



October 1, 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

Health and Safety

During August and September, the member schools in the CIF Southern Section saw some extreme temperatures as well as it's fair share of smoke from local fires. These circumstances put to the test our new Health and Safety Bylaws related to heat and air quality. So, what have we learned??? Well first, any time a new rule is put in place there will always be some form of an adjustment period. Schools needed to establish new systems, adapt to new equipment, establish new communication pathways, and understand how to make the required adjustments when necessary. Not an easy task! Schools learned a lot about their own micro-climates and perhaps how to predict the need to adjust practice times and intensity. We also learned that not every school may be accurately placed in a Zone Classification. There were some schools who provided their climate data to the CIF State office. The climatologists that they are working with evaluated the data and made some changes to the Category assignment of some of our schools. If any member school thinks that they should be reclassified into a different category, please compile the data collected during the weeks we were really hot and email it to me so I can forward to the State office for evaluation. Our goal is to make these new guidelines as accurate as possible for all our member schools.

What did we learn related to the new bylaws regarding Air Quality? First, though there may be information available that talks about how to adjust activity should air quality levels be in the Unhealthy Zone, Bylaw 503.K(2) specifically states that "All CIF member schools MUST refrain from outdoor practice and/or competition when the Air Quality Index is 151 or higher." We also learned that there are other options for site specific measurement of AQI than just at airnow.gov. Purple Air has AQI units available for purchase at around \$300 per sensor and can easily be installed outdoors. If you are in an area where smoke or other air quality issues persist, you might consider this inexpensive option to get readings straight from your site in real time.

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Area Placement and Releaguings

Every four years, CIF member schools are required to go through the Area Placement and Releaguings process. Many of the nine areas in the Southern Section go through the releaguings process every two years which is allowable in the bylaws. However, Area Placement for our Section only takes place every four years. So why is this important? Well, the releaguings process involves 9 areas within the Southern Section. There are 7 geographical areas to include Citrus Belt, Coast, Desert, Foothill, Mt. SAC, Northern, and Orange County and two other areas designated Parochial and Small Schools. A school can only go through the releaguings process within the area they are assigned. For example, if a small school member wishes to get into a league within one of the geographic areas, they must petition to leave the small school area and provide rationale as to why they should be placed in that geographic area. Releaguings cannot take place until all schools are given an area designation. A survey to our member schools was sent out on September 13th asking if schools wish to stay in the same area or make a change. This survey is due to our office no later than October 11th, 2024 at 4:00 pm. Once this data is collected, the releaguings committee will evaluate the requests and develop recommendations to be approved by both the Executive Committee and the Council.



Mike West