

THE ROLE OF HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS



ACADEMICS - INTEGRITY - ATHLETICS

C I F S O U T H E R N S E C T I O N

A message to our Parents on our Goals and Beliefs

To our Parents: Welcome

CIF Southern Section is a group of 570 public and private schools that stretch from Lone Pine to San Clemente; from Avalon to Barstow. The Section office represents the wishes of over 85 leagues, five at-large representatives and 350,000 student athletes. Every year, the Section awards over 91,000 certificates, ribbons, medals and plaques to athletes and schools in 23 varsity sports. We are part of an athletic federation that is the largest in the country. Our rules and by-laws represent the wishes of principals and athletic administrators from San Ysidro to Redding. Many parents and observers know nothing of the Section's job, its mission, its governance structure. We want to acquaint you with what we do and what we believe.

High School Sports

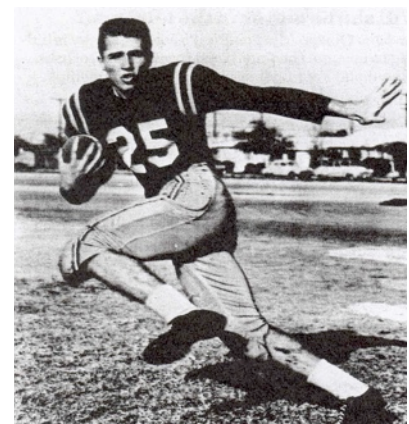
CIF Southern Section has governed the conduct of high school athletics in Southern California since its inception in 1913. Prior to that time games and contests between community schools were held without governing rules; sometimes with disastrous results. In 1914 the Commissioner of Secondary Schools in the state wrote to high school principals: *"High school athletics are with us, and they are generally regarded as a natural means of expression for adolescent human beings. However, they must be controlled if they are to observe their real purpose in moral and physical training."*

To that end the first commissioner of athletics, S.F. (Seth) Van Patten set out to create a high school sports governing body. There were a few stumbles along the way. Van Patten dealt with disputes over rules, transportation and representation. The Section even offered a sport called 'hand grenade throw' in 1920. The rules and conventions we now believe in eventually evolved into our current document, the Blue Book. The effort Seth Van Patten began resulted in a strong, viable, vibrant organization that places student growth and development above all else.

Academics - Integrity - Athletics

The Section motto echoes the beliefs of the athletic administrators who form our Council. Athletics plays a secondary role to academics and integrity. In the spring of 2007, the State Federated Council, with the support of Southern Section Council adopted a philosophy on student eligibility for interscholastic athletic competition. That philosophy reads in part: "CIF Bylaws governing student eligibility are a necessary prerequisite to participation in interscholastic athletics because they:

1. Keep the focus on athletic participation as a privilege, not a right



2. Reinforce the principles that students attend school to receive an education first; athletic participation is second
3. Serve as a deterrent to students who transfer for athletic reasons and to individuals who recruit student-athletes
4. Maintain an ethical relationship between high school athletic programs and others who demonstrate an interest in high school athletes
5. Pursue the Principles of "Pursuing Victory with Honor."

The bylaws on student eligibility follow this philosophical statement.

The complete list is available on the CIF web site in our Blue Book, Article 20. It can be found at: www.cifss.org.

While transfers are discouraged, students may transfer from one school to another after their first year, and prior to the start of their third semester without any penalty. The reason? To allow students to properly find the school that is best for them and continue eligibility without interruption.

For students who transfer after the third semester, there may be a limitation on eligibility. That limitation will allow the student to participate in sports, but at a level below varsity for a period of one year from the date of transfer.

High school athletics supports the development of adolescents academically, socially and physically. Active teens are more likely to succeed in school, avoid drugs and develop healthy lifestyles. CIF Southern Section governs the activities of our schools and allows for fair, balanced competition. Rules are established with the intention that all members of a team be certified as eligible under the rules that relate to age, grades, semesters of participation and residence. The task occupies the efforts of four assistant commissioners, their administrative assistants, a commissioner and his assistant as well as directors of sports information, marketing and finance.

Our staff is experienced in athletic administration, believes in our mission and serves our schools as they prepare students for competition.

