



## **ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE**

CATEGORY: **Instruction, Curriculum Design**  
SUBJECT: **Interscholastic Athletics Program**  
**Eligibility**

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### **A. PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

1. To outline procedures governing eligibility requirements for students participating in the interscholastic athletics program.

2. **Related Procedures**

Sports currently approved .....	4176
Eligibility for participation in co-curricular and extracurricular activities .....	4350
Alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs .....	6298
Health screening for athletics .....	6350

### **B. LEGAL AND POLICY BASIS**

1. **Reference:** Board policy: F-1500, F-2000, F-2350, H-7100, H-7400; Education Code section 35160.2, 35160.5, 35161, 35179, 49030, 49031, 49032; Government Code section 244; ESEA, Unsafe School Options, Non Regulatory Guidance E1-F5; State CIF Constitution and Bylaws; CIF-San Diego Section Constitution and Bylaws.
2. In matters related to co-curricular and extracurricular activities, including interscholastic athletics, the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) acts in accordance with the relevant provisions of the California Education Code. In general, policies and procedures of the San Diego Unified School District related to interscholastic athletics are more restrictive than those outlined in the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) State and San Diego Section (CIF SDS) Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations. Schools and individuals are governed by the CIF regulations unless the District or City Conference has established more restrictive policies or procedures.

### **C. GENERAL**

1. **Originating Office.** Suggestions or questions concerning this procedure should be addressed to the PE, Health and Athletics Department, Instructional Support Services Division. The Executive Director, PE, Health, and Athletics is designated by the School Board to act on its behalf in all matters pertaining to interscholastic athletics. (Education Code 35161)
2. **Definitions**

- a. **Interscholastic Athletics:** A program involving competition in a variety of sports activities between teams from different schools under rules and regulations of the City Conference, State CIF, CIF–San Diego Section and San Diego Unified School District. Each high school may include interscholastic athletics as part of the school curriculum. For sports currently approved, see Administrative Procedure 4176.
  - b. **Participate:** To play in an athletic contest for any amount of time. This applies to students that have been enrolled in a school for 15 days or more. (CIF 207)
  - c. **Season of sport:** In the San Diego Section, the season of sport for an individual is that period of time when the student is first on a team roster as an athlete, regardless of playing time in an interscholastic contest. To compete in an interscholastic contest or scrimmage in the San Diego Section, a student must be on a roster as a team member. (CIF-SDS 511.1)
3. **Athletics Competition for Ninth Grade Students.** Ninth grade students may try out for and participate in athletic competition of a freshman team for board-approved freshman sports and for varsity or junior varsity teams at their school of enrollment only.
  4. **Basic State CIF and CIF–San Diego Section Eligibility Rules.** To compete in interscholastic athletics, a student must:
    - a. **Be less than 19 years of age.** A student may not compete if his/her nineteenth birthday is on or before June 15, in the following school year. (CIF 201)
    - b. **Receive an annual physical examination** conducted by a licensed physician or nurse practitioner that certifies on a school-board-approved form that the student is physically fit to participate in athletics in the current school year. (CIF 308)
    - c. **Be an amateur.** (See CIF Article 4 for definition)
    - d. **Be an undergraduate.**
      - (1) Students are entitled to participate in athletic competition for no more than eight semesters of school attendance following their initial enrollment in the ninth grade of any school. (CIF 202)

**Note:** A semester of school attendance occurs when the student has been enrolled and/or attended for fifteen (15) days or more, or has participated in one or more interscholastic athletic contests. (CIF 203)

- (2) If students do not transfer to high schools immediately, that is, for the semester following their graduation from middle/junior high school, they must be in attendance at a senior high school for one semester before becoming eligible to compete. This semester is charged against the eight semesters allowed for competition.
  - (3) Students that successfully pass the state proficiency examination and withdraw from high school have one opportunity to reenroll in high school and are immediately eligible for athletic competition, provided requirements outlined in CIF Constitution and Bylaws 225 (a)–(d) are met.
- e. **Not be a competitor on any outside team in the same sport during the sport season.** (Doubles play in tennis is not considered team play.) As a sole exception to this rule, athletes participating in the individual sports of swimming, diving, and gymnastics may practice during their season of sport, as unattached athletes, with club teams established under the national governing board for the sport so long as the athlete also practices with the school team. The principal is to certify that the athlete’s academic progress is acceptable. The athlete is entered to compete as an unattached athlete in the CIF-approved competitions by CIF Bylaw 606. (For further restrictions refer to CIF Bylaw 600.)
- f. **Agree not to use androgenic/anabolic steroids and dietary supplements banned by the United States Anti-doping Agency and the substance synerparine** unless the student has a written prescription from a licensed health care practitioner to use the banned substance or synerparine to treat a medical condition. The student and his or her parent/guardian must sign a notification form agreeing to these restrictions. (CIF–SDS 524)
- g. **Physical Examination.** An annual examination is required of all students that participate in interscholastic athletics competition. (A physical exam in May/June is valid through May/June of the following year.) The exams must be conducted by licensed physicians or nurse practitioners that must certify on a school-board-approved form that the students are physically fit to participate in interscholastic athletics. Students with religious beliefs that preclude them from obtaining a physical examination may be exempted from the annual examination by submitting a statement and waiver approved in form and content

by the SDUSD Legal Services Office. (Administrative Procedure 6350; CIF SDS 308)

**6. District Citizenship Requirements**

- a. Participation in athletics is an opportunity offered to eligible students, not a right. Any student participating in interscholastic athletics must have earned a citizenship grade point average of 2.0 or better in all subjects during the academic quarter immediately preceding his/her participation.
- b. Eligibility lost through unsatisfactory citizenship may not be regained through attendance in alternative programs or summer school.
- c. Requirements for citizenship are applicable to all incoming ninth grade students.
- d. Administrative Procedure 6298 mandates loss of eligibility for interscholastic athletics for a minimum thirty (30) school days for possession or use of controlled or prohibited substances. Summer vacations and holiday breaks do not count toward the minimum 30-school-day loss of eligibility.

**7. District Scholastic Requirements**

- a. Any secondary school student who participates in interscholastic athletics must meet the following scholastic requirements:
  - (1) Earn a scholastic grade point average of 2.0 or better in all subjects during the academic quarter in his/her high school of enrollment immediately preceding his/her participation. This rule also applies to the last quarter of the preceding school year for incoming ninth grade students to a four-year high school. Administrative Procedure 4770 outlines requirements that must be met by students that, for graduation or athletic eligibility purposes, seek to suppress "D" or "F" grades or to replace grades, including requirements regarding earning credit for online high school coursework.
  - (2) Pass a minimum of four classes, based on the requirements of the school in which the student is participating in athletics, in the preceding academic quarter. A grade of "Incomplete" is not a passing grade. (CIF 205) This rule also applies to the last quarter of the preceding school year for incoming ninth grade students to a four-year high school.

- (3) Be enrolled in at least four subjects as determined by the school principal and maintain minimum (or better) progress toward meeting graduation requirements as prescribed by the Board of Education.
- (4) Maintain a satisfactory citizenship record (C.6.a.).

b. **Regaining scholastic eligibility through summer school attendance**

- (1) The principal of each school shall be held responsible for the amateur standing and eligibility of the school's teams and team members under CIF rules. (CIF-SDS 301)
- (2) Students that failed to meet district and/or CIF scholastic standards at the end of the second semester can regain eligibility through San Diego Unified School District summer school attendance by successfully repeating courses failed in the previous semester. (Administrative Procedure 4770)
- (3) Courses in which a grade of "D" or "F" was received for the fourth quarter may be repeated only if offered in summer school. In such cases, summer school scholastic grades may replace (suppress) grades earned in the fourth quarter for purposes of meeting district grade-point average requirements (2.0). Courses repeated must be exactly the same courses, as identified by the number listed in the Uniform Course File, or an equivalent course as specified in the District Course of Study, K-12. (See Administrative Procedure 4770) A student who has not passed a minimum of four classes in the preceding academic quarter (see C.7.a.2) may *not* compensate for this failure via summer school courses. In this case the student is ineligible for participation in interscholastic athletics until the academic quarter following attainment of passing grades in at least four classes.
- (4) All grades received in the fourth quarter, together with all grades for courses taken in San Diego Unified School District summer school and enrichment courses, shall be counted in computation of the scholastic grade-point average with prior approval of the principal. If this average is 2.0 or better, the student shall be eligible for the first quarter of the next school year.

- c. **Date for establishing athletic eligibility** is the second Monday following the close of the district grading period. Early grade checks or computer grade checks for the purpose of establishing eligibility are not permitted. (CIF 205)

- d. Students enrolled in high schools that are studying in an atypical school, a non-traditional program or an accelerated program including one or more advanced courses (high school or college) may substitute for grades in required semester courses passing grades in courses approved by their high school principals as equivalent to the required semester courses. (CIF 205, CIF 208, CIF 209)

**8. District Residence Requirements**

**a. General**

- (1) **Separate districts.** Each school is regarded as a separate district with regard to residence and transfer rules.
- (2) **Valid Change of Residence.** A *valid residence* is defined as the location where the student's parent(s), guardian(s) or caregiver(s)—those with whom the student's eligibility has been established—live with the student and thereby have the use and enjoyment of the location. A *valid change of residence* for eligibility purposes requires that the immediate family relinquish the original residence and that the entire family change residence, taking with them to the new residence the household goods and furniture appropriate to the circumstances.

Evidence that a valid change of residence has occurred may include:

- a. District approved enrollment policies.
- b. Telephone and utility service operative at the student's new residence and terminated at the former residence.
- c. Driver license.
- d. Vehicle registration listing the new address.
- e. Voter registration listing the new address.
- f. Real estate documents indicating and verifying a change of residence (sale and purchase documents, for instance).
- g. Court documents indicating a change of residence.
- h. Other documentation that a section or school district may require that establishes that a person is living at the new address. (CIF 206)

The legal residence of an unmarried minor is the residence of the parent with whom the child maintains his/her place of abode or the residence of the individual who has been given care or custody of the unmarried minor by a court of competent jurisdiction. (Government Code Section 244)

**Note:** In reference to athletic eligibility, 18-year-olds may not establish residential eligibility apart from a parent or guardian. (CIF 219)

- (3) **Transfer Student.** A ninth through twelfth grade student who participates in an interscholastic athletic contest or is enrolled and/or attends a school for 15 school days or more shall be considered to have been enrolled in that school and shall be classified as a transfer student if the student subsequently enrolls in another school.
- (4) **Transfers before the first day of school in tenth grade.** CIF Bylaw 207 allows students to transfer one time without a valid change of residence and retain varsity eligibility. This transfer must occur no later than the first day of the student's third consecutive semester, typically the first semester of grade 10. The student may be eligible to compete in sports at all levels at the new school of choice if he/she meets all district and CIF scholastic and citizenship standards and all other rules and regulations.
- (5) **Transfer without a valid change of residence.** A ninth grade student who transfers for the second time or a tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade student who transfers without a valid change of residence is recommended for limited eligibility, i.e., the student is eligible for all athletic competition except varsity-level competition in sports in which the student has competed in any level of interscholastic competition during the 12 calendar months preceding the date of the transfer. When a student transfers from one school to another due to a compelling need or situation beyond the student's control, he or she may file for a hardship waiver with the district's PE, Health and Athletics Department. If CIF SDS accepts the hardship rationale, the student may be recommended for unrestricted eligibility. (CIF 208)

**Note:** Appeals for waiver of the residential transfer rule must be made to the, district's PE, Health and Athletics Department on CIF Form 510, and must be signed by both principals.

- (6) Students that transfer because of a change in residence of their parents or legal guardians are recommended for immediate athletic eligibility in their

new schools, provided they were eligible at the sending school at the time of transfer.

**b. Students in special education classes**

- (1) Students that are transferred full-time from one school to another in accordance with approved district procedures to participate in special education classes shall be granted all student privileges, including athletic eligibility, at the receiving school if they were eligible at the sending school at the time of transfer and if eligibility is approved by the school principals and the district's PE, Health and Athletics Department.
- (2) Upon district recommendation and parent approval to discontinue a student in a special education class as described above, and upon return of the student to his/her school of residence, the student shall continue to be granted all student privileges, including athletic eligibility.
- (3) Should a student, with parent approval, voluntarily elect to discontinue participation in special education classes as described above and return to his/her school of residence, the student shall be recommended for immediate residential athletic eligibility provided he/she has not participated in any level of athletic competition during the twelve (12) calendar months preceding the date of such transfer. If the student has participated at any level of athletic competition during the twelve (12) calendar months preceding the date of transfer, he/she is ineligible for varsity-level competition in the sport(s) in which the student participated for twelve (12) calendar months from the first date of attendance at the new school.

**c. Administrative placement and school-initiated administrative placement.**

Students transferred by administrative decision, including school-initiated placements (SIP), must complete CIF Form 510, including a rationale declaring the facts and documentation to support the request for a hardship. Upon review students may be recommended for athletic eligibility.

- (1) A student who must transfer from one school to another for disciplinary reasons is ineligible for interscholastic athletics competition for one year following the date of transfer.
- (2) Students transferred by administrative decision, including school-initiated placement, that did not transfer for disciplinary reasons and have *not* participated in any level of athletic competition during the twelve (12)



calendar months preceding the date of such transfer may be recommended for immediate eligibility, based on a properly completed rationale with facts and documentation that support the request for a transfer appeal and the agreement of both principals and the district's PE, Health and Athletics Department.

- (3) The California Education Code and the ESEA Unsafe School Option outlines situations in which special circumstances that might be harmful to a particular student in his or her current school, including but not limited to threats of bodily harm or threats to the emotional stability of the student, require transfer of the student to another school. In such cases the transferred student may be granted immediate athletic eligibility notwithstanding the student's participation in athletic competition during the 12 months preceding the date of such transfer.

To ensure that students transferred in these cases receive immediate athletic eligibility, the principal of the sending school must notify the PE, Health and Athletics Department via letter of the transfer and indicate that the principal has evidence of the harmful or dangerous circumstances that necessitate the transfer. Such evidence may include a written statement from a representative of the appropriate state or local agency, including, but not limited to, a law enforcement official or social worker, or properly licensed professionals, including, but not limited to, psychiatrists, psychologists, or marriage, family and child counselors. Evidence might also include a court order, including a temporary restraining order or injunction issued by a judge.

In addition, the principal of the receiving school and the principal of the sending school must ensure that a CIF Form 510 is completed and submitted to the district's PE, Health and Athletics Department. The PE, Health and Athletics Department will review the letter and CIF Form 510 to determine whether the evidence submitted warrants granting the transferring student immediate athletic eligibility.

- d. **Inter-district transfers.** An inter-district transfer, whereby a student transfers from a school in one district to a school in another district, does not automatically confer athletic eligibility on the transferee. The City Conference and the San Diego Unified School District do not make rulings or decisions regarding the athletic eligibility of students that effect inter-district transfers. Rulemaking in such cases is the responsibility of the CIF-San Diego Section and all such cases shall be referred directly to the Section.

- e. **Public/private school transfers.** The residential eligibility of students transferring from private to public school or public to private school is addressed in CIF Bylaw 207.
- f. **Voluntary Enrollment Exchange Program (VEEP)/ Open Enrollment/ Magnet Programs.**
- (1) Students enrolled in district VEEP/ Open Enrollment/ Magnet schools other than their geographic schools of residence must remain at the VEEP/ Open Enrollment/ Magnet school for the entire year to maintain athletic eligibility.
  - (2) Students enrolled in a school via VEEP/ Open Enrollment/ Magnet programs that have not participated in any level of athletic competition during the twelve (12) calendar months preceding the date of such transfer have immediate residential athletic eligibility. If a student has participated at any level of athletic competition during the twelve (12) calendar months preceding the date of transfer, he/she is ineligible for varsity-level competition in the sport(s) in which the student participated for twelve (12) calendar months from the first date of attendance at the new school.
  - (3) Students exiting VEEP/ Open Enrollment/ Magnet Schools (canceling VEEP/ Open Enrollment/ Magnet School participation) and returning to their geographic schools of residence without having participated in any level of athletic competition during the twelve (12) calendar months preceding the date of such transfer have immediate residential athletic eligibility. If a student *has* participated at any level of athletic competition during the twelve (12) calendar months preceding the date of transfer, he/she is *ineligible for varsity-level competition in the sport(s) in which the student participated* for twelve (12) calendar months from the first date of attendance at the new school.
- g. **Charter school students**
- (1) Only charter school students that attend charter schools that have been granted multi-school status with CIF-member schools in the San Diego Unified School District may be considered for eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics at their district schools of residence.
  - (2) Charter school students that have *not* participated in any level of athletic competition during the twelve (12) calendar months preceding the date of their transfer to the charter school have immediate residential athletic

eligibility. If a student has participated at any level of athletic competition during the twelve (12) calendar months preceding the date of transfer, he/she is *ineligible for athletic competition in the sport(s) in which the student participated* for twelve (12) calendar months from the first date of attendance at the charter school.

- (3) Eligible charter school students seeking athletic eligibility are bound by the CIF-San Diego Section and San Diego Unified School District rules and procedures regarding academic and citizenship requirements. The grading period for charter school students is determined by the school at which the student seeks eligibility (the student's district school of residence) to participate in interscholastic athletics.
- (4) Charter school students must comply with Administrative Procedure 4770, Graduation from Senior High School. Online programs in which the students may participate at the charter school must adhere to the requirements of Administrative Procedure 4770 and cannot be a sole source to gain CIF athletic eligibility.
- (5) Students that transfer from another school district into a SDUSD approved charter school (an inter-district transfer) do not have SDUSD schools of residence, and therefore do not have athletic eligibility in the San Diego Unified School District.
- h. **Foreign students** are residentially eligible for participation in interscholastic athletics if enrolled in a SDUSD school via an approved foreign exchange program. Students enrolled via any foreign exchange program not listed in CIF 212 must be approved by the CIF before being granted athletic eligibility.
- i. **International students** are considered CIF transfer students and must file a waiver of the transfer rule with the CIF before obtaining athletic eligibility. (CIF 212 B)
- j. **Married students** living with their spouses have residential eligibility at the school within whose attendance area they reside. (CIF 213)
- k. **Students enrolled in CIF-member high schools** in the San Diego Unified School District are not eligible to participate in CIF-sanctioned athletic contests as members of the athletic teams of other CIF-member schools, nor may CIF-member schools seek multi-school, or multi-team, status with other CIF-member schools. This rule applies in all situations, including those in which a

CIF-member school does not offer the particular sport(s) in which its students may wish to participate.

- l. **Multi-school Status Schools.** Administrators at non-CIF-member schools that have been granted multi-team, or multi-school, status with SDUSD high schools must provide their students' district schools of residence with current and continuing documentation regarding the academic and citizenship performance of their students that seek to participate in CIF-sanctioned athletics at their schools of residence) and information about any changes of residence by those students. (CIF-SDS 302) Students must be enrolled in 20 semester hours (four classes) at their school of residence or their school of attendance.
  - m. **Students that transfer to another high school under terms of the Elementary and Secondary Schools Act (ESEA)** and that have *not* participated in any level of interscholastic competition during the twelve (12) calendar months preceding the date of such transfer have immediate residential athletic eligibility. If a student *has* participated at any level of athletic competition during the twelve (12) calendar months preceding the date of transfer, he/she is *ineligible for varsity-level competition in the sport(s) in which he/she participated* for twelve (12) calendar months from the first date of attendance at the new school.
  - n. **Students that return to their geographic schools of residence** from the schools to which they transferred under terms of the ESEA, because their schools of residence have exited Program Improvement status, and that did *not* participate in any level of interscholastic competition during the twelve (12) calendar months preceding the date of such return have immediate residential eligibility. If a student *has* participated at any level of interscholastic competition during the twelve (12) calendar months preceding the date of transfer, he/she is *ineligible for varsity-level competition in the sport(s) in which he/she participated* for twelve (12) calendar months from the first date of attendance at the school of residence to which the student returned..
  - o. **Students in New Arrival Centers** who return to their geographic schools of residence either by waiver or meeting exit criteria shall be granted immediate residential athletic eligibility.
9. **Penalties for Participation of Ineligible Players.** San Diego Section students that compete for their schools in CIF interscholastic contests while ineligible due to violations of State CIF, CIF-SDS, or San Diego Unified School District rules are subject to the mandatory penalties listed below. (State CIF Article 2, 200 D)

- a. **Team sports** (baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, soccer, softball, volleyball, water polo): Forfeiture of contests.
  - b. **Individual sports** (badminton, cross-country, golf, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, wrestling): Forfeiture of points and awards earned by ineligible athletes (including relay teams and doubles teams). Tennis only: ineligibility of team for championship, runner-up, or third-place team awards in the contest(s) or tournament(s) concerned.
10. **Knowledge of and Participation of an Ineligible Player**
- a. If any teacher, official, coach, or administrator has information indicating that there is an ineligible player on a squad of any league high school, he/she is under obligation to report the matter in writing to the principal of the school concerned or to the SDUSD PE, Health and Athletics Department.
  - b. No school shall allow an ineligible player to play at any time, nor allow a student who is not officially enrolled in the school to participate in a scrimmage, practice game, meet, or match. (CIF SDS 205.3)
11. **Appeals.** Appeals may be filed with the Executive Director of the PE, Health and Athletics Department, the SDUSD designee regarding all matters related to the CIF and interscholastic athletics, for recommendations to the CIF SDS. For information on this process, contact the PE, Health and Athletics Department.

**D. IMPLEMENTATION** (See Subsection C.)

**E. FORMS AND AUXILIARY REFERENCES**

1. California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) State and San Diego Section (CIF SDS) Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations
2. Interscholastic Athletic Program Handbook (City Conference Blue Book)
3. CIF Parent Handbook II (Understanding the Transfer Eligibility Appeal Process)
4. SDUSD Uniform Course File
5. SDUSD Course of Study, K-12
6. CIF Form 510

**F. REPORTS AND RECORDS**

**SUBJECT: Interscholastic Athletics Program  
Eligibility Requirements**

**NO: 4172**

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**EFFECTIVE: 1-29-62**

**REVISED: 5-29-12**

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**G. APPROVED BY**



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General Counsel, Legal Services  
As to form and legality

**H. ISSUED BY**



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Chief of Staff