

## **Introduction**

Student-athletes in the CIF Oakland Section are required to maintain minimum academic standards to participate in high school sports. While academic accountability is essential, the immediate ineligibility of struggling students without a structured support system can be counterproductive. The previous Academic Probationary Period (APP) One Time Waiver allowed student-athletes a grace period to improve their academic standing while still engaging in sports.

The removal of this probationary period has disproportionately impacted students in the Oakland Section, many of whom face unique socio-economic and educational challenges. This proposal urges the Academic Probationary Period (APP) One Time Waiver to provide student-athletes a second chance to recover academically while maintaining the motivation and structure that sports participation provides.

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## **Rationale for Reinstatement**

1. Promoting Academic Improvement
  - The APP encourages struggling student-athletes to actively work toward improving their grades while receiving structured academic support.
  - Participation in sports has been linked to better time management, discipline, and increased academic performance.
2. Reducing Student Disengagement
  - Immediate ineligibility can lead to disengagement from school entirely.
  - Allowing students to remain connected to sports provides a sense of purpose and community.
3. Addressing Equity and Access Issues
  - Many students in the Oakland Section face academic challenges due to factors like economic hardship, lack of access to tutoring, and other external pressures.
  - A probationary period ensures that students who may need temporary academic intervention are not unfairly excluded from extracurricular activities.
4. Aligning with Educational Best Practices
  - Many school districts and CIF sections across California have successfully implemented similar probationary programs.

## CIF OAKLAND SECTION PROPOSAL TO REINSTATE ACADEMIC PROBATIONARY PERIOD

- Restoring the APP aligns with a growth-oriented approach, focusing on intervention rather than immediate exclusion.
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### Proposed Policy Structure

#### Eligibility for Probationary Status:

- A student-athlete who falls below the required 2.0 GPA or has more than one failing grade may enter a one-quarter grading period probationary period.
- Must demonstrate a commitment to academic improvement through participation in support programs.
- Student-athletes with chronic academic issues (e.g., consecutive probationary periods) must develop an academic success plan in collaboration with a counselor or coach.

#### Conditions of Probation:

- Length of Enrollment
  - Students must be enrolled in current school for at least one-semester.
- Mandatory Academic Support:
  - Students must attend study hall, tutoring sessions, or academic workshops as determined by their school's academic support team.
  - Regular grade checks (biweekly or monthly) to ensure progress.
- Limited Game Participation:
  - Athletes on probation may continue to practice and play in games, but participation may be restricted based on academic progress assessments.
  - If no improvement is shown by the end of the probationary period, the student becomes ineligible for the next grading term.

#### Duration and Review:

- The probationary period lasts for one full grading period.
- After the probation period, the student's grades must meet CIF Oakland Section standards to continue participating.
- If a student fails to meet academic requirements after probation, they will be ineligible until the next grading cycle.

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### Oversight and Accountability:

- Each school within the Oakland Section will designate an academic advisor or coach liaison to monitor student-athletes on probation.
  - Parents/guardians will receive regular updates and be encouraged to participate in academic intervention efforts.
  - The CIF Oakland Section should establish a Probation Review Committee to assess policy effectiveness annually.
  - The CIF Oakland Section will track and record all students granted a Academic Probationary Period (APP) One Time Waiver.
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### Expected Outcomes

- Higher student retention and engagement in both academics and athletics.
  - Improved GPA averages among student-athletes due to structured academic support.
  - A balanced approach to academic accountability that ensures students have the resources they need to succeed.
  - More equitable access to sports participation for students facing temporary academic challenges.
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### Conclusion

Reinstating the Academic Probationary Period (APP) One Time Waiver for the CIF Oakland Section will provide student-athletes with a structured opportunity to recover academically while maintaining their connection to athletics. This policy supports both academic success and student well-being, ensuring that students are not unfairly penalized for short-term academic struggles.

#### **We urge the CIF Oakland Section Policy Committee to:**

- **Review and approve the reinstatement of the Academic Probationary Period**
- **Form a committee to oversee its implementation and effectiveness.**
- **Engage with coaches, educators, and parents to create a supportive framework for student-athletes.**
- **Develop an implementation timeline for the 2025-2026 academic year.**

By reinstating this policy, the CIF Oakland Section can lead by example, demonstrating a commitment to both academic excellence and student success.