



DATE July 17, 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

Thank You, Rich Shearer – A Leader, Teammate and Friend

After six impactful years as an Assistant Commissioner for the CIF Southern Section, Rich Shearer has decided to close this chapter of his career and move on to retirement. While we're excited for what's ahead for him, there's no doubt we'll miss his presence, leadership and calm, steady hand.

Rich joined the Southern Section team in July of 2019 with an already impressive resume, having years of experience as a teacher, coach and athletic director. He quickly became a go-to leader in the office, overseeing football, wrestling and baseball. These are three of the biggest sports in the Section, and Rich took the reins without hesitation. In fact, one of the reasons Rich wanted to come to the CIF Southern Section office in the first place was so he could oversee Football. Whether he was coordinating a championship game at the Rose Bowl, responding to a late-night eligibility question, or helping an official through a difficult situation, he always led with professionalism, humility and a student-first mindset.



Rich's work over the past six years has left a lasting mark. In wrestling, he helped grow the girls program by adding four new divisions for dual team championships. He also developed and implemented a more efficient one-day Masters Wrestling Qualifier, helping schools and athletes navigate the postseason more smoothly. In baseball, he led the addition of two new championship divisions, creating more competitive opportunities for programs of all sizes. And in football, Rich took on the challenge of implementing same-season competitive equity playoff divisions. His success in this implementation led to a transformation in the way playoff divisions are structured in most CIF Southern Section sports.

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Rich's impact goes far beyond policies and championships. He's been a steady, supportive presence in the office—someone you could count on for sound advice, a fair perspective, or just a friendly conversation. He never sought the spotlight, and his influence has been felt everywhere, affecting schools, administrators, coaches, officials and student-athletes alike.

Before joining the Section office, Rich had already built a career grounded in service. He began teaching and coaching at Norte Vista High School in 1992, eventually becoming the school's athletic director. Along the way, he coached basketball for 9 years and was named the Riverside County Boys Basketball Coach of the year in 2000. In 2005, he helped open Citrus Hill High School as its Athletic Director and built an athletic program that earned seven CIF Southern Section titles and a CIF State Championship. His work earned him state and regional recognition, including California State Athletic Directors Association, Southern Section Athletic Director of the Year honors, and induction into the Citrus Belt Area Athletic Directors Association Hall of Fame in 2019 .

Now, as Rich and his wife Kellee begin their next chapter in Prescott Valley, Arizona, to be nearer to their oldest son and his growing family, we want to say a heartfelt thank you. Rich, you've given so much to high school athletics—not just through your leadership and decision-making, but through the way you've carried yourself: with kindness, integrity and consistency.

You've made the Southern Section better, and we're all better for having worked alongside you. Enjoy the well-deserved next phase of life. You will be missed—but never forgotten.




Mike West

