

## ASSEMBLY THIRD READING

AB 1572 (Alanis)

As Amended March 26, 2026

Majority vote

**SUMMARY**

AB 1572 requires the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) to verify the eligibility of its officials to officiate CIF contests by requiring those officials to annually register through a platform.

**Major Provisions**

- 1) Requires CIF to select a platform where its officials are able to annually register their eligibility to officiate CIF contests.
- 2) Requires the selected platform to consist of the following components:
  - a) A statewide and standardized background screening until July 1, 2028.
  - b) Commencing July 1, 2028, a record of a valid Activity Supervisor Clearance Certificate issued by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC).
  - c) A record of rules tests, online training modules, sport-specific annual certifications, and continuing education requirements.
  - d) A record of liability insurance coverage.
- 3) Requires CIF, through its chosen platform, to annually verify that all components are completed before an official is deemed and marked as eligible to receive an assignment to officiate.
- 4) Requires CIF, beginning on July 1, 2028, as part of the verification requirement to ensure that the platform regularly reviews the list required to be published by CTC in order to update the eligibility of the officials whose Activity Supervisor Clearance Certificate has been suspended or revoked.
- 5) Requires CIF to provide access to the platform to participating member schools, school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools, in order to verify the eligibility of an official. This access shall not include sensitive information in each individual component of the platform.

**COMMENTS**

CIF was organized at a high school athletic convention on March 28, 1914, as a voluntary association of schools. Since 1914, the California Department of Education (CDE) has allowed the CIF to regulate interscholastic athletics, and the CIF has been the rule-making body for all of California's K-12 athletics programs since 1917. In 1981, that rule-making authority was expanded to include control over all interscholastic athletics, replacing the CDE in that role.

The Federation consists of ten regional sections, each of which is divided into several "leagues," for purposes of scheduling athletic contests, assigning referees, etc. Similar organizations exist in other states. Almost all public, private and parochial schools in California are CIF members.

The primary responsibilities of CIF are to administer high school athletic programs and to promulgate and enforce rules relating to a student's involvement in athletics - age, semesters in school, scholarship, residence, transfer status, and amateur standing. Such regulations, which are generated by the 1,628 member base of secondary schools, prevent undesirable exploitation of high school students, provide for the welfare of participants, and ensure that interscholastic athletics offer major benefits to students in a safe, rewarding environment.

During the 2025-26 school year, a CIF-related officiating program offered optional background checks through a third-party vendor for referees. CIF primarily sets rules, certification standards, and eligibility requirements, but does not employ the referees directly. Officials are typically members of sport-specific local officiating associations. Those associations or assigning organizations handle training, certification, and sometimes screening requirements.

### **According to the Author**

According to the author, "AB 1572 is necessary to ensure that California's student athletes compete in safe, fair, and well-regulated environments. By establishing a consistent standard for CIF officials, we can give schools and parents confidence that officials assigned to games are qualified and accountable. This measure will also promote greater transparency and consistency across leagues, reducing uneven enforcement of rules. Ultimately, it strengthens the integrity of high school athletics and reinforces a commitment to protecting the well-being of every student athlete."

### **Arguments in Support**

According to the CIF – San Diego Section in support, "Since 1914, CIF has served as the grassroots organization tasked with ensuring consistency in the rules and policies for education-based interscholastic athletic programs in California. High school officials make a huge difference in the lives of thousands of young people every year, protecting the integrity of the games our kids love to play by demonstrating qualities like honesty, objectivity, consistency, courage, and common sense. They have the opportunity to help California's student athletes learn life lessons and play an integral part in providing students with the opportunity to belong, connect, and compete in education-based athletics. This bill would require CIF to annually verify the eligibility of its officials to officiate CIF contests by requiring those officials to annually register through a platform selected by CIF for that purpose."

### **Arguments in Opposition**

None on file.

## **FISCAL COMMENTS**

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations, this bill has a one-time General Fund costs of \$635,000, and \$625,000 from the General Fund ongoing annually, for the CTC to hire additional analytical and legal staff to manage additional screening, case intake, and misconduct caseload.

The bill also includes a minor and absorbable costs to CIF to oversee the registration platform and verification process. The Appropriations Committee noted that CIF is not funded using state funds, though a portion of its revenue is generated by fees from participating schools.

**VOTES**

**ASM ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS, AND TOURISM: 9-0-0**

**YES:** Ward, Lackey, Elhawary, Jeff Gonzalez, McKinnor, Ortega, Quirk-Silva, Valencia, Zbur

**ASM EDUCATION: 9-0-0**

**YES:** Patel, Hoover, Alvarez, Bonta, Alanis, Garcia, Lowenthal, Pellerin, Zbur

**ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-0**

**YES:** Wicks, Hoover, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

**UPDATED**

VERSION: March 26, 2026

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