

PCAL SPORTS RULES

BASEBALL

As Amended by PCAL Board of Managers December 2025

1.1 Season of Sport

This sport shall be conducted in the Spring season as defined by the Central Coast Section and State CIF by-laws. See Article V of the By-Laws of the Central Coast Section.

1.2 Start Dates for Practices, Scrimmages and Contests

Dates for the start of practices, of scrimmages, and of contests shall be as set forth in Article V of the By-Laws of the Central Coast Section.

1.3 Contest Limits per Season

Limitations on the number of contests in which a team or athlete may compete shall be as set forth in Article V of the By-Laws of the Central Coast Section.

1.4 Divisions

League play in this sport shall be conducted in three divisions formed according to league by-laws and policies concerning Division Placement (See Article 19 of the League By-Laws as well as the League's Division Placement Policy as published on the League website). Those three divisions shall be named as follows: PCAL-Gabilan; PCAL-Mission; and PCAL-Cypress.

1.5 League Schedules

1.5.1 Round Robin

The league schedule for both PCAL-Gabilan and PCAL-Mission will be a Triple round robin schedule, and the schedule for the PCAL-Cypress will be Double round robin, all as may be changed by decision of the League Board of Managers from year to year.

1.5.2 Preparation and Approval of Schedules

League schedules shall be prepared by the League Commissioner and sent to the League Athletic Directors Council for review, modification as needed. The Athletic Directors Council then send a recommended schedule to the League Board of Managers who consider, change as they deem necessary and vote approval of a final schedule.

1.5.3 Obligation of Schools to Compete According to Schedule

See Article 19 in the League By-laws regarding the obligation of all league schools to compete according to the approved league schedule.

1.6 Contests

The following provisions shall govern all regular season Baseball contests hosted by a League School. Tournaments or Invitational events may be conducted under differing rules not in conflict with the NFHS rule book for this sport.

1.6.1 Rules

Contests in this sport shall be governed by the rules of the National Federation of High Schools for that sport and in accordance with any additional rules set forth in this Section 1.6.

1.6.2 League Contest Start Times

All afternoon games shall be played at 3:30pm prior to daylight savings

time, and at 4:00pm after daylight savings time. If a home site has one field and lights, game times will be 4pm and 7pm.

The game order, Varsity, JV or Frosh shall be determined by the home school but remain the same for the entire season.

Schools with only one diamond available will play JV games upon availability of fields. Dates for JV games may vary from the schedule.

Note: It is understood that transportation schedules for visiting teams may interfere with starting times. It is also understood that visiting teams will notify home teams, administrators or Athletic Director by 12 noon on game date. No teams shall be penalized for transportation difficulties.

1.6.3 Equipment

PCAL teams shall use an NFHS approved game ball with the NFHS stamp on the ball.

1.6.4 10 Run Rule.

The 10 run mercy Rule shall be in effect for all PCAL games.

1.6.5 Rainouts

Rained out incomplete or postponed contests shall be made up the following day or as soon as weather permits. If the home coach declares the field unplayable, every effort shall be made to play the contest the next day.

1.6.6 Pitch Count

The CIF pitching rule regarding innings pitched or games participated in per week is a mandatory requirement. Each team scorebook shall be made available to both coaches upon request, prior to the game.

1.6.7 Game Day Batting Cage

There will be NO hitting of any kind by either team in a batting cage on the day of a game.

1.6.8 Warm ups. Late bus.

Prior to pre-game infield by each team, the teams shall share the field equally, with each team having one-half of the infield and outfield on which to warm up, based on a line from home plate, through second base and to the center field barrier.

Teams arriving late to 3:30 starting time shall be given 15 minutes to warm up and 10 minutes infield/outfield.

1.6.9 Called games due to darkness or weather. Make up rules.

For any division with a triple round robin schedule If either game one or two is tied and called due to darkness or weather, it will be continued on the day of the next scheduled contest between the schools involved. The game shall be completed prior to the start of the regularly scheduled contest, irrespective of site and home team. If game three between the two schools is a tie and called due to darkness or weather, it will be continued at the next available date for both teams at the site of the Home team of the called game.

For any division with a double round robin schedule If game one is tied and called due to darkness or weather, it will be continued on the day of the next scheduled contest between the schools involved, irrespective of site and home team. The game shall be completed prior to the start of the regularly scheduled contest. If game two between the two schools is a tie and called due to darkness

or weather, it will be continued at the next available date for both teams at the site of the Home team of the called game.

1.7 League Championship Determination

Each of the Divisions shall have a champion, determined by the league round robin results. In the case of a first place tie between two teams, those teams shall be Co-Champions of the Division. In the case of a first place tie between three teams, those teams shall be Tri-Champions of the Division.

1.8 League Qualifiers to the CCS Playoffs

The 9 CCS automatic qualifier spots will be allocated as follows:

Gabilan – top 5 teams in final league standings

Mission - top 2 teams in final league standings

Play in games for last two spots between Gabilan #6 AT Mission #4 (Mission team will host game and be home team) and Mission #3 AT Cypress #1 (Cypress team host game and be home team).

Ties for any of these qualifier spots shall be broken per league tie breaker rules in the PCAL By-laws, Article 23.

1.9 All League Selections

Each Division shall have its own All-League selections, with those selections made by the coaches of that Division after the end of the League season. Those selections shall be made and announced in accordance with the provisions of PCAL By-Laws, Article 24.

END PCAL BASEBALL SPORTS RULES.

History

September 2018: Original

September 2019: Clarification that play-in contest is Gabilan 6 at Mission 3.

May 2023: Deleted Spring Break scheduling provision (1.6.10) as superseded by new PCAL By-Law 18.3.1.1.

December 2025: Changed the allocation of League Qualifiers to CCs (1.8) by adding a second play-in contest.