



# NORTH COAST SECTION, CIF

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To: NCS Member Schools

From: Pat Cruickshank, Commissioner of Athletics  
Bri Niemi, Associate Commissioner of Athletics

Date: January 14, 2021

Subject: North Coast Section, CIF Update

Good Afternoon North Coast Section Leaders!

Happy New Year! We hope that this update finds you well!

As we prepare for the return of educational athletics in the North Coast Section, we wanted to provide you with an update on the season of sports calendar for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year and how we plan to implement bringing high school sports back to our member schools.

With input from our member schools and League Commissioners, the Executive Committee took action today to move forward with our calendar by giving leagues the autonomy to build their season of sport calendars around the guidance from the California Department of Public Health, the local counties that their league resides in, and the approval of their member schools and districts. This action will be subject to approval by the Board of Managers at their January 29, 2021 meeting.

What this means is, if approved as presented, leagues will set their seasons of sport based on the color tier that their county resides in and the sports allowed in that tier. Purple sports will have the ability to go off first once the county and schools have approved it. Then once counties move into the red tier, the league will be allowed to begin that season of sport at a time that best fits them. The same will be done for the orange and yellow tier sports. All of these decisions must take into account CIF Bylaw 504.D., which says in affect that leagues must provide an equal number of opportunities for all students in the same sport.

As a reminder the sports and their tiers are broken down as such:

**PURPLE: Cross-Country, Golf, Tennis, Track & Field, Swimming and Diving**

**RED: Baseball, Softball, Girls Lacrosse, Field Hockey**

**ORANGE: Football, Boys Lacrosse, Soccer, Volleyball, Water Polo, Badminton, Volleyball**

**YELLOW: Competitive Cheerleading, Basketball, Wrestling**

Because of the complexity of each league's schedules and the uncertainty of when they will be allowed to start their seasons, the following decisions have been made:

1. No competition or official practice may begin prior to February 1, 2021.
2. There will be no Section Championships and no CIF state or regional opportunities for our schools. Rather the leadership advocated for beginning the seasons and having the most opportunities for our students to play.

3. Student athletes, because of the guidelines from CDPH, can only participate in one cohort (sport) at a time.
4. No Athletic Competitions can begin until the local stay at home order has been lifted. Leagues will take this into account when determining the start dates for their sports.
5. All teams may continue to follow the CDPH guidance on practice (masks, 6 feet of social distancing, single cohort, outside) during the school year and outside the season of sport.
6. NCS Member non-league affiliates will have the opportunity to contact other non-league affiliates in their county and their adjacent county as well as their local leagues to set up seasons of sport that best fit their needs.
7. The football season must conclude by April 17, 2021 for the 2021 fall season to commence as scheduled on August 9, 2021.
8. All Sit-Out period dates will be recalculated once the league decides on their season of sport. This provision cannot be waived by the league or the section as it is a CIF bylaw.
9. Sports will be limited to the number of contests as determined in the maximum number of contests chart.
10. The final date for NCS competition will be June 12, 2021.

For any additional information, please contact your local League Commissioner or contact the North Coast Section Office.

Finally, the leadership of the North Coast Section believes that this revised schedule best fits the needs of our member schools. It is our hope that this will allow all our student-athletes the opportunity to participate in the sports that they are so passionate about, even in this year of uncertainty and great sacrifice!

All the best!

Pat Cruickshank, CAA  
Commissioner of Athletics, North Coast Section, CIF