



# CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION

CIF STATE OFFICE • 4658 DUCKHORN DRIVE • SACRAMENTO, CA 95834 • (916) 239-4477 • CIFSTATE.ORG

**To: Executive Committee**

**Date: March 23, 2026**

**Re: Bylaws 1505 and 2804 – State Baseball & Softball State Championships**

**Proposal Originated: CIF Staff**

### Proposal Reviewed

08/26/2025 - Commissioners Committee  
09/18/2025 - Softball Advisory Committee  
09/24/2025 - Baseball Advisory Committee  
09/30/2025 - New Events Committee  
10/09/2025 - Executive Committee  
11/05/2025 - Executive Committee  
02/06/2026 - Federated Council  
04/24/2026 – Federated Council

### Proposal Recommendation

Reviewed  
Reviewed  
Reviewed  
Reviewed  
First Reading  
Unanimously Approved  
First Reading  
Action Item

**Type:** New State Championship Events; Bylaw Additions

**Proposal Summary:** The CIF Staff is proposing the implementation of a CIF State Baseball and Softball Championships to begin in the 2026-2027 school year. This proposal follows the approved State Championships Master Schedule timeline for implementation of new events for consideration.

**Fiscal Impact:** The staff has conducted an audit of regional baseball and softball events and calculated the possible travel expense for teams to compete.

**Background:** The CIF does not currently have a state championship in Baseball or Softball. This event would bring the top teams from each region to compete in an even larger scale event than their own section and regional championships. It's another opportunity for students to have state level competition in the sports of baseball and softball, as currently afforded to many other CIF sports participants. This championship event is proposed as a two-day event held one week after the Regional Championships.





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## Proposal for California Baseball & Softball Championships New CIF Championship Events

**Name of Event:** CIF State Baseball & Softball Championships

**Proposed Event Dates:** The proposed dates of the event coincide with the next available weekend after the completion of regional finals.

### State Baseball & Softball Schedule Following Regional Championships:

2027: Friday & Saturday, June 4-5: (Regional Championships are Saturday, May 29)

2028: Friday & Saturday, June 2-3: (Regional Championships are Saturday, May 27)

2029: Friday & Saturday, June 1-2: (Regional Championships are Saturday, May 26)

2030: Friday & Saturday, May 31-June 1: (Regional Championships are Saturday, May 25)

### Format

5 divisions per sport of competition between the champions from the Northern and Southern Regional Championships

### Section Entries (8 team brackets) per sport

North: CS- 4; CCS- 9; NCS- 9; NS-6; OS-1; SJS- 10; SFS- 1

South: CS- 4; LACS- 6; SDS- 10; SS-20

### QUALIFYING TO CIF STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Teams must compete and qualify through the CIF Regional Championships to participate in the CIF State Championships.

## Financial Criteria and Feasibility for Baseball & Softball Championships

### Sponsored by the CIF:

- 1. What travel, lodging, and meal reimbursement will be provided to participating schools (please use the CIF Adopted Criteria)?**
  - Reimbursement will follow the CIF's currently adopted criteria for team championships.
- 2. Will this event place any CIF Section event at risk financially?**
  - This event will not place any CIF Section event at risk financially because it takes place after all section championships have been concluded. This event will possibly generate greater excitement in the sport of baseball and softball at the section level and generate additional profit.





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**3. Will this event be a burden on the CIF State budget?**

- The CIF State will work with interested host communities to keep championship expenses in line with the projections and use additional marketing opportunities to supplement the budget.

**4. Please provide a detailed, specific, feasible cost estimate for the operation of this event. Below are the budget estimates for each event:**

Projected State Baseball & Softball Championships based on Regional Championship historical revenue and expense figures		
	Revenue	Expense
Personnel Expenses		\$8,000
Misc Expense/Staff Travel		\$4,000
Awards (CIF Trophy)		\$4,000
Team Travel		\$20,000
Game Officials & Travel		\$25,000
Facility Rentals		\$10,000
Gate	\$20,000	
Total	\$20,000	\$71,000

**5. Please demonstrate using both costs in #4 above and anticipated event revenue how this event may be sustained economically over many years.**

- This event will run at a deficit, but Regional Baseball currently generates approximately \$42,000 in revenue annually and Regional Softball currently is a net neutral sport. Taking into account the anticipated budget shortfall for CIF State Baseball & Softball, the combined net loss for these sports is estimated to be \$9,000.

**6. Is the current CIF State Office staff capable of managing this event?**

- Yes. The current CIF State Office staff is capable of managing this event.

**7. Is there capable staff available to support the CIF State Office in the operation of this event?**

- Yes. The State office staff currently has adequate resources to staff the event.

**Philosophical Criteria for New Events:**

- 1. How does this event contribute to the goals of the CIF (i.e., a new event may enhance gender equity, economic stability and enhance the awareness of values taught through sport)?**





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- This event would bring the top teams from each region to compete in an even larger scale event than their own section and regional championships. It's another opportunity for boys and girls to have "state" level competition in the sports of Baseball & Softball as other sports currently do (Basketball, Volleyball, Football, etc).

## Qualifying Participation Criterion for a Regional Championship:

1. **Do 50% of all CIF sections participate in the sport in the same season?**
  - All 10 CIF Sections participate in the Spring.

## Other Questions:

1. **How will this event benefit participating schools and students?**
  - This event will give boys and girls the opportunity for post-region championship opportunities not currently available in Baseball & Softball.
2. **Do the proposed dates conflict with state mandated testing?**
  - The proposed dates are currently used for playoff opportunities in other sports. No conflict with state testing is anticipated.
3. **Does the event cause additional loss of instructional time? If so, has any thought been given to mitigating this loss (Saturdays, evenings, vacation time)?**
  - The State event will follow a schedule similar to many of the other state level events. Depending on travel, there may be some loss of instructional time, but every effort will be made to minimize lost class time.
4. **How, specifically, will this event be a demonstration of the value of participation in high school athletics?**
  - All CIF events are conducted with the above in mind. This event can give CIF member schools another opportunity to demonstrate that competitions can be played fairly and with great sportsmanship. It is also an additional avenue for our member schools to promote the best values of educational athletics.
5. **Will the proposed event lend itself to a partnership between the State CIF and a CIF Section? If so, the nature of the partnership must be detailed. What are the duties and responsibilities of the State and Section entities?**
  - All duties and responsibilities proposed by the addition of a State Baseball & Softball Championships will be conducted by the CIF state office. The state office will assume financial responsibility of profit and/or loss of the event.





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## 6. Will there be any ancillary activities associated with the event to make it more attractive and reflective of the goals and mission of CIF (i.e., training for coaches, sportsmanship activities for schools)?

- None anticipated.

### ARTICLE 150 BASEBALL

#### 1500. PITCHING LIMITATION RULE – 30 OUTS

Sections shall adopt the following baseball pitching limitation rule: 30 outs and/or three (3) appearances in a calendar week through the season.

- A. The calendar week begins on Monday.
- B. Innings pitched in a no game (i.e., rainout, power failure, etc.) shall count toward the total.
- C. If the 30th out involves a double or triple play, the team will not be penalized.
- D. An appearance is defined as a pitcher pitching at least one (1) pitch. If a pitcher is removed from the mound to another position or to the dugout and later returns to pitch in the same game, the pitcher will be charged with a second appearance.
- E. Any violation constitutes a forfeit of the contest.

#### 1501. PITCHING LIMITATION RULE – PITCH COUNT

In addition to 1500 above, Sections shall adopt the following baseball pitching limitation rule with respect to pitch count and required days of rest:

Pitch count limits and required rest:

Level	Maximum Contest Pitch Limit	0 Days Rest Required	1 Day Rest Required	2 Days Rest Required	3 Days Rest Required
Varsity	110 Pitches	1-30 Pitches	31-50 Pitches	51-75 Pitches	76+ Pitches
Freshman; F/S; JV	90 Pitches	1-30 Pitches	31-50 Pitches	51-75 Pitches	76+ Pitches

- A. A pitcher may finish the current batter if the Maximum Contest Pitch Limit is reached during that at-bat.
- B. Pitches thrown and appearances made in a no game (i.e., rainout, power failure, etc.) shall count toward the totals.
- C. At the end of each half inning, the head coaches will confirm and both team score books will record the pitch count for all pitchers who threw a pitch in that half inning. In the case of a discrepancy, the home score book is considered the official score book.
- D. Each school must keep a record of all pitches thrown by each of their players in each game and make this available to their respective Section Office upon request.
- E. Any violation constitutes a forfeit of the contest.

(Approved January 2017 Federated Council)

#### 1502. OFFICIAL NATIONAL FEDERATION AUTHENTICATION MARK

Only balls with the National Federation authentication mark shall be used in the sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, lacrosse, soccer, softball, volleyball and water polo.

(Revised to include lacrosse November 2000 Federated Council)

#### 1503. PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

It is required that adult base coaches wear a protective helmet. Play will not continue until compliance with this rule is met. It is recommended that the helmet meet NOCSAE standards.

**NOTE:** NFHS rules govern use of protective equipment by a player/student.

(Approved January 2015 Federated Council)





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**1504. REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

A Regional Championship will be held following the completion of Section playoffs. The CIF Seeding Committee will determine the divisional placement of the Section entries for their respective regional tournament.

(Approved January 2020 Federated Council)

**1505. BASEBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**

A State Championship will be held following the CIF Regional Championship. The Regional Champions will compete for the State Championship.

## ARTICLE 280

### SOFTBALL

**2800. LENGTH OF GAME**

Sections are authorized to limit junior varsity softball games to seven (7) innings or a maximum of two (2) hours (no new inning shall begin after two (2) hours have expired from the start of the game), whichever comes first.

**2801. OFFICIAL NATIONAL FEDERATION AUTHENTICATION MARK**

Only balls with the National Federation authentication mark shall be used in the sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, lacrosse, soccer, softball, volleyball and water polo.

(Revised to include lacrosse November 2000 Federated Council)

**2802. PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

It is required that adult base coaches wear a protective helmet. Play will not continue until compliance with this rule is met. It is recommended that the helmet meet NOCSAE standards.

**NOTE:** NFHS rules govern use of protective equipment by a player/student.

(Approved January 2015 Federated Council)

**2803. REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

A Regional Championship will be held following the completion of Section playoffs. The CIF Seeding Committee will determine the divisional placement of the Section entries for their respective regional tournament.

(Approved January 2020 Federated Council)

**2804. SOFTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**

A State Championship will be held following the CIF Regional Championship. The Regional Champions will compete for the State Championship.

