

**BLUE BOOK ARTICLE 330
PLAYOFFS**

3300. ALL PLAYOFFS MANAGED BY COMMISSIONER

All playoffs of the CIF Southern Section shall be under the management of the Commissioner of Athletics, who will have final authority and responsibility for their conduct.

3302. IDENTIFYING LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVES INTO THE PLAYOFFS

Under the playoff format - in all sports - leagues have the responsibility of developing and identifying the priority for their representatives into the playoffs. This will include the league's priority with regard to any at-large consideration.

Thus, the league through its CIF Council Representative, **MUST** notify the CIF Southern Section Office prior to the playoff draw, the No. 1 representative, the No. 2 representative, the No. 3 representative, and the league's priority team for consideration to any at-large berth.

If, for example, a league would have a "co-champion" in football, the league - by the method outlined in its Constitution and Bylaws - **MUST** specify which team is its No. 1 representative and its No. 2 representative. This principle would hold true for any combination, such as a tie for third place in the standings or a "four-way tie" for first place, etc.

NOTE: If two teams from the same league are tied at the end of league competition, and are in different playoff divisions, they may both carry the same designation into their respective playoff divisions. For example, if School A and School B tie for their league's championship, and are in different playoff divisions, they can both be designated as League (#1T) in their respective playoff divisions. However, leagues may not exceed its total allowable guaranteed entries regardless of what playoff division those schools would enter. (See Bylaw 3314 for allowable number of guaranteed league entries).

QUESTION: For recognition purposes, how many schools constitute a league?

ANSWER: A minimum of four schools or teams make up a league for recognition for guaranteed playoff entry, less than four teams or schools are not recognized for entry into playoffs.

QUESTION: If my league has a tie for first place and both School A and School B are in different playoff divisions therefore allowing them to carry the first-place designation with them (#1T), how would the next league entry be listed?

ANSWER: The next team listed would be the 3rd. place team.

3303. FIRST ROUND PLAYOFFS

In the first round of the playoffs in all sports, the arrangement shall be as follows:

The Commissioner shall match the teams for first-round playoff contests, and the host school for these games shall be predetermined by the Commissioner. Schools must fulfill their playoff obligation once entered by the league unless excused in an emergency by the Commissioner and/or replaced as an entry by the league prior to completion of the opening round.

In cases where a first representative team meets a second team representative in an opening-round game, the first team representative will be designated as the host team.

Where two first, two second or two third team representatives meet in the opening round, the Commissioner will flip a coin prior to the publishing of the draw to determine the host school.

3303.1 A "wild card game" for entry into the full field will have no bearing on priority for host contests in the first and/or subsequent rounds.

3303.2 All freelance entries will be considered as the equivalency of a No. 3 representative with regard to determining host and/or away contests unless they are one of the four seeded teams in which case they will be the host team.

3303.3 If schools falling into the category of California Youth Authority and probationary schools would qualify for the post-season playoffs, the contest will be played at an alternate site other than the facility where the school is located.

3304. HOST TEAM AFTER THE FIRST ROUND

To decide who shall be the host team after the first round of competition in any sport will be the sole responsibility of the Commissioner. In cases where two teams are paired after the first round of the playoffs, the team having the fewest number of host games in playoff competition shall be designated as the host team. When both teams have had an equal number of host playoff contests, the Commissioner shall toss a coin to decide the host team. When a school has been designated as the host school for a playoff contest it shall (1) act in that capacity unless excused by the Commissioner, (2) be considered the host team regardless of where the game is being played, and (3) a "bye" designation shall not count as a host contest for the team drawing the "bye" following the first round and throughout the remainder of the tournament.

3304.1 Teams receiving a bye in the first round shall be the host team in the next round of the playoffs.

3305. COMMISSIONER DETERMINES PLAYOFF SITES

The Commissioner shall have sole authority in determining sites for playoff competition in all sports and for all rounds.

3306. ALTERNATE SITE DEFINITION

An alternate field has been defined as one on which a team has not conducted practice sessions. A team may have played some of its league games and even a playoff contest on a particular field, and it could still be classified as an alternate field.

3314. NUMBER OF TEAM ENTRIES INTO PLAYOFFS

In the sport of football only, the team entry formula for each league into the playoffs is as follows:

4 & 5 team leagues = 2 entries
6-8 team leagues = 3 entries
9 or more team leagues = 4 entries

QUESTION: How will the CIF Southern Section Office determine additional entries into the playoff draw to fill byes after each league has submitted their three guaranteed entries?

ANSWER: As provided for under Bylaw 3302, a playoff committee will select the additional entries to fill the draw from the league's priority team entry that has been submitted for consideration as an at-large berth to fill any bye which may exist.

3315. NOISEMAKERS PROHIBITED

No noisemakers (horns, bells, victory bells, sirens, chimes, musical instruments other than those in the band, etc.) will be permitted inside the gymnasium, stadium or playing fields at any CIF Southern Section contest (non-league, league, tournament or playoff). Cheering devices such as wooden blocks, or other similar objects, are prohibited. Megaphones shall be used only by uniformed cheerleaders for the purpose of directing and controlling rooting sections. The improper use of any of the above listed devices by supporters of a team would subject that team to possible forfeiture of the contest.

3316. EQUAL FACILITIES

The visiting school in dual team playoff contests is entitled to equal facilities, including one-half of the seating, locker rooms, phone lines, spotting facilities, etc

3319. PLAYOFF GROUPINGS

The following procedures for conducting the business of playoff groupings will be in effect for the sports listed below:

Fall – Football:

3319.3 It is MANDATORY that all Southern Section member schools enter the results of ALL regular season contests and Southern Section playoff contests into the CIFSSHome system by the following dates:

- Fall Sports – Date TBD/A

3320. PLAYOFF GROUPINGS – ENROLLMENT / GEOGRAPHY / DATA-BASED

3320.3 8-Man Football – Divisional placement will be done yearly, using school enrollment.

PLEASE NOTE:

The above document was edited, not concentrating or containing some information that does not affect us (as game officials)
This entire document can be found in the 2020-2021 CIF-Southern Section Blue Book under:
ARTICLE 330 – PLAYOFFS on pages 248 thru 253 (the entire document).