



Memo

TO: CIF SAN DIEGO SECTION PRINCIPALS/ ATHLETIC DIRECTORS

FROM: JOE HEINZ, COMMISSIONER
TODD CASSEN, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

SUBJECT: CIF SAN DIEGO SECTION UPDATE

DATE: DECEMBER 3, 2020

San Diego Section Leaders:

On Tuesday, December 1, 2020 our office sent a message out to all of our member schools and athletic leaders throughout our section with the purpose of informing them of the statewide decision to officially postpone the start date of our Season 1 Sports. Earlier today, we met with our Board of Managers to review the information released from the state, review the current financial status of the CIF-San Diego Section, and propose a few adjustments to San Diego Section specific bylaws with a goal of creating greater flexibility in addressing the ever-changing dynamics associated with the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Based upon this ever-changing environment, we wanted to send out a follow up memo that could provide additional information and inform our entire section of our current standing in regard to the 2020-2021 athletic calendar.

I. START DATE FOR SEASON 1 SPORTS?

As of today, the Official Start Date for Season 1 Sports is on hold (TBD) until the point updated Youth Sports guidance is released from the California Department of Public Health. Based upon the current guidance released from the State on August 3, 2020, competitions are not allowed in youth sports (high school), all practices are limited to conditioning/skill improvement, and must remain within a stable cohort of 14 student athletes or less. On Monday, November 16, 2020 Governor, Gavin Newsom and Dr. Mark Ghaly, MD, from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) disclosed that the release of updated youth sports guidance had been postponed. Therefore, the current guidance remains in effect, and CIF competitions are not allowed until new guidance is provided. Based upon the current Stay at Home orders in place in multiple counties throughout the state of California, and along with the increasing rates of Covid-19 cases we don't expect any updated guidance prior to the beginning of January 2021.



San Diego CIF Section: A Shared Vision for Education Based Athletics

II. ANTICIPATED UPDATES TO STATE GUIDANCE

As was stated at the beginning of this memo, we simply do not have the required guidance to officially open a season for any of our Season 1 Sports at this time. More specifically, we need to know the date(s) in which competitions will be permitted in the State of California? What type of practice activities will be allowed for each sport? What adjustments will be made to cohort sizes? Will spectators be allowed to attend athletic events? Will there be any travel restrictions for teams? What additional Covid-19 Protocols must be required to keep our athletes, coaches, and game officials safe?

In anticipation of these needs, representatives from our CIF State Offices have been reaching out and collaborating with members of the California Department of Public Health in an attempt to develop a plan that would set the parameters for a return of Youth Sports in the State of California. Based upon the limited information we have received at this time, it is our understanding that the return of each sport will be tied to an associated risk level, and then placed within one of the four Tier Assignments aligned to the Covid-19 Positivity Case Rates for each county found in the state's Blueprint for a Safer Economy. Simply stated, there will be sports who are deemed to be at a lower risk level that will be able to begin practicing and competing, even if the county for which the school is located is in the most restrictive Purple Tier. On the other hand, higher associated risk sports may not be able to begin competitions until their county's Tier assignment is moved into the Red, Orange, or Yellow Tiers, depending on the sport and its assigned Tier that would allow competitions to begin.

Additionally, it is our understanding that the updated guidance will include a sport-by-sport breakdown of various health and safety protocols to be implemented at each school site that incorporates the differences found in each specific sport. For example, recommendations for Basketball will differ from those designed for Cross-Country, Lacrosse, Football, etc. Over the last couple months, we have also developed a San Diego Section specific Health & Safety document, that will work in alignment with the protocols being recommended by the state. We believe this information will be extremely useful to our Coaches and Athletic Directors in developing plans for both practices and competitions held on their campuses on a daily basis. Once we receive any updates from the state, we will not hesitate to reach out and share it with you immediately

III. OUT OF SEASON PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR SAN DIEGO SECTION:

Based upon the updated guidance released by the state, we know that a number of our Season 1 Sports may not be able to begin their seasons on the previously approved dates. Out of season athletic activities (practices/competitions) have continued to be addressed under San Diego Section Bylaw 600.2. Based upon the current environment, Section Leadership brought forward a proposal to our Board of Managers to increase flexibility for all member schools under the direction of State Bylaw 501.G., enabling schools to host out of season practices/activities based solely upon the approval of the site principal or designee.

At our Board of Managers meeting, convened this morning, the CIF-San Diego Section, Board of Managers, approved the proposal, allowing member schools and districts the flexibility to guide their out of season programs under the guidance of either State Bylaw 501 G, or San Diego Section Bylaw 600.2



San Diego CIF Section: A Shared Vision for Education Based Athletics

501 G. *During the summer period, no physical conditioning or practice sessions prior to the opening of authorized practice may be conducted by a high school unless specifically authorized by the school principal/designee. CIF Sections may establish sport specific rules and/or policies.*

600.2 *IN THE CIFSDS OUTSIDE SEASON OF SPORT (Includes summer school, inter-session, and mini-courses)*

- *During School Day (includes extended school day) - An athlete may not participate in a regular physical education class or an independent study physical education class or an independent study physical education class in which more than one-half of the course offering outside the season of sport is in the sport in which he or she has competed interscholastically.*
- *Outside School Day (Includes after-school hours, weekends, holidays, and all vacation periods including intercessions)*

(1) CIFSDS athletes may practice with, or compete on, outside teams which are:

(a) Established under some governing authority;

(b) Open to all interested students

IV. CIFSDS ARTICLE XI, ITEM I (MAXIMUM NUMBER OF SPORTS):

Currently in the CIFSDS Constitution we have Article XI item number I. It states, "that a student athlete may compete in the maximum of two sports at the same time providing such action meets with league approval."

In a normal year we have student-athletes that run track and play softball, lacrosse, or other sports, especially in the spring season. Those student athletes that played 2 sports were in compliance with said Article.

When the season of sport changed due to merging sports into season one and two that would not be possible using our current Article.

Earlier today, our Board of Managers approved a waiver for this year only (2020-2021), to allow a student athlete to play 3 sports in a season, due to the movement of several sports into seasons one and two from their normal season. ***The current practice limitations of 18 hours per week and 4 hours per day will remain in place, even with this new modification to the maximum number of allowable sports in a season.***

V. EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSIONER, 2020-2021:



San Diego CIF Section: A Shared Vision for Education Based Athletics

Based on the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic, in emergency or time sensitive situations, the leadership of the San Diego Section office brought forth a proposal for the CIFSDS Commissioner or his/her authorized designee to temporarily have the ability to act on behalf the Board of Managers and in the best interest of the organization.

In its meeting earlier today, the CIF-San Diego Section, Board of Managers, approved the proposal to provide the San Diego Section, Commissioner, with the authority to take any and all necessary steps to address required changes or adjustments to the 2020-2021, Seasons of Sport, due to the effects of the continuing COVID-19 Pandemic, in the following areas:

- Official Start Date of the Season of Sport for all Sports
- Official Length of the Season of Sport for all Sports
- Official Last Non-Playoff Contest Date for all Sports
- Playoff Seeding, Structures, & Formats for all Sports

VI. SAN DIEGO SECTION, FINANCIAL UPDATE, 2020-2021:

We wanted to thank all of our member schools and districts for submitting their sport specific dues over the last couple months. Annually, The CIF-San Diego Section Budget relies on three main sources of income: Member Dues, Sponsorship Agreements, and Section Playoff Revenue. Unfortunately, at this time with the uncertainty of spectators being allowed, our Section Office is preparing for a potential shortfall of an estimated \$450,000-\$500,000 in playoff revenue for the year. Without the support of our Section Partners, and the submission of your dues, it is doubtful our organization would continue to be sustainable throughout the 2020 - 2021 school year.

VII. FORWARD FOCUSED PLANNING:

We understand that the lack of detailed information has done nothing but increase the levels of frustration for everyone involved in supporting education-based athletics. From our student-athletes and coaches, athletic administrators, officials, and our parents, everyone has continued to wait patiently while holding out hope that our Seasons of Sport would return as scheduled.

We will continue to put all of our efforts and attention in preparing for the release of the much anticipated state guidance. Once this guidance is released, as a section office we are prepared to implement the guidance and modify our Seasons of Sport accordingly.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to our offices if you have any questions.



San Diego CIF Section: A Shared Vision for Education Based Athletics

CIF- San Diego Section
9921 Carmel Mountain Road #171
San Diego, CA 92129
Office: 858-292-8165 Fax: 858-292-1375

CIF Staff

Mr. Joe Heinz
Commissioner
[**JHeinz@cifsds.org**](mailto:JHeinz@cifsds.org)

Ms. Stacy Candia
Executive Administrative Assistant
[**SCandia@cifsds.org**](mailto:SCandia@cifsds.org)

Mr. Todd Cassen
Assistant Commissioner
[**TCassen@cifsds.org**](mailto:TCassen@cifsds.org)

Mr. Ron Marquez
Operations and Events Coordinator
[**RMarquez@cifsds.org**](mailto:RMarquez@cifsds.org)