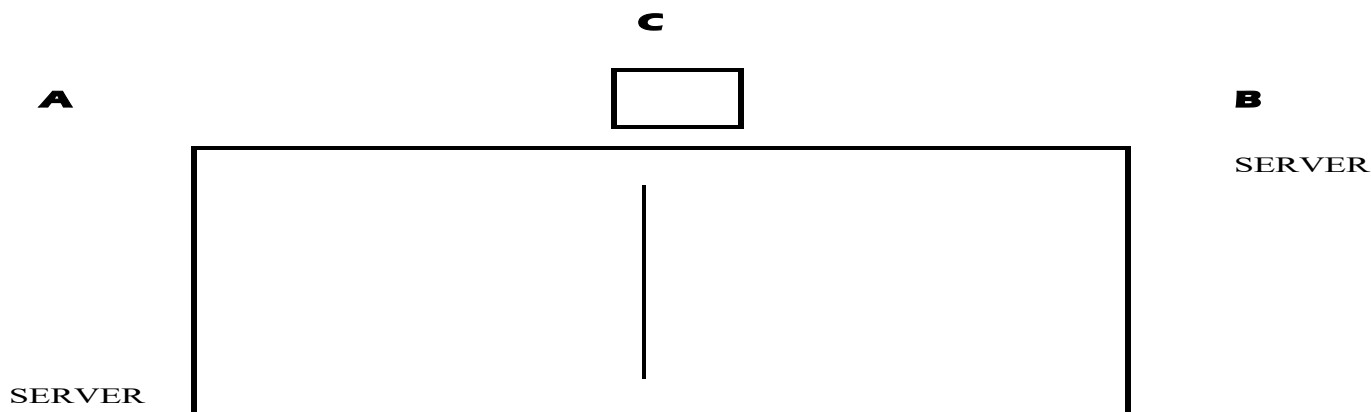
Schools are encouraged to hire officials or use adults, not students, as line persons during the first, second, and quarter-final round games. If officials are not hired, the visiting school should have the opportunity to provide one of the line persons. Two line persons will be automatically assigned to all semifinal contests. **The line persons shall receive \$60 each.**

THREE-BALL SYSTEM

To facilitate continuous play, we recommend using the three-ball system.

HOW TO RUN A 3-BALL SYSTEM

1. Three people (with towels) are placed on same side of court.
2. Ball persons "A" and "B" should have a ball.
3. Ball person "C" rolls balls to opposite sides as service changes side – keeping a ball at the serving side at all times.



TIMED WARM-UP PROCEDURES & INSTRUCTIONS

Prior to timed warm-ups, a conference shall be conducted between the head coach and captains from each team. Once the meeting ends, teams are guaranteed a minimum of 17 minutes; 5 minutes shared court, 6 minutes on, 6 minutes off, (Serving is included within your 6 minutes). If the game court is available earlier, teams may share the court for ball handling. After the 12 minutes of warmups, teams will retire to their bench and then to the end line and prepare for the final 3 minutes of introductions and the National Anthem.

RALLY SCORING

Rally scoring will be used during all contests for all rounds and championship contests. All matches will be three out of five sets played to 25 points, and the fifth and deciding game shall be played to 15 points. **No cap on set score, and you must win by two points.**

GAME BALL

Mikasa is the official ball mandated for all playoff rounds. The **Mikasa V200W or the VFC1000 Series** will be provided by CIF-SS and used in the championship finals for all divisions. Leading up to the championship finals, any Mikasa ball stamped with the NFHS logo will be acceptable. **If a host or "home" school fails to use the mandatory ball in the playoffs, the violating team will not be allowed to host their next available home Southern Section playoff contest.**

OFFICIAL SCORER, LIBERO TRACKER & TIMER

The official scorer, Libero tracker, and timer are recognized as game officials, and a faculty member or other qualified, responsible ADULT staff must fill these important positions.

ANNOUNCER

The announcer should be a responsible adult who can set the tone of the game by calling the fans' attention to the following points of reference.

(Read prior to start of each contest)

- (1) CIF Southern Section Playoff contests are conducted under the strictest code of good sportsmanship.**
- (2) The officials are neutral people, representing the Commissioner, and have been selected because of demonstrated ability.**
- (3) Fans are encouraged to support their own team and are requested to display proper sportsmanship with respect to the visiting school and the officials.**
- (4) Spectators are asked not to use flash photography. The CIF-Southern Section appreciates your attendance and support of high school volleyball.**

CHEERING SECTION

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. Cheerleaders/Pep squads and pep bands of no more than 12 members will be admitted free of charge through the spectator entrance and must be in full uniform and/or carrying an instrument and accompanied by an adult supervisor.
2. No noisemakers (horns, bells, victory bells, sirens, chimes, wooden blocks, balloons, thunder sticks, musical instruments other than those in the band, etc.) will be permitted inside the gymnasium at any CIF Southern Section Volleyball Game (non-league, league, tournaments, or playoff). Only the school's uniformed cheer squads may use megaphones.
3. Cheering devices such as rally towels, pom poms and pennants are acceptable when used within the bounds of good sportsmanship.
4. Face painting is acceptable from the NECK UP ONLY and shall not include any inappropriate letters or symbols. Assigned school staff shall always monitor their cheering sections.
5. It is the expectation that cheering section behavior will be monitored by the assigned school staff of the school that they represent. School staff supervisors must address and correct all improper behavior/language immediately.
6. Rules are subject to specific events and/or venue limitations.

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 game officials regarding a possible misapplication of the rules under 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 rule books with them for all playoff contests. Schools can still protest a contest in accordance with Southern Section rules, Bylaw 1111, as it pertains to use of an ineligible player or violations of any CIF-Southern Section rule in accordance with the contest.

GATE PROCEDURES

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

1. All ticket-takers and gate personnel should familiarize themselves with the CIF-SS Press Pass, CIF-SS Photo Pass, and CIF-SS Courtesy Card.
2. All ticket-takers and gate personnel will be provided with a CIF-SS Courtesy Card Void List sent prior to playoffs via email to the Athletic Directors to check for any invalid cards. Please instruct them to confiscate any voided cards and return them to the CIF Southern Section office.
3. Ticket prices for Playoff rounds are **\$12.00 General Admission, \$6.00 HS Student** with proper high school I.D./Child (5-13 year old).

GAME PERSONNEL

Host management is responsible for staffing the gymnasium with the personnel needed to conduct the contest. Use the same pay schedule used for league contests to reimburse ticket sellers, ticket takers, police, physicians, and custodial help. In determining the pay scale for working personnel in playoff games, schools are reminded to compute it based on one contest.

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.

Staffing policies for athletic contests vary widely among schools in the Southern Section. Because of this, schools in the playoffs must assign the minimum number of personnel necessary to ensure efficiency and safety.



**CIF SOUTHERN SECTION FORD CHAMPIONSHIPS
REQUIREMENTS - ALL TEAMS AND HOST SITES
2026-2027**

- 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.
- Championship Merchandise:** 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.
- Official Ball Required:** Only the approved for play models 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 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 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. 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.

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, tackle 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, 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 may receive a revenue share split from the gross revenue less the cost of officials 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
- 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 under the designated sports page.
- Media Credentials:** Accredited working media should be given admission to all playoff games by showing their CIF-SS Media credential.

PLAYOFF FINANCIAL POLICY

As per CIF Southern Section Blue Book amendments approved in the Spring of 2026, below are the by-laws which shall serve as the Financial Policy and govern playoff finances.

143: In the sports of basketball, tackle football, and volleyball (“revenue sports”) it is mandatory that admission be charged in all playoff games (preliminary rounds through the championship final). In all other “non-revenue” sports with the exception of the championship finals which the CIF Southern Section manages, schools are NOT to charge admission for these activities. However, upon petition to the Commissioner’s office, by the principals of the schools involved, to charge admission, the Commissioner may waive this policy. In such cases the gross revenue will be split equally between the schools, with the visitor paying its own travel and the host paying the game expenses.

144: Playoff splits:

144.1: In all rounds of the tackle football, basketball and volleyball playoff games in which the host school is hosting the game, the GROSS revenue (less the cost of officials) shall be split in the following manner, by sport – tackle football, basketball, and volleyball: **40% Host, 23% Visitor and 37% CIF Southern Section**. The host school is responsible for all game related expenses; the visitor is responsible for their travel expenses. **NO EXPENSE REPORTING to the CIF Southern Section will be required.**

144.2: In the rounds of tackle football, basketball and volleyball playoff games, in which the CIF Southern Section is serving as the host, the NET profit shall be split 20% to each school and 60% to the CIF Southern Section. The CIF Southern Section shall pay for all game related expenses and travel, meal and lodging allowances to both teams.

144.3: In championship playoff competitions for all other “non-revenue” sports, the CIF Southern Section shall receive the NET profit if the office manages these contests. Expense allowances and honorariums may be allocated to schools assisting in the event hosting responsibilities.

VENUE, EQUIPMENT, RENTALS & GAME PERSONNEL EXPENSES: School Hosted Revenue Sports

As per by-law 144.1, the host management is responsible for securing the venue, including additional equipment and rentals to conduct the contest. Additionally, the host management is also responsible for staffing the venue with the personnel necessary to conduct the contest. Personnel includes security/police, ticket validators, physicians/athletic trainers, scorers, timers, announcers and custodial services.

Payment amounts to secure the venue, rent equipment and hire personnel are at the discretion of the host school as the host is responsible for ALL game-related expenses. Hosts are reminded to be mindful of their expenses as they are NO LONGER reportable for reimbursement from the CIF Southern Section. Instead, the host receives a larger share of the gross revenue from the contest.

VISITOR TRAVEL EXPENSES: School Hosted Revenue Sports

As per by-law 144.1, the visiting school shall pay for its own travel expenses, which includes chartered or school bus transportation, meals and lodging. Visiting schools are reminded to be mindful of their expenses as they are NO LONGER reportable for reimbursement from the CIF Southern Section. Instead, the visitor receives a larger share of the gross revenue from the contest.

ALLOWABLE TRAVEL EXPENSES: CIF-SS Hosted Revenue Sports

As per by-law 144.2, in the situation where the CIF Southern Section serves as the host of a playoff event in a revenue sport, both participating teams shall be entitled to submit travel expenses (via www.cifsshome.org) which include mileage reimbursement, meal allowances and lodging allowances.

Mileage: The maximum subsidy per mile (listed below), round trip, will be approved for either chartered or school bus transportation. Distances obtained from www.mapquest.com shall be used, when available, for computing mileage.

Tackle Football: \$3.50 per mile

Basketball: \$1.50 per mile

Volleyball: \$1.50 per mile

Meals: No subsidy will be permitted towards assisting with meals without prior approval of the CIF-SS. This is necessary to ensure uniform subsidies for all schools. For trips less than 140 miles round trip, no meal allowances will be approved. For trips exceeding 140 miles round trip, the number of meals allowed each school will be determined by the CIF-SS on the basis of distance. The allowance for meals for the travel party including players, coaches, managers and administrators shall be entitled to an allowance by sport. Schools may take additional personnel if they wish, but meals will be at their own expense.

Tackle Football: 44 meals

Basketball: 17 meals

Volleyball: 18 meals

Where meals are approved, maximum subsidies are:

\$3.00 for breakfast

\$5.00 for lunch

\$8.00 for dinner

Lodging: No subsidy will be permitted towards assisting with lodging without prior approval of the CIF-SS. This is necessary to ensure uniform subsidies for all schools. For trips less than 550 miles round trip, no lodging allowances will be approved. For trips exceeding 550 miles round trip, the maximum shall be \$10.00 per person for a group of not more than 44 people (Tackle Football), 17 people (Basketball) and 18 people (Volleyball).

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 has 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 CIFSS Home (www.cifsshome.org) to ensure the proper number of tickets can be made available.

Host schools MUST report CASH SALES tickets sold to the CIF Southern Section on the day following the event to CIF Chief Financial Officer, Mitch Carty (mitchc@cifss.org), as these sales along with the GoFan digital sales will account for the total revenue of the contest and will be split as per the CIF Southern Section playoff split percentage distribution.

Complimentary Tickets:

Each school participating in the playoffs in the revenue sports of Tackle Football, Basketball and Volleyball will be entitled to complimentary general admission tickets for each contest, based upon the schedule below:

Tackle Football (11person):	25 complimentary tickets
Tackle Football (8 person):	10 complimentary tickets
Basketball:	15 complimentary tickets
Volleyball:	10 complimentary tickets

Host schools can issue complimentary tickets via their GoFan HQ account. Complimentary tickets can be shared to one email address at a time OR all complimentary tickets can be sent to one email address. If multiple complimentary tickets are sent to one email address, please NOTE that only one (1) allowable transfer exists to get the ticket into the hands of the correct patron.

If additional tickets are desired, they must be purchased at the prevailing rate by the school. Drivers of team and rooster 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.

Gate Procedures:

All schools hosting playoff games should make certain that gate personnel 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, color 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.

CIF Southern Section courtesy cards may be accepted for admission should the facility not exceed capacity limited due to tickets sold.

BLEACHER RENTAL:

Schools complementing their spectator seating capacity by renting additional bleachers must be advised this is an expense of the host school (please see CIF Southern Section, Blue Book by-law 144.1).

CONCESSIONS & 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 championship 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.

TICKET DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION

CIF-SOUTHERN SECTION 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.

Prior to the spring of 2021, member schools hosting CIF Southern Section playoff events were responsible for the management and sales of CIF-SS issued physical tickets (pre-sale and/or game day ticket window sales). Beginning in the spring of 2021, ticket sales and revenue management responsibilities have been relieved from member schools, and all sales occur via GoFan (www.gofan.co) for each CIF Southern Section playoff game/event. Individual game private links can also be created and shared with guaranteed patrons (parents and/or comp tickets).

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 stadium capacities in CIFSSHome (www.cifsshome.org) to ensure the proper number of tickets can be made available.

The CIF-SS Executive Committee requires the host school to charge admission to all revenue sports, as outlined in the CIF Southern Section Blue Book. See financial policy Article 10, Section 143-145, CIF-SS Blue Book, page 46). Information can be found at www.cifss.org.

Playoff financial expense reporting is required via www.cifsshome.org. Host schools do NOT report ticket revenue, as CIF-SS assumes this responsibility, and all ticket sales are reported on the day following each event from the GoFan captured sales report. However, the host will maintain the responsibility of reporting game expenses via 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 review via www.cifsshome.org. From the game revenue, the CIF Southern Section will distribute the net profit shares (20% to the host & 20% to the 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. 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 its opponent. In such cases, 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

ADMISSION OF WORKING FACULTY PERSONNEL

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 without a complimentary or general admission ticket. This directive applies to both schools.

COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS: Each school participating in the CIF-Southern Section Volleyball Playoffs is entitled to receive an allotment of 10 digital general admission tickets for each match. The host school is responsible for issuing complimentary tickets directly from their GoFan HQ dashboard (from quick actions, manage attendees, go). 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. It's the discretion of each participating school how the complimentary tickets are distributed.

COURTESY CARDS AND PASSES

CIF-Southern Section Courtesy Cards **MAY** be honored for all volleyball playoff contests, INCLUDING THE CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS, based on the host site's COVID-19 gym capacity guidelines. If allowed, Courtesy Cards will be checked at the gate. Courtesy cards from other sections and officials' association passes are not valid for admission at any CIF-Southern Section playoff contest.

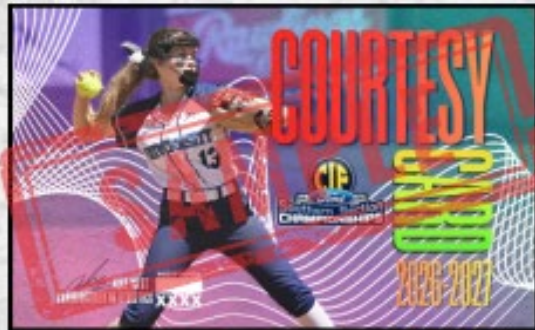
NO SCHOOL, LEAGUE, DISTRICT, OR LOCAL NEWSPAPER PASSES WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR ADMISSION TO PLAYOFF GAMES REGARDLESS OF LEAGUE POLICIES GOVERNING THIS MATTER.

CIF-Southern Section press and photographer's credentials (see Media Section) issued by the Commissioner's Office, the State CIF Courtesy Card, and the State CIF Life Pass are the only credentials that will be honored for admission to volleyball playoff contests based on the host site's COVID-19 gym capacity guidelines.

2026 - 2027

CIF-SS APPROVED PASS GATE CARDS

CIF-SS COURTESY CARD GOOD FOR BEARER +1



Please admit bearer upon presentation of this pass to all practices, league, tournament, invitational and playoff events within the CIF Southern Section through June 30, 2027 per CIF Southern Section Bylaw 2002.2.

This card is NOT valid for any and all new special events as identified by the CIF-SS Commissioner of Athletics. Exceptions for these special events will be issued to the CIF-SS Commissioner of Athletics when written request is submitted to legitimate needs organizations and that request has been approved.

This card will entitle bearer to admission to the designated events in which the sponsoring organization will enter events. The card is not valid for admission to any other facility and will entitle bearer to be admitted to the designated events only, at risk for the purpose of doing otherwise. Admission to facilities of other high school associations could result in a violation.

Admission to this membership card is subject to the bearer's agreement to the terms and conditions of the ongoing conditions of use of this card. Bearer has the right to request a refund.

Any violation of these rules or conditions may result in suspension from the facility and immediate revocation of this credential.

Expires June 30, 2027

CIF-SS MEDIA CREDENTIAL GOOD FOR BEARER ONLY



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. To use as noted below.

This card may only be used for the bearer only. It is not valid for other guests.

To use as noted below:

- CIF-SS - District, Section, or State Meeting - Permanent
- Any athletic event at the discretion of the CIF-SS Commissioner of Athletics
- Any event in which the CIF Southern Section is a member school, provided institution has sufficient seating capacity.

Abuse or misuse of this card at the same event will result in the permanent loss of this card and removal from the event. Misuse of this card will result in sanctions placed against the institution for whom this card was issued.

CIF-SS GOLD LIFE PASS GOOD FOR BEARER +1



CIF STATE COURTESY CARD GOOD FOR BEARER +1



CIF-SS MVP AD GOOD FOR BEARER +1



California Interscholastic Federation 2026-2027

COURTESY CARD

NAME _____

and one guest representing:

ENTITY _____

This card shall be honored for admission to any CIF high school athletic event in California. Questions regarding this card: 916-239-4477

www.cifstate.org

Ronald W. Nocetti
Ronald W. Nocetti
CIF Executive Director

SOUTHERN SECTION CRITERIA FOR ENTRY INTO CIF STATE VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026-2027

The CIF Southern Section is allotted 44 entries into the CIF State Regional Girls Volleyball Tournament. The breakdown of those 44 entries is as follows:

Division 1: 8 Total Entries

A total of 8 teams will be selected from Division 1 to represent the CIF – Southern Section in the CIF State Regional Tournament. If two or more teams exit the bracket at the same point, the higher-seeded team will receive the invitation.

Division 2: 8 Total Entries

Teams that reach the quarter-final round of the Southern Section playoffs will automatically be selected to participate in the CIF State Regional Tournament. If two or more teams exit the bracket at the same point, the higher-seeded team at the start of the event will be entered ahead of the lower-seeded team.

Division 3 – 7: 20 Total Entries

Teams that reach the semi-final round of the Southern Section playoffs will automatically be selected to participate in the CIF State Regional Tournament. If two or more teams exit the bracket at the same point, the higher-seeded team at the start of the event will be entered ahead of the lower-seeded team.

Division 8 - 11: 8 Total Entries

Teams that reach the championship final round of the Southern Section playoffs will automatically be selected to participate in the CIF State Regional Tournament. If two or more teams exit the bracket at the same point, the higher-seeded team at the start of the event will be entered ahead of the lower-seeded team.

If a team does wish to compete in the event, they must notify Mike Middlebrook via e-mail no later than **10:00 a.m. Friday, October 30, 2026** @ mikem@cifss.org

MANDATORY NOTICE REQUIREMENT

If a school elects to opt out of participation in the Regional Playoffs, the **Principal is REQUIRED to provide written notification to the Section Commissioner prior to the school's Section Semi-Final contest.**

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

[CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE OPT-OUT FORM](#)

The 44 teams that are submitted to the State Regional event will be listed and entered based on the division in which they competed in during the Southern Section Championships. For example, the

Division 4 Runner-up will be submitted and entered for the Regional before the Division 5 Champion. Teams may be moved to a different division than the one in which they competed in during the Section playoffs. No enrollment parameters apply to any division. The CIF State seeding committee has the authority to adjust when necessary due to travel considerations or when a repeat match-up of a final or semi-final occurs; however, we make every effort to keep schools in the order they are submitted.

For seeding information and other potential adjustments, please review the CIF State Girls Volleyball Handbook. https://www.cifstate.org/sports/girls_volleyball/handbook_forms/index

Schools that will represent the Southern Section in the CIF State Regional Volleyball Tournament MUST complete the [Girls Volleyball Info Form](#) by clicking this link:

https://www.cifstate.org/forms/gvb_info_form

Entry forms are due to the CIF STATE office no later than **Tuesday, October 27, 2026**.

ALL CIF–SS GIRLS VOLLEYBALL INFORMATION

- Please visit our website at www.cifss.org and click on the Girls Volleyball sports page.
- The nomination flyer and contact page will be on the right-hand side of the *Girls Volleyball* sports page. <https://cifss.org/sports/girls-volleyball/>
- Entry deadline is Monday, November 9, 2026.
- Head Coaches must submit a nomination form to the advisory committee to have students recognized.
- Participating in the current year's Southern Section playoffs is a requirement to be nominated.

If you have any questions, please contact our office at 562-493-9500 or email chelseao@cifss.org



**CIF SOUTHERN SECTION FORD CHAMPIONSHIPS
ADDITIONAL AWARDS
2026-2027**

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.

ADDITIONAL AWARDS:

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, (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 2026 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.

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	www.jlcustomjackets.com	(951) 867-3200
CIF Tshirts	www.cifstshirts.com	(951) 789-5858
C&L Custom Jackets	www.cljackets.com	(714) 828-6900
Embroidery & More	www.embroideryandmoredesign.com	(951) 471-5200
PC & C Embroidery	http://pccembroidery.com/	(909) 403-4558
The Advertising Specialists	http://www.tassigns.com/page/cif-southern-section-licensed-patch-provider	(626) 966-4770
We Got Em Tees	http://wegotemtees.com/	760-983-6087 909-727-7699

Custom Banners/Souvenirs Your school may 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	www.IntegrityDesignUSA.com	(855) 341-8817
C&L Custom Jackets	www.cljackets.com	(714) 828-6900
The Advertising Specialists	http://www.tassigns.com/page/cif-southern-section-licensed-patch-provider	(626) 966-4770

Rings

Herff Jones	http://highschool.herffjones.com/
J. Lewis Small	www.jlewissmall.com
Jostens	www.jostens.com
Signature Style Jewelry	www.signaturestylejewelry.com
Baron Championship Rings	http://baronrings.com/

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 or 562-493-9500.

Orange County's Leading Sports Medicine Program

Hoag Orthopedic Institute & Hoag are proud to be the
Official Healthcare, Sports Medicine and Orthopedic Partner
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