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CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION

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To: Federated Council

Date: September 26, 2012

Re: Proposal – First Reading – Bylaw 300 D. Gender Identity Participation

Proposal Originated: Sports Medicine Committee

Proposal Reviewed

2/24/2012 – Sports Medicine
3/16/ 2012 – Commissioners Committee
3/23/2012 – Executive Committee
6/15/2012 – Commissioners Committee
9/24/2012 – Executive Committee
9/25/2012 – Sports Medicine Committee

Proposal Recommendation

Support
Recommended revised language - return
Recommended revised language - return
Support as revised
Support – Forward to Federated Council
Support

Type: New Bylaw

Next: First Reading at October 2012 Federated Council meeting. Vote in February 2013

Proposal Summary: The purpose of this addition would create specific wording and administrative regulations to assist schools and school districts to ensure that transgender student-athletes have a fair, respectful and legal process and access to education based sports. Should any questions arise whether a student's request to participate in a sex-segregated activity consistent with his or her gender identity is bona fide, a student may seek review of his or her eligibility for participation.

Fiscal Impact: None for schools or sections. Minimal for CIF, cost of travel and hearing expenses for review panel.

Background: Transgender students and students in transition often do not participate in sports. However, when a transgender student does desire to participate, school districts often do not have a process in place to ensure a fair and respectful procedure for determining the gender of the student and they ask CIF for direction and assistance.

Analysis: In 2011, State Assemblyman Tom Amino introduced A.B. 266, a bill that would allow students to participate in the gender in which they identify. The bill would have had far reaching unintended consequences.

In 2009, the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) working with school and medical professionals developed an individualized review process that is now

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considered a national model for interscholastic sports. This proposal mirrors the WIAA process. The process allows individual schools/school districts to access a state-wide review panel that consists of: (A) physician with experience in gender identity health care and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH), (B) a psychiatrist or licensed mental health care professional familiar WPATH Standards of Care, (C) a school administrator, (D) CIF staff member, (E) advocate familiar with gender identity and expression issues. This panel would ensure that students not in transition could not attempt to use this issue as an avenue to participate in sports.

The proposed bylaw reaffirms that transgender students have equal access to participate in sports and provides a process for their participation. The "Guidelines" will be published and available on the CIF web site.

NEW

300 D. Gender Identity Participation

Participation in interscholastic athletics is a valuable part of the educational experience for all students. All students should have the opportunity to participate in CIF activities in a manner that is consistent with their gender identity, irrespective of the gender listed on a student's records. Should any questions arise whether a student's request to participate in a sex-segregated activity consistent with his or her gender identity is bona fide, a student may seek review of his or her eligibility for participation by working through the procedure set forth in the "Guidelines for Gender Identity Participation."
