

WHY DOESN'T CCS POST THE TIMES AND SITES AND DATES FOR ALL PLAYOFF GAMES PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF THE ROUND OF PLAY PRECEDING?

You may think that scheduling games take no brains and little thought at all. You would be right if you only had one or even two games to worry about. When you are scheduling not just an entire tournament but a multitude of tournaments involving our member schools, in reality, there are many things to consider.

The CCS is charged with the operation of the playoffs for its member schools in accordance with a set of bylaws, rules and policies that have been approved by the CCS Board of Managers.

In the matter of time, site, date of playoffs, the CCS staff has complete authority. The parameters that are considered do not allow us to assign times and even sometimes sites until we know who has been victorious in the preceding round. This is because some of the facts we consider are unknown until the winner is determined in that preceding game.

The factors we consider are:

1. **Reserved Sites**: One of the first things that affects our siting of games is what sites we have been able to schedule for these playoffs. You might be surprised to learn that we can't simply order one of our high school's to host an event. You might be surprised to learn that many local community college or college sites are either unavailable at the time of our playoffs or unwilling to host our events or are too expensive for us to use.

We solicit our CCS member schools who might be interested in hosting, who have facilities that meet our playoff standards to host and who have staff members at the school who are both competent and willing to host the playoffs. We work with the local colleges and universities and places like PAL, San Jose Muni, City of Salinas, etc. beginning 12 months before our championships to try and find sites that we can afford, that will be suitable, who are willing to host our playoff contests. This is not an easy process.

The AD or coach of a particular sport at a college or university has a great deal to do with whether or not we even have access to such sites. If they are not interested in have extra events at their site, we virtually have no chance of getting that site no matter what the cost.

Some sites are simply too expensive for us to use. Some sites are great sites, affordable, they want us there, but their own sports activities make the site unavailable when we require it. This is also true of many of our own member schools. So you can see that long before playoffs begin, we try to plan for good sites, that are in good shape, will be run well and are affordable and available. Once we get them, the sites we have dictate a lot about where and when games will be played.

It is nearly impossible to move a game at the last minute. Sites are not available, personnel has to be re-scheduled, teams and fans and media have to be notified, etc. etc. Making these changes at the last minute NEVER results in a well-run event. There are too many factors that can go awry and ruin a championship event for the fans or the spectators. We do our best to plan ahead and try to foresee all the factors we have to contend with. However, it is humanly possible in the world of high school sports, with adolescent athletes to 100% predict which team will win and post sites ahead of knowing the results of the last game. Therefore, we simply don't do it. We provide the most information we can, possible sites, possible times, with the dates for play set. But time and site often have to wait until the previous rounds are completed.

2. **Time out of school**—trying to minimize the school time missed whenever possible. Naturally this is not always possible, but we do try with site assignments and times to have the minimal amount of time out of school as possible.

3. **Travel time**—especially on school nights, we will try to give a team that is traveling a good distance the earlier game so that they are not returning home late on a school night. This is, obviously, not always possible and not a major consideration except on school nights. ON the other end of the spectrum, if a team is traveling to a site on Saturday, we try to have the teams that travel the farthest NOT have the first contest in the morning, in order to minimize the effect that having to get up too early and travel a great distance before a big game might have on a team's performance. In all cases we do try to minimize travel time. However this is a section-wide tournament and travel is part of the experience and inevitable in most cases.

4. **School Conflicts**: We allow the school to let us know about proms, dances, parades, band concerts, Disneyland trips, AP exams etc. that involve a good number of the student-athletes on a team. We try to accommodate late or early games for these type of school-event conflicts. For example if the prom is Saturday night, we would try to have such a team play early. IF they are returning from a Disneyland trip Friday night, we would try to schedule a Saturday game later in the day for that team. We are not always able to accommodate such conflicts, but do our best to accommodate those as often as we are able for the sake of the students.

5. **Conflicts with other sports teams** from the same school in the playoffs. Administrative coverage is a challenge for school administrators when several of their teams are in the playoffs, sometimes playing on the same day. Therefore, we try to see where all of one school's teams are playing to try to schedule contests at different times, separate enough so that administrators can attend both contests. Hence we may consider when and where the water polo team and the volleyball team from a school are playing and NOT schedule them on the same day at the same time, to assist the administrative staff required to provide supervision at these contests.

6. **Crowd Size:** Did you know that we only have two or three high school gyms in our section that can host most playoff crowds? Did you know that there are only one or two community college sites in the CCS that have more seating than most of our high school gyms? Did you know that there are only a couple of local college or universities who are interested or willing to allow the high schools to rent their facilities? It's not as easy to get a big enough site as it might seem. At some venues, size of crowd may dictate where and when they play. A school that historically brings a big crowd will need to be scheduled at a larger site than those schools with a smaller following. This may also dictate the time of an event. An early game on a weekday is not going to be as well attended as a later game due to the ability of spectators to get off work in time to get there. If a school has a small crowd anyway and the other contest involves schools who historically bring larger crowds we may schedule their game later to maximize the crowd for the spectators and in good stewardship of the CCS member school's income from playoffs which funds 40% of the association's income.

7. **Scouting:** In some sports in some rounds, we try to schedule for scouting purposes. That is why the divisions are all placed at the same site for the quarters and finals in many sports where scouting is a traditional practice.

8. **Home Site/High Seed:**

Most of our sports have at least one, often two rounds that are played at the home site of the higher seeded team or the league champion team, etc. In these rounds we rely solely on their own school personnel to run a first-class site for these games.

What the CCS does **not** consider when scheduling games:

1. **Individual coach or player conflicts** with times or dates of play.

2. **Neutral sites.** We do have some sites that are inherently neutral (i.e. college of community college sites), but we do not guarantee, nor is it necessarily a consideration that neutral sites for all teams involved are part of the equation in scheduling sites.

3. **Once quarter final, semi final and finals sites are established,** we do not change a site because the two teams that ultimately come out of the brackets are from the same geographical area. These quarter semi and final sites are established as early as possible so that coaches and fans can plan. There is also a strong sentiment that whenever possible, playing at the same site from quarters or at least finals on, decreases any advantage one team might have over another in gym familiarity. It helps parents be able to navigate to the same site, it reduces the coaches stress level in knowing where they are going and what the site is like, etc. We try to do this for many sports for these reasons. It is not always possible to do so. This is a section championship, not a local tournament and teams should be prepared to travel anywhere in the section from King City to San Francisco. This is part of the experience. When two teams from the same area advance to the semi's or finals, we insist they come to the site for that championship, even if the schools are next door to each other. We know that if we moved such a game, we would make a lot more money, more spectators would probably attend. However, the coaches over the years have expressed their desire to be where the other final or semi-final games are as it

4. **Complaints, requests from parents, coaches etc.** We never site or move games based on other's peoples perception of what is best. No one but the staff, who is running the entire playoffs for that season in all sports, can fully have all the information required to balance all the aspects of running of variety of championships all at the same time with many of the same schools. You may have experienced a playoff situation in a site or time that kept you scratching your head about who the stupid person was that decided that. However, we can guarantee you that time and thought and rationale go into every decision we make about sites and times based on the information we have from the school about conflicts, etc. So those "stupid" decisions are made for a reason. You might not agree, but as our guest, we ask you to make the best of it.

5. **We never play favorites.** No one gets to pick their site or time of play. The CCS staff does the best we can, without providing "better" sites or times to individuals in the CCS whom we "like" better than others. We do it objectively in what we believe is the best for everyone in the playoffs in all sports as well as the two school teams involved.

6. **Seeds,** We don't consider because a team is a higher seed, they should get the more favorable time or site to play at. Some believe that the higher seed should get the premiere, last or evening game. A team's seeding only dictates their placement in the bracket and who they will play, in some sports what color they will wear or what bench they will occupy. It means nothing else and carries with it no other privileges.

If you have cared enough to read all of this, you must have scratched your head a time or two about how why the fools at CCS have scheduled a game at this place or this time. While you still may think us fools, or worse, I hope the above has at least indicated that we give a lot of thought and time to these issues for every game and that while you might disagree with our decision. I guarantee you, we have a reason for the decisions that we make.

For the CCS staff,

Nancy Lazenby Blaser
CCS Commissioner