

NOTE: In accordance with Section 33353 of the Education Code, meetings of the CIF are subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code Section 54950 et seq.). A guide to the conduct of these meetings, written by the CIF General Counsel, can be found on the CIF website (www.cifstate.org). This guide applies to State meetings as well as to meetings of the Sections and leagues but does not apply to State and Section appeal hearings involving student eligibility, Section playoffs or appeal hearings of matters other than student eligibility or Section playoffs, pursuant to Bylaws 1100-1103.

105. REFUSAL TO COMPLY WITH CIF RULE

The membership of any school, league or other subordinate unit of the CIF, which has willfully refused to comply with a rule, policy or principle of the CIF, shall be suspended, thereby denying CIF competition to such school, league or subordinate unit, until the school, league or subordinate unit achieves compliance with the rule, policy or principle. The imposition of the suspension called for in this Bylaw may be temporarily suspended at the discretion of the Executive Director provided that the school, league or subordinate unit is (1) making a good faith effort to come into compliance with the rule, policy or principle in question and (2) provides assurances that it will be in full compliance by a certain date which is acceptable to the Executive Director. The membership of any school, league or other subordinate unit of the CIF which has willfully refused to comply with a rule, policy or principle of the CIF, and which fails to undertake efforts to come into compliance, or to come into compliance within a reasonable time after being notified of such non-compliance, shall be revoked.

(Approved May 2001 Federated Council)

ARTICLE 20

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

(200 Series revised: May 2007 Federated Council/May 2012 Federated Council)

NOTE: CIF provides questions and answers throughout Article 20 as a guide for parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver and school personnel to aid them in understanding the intent and application of some of our Bylaws. Many situations are unique and not every specific situation can be covered in the language of these Bylaws or in every Q & A.

200. CIF STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC COMPETITION

A. Philosophy

The CIF, as the governing body of high school athletics, affirms that athletic competition is an important part of the high school experience and that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege. The privilege of participation in interscholastic athletics is available to students in public or private schools who meet the democratically established standards of qualification as set forth by the Federated Council. CIF Bylaws governing student eligibility are a necessary prerequisite to participation in interscholastic athletics because they:

- (1) Keep the focus on athletic participation as a privilege not a right;
- (2) Reinforce the principle that students attend school to receive an education first; athletic participation is secondary;
- (3) Protect the opportunities to participate for students who meet the established standards;
- (4) Provide a fundamentally fair and equitable framework in which interscholastic athletic competition can take place;
- (5) Provide uniform standards for all schools to follow in maintaining athletic competition;
- (6) Serve as a deterrent to students who transfer schools for athletic reasons and to individuals who recruit student-athletes;
- (7) Serve as a deterrent to students who transfer schools to avoid disciplinary action;
- (8) Maintain an ethical relationship between high school athletic programs and others who demonstrate an interest in high school athletes;
- (9) Support the Principles of Pursuing Victory with Honorsm.

B. Rules

The CIF establishes the standards of eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics to include the following: *

- (1) Philosophy Statement (Bylaw 200)
- (2) Standards of Eligibility (Bylaw 201)
- (3) Accurate Information (Bylaw 202)
- (4) Age Requirement (Bylaw 203)
- (5) Eight (8) Consecutive Semesters Requirement (Bylaw 204)
- (6) Scholastic Eligibility (Bylaw 205)
 - a. Initial Scholastic Eligibility (Bylaw 205.A.)
 - b. Continuing Scholastic Eligibility (Bylaw 205.B.)
 - c. Summer School Credits [Bylaw 205.B.(3)f.]
 - d. Scholastic Eligibility for Students in Non-Traditional Programs [Bylaw 205.B.(3)g.]
 - e. Waiver of the Requirement of Passing 20 Semester Credits of Work (Bylaw 205.C.)
- (7) Residential Eligibility (Bylaw 206)
 - a. Initial Residential Eligibility (Bylaw 206.A.)
 - b. Continuing Residential Eligibility (Bylaw 206.B.)
 - c. Valid Change of Residence (Bylaw 206.C.)
- (8) Transfer Eligibility (Bylaw 207)
- (9) Foreign Exchange Students (Bylaw 208)

- (10) Discipline, Expulsion and Transfer for Disciplinary Reasons (Bylaw 209)
 - a. Expulsion (Bylaw 209.A.)
 - b. Suspended Expulsion (Bylaw 209.B.)
 - c. Disciplinary Transfer (Bylaw 209.C.)
- (11) Physical Assault (Bylaw 210)
- (12) Continuation School Eligibility (Bylaw 211)
- (13) Amateur Status (Bylaw 212)
- (14) Hardship Waivers Other Than Transfer (Bylaw 213)
- (15) Post-Injunction Remedies (Bylaw 214)
- (16) Intercollegiate Participation (Bylaw 215)
- (17) Graduates (Bylaw 216)
 - a. Mid-Year/Spring Graduation (Bylaw 216.A.)
 - b. California High School Proficiency Exam (Bylaw 216.B.)

**The CIF recognizes that any student who is ineligible under the rules of another state cannot gain eligibility at a CIF member school until the terms of ineligibility are served.*

201. STANDARDS OF ELIGIBILITY

Only students enrolled in public, charter and private CIF member schools, grades 9-12, and meet all standards of athletic eligibility established by CIF, their respective CIF Section of membership, their respective league, district and school are considered a student in good standing and eligible to compete for their school of enrollment. Students who are enrolled in school programs or member schools whose membership status has been established as a multi-school/campus should also refer to Bylaws 302, 303 and 304 for additional eligibility requirements.

A. Enrollment Standards- See also Bylaws 204, 206, 207 and 209

(1) Enrollment Standard Required for Participation: (Bylaws 201 and 205)

- a. Students must be enrolled full-time (minimum 20 units) at the school for which they are competing. (See also Bylaws 205.B.(1)a., 216, 303, 304, 503.C. & 503.G.)
- b. Students will be considered enrolled in a school for purposes of participation in interscholastic athletics (Bylaw 205.B) when they have:
 - (i) Been entered as a full-time student [20 units or equivalent in a non-traditional program-see also Bylaw 205.B.(1)a. and b.(i)] in attendance in classes at that school.
OR
 - (ii) Participated in a Fall sport when the tryouts and/or practices of that team begin before classes at the school begin in the Fall. Such a student will be considered to be enrolled during that practice time as long as they have registered for, and are enrolled, as a full-time student for the Fall semester of that school year [20 units or equivalent in a non-traditional program; see also Bylaws 205.B.(1)a. and b.(i)].

Q: My son was not registered for any classes at any school. He was not attending school anywhere because we had just moved here. He enrolled in classes at the new school (CIF Member School A) two (2) weeks after the first day of this school year. When does his official enrollment begin?

A: Because he was not registered or currently scheduled for classes at any school he is not considered to have been on the attendance roll prior to his official enrollment. Official enrollment would begin on the first day he attended classes at the new school.

Q: My son was registered and scheduled in classes, but due to illness did not begin attending until five (5) days after the school year/term began. When does his official enrollment begin?

A: Because he was registered and scheduled in classes, even though he was not attending those classes, his official enrollment begins the first day that he attended classes at that school.

- c. For eligibility purposes, students cannot have dual enrollment in two (2) different schools at the same time. During the time a student remains enrolled in their current school but has registered for classes at a new school and/or paid a non-refundable registration fee at a new school, the student will be considered to be enrolled in the former school not the new school. Only at such time as the student has withdrawn from or has completed the courses in which they were enrolled at the former school, is no longer enrolled in any way at the former school and has attended classes at their new school, shall that student be considered as being enrolled in the new school for eligibility purposes. This applies to 8th graders matriculating the following school year to 9th grade in a CIF member school.

NOTE: This is not intended to apply to traditional summer school coursework. Summer school is defined as a course of study that begins after the end of the previous school year and ends prior to the beginning of the Fall term of the following school year.

Q: My daughter will be transferring to a new school (School B) in the Fall. She has registered for classes at that new school, but still remains enrolled in, and completing her coursework at, her current school (School A). For purposes of athletic eligibility, is she enrolled in both schools at this time?

A: Students may not have dual enrollment for eligibility purposes. Students may not have residential eligibility at two (2) different schools at the same time. She is considered enrolled at, and therefore only eligible at, her current school (School A).

- d. Students may not participate in any athletic meeting, practice or competition at a new school in which they have registered for classes and/or paid a non-refundable registration fee until they have been officially withdrawn from their former school, or stopped attending or the regular school year for their former school has concluded. This applies to 8th graders who are matriculating the following school year to a CIF member school.

Q: My daughter will be transferring to a new school (School B) in the Fall. She has registered for classes at that new school, but still remains enrolled in and completing her coursework at her current school (School A). Can she practice with her new school team during the current school year since she is registered for classes and will be attending the new school next term/year?

A: No. For eligibility purposes, she is not considered to be enrolled at the new school (School B) since she had not withdrawn from or stopped attending School A and therefore may not participate, practice or compete in any way with their athletic program. If she does, she may be declared to be in violation of Bylaws 207.C.(3) & 510 pre-enrollment contact with the new school (School B) which may jeopardize her athletic eligibility.

- e. Students may not practice with or compete for any CIF member school in which they are not enrolled as a full-time student regardless of the sports offerings, or lack thereof, at the school in which they are enrolled.

(2) **Enrollment Standard Establishing a Semester of Attendance**

- a. Once a student attends class and is continuously enrolled for 15 school days in the 9th grade, and/or in any classes taken subsequent to the completion of the 8th grade, at any school or has played in an interscholastic athletic contest, the CIF will count that as the student's first semester of high school eligibility.

Q: Because of family circumstances, we enrolled our daughter in the 9th grade at a school after her completion of the 8th grade. She was unable to attend until a month after school started. Because of this, we waited until the 2nd semester of that year for her to actually start attending classes. When does her eight (8) semesters begin?

A: California Ed Code Section 58200 et seq. provides that each person between the ages of six (6) and 18 years is subject to compulsory full-time education unless the person is statutorily exempt. However, if during that first semester, she was not enrolled in any coursework of any kind in any school, was not home schooled and was not taking any kind of courses online through any Independent Study Program or in any other program of coursework, her first semester of high school eligibility would begin at the 2nd semester.

- b. Eight (8) consecutive semesters of eligibility, including and immediately following the first semester as described in (a.) above, are available to the student whether or not the student is enrolled in school, participates in or is eligible for, interscholastic participation. (Bylaw 204)

(3) **Enrollment Standard Establishing Students as a Transfer (Bylaw 207)**

- a. Students shall be considered to be a transfer student when:
 - (i) The student has attended class at their former school (School A)
 - AND/OR
 - (ii) The student has played in an athletic contest for their former school; AND/OR
 - (iii) The student has tried out for or practiced with a team prior to the beginning of the school year for five (5) days or more; AND
 - (iv) That student withdraws from School A or has completed the courses in which they were enrolled in at School A, so that student is no longer enrolled in any way at School A; AND
 - (v) That student enrolls as a full-time student in a new school (School B); THEN that student shall be determined to be enrolled in and having transferred to School B if all conditions of 201.A.(1) above are met.
- b. Students may not practice with or participate in an interscholastic athletic contest for the new school prior to establishing enrollment in the new school, meeting the enrollment standards contained herein, except if they are transferring at the beginning of the school year and practice for that season of sport begins prior to the first day that classes begin for the new school. Registering for classes and paying a non-refundable registration fee or tuition does not constitute enrollment in the new school for transfer purposes.
- c. For eligibility purposes, students cannot have dual enrollment in two (2) different schools at the same time. During the time a student is intending to transfer schools, has registered for classes at the new school and/or paid a non-refundable registration fee at the new school, but still remains enrolled in the former school, the student will be considered to be enrolled in the former school. Only at such time as the student has withdrawn from or has completed the courses in which they were enrolled at the former school, and is no longer enrolled in any way at the former school, shall that student be considered as having transferred to the new school. This applies to 8th graders matriculating the following school year to 9th grade in a CIF member school.
- d. No one associated with the athletic program at the new school may perpetrate any violation of Bylaw 510 or have inappropriate pre-enrollment contact as outlined in Bylaw 207.C or 510 prior to their enrollment in the new school as defined herein.

Q: What if my child is on a waiting list to attend School B, but is not accepted until after the school year has begun and began attending School A?

A: The Section may grant an exception, but must have written documentation that the student was placed on the waiting list at School B prior to the start of the school year beginning and their attendance at School A. The student will not be eligible for an exemption if they participated in any contests at School A.

(4) **Enrollment Standards for Purposes of Bylaw 510 (pre-enrollment contact) (Bylaw 510)**

- a. General information about athletic programs, physicals, summer activity, camps, etc. may be distributed to middle school students only by a CIF member school administrator or athletic director.

Q: What may representatives of a senior high school do as far as contact with junior high/middle school students is concerned?

A: Because a graduate of a junior high/middle school may enter any high school in California and may be residentially eligible in accordance with all CIF rules, contact by senior high school representatives is regulated. Individual coaches cannot visit or initiate contact with junior high/middle school students, but it would be permissible for the school administrator or athletic director (not the coach) of a senior high school to visit the junior high/middle school campus for the purpose of informing students of the total athletic program at the senior high school. However, it is legal for a high school coach to be part of a total open house and/or school orientation (academics, activities, but not athletics by itself) where a student is part of a general gathering of students on the high school campus and such activity has the approval of the high school and junior high/middle or elementary school principal.

- b. 8th graders who have not graduated from the 8th grade may not participate in any athletic communication(s) conducted by any high school coach that is not part of a school-wide high school presentation until May 1 and only if the student has registered for classes at the CIF member school and, in the case of a private school, also paid a non-refundable registration fee.

Q: What means of communication may coaches use after May 1?

A: Coaches may communicate with 8th grade families via phone, email or letters but must do so in accordance with school/school district/governing board policy.

- c. The student may not practice or compete in any contest at any high school, even if they have registered for classes and/or paid a non-refundable registration fee, until they have graduated from the 8th grade.
- d. Contact between coaches (and others associated with the athletic program) and students or their parents during summer activity conducted by a CIF member school, shall not be considered pre-enrollment contact requiring disclosure, if the student has, previous to that summer, registered for classes at the CIF member school and, in the case of a private school, also paid a non-refundable registration fee and has officially withdrawn from the previous school as long as the contact does not occur prior to the conclusion of the student's former school's year end. Such contact is not required to be disclosed. All other contact not covered in this circumstance between coaches (and others associated with the athletic program) and students or their parents must be disclosed as required in Bylaws 206, 207 and 510.

(Revised April 2018 Federated Council)

(5) **Enrollment of Students in Schools with Multi-School/Campus Agreements**

Enrollment of students in a school with an existing multi-school/campus agreement may be residentially eligible only as provided in Bylaws 302, 303 and 304. (See Related Bylaw 301 – Home Study/Home Schooling)

(Revised April 2016 Federated Council)

202. ACCURATE INFORMATION

- A. The CIF requires that all information provided in regard to any aspect of the eligibility of a student must be true, correct, accurate, complete and/or not false or inaccurate.

B. **Penalty for Providing Incorrect, Inaccurate, Incomplete or False Information**

- (1) If it is discovered that any parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver or student has provided incorrect, inaccurate, incomplete or false information in regards to any aspect of eligibility status on behalf of a student, that student is subject to immediate ineligibility for CIF competition at any level in any sport for a period of up to 24 calendar months from the date the determination was made that incorrect, inaccurate, incomplete or false information was provided.
- (2) If it is discovered that persons associated with the student or the school [coaches, teachers, parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver, friends, etc.] provided incorrect, inaccurate, incomplete or false information in order to fraudulently gain favorable eligibility status for a student, that student is subject to immediate ineligibility for competition at any Section member school at any level in any sport for a period of up to 24 calendar months from the determination that incorrect, inaccurate, incomplete or false information was provided whether the student was aware of the fraudulent information or not.

(Revised October 2001 Federated Council)

- (3) Any contests in which a student or students participated based on incorrect, inaccurate, incomplete or false information regarding eligibility status shall be forfeited according to the guidelines set in accord to the rules of the Section.

(4) **Teams**

- a. If it is determined that someone associated with a school (including, but not limited to, a coach) knowingly participates in either providing incorrect, inaccurate, incomplete or false information or using fraud or knowingly allows others to do so, in order for a team to meet qualification standards in any event, that team will be subject to immediate ineligibility for further competition in that sport that season.
- b. Any contest in which that team has participated based on incorrect, inaccurate, incomplete or false information or fraud shall be forfeited according to the guidelines of the Section or the CIF.

(5) **School Personnel Involvement**

If any school personnel (including but not limited to a coach) knowingly participates in either providing incorrect, inaccurate, incomplete or false information or allowing others to provide incorrect, inaccurate, incomplete or false information in order to gain favorable eligibility status for a student, or team information to meet qualification standards for participation in any contest including playoffs or Championships, sanctions may be imposed on the school including but not limited to: probationary status, prohibitions against playoff participation, forfeitures, revoking of CIF or Section membership, etc.

(6) **Assumed Name**

In addition to any sanctions or penalties arising from the provisions above, a student shall become ineligible for CIF competition in their respective sport for competing in CIF competition under an assumed name.

203. AGE REQUIREMENT

A student whose 19th birthday is attained prior to June 15 shall not participate or practice on any team in the following school year. A student whose 19th birthday is on or before June 14 is ineligible. Each Section may waive this provision so long as criteria for such a waiver shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- A. Such a waiver would not grant more than four (4) years [eight (8) semesters] of eligibility; AND
- B. Such a waiver would not grant more than four (4) years of participation in any sport; AND
- C. That a hardship exists which, in the judgment of the Section, requires a waiver. Hardship is defined in Bylaw 213; AND
- D. A decision to deny such a waiver by the Section Commissioner may be appealed only to the Section and in accordance with the provisions set forth in Bylaw 1101.

204. EIGHT (8) CONSECUTIVE SEMESTERS REQUIREMENT- See also 201.A.(2)

A. **Definition of a Semester of Attendance**

Once a student attends a class and is continuously enrolled for 15 school days in the 9th grade, and/or has taken classes subsequent to the completion of the 8th grade, at any school or has played in an interscholastic athletic contest, the CIF will count that as the student's first semester of high school eligibility.
(Revised January 2016 Federated Council)

B. **Eight (8) Consecutive Semester Rule**

A student who first enters the 9th grade of any school following the student's completion of the 8th grade in any school may be eligible for athletic competition during a maximum period of time that is not to exceed eight (8) consecutive semesters following the initial enrollment in the 9th grade of any school and/or in any classes taken subsequent to the completion of the 8th grade, whether or not the student is enrolled in school, whether or not the student is academically or otherwise eligible and whether or not the student avails themselves of the opportunity to participate in interscholastic sports during this time. Eligibility is only available during the student's first eight (8) consecutive semesters of enrollment in high school (grades 9-12).

Q: My daughter suffered a serious knee injury causing her to miss the entire volleyball season in her junior year. May I request a waiver of the limitation of eight consecutive semesters of eligibility?

A: No. An injury is not a reason for granting a waiver of this rule.

C. **Section Waivers**

(1) **Waiving Semester Limitation**

Each Section may, at its discretion, establish rules and procedures for waiving the limitation on eight (8) semesters of eligibility, providing:

- a. The student is required by the student's school principal to return to grade eight (8) from grade nine (9) and the student did not take part in an interscholastic contest while in the 9th grade for the first time; OR
- b. The student, because of mid-year completion of an 8th grade or a mid-year completion of the 9th grade in a junior high school, is required by the student's school principal to repeat a semester of work in order to conform to a school program having annual terms; AND
- c. The student has not taken part in an interscholastic athletic contest while enrolled for the first time in the semester which the student's school principal required the student to repeat.

- (2) **Waivers of the Charge of a Semester of Attendance**
- a. Other than C.(1) above, relief under this rule may only be granted when the conditions set forth in Bylaw 204.C.(2)b. below are found to be present. Any other past rationales or basis for relief under this Bylaw are invalidated.
- (Approved May 2001 Federated Council)
- b. Each Section may waive the charge of one (1) or more of the eight (8) consecutive semesters of eligibility for athletic competition due to a hardship condition that causes the student's absence from school or to extend the student's attendance in school beyond eight (8) consecutive semesters, provided:
- (i) That a hardship condition exists that, in the judgment of the Section, warrants a waiver. Hardship is defined in Bylaw 213; AND
 - (ii) The hardship caused the student to remain out of school for more than half of any semester during his/her high school career; OR
 - (iii) The hardship is the direct and sole cause of the student extending his/her attendance beyond eight (8) consecutive semesters even though the student was in attendance for those eight (8) consecutive semesters. Further, the student's extension of his/her attendance beyond eight (8) semesters has no athletic motivation; AND
 - (iv) That the student was eligible under all rules in the semester immediately prior to either his/her absence or the onset of the hardship condition that is the direct and sole cause for extending his/her attendance beyond eight (8) semesters; AND or the student is or was homeless or in foster care, and his/her status as a foster or homeless youth is the sole and direct cause for seeking a waiver of the charge of a semester of attendance and the student meets all other eligibility requirements unrelated to his/her status as a foster or homeless youth; AND
(Revised April 2016 Federated Council)
 - (v) Such a waiver would not grant more than four (4) years of participation in any sport; (See Bylaw 504.K. and 504.L.); AND
 - (vi) Hardship applications may not be submitted prior to the conclusion of the student's 7th semester in high school.
- (3) All other eligibility requirements apply.
- (4) **APPEALS:** A decision to deny such a waiver by the Section Commissioner may be appealed only to the Section and in accordance with the provisions set forth in Bylaw 1101.
NOTE: Failure to satisfy the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), California course requirements (e.g. Algebra I), and/or end of course requirements shall not be considered a hardship.

205. SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY

A. Initial Scholastic Eligibility

In order to be eligible, any student entering from the 8th grade into a CIF four (4)-year high school, a junior high or a junior high under the provisions of Bylaw 303, must have achieved an unweighted 2.0 grade-point average, on a 4.0 scale, in enrolled courses at the conclusion of the previous grading period.

Q: What is the definition of an unweighted grade-point average?

A: An unweighted grade-point average is one where no additional grade points are awarded for any courses (advanced placement, honors, etc.)

Q: Are all courses considered equal in the calculation of a grade-point average?

A: No. An A grade in a one-credit class would not be considered equal to an A grade in a five (5)-credit class.

(1) Probationary Period

The governing board of each school district, private school, or parochial school may adopt, as part of its policy, provisions that would allow a student who does not achieve the above requirement in the previous grading period to remain eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics during a probationary period. The probationary period shall not exceed one (1) semester in length, but may be for a shorter period of time, as determined by the governing board of the school district, private school, or parochial school. A student who does not meet the above requirements during the probationary period shall not be allowed to participate in interscholastic athletics in the subsequent grading period. For the purpose of determining the maximum length of a semester, the measure shall be the maximum number of days comprising a semester as used in that school during the year in question.

B. Continuing Scholastic Eligibility

(1) Minimum Requirements

A student is scholastically eligible if:

- a. The student achieved an unweighted 2.0 grade-point average, on a 4.0 scale, in enrolled courses at the conclusion of the previous grading period.
(See Q&A below in Bylaw 205.B.(1)e.)
- b. The student is currently enrolled in at least 20 semester credits of work;

(i) **Non-Traditional Programs**

In schools where other than traditional semester programs are offered, the principal of each individual school shall be responsible for determining the equivalent of 20 semester credits of work.

(ii) **Accelerated Programs**

Students studying on an accelerated program that includes one (1) or more advanced (either high school or college) courses while enrolled in high school may substitute enrollment and passing grades in these courses for one (1) or more required 20 semester credits of work; evaluation of these courses is to be done by the high school principal.

- c. The student was passing in the equivalent of at least 20 semester credits of work at the completion of the most recent grading period;
- d. The student is maintaining minimum progress toward meeting the high school graduation requirements as prescribed by the governing board;
- e. The student has maintained during the previous grading period a minimum unweighted 2.0 grade-point average, on a 4.0 scale, in all enrolled courses.

Q: What is the definition of an unweighted grade-point average?

A: An unweighted grade-point average is one where no additional grade points are awarded for any courses (advanced placement, honors, etc.)

Q: Are all courses considered equal in the calculation of a grade-point average?

A: No. An A grade in a one-credit class would not be considered equal to an A grade in a five (5)-credit class

(2) **Probationary Period**

The governing board of each school district, private school, or parochial school may adopt, as part of its policy, provisions that would allow a student who does not achieve educational progress in items d. or e. above in the previous grading period to remain eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics during a probationary period. The probationary period shall not exceed one (1) semester in length, but may be for a shorter period of time as determined by the governing board of the school district, private school, or parochial school. A student who does not achieve educational progress as defined in items d. or e. during the probationary period shall not be allowed to participate in interscholastic athletics in the subsequent grading period. For the purpose of determining the maximum length of a semester, the measure should be the maximum as used in that school.

(3) **Grading Period**

The grading period is that time when all students in a school are graded. If two (2) grades are given at the end of a grading period, scholastic eligibility shall be established according to the grade issued for credit.

- a. Schools or districts or leagues or Sections must establish an eligibility date following the immediately previous grading period in compliance with their respective CIF Section Policy. This is the date on which all students become eligible and ineligible based on their officially posted grades in the immediately previous grading period.
- b. Grades cannot be changed following the grading period for purposes of addressing any deficiency in an individual student's scholastic eligibility.
- c. Only grades changed prior to the established eligibility date and changed in accordance with all California State Education Code requirements and approved by the principal may be used for purposes of determining scholastic eligibility.

d. **Incomplete Grades**

A grade(s) of Incomplete shall not be considered a passing grade under this Bylaw unless, by operation of a school grading policy, Incomplete grade shall become a passing letter or (numeric) grade without further achievement or accomplishment by a student, at a certain time. When an Incomplete grade is issued, which does not automatically become a passing grade, as indicated immediately above, such Incomplete grade shall not satisfy the requirement of this Bylaw until academic deficiency which gave rise to such Incomplete grade shall have been satisfied and a passing grade has been substituted for the Incomplete grade. Upon such substitution, the substituted grade shall be considered in determining scholastic eligibility as established by evaluation of previous grading period grades and the substituted grade. A scholastically ineligible student may become immediately scholastically eligible upon such evaluation.

e. **Physical Education Credits**

Credits earned in physical education may count toward the 20 semester credits of work requirement.

f. **Summer School Credits**

Summer school credits shall be counted toward making up scholastic deficiencies incurred in the grading period (semester) immediately preceding. Summer school courses failed shall not impair an athlete's scholastic eligibility achieved in the semester immediately preceding. A course taken by contract or independent study during the summer must meet the following four (4) criteria:

- (i) The course(s) must be approved by the local board of trustees as a valid part of the district's school program;
- (ii) The student receives a passing grade in the courses taken;
- (iii) The personnel providing the instruction and course supervision are approved by the board of trustees;
- (iv) The school credit is recorded on the student's transcript.

g. **Scholastic Eligibility for Students in Non-Traditional Programs**

In schools operating on other than the traditional program (i.e., for schools such as those with a modular or flexible scheduling, special programs for the physically disabled, or continuous progress programs) the principal shall certify on the established eligibility date to the scholastic eligibility of each student based upon satisfactory progress in accordance with the standards defined above. Students may apply college course units to satisfy the 20 semester credits of work requirement and the grade point average requirement. Students who are eligible for differential standards of proficiency pursuant to Section 51412 of the Education Code are covered by that Section.

NOTE: For crediting purposes the grading period closes with the last day of school in the given grading period. In determining eligibility, one (1) grading period does not end until the next one begins.

C. **Waiver of the Requirement of Passing 20 Semester Credits of Work**

Each Section may waive the requirement of passing in 20 semester credits of work during the regular school grading period immediately preceding that of competition, provided:

- (1) Serious illness, injury or attendance in special schools (as referenced in Education Code Sections 59000 et seq. and 59100 et seq.) prevents the student from meeting one (1) or more of these requirements; OR
- (2) The student has been traveling abroad with the consent of the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver and circumstances prevented further school attendance; OR
- (3) The student is returning from an American abroad school attendance program; OR
- (4) The student is returning from school attendance abroad because of a valid change of residency by the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver; OR
- (5) The student is required to remain out of a U.S. school because of exceptional hardship, (See Bylaw 213 for definition of hardship); AND
- (6) That the student was eligible under all rules in the semester immediately prior to his/her absence; AND
- (7) All other rules such as age and number of seasons of sport shall apply.

A decision to deny such a waiver by the Section Commissioner may be appealed only to the Section and in accordance with the provisions set forth in Bylaw 1101.

206. RESIDENTIAL ELIGIBILITY

A. **Initial Residential Eligibility**

A student has residential eligibility upon initial enrollment in: (See also Bylaw 201.A. for definition of enrollment)

- (1) The 9th grade of any CIF high school, a CIF junior high school, or a junior high school under provisions of Bylaw 303; OR
- (2) The 10th grade of any CIF high school from 9th grade of a junior high school in the United States.

B. **Continuing Residential Eligibility – See also Bylaw 201.A.**

A student retains residential eligibility as long as he/she is continuously enrolled in the CIF member high school in which the student initially enrolled.

C. **Valid Change of Residence**

A student may be determined to be residentially eligible when a student, whose parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver with whom the student was living when the student established residential eligibility at the prior school (School A), completes a valid change of residence as described herein when the following conditions are met:

- (1) A valid change of residence must be made from a residence located in the public high school attendance area (School A's attendance area), even if the student is not currently attending nor ever has attended the school in which attendance area they reside, to another public high school's attendance area (School B's attendance area).
- (2) School A may be a CIF member school or a non-CIF member school or may be a school located outside of the United States.

(3) **Definition of a Valid Change of Residence**

A valid residence is defined as the location where the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver (with whom eligibility has been established) live with that student and thereby have the use and enjoyment of that location as a residence. A valid change of residence for eligibility purposes requires the former residence to have been vacated by the entire family for use as its residence. For athletic eligibility purposes, a student (with the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver with whom residential eligibility has been established) may only have one (1) primary valid residence at one (1) time.

(4) **Determination of What Constitutes a Valid Change of Residence**

Determination of what constitutes a valid change of residence depends upon the facts in each case. In determining that a valid change of residence occurred, the following facts must exist:

- a. The original residence must be abandoned as a residence by the immediate family. The new school is responsible for validating this fact; AND
- b. The student's entire immediate family must make the change of primary residence and take with them the household goods and furniture appropriate to the circumstances. For eligibility purposes, a family unit may not maintain more than one (1) primary residence; AND
- c. The change of primary residence must be genuine, without fraud or deceit and with permanent intent; AND

NOTE: A student whose family makes a valid change of residence into a new school's attendance area (See d. below) may be residentially eligible for varsity competition upon receipt and recording of a CIF Form (please use respective CIF Section Form) by the CIF Section of the student's new school. A subsequent move into a different school boundary by the family (or other family members) during the next 12 calendar months will result in the student being declared ineligible until cleared for competition by the Section Commissioner.

- d. A request for eligibility based on a valid change of residence by the student's entire immediate family must be supported by documentation. Documentation may be cumulative and no single document or any combination of documents listed below will be considered as definitive that a valid change of residence occurred. The documents must support a finding by the Section that a valid change of residence by the student's entire immediate family occurred prior to participation at the new school; that the previous residence was vacated as required above in paragraphs a., b. and c. and that the family no longer has the use and enjoyment of that former residence. The Section Commissioner and school may request additional documents they deem necessary to establish that a valid change of residence occurred as defined above. Evidence may include:

- Property tax receipts;
- Bank account statements;
- Credit card statements.

The Section Commissioner and/or school have the discretion to request additional documents that he/she deems necessary to confirm change in residency. Examples may include:

- Real estate documents indicating and verifying a change of residence;
- Court documents indicating a change of residence;
- Declaration of residency executed by the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver;
- Operative telephone and utility service at the student's new residence and terminated at the former residence;
- Utility service receipts;
- Proof of paying for utilities at the new residence including phone, gas, electricity, water, cable television, and garbage collection;
- Proof of submitting a change of address to the U.S. Postal Service to receive mail at the new residence;
- Proof of transfer of the parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver and age-appropriate student's motor vehicle registration;
- Proof of changed address on the parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver and age-appropriate student driver's license;
- Voter registration listing the new address;
- Proof of entering a long-term lease; (minimum of 12 calendar months).
- Rent payment receipts.

The Section Commissioner and/or school have the discretion to request additional documents that he/she deems necessary to confirm residency.

(5) **Change in School Enrollment Made in Anticipation of a Valid Change of Residence**

If a student transfers to a high school in advance of the anticipated change of residence by the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver with whom the student was living when the student established residential eligibility, the student shall become eligible when the parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver actually complete a valid change of residence to that school's attendance area.

(6) **Choice of Schools After a Valid Change of Residence**

A student choosing a school after making a valid change of residence in accordance with CIF's definition of valid change of residence has a choice for residential eligibility as follows:

a. **Remaining at the Same School**

Continued attendance at the previous school (School A) maintains residential eligibility at School A as long as the student has remained enrolled in the same school under a district/school approved enrollment process (i.e., inter or intra or senior privilege etc. district/school program); OR

b. **Changing Schools**

A student must make a valid change of residence out of the public school (School A) attendance area in which their former family residence was located and into another public school's attendance area (School B). This is true even if the student was not attending public School A, but was enrolled in a private school or a charter school. Changing schools following such a valid change of residence will result in full residential eligibility if the following conditions are met:

- (i) Student enrolls, attends, and/or is carried on the attendance roll at the new public school (School B) into whose attendance area the family moved, or another public school in accordance with the district(s) policies or a private school or a charter school; AND
- (ii) The student changes schools immediately following the family valid change of residence or no later than the beginning of the next school year following that family move; AND
- (iii) The new school verifies the family valid change of residence of the family; AND
- (iv) A CIF Form (please use local CIF Section Form) documenting the new school's verification of the family's valid change of residence is completed by the new school and family and received by the CIF Section within 30 days of the valid change of residence and recorded by the respective CIF Section.

(7) **Valid Change of Residence After a Discipline Situation**

Such a student will not be granted residential eligibility except as outlined in Bylaw 209 if the student is changing residence and schools, voluntarily or if compelled by the former school or district, as a result of a disciplinary situation at the previous school.

(8) **Pre-Enrollment Contact**

Such a student will not be granted residential eligibility until the Pre-Enrollment Contact Affidavit with the CIF Form (please use local CIF Section Form) is completed by the family and school, received and recorded by the CIF Section, verifying there is no evidence of the use of undue influence (recruiting) by anyone associated with either school in order to procure the student's enrollment in the new school. [See also (10) below and Bylaw 510]

(9) **Same Sport at Two (2) Different Schools**

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. In the event of a change of schools due to a valid change of residence, a student will be allowed to participate in the same sport at two (2) different schools not to exceed, in total, the maximum number of contests in that sport as established by the CIF and/or the CIF Section.

(10) **Athletically Motivated Valid Change of Residence**

If a student completes a valid change of residence as provided in Bylaw 206.C.(1-5), a student may not be eligible to participate at any level if there is evidence the move was athletically motivated or the student enrolled in that school in whole or in part for athletic reasons (See Bylaw 200; 510.B.-E.)

Q: What is meant by an athletically motivated move or transfer?

A: Based on the CIF philosophy that students attend school to receive an education first; athletic participation is secondary [Bylaw 200.A.(2)], individual Section Offices may limit eligibility for a student when there is evidence the transfer, or move is made to acquire athletic participation at School B. Such evidence of an athletically motivated move may include, but is not limited to:

- Transferring to a School after Participating on a Non-School Athletic Team, Camp or Clinic Associated with the School [Bylaw 510.E.(1)]
- Transferring to a School Where a Former High School Coach Has Relocated [Bylaw 510.E.(2)]
- A demonstrated move or transfer that is prompted by association with club programs or outside agencies that use the facilities of the new school.
- Evidence that multiple students have transferred or changed schools to participate in a particular sports program at one (1) school. (Revised April 2017 Federated Council)

207. TRANSFER ELIGIBILITY

- A. Determination of Transfer Student Status-Standards of Enrollment - See also Bylaw 201.A. (3)
- (1) A student shall be considered to be a transfer student when:
 - a. The student has attended class at their former school (School A);
(Revised April 2016 Federated Council)
AND/OR
 - b. The student has played in an athletic contest for their former school; AND/OR
 - c. The student has tried out for or practiced with a team prior to the beginning of the school year for five (5) days or more; AND
 - d. That student withdraws from School A or has completed the courses in which they were enrolled in at School A, so that student is no longer enrolled in any way at School A; AND
 - e. That student enrolls as a full-time student in a new school (School B).
THEN that student shall be determined to be enrolled in and having transferred to School B if all conditions of Bylaw 201.A.(1) are met.
 - (2) Students may not practice with or participate in an interscholastic athletic contest for the new school prior to establishing enrollment in the new school meeting these enrollment standards except if they are transferring at the beginning of the school year and practice for that season of sport begins prior to the first day that school and classes begin. These conditions must be met even if prior to this such a student has registered for classes and/or paid a non-refundable registration fee to the new school.
 - a. For eligibility purposes, students cannot have dual enrollment in two (2) different schools at the same time. During the time a student is intending to transfer schools, has registered for classes at the new school and/or paid a non-refundable registration fee at the new school, but still remains enrolled in the former school, the student will be considered to be enrolled in the former school. Only at such time as the student has withdrawn from or has completed the courses in which they were enrolled at the former school, and is no longer enrolled in any way at the former school, shall that student be considered as having transferred to the new school. This applies to 8th graders matriculating the following school year to 9th grade in a CIF member school.
 - (3) No one associated with the athletic program at the new school may perpetrate any violation of Bylaw 510 or have inappropriate pre-enrollment contact as outlined in Bylaw 207.C or 510 prior to their enrollment in the new school as defined above. [See also Bylaw 201.A (4)]

(Revised April 2016 Federated Council)

Q: What is meant by an athletically motivated move or transfer?

A: Based on the CIF philosophy that students attend school to receive an education first; athletic participation is secondary [Bylaw 200.A.(2)], individual Section Offices may limit eligibility for a student when there is evidence the transfer, or move is made to acquire athletic participation at School B. Such evidence of an athletically motivated move may include, but is not limited to:

- Transferring to a School after Participating on a Non-School Athletic Team, Camp or Clinic Associated with the School [Bylaw 510.E.(1)]
- Transferring to a School Where a Former High School Coach Has Relocated [Bylaw 510.E.(2)]
- A demonstrated move or transfer that is prompted by association with club programs or outside agencies that use the facilities of the new school.
- Evidence that multiple students have transferred or changed schools to participate in a particular sports program at one (1) school.

(Revised April 2017 Federated Council)

B. CIF Transfer Rule

All students transferring at any time during their enrollment in high school to a CIF member school after their initial enrollment in the 9th grade in any school (referred to as Former School or School A) shall have their eligibility determination made in compliance with the following Bylaw 207.B. except:

- Those making a valid change of residence (Bylaw 206); OR
- Those transferring to or from a CIF member school under the auspices of a CIF-approved foreign exchange program (Bylaw 208); OR
- Those transferring as a result of discipline (Bylaw 209).

NOTES:

Emancipated Minors: This Bylaw also applies to students 18 years of age or older and emancipated minors.

Every Student Succeeds Act: Students transferring to another school under any provision of the federal legislation "Every Student Succeeds Act" are not residentially eligible at their new school. However, a student may become eligible under the provisions of the appropriate CIF Section and CIF State Constitution and Bylaws. (The Elementary Secondary Education Act (Pub.L. 114-95) also known as the Every Student Succeeds Act or ESSA, was signed into law on December 10, 2015 by President Obama.)

Boarding School: A high school student who transfers to or from the status of a full-time resident at a 24-hour boarding school shall be subject to all provisions of Bylaw 207 with the exception of those making a valid change of residence (Bylaw 206).

Q: Is a boarding school student eligible to apply for the Sit Out Period?

A: Yes, assuming the student meets all provisions of Bylaw 207.B.(5).b.

(Approved April 2018 Federated Council)

(1) **Mandatory Applications for Eligibility Determination**

All such transfer students addressed in Bylaw 207 must complete the respective CIF Section-required Application form (please use local CIF Section Form). This form must be submitted to the CIF Section for an eligibility determination which the CIF Section Commissioner shall render in writing within twenty (20) business days of receipt unless a shorter timeframe has been so designated. No transfer student is eligible to compete for their new school of enrollment until a determination has been made by their respective CIF Section. (See also Bylaws 501, 510 and 700.)

(Revised January 2016 Federated Council)

(2) **Pre-Enrollment Disclosure Requirements**

[Please see also Bylaws 201.A.(1) & (4) and 510]

Any and all pre-enrollment contact of any kind whatsoever with a student must be disclosed by the student, parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver, and the schools involved to their respective CIF Section office on a completed CIF Pre-Enrollment Contact Affidavit [CIF Form - (please use local CIF Section Form)]. Pre-enrollment contact may include, but is not limited to: any communication of any kind, directly or indirectly, with the student, parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver, relatives, or friends of the student about the athletic programs at a school; orientation/information programs, shadowing programs; attendance at outside athletic or similar events by anyone associated with the school to observe the student; participation by the student in programs supervised by the school or its associates before enrollment in the school per Bylaws 201.A.(1) & (4).

(3) **Transfers to a CIF Member School (described as New School or School B) From Schools (described as Former School or School A) Located in the United States, a U.S. Territory, Canada or a U.S. Military Base (referred herein as Domestic Transfers)**

Such transfer students who meet all other requirements for eligibility outlined in Bylaws will be granted unlimited residential eligibility in all sports at all levels at the new school except:

- a. In any sport(s) in which the transfer student has competed at any level at the former school(s), or was part of an academy program which competed against a high school or non-school organization during that season of sport, in the 12 calendar months immediately preceding their transfer to the new school, the student will be limited to sub-varsity (limited) eligibility in those sports;
- b. No student shall be eligible to participate in the same sport at two (2) different schools in the same school year;
- c. If the transfer is determined to be athletically motivated. Athletically motivated transfers may be considered prima facie evidence that the student enrolled in that school in whole or in part for athletic reasons and cause the student to be ineligible for participation in those sports in which the student participated at the former school as outlined in Bylaws 510 and 207.C.;
- d. The transfer is not determined to be based upon a disciplinary situation (See CIF Bylaw 209);
- e. The student meets all other provisions of all CIF Bylaws.

The student shall have unlimited residential eligibility for all sports at all levels under Bylaw 207 after having been enrolled for 12 calendar months from the date of transfer to the new school or in the case where the student returns to the previous school of eligibility as stated below:

When a student eligible in School A transfers to School B or any subsequent school and is residentially not eligible, the student may return to School A and shall be determined to be residentially eligible for unlimited participation in interscholastic sports provided the student did not participate in an interscholastic athletic contest while at School B or any subsequent school.

(Approved April 2018 Federated Council)

NOTE #1: Refer to (5) below for applications for transfer eligibility limitations determinations and exceptions.

NOTE #2: For purposes of this bylaw, an “academy” is defined as a non-school organization located in or outside the State of California that consists of a sports development and/or training program, consisting of athletic team(s) that compete against other high school or non-school organization athletic programs.

(Approved Federated Council April 2023)

(4) **International Transfers Not in a CIF-Approved Foreign Exchange Program**

Students who transfer to a CIF Member school (described as New School or School B) from:

- a. Any school (described as Former School or School A) which is located outside of the United States, a U.S. Territory, U. S. Military Base or Canada; AND
- b. Who are not enrolled in the CIF member school under the auspices of a CIF-approved foreign exchange program; AND
- c. Who meet all other requirements for eligibility in Bylaws.

THEN they may be granted unlimited residential eligibility in all sports at all levels at the new school except:

- (i) In any sport(s) in which the transfer student has competed at any level for a club or school team, in the 12 calendar months immediately preceding their transfer to the new school. The student will be limited to sub-varsity (limited) eligibility in those sports. For the purpose of this Bylaw, any and all organized sports programs (e.g. youth teams, community teams, club teams, national teams at any level or individualized instruction for competition in development schools or programs) in which the international student competed on, or participated within the last 12 months, will be considered by the CIF in determining whether the student participated in the equivalent of interscholastic competition.
- (ii) No student who has participated with a club or school team as described in (i), shall be eligible to participate in the same sport at the CIF member school within the same 12-month period (See also Bylaw 504.L.).
- (iii) If the transfer is determined to be athletically motivated. Athletically motivated transfers may be considered prima facie evidence that the student enrolled in that school in whole or in part for athletic reasons and cause the student to be ineligible for participation in those sports in which the student participated at the former school. (See also Bylaw 510)
- (iv) International students who are not participating in a CIF approved foreign exchange program are not eligible for the Sit Out Provision.

The student may be granted unlimited residential eligibility for all sports at all levels under Bylaw 207 after having been enrolled for 12 calendar months from the date of transfer to the new school.

In Addition, Such International Transfers Must:

- d. Possess a valid visa, allowing them to attend school, issued by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service or be a U.S. citizen who has been attending the equivalent of a United States high school secondary educational program outside of the United States; AND
- e. Provide to the principal of the school he/she attends an official un-translated transcript and a transcript that is translated into English, by an agency acceptable to the Section from the National Association of Credential Evaluation Service (NACES) membership, which indicates work taken in all grades in which the student was enrolled; the grade level equivalent in the United States as if the international student had completed all courses attempted satisfactorily; and the California grade-point average equivalent; AND
- f. If required, the international transfer student must pay tuition to the school/school district he/she attends as prescribed in Education Code Section 48052 et seq.; AND
- g. Be subject to the maximum of eight (8) consecutive semesters Bylaw 204; AND
- h. Be subject to the age requirement Bylaw 203; AND
- i. Not have graduated from high school. If they should have graduated, or have completed the equivalent coursework for graduation from high school/secondary school, the student is ineligible to participate in CIF competition; AND
- j. Not have the school's coaching staff, paid or voluntary, serve as the resident family for the international transfer student.

NOTE: CIF Sections may require individual students to have their school records/transcripts from the school from which they are transferring evaluated by an outside agency at the student's or school expense.

(Revised April 2018 Federated Council)

(5) **Applications for Transfer Eligibility Limitations, Determinations and Exceptions**

The CIF recognizes that, in certain circumstances, students may transfer from one (1) school to another due to a compelling hardship need or situation that is beyond a student's or their family's control. In response to such cases, the CIF allows for the CIF Section to make an exception to the limited eligibility status whenever they transfer and the case meets one (1) of the hardship circumstances outlined in Bylaw 207.B.(5)c.(viii). The first time a student transfers in high school, they may utilize the Sit Out Period exception covered in Bylaw 207.B.(5)b. below if they meet all of the conditions required. Any student whose transfer circumstances do not meet the conditions required by these two (2) options, will have their residential eligibility determined in compliance with 207.B.(5)a. as long as they meet the conditions required in that Bylaw.

(Revised April 2018 Federated Council)

a. **Limited Eligibility Applications**

Any student who submits a limited eligibility application to their respective CIF Section may be made eligible to play at the sub-varsity level in any sports in which they have participated at any previous school in the 12 months prior to this transfer under the following conditions:

- (i) The student was academically eligible at the time of transfer from the former school. Students who are academically 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 academic 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 principal of the former school attests in writing that the move was not made in violation of Bylaw 510; AND
- (iii) 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
- (iv) 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); AND
- (v) 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
- (vi) A completed Limited Transfer Application (please use local CIF Section Form) is received by the respective CIF Section office and has been processed and approved; AND
- (vii) The student who is approved by their respective CIF Section office and competes in a contest at the sub-varsity level following such approval and before the Sit Out Period (SOP) dates described in B.(5)b.(ix) below, is ineligible for and may not compete at the varsity level in that sport for the remainder of that school year. This applies through the end of any Section, Regional or State Championship finals in that sport; AND
- (viii) 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.

b. **Varsity Eligibility Applications (Non-Hardship Sit Out Period)**

Any student who transfers for the first time since their initial enrollment in the 9th grade in any school, or if the first transfer of schools for this student was granted due to an approved CIF hardship [see Bylaw 207.B.(5).c], or a valid change of residence and whose circumstances causing the transfer do not meet any of the Hardship Exceptions outlined in c.(viii) on following page, may become eligible for varsity competition for the sport(s) in which they competed in the last 12 months at the former school or any other school, upon submission, review and approval by their respective CIF Section under the following provisions:

- (i) This is the student's first transfer since they first enrolled anywhere in the 9th grade or had their first transfer determined to be a CIF hardship circumstance [Bylaw 207.B.(5).c.]; or a valid change of residence; AND
- (ii) The student was academically eligible at the time of transfer from the former school; AND
- (iii) The principal of the former school attests in writing that the move was not made in violation of Bylaw 510; AND
- (iv) 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
- (v) 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); AND
- (vi) 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
- (vii) 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
- (viii) The student has not competed at the new school at the sub-varsity level in that sport following the transfer during the current school year; AND
- (ix) The student shall remain out of any competition at any level in each sport in which they competed in the last 12 months at the former school or any other school in accordance with the following Sit Out Periods (SOP) [per Bylaw 207.B.(3):

NOTE: In any sport(s) in which the transfer student has competed at any level at the former school(s) in the 12 calendar months immediately preceding their transfer to the new school, the student will be limited to sub-varsity (limited) eligibility in those sports (Bylaw 207.B.(3)a.)
(Editorial June 2021)

The Sit Out Period will be 50% of the total number days in that particular season of sport. The number of days in a season is determined by each Section in accordance with their first allowable competition date through the final regular season competition date. If total number of days in a season is an odd number, then the Sit Out Period would be 50% plus one additional day.

(Revised October 2017 Federated Council)

- The student who transfers to a school after School B's first contest will have an SOP equivalent in calendar days to the SOP of all other students who transferred before the season started. The respective CIF Section Office will provide the actual date once the proper forms are received, reviewed and approved.

Q: My son was denied the Sit Out Period. May we appeal this ruling?

A: No.

Q: How is the SOP determined for a Traditional Competitive Cheer transfer?

A. Because the CIF recognizes Traditional Competitive Cheer programs in each of the three (3) seasons of CIF competition, transfers seeking the SOP for Traditional Competitive Cheer will work directly with their Section office on a case-by-case situation.

c. **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.

- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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.

(Revised April 2018 Federated Council)

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

d. **Appeals**

All eligibility determinations made by the respective CIF Section office under the provisions of Bylaw 207.B.(5)c. are final as all of these hardship circumstances are factual in nature and can be documented. Students whose eligibility determinations are made because they do not meet one (1) of the criteria outlined below in Bylaw 207.C. or in Bylaw 510 may appeal that portion of their eligibility determination in accordance with Bylaw 1100. Students may appeal a determination by their respective CIF Section if they have been found to not meet the following criteria:

- (i) Bylaw 207.B.(5)a.(iv) or b.(v) or c.(iii)

(Revised April 2017 Federated Council)

C. **Pre-Enrollment Communication or Contact (Domestic and International Transfers)**

A student who transfers from School A to School B, as described in Bylaws 207.A. and 207.B. above, shall not be eligible for interscholastic athletics at School B until application under the appropriate CIF Section procedures is completed, including the following:

(1) **Mandatory Parent/Student Certification**

[Please see also Bylaws 201.A.(1) & (4), 207.B.(2) and 510]

Any and all pre-enrollment contact of any kind whatsoever with a student must be disclosed by the student, parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver, and the schools involved to their respective CIF Section office on a completed CIF Pre-Enrollment Contact Affidavit [CIF Form - (please use local CIF Section Form)]. Pre-enrollment contact may include, but is not limited to: any communication of any kind, directly or indirectly, with the student, parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver, relatives, or friends of the student about the athletic programs at a school; orientation/information programs, shadowing programs; attendance at outside athletic or similar events by anyone associated with the school to observe the student; participation by the student in programs supervised by the school or its associates before enrollment in the school per Bylaws 201.A.(1) and (4).

(2) **Mandatory Former School Certification**

The principal and athletic director of School A shall attest that to the best of their knowledge they have no credible evidence* of any person: who is connected with the athletic department of School B; who is part of the booster club of School B; or who is acting on their behalf, having communication, directly or indirectly, through intermediaries or otherwise, with the transfer student, student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver, or anyone acting on behalf of the student, prior to the completion of the enrollment process.

Definition of Credible Evidence

*Credible evidence is considered as evidence which proceeds from a trustworthy source; evidence which is so natural, reasonable and probable as to make it easy to believe; information which is obtained from authentic sources or from the statements of persons who are not only trustworthy, but also informed as to the particular matter; that which is not mere speculation, or rumor.

(3) **Mandatory New School Certification**

The principal, athletic director and head coach of School B shall certify that to the best of their knowledge, no person: who is connected with the athletic department of School B; who is part of the booster club of School B; or who is acting on their behalf, has had communication, directly or indirectly, through intermediaries or otherwise, with the transfer student, student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver, or anyone acting on behalf of the student, prior to the completion of the enrollment process.

(4) **Club Coach Association with New School (student transfers to a new school which a coach from the student's non-CIF sports participation experience is associated)**

The transfer of a student from his or her current school of attendance with or without a valid change of residence (Bylaw 206) to any CIF member high school where the student participated, during the previous 24 months, on a non-school athletic team, (i.e. AAU, American Legion, club team, etc.) that is associated with the new school in the sports previously participated in shall be considered prima facie evidence (sufficient evidence) of undue influence/recruiting by the school to which the student transfers. Such transfer may be considered prima facie evidence (sufficient evidence) that the student enrolled in that school in whole or part for athletic reasons. A team associated with the school is one that is organized by and/or coached by any member of the coaching staff at, or any other person associated** with, that school and/or on which the majority of the members of the team (Participants in practice and/or competition) are students who attend that school. When a prima facie case (sufficient evidence) of undue influencing/recruiting exists, the student shall be ineligible to represent the new school in interscholastic athletic competition for a period of one (1) calendar year from the date of the student's enrollment in the new school in all sports in which the student participated at any school in the last 12 months and/or the sport with which the coach referenced herein is associated, unless sufficient proof is presented to the satisfaction of the Section Commissioner that rebuts or disproves the evidence of undue influence/recruiting for athletic reasons.

Definition of Persons Associated With School

**Defined as: Persons associated with a school include, but are not limited to; current or former coaches, current or former athletes, parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver of current or former student/athletes, booster club members, alumni, spouses or relatives of coaches, teachers and other employees, coaches who become employed, active applicants for coaching positions, and persons who are employed by companies or organizations that have donated athletic supplies, equipment or apparel to that school.

(5) **Relocation of Former High School Coach (Domestic and International Transfers)**

A student at any grade level who transfers to a new school within one (1) calendar year of the relocation of his/her former high school coach to that school with or without a corresponding valid change in residence shall be considered prima facie evidence (sufficient evidence) of undue influence/recruiting by the school to which the student transfers or may be considered prima facie evidence (sufficient evidence) that the student enrolled in that school in whole or in part for athletic reasons (See Bylaw 510). When a prima facie (sufficient evidence) case of undue influence/recruiting exists, the student shall be ineligible to represent the new school in interscholastic athletic competition for a period of one (1) calendar year from the date of the student's enrollment in the new school in all sports in which the student participated at any school in the last 12 months and/or the sport with which the coach referenced herein is associated, unless sufficient proof is presented to the satisfaction of the Section Commissioner that rebuts or disproves the evidence of undue influence/recruiting for athletic reasons.

(6) **Athletically Motivated Transfers (Copied from Bylaw 510.E.)**

The CIF, as the governing body of high school athletics, affirms that athletic competition is an important part of the high school experience and that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege. The privilege of participation in interscholastic athletics is available to students in public or private schools who meet the democratically established standards of qualification as set forth by the Federated Council. As stated in CIF Bylaw 200.A.(6) the CIF Bylaws shall serve as a deterrent to students who transfer or change schools for athletic reasons and to individuals who attempt to recruit (unduly influence) student-athletes or their parents to enroll in a school because of athletics. As stated in CIF Bylaw 200.A.(2) the CIF Bylaws reinforce the principle that students attend school to receive an education first; athletic participation is secondary. CIF Bylaws provide for individual Section Offices to limit eligibility for a student when there is evidence the transfer, or move is made to acquire athletic participation at their new school (School B). Students may be determined by their respective CIF/Section Office or the CIF to have made an athletically motivated transfer or change in schools under any of the basis listed in CIF Bylaw 510.E.(1)-(3).

(Revised April 2017 Federated Council)

- (7) **Disclosure**
Any pre-enrollment communication as described above must be disclosed in full, and in writing, to the appropriate Section. The Section Commissioner shall determine if the pre-enrollment communication is a violation of Bylaw 510.
- (8) **Clearance of Pre-Enrollment Contact**
A student with whom contact or communication has occurred, as described in C.(1) above, and who meets all other CIF Section transfer waiver requirements, may become eligible upon determination that:
- The communication was completely unrelated to any aspect of School B; AND
 - Was of a type that, from the objective point of view of a reasonable person disinterested in the win/loss record of School B, does not have an effect upon the integrity of interscholastic athletics at School A or School B.
- (9) **Penalties**
Failure to disclose pre-enrollment communication with School B persons, identified in C.(2) above, to disclose any pre-enrollment contact, or communicate in writing to the appropriate Section as described in C.(3) above may result in:
- A forfeiture of all games in which the student participated; AND/OR
 - Disqualification from playoff and championship competition for all seasons in which the student is a member of the school's team. (A student shall be considered a member of the school's team if he or she participated in any aspect of an interscholastic contest, no matter how brief such participation may have been); AND/OR
 - Divestment from the school of all trophies, banners and other indicia of athletic success obtained while the student was a member of the school's team.
- (10) **Appeals**
Students whose eligibility determination is made by the Section Commissioner that the prima facie evidence has not been successfully rebutted by sufficient proof to satisfy said Commissioner under the provisions of Bylaws 207.C.(4), (5), or (6) and/or 510 may appeal that portion of their eligibility determination in accordance with Bylaw 1100.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Immediate Family — Includes parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver, stepparents and minor siblings with whom the student resided when Initial Residential Eligibility was established.

Initial Residential Eligibility — Under CIF rules and regulations, students establish their Initial Residential Eligibility at their school of choice entering the 9th grade or the 10th grade of a three (3)-year high school.

Limited Eligibility — Students granted limited eligibility are limited for one (1)-year (from the date of transfer) to non-varsity competition in the CIF sports they participated in during the previous 12 calendar months but may participate in varsity competition in all other CIF sports.

Prima Facie — A legal term that means at first sight; on the first appearance; on the face of it; a fact presumed to be true unless disproved by some evidence to the contrary. A prima facie case is one in which the evidence presented is sufficient proof for the plaintiff (Section) to win its case of undue influence. In such a case, the defendant (school) must successfully refute the evidence for the student to gain eligibility.

(Revised February 2017 Federated Council)

208. FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS

A foreign exchange student is a transfer student from one (1) school to another without a valid change of residence (See Bylaw 206.C.) under the auspices of a CIF-approved foreign exchange program.

A. Students Transferring to a CIF Member School Under the Auspices of a CIF-Approved Foreign Exchange Program

Foreign Exchange students transferring under the auspices of a CIF-approved foreign exchange program from a school located outside the United States, a U.S. Military Base, a U.S. Territory or Canada to a CIF member school may be granted unlimited residential eligibility for all CIF athletic competition if all of the following conditions apply:

- Such student must be under the auspices of, and be placed with a host family in the United States by a foreign exchange program that meets all the requirements listed below:
The program has been accepted for listing by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET); AND
The program has submitted a signed CIF Foreign Exchange Program Approval Request Form:
 - Stating that their placement procedures for foreign exchange students are purely random with respect to athletic participation and school placement; AND
 - Stating that there shall be no school, coach, community, relative or friend contact related to athletics regarding the enrollment of any student in a particular school; AND
 - Has been approved by the CIF; AND
 - The program has been recognized by the U.S. State Department and the California Office of the Attorney General, and the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET); AND

- e. Any CIF-approved foreign exchange program that fails to fulfill the CIF conditions for exempt status shall be subject to immediate suspension of its exempt status and subject to permanent loss of its exempt status after due process has been fulfilled. All approved programs will be posted on the CIF website (www.cifstate.org)

NOTE: Only foreign exchange programs registered with the California Office of the Attorney General and the U.S. State Department may place foreign exchange students in a California School (Government Code Section 12620 et seq.). The CIF-approved list of programs posted on the CIF website, reflects the programs approved by CIF that are also registered with the California Office of the Attorney General, the U.S. State Department, and the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET). No other exchange programs will be recognized by the CIF as approved exchange programs for 2023-24.

- (2) A foreign exchange student shall have been placed with a host family in compliance with this Bylaw and Bylaw 510 (Undue Influence). Such student will have the choice of attending:

- a. The public school in the host family's public school attendance area; OR
- b. A private school located in the host family's public school attendance area; OR
- c. To gain residential eligibility at any other school, the student must receive written approval from both the principal of the public school located in the host family's attendance area and the principal of the other school; OR
- d. In the event of a change of placement by the CIF-Approved Foreign Exchange Program, a different public school or private school with written approval from the principal of the new school. (See host family requirements in (2) a. and b. above)

NOTE: A foreign exchange student is considered to be placed with a host family when written notice of placement is provided by the exchange organization to the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver, and to the host family;

- (3) Neither the school the foreign exchange student attends, nor any person associated with the school, shall have input into the selection of the foreign exchange student; AND
- (4) No foreign exchange student may play varsity sports if any member of the host family is a coach, paid or volunteer, at the school of attendance; AND
(Revised April 2018 Federated Council)
- (5) A foreign exchange student involved in an approved foreign exchange program where placement is not in accordance with CIF conditions for exempt status is subject to loss of his/her residential eligibility (waiver of the transfer rule); AND
- (6) A foreign exchange student must possess a current visa, issued by the U.S. State Department; AND
- (7) A foreign exchange student must comply with all eligibility requirements set forth by the CIF and the Section having jurisdiction; AND
- (8) A foreign exchange student who graduated from high school is ineligible to participate in CIF competition, unless the educational program in the student's country completes high school (graduation) after the student's 10th or 11th year of regular schooling (not including pre-school or kindergarten classes), in which case the student may have CIF athletic eligibility through the 12th consecutive year of regular school attendance after initially enrolling in the first grade (not pre-school or kindergarten classes); AND
- (9) A foreign exchange student who changes from a J-1 visa to any other type of visa that requires them to change schools, are subject to Bylaw 207.B.(5)a. and c. and cannot be made eligible for Bylaw 207.B.(5) b. (Sit Out Period) since this would constitute their second transfer; AND
- (10) A foreign exchange student participating in a CIF-approved foreign exchange program must comply with the maximum of eight (8) consecutive semesters Bylaw. A foreign exchange student who is not in compliance with the eight (8) consecutive semesters Bylaw may apply for a waiver under the Bylaws established by the CIF and the respective Section of the student's current CIF school; AND
- (11) A foreign exchange student must be eligible under all other State and Section Bylaws; AND
- (12) All foreign exchange students in CIF-approved foreign exchange programs shall submit the appropriate waiver application(s) as required by their respective Section under Bylaw 208 with a CIF Pre-Enrollment Contact Affidavit [CIF Form - (please use local CIF Section Form)] signed by the student and a host parent (part 1), and the enrolling school official(s) (part 3). Foreign students in CIF-approved foreign exchange programs need not obtain signatures of officials from their former school; AND
- (13) A foreign exchange student who participates in an interscholastic athletic contest or is enrolled in and/or attended a class shall be considered to have been enrolled in that school and shall be classified as a transfer student if the student subsequently enrolls at another school.

(Revised April 2016 Federated Council)

B. CIF Students Transferring Back to a CIF Member School from Study Abroad

A CIF student who, after being enrolled in a CIF member school (referred to as School A), to a school located outside the United States, a U.S. Territory, a U.S. Military Base or Canada (to be referred to as School B) and who, following completion of the study abroad, transfers back to school A, may be granted unlimited residential eligibility for all CIF athletic competition when the following conditions are met:

- (1) The student is returning to the same CIF member school in which they were enrolled immediately prior to their enrollment in the foreign school; AND
- (2) There is no evidence that the transfer to or from the foreign country was athletically motivated (see also Bylaw 510); AND
- (3) There is no evidence of the use of undue influence (recruiting) by anyone associated with either school; AND
- (4) The CIF student is in compliance with all eligibility requirements set forth by the CIF and the Section having jurisdiction; AND
- (5) The CIF student must comply with the maximum of eight (8) consecutive semester Bylaw. If a student has exceeded eight (8) consecutive semesters of attendance upon return from the study abroad, they may apply for a waiver under the Bylaws established by the CIF and the respective Section of the student's CIF member school. All CIF students returning from the study abroad shall submit the appropriate waiver application(s) for approval as required by their respective Section.

NOTE: This study abroad provision may be used only one time, for up to two consecutive semesters, during a CIF student's eight (8) consecutive semesters in high school.

(Revised May 2020 Federated Council)

C. Appeals

Appeals of eligibility involving foreign exchange transfer students from a foreign country must be in accordance with all relevant provisions of the CIF appeal process as set forth in Bylaw 1100.

209. DISCIPLINE, EXPULSION AND TRANSFER FOR DISCIPLINARY REASONS

A. Expulsion

A student who is expelled by a public school district in the State of California pursuant to the provisions of Education Code Section 48900 et seq., or from a public school from any other State, or any private or parochial school or district, shall be ineligible to practice or compete with any CIF team or individual sport program that is under the jurisdiction of the CIF for the period of the expulsion.

B. Suspended Expulsion

A student who has been expelled and has the expulsion suspended by the school board or board of directors and remains at his/her current school may be eligible so long as all other CIF State and CIF Section requirements are met. The conditions under which this student may be eligible will be determined by the local school board or board of directors. If the student is deemed eligible to participate, the conditions of his/her eligibility must be sent to the appropriate CIF Section office.

C. Disciplinary Transfer

- (1) If a student transfers from any public or private school when a disciplinary action is in place or pending, that student shall be ineligible for competition in all sports for one (1) year from the date of the transfer to the new school.

(Revised May 2020 Federated Council)

- (2) A student, permitted by the principal to return to the school compelling the disciplinary transfer, may be granted unrestricted athletic eligibility by the Section if the student did not participate in any athletic program at the transfer school; compete for the transfer school; and, at the time of the transfer, conditions for return were established by the school administration that include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Satisfactory attendance criteria; AND
 - b. Applicable behavior standards; AND
 - c. Academic performance standards; AND
 - d. Principal's approval of the return based upon documented evidence provided by the transfer school that the student satisfactorily complied with all conditions for return.

(May 1997 Federated Council/Revised May 2003 Federated Council/Revised May 2005 Federated Council)

210. PHYSICAL ASSAULT OF A GAME OR EVENT OFFICIAL

A. Student

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 of competition at an event or contest. A student may, after a lapse of 18 calendar months from the date of incident, apply for reinstatement of eligibility to the CIF State Executive Director.

B. Coach

Any coach who physically assaults the person of a game or event official shall be considered to have violated Bylaw 22 (Conditions of Membership) and, pending action by the building principal, subjects the member school to sanctions or loss of standing as a member. When a coach allegedly assaults a person of a game or event official it is mandatory that the principal/designee notify the CIF Section Office within 48 hours (excluding holidays and weekends) after the receipt of the assault report notification. The competing schools and officials will be required to file written reports within 10 days of the incident. After reviewing the material, the principal of the school involved will be required to respond to the respective CIF Section Office concerning his/her investigation of the incident.

C. **Spectator**

Any spectator who physically assaults the person of a game or event official immediately prior to, during, or immediately following an interscholastic athletic contest shall be permanently banned from attending interscholastic athletic contests. A game or event official is defined as a referee, umpire or any other official assigned to interpret or enforce rules of competition at an event or contest. 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 on a game official associated with an interscholastic event in which their school participated or of an assault occurring on their school's grounds associated with an interscholastic athletic contest.

NOTE #1: 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 of an official. Note that the rule is violated even if no contact is made with the person of an official. 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 official's person.

NOTE #2: A person assaulting a sports official may also be subject to California Penal Code 243.8 which states the following:

(a) When a battery is committed against a sports official immediately prior to, during, or immediately following an interscholastic, intercollegiate, or any other organized amateur or professional athletic contest in which the sports official is participating, and the person who commits the offense knows or reasonably should know that the victim is engaged in the performance of his or her duties, the offense shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars (\$2,000), or by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

(b) For purposes of this section, "sports official" means any individual who serves as a referee, umpire, linesman, or who serves in a similar capacity but may be known by a different title or name and is duly registered by, or a member of, a local, state, regional, or national organization engaged in part in providing education and training to sports officials.

(Approved May 2009 Federated Council/Revised October 2023 Federated Council)

211. CONTINUATION SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY

A. **Current Eligibility**

While enrolled in a continuation school, a student is only eligible to represent the continuation school of attendance.

B. **Transfer Eligibility**

A student who transfers from continuation school to the student's school of residential eligibility is eligible immediately provided:

- (1) The student is currently enrolled in the school of residential eligibility in at least 20 semester credits of work.
- (2) The student was currently passing in at least 20 semester credits of work or a maximum program in the continuation school when the student transferred to the school of residential eligibility.
- (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 passing grades which is defined as at least an unweighted 2.0 grade-point average, on a 4.0 scale, in all enrolled courses.

a. **Probationary Period**

The governing board of each school district, private school, or parochial school may adopt, as part of its policy, provisions that would allow a student who does not achieve educational progress in items (3) or (4) above in the previous grading period to remain eligible to participate in interscholastic activities during a probationary period. The probationary period shall not exceed one (1) semester in length, but may be for a shorter period of time as determined by the governing board of the school district, private school, or parochial school. A student who does not achieve educational progress, as defined in items (3) or (4), during the probationary period shall not be allowed to participate in interscholastic athletics in the subsequent grading period. For the purpose of determining the maximum length of a semester, the measure should be the maximum as used in that school.

- (5) Student was eligible under all rules at the time student was transferred from student's school of residential eligibility to continuation school. Exception: If a student spends a full grading period or more in the continuation school and passes all required subjects which that continuation school considers to be a full program, even if it is less than 20 semester credits, the student is eligible immediately upon transfer to student's school of residential eligibility as long as the student meets the requirements of Bylaw 205.B.(1).
- (6) Semesters of attendance at continuation school are to be counted as part of student's eligibility as defined in Bylaw 204.

- (7) The student was not compelled to transfer to the continuation program for disciplinary reasons or the student was not administratively placed in the continuation program as a result of expulsion, suspended expulsion or rehabilitation program pursuant to re-admittance following expulsion. (If the student was compelled to transfer under disciplinary reasons, please refer to the process under Bylaw 209.C.).

(Approved May 2003 Federated Council)

212. AMATEUR STATUS

A. **CIF Sponsored Competition and Individual Endorsements**

A student is governed by CIF amateur rules when the student participates in CIF competition. A student who violates CIF amateur or award rules shall be penalized according to D. below.

B. **Reinstatement of Amateur Status**

A student will become ineligible for CIF competition in a given sport if the student is determined to be a professional by the national sports governing body (NSGB) for the sport in question. A student may apply for reinstatement of his/her amateur status through the Section in which the student competes. Any request for reinstatement must include a statement from the NSGB for the sport in question that the student's amateur status has been reinstated by the appropriate NSGB.

C. **Violations in CIF Sponsored Competition and Individual Endorsements**

A student shall be penalized according to D. below for the following violations related to CIF competition or individual endorsements:

(*See caution below)

- (1) Receiving, from any and all sources, athletic awards totaling more than \$250.00 in value for:
 - a. Accomplishments in any regular season CIF high school competition event;
NOTE: Typical examples of regular season CIF high school competition event include, but are not limited to, any league or non-league dual contest and invitational tournament held prior to any season-culminating league, Section, Region and/or State Playoff competition.
 - b. A recognition award program, such as "Player of the Week"/"Month," for any regular season CIF high school competition.
- (2) Receiving, from any and all sources, athletic awards totaling more than \$500.00 in value for any post-regular season CIF high school competition or recognition program;
NOTE: For purposes of this Bylaw only, league, Section, Regional and State Playoff competition is considered to be one (1) continuous event.
NOTE: The dollar value of an award, exclusive of engraving, shall be determined by the following criteria:
 - a. The retail price paid by the last purchaser in the acquisition of the award;
 - b. When the host school or league purchases the award, the retail price paid by the host school or league;
 - c. When the award is donated by another entity, the retail price paid by or cost to that entity.
- (3) Wearing a school team uniform or any identifying school insignia while appearing in any advertisement, promotional activity or endorsement for any commercial product or service;
- (4) Lending his/her name and team affiliation for purposes of commercial endorsement. Any appearances by students for nonprofit organizations must be approved by the Board of Trustees concerned. This provision is not intended to restrict the right of any student to participate in a commercial endorsement provided there is no school team or school affiliation;
NOTE: 212.C.(3) and (4) above also includes advertisement, promotional activity, endorsement or affiliation of league, CIF Section(s), or CIF State (see Q&A below).
Q: May a student-athlete participate in an advertisement, promotional activity, or endorsement while affiliated with a league, CIF Section(s), or CIF State?
A: No.
- (5) Accepting payment for loss of time or wages while participating in CIF competition;
- (6) Receiving payment for coaching a team in CIF competition.
***CAUTION:** Compliance with these Bylaws does not ensure maintenance of eligibility under the eligibility standards of other athletic organizations (e.g. NCAA, NAIA, NJCAA, CCCAA and National Sports Governing Body, etc.). Students desiring information on the amateur rules of other organizations must communicate with the respective organization.

D. **Penalties for violations in CIF Sponsored Competition and Individual Endorsements**

- (1) A student determined by their respective CIF Section to have violated any provision of 212.C.(1-6) above shall be penalized according to the sanctions listed below:
 - a. First Violation: The student shall receive a formal warning and return any award(s) in excess of the maximum amounts allowed in 212.C.(1) and (2) above; and/or at the direction of the Section immediately remove any advertisement, promotional activity, or endorsement depicting the student's affiliation with their school, league, CIF Section(s), or the CIF State as noted in 212.C.(3) and (4) and the accompanying Note.
 - b. Second Violation: The student shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics for a period of one (1) year from the date of CIF's determination of the second violation.

- c. Third Violation: The student shall be banned from interscholastic athletics for the remainder of the student's eligibility.

NOTE: It is expected that the CIF member school will ensure adherence to any of the above penalties imposed on their student.

(Revised May 2004 Executive Committee/Revised May 2009 Federated Council/Revised April 2023 Federated Council)

213. HARDSHIP WAIVERS OTHER THAN TRANSFER

A hardship is defined as an unforeseeable, unavoidable, and uncorrectable act, condition or event, which causes the imposition of a severe and non-athletic burden upon the student or his/her family. Due to hardship circumstances experienced by the student, the following Bylaws may be waived, provided that the Section has established rules and procedures regulating hardship waivers. Waivers granted by a Section are not transferable to another Section. Applications to waive the following Bylaws must be submitted to the CIF Section for an eligibility determination, which the CIF Section Commissioner shall render in writing within 20 business days of receipt. Section Commissioners shall render eligibility determinations for foster children and homeless children within 15 business days of receipt.

(Revised April 2016 Federated Council)

- A. 20 Semester Credit Requirement (Bylaw 205.C.)
- B. Charged Semester of Attendance (Bylaw 204)
- C. Age Requirement (Bylaw 203)

214. POST-INJUNCTION REMEDIES

If a student-athlete, who is ineligible under the terms of the Constitution, Bylaws or other legislation of the California Interscholastic Federation, is permitted to participate in interscholastic competition contrary to such CIF legislation, but in accordance with the terms of a court restraining order, stay, or injunction operative against the CIF and injunction is subsequently voluntarily vacated, stayed, reversed or finally determined by the courts that injunctive relief is not or was not justified, the CIF or its Sections, may take any one or more of the following actions against the school in the interest of restitution and fairness to competing schools:

- A. Require that individual records and performances achieved during participation by such ineligible student-athlete shall be vacated or stricken;
- B. Require that team records and performances achieved during participation by the ineligible student-athlete shall be vacated or stricken;
- C. Require that individual awards earned during participation by such ineligible student-athlete be returned to the CIF, the sponsor or the competing institution;
- D. Require that team awards earned during participation by such ineligible student-athlete be returned to the CIF, the sponsor or the competing institution;
- E. Require that team victories achieved during participation by such ineligible student-athlete shall be abrogated and the games or events forfeited to the opposing schools;
- F. Make a determination of future ineligibility for one or more CIF Championships, or playoff competition, in the sports in which the ineligible student-athlete participated;
- G. Make a determination of future ineligibility for invitational and postseason meets and tournaments in the sports in which the student-athlete participated;
- H. Require that a school which has been represented in a CIF Championship or playoff event by an ineligible student-athlete return its share of the net receipts from such competition in excess of the school's actual cash expenses with reference to such event or, if such funds have not been distributed to the school, require that funds be withheld by the State Executive Director or Section Commissioner. Funds remitted or withheld pursuant to the above, shall be utilized by the CIF in either the State or Section scholar-athlete or drug abuse programs;
- I. When a student-athlete competing as an individual is declared ineligible subsequent to the competition, or a penalty has been imposed or action taken as set forth above, the student-athlete's performance shall be stricken from the Championship's records, the points the student-athlete has contributed to the team's total shall be deleted, the team standings shall be adjusted accordingly and any awards involved shall be returned to the CIF. The placement of other individual competitors shall be altered appropriately;
- J. When a student-athlete representing a school in team events is declared ineligible subsequent to the competition, or a penalty has been imposed or action taken as set forth above, all records of the team's performance shall be deleted, the team's place in the final standings shall be vacated and the team's trophy, banner, patches and other indicia of victory shall be returned to the CIF. In the event the student-athlete's school has been previously declared champion, the runner-up school shall be declared champion and all records adjusted accordingly.

215. INTERCOLLEGIATE PARTICIPATION

A student who participates in an intercollegiate athletic contest prior to the completion of his/her eight (8) consecutive semesters of high school eligibility shall be ineligible for high school participation in that sport for the duration of the student's high school enrollment. (See also Bylaws 600.G and 702. and corresponding Q&A's.)

(Approved February 2003 Federated Council)

Q: What is defined as a collegiate track meet and/or intercollegiate competition?

A: A collegiate track meet and/or intercollegiate competition is one in which collegiate athletes are competing for or representing their school.

216. GRADUATES

High school graduates are not eligible for CIF competition and are not subject to CIF rules except as noted below in A. and B. A recent graduate game is outside the jurisdiction of the CIF.

A. **Mid-Year/Spring Graduation**

- (1) Mid-Year: Students completing graduation requirements mid-year and no longer enrolled become immediately ineligible for further CIF competition.
- (2) Spring: Students graduating at the end of a school's Spring semester shall have continuing eligibility until all CIF Spring competition is completed.

B. **California High School Proficiency Exam**

A student who successfully passes the California High School Proficiency Examination and withdraws from high school has one opportunity to re-enroll in high school and be eligible immediately for athletic competition provided the student:

- (1) Was eligible under all rules of the CIF at the time of withdrawal from school; AND
- (2) Meets all rules of the CIF other than a. and b. under Bylaw 205.B.(1) at the time of re-enrollment; AND
- (3) Re-enrolls in the same school which the student attended prior to withdrawal, or enrolls in the school of the attendance area to which the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver with whom the student was living when the student established residential eligibility have moved; AND
- (4) Is within four (4) years of the student's first entry into the 9th grade.

(Revised May 2003 Federated Council)

**ARTICLE 30
SCHOOL REGULATIONS**

(300 Series revised May 2014 Federated Council)

300. GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. **Student Participation**

Interscholastic sports teams composed of boys and/or boys and girls shall be conducted in accordance with these Bylaws. Girls' interscholastic sports teams shall be conducted according to these Bylaws, including certain additional rules and modifications pertaining to girls' sports teams and mixed (co-educational) sports teams. (See also Bylaw 201 for enrollment standards)

B. **Team Designations**

Schools shall designate the type of team for each sport according to the following:

(1) **Student Team**

Whenever the school provides only a team or teams for boys in a particular sport, girls are permitted to qualify for the student team(s).

(2) **Boys Team**

Whenever the school provides a team or teams for boys and a team or teams for girls in the same sport, girls shall not be permitted to qualify for the boys team(s) in that sport, nor shall boys be permitted to qualify for the girls team(s) in that sport.

(3) **Girls Team**

Whenever the school provides only a team or teams for girls in a particular sport, boys shall not be permitted to qualify for the girls team in that sport unless opportunities in the total sports program for boys in the school have been limited in comparison to the total sports program for the girls in that school. Permission for boys to qualify for a girls team must be secured through petition by the school principal to the Federated Council.

(4) **Mixed Team (Coed)**

Whenever the school provides a mixed or coed team in a sport in which the game rules designate either a certain number of team participants from each sex or contains an event that designates a certain number of participants from each sex, boys shall not be permitted to qualify for the girls positions on the mixed team nor shall girls be permitted to qualify for the boys positions on the mixed team.

C. **Limitations**

If a boys team is created in a sport after a boy has competed on a student team [See B.(3) above] that boy must compete on the boys team in that sport. If a girls team is created in a sport after a girl has competed on a boys team or student team [See B.(2) above] in that sport, that girl must compete on the girls team.

(Approved May 1997 Federated Council)

D. **Gender Identity Participation**

Participation in interscholastic athletics is a valuable part of the educational experience for all students. All students should have the opportunity to participate in CIF activities in a manner that is consistent with their gender identity, irrespective of the gender listed on a student's records.

(Approved February 2013 Federated Council/Editorial May 2022)

301. HOME STUDY, HOME SCHOOLING

Students who are not enrolled in programs under the jurisdiction of a member school's governing body are not eligible to participate in CIF competition. Such programs would include, but not be limited to, home schooling or home study wherein parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver, or other persons, are responsible for instruction and evaluation.

(Approved February 2000 Federated Council/Revised May 2002 Federated Council)