

ARTICLE 20
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

204 8 semester

NO SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES—ONLY LANGUAGE CHANGED TO MIRROR THAT IN 201 AND EXPANDED TO CLARIFY CURRENT INTERPRETATIONS AND APPLICATION OF THE CURRENT BYLAWS.

- **Expanded clarifying language added in B. and in C. (2) & iv.**

204. **EIGHT CONSECUTIVE SEMESTERS REQUIREMENT- (See also 201.A.2)**

A. Definition of a Semester of Attendance

**Repeat of exact
language in
201.A.(2)**

The first time any student has been entered on the attendance roll for 15 school days in the 9th grade, and/or in any classes taken subsequent to the completion of the 8th grade, at any school whether the student has physically been in attendance at those classes for all 15 days or not, or has played in an interscholastic athletic contest, the CIF will count that as the student's first semester of high school eligibility.

~~Once a student has been entered on the attendance roll for 15 school days in the 9th grade at any school, or a student has played in an interscholastic athletic contest (scrimmage or game), the CIF will count that as a student's first semester of high school eligibility.~~

- (1) ~~Enrollment and/or attendance for 15 school days or more shall count as one of the eight semesters.~~
- (2) ~~Participation in one or more interscholastic athletic contests shall count as one of the eight semesters.~~

B. Eight Consecutive Semester Rule

**NEW EXPANDED,
CLARIFYING
LANGUAGE**

A student who first enters the 9th grade of any school following the student's completion of the 8th grade in any school may be eligible for athletic competition during a maximum period of time that is not to exceed eight consecutive semesters following the initial enrollment in the 9th grade of any school and/or in any classes taken subsequent to the completion of the 8th grade, whether or not the student is enrolled in school, whether or not the student is academically or otherwise eligible and whether or not the student avails themselves of the opportunity to participate in interscholastic sports during this time. The CIF allows only 8 consecutive semesters of eligibility available to the student. and Eligibility is only available ~~must be used~~ during the student's first eight consecutive semesters of enrollment in high school (grades 9-12) at ~~that school or any other school.~~

C. Section Waivers:

- (1) **Waiving Semester Limitation:** Each Section may, at its discretion, establish rules and procedures for waiving the limitation on 8 semesters of eligibility, providing:
- The student is required by the student's school principal to return to grade eight from grade nine and the student did not take part in an interscholastic contest while in the 9th grade, for the first time; OR
 - The student, because of mid-year completion of an 8th grade or a mid-year completion of the 9th grade in a junior high school, is required by the student's school principal to repeat a semester of work in order to conform to a school program having annual terms, AND
 - The student has not taken part in an interscholastic athletic contest while enrolled for the first time in the semester which the student's school principal required the student to repeat.

(2) Waivers of the Charge of a Semester of Attendance

- a. Other than paragraph (1) and (2) above, relief under this rule may only be granted when the conditions set forth in Bylaw 204.C. below are found to be present. Any other or past rationales or basis for relief under this bylaw are ~~disapproved~~ **invalidated**. (Approved May 2001 Federated Council)
- b. Each Section may waive the charge of one or more of the eight consecutive semesters of eligibility for athletic competition due to a hardship condition that causes the student's absence from school or to extend the student's attendance in school beyond eight consecutive semesters, PROVIDED:
 - (i) That a hardship condition exists that, in the judgment of the Section, warrants a waiver. "Hardship" is defined in CIF Bylaw 214; **AND**
 - (ii) The hardship caused the student to remain out of school for more than half of any semester during his/her high school career; **OR**
 - (iii) The hardship is the direct and sole cause of the student extending his/her attendance beyond eight consecutive semesters even though the student was in attendance for those eight consecutive semesters. Further, the student's extension of his/her attendance beyond eight semesters has no athletic motivation. **AND**
 - (iv) That the student was eligible under all rules in the semester immediately prior to either his/her absence or the onset of the hardship condition that is the direct and sole cause for extending his/her attendance beyond eight semesters; **AND**
 - (v) Such a waiver would not grant more than four years' participation in any sport; (See CIF bylaw 513 and 514); **AND**
 - (vi) Hardship applications may not be submitted prior to the conclusion of the student's 7th semester in high school.**

(3) All other eligibility requirements apply.

(4) **APPEALS:** A decision to deny such a waiver by the Section Commissioner may be appealed only to the Section and in accordance with the provisions set forth in Bylaw 1101.

NOTE: Failure to satisfy the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), California course requirements (e.g. Algebra I), and/or end of course requirements shall not be considered a hardship.