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**ISSUE: USE OF UNDUE INFLUENCE, “RECRUITING”  
ADVISORY EMPHASIS ON 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS**

Advisory issued 4/7/08 by CCS

**IT IS SPRING AND THE 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS ARE IN THE PROCESS OF  
ENROLLING AND SIGNING UP  
FOR CLASSES IN THEIR PUBLIC SCHOOLS OR  
GETTING LETTERS OF ACCEPTANCE FROM PRIVATE SCHOOLS.**

This is the time that parents and students are struggling to make an important decision and are seeking all the information they can to make a good decision. It is critical that at this time **all school personnel and families understand** the restrictions of CIF Bylaw 510 Use of Undue Influence, as well as the importance of strict adherence to this rule. Athletic information is restricted and the activities of families, students, coaches and others associated with any CCS member school must comply with our CIF Bylaw addressing the use of undue influence or “recruiting.”

This rule is intended to **protect families, whether they want to be protected or not**, from any attempt by anyone associated with one of our CCS schools to influence their decision regarding high school with any inducement, encouragement, promises, or any kind of discussion whatsoever about sports. It is the philosophical position of the CCS that this important decision should be made by the family without specific input from our member schools associated athletic personnel about the athletic program. General information is important (i.e. what sports do they offer, how long is the season etc.) will be shared with parents via the school web page or in a packet of general information about the school (that may include information on the athletic department) that is distributed to all prospective students.

Here are some points that must be kept in mind in order to PROTECT each student’s athletic eligibility:

- **INFORMATION ABOUT SUMMER PROGRAMS OR TRY OUTS SHOULD NOT BE CIRCULATED TO EIGHTH GRADERS UNTIL AFTER THEY HAVE GRADUATED**

Here are some guidelines about this issue

- a. Schools **may post information about physical dates**, summer camps, summer leagues/teams on your school web page. (must be approved by the principal)
- b. Schools may have the junior high make announcements in their bulletin about such dates, or better yet refer them to your web page. (must be approved by the principal)
- c. Schools or coaches may **NOT distribute athletic material alone** to the Junior High. You may distribute such dates, information etc. as long as it is included in a packet THE SCHOOL gives including general information about school dates, etc. for the next school year. (principal’s and AD must approve material distributed to the Jr. High )

- d. Coaches may NOT go to the junior high at any time to meet with individual students or groups of students to talk about athletics in any way, unless they are also employed in a position that would require them to talk with junior high kids (e.g. teacher, counselor, etc.) and then the conversations should only be in the context of that non-athletic position—not about athletics.
  - e. 8<sup>th</sup> graders may **NOT** participate in open gyms or spring practices of any kind at the high school prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in June.
  - f. Remember summer starts the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in June!
- **PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS ARE HELD TO THE SAME RULE.** e.g. public high schools cannot use undue influence on their “feeder jr high” athletes just the same as private schools cannot. Jr high or middle school students could choose to go to the high school in whose attendance area they live or they could choose to attend another public school in that district through district policy or a private school in the area. Until they have made that choice and are attending a high school as a ninth grader, any activity determined to have been done to “influence” that family’s decision about where to send their athlete is a violation of 510.
  - **Parents SHOULD NOT BE CONTACTING SCHOOLS TO TALK TO COACHES,** prior to the summer (2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in June). Schools should not allow parents to talk to coaches about their son or daughters role, participation, position, future, or any other topic regarding sports participation at any “new” school in which the student will be enrolling and attending next school year.
  - **For the purposes of this rule (510) IT DOES NOT MATTER WHO CONTACTS WHO.** Some people think that they can talk to a coach about anything or a coach can talk to them about their son or daughters sports participation, role, position, future or any other topic regarding sports participation at any “new” school IF THE PARENTS DO THE CONTACTING....Simply not true. This rule (510) does not allow conversations between prospective students (even if they have been accepted, register for classes and/or have decided to attend the new school) at any time prior to actually beginning to attend. Decisions about what school a student shall attend must be made by the family without any influence by anyone associated with the athletic department.
  - **RULE 510 IS IN EFFECT ALL THE TIME, EVEN IN THE SUMMER**  
All restrictions on anyone associated with the athletic department in any way attempting to influence students and their families about which school to attend are ALWAYS in effect and will jeopardize the eligibility of the student athlete.

REMEMBER, THOSE WHO RECRUIT KIDS JUSTIFY THEIR ACTIONS BY SAYING THEY ARE HELPING THE STUDENT(S). IN REALITY THEY ARE SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZING THAT STUDENT’S FUTURE ELIGIBILITY STATUS, BECAUSE STUDENTS WHO TRANSFER AS A RESULT OF UNDUE INFLUENCE BECOME INELIGIBLE FOR FURTHER PARTICIPATION!!!!!!!!!!!!

# GENERAL GUIDELINES

## The Rule:

### 510. **UNDUE INFLUENCE**

- A. The use of undue influence by any person or persons to secure or retain a student or to secure or retain one or both parents or guardians of a student as residents may cause the student to be ineligible for high school athletics for a period of one year and shall jeopardize the standing of the high school in the California Interscholastic Federation.

**NOTE:** Undue influence is any act, gesture or communication (including accepting material or financial inducement to attend a CIF member school for the purpose of engaging in CIF competition regardless of the source) which is performed personally, or through another, which may be objectively seen as an inducement, or part of a process of inducing a student, or his or her parent or guardian, by or on behalf of, a member school, to enroll in, transfer to, or remain in, a particular school for athletic purposes.

- B. A transfer of a student from his or her current school of attendance to any high school wherein the student participates or participated, during the previous 24 months, on a non-school athletic team, (i.e. AAU, American Legion, club team, etc.) that is associated with the new school shall be considered prima facie\* evidence ("sufficient evidence") of undue influence/recruiting by the school to which the student transfers or may be considered prima facie evidence that the student enrolled in that school in whole or in part for athletic reasons.

A team associated with the school is one: that is organized by and/or coached by any member of the coaching staff at, or any other person associated\* with, that school; and/or, on which the majority of the members of the team (Participants in practice and/or competition) are students who attend that school.

When a prima facie case of undue influence/recruiting exist, the student shall be ineligible to represent the new school in interscholastic athletic competition for a period of one calendar year from the date of the student's enrollment in the new school unless sufficient proof is presented to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that rebuts or disproves the evidence of undue influence/recruiting for athletic reasons.

\* Defined as: Persons "associated" with a school include, but are not limited to, parents of current or former student/athletes, booster club members, alumni, spouses or relatives of coaches, teachers and other employees, former coaches, active applicants for coaching positions, and persons who are employed by companies or organizations that have donated athletic supplies, equipment or apparel to that school.

- C. A student shall become ineligible for CIF competition and shall be penalized according to Bylaw 213 for accepting material or financial inducement to attend a CIF member school for the purpose of engaging in CIF competition, regardless of the source.
- D. All transfer students shall submit a completed CIF Pre-enrollment Contract Affidavit (CIF Form 510) with the appropriate transfer application(s) as required by their respective CIF Section under Bylaw 207 and/or Bylaw 209.

**NOTE:** CIF Form 510 is available through the local CIF Section Office.  
(Revised May 2007 Federated Council)

- **INFORMATION PROVIDED ABOUT SCHOOL PROGRAMS, WHICH INCLUDE ATHLETICS, WHICH ARE NOT GIVEN TO ANY INDIVIDUAL STUDENT ALONE OR GROUP OF STUDENTS (E.G. JR HIGH BASKETBALL TEAM) ALONE, BUT ARE DISTRIBUTED AS A TOTAL INFORMATION PACKAGE ABOUT THE SCHOOL TO A LARGE GROUP OF UNSELECTED STUDENTS IS NOT CONSIDERED ATHLETIC RECRUITING.**
- **A GOOD MEASURE OF WHAT CAN AND CANNOT BE DONE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS IF YOU THINK IT WOULD BE "RECRUITING" IF A PRIVATE SCHOOL DID SOMETHING, YOU SHOULDN'T BE DOING IT EITHER!**
- **WHEN IN DOUBT ABOUT AN ACTIVITY--CALL AND CHECK BEFORE YOU DO IT.**
- **MANY ACTIVITIES CAN BE SUSPECT--YOU MUST ASK "WHAT IS THE INTENT OF THE ACTION?"**  
If the intent is to get an athlete to transfer to, enroll in or stay at a particular school, then that activity is a violation of 510.
- **IF YOU "HEAR" ABOUT SOME VIOLATION--CALL THE CCS OFFICE, SEE OUR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR ADDRESSING A SITUATION ON THE CCS WEB SITE: <http://www.cifccs.org/cbp/policies/recruiting.pdf>**
- **WORK WITH US IN ENFORCING YOUR RULES, IT'S EVERY MEMBER'S RESPONSIBILITY NOT JUST CCS STAFF.**
- **WHEN ALLEGATIONS ARE MADE, IF NO ACTION IS TAKEN AS DESCRIBED IN THE CCS RECRUITING POLICY, THE ALLEGATIONS SOON BECOME HISTORICAL FACT IN THE MINDS OF ALL THOSE OUT THERE WHO "KNOW" A KID WAS RECRUITED. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR ALL PARTIES THAT ISSUES BE ADDRESSED AND RESOLVED AS BEST AS POSSIBLE WITH THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE.**