

**CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION (CIF)  
CENTRAL SECTION  
ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION**

**How to Protect Your Athletic Eligibility**

Your high school years will be highlighted by your participation in your school's interscholastic athletic program. These will be some of the most enjoyable years of your young life. During this time, the CIF Central Section has standards that you must meet in order to be eligible to compete. In addition there may be local school standards, which apply.

Information contained in this pamphlet will acquaint you with the by-laws and regulations all the students must follow in order to protect athletic eligibility. Any questions that you have concerning the standards referred to in this pamphlet should be directed to your school principal or athletic director.

The eligibility standards of the CIF Central Section have been adopted by the member schools and were accepted by your school when it became a CIF Central Section member.

You are urged as a student athlete to study these standards carefully. We want you to enjoy your school years.

**Residential Eligibility**

A student has residential eligibility upon initial enrollment in:

1. The ninth grade of any California Interscholastic Federation high school, a California Interscholastic Federation junior high school, or a junior high school under provisions by by-law 303 or
2. Tenth grade of any California Interscholastic Federation high school from ninth grade of a junior high school or
3. Any California Interscholastic Federation school as a member of an approved foreign exchange program as outlined in by-law 212.

**Changing Schools – Transfers**

A student may have transfer eligibility provided the student is compelled to move from any school to a CIF school due to:

1. A bona fide change of residence from one school attendance to the attendance area of the new school by the parent, legal guardian or care-giver with whom the student was living when the student established residential eligibility at the prior school or
2. A ruling by the Board of Education of a school district, which has two or more high schools, provided the change of schools is not the result of disciplinary action.

**Changing Schools – Open Enrollment**

Any student transferring under the provisions of an open enrollment board policy, public or private, will have immediate residential eligibility upon transfer from school A to school B, subject to the following limitations:

1. Only one transfer is allowed during the student's high school career after the initial enrollment as a ninth grader in a four year high school or a tenth grader in a three year high school.
2. The transfer must be completed during the first 15 school days of the new academic year at school B.
3. The transfer must not be as a result of disciplinary action.
4. The receiving school B must certify that no consideration was given to the athletic performance of the student accepting the transfer.

**Changing School – Hardships**

If you change schools and your parents, legal guardian, or care-giver do not move to the attendance area of your new school, you could have restricted eligibility for one year unless you qualify for a hardship. A hardship is defined as an unforeseeable, unavoidable, or uncorrectable act, condition, or event, which causes the imposition of a severe and non-

athletic burden upon the student or his/her family. The three considerations for hardship are: financial considerations, medical considerations, and family circumstances.

Always check with your school principal before you change schools to determine whether it will affect your eligibility.

### **Scholastic Eligibility**

Do not change your course schedule or drop a course without first consulting with your school principal, counselor, or athletic director to determine whether it will affect your eligibility. A student is scholastically eligible if:

1. The student is currently enrolled in at least 20 semester periods of work.
2. The student passed at least 20 semester periods of work at the completion of the previous regular grading period.
3. The student is maintaining minimum progress toward meeting the high school graduation requirements as prescribed by the governing board.
4. The student has maintained during the previous grading period a minimum of a 2.0 grade point average, on a 4.0 scale, in all reenrolled courses.

### **Semesters of Attendance**

A student who first enters the ninth grade of any school following the student's completion of the eighth grade in any school may be eligible for athletic competition during a maximum period of time that is not to exceed eight consecutive semesters following the initial enrollment in the ninth grade of any school, and said eligibility must be used during the student's first eight consecutive semesters of enrollment at that school or any other school.

### **Age Limitations**

No student whose nineteenth (19) birthday is attained prior to September 1, shall participate or practice on any team. A student, whose nineteenth (19) birthday is on August 31, or before, is ineligible.

### **Competing Under a Name Other than Your Own or Falsified Your Address**

Any student whose address or name has been falsified in order to achieve residential eligibility will be ineligible in all interscholastic athletic competition for a period of one year from the date the infraction is verified.

### **Physical Examination**

An annual physical examination, or a statement by a medical practitioner, certifying that the student is physically fit to participate in athletics is required before a student may try out, practice, or participate in interscholastic athletic competition.

### **Undue Influence – Recruitment of Athletes**

The use of undue influence by any person or persons to secure or retain a student or to secure or retain one or both parents, guardians or care-giver of a student as residents may cause the student to be ineligible for high school athletics for a period of one year and shall jeopardize the standing of the high school in the California Interscholastic Federation.

### **Competition On an Outside Team**

A student on a high school team becomes ineligible if the student competes in a contest on an "outside" team in the same sport, during the student's high school season of sport.

### **Use of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Illegal Drugs**

You are prohibited from using any form of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs at the playing site of an interscholastic contest. The penalty is disqualification from that contest. In addition, local school rules may apply.

## **Student Award Limitations**

A high school student may not receive from any source an athletic award for CIF high school competition of more than twenty-five dollars (\$25) in value. The athletic award may be fifty dollars (\$50) for league championships or one hundred dollars (\$100) for CIF section championship teams.

When the student participates in other than CIF competition in a CIF approved, at any time during the calendar year, the student is governed by the awards rules of the amateur governing body for that sport.

## **Student Participation Conduct Penalty**

Student participation in athletic contests is a privilege. As a student athlete, you are expected to conduct yourself in an exemplary manner at all times. During participation in all CIF competition, a student who is ejected or disqualified from participating in the remainder of said contest will be ineligible for the team's next contest. In addition, any student who physically assaults a game or event official shall be banned from interscholastic athletics for the remainder of the student's interscholastic eligibility.

## **Scholar Athlete Awards – Team and Individual**

The CIF Central Section is proud of scholar athlete awards that are promoted by the Section. The award is called the Central Section Scholar/Athlete Award, which recognizes the top female and male athletes in the Section. Please contact your principal or athletic director about the aforementioned awards.

Please check with your principal or athletic director if you have any questions on athletic eligibility.

## **ETHICS IN SPORTS**

### **Policy Statement**

The Central Section, CIF, is committed to the exhibition of sportsmanlike and ethical behaviors in and around all athletic contests. All contests must be safe, courteous, fair, controlled, and orderly for all athletes and fans alike.

It is the intent of the CIF that violence in any form not be tolerated. In order to enforce this policy, the Central Section has established rules and regulations, which set forth the manner of enforcement of this policy and the penalties incurred when violation of the policy occurs. The rules and regulations shall focus upon the responsibility of the coach to teach and demand high standards of conduct and to enforce the rules and regulations set forth by CIF.

The Central Section requires the following Code of Ethics be issued each year and requires signing by student athletes, parent/guardian and coaches each year prior to participation as a guide to govern their behavior.

### **Code of Ethics**

1. To emphasize the proper ideas of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.
2. To eliminate all possibilities which tend to destroy the best values of the game.
3. To stress the values derived from playing the game fairly.
4. To show cordial courtesy to visiting teams and officials.
5. To establish a happy relationship between visitors and hosts.
6. To respect the integrity and judgment of sports officials.
7. To achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility.
8. To encourage leadership, use of initiative, and good judgment by the players on a team.
9. To recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social and emotional well being of the individual players.
10. To remember that an athletic contest is only a game, not a matter of life and death for player, coach, school, official, fan or nation.

**Violation and Minimum Penalties** (Applicable to players and coaches from time of departure until time of return from all contests.)

1. First ejection of player or coach from a contest or scrimmage for unsportsmanlike conduct -ineligible for the next CIF contest (league, non-league, tournament, invitational playoff, etc. scrimmage excluded.) The next contest could be the second game of a doubleheader or even the next season of sport. Athletes competing in concurrent sports would be ineligible for both sports.
2. Second ejection of a player or coach from a contest during the same season of sport for unsportsmanlike conduct – Ineligibility for next two CIF contests as above will carry over to next season of sport.
3. Third ejection of a player or coach from a contest during the same season of sport for unsportsmanlike conduct – Ineligibility for all CIF contests for one calendar year (365 days.) Any appeal must go through the CIF eligibility committee.
4. Any players that leave the “bench” area to begin a confrontation or leave these areas during an altercation – Ejection from the contest for those players designated by officials. The contest may be terminated by the officials. One or both teams may forfeit the contest.
5. When players leave the bench area to begin a confrontation, or leave the bench area during an altercation and, in the opinion of the officials, the situation is out of control – Contest stopped, ejection from the contest for those players designated by the officials. The team(s) that left the bench area must forfeit contest, record a loss, and the team(s) and players will be put on probationary status for the balance of the season. A second similar infraction during the season of sport will result in cessation of the sport for the team(s) and/or players. If the act occurs at the end of the season, the probationary period will extend to the next year’s season of sport. Any appeal would have to be made to the CIF Executive Board.
6. Illegal participation in next contest by player ejected in previous contest – Ineligibility for remainder of season for player. Forfeiture of contest.
7. Illegal placement of ejected player or illegal participation by coach ejected in previous contest – Constitution and sport governing rules and procedures for a coach who knowingly violates CIF or Section Rules. (See by-law 1100C)
8. Any acts of a more serious nature by individuals or teams or situations not specifically covered by this policy or the Constitution of Governing Rules – Area Commissioner may determine and implement penalties for individuals and teams not otherwise specified by CIF Central Section Constitution and by-Laws.
9. If act occurs in CIF Section Finals, and both teams are charged with a forfeit – After deliberation by the CIF and a double forfeit is in order, there will be no champion.
10. An ejected coach must leave the site of the contest. The coach may have no contact with his/her team from that point on. If there is no certified replacement for the coach, the contest is halted and the game is forfeited. The coach must also sit out the next contest and cannot attend the contest or have any contact with the team during the contest. The coach may be allowed to participate in practices on days other than the day of the contest.
11. An ejected player may stay on the bench for the remainder of the contest for supervision reasons. Further disruption by ejected players may force them to be removed from the site. This could lead to forfeit. Players ejected must sit out the next contest, but may sit on the bench in street clothes.

**Appeals Procedure...First and Second Ejection**

Unless otherwise specified, an appeal of an ineligible of a player or coach may be made in writing to the player or coach’s site administrator. The site administrator or his/her designee’s decision on his/her athlete or coach shall be final and shall be conveyed to the site administrator of the school(s) involved, to the president of the league (s) involved, and the CIF Area and Section Commissioner.

**Physical Assault**

CIF State Constitution Article 5, Section 522 – Any student who physically assaults the person of a game or event official shall be banned from interscholastic athletics for the remainder of the student’s eligibility. A game or event official is defined as a referee, umpire, or any other official assigned to interpret or enforce rules competition at an event. A student may, after lapse of 18 calendar months from the date of the incident, apply for reinstatement of eligibility to the State CIF Commissioner.

For this document, the Central Section also includes coaches, administrators, or other school personnel assigned to the contest or games as a game official.