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# State Media Release

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## ***HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS PARTICIPATION REMAINS STEADY DESPITE ECONOMIC DOWNFALL***

**SACRAMENTO** --- The number of boys and girls participating in high school athletics in California remains steady, despite difficult economic times, according to the 2009 California Interscholastic Federation Sports Participation Survey.

The survey shows a total of 736,727 high school student-athletes participating in sports, an increase of 1.6% or 1,224 competitors from 2007, the last time the CIF conducted such an overview.

“The increase, although slight, is still a testament to the fact that our California schools and student-athletes are very much interested in increasing the athletic programs we have.” CIF Executive Director Marie M. Ishida said.

The survey, completed by the CIF’s 1,442 member schools, is part of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) nationwide survey that measures the number of students competing in sports in the country.

Additionally, single-gender numbers for both boys and girls slightly increased from two years ago. There are 438,561 boys involved compared to 437,592 in 2007. Meanwhile, an additional 255 girls have become active during the same period, raising the 2009 total to 298,166.

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The sport of lacrosse experienced a huge increase with a combined gender-participation total of 12,321 (7,365 boys; 4,956 girls). It's an increase of 45 percent measured to the 2007 sum of 8,477 (5,323 boys; 3,154 girls).

Among the top 10 sports by participation, swimming and diving enjoyed the highest percentage increase at 14.1%, followed by volleyball (7.6%) and wrestling (6.1%) for boys. On the girls' side, track and field heads the list at 7.5% followed closely by swimming and diving at 7.3%.

Track and field, moreover, replaces soccer (41,727) as the most popular sport for girls with 41,736 athletes. Football remains the top sport for boys, despite a 3.4% drop in participation, with 104,224 players. Track and field is second with 51,689 participants, followed by basketball (42,521) and baseball (42,064).

Cross country, golf, lacrosse, soccer, tennis, track and field, and wrestling, enjoyed steady increases in participation since 1998 for girls. Five sports (cross country, lacrosse, tennis, track and field, and water polo) have seen increases in participation over the same time for boys.

A chart indicating results from the last five participation surveys follows. Only CIF-approved sports are listed individually. Also on subsequent pages is a summary of the top 10 sports, by gender, based on participation numbers.

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## BOYS' BREAK DOWN

SPORT	BOYS 1998	BOYS 2001	BOYS 2003	BOYS 2005	BOYS 2007	BOYS 2009
Badminton	3,387	3,572	3,627	3,521	3,512	4,036
Baseball	40,102	42,942	41,392	40,676	42,835	42,064
Basketball	39,846	42,267	41,784	42,061	44,722	42,521
Cross Country	18,668	19,593	20,465	22,782	25,790	26,766
Field Hockey	12	36	36	52	193	123
Football 11-player	91,301	97,236	95,504	99,079	107,916	104,224
Football 8 - player	1,280	1,263	1,129	1,623	1,784	2,507
Football 9 - player	190	246	251	166	246	0
Football 6 - player	9	82	96	47	0	0
Golf	10,783	11,990	11,764	11,459	11,897	11,295
Gymnastics	12	19	91	3	37	79
Lacrosse	0	0	2,240	3,608	5,323	7,365
Skiing	390	582	414	617	761	671
Soccer	35,537	38,053	38,501	39,453	44,730	44,705
Softball	580	1,129	963	456	743	311
Swimming and Diving	14,687	15,685	15,731	17,579	18,852	21,518
Tennis	15,380	15,804	16,716	17,238	19,139	19,266
Track and Field	39,262	40,843	41,349	45,038	49,911	51,689
Volleyball	11,660	13,326	12,156	13,133	14,532	15,638
Water Polo	10,725	11,411	11,500	12,570	14,064	14,852
Wrestling	23,163	24,326	22,007	23,318	25,896	27,469
Other	0	0	1,103	1,663	1,472	1,462
<b>Total</b>	<b>356,974</b>	<b>**386,248</b>	<b>**382,108</b>	<b>**398,684</b>	<b>**437,592</b>	<b>438,561</b>

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

\*\*Note: As part of the National Federation survey, the CIF measures participation in all sports and activities.

The above list does not comprise all sports/activities sponsored by schools and required in the NFHS survey

Top 10 Boys Sports	Participants	Increase or Decrease (Since 2007)
1. Football (11 players)	104,224	-3.4
2. Track & Field	51,689	+3.5
3. Soccer	44,705	-0.1
4. Basketball	42,521	-4.9
5. Baseball	42,064	-1.7
6. Wrestling	27,469	+6.1
7. Cross Country	21,766	+3.7
8. Swimming & Diving	21,518	+14.1
9. Tennis	19,266	+0.6
10. Volleyball	15,638	+7.6

## GIRLS' BREAK DOWN

SPORT	GIRLS 1998	GIRLS 2001	GIRLS 2003	GIRLS 2005	GIRLS 2007	GIRLS 2009
Badminton	4,462	4,722	4,929	4,500	4,491	5,219
Baseball	412	826	662	417	385	325
Basketball	30,979	33,831	33,912	33,596	34,991	32,980
Cross Country	14,245	16,060	16,618	18,159	20,873	21,901
Field Hockey	2,111	2,629	2,170	2,952	3,654	3,925
Football 11-player	200	313	236	253	149	141
Football 8 - player	0	0	0	1	15	46
Football 9 - player	0	0	0	0	0	0
Football 6 - player	1	55	3	30	0	0
Golf	1,447	4,588	5,547	5,972	6,652	7,017
Gymnastics	1,230	1,260	859	896	732	1,039
Lacrosse	0	0	1,834	2,286	3,154	4,956
Skiing	243	389	222	432	544	565
Soccer	30,222	34,663	35,380	37,424	40,895	41,727
Softball	28,979	31,992	30,118	30,055	31,306	31,801
Swimming and Diving	25,157	24,596	23,255	24,508	25,115	26,965
Tennis	17,383	18,812	19,496	19,847	21,818	22,908
Track and Field	29,682	33,153	34,378	36,113	38,817	41,736
Volleyball	30,879	34,194	32,756	34,015	36,499	38,920
Water Polo	9,487	12,257	12,185	13,099	13,482	13,871
Wrestling	494	752	957	1,230	1,142	1,493
Other	0	0	726	756	684	631
<b>Total</b>	<b>227,613</b>	<b>**271,214</b>	<b>**270,225</b>	<b>**278,284</b>	<b>**297,911</b>	<b>298,166</b>

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

\*\*Note: As part of the National Federation survey, the CIF measures participation in all sports and activities.

The above list does not comprise all sports/activities sponsored by schools and required in the NFHS survey

Top 10 Girls Sports	Participants	Increase or Decrease (Since 2007)
1. Track & Field	41,736	+7.5
2. Soccer	41,727	+2.0
3. Volleyball	38,920	+6.6
4. Basketball	32,980	-5.7
5. Softball	31,801	+1.5
6. Swimming & Diving	26,965	+7.3
7. Tennis	22,908	+4.9
8. Cross Country	21,901	+4.9
9. Water Polo	13,871	+2.8
10. Golf	7,017	+5.4