



CIF/CENTRAL COAST SECTION

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LIABILITY ADVISORY

WHAT CONCERNS SHOULD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS HAVE ABOUT SUMMER COMPETITION?

Public school districts and private schools should carefully evaluate the liability exposure that may occur as a result of the establishment and operation of school-sponsored summertime athletic activities. **In addition, public school districts and private schools should carefully evaluate the liability exposure** for the renting or leasing of school equipment and/or facilities. **Public school district and private school risk managers should review their insurance coverage to confirm that they are adequately protected for the operation of school-sponsored summertime athletic activities.** Public school districts and private schools should require non-school entities that rent or lease school equipment and/or facilities show proof of adequate liability insurance as determined by the school district's risk manager. The CIF/CCS rules are permissive, but the final determination of whether to have school-sponsored programs during the summer months should be made with the full knowledge and consent of the Board of Trustees, School Board or whatever is the highest governing authority of each school.

➤ **MAY SCHOOL TEAMS COMPETE IN SUMMER LEAGUES AS SCHOOL TEAMS?**

Every year, questions arise about the "legality" of summer leagues. The Central Coast Section does not have any rules, hence any oversight responsibility or coverage for summer activities. The CIF Bylaws address this issue as follows:

CIF Bylaws:

ARTICLE 12; 1203. STUDENT PARTICIPATION

B. During the Summer

During the summer period California Interscholastic Federation rules and regulations do not apply to any activities except as follows:

- (1) No physical conditioning or practice sessions for football prior to the opening of authorized practice may be conducted by a high school, unless specifically authorized by the appropriate CIF Section;**
- (2) Participation in any other sports during the summer is governed by the nationally recognized authority for each sport, if such authority exists.**

The **CCS Bylaw, Article V, Section 5** Summer Activity defines when summer begins as follows:

B. During the summer (defined for purposes of this bylaw by CCS as beginning the second Saturday in June each year.)....language the same as above. In the CIF Bylaw.

Therefore, between when summer begins (the second Saturday in June) and the beginning of Fall sports practice (August 14, 2009), the CCS or CIF have no rules that prohibit schools from operating athletic programs, teams, or summer leagues. The decisions related to such activities are under the authority of the schools and districts.

➤ **MAY STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN SUMMER ATHLETIC COMPETITION?**

Students may participate in **school** or **non-school** sponsored athletic competition during the summer so long as they do not violate amateur standing requirements.

➤ **MAY SCHOOL COACHES ASSOCIATE WITH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM THEIR SCHOOL DURING THE SUMMER?**

Persons who coach school teams during the school year may also associate with students in summer athletic activity. They may coach, organize, transport, and otherwise be involved with students during the summer, as **employees of a CIF member school** or as **private citizens employed by a non-school entity**.

They may coach summer teams as school employees, use or issue school equipment or school uniforms, and use school funds for entry fees, transportation, and officials. As school employees, they may use school facilities on a different basis than any member of the general public may use them. When acting as private citizens, they may **not** use school equipment or school uniforms. As private citizens, they may **not** use school funds for entry fees, transportation, and officials. As private citizens, they may **not** use school facilities on a different basis than any member of the general public may use them. As private citizens, they may charge participation fees and compensate themselves and others.

Just remember that whenever school names, school equipment, school funds etc are used for such activities during the summer, schools and school districts are responsible for those activities should there be any issues of risk management or other litigious issues and that risk management directors at schools or districts should be included in the review of such activities. CIF/CCS does not recognize or govern such activities and as such assumes no liability.