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IV.C.5.

# CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION

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**To: Federated Council**

**Date: February 28, 2025**

**Re: Bylaw 503.M. - Statewide Sportsmanship and Ejection Policy**

**Proposal Originated: Commissioners Committee**

## Proposal Reviewed

09/04/2024	Commissioners Committee
09/13/2024	CIF Strategic Priorities Committee
10/23/2024	CIF Strategic Priorities Committee
11/06/2024	CIF Executive Committee
02/06/2025	CIF Executive Committee
02/07/2025	CIF Federated Council
04/04/2025	CIF Federated Council

## Proposal Recommendation

Discussion
Discussion
Discussion
First Reading
Unanimously Approved
First Reading
Action Item

**Type:** Bylaw Amendment

**Proposal Summary:** The CIF Commissioners Committee is proposing an amendment to Bylaw 503.M. which would increase the sanctions for adults (coaches and spectators) who are ejected from contests. Please see the attached proposal for the specific information regarding the increases in sanctions for adult ejections.

**Fiscal Impact:** None

**Background:** We continue to see inappropriate behavior from adult coaches and spectators at CIF contests. The current levels of sanctions do not appear to be having enough of an impact. This proposal to increase those sanctions will hopefully gain the attention of those adults who feel it is acceptable to act inappropriately at high school sporting events.

## 503.M. Statewide Sportsmanship and Ejection Policy

### Player:

A player who is ejected from a contest (for reasons other than fighting or leaving the bench area during a fight) shall be ineligible to participate in the remainder of that contest (event) and his or her team's future contest (s) as outlined below:

- (1) First Ejection: Player is ineligible to participate in the team's next contest. Player may remain on the bench for the duration of that contest and may be on the bench in street clothes for the team's next contest. If the ejection occurs in the last game of the season, the player would be ineligible for the team's first contest the following season. If the player is a senior, he or she would be ineligible for the first contest of their next season of sport.
- (2) Second Ejection: Player is ineligible to participate in the team's next three (3) contests. Player may remain on the bench for the duration of that contest and may be on the bench in street clothes for the team's next three (3) contests. If the season concludes prior to the player serving the three (3) contests suspension, he or she would be ineligible for the number of contests remaining on the suspension for the team's following season. If the player is a senior, he or she would be ineligible for the number of contests remaining on the suspension for their next season of sport.
- (3) Third Ejection: Player is ineligible to participate for the remainder of that season. Player may remain on the bench for the duration of that contest and may be on the bench in street clothes for the team's remaining contest that season. If there are six (6) or fewer contests remaining in the season, the player would be ineligible for up to six (6) contests for the team's following season as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter. If the player is a senior, he or she would be ineligible for up to six (6) contests for the next season of sport as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter.

A player who is ejected from a contest for fighting or leaving the bench area during a fight shall be ineligible to participate in the remainder of that contest and his or her team's future contests as outlined below:

- (4) First Ejection: Player (Fighting/Assaultive Behavior/Gross Unsportsmanlike Conduct) is ineligible to participate in the team's next three (3) to six (6) contests as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter. Player may remain on the bench for the duration of that contest and may be on the bench in street clothes for the duration of the suspension. If the season concludes prior to the player serving the full suspension, he or she would be ineligible for the number of contests remaining on the suspension for the team's following season. If the player is a senior, he or she would be ineligible for the number of contests remaining on the suspension for their next season of sport.
- (5) Second Ejection: Player is ineligible to participate for the remainder of that season. Player may remain on the bench for the duration of that contest and may be on the bench in street clothes for the team's remaining contests that season. If there are six (6) or fewer contests remaining in the season, the player would be ineligible for up to six (6) contests for the team's following season as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter. If the player is a senior, he or she would be ineligible for up to six (6) contests for their next season of sport as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter.

Before a player may return to participate in a contest following a multiple game suspension for any of the above infractions, the school principal must inform the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter that they have met with the student-athlete, his or her parent/guardian/caregiver and coach to discuss future behavioral expectations.

### Appeals Process for Multi-Game Ejections:

The school principal may appeal the penalties listed above in writing to the League Commissioner/President (for a regular season contest not including the final contest prior to Section playoffs) or CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter (for the final contest prior to Section playoffs and all playoff contests). The appeal must be received by the Section with 48 hours of the date of the ejection. Reasons for the appeal may only include misidentification of the ejected player or a misapplication of the rule. There will be no appeal regarding the judgment of an official.

**Note: There is no appeal process for single game ejections.**

### Coach:

A coach who is ejected from a contest (for reasons other than fighting) shall be disqualified from participating in the remainder of that contest and his or her team's future contest (s) as outlined below:

- (6) First Ejection: Coach is disqualified from participating in the team's next **one (1) to three (3) contests as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter**. Coach must immediately vacate the playing area and the vicinity in and around the contest and refrain from having any communication with the team or other coaches for the remainder of that contest and for the team's next contest. If the ejection occurs in

- the last game of the season, the coach would be ineligible for the team's first **one (1) to three (3)** contests the following season **as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter.**
- (7) Second Ejection: Coach is disqualified from participating in the team's next ~~three (3)~~ to six (6) contests as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter. Coach must immediately vacate the playing area and the vicinity in and around the contest and refrain from having any communication with the team or other coaches for the remainder of that contest and for the team's next ~~three (3)~~ to six (6) contests. If the ejection occurs in the last game of the season, the coach would be ineligible for the team's first ~~three (3)~~ to six (6) contests the following season.
- (8) Third Ejection: Coach is disqualified from participating in the remaining contests of that season. Coach must immediately vacate the playing area and the vicinity in and around the contest and refrain from having any communication with the team or other coaches for the remainder of that contest and for the remaining contests of that season. If there are six (6) or fewer contests remaining in the season, the coach would be disqualified from participating for up to six (6) contests for the team's following season as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter.

A coach who is ejected from a contest for (Fighting/Assaultive Behavior/Gross Unsportsmanlike Conduct) shall be disqualified from participating in the remainder of that contest and his or her team's future contests as outlined below:

- (9) Ejection for (Fighting/Assaultive Behavior/Gross Unsportsmanlike Conduct): Coach is disqualified from participating for the remainder of that season. Coach must immediately vacate the playing area and the vicinity in and around the contest and refrain from having any communication with the team or other coaches for the remainder of that contest and for all of the team's remaining contests that season. If there are fewer than six (6) contests remaining in the season, the coach would be disqualified from participating for up to six (6) contests for the team's following season as determined by the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter.

Before a coach may return to participate in a contest following a multiple contest disqualification, for any of the above infractions, the school principal must inform the CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter that they have met with the coach to discuss future behavioral expectations.

#### **Appeals Process for Multi-Game Ejections:**

The school principal may appeal the penalties listed above in writing to the League Commissioner/President (for a regular season contest not including the final contest prior to Section playoffs) or CIF Section Commissioner with jurisdiction in the matter (for the final contest prior to Section playoffs and all playoff contests). The appeal must be received by the Section with 48 hours of the date of the ejection. Reasons for the appeal may only include misidentification of the ejected player or a misapplication of the rule. There will be no appeal regarding the judgment of an official.

**Note: There is no appeal process for single game ejections.**

#### **Spectator:**

If a spectator is ejected from a contest, it is the responsibility of the school to ensure that person does not attend that team's next **three (3)** contests. If the same spectator is ejected a second time, it is the responsibility of the school to ensure that person does not attend any of the remaining contests for that season.

#### **Enforcement:**

See Bylaw 503. M. and Article 22.C.(1)(2)(3)(4)

- (10) The Executive Director and/or Executive Committee or Section Commissioner and/or Section Board of Managers shall have power to suspend, to fine or otherwise penalize any member school for the violation of any CIF or Section rules and regulations or for just cause. The period of suspension or other penalty shall be left to the discretion of the CIF governing body that has jurisdiction of the matter where the penalty is not fixed.

*Q: If an official disqualifies an athlete as prescribed by the NFHS rules for that sport, will a suspension be required?*

A: If, in the review of the report filed by the official, it is determined by the Section Commissioner, or his/her designated representative, that the actions of the player do not involve unsportsmanlike conduct, a suspension may be waived.

*Q: If it is determined by documented and/or video evidence that a player is disqualified from a contest erroneously, will a suspension be required for that player?*

A: If, in the review of the report filed by the official, it is determined from the use of documentation and/or video evidence by the Section Commissioner or his/her designated representative, that the player has been misidentified or disqualified erroneously, a suspension may be waived.

*Q: Sometimes an official will reverse their initial call at the conclusion of the contest. Can the official reverse his/her original call?*

A: If, in the review of the report filed by the official, it is determined that he/she made an incorrect ruling, the official may rescind the initial ejection.

(Approved May 2020 Federated Council)