

## A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

### MAY 1

As the month of May approaches, I wanted to reach out to you regarding a significant rule change to CIF Bylaw 510 that was passed by the CIF Federated Council by a vote of 145-0 at their most recent meeting on April 6. This rule change will take effect immediately and will be implemented on May 1, 2018.



Specifically, this provision of CIF Bylaw 510 relates to incoming 9th graders and allowing high school coaches to have direct contact: emails, phone calls, etc., as well as host meetings with students and/or parents, on May 1, with prospective students who intend to enroll at their schools in the Fall.

In discussions over the last year or so with various committees involved in our section's governance: CIF Southern Section Executive Committee, Athletic Administrators Committee, Superintendent's Advisory Committee, Private School Leadership Advisory Committee, Public/Private Committee and various Sport Advisory Committees, there was a strong feeling expressed that permitting high school coaches to respond directly to emails and phone calls, from incoming 9th grade students and/or parents on May 1, as well as allowing coaches to host meetings with those groups, would really be valuable to our schools in communicating important information to them. Furthermore, by adopting the same date for this contact to be allowed, it places all schools on an even playing field, unlike the former provision in the rule that prevented this type of contact from taking place until the school year was over. There is a wide variance of dates when school years are completed across our section, with some finishing by the middle of May and others going on until the end of June, which impacted this situation tremendously under the former rule.

The concept is simple. By May 1, most students have made their decision to attend the high school of their choice. If they are public school students, they have already met with high school counselors and plans have been made for class schedules, etc. For private school students, they would have applied for admission, been accepted and have paid a deposit to ensure their place at the private school of their choice. With those scenarios as a backdrop, the issue that needed to be addressed was the ability of coaches to communicate directly with prospective students and their families to give them information on summer programs, schedules, expectations for the upcoming school year, etc., and next week this new way of conducting business will begin.

However, one important reminder. There can be direct communication and meetings, but no tryouts, practices or any type of activities involving current 8th grade students until their school year is over. That provision in CIF Bylaw 510 has not changed and remains in place.

As always, we depend on our principals, athletic directors and coaches to understand this new rule and follow it completely. If you have any questions, or we can help you in any way at all, do not hesitate to contact our office and we will be glad to help you.

We hope this will be a positive step moving forward for all of our stakeholders and another example of trying to serve the needs of our member schools in the best way possible.

Thank you very much for your help and support, it is truly appreciated.

All the best,

*Rob Wignel*

