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State Media Release

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2007 CIF PARTICIPATION SURVEY INDICATES MORE THAN 700,000 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETES IN CALIFORNIA

ALAMEDA – The number of boys and girls participating in high school athletics in California has increased by nearly 60,000 students in the last two years, according to the 2007 CIF Sports Participation Survey. The survey, conducted by the CIF and completed by its 1,425 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 across the country.

The survey shows a total of 735,503 high school student-athletes are participating in sports, an increase of 8.6 percent from 2005, the last time the CIF conducted such a survey. Single-gender numbers for both boys and girls are also at all-time highs after increases of 9.8% and 7.1%, respectively, from two years ago. There are 437,592 boys participating in sports, an increase of 38,908 from two years ago. Meanwhile, an additional 19,627 girls have become active during the same time frame, bringing the total to 297,911.

“I am encouraged by the overall increases in participation as compared to our 2005 survey. These increases are a direct reflection of the extent to which school boards, administrators, parents and students value the benefits of educational athletics,” said Marie M. Ishida, CIF Executive Director. “Now, more than ever, we must continue to promote the values and life skills that can be learned through participation in high school sports.

“As we review these statewide participation numbers, we must recognize and applaud our local school board and school site leadership. So many of our member schools and school districts continue to maintain and, indeed, grow athletic opportunities for our students.”

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Based on number of participants, football remains the most popular sport for boys with 107,916 players, an 8.9% increase since the last survey in 2005. With more than 5,000 athletes (13.4%) from two years ago, and a current participation total of 44,730, soccer moves from fifth place to third among boys. Track and Field (49,911) remained in second place. Basketball is fourth with 44,722 participants. Among the top 10 sports by participation, soccer enjoyed the highest percentage increase at 13.4%, followed closely by cross country at 13.2%. Lacrosse increased by 47.5% to 5,323 participants.

Soccer, which picked up nearly 3,500 players (9.3%) since 2005, retains its position as the most popular sport for girls with 40,895 participants. Track and field (38,817) and volleyball (36,499) remain in second and third place, respectively. Among the top 10 sports by participation, cross country saw the largest increase by percentage among girls at 14.9%, followed by golf at 11.4%. Lacrosse increased by 38% to 3,154 while field hockey jumped 23.8% to 3,654.

In addition, the CIF also surveyed schools on the number of coaches working with their teams. A total of 61,950 coaches are currently working with CIF student-athletes. The speculation of the trend going toward off-campus walk-on coaches was supported by this survey, as 61% of coaches (37,679) are not school employees while 39% (24,271) teach or work on campus. Nearly 50,000 of the coaches (80%) are paid while 12,264 (20%) contribute their time and knowledge on a volunteer basis.

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.

2006-07 PARTICIPATION CHART

SPORT	BOYS 1998	BOYS 2001	BOYS 2003	BOYS 2005	BOYS 2007	GIRLS 1998	GIRLS 2001	GIRLS 2003	GIRLS 2005	GIRLS 2007
Badminton	3,387	3,572	3,627	3,521	3,512	4,462	4,722	4,929	4,500	4,491
Baseball	40,102	42,942	41,392	40,676	42,835	412*	826*	662*	417*	385*
Basketball	39,846	42,267	41,784	42,061	44,722	30,979	33,831	33,912	33,596	34,991
Cross Country	18,668	19,593	20,465	22,782	25,790	14,245	16,060	16,618	18,159	20,873
Field Hockey	12	36	36	52	193	2,111	2,629	2,170	2,952	3,654
Football 11-player	91,301	97,236	95,504	99,079	107,916	200	313*	236*	253*	149*
Football 8- player	1,280	1,263	1,129	1,623	1,784	0	0	0	1*	15*
Football 9- player	190	246	251	166	246	0	0	0	0	0
Football 6- player	9	82	96	47	0	1*	55*	3*	30*	0
Golf	10,783	11,990	11,764	11,459	11,897	1,447	4,588	5,547	5,972	6,652
Gymnastics	12	19	91	3	37	1,230	1,260	859	896	732
Lacrosse			2,240	3,608	5,323			1,834	2,286	3,154
Skiing	390	582	414	617	761	243	389	222	432	544
Soccer	35,537	38,053	38,501	39,453	44,730	30,222	34,663	35,380	37,424	40,895
Softball	580	1,129	963	456	743	28,979	31,992	30,118	30,055	31,306
Swimming and Diving	14,687	15,685	15,731	17,579	18,852	25,157	24,596	23,255	24,508	25,115
Tennis	15,380	15,804	16,716	17,238	19,139	17,383	18,812	19,496	19,847	21,818
Track and Field	39,262	40,843	41,349	45,038	49,911	29,682	33,153	34,378	36,113	38,817
Volleyball	11,660	13,326	12,156	13,133	14,532	30,879	34,194	32,756	34,015	36,499
Water Polo	10,725	11,411	11,500	12,570	14,064	9,487*	12,257*	12,185*	13,099*	13,482*
Wrestling	23,163	24,326	22,007	23,318	25,896	494*	752*	957*	1,230*	1,142*
Other			1,103	1,663	1,472			726	756	684
Total	356,974	**386,248	**382,108	**398,684	**437,592	227,613	**271,214	**270,225	**278,284	**297,911

*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.

2006-07 CIF MOST POPULAR SPORTS**BOYS**

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>% Increase (since 2005)</i>
1. Football (11-player)	107,916	+8.9
2. Track & Field	49,911	+10.8
3. Soccer	44,730	+13.4
4. Basketball	44,722	+6.3
5. Baseball	42,835	+5.3
6. Wrestling	25,896	+11.1
7. Cross Country	25,790	+13.2
8. Tennis	19,139	+11.0
9. Swimming/Diving	18,852	+7.2
10. Volleyball	14,532	+10.7

GIRLS

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>% Increase (since 2005)</i>
1. Soccer	40,895	+9.3
2. Track & Field	38,817	+7.5
3. Volleyball	36,499	+7.3
4. Basketball	34,991	+4.2
5. Softball	31,306	+4.2
6. Swimming/Diving	25,115	+2.5
7. Tennis	21,818	+9.9
8. Cross Country	20,873	+14.9
9. Water Polo	13,482	+2.9
10. Golf	6,652	+11.4