



TO: CIF SOUTHERN SECTION PRINCIPALS
CIF SOUTHERN SECTION ATHLETIC DIRECTORS

FROM: ROB WIGOD, COMMISSIONER OF ATHLETICS 

SUBJECT: CIF SOUTHERN SECTION UPDATE

DATE: APRIL 28, 2021

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

CDPH/County/School Guidelines – As you know, all CIF member schools are required to follow California Department of Public Health Guidelines for Youth Sports. Also, local county health departments can impose stricter regulations than the CDPH and individual schools/school districts/private schools can do so as well. As we prepare for the upcoming Southern Section Championships, I wanted to clarify the situation as it relates to playoff contests at host school sites and the various agencies involved.

The Southern Section will implement the COVID-19 protocols of the CDPH and local county health department orders that are consistent with or exceed those of the CDPH. While the CDPH allows for schools to develop more restrictive COVID-19 protocols, for schools hosting a Southern Section playoff contest, in any sport, the COVID-19 protocols of the CDPH and the local county of where the contest is being played will apply. In the event there are more restrictive protocols required by the local county office of public health, such COVID-19 protocols for interscholastic competition will govern the playoff event.

While the CDPH allows for schools to develop more restrictive COVID-19 protocols, be advised that if a school wishes to host a playoff contest, those specific school site rules may not be imposed on the visiting team during Southern Section playoff events. If the host school requires their student-athletes to abide by their own school site rules, the host school cannot mandate that a visiting team comply with their individual school site requirements that exceed the requirements of the CDPH or local county departments of public health. As an alternative, the host school may elect not to host the playoff game, have the game scheduled at the visiting team site, or if feasible, at a neutral site.

Please note that Southern Section host school sites will adhere to the COVID-19 protocols of the CDPH and/or local county departments of public health, whichever is more restrictive, when hosting a Southern Section playoff contest. Also, adherence to local county health department orders is contingent upon the fact that the local health department requirements exceed those of the CDPH. If a county health department's COVID-19 protocols fall below that of CDPH, then, at a minimum, the Southern Section will adhere to the guidance and requirements provided by the California Department of Public Health Guidelines on Youth Sports.

Southern Section Boys/Girls Swimming/Diving Championships Approved – We just received word that our Swimming/Diving Championships have been approved by the Orange County Department of Public Health. Here are some important details as we prepare for this exciting event...

Diving

- Dates – Thursday, May 20, and Friday, May 21.
- Location – Marguerite Aquatics Center, Mission Viejo.
- Format – Qualifying information is on our Swimming/Diving page at www.cifss.org.
- Spectators/Livestream – No spectators allowed. The entire event will be livestreamed and specific information on livestreaming will be forthcoming.

Swimming

- Dates - Tuesday May 25 – Division 2
 - Thursday, May 27 – Division 1
 - Saturday, May 29 – Divisions 4 and 3 – separate sessions.
- Location – Santa Margarita High School, Rancho Santa Margarita.
- Format – Timed Finals – Top 16 qualifying times in each event, 2 alternates.
- Spectators/Livestream – No spectators allowed. The entire event will be livestreamed and specific information on livestreaming will be forthcoming.

More information will be included in the Swimming/Diving Playoff Bulletin coming soon.

Season 2 Individual Sports – For the Season 2 Individual Sports listed below, we are still actively working on securing approvals from various county health departments to ensure that we can conduct championship events. We have obtained some approvals in the various sports, but until we can get them all in a particular sport, I ask for your patience until we can finalize the approval process. As soon as we know, you will know.

- Boys/Girls Golf
- Boys/Girls Individual Tennis
- Boys/Girls Track and Field

Final Thought – Progress continues to be made and we are hopeful that will continue. There is light at the end of the tunnel, and we will keep moving toward that light in the days and weeks in front of us until we complete this journey. We have been on this ride together since mid-March of 2020 and we have every intention of finishing strong in the time ahead.

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.