Regular Meeting of the Council

September 24, 2026
9:00 a.m.
The Grand Conference Center, Long Beach, CA
Agenda

1. OPENING BUSINESS	**DISPOSITION**	**ITEM**
A. Call to order by Dr. Alexis Barile, President of the Council		
B. Pledge of Allegiance		
C. Roll Call		
D. Introduction of Guests		
E. Adopt Agenda	Action	
F. Approval of Minutes		
1. Minutes of April 16, 2026, Council Meeting	Action	1F1

2. PUBLIC HEARING SESSION

A. Recognition of anyone wishing to address the Council. Speakers must limit their remarks to three minutes.

3. NON-ACTION ITEMS	**DISPOSITION**	**ITEM**
A. STATE FEDERATED COUNCIL NON-ACTION ITEMS		
1. Proposed Revision to Bylaw 103 – Weighted Voting	Non-Action	STATE 698
2. Proposed Revision to Bylaw 503.M – Spectator Assault	Non-Action	STATE 699
3. Proposed Revision to Bylaw 207.B.(5)c.(viii)(i) - Mental Health Transfer Hardship	Non-Action	STATE 700
4. Proposed Revision to Bylaw 1506 – Baseball First Base	Non-Action	STATE 701
B. SOUTHERN SECTION NON-ACTION ITEMS		
1. Proposed Revision to Bylaw 1223.3 - Summer Dead Period	Non-Action	SS 696

3. NON-ACTION ITEMS (Cont.)	DISPOSITION	ITEM
2. Proposed Revision to Bylaw 1200.1 - CIF Approved Sports	Non-Action	SS 697

4. ACTION ITEMS	DISPOSITION	ITEM
A. STATE FEDERATED COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS		
1. Proposed Revision to Bylaw 503.M - Spectators	Action	STATE 693
B. SOUTHERN SECTION ACTION ITEMS		
1. Proposed Revision to Bylaw 3514 - Number of Playoff Entries	Action	SS 694
2. Proposed Revision to Bylaw 1223.3 - Summer Dead Period	Action	SS 695

5. REPORTS

A. Treasurer's Report — Matt Maeda

B. President's Report — Dr. Alexis Barile

C. Commissioner's Report — Mike West

1. CIF Southern Section 2026-27 Goals — Action — 5C1

6. ADVANCE PLANNING

A. DATES

1. September 29, 2026 – CIF Southern Section Champions for Character Awards Dinner, The Grand Conference Center, Long Beach, CA 6:00 p.m.
2. October 5, 2026 – Athletic Administrators Summit, Riverside Convention Center, Riverside, CA 8:00 a.m.
3. October 13, 2026 – Hall of Fame/Distinguished Service Luncheon, The Grand Conference Center, Long Beach, CA 11:30 a.m.
4. January 16, 2027 – Executive Committee Retreat and Meeting, The Renaissance, Palm Springs, CA 9:30 a.m.
5. January 28, 2027 – CIF Southern Section Council Meeting, The Grand Conference Center, Long Beach, 9:00 a.m.

7. ADJOURNMENT

A. Time of Adjournment _____

RONALD W. NOCETTI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION
CIF STATE OFFICE • 4658 DUCKHORN DRIVE • SACRAMENTO, CA 95834 • (916) 239-4477 • CIFSTATE.ORG

To: **Federated Council**

Date: **September 3, 2026**

Re: **2026-2027 Weighted Voting**

Type: Bylaw Review

Proposal Reviewed	**Proposal Recommendation**
07/09/2026 - CIF Staff	Forward to Executive Committee
08/27/2026 - Executive Committee	Reviewed and Forwarded to FC

Summary: This item requires no action as per Bylaw 103 by the Executive Committee. However, the staff requests that the Executive Committee review the 2026-2027 Section Weighted Voting to ensure transparency of the process.

Fiscal Impact: None

Background:

103. WEIGHTED VOTING

A. Votes cast at any Federated Council meeting shall be determined according to a weighted voting system. CIF Section votes shall be based upon:
   (1) One (1) vote per 0-25 member schools; Plus
   (2) One (1) vote per 0-25,000 students enrolled in the Section.

B. The Southern Section shall have weighted votes equal to double the second largest Section.

C. The composition of member schools and enrollment shall be reviewed every year based upon the prior year's CBEDS enrollment and adjusted accordingly.

(Revised May 2000 Federated Council)

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2026-27 CIF FEDERATED COUNCIL WEIGHTED VOTES BY SECTION

7/14/2026

CIF SECTION	2025-26 FEDERATED COUNCIL WEIGHTED VOTES	2025-26 NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	2025-26 9-12 ENROLLMENT	2026-27 FEDERATED COUNCIL WEIGHTED VOTES	2026-27 NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	2026-27 9-12 ENROLLMENT
CENTRAL	14	141 (6)	183,074 (8)	14	147 (6)	183,850 (8)
CENTRAL COAST	14	159 (7)	157,769 (7)	14	156 (7)	153,599 (7)
LOS ANGELES	14	155 (7)	158,486 (7)	14	152 (7)	150,108 (7)
NORTH COAST	15	175 (8)	168,687 (7)	15	175 (8)	165,649 (7)
NORTHERN	5	69 (3)	26,362 (2)	5	70 (3)	27,504 (2)
OAKLAND	3	30 (2)	14,559 (1)	3	28 (2)	14,495 (1)
SAC-JOAQUIN	19	202 (9)	226,732 (10)	19	201 (9)	227,266 (10)
SAN DIEGO	13	127 (6)	155,857 (7)	13	131 (6)	153,202 (7)
SAN FRANCISCO	2	18 (1)	16,289 (1)	2	18 (1)	15,391 (1)
SOUTHERN	38	552	708,953	38	539	688,435
TOTALS	137	1,628	1,817,768	137	1,617	1,779,499

( ) = number of weighted votes per category as per Bylaw 103

379 private/1238 public

STATE 698

RONALD W. NOCETTI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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To: **Federated Council**

Date: **September 3, 2026**

Re: **Proposal to Add Bylaw 503.M. - Spectators (Assault)**

Proposal Originated: **Commissioners Committee**

Proposal Reviewed	Proposal Recommendation
01/13/2026 - Commissioners Advisory Committee	Discussion
06/08/2026 - Commissioners Advisory Committee	Discussion; Forward to EC
08/27/2026 - Executive Committee	First Reading
10/08/2026 - Executive Committee	Action Item
10/09/2026 - Federated Council	First Reading

Type: Bylaw Addition

Next: February 5, 2026 Federated Council - Action Item

Summary:
The committee will consider a proposal to add Bylaw 503.M. - Spectator (2) to address incidents in which spectators physically assault a person other than a game or event official (Bylaw 210.C. already address those instances).

Fiscal Impact:
None

Background:
There are currently Bylaws in place to address when a student-athlete, coach or spectator assaults a game or event official (See Bylaw 210). However, there is a need to address when a spectator commits physical assault not involving a game or event official. This Bylaw addition would address those occurrences.

This Bylaw amendment will be for immediate implementation upon approval of the Federated Council.

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M. **Statewide Sportsmanship and Ejection Policy**

Player:

A player who is ejected from a contest (for reasons other than fighting or leaving the bench area during a fight) shall be ineligible to participate in the remainder of that contest (event) and his or her team's future contest (s) as outlined below:

(1) First Ejection: Player is ineligible to participate in the team's next contest. Player may remain on the bench for the duration of that contest and may be on the bench in street clothes for the team's next contest. If the ejection occurs in the last game of the season, the player would be ineligible for the team's first contest the following season. If the player is a senior, he or she would be ineligible for the first contest of their next season of sport.

(2) Second Ejection: Player is ineligible to participate in the team's next three (3) contests. Player may remain on the bench for the duration of that contest and may be on the bench in street clothes for the team's next three (3) contests. If the season concludes prior to the player serving the three (3) contests suspension, he or she would be ineligible for the number of contests remaining on the suspension for the team's following season. If the player is a senior, he or she would be ineligible for the number of contests remaining on the suspension for their next season of sport.

(3) Third Ejection: Player is ineligible to participate for the remainder of that season. Player may remain on the bench for the duration of that contest and may be on the bench in street clothes for the team's remaining contest that season. If there are six (6) or fewer contests remaining in the season, the player would be ineligible for up to six (6) contests for the team's following season as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter. If the player is a senior, he or she would be ineligible for up to six (6) contests for the next season of sport as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter.

A player who is ejected from a contest for fighting or leaving the bench area during a fight* shall be ineligible to participate in the remainder of that contest and his or her team's future contests as outlined below:

(4) First Ejection: Player (Fighting/Assaultive Behavior/Gross Unsportsmanlike Conduct) is ineligible to participate in the team's next three (3) to six (6) contests as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter. Player may remain on the bench for the duration of that contest and may be on the bench in street clothes for the duration of the suspension. If the season concludes prior to the player serving the full suspension, he or she would be ineligible for the number of contests remaining on the suspension for the team's following season. If the player is a senior, he or she would be ineligible for the number of contests remaining on the suspension for their next season of sport. *NFHS Rules indicate automatic one game suspension for leaving the bench.

(5) Second Ejection: Player is ineligible to participate for the remainder of that season. Player may remain on the bench for the duration of that contest and may be on the bench in street clothes for the team's remaining contests that season. If there are six (6) or fewer contests remaining in the season, the player would be ineligible for up to six (6) contests for the team's following season as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter. If the player is a senior, he or she would be ineligible for up to six (6) contests for their next season of sport as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter.

Before a player may return to participate in a contest following a multiple game suspension for any of the above infractions, the school principal must inform the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter that they have met with the student-athlete, his or her parent/guardian/caregiver and coach to discuss future behavioral expectations.

Appeals Process for Multi-Game Ejections:

The school principal may appeal the penalties listed above in writing to the League Commissioner/President (for a regular season contest not including the final contest prior to Section playoffs) or CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter (for the final contest prior to Section playoffs and all playoff contests). The appeal must be received by the Section with 48 hours of the date of the ejection. Reasons for the appeal may only include misidentification of the ejected player or a misapplication of the rule. There will be no appeal regarding the judgment of an official.

Note: There is no appeal process for single game ejections.

Coach:
A coach who is ejected from a contest (for reasons other than fighting) shall be disqualified from participating in the remainder of that contest and his or her team's future contest (s) as outlined below:

(6) First Ejection: Coach is disqualified from participating in the team's next contest. Coach must immediately vacate the playing area and the vicinity in and around the contest and refrain from having any communication with the team or other coaches for the remainder of that contest and for the team's next contest. If the ejection occurs in the last game of the season, the coach would be ineligible for the team's first contest the following season.

(7) Second Ejection: Coach is disqualified from participating in the team's next three (3) to six (6) contests as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter. Coach must immediately vacate the playing area and the vicinity in and around the contest and refrain from having any communication with the team or other coaches for the remainder of that contest and for the team's next three (3) to six (6) contests. If the ejection occurs in the last game of the season, the coach would be ineligible for the team's first three (3) to six (6) contests the following season.

(8) Third Ejection: Coach is disqualified from participating in the remaining contests of that season. Coach must immediately vacate the playing area and the vicinity in and around the contest and refrain from having any communication with the team or other coaches for the remainder of that contest and for the remaining contests of that season. If there are six (6) or fewer contests remaining in the season, the coach would be disqualified from participating for up to six (6) contests for the team's following season as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter.

A coach who is ejected from a contest for (Fighting/Assaultive Behavior/Gross Unsportsmanlike Conduct) shall be disqualified from participating in the remainder of that contest and his or her team's future contests as outlined below:

(9) Ejection for (Fighting/Assaultive Behavior/Gross Unsportsmanlike Conduct): Coach is disqualified from participating for the remainder of that season. Coach must immediately vacate the playing area and the vicinity in and around the contest and refrain from having any communication with the team or other coaches for the remainder of that contest and for all of the team's remaining contests that season. If there are fewer than six (6) contests remaining in the season, the coach would be disqualified from participating for up to six (6) contests for the team's following season, as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter.

Before a coach may return to participate in a contest following a multiple-contest disqualification, for any of the above infractions, the school principal must inform the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter that they have met with the coach to discuss future behavioral expectations.

Appeals Process for Multi-Game Ejections:
The school principal may appeal the penalties listed above in writing to the League Commissioner/President (for a regular season contest, excluding the final contest before Section playoffs) or the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter (for the final contest before Section playoffs and all playoff contests). The Section must receive the appeal within 48 hours of the date of the ejection. Reasons for the appeal may only include misidentification of the ejected player or a misapplication of the rule. There will be no appeal regarding the judgment of an official.
Note: There is no appeal process for single-game ejections.

Spectator:
(10) If a spectator is ejected from a contest, it is the responsibility of the school to ensure that person does not attend that team's next contest. If the same spectator is ejected a second time, it is the responsibility of the school to ensure that person does not attend any of the remaining contests for that season.

(11) Any spectator who commits physical assault immediately prior to, during, or immediately following an interscholastic athletic contest shall be permanently banned from attending interscholastic athletic contests. School administration and/or athletic staff shall immediately notify their local CIF Section Office and CIF State Office whenever the school has knowledge of an assault at an interscholastic contest in which their school participated or of an assault occurring on their school's grounds associated with an interscholastic athletic contest.

NOTE: Definition of a Physical Assault: A physical assault is the intentional infliction of or an attempt to inflict a harmful or offensive touching or contact upon the person. Note that the rule is violated even if no contact is made with the other person. Such conduct shall include verbal threats and/or intimidation either or before, during or after the contest. All that is required is the "attempt." However, the act constituting the attempt must be accompanied by a specific intent, which may be inferred from the circumstances and nature of the act, to inflict a harmful or offensive touching contact of the other person.

Enforcement:
See Bylaw 503. M. and Article 22.C.(1)(2)(3)(4)

(12) The Executive Director and/or Executive Committee or Section Commissioner and/or Section Board of Managers shall have the power to suspend, to fine, or otherwise penalize any member school for the violation of any CIF or Section rules and regulations or for just cause. The period of suspension or other penalty shall be left to the discretion of the CIF governing body that has jurisdiction of the matter, where the penalty is not fixed.

For Immediate Implementation

RONALD W. NOCETTI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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To: **Federated Council**

Date: **September 3, 2026**

Re: **Proposal to Amend Bylaw 207.B.(5)c.(viii)(i) - Unlimited Eligibility Applications**

Proposal Originated: **CIF Staff**

Proposal Reviewed	Proposal Recommendation
02/07/2025 - Sports Medicine Advisory Committee	Discussion
06/07/2025 - Commissioners Advisory Committee	Discussion
09/06/2025 - Commissioners Advisory Committee	Reviewed Proposal
10/07/2025 - Sports Medicine Advisory Committee	Review
01/13/2026 - Commissioners Advisory Committee	Discussion
02/24/2026 - Sports Medicine Advisory Committee	Review
06/08/2026 - Commissioners Advisory Committee	Discussion; Forward to Executive Comm.
08/27/2026 - Executive Committee	First Reading
10/08/2026 - Executive Committee	Action Item
10/09/2026 - Federated Council	First Reading

Type: Bylaw Addition

Next: February 5, 2026 Federated Council - Action Item

Summary:
The committee will consider a proposal to add Bylaw 207.B.(5)c.(viii)(i) to provide unlimited eligibility for students who transfer to a CIF member school under an approved Individual Student Mental Health hardship.

Fiscal Impact:
None

Background:
In consultation with the CIF Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, the Commissioners Committee identified the need to recognize Individual Student Mental Health as a potential qualifying hardship for unlimited eligibility.

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207.B.(5)c.(viii)(i) Unlimited Eligibility Applications

Exceptions to the determination of limited eligibility under Bylaw 207.B. (application for unlimited residential eligibility in all sports) may be applied for by the new school [CIF Form – (please use local CIF Section Form)] on behalf of the student. Consideration for unlimited residential eligibility will be given by the respective CIF Section upon review of the application only under the following provisions.

(i) The student was scholastically eligible at the time of transfer from the former school. Students who are scholastically ineligible at their previous school will not be eligible to compete at their new school until the requirements in Bylaw 205 are met and the new school has completed a grading period to verify that the student has met the CIF and school district scholastic eligibility requirements. A student cannot gain academic probation at the new school to fulfill this requirement if not available at prior school; AND

(ii) The student is NOT transferring, either voluntarily or because their former school has determined they must withdraw, because of a disciplinary infraction at the former school as defined in Bylaw 209.C.(1); AND

(iii) The student is not found by the CIF Section to have transferred to a school where their former high school coach has relocated or where a club coach, with whom they have been associated, is coaching per Bylaw 207.C.(4) or (5) & 510.E; AND

(iv) The student has not been determined by their respective CIF/Section Office or the CIF to have made a transfer or change in schools in violation of Bylaw 510; AND

(v) The student has not competed at the new school at the sub-varsity level in that sport at any time following the transfer to the new school; students who chose to play at the sub-varsity level under the provisions outlined in (5)a. (Limited Eligibility Applications) above may not subsequently be granted unlimited eligibility for that same sport during the same season at the new school; AND

(vi) No student shall be eligible to participate in the same sport at two (2) different schools in the same school year unless the student changed schools as a result of a valid change of residence or pursuant to a hardship approved by their respective CIF Section; AND

(vii) A completed Unlimited Transfer Application (please use local CIF Section Form) and documentation required by the CIF Section is received by the respective CIF Section office and has been processed, reviewed and approved; AND

(viii) One (1) of the following hardship circumstances is documented to the satisfaction of the respective CIF Section:

(a) **Court-Ordered Transfers**
Unlimited eligibility may be granted by the CIF Section in which the student's new school is located in cases where a student is residentially placed from one (1) school attendance area to the attendance area of the new school by a court order or a child protection order and all provisions listed above in c.(i-vii) are met. The student may be determined to have unlimited residential eligibility upon receipt of the CIF application (please use local CIF Section Form) and sufficient documentation (including but not limited to a copy of the court order) to satisfy that CIF Section Commissioner that the circumstances meet this criteria. The student will become eligible for varsity competition upon notification to the new school of the approval of such an application by the CIF Section.

(b) **Children of Divorced Parents**
Unlimited eligibility may be granted by the CIF Section in which the student's new school is located when a student changes residence from one (1) parent's domicile to the other parent's domicile as a result of a court-ordered custody change, or court ordered or approved joint custody agreements and all provisions listed above in c.(i-vii) are met. The student may be determined to have unlimited residential eligibility upon receipt of the CIF application (please use local CIF Section Form) and sufficient documentation (including but not limited to a copy of the divorce papers and custody agreements) to satisfy that CIF Section Commissioner that the circumstances meet

this criteria. The student will become eligible for varsity competition upon notification to the new school of the approval of such an application by the CIF Section.

(c) **Individual Student Safety Incidents**

Unlimited eligibility may be granted by the CIF Section in which the student's new school is located when a student is transferring as a result of a specific, documented safety incident in which the student was involved and all provisions listed above in c.(i-vii) are met. The student may be determined to have unlimited residential eligibility upon receipt of the CIF application (please use local CIF Section Form) and sufficient documentation is submitted to satisfy that CIF Section Commissioner that the circumstances meet this criteria. Required documentation may include, but is not limited to, administrative records and documentation from the former school about the specific safety incident that occurred at the former school and/or police records (if any). The student will become eligible for varsity competition upon notification to the new school of the approval of such an application by the CIF Section.

(d) **Discontinued Program**

When the former school, in which a student has been enrolled, discontinues a particular program in which the student had previously been enrolled or participated, and that student transfers to another school because of these circumstances, the student shall be determined to be residentially eligible for unlimited participation in the new school provided that new school offers a continuation of that same program and the student can show documentation that they were enrolled in or participated in that program at the former school and are currently enrolled or participating in that same program at the new school.

(e) **Foster Children or Homeless Children**

A student who: (1) is under the court-ordered supervision of the California Foster Care System who has changed residences pursuant to a court order and as a result, has transferred schools, OR (2) is homeless as defined by 42 U.S.C. § 11302; shall be determined to be residentially eligible for unlimited participation in interscholastic athletics provided all other CIF rules and regulations are met. Under circumstance (1), a change of residence ordered by a social worker of the California Foster Care System shall be acceptable, provided all other CIF rules and regulations are met. Under circumstance (2), a determination by a Local Education Agency that the student meets the definition of homeless shall be acceptable, provided all other CIF rules and regulations are met. A subsequent transfer of schools by a homeless student while continuing to reside in the same residence/locale where the LEA declared the student "homeless" is subject to the transfer provisions of Bylaw 207. Section Commissioners shall render eligibility determinations for foster children and homeless children within 15 business days of receipt. (Revised January 2016 Federated Council)

(f) **Military Service**

A student shall be determined to be residentially eligible for unlimited participation interscholastic athletics when returning from military service provided:

- The student was eligible when the student entered into the Armed Forces; AND
- The student enrolls in the same school which the student attended before leaving for the service, or enrolls in the school in the district in which the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver reside; AND
- The student enrolls in the school no later than the succeeding semester after being discharged; AND
- Provided student did not receive a dishonorable discharge; AND

- The student is fully eligible under all other rules of the CIF.

(g) **Married Status**

A student who marries and lives with the student's spouse shall be determined to be residentially eligible for unlimited participation in interscholastic athletics in the school in the attendance area in which the student and their spouse resides.

(h) **Board of Education Ruling**

A student, or group of students, who transfer as a direct result of a ruling by the Board of Education of a school district that has two (2) or more high schools and which mandates a change of school attendance boundaries shall be determined to be residentially eligible for unlimited participation in interscholastic athletics in the school in the attendance area in which the student(s) are required to attend, provided the Board of Education Ruling is not a result of a disciplinary situation.

(i) **Individual Student Mental Health**

Unlimited eligibility may be granted by the CIF Section in which the student's new school is located when a student is transferring because of a specific, documented diagnosis relating to mental health, and all provisions listed above in c.(i-vii) are met. The student may be determined to have unlimited residential eligibility immediately preceding the transfer upon receipt of corroborating, documented opinions that must be obtained from both the School/District and outside entities, the latter of which are involved in the student's mental health.

- Previous School/District entities include the following:
  - Principal – **Mandatory**
  - School/District licensed clinical mental health provider (e.g., PhD, PsyD, LCSW, LMFT) – **Mandatory**
  - Documentation of the plan developed, and steps taken by the current high school to attempt to remedy the situation, including the timeline of dates
- Outside entities include the following:
  - Student's licensed clinical mental health provider, or licensed physician (MD/DO), or nurse practitioner (NP) with training in treating mental health conditions – **Mandatory**
    - The letter must be written on official letterhead with the medical provider's license number and signature
    - The document must entail all the following:
      - Date of when treatment started
      - Documentation of ongoing treatment for at least 3 months/90 days
      - Frequency of appointments
      - Anticipated duration of distress and impairment of function
      - Statement that the medical provider is in full support of transfer to another school for mental health reasons
      - Plan for ongoing care when the student athlete's request for transfer has been approved
- Authorization of release of medical files

(Revised April 2018 Federated Council)
(May 2019 Removed (i) Open Enrollment Act Schools/Low Achieving Schools as it was eliminated by the State Legislature)

RONALD W. NOCETTI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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To: **Federated Council**

Date: **September 3, 2026**

Re: **Bylaw 1506 - First Base**

Proposal Originated: Commissioners Committee

Proposal Reviewed	**Proposal Recommendation**
09/01/2026 - Commissioners Committee	Discussion
09/29/2026 - State Baseball Advisory Committee	Discussion
10/00/2026 - Executive Committee	First Reading

Type: Bylaw Addition

Next: November 4, 2026 Executive Committee - Action Item

Proposal Summary: This proposal would require the implementation of a double first base for baseball for all CIF contests starting in the 2027 season. The proposal would also allow for the usage of an 18 inch base at non-member school facilities if the double first base system is not available.

Fiscal Impact: Depends on the brand/style of the current base system used and the anchor support systems. Costs range from $150 to $600 for the double first base.

Background: In the Summer of 2025, the NFHS passed the implementation of a double first base for all games starting in the 2027 season to reduce the potential for collisions at first base and enhance player safety. In the Summer of 2026, the NFHS provided the option to use an 18-inch first base or the double first base to provide flexibility based on facilities, while enhancing player safety.

This Bylaw amendment will be for immediate implementation upon approval of the Federated Council.

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ARTICLE 150
BASEBALL

1506. FIRST BASE

It is required that all games played at member school facilities use a double first base. Games played at non-member school facilities may use an 18 inch first base, when/if a double first base is not available for use.

This Bylaw amendment will be for immediate implementation.

10932 Pine Street
Los Alamitos, California 90720

Telephone: (562) 493-9500

CIF SOUTHERN SECTION COUNCIL PROPOSAL FORM**

In accordance with Blue Book Article 3, Bylaw 30.1, the following proposal is submitted for Council consideration.

> "CIF Southern Section Council may entertain proposals submitted to the governing body on the appropriate proposal form from duly appointed advisory committees, leagues or the Executive Committee." ***All items coming before the Southern Section Council must contain the financial implications on member schools, leagues and the Southern Section.***

Date: August 26, 2026

Submitted by:
Name of representative: Ray Elliott

School of representative: El Dorado High School Telephone: 562 418 6129

Check one of the following:
X League Proposal. Name of League: Century Conference (Crestview, Freeway, North Hills)

☐ Advisory Committee Proposal. Committee Name:

☐ Executive Committee Proposal. Submitted by: _____

Rule Change:
Rule Number Affected: 1223.3 Implementation Date: Summer 2027

Abstract: (Please add any supporting documents.)

1223.3 A summer dead period must be declared by the school district and/or principal for all sports. The dates of the dead period must be forwarded to the Southern Section Commissioner. The dead period must be the same for all sports all levels and must be two consecutive weeks, fourteen (14) days between the end of school in the spring and the first day of school in the Fall. No class could be offered which could circumvent the rule. There are no exceptions to the summer dead period. During the dead period, NO weight lifting would be permitted. No running or other type of conditioning would be allowed. No coordinated workouts by ANY staff or volunteer member associated with the school are allowed.

Special nationally recognized programs in various sports that require a national or regional

championship format, such as Bobby Sox Softball, American Legion or Mickey Mantle Baseball, Junior Olympics, etc., would be allowed to continue, until completion, during the dead period. *Athletes in any sport that includes an NFHS and CIF approved college recruiting tournament for competition amongst scholastic based teams during the summer would be allowed to compete during the sanctioned dates of the event only if the tournament takes place during the schools chosen dead period. Participation in an approved college-recruiting tournament does not eliminate the requirement for the athletes to observe the required 14-day dead period.*

Question – What are the current NFHS and CIF approved college recruiting tournaments that take place during the summer?
Answer – Cali Live and Section 7 Basketball Tournaments.

Council First Read: September 24, 2026 **Council Action Date:** January 28, 2027

Date Proposal will take effect on member schools: Immediate Implementation

See reverse side for additional information.

Financial Impact on Member School and Southern Section (Attach an analysis and supporting documents):

All Council Proposals must be submitted according to the timelines published in the Blue Book. If they are not received in a timely manner, they will be postponed until the next meeting.

Council Proposals that do not contain the information in the fields provided on both pages will not be considered.

Sport advisory committees are advised to confine their proposals to the sport(s) under their advisement. Any proposals that do not affect Articles 1400 – 3100 must contain a rationale as to why the sport advisory committee is requesting action.

Procedure for Proposed Bylaw Changes:

1. Identify the bylaw, by number, to be changed or eliminated.
2. Type the bylaw, using normal font face, for language that will remain unchanged.
3. Use strikethrough to identify language to be eliminated or changed.
4. Identify proposed language using bold type.

For example, if a league wants to address the color of jerseys in basketball, the proposal may read:

The _____ League proposes the following changes to the basketball bylaws.
(your league name)

Bylaw 1623 Color of Jerseys

Proposed language:

"In all basketball games played between member schools of the CIF Southern Section,
The host team shall wear ~~white~~ **dark** colored jerseys."

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Los Alamitos, California 90720

Telephone: (562) 493-9500

CIF SOUTHERN SECTION COUNCIL PROPOSAL FORM**

In accordance with Blue Book Article 3, Bylaw 30.1, the following proposal is submitted for Council consideration.

> "CIF Southern Section Council may entertain proposals submitted to the governing body on the appropriate proposal form from duly appointed advisory committees, leagues or the Executive Committee." ***All items coming before the Southern Section Council must contain the financial implications on member schools, leagues and the Southern Section.***

Date: 8/14/2026

Submitted by:
Name of representative: Ernie Bucher

School of representative: Tesoro Telephone: 949 234-5310

Check one of the following:
☒ League Proposal. Name of League: South Coast League

☐ Advisory Committee Proposal. Committee Name:

☐ Executive Committee Proposal. Submitted by: _____

Rule Change:
Rule Number Affected: Article 120, Bylaw 1200.1 Implementation Date: 27-28 School Year

Abstract: (Please add any supporting documents.)

Rationale – On average, each member school has between 60 and 80 student-athletes participating in boys' and girls' lacrosse. Under the current language of CIF Southern Section Article 120, Bylaw 1200.1, which requires a sport to maintain participation by at least 20% of member schools, approximately 14,700 student-athletes could lose the opportunity to compete in a CIF-sanctioned postseason championship should participation fall below that threshold. Rather than immediately eliminating CIF-sanctioned playoffs, the CIF Southern Section should place any sport that falls below the 20% membership requirement on a three-year probationary period, providing an opportunity for the sport to rebuild participation and return to compliance before postseason competition is discontinued.

Council First Read: September 24, 2026 **Council Action Date:** January 28, 2027

Date Proposal will take effect on member schools: 27-28 School Year

See reverse side for additional information.

Financial Impact on Member School and Southern Section (Attach an analysis and supporting documents):

All Council Proposals must be submitted according to the timelines published in the Blue Book. If they are not received in a timely manner, they will be postponed until the next meeting.

Council Proposals that do not contain the information in the fields provided on both pages will not be considered.

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2. Type the bylaw, using normal font face, for language that will remain unchanged.
3. Use strikethrough to identify language to be eliminated or changed.
4. Identify proposed language using bold type.

For example, if a league wants to address the color of jerseys in basketball, the proposal may read:

"In all basketball games played between member schools of the CIF Southern Section,
The host team shall wear white **dark** colored jerseys."

The SOUTH COAST League proposes the following changes to the CIF-APPROVED sports.

Rationale – On average, each member school has between 60 and 80 student-athletes participating in boys' and girls' lacrosse. Under the current language of CIF Southern Section Article 120, Bylaw 1200.1, which requires a sport to maintain participation by at least 20% of member schools, approximately 14,700 student-athletes could lose the opportunity to compete in a CIF-sanctioned postseason championship should participation fall below that threshold. Rather than immediately eliminating CIF-sanctioned playoffs, the CIF Southern Section should place any sport that falls below the 20% membership requirement on a three-year probationary period, providing an opportunity for the sport to rebuild participation and return to compliance before postseason competition is discontinued.
Notes (currently)

a) Boys lacrosse – 99 schools
b) Girls lacrosse – 97 schools

Article 120 – APPROVED SPORTS
Bylaw 1200 – CIF-APPROVED SPORTS

Proposed language:

1200.1 ~~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~~. Any CIF Southern Section approved sport in which participation falls below 20% of the CIF Southern Section membership shall be placed on probation for a period of three years. CIF Southern Section postseason competition shall continue to be conducted during the probationary period. If participation in the sport does not meet the 20% membership requirement by the conclusion of the three-year probationary period, CIF Southern Section postseason competition in that sport shall be discontinued. Once a sport returns to 20% it is removed from probation or discontinuation.

RONALD W. NOCETTI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION
CIF STATE OFFICE • 4658 DUCKHORN DRIVE • SACRAMENTO, CA 95834 • (916) 239-4477 • CIFSTATE.ORG

To: **Executive Committee**

Date: **March 23, 2026**

Re: **Bylaw 503.M. - Spectators**

Proposal Originated: Commissioners Committee

Proposal Reviewed		**Proposal Recommendation**
06/10/2025	Commissioners Committee	Discussion
08/26/2025	Commissioners Committee	Discussion
10/10/2025	Federated Council	Round Table Discussion
01/13/2026	Commissioner Committee	Discussion
02/06/2026	Federated Council	Round Table Discussion
03/12/2026	Executive Committee	First Reading
04/23/2026	Executive Committee	Action Item
04/24/2026	Federated Council	First Reading

Type: Bylaw Amendment

Next: Action Item at October 9, 2026 Federated Council meeting.

Proposal Summary: The Commissioners Committee is proposing to implement a statewide policy to standardize the responsibilities for all schools to ensure that all spectators and unauthorized individuals do not enter the field of play at CIF contests.

Fiscal Impact: None

Background: Acceptable standards of sportsmanship for athletes, coaches, and spectators have become an issue nationwide. This policy would align all ten (10) CIF Sections and establish uniformity in the expectations of schools to ensure that spectators and unauthorized individuals do not enter the field of play during CIF contests. This proposal strengthens Bylaw 503.M. by establishing uniform sportsmanship expectations across all Sections of the CIF, ensuring consistent enforcement statewide. By clearly prohibiting spectators and unauthorized individuals from entering the field of play, the policy prioritizes student-athlete safety and reduces liability risks for host schools. Standardized expectations support officials, administrators, and coaches in maintaining orderly, education-based athletic environments. Adoption of this language reinforces our collective commitment to safety, fairness, and integrity in interscholastic competition.

This Bylaw amendment will be for immediate implementation upon approval of the Federated Council.

IT'S BIGGER THAN SPORTS. THE CIF PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO BELONG, CONNECT AND COMPETE IN EDUCATION-BASED EXPERIENCES.

M. **Statewide Sportsmanship and Ejection Policy**

Player:

A player who is ejected from a contest (for reasons other than fighting or leaving the bench area during a fight) shall be ineligible to participate in the remainder of that contest (event) and his or her team's future contest (s) as outlined below:

(1) First Ejection: Player is ineligible to participate in the team's next contest. Player may remain on the bench for the duration of that contest and may be on the bench in street clothes for the team's next contest. If the ejection occurs in the last game of the season, the player would be ineligible for the team's first contest the following season. If the player is a senior, he or she would be ineligible for the first contest of their next season of sport.

(2) Second Ejection: Player is ineligible to participate in the team's next three (3) contests. Player may remain on the bench for the duration of that contest and may be on the bench in street clothes for the team's next three (3) contests. If the season concludes prior to the player serving the three (3) contests suspension, he or she would be ineligible for the number of contests remaining on the suspension for the team's following season. If the player is a senior, he or she would be ineligible for the number of contests remaining on the suspension for their next season of sport.

(3) Third Ejection: Player is ineligible to participate for the remainder of that season. Player may remain on the bench for the duration of that contest and may be on the bench in street clothes for the team's remaining contest that season. If there are six (6) or fewer contests remaining in the season, the player would be ineligible for up to six (6) contests for the team's following season as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter. If the player is a senior, he or she would be ineligible for up to six (6) contests for the next season of sport as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter.

A player who is ejected from a contest for fighting or leaving the bench area during a fight* shall be ineligible to participate in the remainder of that contest and his or her team's future contests as outlined below:

(4) First Ejection: Player (Fighting/Assaultive Behavior/Gross Unsportsmanlike Conduct) is ineligible to participate in the team's next three (3) to six (6) contests as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter. Player may remain on the bench for the duration of that contest and may be on the bench in street clothes for the duration of the suspension. If the season concludes prior to the player serving the full suspension, he or she would be ineligible for the number of contests remaining on the suspension for the team's following season. If the player is a senior, he or she would be ineligible for the number of contests remaining on the suspension for their next season of sport. *NFHS Rules indicate automatic one game suspension for leaving the bench.

(5) Second Ejection: Player is ineligible to participate for the remainder of that season. Player may remain on the bench for the duration of that contest and may be on the bench in street clothes for the team's remaining contests that season. If there are six (6) or fewer contests remaining in the season, the player would be ineligible for up to six (6) contests for the team's following season as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter. If the player is a senior, he or she would be ineligible for up to six (6) contests for their next season of sport as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter.

Before a player may return to participate in a contest following a multiple game suspension for any of the above infractions, the school principal must inform the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter that they have met with the student-athlete, his or her parent/guardian/caregiver and coach to discuss future behavioral expectations.

Appeals Process for Multi-Game Ejections:

The school principal may appeal the penalties listed above in writing to the League Commissioner/President (for a regular season contest not including the final contest prior to Section playoffs) or CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter (for the final contest prior to Section playoffs and all playoff contests). The appeal must be received by the Section with 48 hours of the date of the ejection. Reasons for the appeal may only include misidentification of the ejected player or a misapplication of the rule. There will be no appeal regarding the judgment of an official.

Note: There is no appeal process for single game ejections.

Coach:
A coach who is ejected from a contest (for reasons other than fighting) shall be disqualified from participating in the remainder of that contest and his or her team's future contest (s) as outlined below:

(6) First Ejection: Coach is disqualified from participating in the team's next contest. Coach must immediately vacate the playing area and the vicinity in and around the contest and refrain from having any communication with the team or other coaches for the remainder of that contest and for the team's next contest. If the ejection occurs in the last game of the season, the coach would be ineligible for the team's first contest the following season.

(7) Second Ejection: Coach is disqualified from participating in the team's next three (3) to six (6) contests as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter. Coach must immediately vacate the playing area and the vicinity in and around the contest and refrain from having any communication with the team or other coaches for the remainder of that contest and for the team's next three (3) to six (6) contests. If the ejection occurs in the last game of the season, the coach would be ineligible for the team's first three (3) to six (6) contests the following season.

(8) Third Ejection: Coach is disqualified from participating in the remaining contests of that season. Coach must immediately vacate the playing area and the vicinity in and around the contest and refrain from having any communication with the team or other coaches for the remainder of that contest and for the remaining contests of that season. If there are six (6) or fewer contests remaining in the season, the coach would be disqualified from participating for up to six (6) contests for the team's following season as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter.

A coach who is ejected from a contest for (Fighting/Assaultive Behavior/Gross Unsportsmanlike Conduct) shall be disqualified from participating in the remainder of that contest and his or her team's future contests as outlined below:

(9) Ejection for (Fighting/Assaultive Behavior/Gross Unsportsmanlike Conduct): Coach is disqualified from participating for the remainder of that season. Coach must immediately vacate the playing area and the vicinity in and around the contest and refrain from having any communication with the team or other coaches for the remainder of that contest and for all of the team's remaining contests that season. If there are fewer than six (6) contests remaining in the season, the coach would be disqualified from participating for up to six (6) contests for the team's following season, as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter.

Before a coach may return to participate in a contest following a multiple-contest disqualification, for any of the above infractions, the school principal must inform the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter that they have met with the coach to discuss future behavioral expectations.

Appeals Process for Multi-Game Ejections:
The school principal may appeal the penalties listed above in writing to the League Commissioner/President (for a regular season contest, excluding the final contest before Section playoffs) or the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter (for the final contest before Section playoffs and all playoff contests). The Section must receive the appeal within 48 hours of the date of the ejection. Reasons for the appeal may only include misidentification of the ejected player or a misapplication of the rule. There will be no appeal regarding the judgment of an official.
Note: There is no appeal process for single-game ejections.

Spectator:
(10) If a spectator is ejected from a contest, it is the responsibility of the school to ensure that person does not attend that team's next contest. If the same spectator is ejected a second time, it is the responsibility of the school to ensure that person does not attend any of the remaining contests for that season.

(11) At all CIF events, schools are responsible for ensuring that spectators and unauthorized individuals do not enter the field of play during or following a contest. This includes, but is not limited to, court storming. Schools that violate this policy may be subject to sanctions, as determined by the CIF office with jurisdiction over the matter. This policy is enforced to protect the safety and well-being of student-athletes, spectators, officials, and event personnel, which remains our highest priority. It also reinforces respect for the game, the integrity of competition, and the core principles of the CIF "Pursuing Victory with Honor" sportsmanship program. Ultimately, the focus should remain on the

competitors and their efforts, allowing their achievements to be recognized and honored without disruption.

Enforcement:
See Bylaw 503. M. and Article 22.C.(1)(2)(3)(4)

(12) The Executive Director and/or Executive Committee or Section Commissioner and/or Section Board of Managers shall have the power to suspend, to fine, or otherwise penalize any member school for the violation of any CIF or Section rules and regulations or for just cause. The period of suspension or other penalty shall be left to the discretion of the CIF governing body that has jurisdiction of the matter, where the penalty is not fixed.

April/October

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CIF SOUTHERN SECTION COUNCIL PROPOSAL FORM**

In accordance with Blue Book Article 3, Bylaw 30.1, the following proposal is submitted for Council consideration.

> "CIF Southern Section Council may entertain proposals submitted to the governing body on the appropriate proposal form from duly appointed advisory committees, leagues or the Executive Committee." ***All items coming before the Southern Section Council must contain the financial implications on member schools, leagues and the Southern Section.***

Date: March 2026

Submitted by:
Name of representative: Boyd Lium

School of representative: Citrus Valley High School Telephone: 909-799-2300

Check one of the following:
xx League Proposal. Name of League: Citrus Belt League

☐ Advisory Committee Proposal. Committee Name:

☐ Executive Committee Proposal. Submitted by: _____

Rule Change:
Rule Number Affected: Article 3514 – Number of Team Entries into Playoffs

Implementation Date: 2026-27 Football Season

Abstract: (Please add any supporting documents.)

The Citrus Belt League proposes revising Article 3514 – Number of Team Entries into Playoffs so that 11-person football playoff entries follow the same structure currently used by other CIF Southern Section team sports.

Under the current structure, 11-person football playoff entries do not align with the standard entry formula used by other sports within the CIF Southern Section. This proposal would create consistency across sports by applying the same league-size entry model in all team sports.

Proposed language:

Leagues would receive automatic playoff entries based on the number of schools in the league as follows:

- Leagues of 4 schools – 2 entries
- Leagues of 5–6 schools – 3 entries
- Leagues of 7–8 schools – 4 entries
- Leagues of 9 or more schools – 5 entries

This change would align 11-person football with the playoff qualification structure used in other CIF Southern Section sports and provide consistency for leagues and member schools across all programs.

Council First Read: April 2026 **Council Action Date:** October 2026

Date Proposal will take effect on member schools: 2026-27 School Year

Financial Impact on Member School and Southern Section (Attach an analysis and supporting documents):

This proposal is not expected to have a significant financial impact on member schools, leagues, or the CIF Southern Section. The proposal aligns football playoff entry allocations with the existing structure used by other CIF Southern Section sports and does not require additional administrative procedures or resources.

3514. NUMBER OF TEAM ENTRIES INTO PLAYOFFS

~~In the sport of 11-person football, the team entry formula for each league into the playoffs is as follows:~~

~~4 and 5 team leagues = 2 entries~~
~~6-8 team leagues = 3 entries~~
~~9 or more team leagues = 4 entries~~

In the sport of 8-person football, only league champions will be guaranteed automatic entries into the playoffs.

In all sports other than 8 person football, the team entry formula for each league into the playoffs is as follows:

4 team leagues = 2 entries
5 and 6 team leagues = 3 entries
7 and 8 team leagues = 4 entries
9 or more team league = 5 entries

3514.1 In all team sports other than wrestling and football (For information regarding at-large entries for Football, see the Football Playoff Bulletin), additional entries beyond a league's guaranteed number of entries will only be permitted to enter the playoffs to fill any byes which exist in the opening round. At-large teams, teams meeting the at-large criteria (.500 or better overall record), can only be accepted into the playoffs if there are openings in the original draw after all of the league's guaranteed entries are submitted. (For example, when there are 30 teams entered as guaranteed entries from their leagues into a 32-team draw, there would be 2 byes in the bracket and those byes could be filled by teams who were not guaranteed entries from there.)

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CIF SOUTHERN SECTION COUNCIL PROPOSAL FORM**

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> "CIF Southern Section Council may entertain proposals submitted to the governing body on the appropriate proposal form from duly appointed advisory committees, leagues or the Executive Committee." ***All items coming before the Southern Section Council must contain the financial implications on member schools, leagues and the Southern Section.***

Date: March 25, 2026

Submitted by:
Name of representative: Brian Walsh

School of representative: Corona Del Mar Telephone: 949-515-6058

Check one of the following:
☒ League Proposal. Name of League: Sunset League

☐ Advisory Committee Proposal. Committee Name:

☐ Executive Committee Proposal. Submitted by: _____

Rule Change:
Rule Number Affected: 1223.3 Implementation Date: January 1, 2027

Abstract:

Council First Read: April 16, 2026 **Council Action Date:** September 24, 2026

Date Proposal will take effect on member schools: January 1, 2027

Financial Impact on Member School and Southern Section (Attach an analysis and supporting documents): None

Proposed Bylaw Change:

The Sunset League proposes the following changes to the Summer Dead Period bylaws.

1223. SUMMERTIME RULES/SUMMER DEAD PERIOD/SPORTS CAMPS – APPLIES TO ALL SPORTS SECTIONS

1223.3 A summer dead period must be declared by the school district and/or principal for all sports. The dates of the dead period must be forwarded to the Southern Section Commissioner. The dead period must **consist of a total of** ~~be the same for all sports all levels and must be two consecutive weeks,~~ fourteen (14) days between the end of school in the spring and the first day of school in the Fall. **Each school must select a seven (7) day dead period that is the same for all sports, all levels. In addition, each sport must select an additional seven (7) day dead period that is the same for all levels.** No class could be offered which could circumvent the rule. There are no exceptions to the summer dead period.

During the dead period, NO weight lifting would be permitted. No running or other type of conditioning would be allowed. No coordinated workouts by ANY staff or volunteer member associated with the school are allowed.

Special nationally recognized programs in various sports that require a national or regional championship format, such as Bobby Sox Softball, American Legion or Mickey Mantle Baseball, Junior Olympics, etc., would be allowed to continue, until completion, during the dead period.

RATIONALE

- Equity across schools/districts that have varying stop/start dates for school calendar
- Equity across sports with varying summer schedules
- Increased flexibility for facilities use
- Still allows for 1-week of school-wide dead period
- Schools wanting to continue with (2) consecutive weeks still can do so

2026-2027 CIF Southern Section Strategic Goals
Mike West, Commissioner of Athletics

The 2026-2027 goals are designed to strengthen the CIF Southern Section's commitment to education-based athletics by enhancing service to member schools, expanding opportunities for participation and inclusion, modernizing governance, developing educational leaders, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the organization.

Goal 1: Strengthen Member School Engagement and Service Excellence

Continue to provide exceptional service to member schools while strengthening relationships and expanding opportunities for meaningful engagement throughout the Southern Section.

Areas of Focus

- Maintain a high level of service during employee growth and office renovation.
- Increase face-to-face interaction with member schools through school visits, league meetings, and workshops.
- Expand opportunities for student voice and participation in CIF Southern Section initiatives.
- Enhance communication between the Southern Section office, member schools, officials, media, and the public.
- Continue to strengthen communication and engagement with small schools to better understand and address their unique needs.
- Continue to evaluate the competitive equity model and use data to support future refinement.
- Continue to enhance the championship experience through consistent administration, transparent communication, and ongoing evaluation of postseason events.

Goal 2: Modernize Governance and Compliance Practices

Ensure Southern Section governance remains responsive, equitable, and effective by evaluating policies, procedures, and organizational structures.

Areas of Focus

- Enhance consistency and efficiency within the transfer evaluation process.
- Evaluate and enhance the effectiveness of Season Previews and Playoff Bulletins as communication resources.
- Review Southern Section bylaws and recommend updates where appropriate.
- Successfully implement and communicate new CIF and Southern Section rules.

Goal 3: Enhance Leadership Education and Member Support

Provide innovative educational opportunities that develop athletic leaders, strengthen member schools, and reinforce the educational mission of interscholastic athletics.

Areas of Focus

- Expand educational opportunities for athletic directors and coaches.
- Develop resources addressing the most common eligibility and bylaw violations.
- Introduce leadership development centered on building successful athletic cultures and defining success beyond wins and losses.
- Increase support and resources for small schools.

- Expand professional development opportunities for female athletic directors and emerging leaders.
- Promote sportsmanship initiatives that reinforce positive spectator behavior and foster respect among student-athletes, coaches, officials, and school communities.
- Support leadership development opportunities for Student-Athlete Advisory Council members.
- Promote and expand Unified Sports opportunities that foster inclusion, participation, and educational experiences for all students.

Goal 4: Ensure Organizational Sustainability and Operational Excellence

Maintain the long-term financial health, operational effectiveness, and organizational capacity necessary to support the Southern Section's continued growth.

Areas of Focus

- Maintain a balanced budget while identifying operational efficiencies.
- Evaluate staffing needs to improve organizational effectiveness and member service.
- Strengthen officials' recruitment, retention, education, and recognition initiatives.
- Continue enhancement of the CIFSSHome platform to improve the member experience.
- Strengthen and enhance Southern Section media, broadcasting, and championship visibility.
- Invest in the professional growth and leadership development of Southern Section staff.