

171. The CIF Southern Section will provide the following credential for accredited reporters:

171.1 Media Pass - This pass will entitle bearer to admission to the stadium or arena in which the event is taking place and will entitle bearer the working press facility if such a facility is available and will entitle bearer to be admitted to the playing field or floor for the purpose of doing interviews.

172. The media pass will be good for all preseason, league, tournament, invitational, and playoff events, with the exception of those events noted on the back of the pass. Playoff credentials for these special events will be issued by the CIF Southern Section Office when requested by representatives of the media.

CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION and CIF SOUTHERN SECTION BYLAWS COMBINED

Beginning with Article 2 of the Bylaws and continuing thereafter throughout the Blue Book, the State Federation Bylaws have been interfaced with the CIF Southern Section Bylaws. The State Federation Bylaws are set in bold face type. The CIF Southern Section Bylaws are set in light face type.

It should be noted, the Southern Section is more restrictive than the State CIF in some Bylaws and Regulations and in all instances, the more restrictive Southern Section Bylaw applies.

ARTICLE 20

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

(200 Series revised: May 2007 Federated Council/May 2012 Federated Council)

NOTE: CIF provides questions and answers throughout Article 20 as a guide for parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver and school personnel to aid them in understanding the intent and application of some of our Bylaws. Many situations are unique and not every specific situation can be covered in the language of these Bylaws or in every Q & A.

200. CIF STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC COMPETITION

A. Philosophy

The 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 Federated Council.

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 principle that students attend school to receive an education first; athletic participation is secondary;
- (3) Protect the opportunities to participate for students who meet the established standards;
- (4) Provide a fundamentally fair and equitable framework in which interscholastic athletic competition can take place;
- (5) Provide uniform standards for all schools to follow in maintaining athletic competition;
- (6) Serve as a deterrent to students who transfer schools for athletic reasons and to individuals who recruit student-athletes;
- (7) Serve as a deterrent to students who transfer schools to avoid disciplinary action;
- (8) Maintain an ethical relationship between high school athletic programs and others who demonstrate an interest in high school athletes;
- (9) Support the Principles of Pursuing Victory with Honor_{sm}.

B. Rules

The CIF establishes the standards of eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics to include the following: *

- (1) Philosophy Statement (Bylaw 200)

- (2) Standards of Eligibility (Bylaw 201)
- (3) Accurate Information (Bylaw 202)
- (4) Age Requirement (Bylaw 203)
- (5) Eight (8) Consecutive Semesters Requirement (Bylaw 204)
- (6) Scholastic Eligibility (Bylaw 205)
 - a. Initial Scholastic Eligibility (Bylaw 205.A.)
 - b. Continuing Scholastic Eligibility (Bylaw 205.B.)
 - c. Summer School Credits [Bylaw 205.B.(3)f.]
 - d. Scholastic Eligibility for Students in Non-Traditional Programs [Bylaw 205.B.(3)g.]
 - e. Waiver of the Requirement of Passing 20 Semester Credits of Work (Bylaw 205.C.)
- (7) Residential Eligibility (Bylaw 206)
 - a. Initial Residential Eligibility (Bylaw 206.A.)
 - b. Continuing Residential Eligibility (Bylaw 206.B.)
 - c. Valid Change of Residence (Bylaw 206.C.)
- (8) Transfer Eligibility (Bylaw 207)
- (9) Foreign Exchange Students (Bylaw 208)
- (10) Discipline, Expulsion and Transfer for Disciplinary Reasons (Bylaw 209)
 - a. Expulsion (Bylaw 209.A.)
 - b. Suspended Expulsion (Bylaw 209.B.)
 - c. Disciplinary Transfer (Bylaw 209.C.)
- (11) Physical Assault (Bylaw 210)
- (12) Continuation School Eligibility (Bylaw 211)
- (13) Amateur Status (Bylaw 212)
- (14) Hardship Waivers Other Than Transfer (Bylaw 213)
- (15) Post-Injunction Remedies (Bylaw 214)
- (16) Intercollegiate Participation (Bylaw 215)
- (17) Graduates (Bylaw 216)
 - a. Mid-Year/Spring Graduation (Bylaw 216.A.)
 - b. California High School Proficiency Exam (Bylaw 216.B.)

**The CIF recognizes that any student who is ineligible under the rules of another state cannot gain eligibility at a CIF member school until the terms of ineligibility are served.*

201. STANDARDS OF ELIGIBILITY

Only students enrolled in public, charter and private CIF member schools, grades 9-12, and meet all standards of athletic eligibility established by CIF, their respective CIF Section of membership, their respective league, district and school are considered a student in good standing and eligible to compete for their school of enrollment. Students who are enrolled in school programs or member schools whose membership status has been established as a multi-school/campus should also refer to Bylaws 302, 303 and 304 for additional eligibility requirements.

A. Enrollment Standards- See also Bylaws 204, 206, 207 and 209

- (1) Enrollment Standards Required for Participation: (Bylaws 201 and 205)

- a. Students must be enrolled full-time (minimum 20 credits) at the school for which they are competing. (See also Bylaws 205.B.(1)a., 216, 303, 304, 503.C. & 503.G.)
- b. Students will be considered enrolled in a school for purposes of participation in interscholastic athletics (Bylaw 205.B) when they have:
 - (i) Been entered as a full-time student [20 credits or equivalent in a non-traditional program-see also Bylaw 205.B.(1)a. and b.(i)] in attendance in classes at that school. OR
 - (ii) Participated in a Fall sport when the tryouts and/or practices of that team begin before classes at the school begin in the Fall. Such a student will be considered to be enrolled during that practice time as long as they have registered for, and are enrolled, as a full-time student for the Fall semester of that school year [20 credits or equivalent in a non-traditional program; see also Bylaws 205.B.(1)a. and b.(i)].

QUESTION: My son was not registered for any classes at any school. He was not attending school anywhere because we had just moved here. He enrolled in classes at the new school (CIF Member School A) two (2) weeks after the first day of this school year. When does his official enrollment begin?

ANSWER: Because he was not registered or currently scheduled for classes at any school he is not considered to have been on the attendance roll prior to his official enrollment. Official enrollment would begin on the first day he attended classes at the new school.

QUESTION: My son was registered and scheduled in classes, but due to illness did not begin attending until five (5) days after the school year/term began. When does his official enrollment begin?

ANSWER: Because he was registered and scheduled in classes, even though he was not attending those classes, his official enrollment begins the first day that he attended classes at that school.

- c. For eligibility purposes, students cannot have dual enrollment in two (2) different schools at the same time. During the time a student remains enrolled in their current school but has registered for classes at a new school and/or paid a non-refundable registration fee at a new school, the student will be considered to be enrolled in the former school not the new school. Only at such time as the student has withdrawn from or has completed the courses in which they were enrolled at the former school, is no longer enrolled in any way at the former school and has attended classes at their new school, shall that student be considered as being enrolled in the new school for eligibility purposes. This applies to 8th graders matriculating the following school year to 9th grade in a CIF member school.

NOTE: This is not intended to apply to traditional summer school coursework. Summer school is defined as a course of study that begins after the end of the previous school year and ends prior to the beginning of the Fall term of the following school year.

QUESTION: My daughter will be transferring to a new school (School B) in the Fall. She has registered for classes at that new school, but still remains enrolled in, and completing her coursework at, her current school (School A). For purposes of athletic eligibility, is she enrolled in both schools at this time?

ANSWER: Students may not have dual enrollment for eligibility purposes. Students may not have residential eligibility at two (2) different schools at the same time. She is considered enrolled at, and therefore only eligible at, her current school (School A).

- d. Students may not participate in any athletic meeting, practice or competition at a new school in which they have registered for classes and/or paid a non-refundable registration fee until they have been officially withdrawn from their former school, or stopped attending or the regular school year for their former school has concluded. This applies to 8th graders who are matriculating the following school year to a CIF member school.

QUESTION: My daughter will be transferring to a new school (School B) in the Fall. She has registered for classes at that new school, but still remains enrolled in and completing her coursework at her current school (School A). Can she practice with her new school team during the current school year since she is registered for classes and will be attending the new school next term/year?

ANSWER: No. For eligibility purposes, she is not considered to be enrolled at the new school (School B) since she had not withdrawn from or stopped attending School A and therefore may not participate, practice or compete in any way with their athletic program. If she does, she may be declared to be in violation of Bylaws 206.C.8, 207.C.(3) & 510 pre-enrollment contact with the new school (School B) which may jeopardize her athletic eligibility.

- e. Students may not practice with or compete for any CIF member school in which they are not enrolled as a full-time student regardless of the sports offerings, or lack thereof, at the school in which they are enrolled.

(2) Enrollment Standards Establishing a Semester of Attendance

- a. Once a student attends class and is continuously enrolled for 15 school days in the 9th grade, and/or in any classes taken subsequent to the completion of the 8th grade, at any school or has played in an interscholastic athletic contest, the CIF will count that as the student's first semester of high school eligibility.

QUESTION: *Because of family circumstances, we enrolled our daughter in the 9th grade at a school after her completion of the 8th grade. She was unable to attend until a month after school started. Because of this, we waited until the 2nd semester of that year for her to actually start attending classes. When does her eight (8) semesters begin?*

ANSWER: California Ed Code Section 58200 et seq. provides that each person between the ages of six (6) and 18 years is subject to compulsory full-time education unless the person is statutorily exempt. However, if during that first semester, she was not enrolled in any coursework of any kind in any school, was not home schooled and was not taking any kind of courses online through any Independent Study Program or in any other program of coursework, her first semester of high school eligibility would begin at the 2nd semester.

- b. Eight (8) consecutive semesters of eligibility, including and immediately following the first semester as described in (a.) above, are available to the student whether or not the student is enrolled in school, participates in or is eligible for, interscholastic participation. (Bylaw 204)

(3) Enrollment Standards Establishing Students as a Transfer (Bylaw 207)

- a. Students shall be considered to be a transfer student when:

- (i) The student has attended class at their former school (School A) AND/OR
- (ii) The student has played in an athletic contest for their former school; AND/OR
- (iii) The student has tried out for or practiced with a team prior to the beginning of the school year for five (5) days or more; AND
- (iv) That student withdraws from School A or has completed the courses in which they were enrolled in at School A, so that student is no longer enrolled in any way at School A; AND
- (v) That student enrolls as a full-time student in a new school (School B);

THEN that student shall be determined to be enrolled in and having transferred to School B if all conditions of 201.A.(1) above are met.

- b. Students may not practice with or participate in an interscholastic athletic contest for the new school prior to establishing enrollment in the new school, meeting the enrollment standards contained herein, except if they are transferring at the beginning of the school year and practice for that season of sport begins prior to the first day that classes begin for the new school. Registering for classes and paying a non-refundable registration fee or tuition does not constitute enrollment in the new school for transfer purposes.
- c. For eligibility purposes, students cannot have dual enrollment in two (2) different schools at the same time. During the time a student is intending to transfer schools, has registered for classes at the new school and/or paid a non-refundable registration fee at the new school, but still remains enrolled in the former school, the student will be considered to be enrolled in the former school. Only at such time as the student has withdrawn from or has completed the courses in which they were enrolled at the former school, and is no longer enrolled in any way at the former school, shall that student be considered as having transferred to the new school. This applies to 8th graders matriculating the following school year to 9th grade in a CIF member school.
- d. No one associated with the athletic program at the new school may perpetrate any violation of Bylaw 510 or have inappropriate pre-enrollment contact as outlined in Bylaw 207.C or 510 prior to their enrollment in the new school as defined herein.

QUESTION: *What if my child is on a waiting list to attend School B, but is not accepted until after the school year has begun and began attending School A?*

ANSWER: The Section may grant an exception, but must have written documentation that the student was placed on the waiting list at School B prior to the start of the school year beginning and their attendance at School A. The student will not be eligible for an exemption if they participated in any contests at School A.

(4) Enrollment Standards for Purposes of Bylaw 510 (pre-enrollment contact)

- a. General information about athletic programs, physicals, summer activity, camps, etc. may be distributed to middle school students only by a CIF member school administrator or athletic director.

QUESTION: *What may representatives of a senior high school do as far as contact with junior high/middle school students is concerned?*

ANSWER: Because a graduate of a junior high/middle school may enter any high school in California and may be residentially eligible in accordance with all CIF rules, contact by senior high school representatives is regulated. Individual coaches cannot visit or initiate contact with junior high/middle school students, but it would be permissible for the school administrator or athletic director (not the coach) of a senior high school to visit the junior high/middle school campus for the purpose of informing students of the total athletic program at the senior high school. However, it is legal for a high school coach to be part of a total open house and/or school orientation (academics, activities, but not athletics by itself) where a student is part of a general gathering of students on the high school campus and such activity has the approval of the high school and junior high/middle or elementary school principal.

- b. 8th graders who have not graduated from the 8th grade may not participate in any athletic communication(s) conducted by any high school coach that is not part of a school-wide high school presentation until May 1 and only if the student has registered for classes at the CIF member school and, in the case of a private school, also paid a non-refundable registration fee.

QUESTION: *What means of communication may coaches use after May 1?*

ANSWER: Coaches may communicate with 8th grade families via phone, email or letters but must do so in accordance with school/school district/governing board policy.

- c. The student may not practice or compete in any contest at any high school, even if they have registered for classes and/or paid a non-refundable registration fee, until they have graduated from the 8th grade.
- d. Contact between coaches (and others associated with the athletic program) and students or their parents during summer activity conducted by a CIF member school, shall not be considered pre-enrollment contact requiring disclosure, if the student has, previous to that summer, registered for classes at the CIF member school and, in the case of a private school, also paid a non-refundable registration fee and has officially withdrawn from the previous school as long as the contact does not occur prior to the conclusion of the student's former school's year end. Such contact is not required to be disclosed. All other contact not covered in this circumstance between coaches (and others associated with the athletic program) and students or their parents must be disclosed as required in Bylaws 206, 207 and 510. (Revised April 2018 Federated Council)

- (5) Enrollment of Students in Schools with Multi-School/Campus Agreements
Enrollment of students in a school with an existing multi-school/campus agreement may be residentially eligible only as provided in Bylaws 302, 303 and 304. (See Related Bylaw 301 – Home Study/Home Schooling)
(Revised April 2016 Federated Council)

202. ACCURATE INFORMATION

- A. The CIF requires that all information provided in regard to any aspect of the eligibility of a student must be true, correct, accurate, complete and/or not false or inaccurate.
- B. Penalty for Providing Incorrect, Inaccurate, Incomplete or False Information
 - (1) If it is discovered that any parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver or student has provided incorrect, inaccurate, incomplete or false information in regards to any aspect of eligibility status on behalf of a student, that student is subject to immediate ineligibility for CIF competition at any level in any sport for a period of up to 24 calendar months from the date the determination was made that incorrect, inaccurate, incomplete or false information was provided.
 - (2) If it is discovered that persons associated with the student or the school [coaches, teachers, parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver, friends, etc.] provided incorrect, inaccurate, incomplete or false information in order to fraudulently gain favorable eligibility status for a student, that student is subject to immediate ineligibility for competition at any Section member school at any level in any sport for a period of up to 24 calendar months from the determination that incorrect, inaccurate, incomplete or false information was provided whether the student was aware of the fraudulent information or not.
(Revised October 2001 Federated Council)
 - (3) Any contests in which a student or students participated based on incorrect, inaccurate, incomplete or false information regarding eligibility status shall be forfeited according to the guidelines set in accord to the rules of the Section.

(4) Teams

- a. If it is determined that someone associated with a school (including, but not limited to, a coach) knowingly participates in either providing incorrect, inaccurate, incomplete or false information or using fraud or knowingly allows others to do so, in order for a team to meet qualification standards in any event, that team will be subject to immediate ineligibility for further competition in that sport that season.
- b. Any contest in which that team has participated based on incorrect, inaccurate, incomplete or false information or fraud shall be forfeited according to the guidelines of the Section or the CIF.

(5) School Personnel Involvement

If any school personnel (including but not limited to a coach) knowingly participates in either providing incorrect, inaccurate, incomplete or false information or allowing others to provide incorrect, inaccurate, incomplete or false information in order to gain favorable eligibility status for a student, or team information to meet qualification standards for participation in any contest including playoffs or Championships, sanctions may be imposed on the school including but not limited to: probationary status, prohibitions against playoff participation, forfeitures, revoking of CIF or Section membership, etc.

(6) Assumed Name

In addition to any sanctions or penalties arising from the provisions above, a student shall become ineligible for CIF competition in their respective sport for competing in CIF competition under an assumed name.

203. AGE REQUIREMENT

A 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. Each Section may waive this provision so long as criteria for such a waiver shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- A. Such a waiver would not grant more than four (4) years [eight (8) semesters] of eligibility; AND
- B. Such a waiver would not grant more than four (4) years of participation in any sport; AND
- C. That a hardship exists which, in the judgment of the Section, requires a waiver. Hardship is defined in Bylaw 213; AND
- D. A decision to deny such a waiver by the Section Commissioner may be appealed only to the Section and in accordance with the provisions set forth in Bylaw 1101.

<>203.1 A student may not compete on a freshman (9th grade) team after he or she has reached his or her 16th birthday on or before June 15, 2024.

<>203.2 A student may not compete on a sophomore or frosh-soph team after he or she has reached his or her 17th birthday on or before June 15, 2024.

204. EIGHT (8) CONSECUTIVE SEMESTERS REQUIREMENT- See also 201.A.(2)

A. Definition of a Semester of Attendance

Once a student attends a class and is continuously enrolled for 15 school days in the 9th grade, and/or has taken classes subsequent to the completion of the 8th grade, at any school or has played in an interscholastic athletic contest, the CIF will count that as the student's first semester of high school eligibility.
(Revised January 2016 Federated Council)

QUESTION: What constitutes a semester of attendance for athletic eligibility?

ANSWER: A semester of attendance shall be counted if a student is enrolled and/or in attendance for fifteen days or over, or participates in one or more inter-school athletic contest(s).

QUESTION: What constitutes official enrollment in a school?

ANSWER: Attendance in at least one class at that school.

- 204.1 Semesters are charged consecutively. If a student is not in school the student would be charged with a semester of competition. When he or she reenrolls in school however, it takes one semester, for which the student is charged, for him or her to regain his or her eligibility.

QUESTION:	How long must a student have been in attendance the previous semester to be eligible for athletic competition?
ANSWER:	Unless the student has just been graduated from the eighth grade of an elementary school or the ninth grade of a junior high school, the student must have been in attendance at least ten weeks of the previous semester in order to be eligible for athletic competition.
QUESTION:	A student completed the eleventh grade and met the scholastic eligibility requirements. The student remains out of school the succeeding or fall semester and reenrolls at the beginning of the second semester. When will the student be eligible for athletic competition?
ANSWER:	Whenever a student remains out of school for ten weeks or longer, it takes the student one semester to regain eligibility. This student would not be eligible for athletic competition until the student has been in school for one semester and complied with all other CIF Southern Section regulations.
NOTE:	Attendance and/or credits earned during summer school would not constitute a semester of attendance for the purpose of meeting this requirement.
QUESTION:	What is the eligibility status of a student who returns to high school after having been out of school for one semester because the student voluntarily enlisted in a six-months reserve program in one of the armed services?
ANSWER:	The military rule does not apply to reserve training unless it takes place during a National emergency. The student would be ineligible for one semester upon his or her return to school, because it requires one semester for a student to regain his or her eligibility after being out of school for at least a semester. The student could appeal to the Commissioner for a waiver of the rule.
QUESTION:	What is the eligibility of a student who is returning to school after a forced withdrawal the previous semester because of illness or serious injury?
ANSWER:	The Commissioner has the authority to waive the rules requiring a student to be in attendance. The student could be declared immediately eligible provided the student was eligible under all other rules at the time of the forced withdrawal.

- 204.2 Attendance in school on the day of a contest is not a CIF requirement for eligibility. Some leagues and individual schools, however, do have a rule which requires a student to attend school during the day in order to participate in a game to be held that afternoon or evening.

B. Eight (8) Consecutive Semester Rule

A student who first enters the 9th grade of any school following the student's completion of the 8th grade in any school may be eligible for athletic competition during a maximum period of time that is not to exceed eight (8) consecutive semesters following the initial enrollment in the 9th grade of any school and/or in any classes taken subsequent to the completion of the 8th grade, whether or not the student is enrolled in school, whether or not the student is academically or otherwise eligible and whether or not the student avails themselves of the opportunity to participate in interscholastic sports during this time. Eligibility is only available during the student's first eight (8) consecutive semesters of enrollment in high school (grades 9-12).

QUESTION: My daughter suffered a serious knee injury causing her to miss the entire volleyball season in her junior year. May I request a waiver of the limitation of eight consecutive semesters of eligibility?

ANSWER: No. An injury is not a reason for granting a waiver of this rule.

- 204.3 Semesters are charged consecutively. If a student is not in school the student would be charged with a semester of competition.

QUESTION:	Are students in the eighth grade eligible to participate on a high school team?
ANSWER:	No – A student must have completed all required work below the ninth grade to be eligible to participate as a member of a high school team.
QUESTION:	May a student entering from the eighth grade, who at first had planned not to attend high school, enroll on December 1 and be eligible to participate during the current semester?
ANSWER:	Yes – The student would be eligible upon enrolling in school and would continue to be eligible as long as the student was passing in twenty semester units of work during the current grading period and had a 2.0 GPA from grades issued at the end of the 8 th grade year.

QUESTION:	What is the status of a student who repeats his or her sophomore year due to scholastic deficiency or other reasons?
ANSWER:	The student would have already used four of his or her allowable eight semesters of eligibility and repeating the sophomore year would bring about the charge of the fifth and sixth semesters. Thus, the student would not be eligible his or her Senior year in the school.
QUESTION:	What is the status of a student initially entering a high school at the 10th grade level (sophomore year)?
ANSWER:	The student would have SIX consecutive semesters of eligibility remaining.

C. Section Waivers

(1) Waiving Semester Limitation

Each Section may, at its discretion, establish rules and procedures for waiving the limitation on eight (8) semesters of eligibility, providing:

- a. The student is required by the student's school principal to return to grade eight (8) from grade nine (9) and the student did not take part in an interscholastic contest while in the 9th grade for the first time; OR
- b. The student, because of mid-year completion of an 8th grade or a mid-year completion of the 9th grade in a junior high school, is required by the student's school principal to repeat a semester of work in order to conform to a school program having annual terms; AND
- c. The student has not taken part in an interscholastic athletic contest while enrolled for the first time in the semester which the student's school principal required the student to repeat.

(2) Waivers of the Charge of a Semester of Attendance

- a. Other than C.(1) above, relief under this rule may only be granted when the conditions set forth in Bylaw 204.C.(2)b. below are found to be present. Any other past rationales or basis for relief under this Bylaw are invalidated.

(Approved May 2001 Federated Council)

- b. Each Section may waive the charge of one (1) or more of the eight (8) consecutive semesters of eligibility for athletic competition due to a hardship condition that causes the student's absence from school or to extend the student's attendance in school beyond eight (8) consecutive semesters, provided:
 - (i) That a hardship condition exists that, in the judgment of the Section, warrants a waiver. Hardship is defined in Bylaw 213; AND
 - (ii) The hardship caused the student to remain out of school for more than half of any semester during his/her high school career; OR
 - (iii) The hardship is the direct and sole cause of the student extending his/her attendance beyond eight (8) consecutive semesters even though the student was in attendance for those eight (8) consecutive semesters. Further, the student's extension of his/her attendance beyond eight (8) semesters has no athletic motivation; AND
 - (iv) That the student was eligible under all rules in the semester immediately prior to either his/her absence or the onset of the hardship condition that is the direct and sole cause for extending his/her attendance beyond eight (8) semesters; AND or the student is or was homeless or in foster care, and his/her status as a foster or homeless youth is the sole and direct cause for seeking a waiver of the charge of a semester of attendance and the student meets all other eligibility requirements unrelated to his/her status as a foster or homeless youth; AND
(Revised April 2016 Federated Council)
 - (v) Such a waiver would not grant more than four (4) years of participation in any sport; (See Bylaw 504.K. and 504.L.); AND
 - (vi) Hardship applications may not be submitted prior to the conclusion of the student's 7th semester in high school.

(3) All other eligibility requirements apply.

(4) APPEALS: A decision to deny such a waiver by the Section Commissioner may be appealed only to the Section and in accordance with the provisions set forth in Bylaw 1101.

NOTE: Failure to satisfy the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), California course requirements (e.g. Algebra I), and/or end of course requirements shall not be considered a hardship.

QUESTION: Does the Southern Section provide for waiver of the above ruling?

ANSWER: The CIF Southern Section utilizes the hardship appeal on any waiver, with the building principal involved submitting background information to the Office of the Commissioner, providing all specific background to the case and any verification papers which may be deemed necessary in order to arrive at a decision.

205. SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY

A. Initial Scholastic Eligibility

In order to be eligible, any student entering from the 8th grade into a CIF four (4)-year high school, a junior high or a junior high under the provisions of Bylaw 303, must have achieved an unweighted 2.0 grade-point average, on a 4.0 scale, in enrolled courses at the conclusion of the previous grading period.

QUESTION: What is the definition of an unweighted grade-point average?

ANSWER: An unweighted grade-point average is one where no additional grade points are awarded for any courses (advanced placement, honors, etc.)

QUESTION: Are all courses considered equal in the calculation of a grade-point average?

ANSWER: No. An A grade in a one-credit class would not be considered equal to an A grade in a five (5)-credit class.

(1) Probationary 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. The probationary period shall not exceed one (1) semester in length, but may be for a shorter period of time, as determined by the governing board of the school district, private school, or parochial school. A student who does not meet the above requirements during the probationary period shall not be allowed to participate in interscholastic athletics in the subsequent grading period. For the purpose of determining the maximum length of a semester, the measure shall be the maximum number of days comprising a semester as used in that school during the year in question.

QUESTION: What is the eligibility status of a student who repeats the ninth grade in a four year or in a junior high school due to failing grades, to raise low grades, or because the parents feel that the student is socially immature?

ANSWER: If a student repeats the ninth grade, the student will have used up two semesters of opportunity for competition. The student is only permitted 8 semesters of competition so the student would therefore be ineligible during the senior year of high school. A transfer student is not eligible for academic probation at the new school upon transfer.

QUESTION: What is the eligibility status of a transfer student who does not earn a 2.0 GPA in the most recent regular grading period prior to their transfer?

ANSWER: The student is academically ineligible until they complete a regular grading period at their new school with a minimum 2.0 GPA and all other CIF eligibility requirements are met.

NOTE: This applies to Valid Change of Residence, Transfer and Hardship students.

B. Continuing Scholastic Eligibility

(1) Minimum Requirements

A student is scholastically eligible if:

a. The student achieved an unweighted 2.0 grade-point average, on a 4.0 scale, in enrolled courses at the conclusion of the previous grading period. (See Q&A below in Bylaw 205.B.(1)e.)

b. The student is currently enrolled in at least 20 semester credits of work;

(i) Non-Traditional Programs

In schools where other than traditional semester programs are offered, the principal of each individual school shall be responsible for determining the equivalent of 20 semester credits of work.

(ii) **Accelerated Programs**

Students studying on an accelerated program that includes one (1) or more advanced (either high school or college) courses while enrolled in high school may substitute enrollment and passing grades in these courses for one (1) or more required 20 semester credits of work; evaluation of these courses is to be done by the high school principal.

- c. The student was passing in the equivalent of at least 20 semester credits of work at the completion of the most recent grading period;
- d. The student is maintaining minimum progress toward meeting the high school graduation requirements as prescribed by the governing board;
- e. The student has maintained during the previous grading period a minimum unweighted 2.0 grade-point average, on a 4.0 scale, in all enrolled courses.

QUESTION: *What is the definition of an unweighted grade-point average?*

ANSWER: An unweighted grade-point average is one where no additional grade points are awarded for any courses (advanced placement, honors, etc.)

QUESTION: *Are all courses considered equal in the calculation of a grade-point average?*

ANSWER: No. An A grade in a one-credit class would not be considered equal to an A grade in a five (5)-credit class

(2) **Probationary 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 educational progress in items d. or e. above in the previous grading period to remain eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics during a probationary period. The probationary period shall not exceed one (1) semester in length, but may be for a shorter period of time as determined by the governing board of the school district, private school, or parochial school. A student who does not achieve educational progress as defined in items d. or e. during the probationary period shall not be allowed to participate in interscholastic athletics in the subsequent grading period. For the purpose of determining the maximum length of a semester, the measure should be the maximum as used in that school.

(3) **Grading Period**

The grading period is that time when all students in a school are graded. If two (2) grades are given at the end of a grading period, scholastic eligibility shall be established according to the grade issued for credit.

205.1 To determine current scholastic eligibility, a student's grades must be checked at each regular report period of the school concerned.

- a. Schools or districts or leagues or Sections must establish an eligibility date following the immediately previous grading period in compliance with their respective CIF Section Policy. This is the date on which all students become eligible and ineligible based on their officially posted grades in the immediately previous grading period.
- b. Grades cannot be changed following the grading period for purposes of addressing any deficiency in an individual student's scholastic eligibility.
- c. Only grades changed prior to the established eligibility date and changed in accordance with all California State Education Code requirements and approved by the principal may be used for purposes of determining scholastic eligibility.

QUESTION: What is the eligibility status of a student who does not earn a 2.0 GPA at the end of the probationary period?

ANSWER: The student will be ineligible for further competition and will remain ineligible until a 2.0 GPA is achieved at the end of some subsequent grading period.

QUESTION: Can a school only count semester grades for the purpose of meeting the rule in regard to grades being checked at each reporting period?

ANSWER: No - Schools must check grades at each regular grading period regardless of whether this is a final semester grade or not. In the case of most Southern Section schools this would normally occur four (4) times a year at nine (9) week intervals.

QUESTION: What if the grading period ends, but the grades themselves will not return from the computer center for two weeks?

ANSWER: Keep in mind the basic rule that the period of potential eligibility must be exactly equal to the period of potential ineligibility. An ineligible student who has just regained his or her eligibility and an eligible student who has just become ineligible can never be eligible on the same day. If grades are returned from the computer center two weeks after the end of the grading period, it is at that point (when the grades are returned) students become eligible and ineligible for the next grading period. This system would balance out over the school year, assuming grades are returned roughly two weeks after each period ends. Grade checks may never be made for just athletes. If a grade check is to be made, it must be made for every member of the student body in terms of eligibility standards.

d. Incomplete Grades

A grade(s) of Incomplete shall not be considered a passing grade under this Bylaw unless, by operation of a school grading policy, Incomplete grade shall become a passing letter or (numeric) grade without further achievement or accomplishment by a student, at a certain time. When an Incomplete grade is issued, which does not automatically become a passing grade, as indicated immediately above, such Incomplete grade shall not satisfy the requirement of this Bylaw until academic deficiency which gave rise to such Incomplete grade shall have been satisfied and a passing grade has been substituted for the Incomplete grade. Upon such substitution, the substituted grade shall be considered in determining scholastic eligibility as established by evaluation of previous grading period grades and the substituted grade. A scholastically ineligible student may become immediately scholastically eligible upon such evaluation.

205.2 An incomplete grade, unless designated as an incomplete A, B, C, D or pass grade, would not be a passing grade.

QUESTION: Is the Southern Section rule more restrictive than State Bylaw 204 with regard to incomplete grades?

ANSWER: Yes - A student must receive an incomplete and be accompanied by a passing grade of "B", "C", or "D" in order to retain continuing eligibility. A grade of just incomplete with no letter grade is to be considered an "F" grade with regard to scholastic eligibility and the student would be ineligible throughout the entire next grading period.

QUESTION: Can a student go back to a teacher and get extra work to raise a grade or to gain eligibility after grades have been issued?

ANSWER: No - The student cannot not regain his/ her eligibility until the next grading period.

e. Physical Education Credit:

Credits earned in physical education may count toward the 20 semester credits of work requirement.

QUESTION: May a student be enrolled in two physical education classes, and if so, may each count toward the determining of scholastic eligibility?

ANSWER: Students may be enrolled in as many physical education classes as permitted by the school, BUT ONLY ONE physical education class may count toward determining the status of 20 semester credits. This would include a regular physical education class, "sports sixth period," or "TA" (student assistant) assigned to a physical education class and credit is given for physical education, as opposed to Library Science,

QUESTION: For those districts offering summer school physical education and/or sport classes for credit, what are the guidelines in terms of "competition" with another school offering a similar program?

ANSWER: Schools MAY NOT as part of a summer physical education class, engage in competition (scrimmages, etc.) with another school or excuse students enrolled in said P.E. classes from attending regular classes so that time may be "made up" while competing in a summer league. In summary, any competition during the summer months is to be divorced from P.E. classes in that instructors are being paid for their teaching services and are not to be compensated for coaching during this time span.

205.3 Only one physical education class may be counted toward the determining of scholastic eligibility (20 semester period of work) each grading period.

f. Summer School Credits

Summer school credits shall be counted toward making up scholastic deficiencies incurred in the grading period (semester) immediately preceding. Summer school courses failed shall not impair an athlete's scholastic eligibility achieved in the semester immediately preceding. A course taken by contract or independent study during the summer must meet the following four (4) criteria:

- (i) The course(s) must be approved by the local board of trustees as a valid part of the district's school program;
- (ii) The student receives a passing grade in the courses taken;
- (iii) The personnel providing the instruction and course supervision are approved by the board of trustees;
- (iv) The school credit is recorded on the student's transcript.

QUESTION:	Can summer school classes be used to make up work in order to meet the eligibility requirements?
ANSWER:	In order to remain eligible, a student must maintain a 2.0 grade point average the previous grading period. If a student attempts to improve a grade during summer school by taking the same class, the summer school grade can replace the grade received the preceding grading period. However, if a student takes a different class than that which was previously taken, the summer school grade is to be averaged with all grades received the preceding grading period. If there is a probationary period, it shall be the length of the grading period.
QUESTION:	Can summer school classes be used to make up work in order to meet the twenty (20) semester period requirement?
ANSWER:	Yes - But by new work it is meant subjects in which passing grades have not previously been earned. Therefore, in making up scholastic deficiencies, special care should be taken not to count an additional physical education subject toward the make-up work if the student had received credit for a physical education class during the previous report period, or repeat a subject where passing grades have already been earned.

g. Scholastic Eligibility for Students in Non-Traditional Programs

In schools operating on other than the traditional program (i.e., for schools such as those with a modular or flexible scheduling, special programs for the physically disabled, or continuous progress programs) the principal shall certify on the established eligibility date to the scholastic eligibility of each student based upon satisfactory progress in accordance with the standards defined above. Students may apply college course units to satisfy the 20 semester credits of work requirement and the grade point average requirement. Students who are eligible for differential standards of proficiency pursuant to Section 51412 of the Education Code are covered by that Section.

QUESTION:	May a school have its own scholastic requirements for participation if such requirements do not conflict with the CIF Southern Section regulations?
ANSWER:	Principals may make special scholastic rules regarding athletics provided they are not less rigid than the minimum requirements of the CIF Southern Section.
QUESTION:	What is the proper method for determining if an accelerated program meets the Scholastic Requirement?
ANSWER:	The initial determination would be if the student receives credit on the official high school transcript for any of the above mentioned courses. It would also be permissible for the student to receive both college and high school credit, but the high school credit must appear on the official transcript and count toward meeting the graduation requirements.

205.4 The regular grading period may vary among member schools, but in every case the period of potential eligibility is exactly equal to the period of potential ineligibility.

NOTE: For crediting purposes the grading period closes with the last day of school in the given grading period. In determining eligibility, one (1) grading period does not end until the next one begins.

QUESTION:	What if the grading period ends, but the grades themselves will not return from the computer center for two weeks?
ANSWER:	Keep in mind the basic rule that the period of potential eligibility must be exactly equal to the period of potential ineligibility. An ineligible student who has just regained his or her eligibility and an eligible student who has just become ineligible can never be eligible on the same day. If grades are returned from the computer center two weeks after the end of a grading period, it is at that point (when the grades are returned) students become eligible and ineligible for the next grading period. This system would balance out over the school year, assuming grades are returned roughly two weeks after each period ends. Grade checks may never be made for just athletes. If a grade check is to be made, it must be made for every member of the student body in terms of eligibility standards.

C. Waiver of the Requirement of Passing 20 Semester Credits of Work

Each Section may waive the requirement of passing in 20 semester credits of work during the regular school grading period immediately preceding that of competition, provided:

- (1) Serious illness, injury or attendance in special schools (as referenced in Education Code Sections 59000 et seq. and 59100 et seq.) prevents the student from meeting one (1) or more of these requirements; OR
- (2) The student has been traveling abroad with the consent of the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver and circumstances prevented further school attendance; OR
- (3) The student is returning from an American abroad school attendance program; OR
- (4) The student is returning from school attendance abroad because of a valid change of residency by the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver; OR
- (5) The student is required to remain out of a U.S. school because of exceptional hardship, (See Bylaw 213 for definition of hardship); AND
- (6) That the student was eligible under all rules in the semester immediately prior to his/her absence; AND
- (7) All other rules such as age and number of seasons of sport shall apply.

A decision to deny such a waiver by the Section Commissioner may be appealed only to the Section and in accordance with the provisions set forth in Bylaw 1101.

206. RESIDENTIAL ELIGIBILITY

A. Initial Residential Eligibility

A student has residential eligibility upon initial enrollment in: (See also Bylaw 201.A. for definition of enrollment)

- (1) The 9th grade of any CIF high school, a CIF junior high school, or a junior high school under provisions of Bylaw 303;
OR

QUESTION: Where may a graduate of the eighth grade of an elementary school attend high school and be eligible for athletic competition?

ANSWER: The student may (as far as CIF Southern Section eligibility rules are concerned) attend any high school in the Southern Section and be immediately eligible for athletics.

QUESTION: What may eighth graders do with relation to being involved in practice sessions with a high school after May 12 but before the close of the school year?

ANSWER: Students currently enrolled in the eight grade and prior to the close of their respective school year, may not take part in practice and/or scrimmage situations on a high school campus and/or facility with reference to the Spring Practice ruling. This is also to include tryouts for a team, etc.

QUESTION: A student living with his or her parents in District A graduates from the eighth grade and enrolls in a high school in District B. If, after attending high school in District B, may the student return to the high school in District A, where the parents reside, and be eligible for athletic competition?

ANSWER: The student would come under the Residential transfer guidelines as specified under Bylaw 207, which sets limited and unlimited criteria.

- (2) The 10th grade of any CIF high school from 9th grade of a junior high school in the United States.

QUESTION: Where may the graduate of the ninth grade of a junior high school attend high school and be eligible for athletic competition?

ANSWER: The student may (as far as CIF Southern Section eligibility rules are concerned) attend any high school in the Southern Section and be immediately eligible for athletics.

QUESTION: Are students enrolled in the ninth grade of a junior high school eligible to participate on senior high school athletic teams?

ANSWER: Students in the ninth grade of a junior high school may not practice or play on a senior high school team unless the two schools concerned are under an approved multi-campus waiver.

QUESTION:	What is the status of a youngster who attends the ninth grade of a four-year high school and then transfers to the tenth grade of a three-year high school?
ANSWER:	If there has been no official change of residence on the part of the parents, the student would come under Transfer Bylaw 207 and its application of limited and/or unlimited eligibility as determined by participation in any or all sports in the ninth grade.
QUESTION:	How does Bylaw 207.B apply to schools governed by the United State Bureau of Indian Affairs?
ANSWER:	Schools located in California that are governed and operated by the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs, are considered residentially eligible upon enrollment at that school. Students must still fulfill all other CIF eligibility rules and regulations prior to being granted athletic eligibility.

B. Continuing Residential Eligibility – See also Bylaw 201.A.

A student retains residential eligibility as long as he/she is continuously enrolled in the CIF member high school in which the student initially enrolled.

C. Valid Change of Residence

A student may be determined to be residentially eligible when a student, whose parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver with whom the student was living when the student established residential eligibility at the prior school (School A), completes a valid change of residence as described herein when the following conditions are met:

(1) A valid change of residence must be made from a residence located in the public high school attendance area (School A's 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's attendance area (School B's attendance area).

(2) School A may be a CIF member school or a non-CIF member school or may be a school located outside of the United States.

(3) Definition of a Valid Change of Residence

A valid residence is defined as the location where the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver (with whom eligibility has been established) live with that student and thereby have the use and enjoyment of that location as a residence. A valid change of residence for eligibility purposes requires the former residence to have been vacated by the entire family for use as its residence. For athletic eligibility purposes, a student (with the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver with whom residential eligibility has been established) may only have one (1) primary valid residence at one (1) time.

(4) Determination of What Constitutes a Valid Change of Residence

Determination of what constitutes a valid change of residence depends upon the facts in each case. In determining that a valid change of residence occurred, the following facts must exist:

a. The original residence must be abandoned as a residence by the immediate family. The new school is responsible for validating this fact; AND

b. The student's entire immediate family must make the change of primary residence and take with them the household goods and furniture appropriate to the circumstances. For eligibility purposes, a family unit may not maintain more than one (1) primary residence; AND

c. The change of primary residence must be genuine, without fraud or deceit and with permanent intent; AND

NOTE: A student whose family makes a valid change of residence into a new school's attendance area (See d. below) may be residentially eligible for varsity competition upon receipt and recording of a CIF Form (please use respective CIF Section Form) by the CIF Section of the student's new school. A subsequent move into a different school boundary by the family (or other family members) during the next 12 calendar months will result in the student being declared ineligible until cleared for competition by the Section Commissioner.

- d. A request for eligibility based on a valid change of residence by the student's entire immediate family must be supported by documentation. Documentation may be cumulative and no single document or any combination of documents listed below will be considered as definitive that a valid change of residence occurred. The documents must support a finding by the Section that a valid change of residence by the student's entire immediate family occurred prior to participation at the new school; that the previous residence was vacated as required above in paragraphs a., b. and c. and that the family no longer has the use and enjoyment of that former residence. The Section Commissioner and school may request additional documents they deem necessary to establish that a valid change of residence occurred as defined above. Evidence may include:

- Property tax receipts;
- Bank account statements;
- Credit card statements.

The Section Commissioner and/or school have the discretion to request additional documents that he/she deems necessary to confirm change in residency. Examples may include:

- Real estate documents indicating and verifying a change of residence;
- Court documents indicating a change of residence;
- Declaration of residency executed by the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver;
- Operative telephone and utility service at the student's new residence and terminated at the former residence;
- Utility service receipts;
- Proof of paying for utilities at the new residence including phone, gas, electricity, water, cable television, and garbage collection;
- Proof of submitting a change of address to the U.S. Postal Service to receive mail at the new residence;
- Proof of transfer of the parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver and age-appropriate student's motor vehicle registration;
- Proof of changed address on the parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver and age-appropriate student driver's license;
- Voter registration listing the new address;
- Proof of entering a long-term lease; (minimum of 12 calendar months)
- Rent payment receipts.

The Section Commissioner and/or school have the discretion to request additional documents that he/she deems necessary to confirm residency.

(5) Change in School Enrollment Made in Anticipation of a Valid Change of Residence

If a student transfers to a high school in advance of the anticipated change of residence by the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver with whom the student was living when the student established residential eligibility, the student shall become eligible when the parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver actually complete a valid change of residence to that school's attendance area.

(6) Choice of Schools After a Valid Change of Residence

A student choosing a school after making a valid change of residence in accordance with CIF's definition of valid change of residence has a choice for residential eligibility as follows:

a. Remaining at the Same School

Continued attendance at the previous school (School A) maintains residential eligibility at School A as long as the student has remained enrolled in the same school under a district/school approved enrollment process (i.e., inter or intra or senior privilege etc. district/school program); OR

b. Changing Schools

A student must make a valid change of residence out of the public school (School A) attendance area in which their former family residence was located and into another public school's attendance area (School B). This is true even if the student was not attending public School A but was enrolled in a private school or a charter school. Changing schools following such a valid change of residence will result in full residential eligibility if the following conditions are met:

- (i) Student enrolls, attends, and/or is carried on the attendance roll at the new public school (School B) into whose attendance area the family moved, or another public school in accordance with the district(s) policies or a private school or a charter school; AND
- (ii) The student changes schools immediately following the family valid change of residence or no later than the beginning of the next school year following that family move; AND
- (iii) The new school verifies the family valid change of residence of the family; AND
- (iv) A CIF Form (please use local CIF Section Form) documenting the new school's verification of the family's valid change of residence is completed by the new school and family and received by the CIF Section within 30 days of the valid change of residence and recorded by the respective CIF Section.

QUESTION: If a student's parents move to a new attendance area in the month of March, what are the options for the student in terms of attendance.

ANSWER: The student, at the time of the move in March, has the option of remaining in his or her current school or transferring to the new school in attendance Area B where the parents now reside or, any time up until the start of the new school term in September. Please note: if the student opts to remain in School A for the balance of the term, March through June, and then reenrolls and attends School A at the start of the term in September, the student is now locked into School A for all residency purposes. Thus, if the student would decide to transfer to new School Attendance Area B in which the parents reside in the month of November, the student would now come under Bylaw 207 and all applications for limited and unlimited eligibility.

QUESTION: If a student starts the ninth grade and is residing with an uncle in Attendance Area A, what are the transfer options for this student whose parents may also be living in Attendance Area A or another attendance area?

ANSWER: The student, by virtue of residing with the uncle when entering the ninth grade, will now have the residency of the uncle determine all eligibility status with regard to transfer. The movement of the parents, due to the fact the student did not reside with same when entering the ninth grade, will have no bearing on any subsequent transfers.

(7) Valid Change of Residence After a Discipline Situation

Such a student will not be granted residential eligibility except as outlined in Bylaw 209 if the student is changing residence and schools, voluntarily or if compelled by the former school or district, as a result of a disciplinary situation at the previous school.

(8) Pre-Enrollment Contact

Such a student will not be granted residential eligibility until the Pre-Enrollment Contact Affidavit with the CIF Form (please use local CIF Section Form) is completed by the family and school, received and recorded by the CIF Section, verifying there is no evidence of the use of undue influence (recruiting) by anyone associated with either school in order to procure the student's enrollment in the new school. [See also (10) below and Bylaw 510]

(9) Same Sport at Two (2) Different Schools

No student shall be eligible to participate in the same sport at two (2) different schools in the same school year unless the student changed schools as a result of a valid change of residence. In the event of a change of schools due to a valid change of residence, a student will be allowed to participate in the same sport at two (2) different schools not to exceed, in total, the maximum number of contests in that sport as established by the CIF and/or the CIF Section.

(10) Athletically Motivated Valid Change of Residence

If a student completes a valid change of residence as provided in Bylaw 206.C.(1-5), a student may not be eligible to participate at any level if there is evidence the move was athletically motivated or the student enrolled in that school in whole or in part for athletic reasons (See Bylaw 200; 510.B.-E.)