

California Interscholastic Federation - Central Section
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ETHICS IN SPORTS

I. Policy Statement

The Central Section, CIF is committed to the exhibition of sportsmanlike and ethical behaviors in and around all athletic contests. All contests must be safe, courteous, fair, controlled and orderly for all athletes and fans alike.

It is the intent of the CIF that violence, in any form, not be tolerated. In order to enforce this policy, the Central Section has established rules and regulations, which set forth the manner of enforcement and of this policy and the penalties incurred when violation of the policy occurs. The rules and regulations shall focus upon the responsibility of the coach to teach and demand high standards of conduct and to enforce the rules and regulations set forth by CIF.

The Central Section requires the following Code of Ethics be issued each year and requires signing by student athletes, parent/guardian and coaches prior to participation as a guide to govern their behavior.

II. Code of Ethics

- a. To emphasize the proper ideas of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.
- b. To eliminate all possibilities which tend to destroy the best values of the game.
- c. To stress the values derived from playing the game fairly.
- d. To show cordial courtesy to visiting teams and officials.
- e. To establish a happy relationship between visitors and hosts.
- f. To respect the integrity and judgment of sports officials.
- g. To achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility.
- h. To encourage leadership, use of initiative and good judgment by the players on a team.
- i. To recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social and emotional well-being of the individual players.
- j. To remember that an athletic contest is only a game, not a matter of life and death for player, coach, school, official, fan, or nation.

I have read and I understand the Policy Statement, the Code of Ethics and the violations and Minimum Penalties of the "Ethics in Sports" policy. I agree to abide by the policy and related consequences while participating in interscholastic athletics, regardless of context, site or jurisdiction.

– Student Signature

Printed Name

Date

– Parent Signature

High School

III. Violations and Minimum Penalties

ACT	PENALTIES
1. First ejection of player or coach from a contest or SCRIMMAGE for unsportsmanlike conduct.	Ineligible for the next CIF contest (league, non-league, tournament, invitational, playoff, etc. scrimmage excluded). The next contest could be the second game of a doubleheader or even the next season of sport. Athletes competing in concurrent sports would be ineligible for both sports.
2. Second ejection of a player or coach from a contest during the same season of sport for unsportsmanlike conduct.	Ineligibility for next two CIF contests as above will carry over the next season of sport.
3. Third ejection of a player or coach from a contest during the same season of sport for unsportsmanlike conduct	Ineligibility for all CIF contests for one calendar year (365 days). Any appeal must go through the CIF Eligibility Committee.
4. Any players that leave the “bench” area to begin a confrontation or leave these areas during an altercation.	Ejection from the contest for those players designated by officials. The contest may be terminated by the officials. One or both teams may forfeit the contest.
5. When players leave the bench area to begin a confrontation or leave the bench area during an altercation and in the opinion of the officials, the situation is out of control.	Contest stopped, ejection from the contest for those players designated by the officials. The team(s) that left the bench area must forfeit contest, record a loss, and the team(s) and players will be put on probationary status for the balance of the season. A second similar infraction during the season of sport will result in cessation of the sport for the team(s) and/or players. If the act occurs at the end of the season, the probationary period will extend to the next year’s season of sport. Any appeal would have to be made to the CIF Executive Board.
6. Illegal participation in next contest by player ejected in previous contest.	Ineligibility for remainder of season for player. Forfeiture of contest.
7. Illegal placement of ejected player or illegal participation by coach ejected in previous contest.	Constitution and sport governing rules and procedures for a coach who knowingly violates CIF or Section Rules.
8. Any acts of a more serious nature by individuals or teams or situations not specifically covered by this policy or the Constitution or Governing Rules.	Area Commissioner may determine and implement penalties for individuals and teams not otherwise specified by CIF Central Section Constitution and Bylaws.
9. If act occurs in CIF Section Finals and both teams are charged with a forfeit.	After deliberation by the CIF and a double forfeit is in order, there will be no champion.
10. An ejected coach must leave the site of the contest. The coach may have no contact with his/her team from that point on. If there is no certificated replacement for the coach, the contest is halted and the game is forfeited. The coach must also sit out the next contest and cannot attend the contest or have any contact with the team during the contest. The coach may be allowed to participate in practices on days other than the day of the contest.	
11. An ejected player may stay on the bench for the remainder of the contest for supervision reasons. Further disruption by ejected players may force them to be removed from the site. This could lead to a forfeit. Players ejected must sit out the next contest, but may sit on the bench in street clothes.	

APPEALS PROCEDURE – First and Second Ejection

All appeals MUST come from the school Principal or his/her designee. Only misidentification and misapplication of a rule may be appealed. NO JUDGMENT DECISIONS by officials may be appealed.

PHYSICAL ASSAULT

CIF State Constitution, Article 5, Section 522. Any student who physically assaults the person of a game or event official shall be banned from interscholastic athletics for the remainder of the student’s eligibility. A game or event official is defined as a referee, umpire or any other official assigned to interpret or enforce rules competition at an event. A student may, after a lapse of 18 calendar months from the date of the incident, apply for reinstatement of eligibility to the State CIF Commissioner.

For this document, the Central Section also includes coaches, administrators or other school personnel assigned to the contest or games as a game official.