



**CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION
NORTHERN SECTION**

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**ISSUE: USE OF UNDUE INFLUENCE, “RECRUITING”
ADVISORY EMPHASIS ON 8TH GRADERS**

Advisory issued 4/1/09 by NSCIF

**IT IS SPRING AND THE 8TH GRADERS ARE IN THE PROCESS OF
ENROLLING AND SIGNING UP
FOR CLASSES IN THEIR PUBLIC SCHOOLS OR
GETTING LETTERS OF ACCEPTANCE FROM PRIVATE SCHOOLS.**

This is the time that parents and students are struggling to make an important decision and are seeking all the information they can to make a good decision. It is critical that at this time **all school personnel and families understand** the restrictions of CIF Bylaw 510, Use of Undue Influence, as well as the importance of strict adherence to this rule. Athletic information is restricted and the activities of families, students, coaches and others associated with any NSCIF member school must comply with our CIF Bylaw addressing the use of undue influence or “recruiting.”

This rule is intended to **protect families, whether they want to be protected or not**, from any attempt by anyone associated with one of our NSCIF schools to influence their decision regarding high school with any inducement, encouragement, promises, or any kind of discussion whatsoever about sports. It is the philosophical position of the NSCIF that this important decision should be made by the family without specific input from our member schools associated athletic personnel about the athletic program. General information is important (i.e. what sports do they offer, how long is the season, etc.) will be shared with parents via the school web page or in a packet of general information about the school (that may include information on the athletic department) that is distributed to all prospective students.

Here are some points that must be kept in mind in order to PROTECT each student’s athletic eligibility:

- **INFORMATION ABOUT SUMMER PROGRAMS OR TRY OUTS SHOULD NOT BE CIRCULATED TO EIGHTH GRADERS UNTIL AFTER THEY HAVE PRE-REGISTERED**

Here are some guidelines about this issue

- a. Schools **may post information about physical dates**, summer camps, summer leagues/teams on your school web page. (must be approved by the principal)
- b. Schools may have the junior high make announcements in their bulletin about such dates, or better yet, refer them to your web page. (must be approved by the principal)

- c. Schools or coaches may **NOT distribute athletic material alone** to the junior high. You may distribute such dates, information, etc., as long as it is included in a packet THE SCHOOL gives, including general information about school dates, etc., for the next school year. (principals and AD's must approve material distributed to the jr. high)
 - d. Coaches may NOT go to the junior high at any time to meet with individual students or groups of students to talk about athletics in any way, unless they are also employed in a position that would require them to talk with junior high kids (e.g. teacher, counselor, etc.) and then the conversations should only be in the context of that non-athletic position—not about athletics.
 - e. 8th graders may **NOT** participate in **open gyms or spring practices** of any kind at the high school prior to the 2nd Saturday in June.
 - f. Remember summer starts the 2nd Saturday in June!
- **PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS ARE HELD TO THE SAME RULE.** e.g. public high schools cannot use undue influence on their “feeder jr high” athletes just the same as private schools cannot. Jr high or middle school students could choose to go to the high school in whose attendance area they live or they could choose to attend another public school in that district through district policy or a private school in the area. Until they have made that choice and are attending a high school as a ninth grader, any activity determined to have been done to "influence" that family's decision about where to send their athlete is a violation of 510.

§ **Parents SHOULD NOT BE CONTACTING SCHOOLS TO TALK TO COACHES,** prior to the summer (2nd Saturday in June). Schools should not allow parents to talk to coaches about their son or daughter’s role, participation, position, future, or any other topic regarding sports participation at any “new” school in which the student will be enrolling and attending next school year.

§ **For the purposes of this rule (510) IT DOES NOT MATTER WHO CONTACTS WHO.**

Some people think that they can talk to a coach about anything or a coach can talk to them about their son or daughter’s sports participation, role, position, future or any other topic regarding sports participation at any “new” school IF THE PARENTS DO THE CONTACTING....Simply not true. This rule (510) does not allow conversations between prospective students (even if they have been accepted, register for classes and/or have decided to attend the new school) at any time prior to actually beginning to attend. Decisions about what school a student shall attend must be made by the family without any influence by anyone associated with the athletic department.

§ **RULE 510 IS IN EFFECT ALL THE TIME, EVEN IN THE SUMMER**

All restrictions on anyone associated with the athletic department in any way attempting to influence students and their families about which school to attend are ALWAYS in effect and will jeopardize the eligibility of the student athlete.

Remember, those who recruit kids justify their actions by saying they are helping the student(s). In reality, they are seriously jeopardizing that student’s future eligibility, because the student who transfers as a result of “Undue Influence” becomes ineligible for future participation!