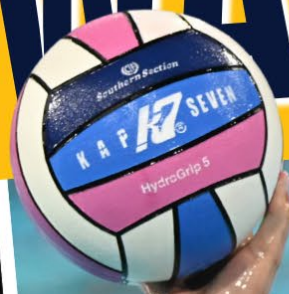
CIF SOUTHERN SECTION

KAP K7 SEVEN WATER POLO

WATER POLO

2026-2027



PLAYOFF BULLETIN

CIF Ford Est. 1913 Southern Section CHAMPIONSHIPS



BRONCO RAPTOR



F-150 RAPTOR



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SMARTS.

OUR VEHICLES. OUR ATHLETES.











CIF Ford Est 1913 Southern Section CHAMPIONSHIPS



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EXPLORER



RANGER



BRONCO SPORT



Determination of Playoff Divisions – Water Polo

With the passage of the competitive equity playoff system (CIFSS Council, January 2024), and changes to Bylaws 3519 and 3520, playoff divisions will be created at the end of the regular season based on a team's current win/loss data.

It is imperative that coaches/athletic directors enter their full schedule and score results 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 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 an opponent name in tournament situations as a placeholder. Please review your results carefully, entering actual tournament opponents played and the game scores. Please look through your schedule and scores on CIFSSHome (not another platform), as all data retrieval will be from CIFSSHome.

Massey Ratings, the same power-ranking system the CIFSS has used across various sports since 2014, will continue to be used. The only thing changing is the timeframe of data used to feed this system. Previously, the two most recent years' results would feed Massey Ratings for 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 team's current accolades, rather than on its success in the two previous years.

PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL SCHEDULES AND SCORES ARE COMPLETED BY WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21st (end of the day) or sooner!

Last League and Contest Date: Wednesday, October 21st BY 6:00 PM (NO GAMES, AT ANY LEVEL, MAY BE PLAYED AFTER THIS DATE).

Score Reconciliation: Thursday and Friday, October 22nd and 23rd (NO GAMES, AT ANY LEVEL, MAY BE PLAYED).

Playoff Bracket Release: Friday, October 23rd, 2026; 2:00 p.m.

First Round Games: The week of Monday, October 26th (consult the schedule contained within for all divisional playoff contest dates).

TO: ATHLETIC DIRECTORS/ BOYS' WATER POLO COACHES

FROM: KRISTINE PALLE, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

RE: 2026-2027 CIF SOUTHERN SECTION BOYS' WATER POLO PLAYOFFS

DATE: SEPTEMBER 2026 (updated 10/21/26)

DIVISIONS

The 2026-2027 CIF Southern Section Boys' Water Polo Playoffs will be conducted in six divisions: (Open, 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5)

PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

All games will begin at 5:00 p.m. unless another time is reported given host school restrictions (i.e. lights). TIME AND LOCATION CHANGES CONFIRMED WITH THE VISITING SCHOOL AND THE CIF SOUTHERN SECTION OFFICE.

ENTER YOUR SCORES AT WWW.CIFSSHOME.ORG,** using the "Teams" Tab IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING YOUR CONTEST.

PLAYOFF DATES - ALL DIVISIONS

Brackets for all divisions will be released on Friday, October 23rd, 2026 @ 2:00 p.m.

ROUND 1	SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31ST – OPEN DIVISION (Open dates format conditional) THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29TH – 32 TEAM BRACKET FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30TH – 16 TEAM BRACKET
ROUND 2	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD - 32 TEAM BRACKET
QUARTERFINAL	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH – 32 TEAM BRACKET THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH – 16 Team Bracket
SEMIFINAL	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH DIVISION 1-5 @ Home Sites SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH OPEN DIVISION @ Home Sites
CIF-SS FINALS	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH ALL DIVISIONS @ MT SAC

CIF Southern California Boys Regional Championships

Divisions I, II & III - November 17, 19 & 21, 2026

Visit www.cifstate.org for more information

WIN OR LOSE, YOU MUST ENTER YOUR SCORES IMMEDIATELY AFTER YOUR CONTEST INTO YOUR SCHEDULE AT WWW.CIFSSHOME.ORG

CIF-Southern Section WATER POLO
OPEN DIVISION
SELECTION CRITERIA AND NOTABLE DATES

Selection of Open Division Teams:

Eight to twelve teams will be chosen at the end of the regular season for the Open Division Championship. This tournament bracket will be played in either a single-elimination or "pool play" game format (to be determined at the end of the season). If a single-elimination format is used with eight teams chosen, games will take place each Saturday at home sites (the higher seed hosting), culminating in the Championship at Mt. Sac Aquatics Center. If pool play is used, games will take place on Wednesdays and Fridays leading up to Championship Saturday. Should a tie-breaking procedure be needed to determine the winner in any pool, the following will apply: 1) Goal differential, 2) Goals allowed, and 3) Goals scored (in that order).

Criteria for selection of CIF-SS Open Division teams and seeding:

The CIFSS advisory committee makes recommendations regarding Open Division competition (such as the number of teams and playoff format). Current members of the water polo advisory board represent that group. Per CIF bylaws, the power ranking data will drive the selection and determine the seeds of the teams in all playoff divisions. Competitive parity will be the primary factor in determining the number of teams in the Open Division.

OFFICIAL WATER POLO BALL

BOYS OFFICIAL BALL	GIRLS OFFICIAL BALL
HYDROGRIP SIZE 5	HYDROGRIP SIZE 4
*THIS BALL WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL GAME	*THIS BALL WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL GAME







KAP K7 SEVEN
WATER POLO

CONTACT: JOHNATHON HEWKO - HEWKO@KAP7INC.COM

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.

CIFSSHOME REQUIREMENTS

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

Attention Athletic Directors/Coaches: It is very important that you enter your entire season schedule into CIFSSHOME (www.cifsshome.org) 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:

-On the left panel, click on "Teams", select "Water Polo, Boys"

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 **Water Polo, Boys** 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 "**Water Polo, Boys"** and click on VR to add Varsity scores Click on "Post Result" button, enter your team's score, enter the opponent's score, result should auto populate with either "W", "L" or "T" based on the correct match score entered. If the game was a forfeit, click on the Yes box, enter the set scores in "Notes".

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

VARSITY COACHES **no later than WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2026.**

Attention Athletic Directors/Coaches: It is very important that you enter your Boys Water Polo coaches (Head & Assistants) into CIFSSHome – ALL COACHES MUST BE ON THE ROSTER (www.cifsshome.org) no later than WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 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 **"Users"** tab, click on "**User Manager**", click on the in the + upper right hand corner to add Coaches and Assistant Coaches. Enter the information requested on the "Add School User" page. Choose "Active" to provide the coach with access to CIFSSHome or "Inactive" for directory purposes only. Choose Yes or No to give the coach access to all sport, click **Submit**.

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

VARSITY TEAM INFORMATION (TEAM PHOTO) **no later than WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 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 "**Water Polo, Boys**", click on the "**Team Photo**" tab,

Click on the ✎ under "**TEAM PICTURE"**, choose the file, click **Submit.**

AT LARGE APPLICATION – MUST HAVE .500 RECORD OR BETTER AND THERE MUST BE OPENINGS IN THE DRAW

Attention Athletic Directors/Coaches: Please follow the instructions below to enter your school as an At-Large Entry for Boys' Water Polo. The At Large Application is to be submitted by your school no later than WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026 @ 8:00 p.m.

VARSITY TEAM INFORMATION (ROSTERS) **no later than WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2026.**

Attention Athletic Directors/Coaches: It is very important that you enter your entire Boys Water Polo Varsity roster into CIFSSHome - ALL COACHES MUST BE ON THE ROSTER a **MAXIMUM** of 23 individuals including coaches, players and trainers, NO EXCEPTIONS **(www.cifsshome.org) no later than WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 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 "**Water Polo, Boys**", VR 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 Boys Water Polo is:

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

(1) To ADD roster players one by one:

- Click on + Add Players One by One and complete fields required for Boys' Water Polo.

(2) To Import a Roster Choose File **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' Water Polo are:**

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

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

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Hoag Orthopedic Institute. | hoag.

Proudly founded by our premier physicians in partnership with Hoag.

PLAYOFF FORMAT

4-team leagues are guaranteed two entries into the 2026-2027 Water Polo Playoffs; 5-6-team leagues are guaranteed three entries; and 7-8-team leagues are guaranteed four entries. Freelance teams may fill byes in each divisional draw, or teams submitted by leagues who qualify for an At-Large entry. **See rule 3414.1 for rules regarding "At-Large" entries.**

Note: *The 2026-2027 Boys' Water Polo At-Large Form must be submitted by your school using the online CIFSSHome Application (www.cifsshome.org),* ***no later than 8:00 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026.***

RULE 3510 - FREE LANCE PLAYOFF ENTRY VERIFICATION

If a school does not have membership in a league or the school belongs to a league that does not offer students in a given sport an opportunity to qualify for CIF Southern Section championships, special conditions exist that must be followed to qualify for possible entry into a CIF Southern Section playoff activity.

> **3510.1 Team Sports -** All free-lance schools desiring entry into the playoffs must submit schedules to the Commissioner for evaluation and approval of conditions under which the team may qualify. Schedules must be submitted before the start of each season for evaluation.

Q & A - How can a freelance team qualify for CIF playoff consideration*?*

You must schedule 80% of allowable games per sport, and they must be at the varsity level. To be considered for the playoffs, the school must have a record of .500 or better in all contests played, and there must be openings in the bracket. Additionally, teams that win 80% of their contests played will be guaranteed entry. (Except football.)

DATE OF LAST CONTEST

By Southern Section Council action, **ALL** contests must be completed by ***WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 BY 6:00 PM.***

DETERMINATION OF HOST TEAMS

FIRST-ROUND CONTESTS - An asterisk (*) on the draw sheet will indicate the host school for all first-round contests.

SECOND-ROUND CONTESTS

The host school for these rounds will be determined in accordance with Section 3404 of the CIF-SS Blue Book. **In all divisions and rounds, the host school will be responsible for securing a pool that meets the championship standards as outlined below.**

SEMIFINAL ROUND

Semifinal round games may be played at a school's home site (provided the pool meets playoff specifications) if the CIFSS IS NOT hosting your division at a common site. All game locations in the playoff series are scheduled at the discretion of the CIFSS office. Approval from the section office is required for a change of time or venue.

All Championship Finals will be held at Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut and will be managed by the CIF Southern Section.

PRE–FLIPS

For ALL Rounds, the section will conduct pre-flips to give schools immediate notice of their next game location. When the pairings are released on **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2026,** the draw will indicate home and away teams. That day, the section will also do pre-flips to determine the host school in the next round. Each morning after games in your division, we will do pre-flips for the round after your next round.

Coin Flip results will be available @ www.cifss.org after 10:00 a.m. the morning of the flip.

Note: Should a team be found in violation of using the official, mandated ball, of any NFHS uniform requirement, or of facility requirements, that team will lose the ability to host a home game in the next round. They will, however, be charged with the home game. This will continue until uniforms and/or equipment comply. Any unserved sanctions will carry over to the next season for which the team qualifies.

TEAM BENCHES – ALL DIVISIONS ALL ROUNDS

Each school will get a max of 23 participant entry tickets (for your players, coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, statisticians, etc.). The 23 include everyone your school intends to sit in the bench area. For rounds with ticket sales, any additional ticket needs must be purchased. “Faculty Supervisors” are in the stands with parent and student sections (not in the bench area). All 23 (or fewer) participants in the bench area MUST BE ROSTERED. The bench area is not intended for Administration, Board Members, lower-level athletes, etc.

FACILITY REQUIREMENTS – ALL DIVISIONS AND ALL ROUNDS. IF YOUR POOL DOESN’T MEET THESE SPECIFICATIONS, YOU MUST SEEK AN ALTERNATE SITE.

- Width - No less than 45 feet (13.7m), no more than 66 feet (20m).
- Length - 75 feet or 25 yards in a yard course (25m max in a meter course). For pools with floating goals, the distance from goal line to goal line shall be a minimum of 75 feet and a maximum of 25m in a meter course. For pools with wall goals, the length of the pool from wall to wall shall be a minimum of 75 feet (25yds) and wall goals WILL be used. * Floating goals may not be used in a 25-yard length set up.
- Minimum Depth - 6 1/2 feet
- When a common location is used for multiple games, teams shall have ample warm-up time and reasonable warm-up space (conducive to swimming and passing) with at least 15 minutes in the playing field before the start of a subsequent game (if multiple games are being played at one site). With the coaches’ mutual agreement, the game may begin when both teams are ready, but not before the published game time.
- Seating (benches or chairs) should be provided for the allotted number of rostered participants, as players may not be allowed to remain in the water once competition begins.

PLAYING RULES

All playoff games will be conducted according to the 2026-2028 National Federation Water Polo Rules (previously distributed to all CIF-SS Boys' water polo coaches), except where superseded by the CIF-SS Blue Book or this bulletin.

HOME/AWAYS TEAMS

The white team will use the bench area and begin the competition to the left of the scorers’ table. The dark team will use the bench area and begin the competition to the right, from the scorers’ table.

OFFICIALS

The CIF-SS Office will assign officials for all water polo playoff games. Fees for officials will be:

Single Game (Playoff Rounds) -- $80.00 each official, during all playoff rounds
Championship Final -- $88.00 each official

Upon request, the host school will be provided the names of the officials by a representative of the CIF-SS Office.

GAME BALLS

Participating teams will furnish their own balls for pre-game warm-ups and practice sessions. It is the responsibility of the host team to provide an official game ball (KAP7 105), as specified in the National Federation Rules and per the CIF Southern Section contract. **All playoff contests must be played using the KAP7 ball.** The CIF Southern Section will furnish the KAP7 ball for all Championship Final games.

Note: Should a team be found in violation of using the official, mandated ball, of any NFHS uniform requirement, or of facility requirements, that team will lose the ability to host a home game in the next round. They will, however, be charged with the home game. This will continue until uniforms and/or equipment comply. Any unserved sanctions will carry over to the next season for which the team qualifies.

ADMISSION CHARGES

A. Preliminary Rounds -- As per Article 1, Section 143 of the CIF-SS Blue Book, there will be no admission charge for games, except upon petition to the Commissioner's Office, by the principals of the schools involved. If written permission is granted, the prices are $12.00 for Adults/Students without a high school ID, $6.00 for Children/Students with a valid high school ID, and $6.00 for children 13 & under.

B. Championship Finals – Game schedule and admission prices for the finals will be as follows:

Mt. San Antonio College —Saturday, November 14

Divisions will be assigned specific game times on Wednesday, November 11th no later than 10:00 a.m.

Ticket Prices

$14.00 Adults
$7.00 High School Students (w/HS ID)
$7.00 Children (13 & under).

Through the CIF-SS partnership with GoFan, all championship tickets will be made available online for digital purchase and presented electronically at the event gate for entry.

All seating at the Mt. San Antonio College will be general admission (first come, first served). This will allow fans of competing schools to have an equal opportunity to secure seats. Schools are responsible for securing their own valuables. Valuables should not be left unattended. Each team should designate someone to secure those valuables and always keep them in their possession.

AWARDS

The following awards will be given during the playoffs:

A. Championship Plaques - All first-place teams.
B. Runner-up Plaques - All second-place teams.
C. Championship Patches - 18 individual patches for members of all championship teams.
D. Championship T-shirts - 18 T-shirts for members of all championship teams.
E. Medals - 18 individual medals for members of all runner-up teams.
F. Certificates - Individual participation certificates for members of each team participating in the playoffs are available at CIFSSHome (www.cifsshome.org), under the Forms tab.

Each member of a team participating in the CIF Southern Section playoffs can receive a CIF SOUTHERN SECTION PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATE. These certificates will be printed by your school. The document is in a “type-in” PDF format and can be found on CIFSSHOME.

CHEERING SECTIONS

Fan/Student cheering sections are encouraged to cheer for and support their own team and should display proper sportsmanship toward the opposing team and game officials. They are expected to follow the following guidelines and failure to do so may lead to removal from the contest and/or forfeiture of the contest.

1. No noisemakers (horns, bells, victory bells, sirens, chimes, wooden blocks, balloons, thunder sticks, etc.). Megaphones may only be used by the school’s uniformed cheer squads.
2. Cheering devices such as rally towels, pom poms, and pennants are acceptable when used within the bounds of good sportsmanship.
3. It is the expectation that cheering section behavior will be monitored by the assigned school staff of the school that they represent. All improper behavior/language should be addressed and corrected immediately by school staff supervisors.
4. Face painting is acceptable from the neck up only and will not include any inappropriate letters or symbols. Assigned school staff shall monitor their cheering sections regarding face painting.

CONTEST FINANCES

A. If permission is granted to charge admission, the gross profit will be split equally between the schools,

with the visitor paying its own travel expense and the host team paying the game expense.

B. Concessions and Programs -- In all games except the finals, the host school reserves the right to handle programs and concessions as a separate venture, and need not share the profit, or expect the visiting school or CIF-SS to share in any loss.

C. Championship Finals -- When managed by the CIF-SS, all receipts will revert to the CIF-SS, who will pay game, facility, and award expenses.

PROTESTS OF PLAYOFF CONTESTS

By action of the CIF-SS Council at its March 1983 meeting, protests of playoff contests involving National Federation rules will no longer be entertained following the conclusion of the contest.

Coaches may direct questions to the game officials as they pertain to a possible misapplication of the rules in accordance with the National Federation rules governing that sport. No protest may be carried forth once the contest is completed.

Coaches are encouraged to carry National Federation rulebooks with them for all playoff contests.
Schools can still protest a contest, in accordance with Southern Section Rule 1111, as it pertains to use of an ineligible player, or violations of any CIF-Southern Section rule in connection with the contest.

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MEMO

To: **CIF STATE REGIONAL QUALIFIERS**

From: Kristine Palle, CIF-SS Assistant Commissioner, Water Polo Administrator

Date: September 2026

Subject: **CIF STATE WATER POLO REGIONAL CRITERIA**

The CIF SoCal Regional Water Polo Championships will be hosted locally and shall be conducted in three divisions. The CIF Southern Section will be granted 12 entries total, with automatic entrants being chosen as follows:

STATE DIVISIONS I, II and III: The Southern Section receives 12 entries in total.

-The top four teams from Southern Section Open Division
-The "Finalists" from Southern Section Divisions 1, 2 and 3 (both the Champion and Runner-Up)
-The Champion from Southern Section Divisions 4 and 5

ENTRIES –SEEDING PROCEDURES

The CIF SoCal Regional Water Polo Championships will be conducted using eight-team brackets in each of the three (3) divisions. The Regional Seeding Committee will determine the divisional placement of the Section entries for the Regional Championship. Seeding will take place Sunday morning following the CIF Southern Section Championship.

For complete information regarding State Regional Water Polo, please visit the CIF State website at:

www.cifstate.org

Go to the "Sports" tab, choose "Water Polo," and select "Handbooks & Forms" from the topics in the boxes below the graphics for detailed information, including dates, times, schedule, etc.

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.

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.cifsstshirts.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	https://pccembroidery.com/	(909) 403-4558
The Advertising Specialists	https://www.tassigns.com/page/cif-southern-section-licensed-patch-provider	(626) 966-4770
We Got Em Tees	https://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	https://www.tassigns.com/page/cif-southern-section-licensed-patch-provider	(626) 966-4770

Rings

Herff Jones	https://highschool.herffjones.com/
J. Lewis Small	www.jlewissmall.com
Jostens	www.jostens.com
Signature Style Jewelry	www.signaturestylejewelry.com
Baron Championship Rings	https://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, Jacqulyn Gibson at jackieg@cifss.org or 562-493-9500.

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