A Message To Student-Athletes

Your school is one of more than 1,500 public, parochial, private and charter high schools that have agreed to follow the rules and regulations it helped enact through the California Interscholastic Federation.

Your high school years will provide some of the most memorable and enjoyable moments you will ever experience. The privilege of competing in interscholastic athletics is a once-in-a-lifetime experience which will influence you forever, but participation is dependent on your eligibility.

The essential eligibility requirements in this brochure are only a summary of some of the regulations affecting student eligibility. Most requirements are found in the *CIF Constitution and Bylaws*, which can be found in your school administrative office or on the State CIF web site, http://www.cifstate.org. In addition, your school/district has the authority to establish more stringent standards and enact codes of athletic conduct that are in the best interest of individual students, the team and community.

Review the rules with your parents/guardians and ask questions of your principal and athletic director. Your role in following the rules will assure eligibility to participate in interscholastic sports or prevent your participation as an ineligible athlete, which could result in forfeiture of contests for your school.

CIF Approved Interscholastic Sports

Badminton	Golf	Tennis
Baseball	Gymnastics	Track & Field
Basketball	Lacrosse	Volleyball
Cross Country	Skiing & Snowbd.	Water Polo
Field Hockey	Soccer	Wrestling
Football	Swimming & Diving	Softball

A Summary Of The Rules

1. AGE— A Student, whose 19th birthday is attained prior to June 15, shall not participate or practice on any team in the following school year. (Bylaw 203)

2. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION—Schools require that a student receive an annual physical examination conducted by a medical practitioner certifying that the student is physically fit to participate in athletics. This statement must be on a school board-approved form and be for the current school year. (Bylaw 503.G)

3. SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY— Students must have a 2.0 GPA, on a 4.0 scale in all enrolled classes. Students must have passed at least the equivalent of 20 semester periods of work at the completion of the most recent grading period and currently be enrolled in at least 20 semester periods of work. (Bylaw 205)

4. RESIDENTIAL ELIGIBILITY – A student generally has residential eligibility upon initial enrollment in the 9th grade of any CIF member high school. Any student entering from the 8th grade must have achieved a 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale in all the enrolled courses at the conclusion of the previous grading period. (Bylaw 206)

5. SEMESTERS OF ENROLLMENT—A student may be eligible for athletic competition during a maximum amount of time that is not to exceed eight consecutive semesters following initial enrollment in the 9th grade of any school. (Bylaw 204)

6. TRANSFER STUDENTS— A student in grades 9 through 12 who participates in an interscholastic athletic contest or is enrolled in and/or attends a school for 15 school days or more shall be considered to have been "enrolled" in that school and be classified as a transfer student if the student changes/enrolls in another school. There are several classifications of transfer students. (Bylaw 207)

Valid change of residence - When a student and the entire family changes residence, the student may be granted unlimited eligibility allowing him/her to play all sports at any level at the new school. Other rules do apply; consult your administrator.

Transfer without a valid change of residence - A student who is transferring for the 2nd time who transfers without a valid change of residence may or may not be granted "Limited Eligibility." Students granted "Limited Eligibility" are limited for one year (from the date of transfer) to non-varsity competition in CIF sports they participated in during the previous 12 calendar months but may participate in varsity competition in all other CIF sports. (Bylaw 207)

Sit Out Period 207.B.(5)b. – A CIF bylaw allows students to transfer one time without a valid change of residence and retain varsity eligibility when they meet certain standards. The student must sit out a prescribe time/days as established by the CIF. Other rules do apply; consult with your school administrator. For more information, please refer to the back of this brochure. (Bylaw 207)

Students and parents anticipating a change of schools should first seek advice from their high school administration.

7. UNDUE INFLUENCE/RECRUITING—The use of undue influence by any person directly or indirectly associated with a school to secure or encourage the attendance of a student for athletic purposes, shall cause the student to become ineligible for a minimum of one year and subject the school to severe sanctions. Also, students may be prohibited from participation when they participated on a non-school team (i.e., AAU, Club, Travel Ball, Camps) and then transfers to the school that is associated with that non-school team. (Bylaw 510)

8. PARTICPATION ON AN OUTSIDE TEAM — A student on a high school team becomes ineligible if the student competes in a contest on an "outside" team in the same sport during the student's high school season of sport. The student's school team may also be forced to forfeit contests. Some CIF Sections may have restrictions that include a prohibition of practice with an "outside" team. Please consult with your school administrator prior to participating with a non-school team. (Bylaw 600)

9. PROFESSIONAL TRYOUTS – A student shall become ineligible for CIF competition if he/she participates in a tryout for a professional team in any CIF-approved sport during the high school season of sport. The season of sport for a school is that period of time that elapses between the first interscholastic contest and the final contest in that particular sport.

CAUTION: Compliance with this bylaw does NOT ensure your eligibility with other athletic organizations, i.e., NCAA, NAIA or other governing bodies.

SIT OUT PERIOD

Who qualifies? Any student who transfers for the first time since their initial enrollment in the 9th grade in any school, and whose circumstances causing the transfer do not meet any of the Hardship Exceptions may become eligible for varsity competition for the sport(s) in which they competed in the last twelve months at the former school or any other school, upon submission, review and approval by their respective CIF Section. The SOP may only be used once during your high school career.

What may keep me from qualifying?

If you transfer to a new school whose coach worked with your club program; or follow a coach from your former school; or transfer to a new school where a booster, parent, friend or staff member encouraged you to attend, you may not be granted transfer eligibility.

How do I request a transfer?

First, you must be enrolled in your new school in accordance with its policies. You cannot use false or fraudulent information to get enrolled; if you do, you maybe ineligible for up to 24 months.

Once you are enrolled, the school will help you fill out the State CIF Transfer Form and the State CIF Undue Influence Statement to be sent to the Section Office.

When can I transfer?

You do not have to finish the year at your school before you transfer. However, specific dates for your SOP will be applied by the section office for any transfer that occurs once school has begun.

Can I transfer back to my school with eligibility if it doesn't work out for me at the new school?

You are only allowed one transfer and use the Sit Out Period. If you transfer back, or transfer to another school, you may have only limited eligibility.

Can I transfer to/from a private school?

There is no difference between transferring to a private or public school so long as it is the first and only transfer you may be eligible.

If I have questions, who should I contact?

You should always talk with an administrator at your current school first. If you need to talk with the new school, you should only talk with the principal. Talking with a coach at the new school may be considered undue influence or recruiting and prevent you from having eligibility.

CIF PHILOSOPHY ON STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC COMPETITION

The California Interscholastic Federation (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 CIF Federated Council. CIF bylaws governing student eligibility are a necessary prerequisite to participation in interscholastic athletics because they:

A. Keep the focus on athletic participation as a privilege, not a right;
B. Reinforce the principle that students attend school to receive an education first; athletic participation is secondary;
C. Protect the opportunities to participate for students who meet the established standards;
D. Provide a fundamentally fair and equitable framework in which interscholastic athletic competition can take place;
E. Provide uniform standards for all schools to follow in maintaining athletic competition;
F. Serve as a deterrent to students who transfer schools for athletic reasons and to individuals who recruit student-athletes;
G. Serve as a deterrent to students who transfer schools to avoid disciplinary action;
H. Maintain an ethical relationship between high school athletic programs and others who demonstrate an interest in high school athletes;
I. Support the Principles of "Pursuing Victory with Honor$_{sm}$."

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A Guide For Student-Athletes



Your High School Eligibility

Pasadena Unified School District