

**ARTICLE 20**  
**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**  
**(200 series revised May 2007 Federated Council)**

**200. CIF PHILOSOPHY ON STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC COMPETITION**

The 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..."

**201. STANDARDS OF ELIGIBILITY**

Only students regularly enrolled in public and private CIF-member schools, grades 9-12, shall be permitted to participate in the CIF and shall represent only that school of enrollment except as provided in Bylaws 303, 304 and 306. The CIF establishes the standards for eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics to include the following:

(See Related Bylaws: 305 – Home Study/Home Schooling; 306 – Independent Study Programs/Schools; 510 – Undue Influence; and the 600 Series – Outside Competition)

- A. Philosophy statement (Bylaw 200)
- B. Accurate information requirement (Bylaw 202)
- C. Age requirement (Bylaw 203)
- D. Eight Consecutive Semesters requirement (Bylaw 204)
- E. Scholastic Eligibility (Bylaw 205)
  - (1) Initial scholastic eligibility (Bylaw 205.A.)
  - (2) Continuing scholastic eligibility (Bylaw 205.B.)
  - (3) Summer School Credits (Bylaw 205.C.)
  - (4) Non-Traditional Programs (Bylaw 205.D.)
  - (5) Waivers of 20 semester credits requirement (Bylaw 205.E.)
- F. Residential Eligibility (Bylaw 206)
  - (1) Initial residential eligibility (Bylaw 206.A.)
  - (2) Continuing residential eligibility (Bylaw 206.B.)
- G. Transfer rule (Bylaw 207)
- H. Hardship waivers of the transfer rule (Bylaw 208)
- I. Foreign student eligibility (Bylaw 209)
- J. Discipline eligibility (Bylaw 210)
  - (1) Expulsion (Bylaw 210.A.)
  - (2) Suspended Expulsion (Bylaw 210.B.)
  - (3) Transfer Compelled for Disciplinary Reasons (Bylaw 210.C.)
- K. Physical Assault (Bylaw 211)
- L. Continuation School eligibility (Bylaw 212)
- M. Amateur status requirement (Bylaw 213)
- N. Hardship waivers of eligibility standards other than transfer (Bylaw 214)
- O. Post-Injunctive Remedies (Bylaw 215)
- P. Intercollegiate Competition (Bylaw 216)
- Q. Graduates (Bylaw 217)
  - (1) Mid-Year/Spring Graduation (Bylaw 217.A.)
  - (2) California High School Proficiency Exam (Bylaw 217.B.)

**202. ACCURATE INFORMATION**

- A. The CIF requires that all information provided in regard to any aspect of the eligibility of a student must be true, correct, accurate and complete.
- B. **Student Eligibility – Penalty for Provision of False or Fraudulent Information**
- (1) If it is discovered that any parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver or student has provided false information in regards to any aspect of eligibility status on behalf of a student, that student is subject to immediate ineligibility for CIF competition at any level in any sport for a period of up to 24 calendar months from the date the determination was made that false information was provided. (Revised October 2001 Federated Council)
  - (2) If it is discovered that persons associated with the student or the school (coach, teachers, parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver, friends, etc.) provided false information in order to fraudulently gain favorable eligibility status for a student, that student is subject to immediate ineligibility for competition at any Section member school at any level in any sport for a period of up to 24 calendar months from the determination that false information was provided whether the student was aware of the fraudulent information or not.  
(Revised October 2001 Federated Council)
  - (3) Any contests in which a student or students participated based on false information or fraudulent practices regarding eligibility status shall be forfeited according to the guidelines set in accord to the rules of the Section.
  - (4) **Teams**
    - a. If it is determined that someone associated with a school (including, but not limited to, a coach) knowingly participates in either providing false information or using fraud or knowingly allows others to do so, in order for a team to meet qualification standards in any event, that team will be subject to immediate ineligibility for further competition in that sport that season.
    - b. Any contest in which that team has participated based on false information or fraud shall be forfeited according to the guidelines of the Section or the State CIF.
  - (5) **School Personnel Involvement**  
If any school personnel (including but not limited to a coach) knowingly participates in either providing false information or allowing others to provide false information in order to gain favorable eligibility status for a student, or team information to meet qualification standards for participation in any contest including playoffs or championships, sanctions may be imposed on the school including but not limited to: probationary status, prohibitions against playoff participation, forfeitures, revoking of CIF or Section membership, etc.
  - (6) **Assumed Name**  
In addition to any sanctions or penalties arising from the provisions above, a student shall become ineligible for CIF competition in the respective sport for competing in CIF competition under an assumed name.  
(Approved May 1999 Federated Council)
203. **AGE REQUIREMENT**  
No student, whose 19th birthday is attained prior to June 15, shall participate or practice on any team in the following school year. A student, whose 19th birthday is on or before June 14, is ineligible. Each Section may waive this provision so long as criteria for such a waiver shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
- A. Such a waiver would not grant more than four years (eight semesters) of eligibility; AND
  - B. Such a waiver would not grant more than four years' participation in any sport; AND
  - C. That a hardship exist which, in the judgment of the Section, requires a waiver. "Hardship" is defined in Bylaw 214; AND
  - D. A decision to deny such a waiver by the Section Commissioner may be appealed only to the Section and in accordance with the provisions set forth in Bylaw 1101.
204. **EIGHT CONSECUTIVE SEMESTERS REQUIREMENT**
- A. **Definition of a Semester of Attendance**
    - (1) Enrollment and/or attendance for 15 school days or more shall count as one of the eight semesters.
    - (2) Participation in one or more interscholastic athletic contests shall count as one of the eight semesters.
  - B. **Eight Consecutive Semester Rule**  
A student who first enters the 9th grade of any school following the student's completion of the 8th 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 9th grade of any school, and eligibility must be used during the student's first eight consecutive semesters of enrollment at that school or any other school. Each Section may, at its discretion, establish rules and procedures for waiving the limitation on semesters of eligibility, providing:

- (1) The student is required by the student's school principal to return to grade eight from grade nine and the student did not take part in an interscholastic contest while in the 9th grade, for the first time; OR
- (2) The student, because of mid-year completion of an 8th grade or a mid-year completion of the 9th grade in a junior high school, is required by the student's school principal to repeat a semester of work in order to conform to a school program having annual terms, AND that the student has not taken part in an interscholastic athletic contest while enrolled for the first time in the semester which the student's school principal required the student to repeat.

C. Other than paragraph (1) and (2) above, relief under this rule may only be granted when the conditions set forth in Bylaw 204.D. below are found to be present. Any other or past rationales or bases for relief under this bylaw are disapproved.

(Approved May 2001 Federated Council)

D. **Waiver of the Charge of a Semester of Attendance**

Each Section may waive the charge of one or more of the eight consecutive semesters of eligibility for athletic competition due to a hardship condition that causes the student's absence from school or to extend the student's attendance in school beyond eight consecutive semesters, PROVIDED:

- (1) That a hardship condition exists that, in the judgment of the Section, warrants a waiver. "Hardship" is defined in CIF Bylaw 214;
  - a. The hardship caused the student to remain out of school for more than half of any semester during his/her high school career; OR
  - b. The hardship is the direct and sole cause of the student extending his/her attendance beyond eight consecutive semesters even though the student was in attendance for those eight consecutive semesters. Further, the student's extension of his/her attendance beyond eight semesters has no athletic motivation.
- (2) That the student was eligible under all rules in the semester immediately prior to either his/her absence or the onset of the hardship condition that is the direct and sole cause for extending his/her attendance beyond eight semesters;
- (3) Such a waiver would not grant more than four years' participation in any sport;
- (4) All other eligibility requirements apply.

A decision to deny such a waiver by the Section Commissioner may be appealed only to the Section and in accordance with the provisions set forth in Bylaw 1101.

**NOTE:** Failure to satisfy the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), California course requirements (e.g. Algebra I), and/or end of course requirements shall not be considered a hardship.

205. **SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY**

A. **Initial Scholastic Eligibility**

In order to be eligible, any student entering from the 8th grade into a CIF four-year high school, a junior high or a junior high under the provisions of Bylaw 303, must have achieved a 2.0 grade-point average, on a 4.0 scale, in enrolled courses at the conclusion of the previous grading period.

(1) **Probationary Period**

The governing board of each school district, private school, or parochial school may adopt, as part of its policy, provisions that would allow a student who does not achieve the above requirement in the previous grading period to remain eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics during a probationary period. The probationary period shall not exceed one semester in length, but may be for a shorter period of time, as determined by the governing board of the school district, private school, or parochial school. A student who does not meet the above requirements during the probationary period shall not be allowed to participate in interscholastic athletics in the subsequent grading period. For the purpose of determining the maximum length of a semester, the measure shall be the maximum number of days comprising a semester as used in that school during the year in question.

B. **Continuing Scholastic Eligibility**

(1) **Minimum Requirements**

A student is scholastically eligible if:

- a. The student is currently enrolled in at least 20 semester credits of work;
  - (i) **Non-Traditional Programs**

In schools where other than traditional semester programs are offered, the principal of each individual school shall be responsible for determining the equivalent of 20 semester credits of work.

(ii) **Accelerated Programs**

Students studying on an accelerated program that includes one or more advanced (either high school or college) courses while enrolled in high school may substitute enrollment and passing grades in these courses for one or more required 20 semester credits of work; evaluation of these courses is to be done by the high school principal.

- b. The student was passing in the equivalent of at least 20 semester credits of work at the completion of the most recent grading period;
- c. The student is maintaining minimum progress toward meeting the high school graduation requirements as prescribed by the governing board;
- d. The student has maintained during the previous grading period a minimum 2.0 grade-point average, on a 4.0 scale, in all enrolled courses.

(2) **Probationary Period**

The governing board of each school district, private school, or parochial school may adopt, as part of its policy, provisions that would allow a student who does not achieve educational progress in items "c." or "d." above in the previous grading period to remain eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics during a probationary period. The probationary period shall not exceed one semester in length, but may be for a shorter period of time as determined by the governing board of the school district, private school, or parochial school. A student who does not achieve educational progress as defined in items "c." or "d." during the probationary period shall not be allowed to participate in interscholastic athletics in the subsequent grading period. For the purpose of determining the maximum length of a semester, the measure should be the maximum as used in that school.

(3) **Grading Period**

The grading period is that time when all students in a school are graded. If two grades are given at the end of a grading period, scholastic eligibility shall be established according to the grade issued for credit.

(4) **Incomplete Grades**

A grade(s) of "Incomplete" shall not be considered a passing grade under this bylaw unless, by operation of a school grading policy, "Incomplete" grade shall become a passing letter or (numeric) grade without further achievement or accomplishment by a student, at a certain time. When an "Incomplete" grade is issued which does not automatically become a passing grade, as indicated immediately above, such "Incomplete" grade shall not satisfy the requirement of this bylaw until academic deficiency which gave rise to such "Incomplete" grade shall have been satisfied and a passing grade has been substituted for the "Incomplete" grade. Upon such substitution, the substituted grade shall be considered in determining scholastic eligibility as established by evaluation of previous grading period grades and the substituted grade. A scholastically ineligible student may become immediately scholastically eligible upon such evaluation.

(5) **Physical Education Credits**

Credits earned in physical education may count toward the 20 semester credits of work requirement.

C. **Summer School Credits**

Summer school credits shall be counted toward making up scholastic deficiencies incurred in the grading period (semester) immediately preceding. Summer school courses failed shall not impair an athlete's scholastic eligibility achieved in the semester immediately preceding. A course taken by contract or independent study during the summer must meet the following four criteria:

- (1) The course(s) must be approved by the local board of trustees as a valid part of the district's school program;
- (2) The student receives a passing grade in the courses taken;
- (3) The personnel providing the instruction and course supervision are approved by the board of trustees;
- (4) The school credit is recorded on student's transcript.

D. **Scholastic Eligibility for Students in Non-Traditional Programs**

In schools operating on other than the traditional program (i.e., for schools such as those with a modular or flexible scheduling, special programs for the physically-disabled, or continuous progress programs) the principal shall certify as to the scholastic eligibility of each student based

upon satisfactory progress in accordance with the standards defined above. Students may apply college course units to satisfy the 20 semester credits of work requirement and the grade point average requirement. Students who are eligible for differential standards of proficiency pursuant to Section 51412 of the Education Code are covered by that Section.

**NOTE:** For crediting purposes the grading period closes with the last day of school in the given grading period. In determining eligibility, one grading period does not end until the next one begins.

E. **Waiver of the Requirement of Passing 20 Semester Credits of Work**

Each Section may waive the requirement of passing in 20 semester credits of work during the regular school

grading period immediately preceding that of competition, PROVIDED:

- (1) Serious illness, injury, or attendance in special schools (as referenced in Education Code Sections 59000 et seq. and 59100 et seq.) prevents the student from meeting one or more of these requirements; OR
- (2) The student has been traveling abroad with the consent of the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver and circumstances prevented further school attendance; OR
- (3) The student is returning from an American abroad school attendance program; OR
- (4) The student is returning from school attendance abroad because of a valid change of residency by the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver; OR
- (5) The student is required to remain out of a U.S. school because of exceptional hardship, (See Bylaw 214 for definition of hardship); AND
- (6) That the student was eligible under all rules in the semester immediately prior to his/her absence; AND
- (7) All other rules such as age and number of seasons of sport shall apply.

A decision to deny such a waiver by the Section Commissioner may be appealed only to the Section and in accordance with the provisions set forth in Bylaw 1101.

206. **RESIDENTIAL ELIGIBILITY**

A. **Initial Residential Eligibility**

A student has residential eligibility upon initial enrollment in:

- (1) The 9th grade of any CIF high school, a CIF junior high school, or a junior high school under provisions of Bylaw 303; OR
- (2) The 10th grade of any CIF high school from 9th grade of a junior high school in California.

B. **Continuing Residential Eligibility**

Sections may require paperwork for the following provisions:

- (1) A student retains residential eligibility as long as he/she is continuously enrolled in the CIF-member high school in which the student initially enrolled; OR
- (2) A student changes schools with a valid change of residence by the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver provided there is a valid change of residence.
  - a. **Valid Residence**

A valid residence is defined as the location where the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver (with whom eligibility has been established) live with that student and thereby have the use and enjoyment of that location. A student (with the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver with whom eligibility has been established) may only have one valid residence at one time.
  - b. **Valid Change of Residence**

Determination of what constitutes a valid change of residence depends upon the facts in each case, however, to be considered, the following facts must exist:

    - (i) The original residence must be abandoned as a residence by the immediate family; AND
    - (ii) The student's entire immediate family must make the change and take with them the household goods and furniture appropriate to the circumstances. For eligibility purposes, a family unit may not maintain two or more residences; AND
    - (iii) The change of residence must be genuine, without fraud or deceit, and with permanent intent; AND

NOTE: A student whose family makes a valid move into a new school boundary (See "iv" below) is immediately residentially eligible for varsity competition. A subsequent move into a different school boundary by the family (or other family members) during the

- next 12 calendar months will result in the student being declared ineligible until cleared for competition by the Section Commissioner.
- (iv) Evidence must be submitted that a valid change of residence has occurred. No single document listed below or combination thereof establishes residency. The Section Commissioner and/or school have the discretion to request additional documents that he/she deems necessary to confirm residency. Evidence may include:
- Operative telephone and utility service at the student's new residence and terminated at the former residence;
  - Utility service receipts;
  - Proof of paying for utilities at the new residence including phone, gas, electricity, water, cable television, and garbage collection;
  - Proof of submitting a change of address to the U.S. Postal Service to receive mail at the new residence;
  - Proof of transfer of the parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver and age-appropriate student's motor vehicle registration;
  - Proof of changed address on the parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver and age-appropriate student driver's license;
  - Voter registration listing the new address;
  - Real estate documents indicating and verifying a change of residence (sale and purchase, for instance);
  - Proof of entering a long-term lease;
  - Court documents indicating a change of residence;
  - Property tax receipts;
  - Rent payment receipts;
  - Declaration of residency executed by the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver;
  - Bank account statements;
  - Credit card statements;
  - Other documentation that a Section or school district may require that establishes that a person is living at the new address.

(3) **School Choice Following a Valid Change of Residence**

A student, whose parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver with whom the student was living when the student established residential eligibility at the prior school move from a residence in public high school attendance area "A" to a residence in public high school attendance area "B," has a choice among continued attendance at the previous school, attendance at School "B," attendance at a charter school within the boundaries of School "B" or attendance at a private school. The student is eligible if the student remains in School "A," or if the student enrolls and attends class immediately or no later than the beginning of the next school year in School "B", a charter school within the boundaries of School "B" or a private school.

(4) **Return to Previous School**

When a student eligible in School "A" transfers to School "B" and is residentially not eligible, the student may return to School "A" and be residentially eligible provided the student did not participate in an interscholastic athletic contest while at School "B" and provided the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver still reside in School "A's" attendance area. **NOTE:** The Section may require some paperwork.

(5) **Intra-district and Inter-district Transfers/Open Enrollment**

Each Section shall adopt rules and procedures that address eligibility pursuant to the provisions of the State Education Code sections 35160.5(b)(1) et seq. and 48300 et seq. ("open enrollment" and school choice legislation). However, the Section Commissioner shall make all final determinations of transfer eligibility. (See Bylaw 207.B.)

(6) **Boarding School**

A high school student who transfers to or from the status of a full-time resident at a 24-hour boarding school shall be residentially eligible on the first transfer, but all residence requirements shall apply on any subsequent transfer. When transferring from a boarding school a 24-hour boarding school student must have resided in the boarding school for a period of 50 days immediately prior to the transfer. (Revised October 2008 Federated Council)

- (7) **Court Order**  
If court action requires a student to transfer from one school to another when there has been no corresponding change of residence on the part of the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver with whom the student was living when the student established residential eligibility, the student will be ineligible at the new school unless approved by action of the Section under Bylaw 208.
- (8) **Foster Children**  
A student under the court ordered supervision of the California Foster Care System who has changed residences pursuant to a court order and as a result, has transferred schools, shall be immediately residentially eligible for interscholastic athletics provided all other CIF rules and regulations are met. A change of residence ordered by a social worker of the California Foster Care System shall be acceptable, provided all other CIF rules and regulations are met. (Approved May 2009 Federated Council)
- (9) **Military Service**  
A student is eligible immediately for athletic competition when returning from military service provided:
- a. The student was eligible when the student entered into the Armed Forces; AND
  - b. The student enrolls in the same school which the student attended before leaving for the service, or enrolls in the school in the district in which the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver reside; AND
  - c. The student enrolls in the school no later than the succeeding semester after being discharged; AND
  - d. Provided student did not receive a dishonorable discharge; AND
  - e. The student is fully eligible under all other rules of the CIF.
- (10) **Married Status**  
A student who marries and lives with the student's spouse has residential eligibility in the school in the attendance area in which the student resides.
- (11) **Anticipated Residence Change**  
If a student transfers to a high school in advance of the anticipated change of residence by the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver with whom the student was living when the student established residential eligibility, the student shall become eligible when the parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver actually complete a valid change of residence to that school's attendance area.
- (12) **Same Sport At Two Different Schools**  
No student shall be eligible to participate in the same sport at two different schools in the same school year unless the student changed schools as a result of a valid change of residence by the student and his/her parent(s)/ guardian(s)/ caregiver. In the event of a change of schools due to a valid change of residence, a student will be allowed to participate in the same sport at two different schools not to exceed, in total, the maximum number of contests in that sport as established by the Section. (Revised May 2009 Federated Council)

207. **TRANSFER ELIGIBILITY**

A student who participates in an interscholastic athletic contest or attends a school shall be considered enrolled in that school and shall be classified as a transfer student if the student subsequently enrolls at another school.

- A. A student may have transfer eligibility provided the student moves from any school to a CIF school due to:
- (1) A valid change of residence (See also Bylaw 206.B.) from one school attendance area to the attendance area of the new school by the parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver with whom the student was living when the student established residential eligibility (See also Bylaw 206.A.) at the prior school; OR
  - (2) A ruling by the Board of Education of a school district that has two or more high schools mandating a change of school attendance boundaries affecting an individual student or group of students provided the change of schools is not the result of a disciplinary action; OR
  - (3) A family decision to transfer the student prior to the first day of the student's third consecutive semester (typically the first semester of the sophomore year) of attendance since the initial enrollment when the following conditions are met:
    - a. This is the first transfer of this student since his/her initial enrollment in the 9th grade; AND
    - b. The student is not transferring as a result of a disciplinary situation (See also Bylaw 210); AND

- c. The student was scholastically and otherwise eligible at the former school immediately prior to the transfer; AND
- d. There is no evidence that the transfer, in whole or part, is athletically motivated (See also Bylaw 510.B); AND
- e. The CIF Form 510 Pre-Enrollment Contact Affidavit is completed verifying that there is no evidence of the use of undue influence (recruiting) by anyone associated with either school; AND
- f. The CIF Form 207 Athletic Transfer Eligibility Application and CIF Form 510 Pre-Enrollment Contact Affidavit have been approved by the Section.
- g. No student shall be eligible to participate in the same sport at two different schools in the same school year unless the student changed schools as a result of a valid change of residence by the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver. In the event of a change of schools due to a valid change of residence, a student will be allowed to participate in the same sport at two different schools not to exceed, in total, the maximum number of contests in that sport as established by the Section.

B. All 9th grade students who are transferring for a second time, or any 10th, 11th or 12th grade students who transfer without a valid change of residence, will have limited eligibility for one year from the date of transfer.

(See "a." below):

- (1) A student who transfers from a school located in the U.S., 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 parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver 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. (defined as LIMITED ELIGIBILITY).
  - a. Based on the conditions below, the student shall be ineligible for all sports for one calendar year unless otherwise noted.
    - (i) A student who was scholastically ineligible at their previous school will not be eligible to compete at the new school until the requirements in Bylaw 205 are met and the new school has completed a grading period to verify that the student has met the CIF and school district scholastic eligibility requirements.
    - (ii) A student will be declared ineligible for one calendar year from the date of transfer if he/she is transferring for disciplinary reasons as defined in Bylaw 210.
    - (iii) There is evidence of a violation of Bylaw 510.
  - b. The student shall become varsity eligible under the rule after one calendar year from the date of first attendance at the new school.

(2) **Hardship Waivers**

Sections may waive the limited eligibility of a student pursuant to Bylaw 208 - Transfer Hardship.

C. **Pre-Enrollment Communication or Contact**

A student who transfers from School "A" to School "B," as described in Bylaw 207.A. and 207.B. above, shall not be eligible for interscholastic athletics at School "B" until application, under the appropriate CIF/Section procedures, is completed including the following:

- (1) The principal and athletic director of School "A" shall attest that to the best of their knowledge they have no credible evidence\* of any person: who is connected with the athletic department of School "B;" who is part of the booster club of School "B;" or who is acting on their behalf, having communication, directly or indirectly, through intermediaries or otherwise, with the transfer student, student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver, or anyone acting on behalf of the student, prior to the completion of the enrollment process.

*\* Credible evidence is considered as evidence which proceeds from a trustworthy source; evidence which is so natural, reasonable and probable as to make it easy to believe; information which is obtained from authentic sources or from the statements of persons who are not only trustworthy, but also informed as to the particular matter; that which is not mere speculation, or rumor.*

- (2) The principal, athletic director and head coach of School "B" shall certify that to the best of their knowledge, no person: who is connected with the athletic department of School

- “B;” who is part of the booster club of school “B;” or who is acting on their behalf, has had communication, directly or indirectly, through intermediaries or otherwise, with the transfer student, student’s parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver, or anyone acting on behalf of the student, prior to the completion of the enrollment process.
- (3) A transfer of a student from his or her current school of attendance with or without a corresponding change of residence to any high school where the student participates or participated, during the previous 24 months, on a non-school athletic team, (i.e. AAU, American Legion, club team, etc.) that is associated with the new school in the sports previously participated in shall be considered prima facie evidence (“sufficient evidence”) of undue influence/recruiting by the school to which the student transfers. Such transfer may be considered prima facie evidence (“sufficient evidence”) that the student enrolled in that school in whole or in part for athletic reasons. A team associated with the school is one that is organized by and/or coached by any member of the coaching staff at, or any other person associated\*\* with, that school and/or on which the majority of the members of the team (Participants in practice and/or competition) are students who attend that school. When a prima facie case (“sufficient evidence”) of undue influence/recruiting exists, the student shall be ineligible to represent the new school in interscholastic athletic competition for a period of one calendar year from the date of the student’s enrollment in the new school in all sports in which the student participated at the former school unless sufficient proof is presented to the satisfaction of the Section Commissioner that rebuts or disproves the evidence of undue influence/recruiting for athletic reasons.
- \*\* Defined as: Persons “associated” with a school include, but are not limited to; current or former coaches, current or former athletes, parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver of current or former student/athletes, booster club members, alumni, spouses or relatives of coaches, teachers and other employees, coaches who become employed, active applicants for coaching positions, and persons who are employed by companies or organizations that have donated athletic supplies, equipment or apparel to that school.*
- (4) A student at any grade level who transfers to a new school within one calendar year of the relocation of his/her high school coach to that school with or without a corresponding change in residence shall be considered prima facie evidence (“sufficient evidence”) of undue influence/recruiting by the school to which the student transfers or may be considered prima facie evidence (“sufficient evidence”) that the student enrolled in that school in whole or in part for athletic reasons. When a prima facie case (“sufficient evidence”) of undue influence/recruiting exists, the student shall be ineligible to represent the new school in interscholastic athletic competition for a period of one calendar year from the date of the student’s enrollment in the new school in all sports in which the student participated at the former school unless sufficient proof is presented to the satisfaction of the Section Commissioner that rebuts or disproves the evidence of undue influence/recruiting for athletic reasons.
- (5) Any pre-enrollment communication as described above must be disclosed in full, and in writing, to the appropriate Section. The Section Commissioner shall determine if the pre-enrollment communication is a violation of Bylaw 510.
- (6) A student with whom contact or communication has occurred, as described in paragraph “a.” above, and who meets all other CIF/Section transfer waiver requirements, may become eligible upon determination that: the communication was completely unrelated to any aspect of School “B;” AND was of a type that, from the objective point of view of a reasonable person disinterested in the win/ loss record of School “B;” does not have an effect upon the integrity of interscholastic athletics at School “A” or School “B.”
- (7) **Penalties**  
 Failure to disclose pre-enrollment communication with School “B” persons, identified in C.(2) above, to disclose any pre-enrollment contact, or communicate in writing to the appropriate Section as described in C.(3) above may result in:
- a. A forfeiture of all games in which the student participated; AND/OR
  - b. Disqualification from playoff and championship competition for all seasons in which the student is a member of the school’s team. (A student shall be considered a member of the school’s team if he or she participated in any aspect of an interscholastic contest, no matter how brief such participation may have been); AND/OR
  - c. The forfeiture of all games or events won during the time the student was a member of the school’s team; AND/OR
  - d. Divestment from the school of all trophies, banners and other indicia of athletic success obtained while the student was a member of the school’s team.

D. This bylaw also applies to students 18 years of age or older and emancipated minors.  
**NOTE:** Students transferring to another school under any provision of the federal legislation “No Child Left Behind Act” are not residentially eligible at their new school. However, a student may become eligible under the provisions of the appropriate Section and State CIF Constitution and Bylaws.  
(Revised May 2009 Federated Council)

#### 208. **HARDSHIP WAIVERS**

The CIF recognizes that, in certain circumstances, students may transfer from one school to another due to a compelling need or situation beyond a student’s control. In such cases the Section may waive the transfer limitation imposed on a student when the case meets the definition of a hardship. (See “A.” below.)

Consideration of any hardship request under this bylaw requires documented proof of the hardship circumstance, and all facts to be considered must be submitted at the time of application. Consideration will be given to those situations in which there is no evidence of athletic motivation, undue influence, pending disciplinary action or falsification of information (See also Bylaw 202).

A. A hardship is defined as an unforeseeable, unavoidable and uncorrectable act, condition or event that causes the imposition of a severe and non-athletic burden upon the student or his/her family. Sections may only waive the transfer limitation if the conditions of hardship are met, and there is sufficient documentation to support the hardship claim. Sections may not waive the applicable rule if the conditions of hardship are not met.

B. Consideration of any hardship request to a Section requires documentation. Such documents may include, but not be limited to copies of current transcripts, financial documents, medical statements and/or supportive statements from the previous school attended.

#### **HARDSHIP QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**NOTE:** *CIF provides these questions and answers as a guide for parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver and school personnel to aid them in determining if a transfer waiver is possible under the hardship definition. Every case is different and heard on its merits. The following is meant as a guide only and is not a definitive list of what is and is not a hardship.*

*Question: If my daughter does not have a hardship as defined in Bylaw 208, will she be allowed to compete on the athletic teams at her new school?*

Answer: If a student leaves a school in good standing and is eligible under all other CIF Bylaws and both principals have no objection, she may compete at the non-varsity level in any sport she participated in at the previous school during the last 12 months or at the varsity level in any other sport.

#### **Financial Considerations**

*Question: I can no longer afford to send my son to a private school. I want my son to return to the public school of attendance and compete at the varsity level. Is that allowed?*

Answer: Under certain circumstances a hardship waiver of the transfer penalty may be granted because of financial situations. However, there must be evidence of an unforeseeable, unavoidable, and uncorrectable circumstance that necessitated the transfer. The Section will need evidence to show that a hardship circumstance occurred. The Section will require evidence the family attempted to address the situation with the private school and that aid or assistance by the private school was insufficient to address the hardship. Increases in tuition or additional costs at the private school are considered foreseeable and, therefore, do not meet the criteria.

#### **Transportation Considerations**

*Question: My son is enrolled in a school outside the public school attendance area. It is becoming more and more difficult to travel this distance. If we transfer, will he still be eligible for varsity competition?*

Answer: Generally, no. Transportation problems are foreseeable, as are instances of difficulty because of weather or changes in carpools.

*Question: The price of gas has skyrocketed and limited our ability to transport our daughter to our school of choice. We are considering changing to a school closer to our home. If we transfer, will she still be eligible for varsity competition?*

Answer: Generally, no. The student may be given “limited eligibility” at her new school. Fluctuations in gasoline prices, as with most transportation issues, are foreseeable and must be considered when making your initial choice of schools.

#### **Divorce or Change of Guardianship**

*Question: We are divorced (or divorcing) and my son will be moving to live with his father. Will he be eligible at his new school at the varsity level?*

Answer: A student who moves without the parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver with whom he established residential eligibility is ineligible for varsity competition. However, a hardship waiver may be requested that documents why the student must move to a new parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver. In the case of a divorce decree that requires the student to transfer to a new school and live with a parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver different from the one with whom he/she established initial eligibility, a copy of the court order must accompany the hardship request. Other changes of custody, if out of the control of the parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver or student, may be the basis for a hardship waiver of the bylaw. In transfers made as a result of a change of legal guardianship, determined by a court having jurisdiction to do so, the request may be approved provided that the student has changed his/her residence to that of the new legal guardian.

**NOTE:** Affidavits of responsibility outside the purview of a court do not meet the criteria of this policy. (See also Bylaw 206.B.(7))

*Question: We have been divorced for several years and have joint custody of our daughter. Our child has lived with me, but this past year has been unable to follow our house rules, so we have decided that she should now live with her father. Is she eligible at her new high school?*

Answer: A student's behavior and disciplinary issues are NOT considered a hardship since behavior is typically correctable and avoidable. The student most likely would have "limited eligibility" at their new school.

*Question: What does court-appointed change of guardianship mean?*

Answer: The Section will look for documentation that the student has changed from one parent to another or to a guardian(s)/caregiver. Such proof of this type of transfer is a court document transferring physical custody from one parent to another. This is not a modification of custody rights; it recognizes that parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver with whom the student resides.

### **Discontinued Programs**

*Question: The school my daughter attends has discontinued a program in which she participated. Can a hardship waiver be granted if she transfers to a school that offers the same program?*

Answer: When a transfer is made as a result of a school discontinuing a particular program in which the student had previously been enrolled or participated, the student may request a waiver of the transfer rule. Proof of the student's enrollment in the program at the new school should be submitted at the time of the request.

### **Student Emergencies**

*Question: My son changed schools because of a medical condition. Will he be allowed to compete at his new school at the varsity level?*

Answer: Transfers based upon medical considerations may be approved, provided that Medical Doctor/Doctor of Osteopathy substantiates the need for such a transfer as an integral part of medical therapy of prevention or aggravation of an existing condition serious enough to warrant a compelling need to transfer. The Section Commissioner may deny the request if it is established that the diagnosis was made for the purpose of establishing athletic eligibility at the new school.

**NOTE:** Letters/notes from a psychologist, nurse, or social worker will not be considered for medical emergencies and/or conditions.

### **Student Social Issues**

*Question: My daughter is having trouble making friends at her school of choice. She wants to transfer to a school where she has friends and the course offerings will be better for her. Will she be eligible at the varsity level at her new school?*

Answer: It is reasonable to expect that there may be social adjustment problems or scholastic problems when a student chooses to attend a school outside of the neighborhood or a school that has a rigorous curriculum. Such circumstances do not satisfy the criteria for a hardship.

*Question: I want my son to attend a different school because the scholastic program is better at that school. He also feels he will fit in better at that school. Will he be eligible at the varsity level?*

Answer: Defining a "better" school scholastically or socially is subjective. Parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregivers are urged to research schools prior to enrollment. Transfers for these reasons do not meet the hardship criteria.

*Question: Can my daughter apply for a hardship waiver if she has been subject to a disciplinary action?*

Answer: Transfers as a result of disciplinary action or pending disciplinary action by a school do not meet the criteria for consideration.

*Question: The school my son attends is not a safe environment and I want to transfer him to another school. Will this transfer limit his athletic eligibility?*

Answer: Any hardship waiver request **MUST** be substantiated with documented evidence. In a claim of an unsafe school environment, there must be documented school reports of incidents involving the student that makes remaining on that campus a dangerous situation that is beyond the control of the student.

*Question: What if these incidents occurred in the community and not at school?*

Answer: Any hardship waiver request **MUST** be substantiated with documented evidence. If something happened in the community, the Section would require police documentation and/or reports that would substantiate that the incident occurred in the community and was beyond the control of the student. Additionally, school officials may be required to provide letters and documentation affirming knowledge of the circumstances.

## **DEFINITION OF TERMS**

**Hardship** — A hardship is defined as an unforeseeable, unavoidable, and uncorrectable act, condition or, event, that causes the imposition of a severe and non-athletic burden upon the student or his/her family.

**Hardship Waiver** — The CIF recognizes that in certain circumstances students may transfer from one school to another due to a compelling need or situation beyond a student’s control. In such cases the Section may waive the “Limited Eligibility” imposed on a student when the case meets the criteria. Consideration will be given to those situations in which there is no evidence of athletic motivation, undue influence, pending disciplinary action, or falsification of information. For more detailed information and a question and answer guide, please refer to Bylaw 208.

**Immediate Family** — Includes parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver, stepparents and minor siblings with whom the student resided when “Initial Residential Eligibility” was established.

**Initial Residential Eligibility** — Under CIF rules and regulations, students establish their “Initial Residential Eligibility” at their school of choice entering the 9th grade, or the 10th grade, of a 3-year high school.

**Limited Eligibility** — Students granted limited eligibility are limited for one year (from the date of transfer) to non-varsity competition in the CIF sports they participated in during the previous 12 calendar months but may participate in varsity competition in all other CIF sports.

**Prima Facie** — A legal term that means at first sight; on the first appearance; on the face of it; a fact presumed to be true unless disproved by some evidence to the contrary. A prima facie case is one in which the evidence presented is sufficient proof for the plaintiff (Section) to win its case of undue influence. In such a case, the defendant (school) must successfully refute the evidence for the student to gain eligibility.

**Transfer Eligibility** — Once a student enters high school and then changes schools, he/she is considered a transfer student. There are several types of transfer students.

- A student and his/her immediate family complete a valid change of residences as explained above. In most cases, this student will be eligible for all sports at the new school if the student meets all CIF scholastic standards and other rules and regulations.
- **9th-grader transferring before the start of the sophomore year without a valid change of residence.** A family decision to transfer the student during his/her 9th grade year or immediately upon the completion of 9th grade and/or no later than the first day of the third consecutive semester (typically the first semester of the sophomore year) may be eligible to compete in sports, at all levels, at the new school of choice if he/she meets CIF scholastic standards and all other rules and regulations.
- **10th, 11th, 12th-grader transferring without a valid change of residence.** A family decision to transfer the student during his/her 10th, 11th or 12th grade year without a valid change of residence may have limited eligibility to participate in athletics at the new school. A student who changes residence and resides with someone other than his/her immediate family with whom he/she first established residential eligibility may have limited eligibility to participate in athletics at the new school.

**Valid Residence** — Where the student and his/her immediate family reside when the student entered high school for the first time (See Initial Residential Eligibility). A valid residence is further defined as the location where the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver live with that student and thereby have the use and enjoyment of that location. A student (with the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver with whom eligibility has been established) may have only one valid residence at a time.

**Valid Change of Residence** — A family makes a valid change of residence into a new school boundary when the student’s immediate family relocates and takes with them the household goods and furniture appropriate to the circumstances. For eligibility purposes, a family unit may not maintain more than one valid residence. A subsequent move by the family (or other family members) during that same school year will result in the student being declared ineligible until cleared for competition by the Section Commissioner. CIF rules and regulations will require the new school to document and verify a Valid Change of Residence. Evidence that a valid change of residence has occurred may include:

- Telephone and utility service operative at the student’s new residence and terminated at the former residence;
- Utility service receipts;
- Proof of paying for utilities at the new residence including phone, gas, electricity, water, cable television, and garbage collection;
- Proof of submitting a change of address to the U.S. Postal Service to receive mail at the new residence;
- Proof of transfer of the parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver and age-appropriate student’s motor vehicle registration;
- Proof of changed address on the parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver and age-appropriate student driver’s license;
- Voter registration listing the new address;
- Real estate documents indicating and verifying a change of residence (sale and purchase, for instance);
- Proof of entering a long-term lease;
- Court documents indicating a change of residence;
- Property tax receipts;
- Rent payment receipts;
- Declaration of residency executed by the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver;
- Bank account statements
- Credit card statements
- Other documentation that a Section or school district may require that establishes that a person is living at the new address.

No single document listed above, or combination thereof, establishes residency. The Section Commissioner and/or school has the discretion to request additional documents that he/she deems necessary to confirm residency.

209. **FOREIGN STUDENT ELIGIBILITY**

A. **Foreign Exchange Students**

(1) **Definition of a Foreign Exchange Student**

A foreign exchange student is an international student who attends high school in the United States and is enrolled in a foreign exchange program per the conditions in (2)a.-d. below.

(2) **Eligibility Requirements**

To be eligible for interscholastic athletics in the United States:

- a. Such student must be under the auspices of, and be placed with a United States host family by, an international student exchange program that has been:
  - (i) Accepted for listing by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET); AND
  - (ii) Approved by the CIF; AND
  - (iii) Recognized by the U.S. State Department and the California Attorneys’ General Office; AND

**NOTE:** A foreign exchange student is considered to be placed with a host family when written notice of placement is provided by the exchange organization to the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver, and to the host family.

- b. Neither the school the student attends, nor any person associated with the school, shall have input into the selection of the student; AND
- c. It is recommended that no member of the school’s coaching staff, paid or voluntary, serve as the host family; AND
- d. A foreign exchange student must possess a current J-1 visa, issued by the U.S. State Department; AND

- e. A foreign exchange student must comply with all eligibility requirements set forth by the CIF and the Section having jurisdiction; AND
- f. A foreign exchange student involved in an approved foreign exchange program where placement is not in accordance with State CIF conditions for exempt status is subject to loss of his/her residential eligibility (waiver of the transfer rule); AND
- g. A foreign exchange student who graduated from high school is ineligible to participate in CIF competition, unless the educational program in the student's country completes high school (graduation) after the student's 10th or 11th year of regular schooling (not including pre-school or kindergarten classes), in which case the student may have CIF athletic eligibility through the 12th consecutive year of regular school attendance after initially enrolling in the first grade (not pre-school or kindergarten classes); AND
- h. A foreign exchange student participating in a CIF-approved foreign exchange program must comply with the maximum of eight consecutive semesters bylaw. A foreign exchange student who is not in compliance with the eight consecutive semesters bylaw may apply for a waiver under the bylaws established by the State CIF and the respective Section of the student's current CIF school; AND
- i. A foreign exchange student must be eligible under all other State and Section bylaws.

(3) **Waivers of CIF Transfer Bylaws**

A student 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 shall be classified as a transfer student if the student subsequently enrolls at another school. A waiver of the transfer bylaw may be granted to a foreign exchange student in accordance with the following:

- a. **Pre-enrollment Contact Affidavit for Foreign Exchange Students**  
All foreign students in CIF-approved foreign exchange programs shall submit the appropriate waiver application(s) as required by their respective Section under Bylaw 206 with a CIF Pre-Enrollment Contact Affidavit (CIF Form 510) signed by the student and a host parent (part 1), and the enrolling school official(s) (part 3). Foreign students in CIF-approved foreign exchange programs need not obtain signatures of officials from their former school; AND
- b. **Approved Foreign Exchange Programs**  
Upon written application, a waiver of the transfer rule may be granted to students in approved foreign exchange programs, provided the student has been placed with a host family in compliance with this bylaw and Bylaw 510 (undue influence). The student will have the choice of attending either:
  - (i) The public school in the host family's public school attendance area; OR
  - (ii) A private school located in the host family's public school attendance area. To gain residential eligibility at any other school, the student must receive written approval from both the principal of the public school located in the host family's attendance area and the principal of the other school; OR
  - (iii) In the event of a change of placement by the CIF-approved foreign exchange program, a different public school or private school with written approval from the principal of the new school.
- c. **CIF-approved Foreign Exchange Programs:**  
An approved foreign exchange program that fails to fulfill the State CIF conditions for exempt status shall be subject to immediate suspension of its exempt status and subject to permanent loss of its exempt status after due process has been fulfilled.

*All approved programs will be posted on the State CIF web site ([www.cifstate.org](http://www.cifstate.org)).*

**NOTE:** Only foreign exchange programs registered with the California Attorneys General office and the U.S. State Department may place foreign exchange students in a California School (Government Code Section 12620 et seq.). The list above reflects the list approved by both the CIF and those registered with the California Attorney General, Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) and the U.S. State Department. No other exchange programs will be recognized by the CIF as approved exchange programs for 2008-09.

**B. All Other International Transfer Students**

**(1) International Student Eligibility Requirements**

An international student who is not under the auspices of, and placed by, a CSJET listed exchange program must meet the following requirements in order to be considered for interscholastic athletic eligibility:

- a. The student must possess a current F-1 visa, issued by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service; AND
- b. The student must provide to the principal of the school he/she attends an official un-translated transcript and a transcript that is translated into English, by an agency acceptable to the Section from the National Association of Credential Evaluation Service (NACES) membership, which indicates work taken in all grades in which the student was enrolled; the grade level equivalent in the United States as if the international student had completed all courses attempted satisfactorily; and the California grade-point average equivalent; AND
- c. If required, the international student must pay tuition to the school/school district he/she attends as prescribed in Education Code Section 48052 et seq.; AND
- d. The international student not on an approved foreign exchange program who graduated, or should have graduated, or has completed the equivalent coursework for graduation from high school/secondary school is ineligible to participate in CIF competition; AND
- e. The international student not participating in a CIF-approved foreign exchange program is subject to the maximum of eight consecutive semesters bylaw; AND
- f. The international student not participating in a CIF-approved foreign exchange program is subject to the age requirement bylaw.

**(2) Limited Eligibility**

The international student may have limited eligibility only to participate in interscholastic competition. The international student may request unlimited eligibility under the provisions of Bylaws 207 and 208 that apply to all transfer students in the Section. For the purpose of this bylaw, any and all organized sports programs (e.g. youth teams, community teams, club teams, national teams at any level or individualized instruction for competition in development schools or programs) in which the international student competed on, or participated within the last 12 months, will be considered by the CIF in determining whether the student participated in the equivalent of interscholastic competition.

(3) No member of the school's coaching staff, paid or voluntary, may serve as the resident family for the student.

(4) The Section must take action regarding any international student's eligibility.

**(5) Pre-Enrollment Contact Affidavit for International Students**

All international transfer students not in CIF-approved foreign exchange programs shall submit a fully completed CIF Pre-Enrollment Contact Affidavit (CIF Form 510) with the appropriate waiver application(s), as required by their respective Section under Bylaw 207.

**(6) Appeals**

Appeals of eligibility involving international transfer students must be in accordance with all relevant provisions of the Section appeal process as set forth in Bylaw 1100.

(Revised May 2008 Federated Council)

**210. DISCIPLINE, EXPULSION AND TRANSFER FOR DISCIPLINARY REASONS**

**A. Expulsion**

A student who is expelled by a public school district in the State of California pursuant to the provisions of Education Code Section 48900 et seq., or from a public school from any other State, or any private or parochial school or district, shall be ineligible to practice, or compete with any CIF team or individual sport program that is under the jurisdiction of the CIF for the period of the expulsion.

**B. Suspended Expulsion**

A student who has been expelled and has the expulsion suspended by the school board or board of directors and remains at his/her current school may be eligible so long as all other CIF and Section requirements are met. The conditions under which this student may be eligible will be determined by the local school board or board of directors. If the student is deemed eligible to participate, the conditions of his/her eligibility must be sent to the appropriate Section office.

- C. **Disciplinary Transfer**
- (1) If a student transfers from any public or private school when a disciplinary action is in place or pending that contributes in any way to the decision to transfer, that student shall be ineligible for competition in all sports for one year from the date of the transfer to the new school.
  - (2) A student, permitted by the principal to return to the school compelling the disciplinary transfer, may be granted unrestricted athletic eligibility by the Section if the student did not participate in any athletic program at the transfer school; compete for the transfer school; and, at the time of the transfer, conditions for return were established by the school administration that include, but are not limited to:
    - a. Satisfactory attendance criteria;
    - b. Applicable behavior standards;
    - c. Academic performance standards; and,
    - d. Principal's approval of the return based upon documented evidence provided by the transfer school that the student satisfactorily complied with all conditions for return.

(Revised May 2005 Federated Council)

211. **PHYSICAL ASSAULT**

A. **Student**

Any student who physically assaults the person of a game or event official shall be banned from interscholastic athletics for the remainder of the student's eligibility. A game or event official is defined as a referee, umpire or any other official assigned to interpret or enforce rules of competition at an event or contest. A student may, after a lapse of 18 calendar months from the date of incident, apply for reinstatement of eligibility to the State Executive Director.

B. **Coach**

Any coach who physically assaults the person of a game or event official shall be considered to have violated Bylaw 22 (Conditions of Membership) and, pending action by the building principal, subjects the member school to sanctions or loss of standing as a member. When a coach allegedly assaults a person of a game or event official it is mandatory that the principal/designee notify the CIF Section Office within 48 hours (excluding holidays and weekends) after the receipt of the assault report notification. The competing schools and officials will be required to file written reports within 10 days of the incident. After reviewing the material, the principal of the school involved will be required to respond to the respective Section Office concerning his/her investigation of the incident.

NOTE: Definition of a Physical Assault: A physical assault is the intentional infliction of or an attempt to inflict a harmful or offensive touching or contact upon the person of an official. Note that the rule is violated even if no contact is made with the person of an official. Such conduct shall include verbal threats and/or intimidation either before, during or after the contest. All that is required is the "attempt." However, the act constituting the attempt must be accompanied by a specific intent, which may be inferred from the circumstances and nature of the act, to inflict a harmful or offensive touching contact of the official's person. (Approved May 2009 Federated Council)

212. **CONTINUATION SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY**

A. **Current Eligibility**

While enrolled in a continuation school, a student is only eligible to represent the continuation school of attendance.

B. **Transfer Eligibility**

A student who transfers from continuation school to the student's school of residential eligibility is eligible immediately provided:

- (1) The student is currently enrolled in the school of residential eligibility in at least 20 semester credits of work.
- (2) The student was currently passing in at least 20 semester credits of work or a maximum program in the continuation school when the student transferred to the school of residential eligibility.
- (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 passing grades which is defined as at least a 2.0 grade-point average, on a 4.0 scale, in all enrolled courses.

a. **Probationary Period**

The governing board of each school district, private school, or parochial school may adopt, as part of its policy, provisions that would allow a student who does not achieve educational progress in items (3) or (4) above in the previous grading period to remain eligible to participate in interscholastic activities during a probationary period. The probationary period shall not exceed one semester in length, but may be for a shorter period of time as determined by the governing board of the school district, private school, or parochial school. A student who does not achieve educational progress, as defined in items (3) or (4), during the probationary period shall not be allowed to participate in interscholastic athletics in the subsequent grading period. For the purpose of determining the maximum length of a semester, the measure should be the maximum as used in that school.

- (5) Student was eligible under all rules at the time student was transferred from student's school of residential eligibility to continuation school. Exception: if a student spends a full grading period or more in the continuation school and passes all required subjects which that continuation school considers to be a full program, even if it is less than 20 semester credits, the student is eligible immediately upon transfer to student's school of residential eligibility as long as the student meets the requirements of Bylaw 205.B.(1).
- (6) Semesters of attendance at continuation school are to be counted as part of student's eligibility as defined in Bylaw 204.
- (7) The student was not compelled to transfer to the continuation program for disciplinary reasons or the student was not administratively placed in the continuation program as a result of expulsion, suspended expulsion or rehabilitation program pursuant to re-admittance following expulsion. (If the student was compelled to transfer under disciplinary reasons, please refer the process under Bylaw 210.C.).  
(Approved May 2003 Federated Council)

213. **AMATEUR STATUS**

A. **CIF Sponsored Competition**

A student is governed by CIF amateur rules when the student participates in CIF competition. A student who violates CIF amateur or award rules shall be ineligible for CIF competition in that sport until appeal and reinstatement as an amateur by the CIF Federated Council. A student may apply to the CIF Federated Council for reinstatement when the student can again qualify as an amateur in that sport.

B. **Reinstatement of Amateur Status**

A student will become ineligible for CIF competition in a given sport if the student is determined to be a professional by the national sports governing body (NSGB) for the sport in question. A student may apply for reinstatement of his/her amateur status through the Section in which the student competes. Any request for reinstatement must include a statement from the NSGB for the sport in question that the student's amateur status has been reinstated by the appropriate NSGB.  
(Approved May 2003 Federated Council)

C. **Violations in CIF-Sponsored Competition**

A student shall become ineligible for CIF competition in the respective sport and shall be penalized according to A. and B. above for the following violations related to CIF competition:  
(See **CAUTION** below)

- (1) Receiving, from any and all sources, athletic awards totaling more than \$100.00 in value for:
  - a. Accomplishments in any regular season CIF high school competition event; **NOTE:** Typical examples of "regular season CIF high school competition event" include, but are not limited to, any league or non-league dual contest and invitational tournament held prior to any season-culminating League, Section, Region and/or State Playoff competition.
  - b. A recognition award program, such as "Player of the Week"/"Month," for any regular season CIF high school competition.
- (2) Receiving, from any and all sources, athletic awards totaling more than \$250.00 in value for any post-regular season CIF high school competition or recognition program; **NOTE:** For purposes of this bylaw only, League, Section, Region and State Playoff competition is considered to be one continuous event. **NOTE:** The dollar value of an award, exclusive of engraving, shall be determined by the following criteria:
  - a. The retail price paid by the last purchaser in the acquisition of the award;

- b. When the host school or League purchases the award, the retail price paid by the host school or League;
  - c. When the award is donated by another entity, the retail price paid by or cost to that entity.
- (3) Wearing a school team uniform or any identifying school insignia while appearing in any advertisement, promotional activity or endorsement for any commercial product or service;
  - (4) Lending his/her name and team affiliation for purposes of commercial endorsement. Any appearances by students for nonprofit organizations must be approved by the Board of Trustees concerned. This provision is not intended to restrict the right of any student to participate in a commercial endorsement provided there is no school team or school affiliation;
  - (5) Accepting payment for loss of time or wages while participating in CIF competition;
  - (6) Receiving payment for coaching a team in CIF competition.

**CAUTION:** Compliance with these Bylaws does not ensure maintenance of eligibility under the eligibility standards of other athletic organizations (e.g. NCAA, NAIA, NJCAA, California Community College Association and National Sports Governing Body, etc.). Students desiring information on the amateur rules of other organizations must communicate with the respective organization.

(Revised May 2009 Federated Council)

214. **HARDSHIP WAIVERS OTHER THAN TRANSFER**

A hardship is defined as an unforeseeable, unavoidable, and uncorrectable act, condition, or event, which causes the imposition of a severe and non-athletic burden upon the student or his/her family. Due to hardship circumstances experienced by the student, the following bylaws may be waived, provided that the Section has established rules and procedures regulating hardship waivers. Waivers granted by a Section are not transferable to another Section.

- A. Twenty-semester credit requirement (Bylaw 205.E.)
- B. Charged semester of attendance (Bylaw 204)
- C. Age requirement (Bylaw 203)

215. **POST-INJUNCTION REMEDIES**

If a student-athlete, who is ineligible under the terms of the Constitution, Bylaws or other legislation of the California Interscholastic Federation, is permitted to participate in interscholastic competition contrary to such CIF legislation, but in accordance with the terms of a court restraining order or injunction operative against the CIF and injunction is subsequently voluntarily vacated, stayed, reversed or finally determined by the courts that injunctive relief is not or was not justified, the CIF or its Sections, may take any one or more of the following actions against the school in the interest of restitution and fairness to competing schools:

- A. Require that individual records and performances achieved during participation by such ineligible student-athlete shall be vacated or stricken;
- B. Require that team records and performances achieved during participation by the ineligible student-athlete shall be vacated or stricken;
- C. Require that individual awards earned during participation by such ineligible student-athlete be returned to the CIF, the sponsor or the competing institution;
- D. Require that team awards earned during participation by such ineligible student-athlete be returned to the CIF, the sponsor or the competing institution;
- E. Require that team victories achieved during participation by such ineligible student-athlete shall be abrogated and the games or events forfeited to the opposing schools;
- F. Make a determination of future ineligibility for one or more CIF championships, or playoff competition, in the sports in which the ineligible student-athlete participated;
- G. Make a determination of future ineligibility for invitational and postseason meets and tournaments in the sports in which the student-athlete participated;
- H. Require that a school which has been represented in a CIF championship or playoff event by an ineligible student-athlete return its share of the net receipts from such competition in excess of the school's actual cash expenses with reference to such event or, if such funds have not been distributed to the school, require that funds be withheld by the State Executive Director or Section Commissioner. Funds remitted or withheld pursuant to the above, shall be utilized by the CIF in either the State or Section scholar-athlete or drug abuse programs.
- I. When a student-athlete competing as an individual is declared ineligible subsequent to the competition, or a penalty has been imposed or action taken as set forth above, the student-athlete's performance shall be stricken from the championship's records, the points the student-athlete has contributed to the team's total shall be deleted, the team standings shall be adjusted accordingly and any awards involved shall be returned to the CIF. The placement of other individual competitors shall be altered appropriately.

- J. When a student-athlete representing a school in team events is declared ineligible subsequent to the competition, or a penalty has been imposed or action taken as set forth above, all records of the team's performance shall be deleted, the team's place in the final standings shall be vacated and the team's trophy, banner, patches and other indicia of victory shall be returned to the CIF. In the event the student-athlete's school has been previously declared champion, the runner-up school shall be declared champion and all records adjusted accordingly.

216. **INTERCOLLEGIATE PARTICIPATION**

A student who participates in an intercollegiate athletic contest prior to the completion of his/her eight consecutive semesters of high school eligibility shall be ineligible for high school participation in that sport for the duration of the student's high school enrollment.

(Approved February 2003 Federated Council)

217. **GRADUATES**

High school graduates are not eligible for CIF competition and are not subject to CIF rules except as noted below in A. and B. A "recent graduate" game is outside the jurisdiction of the CIF.

A. **Mid-Year/Spring Graduation**

- (1) Mid-Year: Students completing graduation requirements mid-year and no longer enrolled become immediately ineligible for further CIF competition.
- (2) Spring: Students graduating at the end of a school's spring semester shall have continuing eligibility until all CIF spring competition is completed.  
(Revised May 2003 Federated Council)

B. **California High School Proficiency Exam**

A student who successfully passes the California High School Proficiency Examination and withdraws from high school has one opportunity to re-enroll in high school and be eligible immediately for athletic competition provided the student:

- (1) Was eligible under all rules of the CIF at the time of withdrawal from school; AND
- (2) Meets all rules of the CIF other than "a." and "b." under Bylaw 205.B.(1) at the time of re-enrollment; AND
- (3) Re-enrolls in the same school which the student attended prior to withdrawal, or enrolls in the school of the attendance area to which the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver with whom the student was living when the student established residential eligibility have moved; AND
- (4) Is within four years of the student's first entry into the 9th grade.