



CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION

STATE MEDIA RELEASE

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CIF UNVEILS PLAN TO TIGHTEN BASEBALL BAT STANDARDS FOR MEMBER HIGH SCHOOLS

***Ruling Speeds Up Implementation of National Standards as a Way to
Address Safety, Cost and Fairness Issues***

SACRAMENTO--In a move to better protect high school athletes, save schools money and ensure a level playing field on prep baseball diamonds throughout the state, the California Interscholastic Federation today announced tighter standards for non-wooden baseball bats that will go into effect for the upcoming 2010-11 baseball season.

The new standards, ratified last week by the CIF State Executive Committee, come on the heels of decisions at the national level, several high-profile accidents and a recent California legislative proposal from Assemblyman Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael), according to CIF officials, who underscored that the changes reflect the broader concerns of its members and the high school sports community statewide.

Highlights of the new ***performance*** standards include:

- The implementation of the new (NFHS) National Federation of State High School Associations' BBCOR (Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution) performance standards for composite baseball bats to the 2011 season; initially the national standards for both composite and aluminum bats were to go into effect in 2012;
- The acceleration of the new performance standards for aluminum bats to the 2010-11 season; (A provision that allows for the use of current aluminum bats in 2010-11 if new aluminum bats are commercially unavailable by Jan. 1, 2011.)
- All non-wood bats must be affixed with a stamp/decal that shows the bats are "tamper-proof" so they cannot be modified to enhance performance beyond what they have been tested for – otherwise known as "bat rolling"; passed the ABI (Accelerated Break in) procedure; the type of material contained in the barrel of the bat; and the NFHS logo

"In addition to addressing safety issues raised by legislators, our approach is intended to minimize the fiscal impact on schools and families, who could otherwise have been required to purchase expensive bats twice – for both the 2011 and 2012 seasons," CIF State Executive Director Marie M. Ishida said.

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“Additionally, our decision helps protect the integrity of baseball by weeding out modified high-performance bats that provide an unfair advantage and have no place on the baseball diamond.”

Ishida commended Assemblyman Huffman for closely working with CIF to find a workable solution to address the concerns of all stakeholders. “This approach was highly constructive, and we appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with him on this important matter,” she said. “Our agreed upon approach gets to the core issues without imposing increased costs and a wooden-bats-only policy as originally proposed.”

In addition to the new bat standards, the CIF executive committee also announced the following other actions it has taken to promote safety in high school baseball and softball:

- CIF will propose to the NFHS Baseball and Softball Rules Committees that they develop standards for protective headgear for baseball and softball defensive infielders and base coaches in 2012;
- CIF will encourage member schools to voluntarily require protective headgear for baseball and softball defensive infielders as allowed by NFHS rules and base coaches in the 2011 season.

“The safety of California’s student-athletes remains our top priority,” Ishida said. “We hope our recent actions will help promote that goal nationally.”

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