



CIF/SDS Eligibility Rules

A Summary of Eligibility and Transfer Rules



The California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), as the governing body of high school athletics, affirms that athletic competition is an important part of the high school experience and that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege. The privilege of participation in interscholastic athletics is available to students in public or private schools who meet the democratically established standards of qualification as set forth by the CIF Federated Council.

Please review these rules carefully. Questions can be directed to your principal or athletic director. This document has been developed to give only basic information concerning athletic eligibility at a CIF member school. For complete information concerning a specific bylaw individuals should review the actual bylaw in the CIFSDS Constitution and General Bylaws located at the CIFSDS website.

• TRANSFER STUDENTS

All transfers must:

- a. Reinforce the principle that students attend school to receive an education first; athletic participation is secondary;
- b. Protect the opportunities to participate for students who meet the established standards;
- c. Provide a fundamentally fair and equitable framework in which interscholastic athletic competition can take place;
- d. Adhere to uniform standards for all schools to follow in maintaining athletic competition;
- e. Serve as a deterrent to students who transfer school for athletic reasons and to individuals who recruit student-athletes;
- f. Maintain an ethical relationship between high school athletic programs and others who demonstrate an interest in high school athletes;
- g. Support the Principals of "Pursuing Victory with Honor."

• INITIAL RESIDENTIAL ELIGIBILITY

- A student has residential eligibility upon initial enrollment in the ninth grade, or the 10th grade of any CIF high school from 9th grade of a junior high school. (CIF 206.A)
- A student in grades 9 through 12 who participates in an interscholastic athletic contest or is enrolled in and/or attends a school shall be considered to have been "enrolled" in that school and shall be classified as a transfer student if the student changes/enrolls in another school. Other factors are also considered. (CIF Bylaw 201.A. (3))

• TWO TYPES OF TRANSFERS

1. CIF 206 – full family move as defined by CIF

- Valid change of residence (complete CIF Home 206) – When a student and their entire immediate family changes residence, the student may be granted unlimited eligibility allowing him/her to play all sports at any level at the new school. The following parameters apply:
 - A valid residence is defined as the location where the student's family (with whom eligibility has been established) live with that student and thereby have the use and enjoyment of that location as a residence.
 - Requires that the former residence is vacated.
 - A valid change of residence must be made from a residence located in the public high school attendance area, even if the student is not currently attending nor ever has attended the school in which attendance area they reside, to another public high school" attendance area.
 - There may not be any violation of CIF 510, undue influence or athletic motivation, and no disciplinary action in place or pending at the former school. All transfers are initially ineligible and may apply for residential eligibility as allowed by CIF rules. (CIF Bylaw 206)
 - Other parameters apply

2. CIF 207 – not a full family move as defined by CIF

- Transfer without a valid change of residence (complete CIF Home 207) – Any student transferring without a CIF defined valid change of residence as defined by CIF Bylaw 206 is a transfer without a valid change of residence. All transfers are initially ineligible and may apply for residential eligibility as allowed by CIF rules. The follow eligibility levels are available. Students should select the least restrictive eligibility option.
 - Application for non-disciplinary transfer with no participation in any sports at any level in the previous 12 months, regardless of the number of schools the student has attended. (CIF Bylaw 207.B.3)
 - Application for transfer limited eligibility only. Student is limited to sub-varsity competition for one calendar year from the date of enrollment at School B in any sport(s) the student participated in the previous 12 calendar months prior to enrollment at School B (CIF Bylaw 207.B.5.a)
 - First time transfer who is applying for the Sit-Out Provision. The SOP applies to any sport(s) the student participated in the 12 calendar months prior to enrollment at School B. (CIF Bylaw 207.B.5.b)
 - Application for transfer hardship which if approved would grant immediate unlimited residential eligibility. The following hardship titles are the only hardships allowed: (1) Court Ordered Transfer; (2) Children of Divorced Parents; (3) Individual Safety incidents; (4) Discontinued Program; (5) Return to previous school without participation at the

former school; (6) Foster Children; (7) Military Service of a student; (8) Married Status of a student; (9) Board of Education Ruling changing attendance boundaries; and (10) Open Enrollment Act Schools/Low Achieving Schools. Hardships are considered by the SDS Commissioner and there is no appeal for denial. (CIF Bylaw 207.B.5.c and CIF Bylaw 207.B.5.d)

- **UNDUE INFLUENCE AND/OR ATHLETIC MOTIVATION**

Every year a small group of transfers are denied some level of athletic eligibility because their transfer is considered, based on the circumstances of the transfers and CIF rules, to be transfers where the student has been unduly-influence to attend the next school, or the student is transferring for athletic purposes. Every transfer is reviewed by the San Diego Section administrative staff for such violations. It is highly recommended that before transferring from a school that the student and/or parent discuss the student's eligibility with their current school athletic director or principal. If the student and family decide to transfer the following may be considered a violation of CIF 510 and deny a student eligibility:

- a. Failure of the student and/or school to report pre-enrollment contact with individuals associated with the athletic program of the new school, defined by CIF 510
- b. Following a former coach to a new school
- c. Transferring to a school where either your club coach is serving as a coach, either paid or unpaid, or one or more members of a student's club team are students at the new school
- d. Recruitment by the new school as outlined by the CIF bylaws and interpretations
- e. Accepting material or financial inducement to attend a CIF member school, regardless of the source
- f. Transferring to a school after participating on a non-school athletic team, camp or clinic associated with the school
- g. Multiple transfers to the same school in the same sport

QUESTIONS

It is always best to discuss transfer questions with the principal or athletic director at your current school prior to transferring. If you need to talk with the new school, you should only talk with the principal. Talking with a coach or another individual associated with the new school may be considered undue influence, recruiting and/or athletic motivation and may prevent a student from becoming eligible at the new school.

OTHER POLICIES TO BE AWARE

- **Eligibility for Participation** - Only 9th through 12th grade students may practice with or compete on a high school team. (CIF Bylaws 201 and 503)
- **Accurate Information** - The CIF requires that all information provided in regard to any aspect of the eligibility of a student must be true, correct, accurate and complete. (CIF Bylaw 202)
- **Age Requirement** - No student, whose 19th birthday is attained prior to June 15, shall not participate or practice on any team in the following school year. A student, whose 19th birthday is on or before June 14, is ineligible. (CIF Bylaw 203)
- **Eight Consecutive Semester Rule** - A student who first enters the ninth grade of any school following the student's completion of the eighth grade in any school may be eligible for athletic competition during a maximum period of time that is not to exceed eight consecutive semesters following the initial enrollment in the ninth grade of any school, and said eligibility must be used during the student's first eight consecutive semesters of enrollment at that school or any other school. (CIF Bylaw 204)
- **Scholastic Eligibility** - In order to be eligible, any student entering from the eighth grade into a CIF four-year high school, a junior high must have achieved a 2.0 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale in enrolled courses at the conclusion of the previous grading period. The governing board of each school district, private school, or parochial school may adopt, as part of its policy, provisions that would allow a student who does not achieve the above requirement in the previous grading period to remain eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics during a probationary period. (Partial CIF Bylaw 205)

- **Minimum Requirements**

A student is scholastically eligible if:

- a. The student is currently enrolled in at least 20 semester credits of work;
- b. The student was passing in the equivalent of at least 20 semester credits of work at the completion of the most recent grading period;
- c. The student is maintaining minimum progress, as determined by the principal, toward meeting the governing board prescribed high school graduation requirements.
- d. The student has maintained during the previous grading period a minimum 2.0 grade-point average, on a 4.0 scale, in all enrolled courses. Probation is a possibility, but all student-athletes must become fully eligible at the vary minimum every other grading period to qualify for probation. Schools and/or school districts may set the parameters of probation within existing state law.