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LIABILITY AND RULES ADVISORY

This document is meant to both clarify and provide information regarding CIF Rules and the liability of school personnel conducting any athletic competitions that take place out of season. School administrators are strongly advised to seek section specific information from their CIF Section Office as sections may have more restrictive rules. While it is the understanding of the CIF that there has been some confusion and misinterpretation of these rules, member schools must operate in accordance with the bylaws listed below pertaining to out of season competition and the limitations placed on such.

500. AUTHORIZED PARTICIPATION

- A. All athletic activities in sports approved by the CIF involving two or more member schools must be held under rules and regulations of the participating school's respective league, Section and the CIF.

504. SEASON OF SPORT DEFINITION

The season of sport for a school is that period of time which elapses between the first interscholastic contest and the final contest for that particular sport. The season of a sport for any individual student is that period of time which elapses between the student's first participation in an interscholastic contest and the student's final contest for that particular sport.

- A. The "season of sport" shall be established for each sport by the highest CIF component level in which championship competition is conducted (i.e., State, Section or league) in that sport. To participate in state-level competition for any particular sport, a Section must comply with the CIF adopted "season of sport."
- E. The basic sports seasons are:
 - Fall - August through November
 - Winter - November through February
 - Spring - February through JuneExact dates may vary from year-to-year and between Sections within the above specified basic seasons. Championship competition may extend beyond these limits.
- H. Sections have the responsibility to work toward equity relative to length of season, number of contests, and number of opportunities for participation by students. The "seasons of sport" for State Championships are:

Fall - Volleyball (girls)	Winter - Soccer (boys and girls - Regionals only)
Fall - Cross Country (boys and girls)	Spring - Swimming and Diving (boys and girls)
Fall - Football (boys)	Spring - Track and Field (boys and girls)
Fall - Golf (girls)	Spring - Golf (boys)
Fall - Tennis (girls - Regionals only)	Spring - Tennis (boys - Regionals only)
Fall - Water Polo (boys and girls - Regionals only)	Spring - Volleyball (boys - Regionals only)
Winter - Water Polo (girls - SoCal Regionals only)	Spring - Badminton (boys, girls and coed - Regionals only)
Winter - Basketball (boys and girls)	Spring - Competitive Sport Cheer
Winter - Wrestling (boys and girls)	

The season of sport for Championship teams from the San Francisco and Oakland Sections may be extended to allow them to compete against each other in a postseason "Transbay" competition in those sports that do not culminate in a CIF Regional/State Championship.
(Revised May 2011 Federated Council/Revised April 2017 Federated Council)

504.L. ONE SEASON OF SPORT

Each student shall be limited to one season of a particular sport for each school year. (also see 504.A)

MAY SCHOOL TEAMS COMPETE IN OUT OF SEASON LEAGUES?

NO. Every year, questions arise about the "legality" of out of season leagues. School teams, as such, may compete only in CIF sanctioned "season of sport" as defined by their specific section bylaws as a school sanctioned team. Therefore, by definition, **NO SCHOOL TEAM** may participate in any other out of season competition.

WHAT IS A SCHOOL TEAM?

A school team is one that represents a school, uses school equipment and/or facilities, is funded by a school district, either by district funds, school funds, funds raised on behalf of the school's athletic program, school's athletic team, school's booster club or ASB Funds.

FOR A TEAM TO QUALIFY AS AN OUTSIDE TEAM AND NOT BE CONSIDERED A SCHOOL TEAM WHAT STEPS SHOULD WE TAKE?

The team must be part of an outside entity, i.e. AAU, Boy's and Girl's Club, Foundation, etc. They should not use school equipment, unless approved written permission was granted under the Civic Center Act, cannot use school funds, school transportation, etc. They must have completed, approved facility use permits as per the Civic Center Act if using school facilities and most importantly the coaches do not require students to participate as a condition for membership on school team during the season.

MAY STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN OUT OF SEASON COMPETITION?

YES. Students may participate in **NON-SCHOOL sponsored** athletic competitions. Examples are A.A.U. basketball, Babe Ruth Baseball, Bobbi Sox Softball, Club Volleyball to name just a few. These programs are run under the authority of a non-school entity.

MAY SCHOOL COACHES ORGANIZE AND COACH AN OUT OF SEASON COMPETITION WITH PLAYERS FROM THEIR SCHOOL? Sections may have more restrictive rule and regulations regarding coaches' contact with students outside the season of sport and schools must seek clarification from their local CIF Section office. As a general rule, coaches may only be involved if that team is sponsored by a **NON-SCHOOL entity**. They may coach, organize, transport and otherwise be involved with students in out of season competition, **as a private citizen or as an employee of a recreation department or other NON-SCHOOL entity**. But again, sections may have more restrictive rules and regulations so it is vital that school seek section specific information from their local CIF office.

MAY THE SCHOOL COACH USE SCHOOL EQUIPMENT FOR OUT OF SEASON COMPETITION?

Only if the school/district has a written agreement with the outside entity under the Civic Center Act (as they would with any outside entity) to rent their equipment and facilities, otherwise the competition may be considered a violation of the CIF rules and regulations that limits school teams to "one season of sport."

WHAT DO I DO IF OUR SCHOOL VIOLATES THESE BYLAWS IN THE FUTURE?

As with all CIF rules and regulations, we are a self-governing and self-reporting organization. The school administrator should immediately call their local CIF Section office to report the possible violation.