

WCAL Philosophy

The West Catholic Athletic League roots itself in the shared Gospel values held by its member schools. Every school in the league strives to make the example of Jesus the guiding principle for all that they do. From this perspective, athletics programs in the WCAL work within the broader aims of all the WCAL schools: forming joyful faith communities that seek peace and justice. Each WCAL school seeks to inspire and prepare its students, no matter their religious tradition or background, to be people of faith, peace, and justice.

The guiding philosophy rooted in the Gospels connects directly with the spirit of the rules established in the WCAL bylaws. In pursuit of justice, member schools agree to adhere to the rules set forth in these bylaws. In pursuit of peace among athletic competitors, member schools strive to maintain positive, collegial relationships with each other. In pursuit of joyful game environments, member schools labor to make sure that every student, spectator, and official are treated in accordance with the fundamental belief that everyone is made in the image and likeness of God.

The league policies regarding recruiting hold a singular and consistent purpose: that the students and families applying to our schools be given every opportunity to make a fully free choice about the high school that will best fit their values, interests, and personality. Toward this end, the league rules allow for numerous ways that prospective students and their families can learn about the member schools, their curricular offerings, their co-curricular programs, and the events the member schools hold throughout the year that make their community a special and joyful place for students to spend their high school years.

Article II – General Policies

1. STATE AND SECTION MEMBERSHIP – All policies of this League must conform to the regulations and policies of the Central Coast Section and the California Interscholastic Federation.
2. ALL POLICIES MUST BE APPROVED BY THE PRINCIPALS’ COUNCIL – No policies are effective until approved by the Principals’ Council.
3. LEAGUE POLICY REGARDING RECRUITING
 - A. DEFINITION AND INTERPRETATION REGARDING RECRUITING
 - i. No school employee may contact a student, their parents or family, their school coach or teacher for the expressed purpose of inducing the student to attend their high school in order to participate in athletics. Contact is defined as email, text, phone call, social media “tag,” or other means of communication that is outside of the scope of the Admissions Office and Admissions Office events. This shall be known as the “Recruiting Rule”.
 - ii. A school shall be equally guilty of violating the “Recruiting Rule” if it knowingly makes use of a third party (not an employee of the school) who is guilty of violating the “Recruiting Rule”.
 - iii. Prospective students or their parents or representatives should contact the school Admissions Office, not coaches or athletic administrators, to discuss application, admission, financial aid, etc. WCAL coaches or athletic administrators who may be contacted in this way should direct the person to the Admissions Office.

- iv. WCAL coaches or other Athletic Department personnel are not to discuss, promise, or infer admission or financial aid to prospective students or their parents or representatives. These inquiries must be directed to the Admissions Office or appropriate financial aid official at the school.
- v. WCAL coaches or other school personnel or representatives are not to discuss team membership, playing time, etc., with prospective students or their parents or representatives with the intent of recruiting a student to attend their school.
- vi. WCAL coaches, while representing a WCAL school, are not permitted to send text messages, contact/tag on social media, or make phone calls to grammar school or middle school students.
- vii. As members of the CIF, WCAL schools are not permitted to award athletic scholarships.
- viii. No middle-school-age individual or team may be invited or given discounted admission to WCAL school's athletic contests. These may be extended only to entire classes or school student bodies.
- ix. No middle-school-age teams may be invited for specialized shadow visits or other Admissions tours that are not open to entire classes or student bodies.
- x. WCAL schools may not target specific individual students for invitation to sport camps. Sport camps are open to the general public.
- xi. Financial aid for sports camps shall not be based on athletic ability.
- xii. Any correspondence from WCAL representatives to camp participants must be sent to all participants, and not targeted at specific individuals.
- xiii. A WCAL school shall not allow middle school students to participate with its students at open gyms or other athletic activities sponsored by the school.
- xiv. Incoming freshmen are not eligible for summer league play.

B. RECRUITING COMPLAINT AND APPEAL PROCEDURE

- i. If a member school suspects a violation of the recruiting rule by another school, the principal of the school suspecting the violation shall send a written communication clearly outlining the facts, circumstances and any relevant proof confirming the alleged violation to the League Commissioner.
- ii. If a member school becomes aware that an employee of the school has violated the recruiting rule, the principal of the member school shall notify the League Commissioner.
- iii. If there is a dispute regarding the facts of a possible recruiting violation, the accused school has fifteen (15) days from notification of the potential violation to respond. The response shall be in written form from the school principal to the League Commissioner. The response will include a detailed description of the steps taken to investigate the allegations, confirm or deny the suspected violation, and shall include relevant, specific circumstances and proof substantiating and documenting the incident.
- iv. The League Commissioner will then make a recommendation for further action if warranted.
Disciplinary action for recruiting violations typically follows:
Section Under Construction (September 2023)
- v. Once the League Commissioner has recommended a disciplinary outcome to the offending school, the Principal will have seven (7) days to file an appeal.
- vi. If an appeal is filed, the League Commissioner will convene the WCAL Incident and Advisory Board (Article IX.6.)
- vii. In the event a member school has been accused of a recruiting violation by a non-member school, and the accusation is filed with the CCS, the member school must also follow the procedures outlined above regardless of any ruling by CCS in the matter. Under this situation, the school accused of a recruiting violation must send a written response described above to the League

Commissioner. The Commissioner will then convene a hearing panel as described above to rule on the issue on behalf of the entire league.

4. PENALTIES FOR VIOLATING OTHER WCAL BYLAWS – Reported violations of other WCAL Sport Rules and/or Bylaws will follow the same review process as outlined above.
5. CIF BYLAW 510 GUIDELINES and Frequently Asked Questions: Member schools are responsible for reviewing and complying with CIF Bylaw 510 as well as communicating these expectations to their coaching staff.
6. SCHOOLS MAY COMPETE IN NO OTHER LEAGUE – Any school which fields a team in a WCAL sanctioned league sport must compete in the WCAL unless granted an exemption by the Principals Council or as an independent with a majority vote.
 - A. The intent to field such a team shall be made known in writing to the League Office.
 - B. The written notice shall contain a projected time frame for entry into league competition and the expected levels of competition.
 - C. Periodic reports of progress shall be made to the League Office in order that projected schedules may be discussed and proposed in a timely fashion.
7. CAMPS AND/OR CLINICS – Schools must consult with the commissioner on any activities involving camps or clinics that fall outside the parameters of practice and competition during the regular school year prior to implementing such activities.

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