

Southern Section
Academics / Integrity / Athletics

California Interscholastic Federation
Southern Section

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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HOW TO PROTECT YOUR ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

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

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

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

AGE LIMITATIONS - (Rule 201)

No student whose nineteenth (19) birthday is attained prior to June 15 shall participate or practice on any team. A student whose 19th birthday is on June 14, or before, is ineligible.

SEMESTERS OF ATTENDANCE - (Rule 202)

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

SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY - (Rule 205)

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

1. The student is currently enrolled in at least 20 semester periods of work.
2. The student passed at least 20 semester periods of work at the completion of the previous regular grading period.

3. The student is maintaining minimum progress toward meeting the high school graduation requirements as prescribed by the governing board.
4. The student has maintained during the previous grading period a minimum of a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale in all enrolled courses.

RESIDENTIAL ELIGIBILITY - (Rule 211)

A student has residential eligibility upon initial enrollment in:

1. The ninth grade of any California Interscholastic Federation high school, a California Interscholastic Federation junior high school under provisions of Bylaw 302 or
2. The tenth grade of any California Interscholastic Federation high school from the ninth grade of a junior high school, or
3. Any California Interscholastic Federation school as a member of an approved foreign exchange program as outlined in Bylaw 212.

CHANGING SCHOOLS – TRANSFERS (Rule 214)

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

1. a bona fide change of residence from one school attendance area to the attendance area of the new school by the parents or legal guardian(s) and sibling(s)* with whom the student was living when the student established residential eligibility at the prior school, or (see Rule 219)
2. a ruling by the Board of Education of a school district which has two or more high schools, provided the change of schools is not the result of disciplinary action.

*Approved April 2003, CIF-SS Council

Any student changing schools without a bona fide change of residence is ineligible until approval is received from the CIF Southern Section Office.

CHANGING SCHOOLS - TRANSFER ELIGIBILITY - (Rule 214 C)

A student who transfers from a school located in the United States, a U.S. Territory, a U.S. Military Base or Canada (to be referred to as school A) to school B, without a change of residence on the part of his/her parents, legal guardians or caregiver and sibling(s)* with whom the student was living when the student established residential eligibility from school attendance area A to school attendance area B, shall be residentially eligible for all athletic competition EXCEPT varsity level competition in sports in which the student has competed in any level of interscholastic competition during the 12 calendar months preceding the date of such transfer, provided the athletic eligibility is approved by both principals of the schools involved.

*Approved April 2003, CIF-SS Council

- (1) The student shall be ineligible for all sports for one calendar year in the event that either or both principals decline to approve athletic eligibility.
- (2) The student shall become eligible under the rule after one calendar year from the date of first attendance at school B.
- (3) No student shall be eligible to participate in the same sport at two different schools in the same school year, unless the Section determines that the transfer from school A to school B: was the direct result of a hardship, as defined in Bylaw 215 and/or the Section policy for waiving Bylaw 214; OR: a bona fide change of residence by the student with the student's parents, legal guardian(s), or caregiver and sibling(s)* with whom the student was living when the student established residential eligibility, to school B's attendance area.

*Approved April 2003, CIF-SS Council

- (4) Section Waivers of Ineligibility at the Varsity Level
 - a. Each CIF Section may waive the ineligibility at the varsity level, in consideration of, but not limited to, students transferring under the provisions of a governing board's intradistrict or interdistrict transfer policy, a governing board's open enrollment policy or hardship circumstances, provided the Section establishes rules and procedures pertaining to the regulation of this bylaw.

- b. All transfer students shall submit a completed CIF Pre-Enrollment Contact Affidavit (CIF Form 510) with the appropriate transfer application(s) as required by their respective CIF Section under CIF Bylaw 214C.5 or 212.

CHANGING SCHOOLS – HARDSHIPS - (Rule 215)

If you change schools and your parent(s) or legal guardian(s) do not move to the attendance area of your new school, you could have restricted eligibility for one year unless you qualify for a hardship. A hardship is defined as an unforeseeable, unavoidable, or uncorrectable act, condition, or event, which causes the imposition of a severe and non-athletic burden upon the student or his/her family. (A 510 Pre-Enrollment Contact Form must accompany all hardship requests.)

COMPETING UNDER A NAME OTHER THAN YOUR OWN OR FALSIFIED INFORMATION (Rule 229)

Anyone associated with the student or the school who knowingly fail to provide complete and accurate information regarding eligibility to participate in athletics shall be declared ineligible to represent their school in any sport for up to 24 months following the date of the discovery of the falsified information.

*Most Transfers require formal approval
by the CIF-SS Office*

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION - (Rule 307)

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

UNDUE INFLUENCE RECRUITMENT OF ATHLETES - (Rule 510)

The use of undue influence by any person or persons to secure or retain a student or to secure or retain one or both parents or guardians of a student as residents may cause the student to be ineligible for high school athletics for a period of one year and shall jeopardize the standing of the high school in the California Interscholastic Federation. Effective May 2002, students transferring without a bona fide change of address must file a 510 Pre-Enrollment Contact form with the CIF-SS Office.

COMPETITION ON AN OUTSIDE TEAM - (Rule 600)

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. If the outside team has half or more of the team members as stated in the National Federation rule book for that sport, it shall be considered the same sport. Examples: three on three basketball -- outside team competition prohibited; two on two volleyball -- outside team competition permitted. For purposes of this rule, touch football and flag football are considered to be different sports than tackle football.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION CONDUCT PENALTY - (Sport Sections)

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

CIF SOUTHERN SECTION MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the California Interscholastic Federation - Southern Section is to prepare student athletes to practice ethical behavior; including fair play, integrity and obedience to rules. All CIF athletic contests will represent in perception and practice, the appreciation for athletic excellence and the shared educational experience of competition. All individuals associated with athletic activities will be aware of and responsible for their influence on the behavior of others and be models of good sportsmanship.



THE RULES AND REGULATIONS LISTED IN THIS BROCHURE REPRESENT ONLY A SUMMARY OF ALL STATE CIF AND SOUTHERN SECTION RULES AND REGULATIONS.

Always check with your principal or athletic director if you have any questions regarding athletic eligibility.

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