

## ETHICS IN SPORTS

### I. Policy Statement

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

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

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

### II. Code of Ethics

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
- Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
- Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
High School

\_\_\_\_\_  
- Coach's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Athletic Directors Signature

**Player:**

A player who is ejected from a contest (for reasons other than fighting or leaving the bench area during a fight) shall be ineligible to participate in the remainder of that contest (event) and his or her team's future contest (s) as outlined below:

1. First Ejection: Player is ineligible to participate in the team's next contest. Player may remain on the bench for the duration of that contest and may be on the bench in street clothes for the team's next contest. If the ejection occurs in the last game of the season, the player would be ineligible for the team's first contest the following season. If the player is a senior, he or she would be ineligible for the first contest of their next season of sport. **Note: There is no appeal process for single game ejections.**
2. Second Ejection: Player is ineligible to participate in the team's next three (3) contests. Player may remain on the bench for the duration of that contest and may be on the bench in street clothes for the team's next three (3) contests. If the season concludes prior to the player serving the three (3) contests suspension, he or she would be ineligible for the number of contests remaining on the suspension for the team's following season. If the player is a senior, he or she would be ineligible for the number of contests remaining on the suspension for their next season of sport.
3. Third Ejection: Player is ineligible to participate for the remainder of that season. Player may remain on the bench for the duration of that contest and may be on the bench in street clothes for the team's remaining contest that season. If there are six (6) or fewer contests remaining in the season, the player would be ineligible for up to six (6) contests for the team's following season as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter. If the player is a senior, he or she would be ineligible for up to six (6) contests for the next season of sport as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter.

A player who is ejected from a contest for fighting or leaving the bench area during a fight\* shall be ineligible to participate in the remainder of that contest and his or her team's future contests as outlined below:

1. First Ejection: Player (Fighting/Assaultive Behavior/Gross Unsportsmanlike Conduct) is ineligible to participate in the team's next three (3) to six (6) contests as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter. Player may remain on the bench for the duration of that contest and may be on the bench in street clothes for the duration of the suspension. If the season concludes prior to the player serving the full suspension, he or she would be ineligible for the number of contests remaining on the suspension for the team's following season. If the player is a senior, he or she would be ineligible for the number of contests remaining on the suspension for their next season of sport. \*NFHS Rules indicate automatic one game suspension for leaving the bench.
2. Second Ejection: Player is ineligible to participate for the remainder of that season. Player may remain on the bench for the duration of that contest and may be on the bench in street clothes for the team's remaining contests that season. If there are six (6) or fewer contests remaining in the season, the player would be ineligible for up to six (6) contests for the team's following season as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter. If the player is a senior, he or she would be ineligible for up to six (6) contests for their next season of sport as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter.

Before a player may return to participate in a contest following a multiple game suspension for any of the above infractions, the school principal must inform the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter that they have met with the student-athlete, his or her parent/guardian/caregiver and coach to discuss future behavioral expectations.

**Coach:**

A coach who is ejected from a contest (for reasons other than fighting) shall be disqualified from participating in the remainder of that contest and his or her team's future contest (s) as outlined below:

1. First Ejection: Coach is disqualified from participating in the team's next contest. Coach must immediately vacate the playing area and the vicinity in and around the contest and refrain from having any communication with the team or other coaches for the remainder of that contest and for the team's next contest. If the ejection occurs in the last game of the season, the coach would be ineligible for the team's first contest the following season.
2. Second Ejection: Coach is disqualified from participating in the team's next three (3) to six (6) contests as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter. Coach must immediately vacate the playing area and the vicinity in and around the contest and refrain from having any communication with the team or other coaches for the remainder of that contest and for the team's next three (3) to six (6) contests. If the ejection occurs in the last game of the season, the coach would be ineligible for the team's first three (3) to six (6) contests the following season.
3. Third Ejection: Coach is disqualified from participating in the remaining contests of that season. Coach must immediately vacate the playing area and the vicinity in and around the contest and refrain from having any communication with the team or other coaches for the remainder of that contest and for the remaining contests of that season. If there are six (6) or fewer contests remaining in the season, the coach would be disqualified from participating for up to six (6) contest for the team's following season as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter.

A coach who is ejected from a contest for (Fighting/Assaultive Behavior/Gross Unsportsmanlike Conduct) shall be disqualified from participating in the remainder of that contest and his or her team's future contests as outlined below:

1. Ejection for (Fighting/Assaultive Behavior/Gross Unsportsmanlike Conduct): Coach is disqualified from participating for the remainder of that season. Coach must immediately vacate the playing area and the vicinity in and around the contest and refrain from having any communication with the team or other coaches for the remainder of that contest and for all of the team's remaining contests that season. If there are fewer than six (6) contest remaining in the season, the coach would be disqualified from participating for up to six (6) contests for the team's following season as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter.

Before a coach may return to participate in a contest following a multiple contest disqualification, for any of the above infractions, the school principal must inform the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter that they have met with the coach to discuss future behavioral expectations.

**Appeal Process for All Multi-Game Ejections:**

The school principal may appeal the penalties listed above in writing to the League Commissioner/President (for a regular season contest not including the final contest prior to Section playoffs) or CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter (for the final contest prior to Section playoffs and all playoff contests). The appeal must be received by the Section with 48 hours of the date of the ejection. Reasons for the appeal may only include misidentification of the ejected player or a misapplication of the rule. There will be no appeal regarding the judgement of an official.

**Note: There is no appeal process for single game ejections.**

**Spectator:**

If a spectator is ejected from a contest, it is the responsibility of the school to ensure that person does not attend that team's next contest. If the same spectator is ejected a second time, it is the responsibility of the school to ensure that person does not attend any of the remaining contests for that season.

**Enforcement:**

See Bylaw 503. M. and Article 22.C.(1)(2)(3)(4)

1. The Executive Director and/or Executive Committee or Section Commissioner and/or Section Board of Managers shall have power to suspend, to fine or otherwise penalize any member school for the violation of any CIF or Section rules and regulations or for just cause. The period of suspension or other penalty shall be left to the discretion of the CIF governing body that has jurisdiction of the matter where the penalty is not fixed.

(Approved May 2020 Federated Council)

**PHYSICAL ASSAULT**

CIF State Constitution Bylaw 210: Any student who physically assaults the person of a game or event official shall be banned from interscholastic athletics for the remainder of the student's eligibility. A game or event official is defined as a referee, umpire or any other official assigned to interpret or enforce rules competition at an event. A student may, after a lapse of 18 calendar months from the date of the incident, apply for reinstatement of eligibility to the State CIF Commissioner.

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