

SECTION 302

Eligibility/Protests

1. Students must meet all Central Valley Athletic League rules.
2. A principal and/or AD will determine forfeiture of games on the basis of research establishing eligibility of his/her player found to be ineligible at a later date.
3. The Central Valley Athletic League schools will follow their District regulations that grades be reviewed at the end of each grading period to determine eligibility of the athletes.
4. Students must maintain academically eligibility during the season of sport. It is up to each individual school site to determine academic eligibility. Ineligible players participating in a CVAL league game, whether intentional or unintentional, will result in a forfeiture of that game, or games, by the offending school. (It is the offending school's responsibility to provide written notification of the forfeiture to the conference in a timely manner.)
5. Students must be in attendance one-half of the school day (ADA basis) of the day of competition or the day prior to a nonschool day competition to be eligible to participate (or as determined by your school site), or with extenuating circumstances the principal may use his/her discretion to determine eligibility.
6. Each individual student not a member of a previous season's sport team shall have at least five (5) complete days of team practice with the school's coach before he/she can compete in any interscholastic contest, meet, match, game, practice game, scrimmage, culminating activity or tournament.
7. Once a student enters the 7th grade at any school, he/she will have four (4) consecutive semesters or six (6) tri-semester of eligibility. For schools that have 6th graders on campus administrated by the same principal will have (6) consecutive semesters of eligibility, or nine trimesters. (Kerman Retention Program). Players in 9th grade are not eligible to play.
 - A. 6th graders in the school's designated boundaries within district guidelines will be allowed to tryout for boys and girls golf. The 6th graders must play under an existing CVAL member middle school's membership. Elementary schools are not independently eligible.
8. An athlete who competes in any Cross Country, Track, Swimming, or league championship meet or tournament, must have competed in two CVAL sanctioned competitions where the school was entered as a team to be eligible. For all other sports, athletes must be on roster for 50% of league games to participate in championship or playoff games.
9. A student has residential eligibility upon initial enrollment in the sixth/seventh grade of any school.
10. A student must reside in the attendance area of the school they are attending to be eligible for competition in the CVAL unless:
 - A. An intra-district transfer has been granted by the District's School Board and athletic eligibility has been approved by the district.

- B. An inter-district transfer has been approved by the district for which student resides, the school of attendance for the student, the completion of the CVAL Application for Waiver of Eligibility Requirement form, and its approval from the CVAL. The CVAL will follow CIF guidelines for determining eligibility.
- C. Students from non-district schools are ineligible to participate.

11. EJECTIONS

- A. A player or coach ejected from a game will not be allowed to participate in the next scheduled game.
- B. An appeal may be made to the president of the C.V.A.L. The president will form a three-person review committee representing three separate schools not involved in the ejection to make a decision on the appeal.
- C. Appeals must be made within two days following the game in which the player or coach was ejected otherwise the ejection stands. The player or coach in question will have the right to a hearing. The school representing the player or coach must request a hearing at the same time that the appeal is made. The hearing will take place within two days following the appeal in question. The committee will make a decision in a timely manner following the appeal in question.
- D. The appeal process is for the player or coach's first ejection. There is a two game suspension for a second offense. There is no appeal process for the player or coach's second ejection.
- E. If an ejection is a player or coach's third offense, the player or coach is suspended for the remainder of the season with no appeal process in place.

12. PROTESTS

- A. Protests are rule violations, but not limited to that of CVAL constitution and sport by-laws, CIF, or National Federation.
- B. The committee will look at the protest and a determination will be made within two school days.
- C. The league president will send copies of the protest to all member schools.

13. C.V.A.L. PROTEST PROCEDURE

- A. Protest components in the Central Valley Athletic League are as follows:
 - 1. Schools involved.

2. Central Valley Athletic League Governing Board (At least three neutral schools will make up the ruling board.) No two schools can be from the same district.

B. Protest procedure and steps to be followed by the school, principal or plaintiff.

1. Protests over the outcome of league contests should be made verbally to the CVAL president (or an unbiased executive member if the president's school is involved in the protest) within twenty-four hours (one working day) of the disputed contest.

2. A written protest of the disputed contest must be submitted to the CVAL president within forty-eight hours (two working days) of the disputed contest using the league protest form. Within 48 hours of the protest a committee will convene.

3. The principal or defendant must be made aware of the protest and allowed to prepare a written response of the protest.

4. The school sites should settle protests over the outcome of league contests if possible.

5. The CVAL governing board is the next level.

6. An appeal may be made to the president of the CVAL. The president will form a three-person review committee representing three separate schools not involved in the ejection to make a decision on the appeal. Protests should only be discussed among the three neutral schools, not in an open forum. Once the members have been chosen, they will be the only ones to review the protest.

7. Once the protest has been filed, only the ruling board will discuss the protest.

8. Both schools should have an opportunity to discuss their side of the protest.

9. Other schools may be asked to present if more information is needed.

10. Information and outcomes of prior protests can be used if needed.

11. The outcome of the protest must be decided by a simple majority of the ruling board. Outcome of protest will be sent to all AD's with summary of decision. This decision is final.

12. Some decisions may need more than one day to be determined.

13. Protest results will be kept by the President for future reference.

14. DISCIPLINARY ACTION Committee

1. Disciplinary Action Committee will be consulted for major infractions and will consist of two neutral Athletic Directors, two neutral Administrators and the CVAL President (or neutral CVAL officer)

2. Failure to comply with CVAL Bylaws may be subject to disciplinary actions and can be, but not limited to, forfeiture of games, suspension of post season play, ejection from league, or any consequence as deemed appropriate by the Appeal Committee.

Revised MAY 2023