



TO: CIF SOUTHERN SECTION PRINCIPALS/ ATHLETIC DIRECTORS

FROM: ROB WIGOD, COMMISSIONER OF ATHLETICS (RW)

SUBJECT: CIF SOUTHERN SECTION UPDATE

DATE: APRIL 23, 2020

With the agenda and back-up materials now available for the upcoming CIF Southern Section Council meeting on Thursday, May 21, 2020, I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight some of the Action Items for your consideration and review, along with some additional information on other topics of note. Reminder, I want all our leagues to know that myself and our Assistant Commissioners are available to join any league meetings who wish to have us included. Now that you have the agenda and back-up materials, do not hesitate to contact me at robw@cifss.org to invite us, we will be glad to be part of your meeting with you. With that in mind, here are some updates as we move forward...

CIF Southern Section Council Meeting Action Items

CIF State 602 – Ejection Policy – Support – This proposal strengthens the penalties for inappropriate behavior by players and coaches, which will hopefully serve as a deterrent, before they engage in unsportsmanlike conduct.

1) Single Game Ejections – The rules on single game ejections are virtually unchanged from what we currently have in place. A student who is ejected from a contest will be ineligible for the remainder of that contest and will be ineligible for the next contest. Also, there is no appeals process for single game ejections as it is today. However, one notable change in this proposal would allow for the ejected player to be permitted to attend the school's next contest.

2) Fighting/Assaultive Behavior – The penalty for Fighting/Assaultive Behavior on the first offense is a 3-6 game suspension. The length of the suspension would be determined by the CIF Southern Section administrator in charge of that particular sport. There is an appeals process allowed for these ejections: non-league and playoff contests would be appealable to our office; league contests would be appealed to the League President, or per the bylaws for the appeals process that a league chooses to adopt. There have been concerns expressed that there could be unwarranted ejections in this category, and with such a significant penalty, students could unjustly be punished if that situation arises. The response to that concern is to emphasize that there is the opportunity to appeal a 3-6 game suspension, which hopefully would allow for a proper review to ensure that the ejection is justified.

I believe we need to take a stand and make the statement that Fighting/Assaultive Behavior will be dealt with very seriously. We simply cannot continue to address these issues with just a single game ejection like we do now. That is a message that we all need to get behind and so I am strongly urging you to support this proposal and help us continue to work together to do all we can to keep sportsmanship as job #1.

Competitive Equity Playoffs Proposals – Since the implementation of competitive equity playoffs three years ago, there have been two important elements of this system that we have been working on: the use of current regular season results in formulating playoff divisions and whether the competitive equity playoff system could be applied to an individual sport. The two proposals below address both of those concepts moving forward.

CIF Southern Section 609 – Football Playoff Groupings – Support – The CIF Southern Section Football Coaches Advisory Committee is strongly advocating for this proposal to be approved. They believe, as I do, using current regular season results in formulating football playoff divisions is the most accurate way we can place schools into their appropriate divisions. We believe we have identified a reliable data collection and ranking system that will serve our needs very well and can assist us in making this happen. Another thing to keep in mind is every automatic qualifier from every league would be guaranteed entry into the playoffs, while still providing at-large opportunities for deserving teams in each division. In the past, that has not been the case, regarding guaranteeing every automatic qualifier, from every league, entering the playoffs. Finally, this proposal provides the opportunity to more accurately place the school who had 25 graduating Seniors move on, while they begin to rebuild, and the school who has not achieved much success in previous years, who have several new players who have enrolled prior to this upcoming season.

CF Southern Section 611/612 – Swim Playoff Divisions – Support – This proposal is designed to implement competitive equity playoff divisions in an individual sport for the first time. The CIF Southern Section Swim/Dive Coaches Advisory Committee has authored this proposal and worked very hard to put together a formula that would place individual schools into playoff divisions, instead of the current system we have in place where leagues have been placed into playoff divisions. Southern Section 611 and Southern Section 612 are identical, in terms of the data used and subsequent process followed for placing schools into playoff divisions. The only difference is SS 611 would ensure that both Boys and Girls programs from the same school would be placed into the same division, as it currently exists today, and SS 612 would place the Boys team in their appropriate division, the Girls team in their appropriate division, and the possibility exists that they would not be placed into the same division.

Champions for Character Golf Tournament/ Champions for Character Program – Unfortunately, we must cancel the Champions for Character Golf Tournament scheduled for Monday, June 22, 2020, at Alta Vista Country Club in Placentia. Since that event is the sole funding mechanism for the entire Champions for Character program, we are not going to be able to go forward this year with the selection of recipients, the Champions for Character Awards Dinner, etc. However, I am pleased to announce that we have secured a date for our 2021 Champions for Character Golf Tournament, which will be Monday, June 21, 2021, at Alta Vista Country Club and we will look forward to coming back strong next year. Anyone who has reserved a foursome, purchased a tee sign, made a donation, etc., will be contacted directly and offered a full refund or the option of applying their payment to the 2021 tournament.

MVP AD Program – The 2019-2020 MVP AD program has been suspended for this year. With the cancellation of the California State Athletic Directors Conference, which was supposed to have taken place last week, it is no longer possible for those who had started the MVP AD program this year to complete the requirements for that recognition. We will launch the program again next year, with our Fall Eligibility Workshops, so be looking for more information on becoming an MVP AD in 2020-2021 when we announce the calendar of our Fall Eligibility Workshops.

May 1 – As this date approaches at the end of next week, I wanted to remind you that all elements of CIF Bylaw 510 are still in effect. The provision included in CIF Bylaw 510 relating to incoming 9th graders and allowing high school coaches to have direct contact: emails, phone calls, etc., as well as host meetings with students and/or parents, begins on May 1, with prospective students who intend to enroll at their schools in the Fall. There can be direct communication and meetings, but no tryouts, practices or any type of activities involving current 8th grade students until their school year is over.

I hope this information is useful to you and if you have any questions, or I can help you in any way at all, do not hesitate to contact me. My staff and I are ready, willing and able to assist you in any way we possibly can.

Thank you very much for your help and support, it is truly appreciated.

Be well, stay safe, take care and all the best to you and your families.