



TO: CIF SOUTHERN SECTION PRINCIPALS
CIF SOUTHERN SECTION ATHLETIC DIRECTORS

FROM: ROB WIGOD, COMMISSIONER OF ATHLETICS (RW)

SUBJECTS: CIF SOUTHERN SECTION UPDATE

DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 2021

I hope all is well with you and your families. Here is the latest update.

Reinstatement of the Waiver of Bylaws 600-605, Multiple Cohorts at the Same Time – Last week, the CIF State Office released a statement after clarifying some important issues with California Department of Public Health. The first one was related to the guideline limiting student-athletes and coaches to one cohort (team) at the same time. The CDPH confirmed that guideline was a recommendation, not a mandate, which means that student-athletes and coaches, if they so choose, can participate with more than one cohort at the same time. Once that issue was resolved, CIF Executive Director Ron Nocetti reinstated the waiver of CIF Bylaws 600-605, that had been originally announced at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. What this means going forward is the following...

1) Student-athletes who participate on their high school team can also practice and compete with an outside team during the high school season of sport during the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. (Waiver of CIF Bylaws 600-605.) However, please be advised that CIF Bylaw 504.M still applies, which prohibits any association of any kind between student-athletes and their coaches on a Sunday, whether it is with the high school team or an outside team, during the high school season of sport.

2) Student-athletes who wish to participate in more than one high school team or coaches who coach more than one high school team on their campuses during the same season of sport may do so if they choose. (CDPH Guideline recommending, not mandating, limiting student-athletes and coaches to participating in one cohort at the same time.)

Beach Volleyball Approved as a CIF-Approved Sport – At their recent meeting on Friday, February 5, 2021, the CIF Federated Council overwhelmingly approved the sport of Beach Volleyball to be added to the list of CIF-Approved sports. It will be a Spring sport for Girls, played in a two-person format, with implementation beginning with the 2021-2022 school year. Here are the next steps...

1) We will form a Southern Section Beach Volleyball Coaches Advisory Committee, under the direction of Assistant Commissioner/Volleyball Administrator Mike Middlebrook, who will oversee that sport for our section.

2) Identify season start dates, end dates and a maximum allowable contest number for the Spring, 2022 season.

3) After July 1, 2021, schools who will field the sport of Beach Volleyball will need to register their teams in the CIFSSHome system and pay the appropriate sport fee for fielding that sport.

4) CIF Southern Section Bylaw 1200.1 states, "No playoffs will be conducted by the CIF Southern Section Office in an approved sport when less than 20% of the membership field teams in that sport." Therefore, we will continue to monitor the registration of Beach Volleyball teams fielded by our member schools, and once we reach the threshold of 20%, with a total membership of 563 schools that would be 113 schools, we would begin preparations for a CIF Southern Section Beach Volleyball Championship for the following year. For example, if we have more than 20% of our member schools fielding Beach Volleyball teams in the 2021-2022 school year, we would conduct a Southern Section Championship for the first time during the 2022-2023 school year.

Summer Dead Period – As we proceed through February, schools are beginning to plan for the end of the school year, summer programs and the start of the 2021-2022 school year. Preparations need to be made and calendar dates need to be set. We have been looking at the Summer Dead Period and whether this might be the summer we might waive it, due to the uncertainty of this school year and the late ending dates of our Spring Sports. With that in mind, over the next couple of weeks, our office, through Area Representatives on our Executive Committee, Superintendents Advisory Committee, Private School Leadership Advisory Committee, Athletic Administrators Advisory Committee and local county athletic directors associations, will be seeking feedback from member schools on the Summer Dead Period and how the requirements contained in that bylaw affect the time period ahead of us. To allow for appropriate time to gather information from our membership, by March 1, a decision will be announced regarding the status of the Summer Dead Period for 2021.

I hope this information is useful to you in the time ahead and if you have any questions, or I can help you in any way at all, do not hesitate to contact our office. 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.