



## **ALERT**

NOVEMBER 17, 2010

**TO: ALL PRINCIPALS, ATHLETIC DIRECTORS, AND WINTER SPORT COACHES**

**FM: DENNIS ACKERMAN, COMMISSIONER CIFSDS**

**RE: PARTICIPATION/TRYOUT WITH OUTSIDE CLUB PROGRAMS**

It is unfortunate, but again a member school was forced to withdraw from the CIFSDS championship tournament last week after winning its first-round game. Two members of its school's team tried out for an outside club program in the same sport while still competing for their school team. As soon as the school discovered the violation, it immediately self-reported the incident. The school and community have accepted the penalty of forfeiture. The CIFSDS appreciates their responsible membership.

All fall sport coaches, especially for volleyball teams still in the playoffs, should be wary that club tryouts are in full swing and members of their teams may be trying out. Please review the rule with your coaches and players and be proactive in advising players and parents that club tryouts while still in the school season are a violation of the bylaw and the penalty requires forfeiture.

Also, club soccer is winding down their season with tournament play and school soccer is getting ready for their scrimmages and first contests. The CIFSDS receives daily calls from club coaches and parents asking about participation on both teams during the school season. The CIFSDS first advises that it is the school's decision about permitting participation that complies with the CIFSDS bylaw. The CIFSDS also advises that it supports a coach's decision to not permit the dual participation. The CIFSDS then advises that so long as the student has not yet participated in a scrimmage or contest the student may be able to participate in the club tournament with the permission of the school coach and administration.

A fundamental purpose and mission of high school sports is to teach individuals teamwork, selfless commitment to others, and loyalty; about teaching the individual to set aside their personal desires and needs for the greater good of the whole. What happened to our member school last week is disappointing. It reminds us that we need to refocus on what our school sports programs should be teaching.

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