

**CIF/CENTRAL COAST SECTION**www.cifccs.org**CCS PLAYOFF POLICY**

(Revised on: 4/14/77; 4/24/86; 10/94; 1/99; 1/01; 4/02; 4/08, 4/28/10; 4/2011)

1. SEASON LONG LEAGUE PLAY

The sole purpose of CCS Playoffs is to provide a post-season championship event for its member school teams and athletes who have been engaged in season-long league play in a given sport.

- A. Section playoffs are to be conducted as the culminating activity for teams and/or individuals who have been engaged in season-long league play in a given sport.
- B. Schools or leagues which do not conduct a given sport on a recognized league basis for the majority of a given sport season will not be allowed to enter playoff competition. Exceptions to this general policy may be made by the Board of Managers as a result of a unique, short-term and specific circumstance beyond a school's control that directly causes the school to be unable to participate in that sport in season-long league play,
- C. In individual sports, (swimming, track & field, cross country, tennis, golf, gymnastics, badminton, wrestling), a student athlete must compete in at least ½ of the regularly-scheduled league meets in order to participate in the CCS playoffs in that sport. The specific qualification standards outlined in the CCS bylaws for each of these sports must be met in addition to this general minimum participation standard. Exceptions to this rule may be determined by the league ONLY
 - o if there is a serious medical condition or hardship that is beyond the student's control and which clearly and solely causes their lack of participation in a minimum of ½ of their regularly-scheduled league contests OR
 - o if the student has corrected a scholastic ineligibility in the most recent grading period which occurs after the first half of the league season is complete and which directly and solely causes their lack of participation in a minimum of ½ of their regularly-scheduled league contests.
 - o if through internal team competition and ladder movement an athlete has not had the opportunity to participate in ½ the regular-scheduled league contests.

2. SECTION APPROVAL NEEDED

All post season inter-league play shall be subject to Section approval.

3. PLAYOFFS ARE VARSITY LEVEL ONLY

CCS Playoff Competition shall be restricted to boys and girls varsity teams and/or individual athletes.

4. NO CONSOLATION ROUNDS ALLOWED

Team competition shall be limited to Championship Play, no consolation or runner-up games shall be played.

5. EARLY ROUNDS PLAYED CLOSE TO HOME SCHOOLS

In preliminary or early rounds of playoffs, every effort shall be made to conduct contests in the geographic proximity of participating schools.

6. AVOID SCHOOL HOURS

Whenever possible, contests shall be conducted outside of normal school hours.

7. BOYS AND GIRLS COMPETITION--SAME SITE/SAME DATES

Whenever possible, boys and girls competition in the same sport shall be conducted in equitable sites and played at equitable times in consideration of the quality and size of sites necessary to conduct the contests.

8. SPORTS COMMITTEES MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS

Sports Committees in each sport shall make playoff format recommendations to the Executive Committee and the Board of Managers. The Board of Managers shall have final approval of all Playoff Formats subject to the CCS Playoff Policy.

9. TOURNAMENT GUIDE CONTAINS PLAYOFF FORMATS

Section playoff formats shall be as described in the CCS Tournament Guide.

10. COACHES MUST ACCOMPANY ATHLETES

All student athletes competing in any CCS contest (scrimmages, alumni contests, pre-season, league and CCS playoffs) must be accompanied by a coach that meets the following criteria as addressed in CIF Bylaw 309 and 506.

A. MUST BE THE "REGULAR COACH"

The coach of either a public or private school team or athlete must be the coach of record for that school for the current season and must comply with all requirements of CIF Bylaw 506:

1. **PUBLIC SCHOOLS** All public school teams must be coached by a person who meets the requirements of the California Education Code and the California Administrative Code Title V.
2. **NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS.** In the case of a non-public school, a person engaged by that school on a yearly contract basis as a regular member of the school coaching or teaching staff and certified by the administrator for that school as competent for the position held.

B. EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

In the case of an emergency ONLY, the principal of the school may designate an alternate coach, as long as it is done in writing prior to the contest and submitted to the League Commissioner for all pre-season and league contests and the CCS Commissioner for CCS Playoff contests. Any alternate coach MUST be an individual who meets all the conditions required in A above in the case of a public school; and B above in the case of a non-public school.

C. NO COACH PRESENT--STUDENT INELIGIBLE

Students who are not accompanied by a coach meeting these requirements at any CIF contests WILL BE CONSIDERED INELIGIBLE and will not be allowed to compete. ([See Article VI, Section 10 of the CCS Bylaws "Ineligible Players" for any violations.](#))

11. OFFICIALS

Only officials from officials' organizations that are currently certified by the CIF shall be contracted to officiate any CCS playoff contest.

12. CIF REGIONAL AND STATE COMPETITION

It is the policy of the CCS Board of Managers:

- A. In order to encourage multi-sport participation by our student-athletes; AND
- B. In order to limit the impact of playoff participation on instructional time; AND
- C. In order to limit the financial impact of post-section playoff participation on member school budgets:

That only first and second place teams from CCS Team Championships will be allowed to progress to CIF Regional or State Competition. No semi-final teams will be entered except in the sport of Cross Country where team entries vary depending on CCS member school teams' finish from the previous years.