

SJS POINTS OF EMPHASIS - (COVID-19) CORONAVIRUS

As we continue to embark upon our world of uncertainty and with the recent announcement of the cancelation of Spring Sport Championships (Section, Region & State), it is important to review several key bylaws with you and how they are affected while under our current conditions. This is by no means a complete list, but merely some key topics related to questions we have received, which hopefully will help us navigate our immediate reality. There will continue to be questions and if they are not addressed here, please contact us as we are here for you.

BYLAW 600

With the cancelation of Spring Sports Championships, CIF Bylaw 600 no longer applies. Students can play for outside teams whenever it is deemed safe for them to do so.

SJS SPRING SPORTS SEASON (2019-20 SJS Sports Calendar)

⇒ Last Contest Date

This date has been moved to May 31, 2020 for all spring sports (Badminton, Baseball, Golf-B, Comp. Sport Cheer, Softball, Swimming, Tennis-B, Tennis-C, Track & Field, Soccer-G, Volleyball-B, Lacrosse). This date was changed so that in the case that it be deemed safe (by Federal, State, Local & LEA's) for schools to return to campus, and they wish to engage in some form of spring sport competition, then you have an avenue in which to do so.

⇒ Dead Period

With the adjustment of the spring sports last contest date (5/31/20), this eliminates any spring season dead period.

BYLAW 201.(4).b (Contact of Pre High School Students - 8th Graders)

I have referenced the bylaw below and will explain how it applies to our schools current educational delivery situation. Most schools are engaged in "Distance Learning"; this would be considered "enrolled." Therefore, there is no contact permitted until schools are no longer engaging in "Distance Learning" and have officially released all students for the summer.

"8th graders who have not graduated from the 8th grade may not participate in any athletic meetings 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. 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."

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

A: 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.

BYLAW 205 - (Continuing Scholastic Eligibility)

As has been the past practice of our organization, certification of students for academic eligibility has always been the responsibility of our schools / school districts - local education agencies; nothing has changed.

⇒ Grades

With the recent release (CDE) of suggested grading guidelines, as a result of these unprecedented times, to hold harmless and preserve the progress students made prior to physical school closures, we are hearing of a variety of different ways in which schools / school districts are implementing new grading systems / administering semester grades, ranging from: Pass/Fail to Credit/No Credit to A-C to A-D, and use of previous grading period grades (i.e. 3rd quarter grades) as a student's final grade (with "Distance Learning" providing the option of only improving that grade). Whatever system your school / school district is using, it will be up to your school / school district to determine how you will evaluate those grades, particularly when dealing with Pass/Fail and Credit/No Credit (what does a pass and credit equate to - C, D?) and how will that be applied to the bylaw requiring a minimum 2.0 grade point average (GPA) in all courses attempted during the school's regular grading period.

Please note that there is no waiver outside a school districts "Board Approved Probation Period" for not meeting the standard of achieving an, unweighted 2.0 grade-point average, on a 4.0 scale, in all enrolled courses at the conclusion of the grading period.

I would highly recommend that schools / school districts look at adopting a board approved probationary period for the current situation.

⇒ Credits

The same situation, related to Pass/Fail and Credit/No Credit, needs to be contemplated for, related to credits earned; how many credits are the Pass/Credit worth and the application of those credits to the bylaw requiring a student to pass a minimum of 20 semester credits during the schools most recent grading period.

BYLAW 207 (TRANSFER ELIGIBILITY)

⇒ SOP (Sit Out Period)

With the cancelation of Spring Sport Championships, every Spring sport student-athlete who was under CIF Bylaw 207-Transfer Eligibility (Sit Out Period), could now be a non-participation (NP) transfer student if they choose to transfer to another school for the 2020-2021 school year.

- ◆ **This would only apply if they played no other sports during the fall and/or winter season (2019-20) and they were waiting to participate at the varsity level in their designated Spring sport, thus they played in no interscholastic contests during the Spring 2020 season.**
- ◆ This **WOULD NOT** apply to a student-athlete, under the SOP, who choose to participate at the sub-varsity level.

⇒ Athletic (Sports) Participation

Students who participated (played) in any interscholastic competition this spring season, prior to the season being canceled, will be deemed to have participated in that spring sport for the Spring 2020 season. Please understand that this falls along our standard guidelines that once a student competes in an interscholastic contest, regardless of time played or length of season, they will be considered as having participated during that season. As noted above, this will not apply to SOP students who were waiting to play at the varsity level; this is because they would not have yet participated, as the earliest SOP date was March 27, 2020 and things began to shut down the week of March 9, 2020.

BYLAW 204 (Additional Semester of Eligibility-Hardship Waiver Applications)

Hardship waiver applications for additional semesters of eligibility can only be considered if specific criteria is met:

- ⇒ 204.C.(2).b.(ii) The hardship caused the student to remain out of school for more than half of any semester during his/her high school career.
- ⇒ 204.C.(2).b.(iii) The hardship is the direct and sole cause of the student extending his/her attendance beyond eight consecutive semesters. Further, the student's extension of his/her attendance beyond eight semesters has no athletic motivation.
- ⇒ 204.C.(2).b.(v) Such a waiver would not grant more than four years of participation in any sport.

While our current situation does not have student's physically on a high school campus, they still have access to educational services through "Distance Learning." Therefore, unless they could no longer be educated during the time they are away from the high school campus, due to a hardship condition that exists, this pandemic situation does not open a new window into hardship waiver applications for additional semesters of eligibility.

Additionally, as mentioned above, under Bylaw 207, the Spring 2020 season had begun prior to the shutdown of our athletic programs / schools, thus many student athletes participated in interscholastic contests; seniors (12th grade) who were participating in their fourth season of sport in the Spring 2020 would not be eligible to receive an additional semester of eligibility in that same sport. This would also apply to any underclassman, who in the next two-three years attempts to obtain an additional semester of eligibility as a result of the COVID-19 situation.

BYLAWS 504.7, 504.8 & 504.9 - SEASON OF SPORT (Out Of Season Periods, Dead Periods, Limited Period)

⇒ 2019-2020 SJS Sports Calendar

With the exception of what was explained above (2019-20 Spring Sports Last Contest Date and Dead Period), all other 2019-20 Sports Calendar periods for fall and winter sports are in full effect.

⇒ 2020-2021 SJS Sports Calendar

As of the writing of this informational document, the previously established and Board Approved Preseason Dead Periods for fall sports are in full effect (Football: 7/6 to 7/27, Cross Country/Golf-G/Tennis-G/Volleyball-G/Soccer-B: 7/13 to 8/3, Water Polo-B&G: 7/27 to 8/27).

Note: The Section office will be monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic the next several months and is prepared to make adjustments to our Section Fall season and designated periods as deemed appropriate - much of this will be predicated on Federal, State and Local governmental agency recommendations.

SUMMER

Effective June 1, 2020, the Sac-Joaquin Section will operate under our summer rules (see bylaws below):

501.F: During the summer period, CIF bylaws pertaining to transfer eligibility, undue influence, pre-enrollment contact and athletically motivated transfers apply (bylaws 206, 207 and 510).

501.G: During the summer period, no physical conditioning or practice sessions prior to the opening of authorized practice may be conducted by a high school unless specifically authorized by the school principal/designee.

504.7/ The Sac-Joaquin Section will be dark from June 1, (with the exception of Bylaw 2003.2) until the first day of fall
504.9: practice. Therefore, all athletic activities during this time period shall be under the authority of each league and/or school district. All football activities must meet the provisions of CIF Sac-Joaquin Section bylaws 2003.1, 2003.2 and 2003.3.

2003.1: **SUMMER:** Sac-Joaquin Section schools may conduct summer conditioning sessions in all sports. Conditioning is limited to weight training, conditioning and skill development. The following equipment will be permitted during summer football provided it is used in a safe manner: balls; air dummies; stand-up dummies; blocking sleds; tackling dummies; blocking shields and blocking aprons. Helmets, shoulder pads and leg pads are prohibited. All other summer activities are limited to the approval of the individual school districts and/or leagues.

2003.2 **TEAM CAMPS:** The following equipment will be permitted at team camps provided it is used in a safe manner; balls, air dummies; blocking sleds; tackling dummies; blocking shields and blocking aprons. Helmets, shoulder pads and leg pads are PROHIBITED. Also, all provisions Ed Code 35179.1 and 48475 (AB 2127) must be adhered to.

NOTES:

1. Individual camps are not affected by this bylaw as long as the member school's equipment is not used.

DISCLAIMER

The information provided in this document, related to the Sac-Joaquin Section and State CIF rules / regulations (Bylaws), is where we stand today as far as our interpretation / application of our bylaws to the current COVID-19 pandemic situation. That being said, we need to understand that our current situation is fluid, thus anything could change as we progress forward. I can tell you that the ten (10) statewide Section Commissioners, along with the State CIF Office staff and our legal counsel are in, and will continue to be, continuous conversations regarding the COVID-19 situation and potential modifications to our rules. Should anything change, we will notify our member school's immediately.