



**NORTH COAST SECTION, CIF**  
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**UNDUE INFLUENCE RULE GUIDELINES**

Last updated February 24, 2021

**PHILOSOPHY:** The CIF, as the governing body of high school athletics, affirms that athletic competition is an important part of the high school experience and that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege. The privilege of participation in interscholastic athletics is available to students in public or private schools who meet the democratically established standards of qualification as set forth by the CIF Federated Council. CIF Bylaws governing student eligibility are a necessary prerequisite to participation in interscholastic athletics because they:

- (1) Keep the focus on athletic participation as a privilege not a right;
- (2) Reinforce the principle that students attend school to receive an education first; athletic participation is secondary;
- (3) Protect the opportunities to participate for students who meet the established standards;
- (4) Provide a fundamentally fair and equitable framework in which interscholastic athletic competition can take place;
- (5) Provide uniform standards for all schools to follow in maintaining athletic competition;
- (6) Serve as a deterrent to students who transfer schools for athletic reasons and to individuals who recruit student-athletes;
- (7) Serve as a deterrent to students who transfer schools to avoid disciplinary action;
- (8) Maintain an ethical relationship between high school athletic programs and others who demonstrate an interest in high school athletes;
- (9) Support the Principles of “Pursuing Victory with Honor<sup>sm</sup>.”

|   | SITUATION  | MAY  | MAY NOT   |
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| 1 | Open Houses and/or meetings at high schools with middle school students and/or middle school parents             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General Open House: Academics, Student Life, etc.</li> <li>Athletics can be one component of the total school program at school-wide Open House</li> <li>Current high school students and coaches may participate in the Open House</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sport specific Open House or meeting for middle school students and/or middle school parents</li> <li>Athletics only Open House or meeting for middle school students and/or middle school parents</li> <li>Invitation only “Open House” or meeting for middle school students and/or middle school parents</li> </ul>                             |
| 2 | Student(s) and parent(s) schedule an appointment to meet with school administration to discuss enrollment        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting with a school administrator or guidance counselor.</li> <li>Including in any meeting the athletic director.</li> <li>Student(s) and parent(s) may seek information on any aspect of the school, curricular and co-curricular programs.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include specific athletic sport coaches.</li> <li>Include visitation to practices or games by the school.</li> <li>Include any procedures that could be construed as undue influence as defined by CIF 510.</li> </ul>   |
| 3 | Direct contact with Middle School students: phone, email, letters, social media, etc.                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coaches may communicate with incoming registered 9<sup>th</sup> grade families via phone, email or letters but must do so in accordance with school/school district/governing board policy, and no earlier than May 1<sup>st</sup>.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coaches cannot contact incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade registered students prior to May 1 and must comply with school/school district/governing board policy.</li> <li>Contact any pre-high school student not registered/enrolled to attend the coach’s school, at any time.</li> </ul>   |
| 4 | Visitations to middle schools by high school staff for purposes of conducting an athletic interest meeting only. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Athletic Directors and Administrators</li> <li>Discuss the entire athletic program</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coaches and students cannot visit middle schools</li> <li>Parents/Alumni cannot be involved in these visits</li> </ul>   |
| 5 | Athletic Information Night/Evening and/or Orientation  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>After May 1<sup>st</sup></b>, Athletic Orientation meetings are allowed for dissemination of athletic forms/information for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students who are registered to attend during the next year. Tables in a general area for sport specific information allowed.</li> <li>Post information on school website</li> <li>E-mail blasts to enrolled incoming ninth graders.</li> <li>Coaches may be present</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invite non-enrolled high school students.</li> <li>Conduct sport specific meetings for attendees in separate rooms</li> <li>Coaches cannot contact incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students enrolled for the following year until after May 1, but in accordance with school/school district policy, and only via phone, email or letter.</li> </ul> |
| 6 | How to hold camps/clinics for under high school age  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can be run by high school coaches as a fundraiser</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have camps for under high school age students to practice</li> </ul>   |

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|    | students   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have school name, nickname, school contact information, etc.</li> <li>• May involve school athletes during the season of sport</li> <li>• Must have principal permission</li> <li>• School athletes may be involved with camps or clinics during the NCS defined season of sport or summer period.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• or play games with the high school program</li> <li>• Include school athletes outside the season of sport <b><i>and on the school's designated day of respite.</i></b></li> <li>• Students may not be involved with camps or clinics outside the season of sport.</li> </ul>  |
| 7  | How to advertise your athletic program   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School website</li> <li>• Flyers distributed by Athletic Directors to Main Office of feeder middle school</li> <li>• Any school pictures in a newspaper or magazine <b><i>or videos</i></b> must include at least 50% picture(s) of non-athletic activities</li> <li>• Send school information for the following school year in the spring to enrolled students, or students matriculating from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct communication which could include but not limited to emails, phone calls, texts, mailings, letters, multi-media, etc. to students not currently attending your school that has to do with athletic programs instead of the total high school experience.</li> <li>• Newspaper, website, billboards, etc. that emphasize the athletic programs instead of the total educational experience</li> </ul>   |
| 8  | Social Media   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post results, accolades, schedules and other general information about the school's athletic program.</li> <li>• Celebrate student achievements</li> <li>• Promote high school camps, clinics, and other on campus opportunities under the NCS guidelines</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coaches and/or persons associated with the school... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Follow, subscribe to, or "friend" students/parents not currently attending your school</li> <li>○ Directly/indirectly initiate contact with students/parents not currently attending your school</li> <li>○ Publicize playing opportunities within your program for students not currently attending your school</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |
| 9  | Shadowing  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students may be paired with current students based on like interests.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May not attend practices or be invited to attend any athletic event as part of the shadow program.</li> </ul>   |
| 10 | "Pop Warner Nights", community athletic programs, etc. (Students are given free admission to high school sporting events if they wear their jerseys; students are recognized in pre-game and/or halftime ceremonies, etc.)       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite the entire student body of a feeder middle school, or schools, and host a Middle School Night at a high school sporting event <b><i>at a home athletic event.</i></b></li> <li>• <b><i>Allowable age groups for participating in a halftime or special school event at the school would K-6 grades.</i></b></li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host "Pop Warner Nights" or other community athletic programs because the invitations are specifically directed to targeted athletes, who are being given benefits and recognition not available to other potential high school students because of their participation in a youth athletic organization</li> </ul>   |
| 11 | Attendance at Pop Warner, NJB, AYSO, etc. games by high school coaches, school athletes  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend as a spectator, not as a representative of your high school promoting your athletic program(s)</li> <li>• May speak at such event as a private citizen</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Athletic Directors, high school coaches and athletes may not make contact with under high school age students and parents as a representative of the high school</li> <li>• Wear school identification clothing if speaking</li> </ul>  |
| 12 | High school staff members coaching under high school age students on club teams, youth teams, etc.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coach under high school age students</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High schools may only conduct programs for grade 9-12 students. Any high school coach engaged in coaching activities for pre-high school students may not influence students concerning the activities of the high school they are associated and may not wear school identification clothing while practicing or coaching during contests.</li> <li>• Use high school facilities for practice, games or meetings without securing facilities like any other private citizen</li> </ul> |
| 13 | Parents of prospective students; incoming 9 <sup>th</sup> graders or potential transfer students, contacting a high school coach to get information on the school's sports program and/or information on how to transfer schools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer all parents to the school administration; athletic director, assistant principal of athletics, etc. for information on specific sports programs and/or transfer information with no additional comments</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speak directly with parents, or meet parents of students who are not currently attending your school. The only appropriate response, verbal or written, is that you may not address their questions and refer them to the proper school administrator.</li> </ul>   |
| 14 | School posts on the school website an interactive document that allows potential students to complete contact information  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools may post as part of their school's efforts to identify potential students an electronic information form that is collected by the assigned non-athletic administrator where</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The use of such forms is not legal and considered contact outside a school Open House, junior high school visit or School Fair. School may not use such tactics to collect</li> </ul>   |

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|    |              | information or contact may be made by the school.   | contact information of potential student-athletes.   |
| 15 | School Fairs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May include student-athletes as selected representatives of the school.</li> <li>• May include alumni who may be former athletes from the school.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school fair is not an opportunity to use athletics as a recruiting tool. Coaches should not be involved in such event.</li> </ul> |

Disclaimer – The above guidelines do not include all situations and schools are encouraged to submit in writing any situations they believe the above guidelines do not address and seek in writing a response from NCS staff. Guidelines may be altered at different times of the year with no prior notice of NCS member schools by action of the Eligibility Committee, the Executive Committee, the Board of Managers or the NCS Commissioner of Athletics.