

# Update on Athletic Regulatory Changes and Legal Implications for TTUSD

May 7, 2025

# Topics for This Evening's Presentation

- **Context**
  - Number of TTUSD athletes impacted by change
  - Change in Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA) Athletic Eligibility Policy & conflict with CA Law
- **TTUSD Decision Authority and Process**
- **CIF Transition Impacts**
- **Community Feedback Summary**

# TTUSD Athletic Participation 2024-2025

## North Tahoe High School

- 309 completed athlete registrations | 67% of the total student body.
- 503 total rostered athletes (includes students playing multiple sports)

## Truckee High School

- 502 completed athlete registrations | 59% of the total student body.
- 838 total rostered athletes (includes students playing multiple sports)

# Change in NIAA's Athletic Eligibility Policy & Conflict with CA Law

April 2, 2025: NIAA Board Of Control Revised Student Eligibility Policy

**Eligibility:** limits eligibility to only consider the student's sex assigned at birth and disregards gender identity or gender expression. CA protects gender and gender identity in its anti-discrimination laws.

**Preparticipation Physical Examination (PPE) Form:** requires student's physician to:

- designate the student's sex at birth
- designate either "medically eligible for girls sports" or "medically eligible for boys sports".

This form must be signed by the student, student's parent or guardian, and the physician or other medical provider verifying the accuracy of the student's sex at birth.

Medical information is personal information and it being shared directly violates the protected, constitutional rights provided to students under AB 1955.

# TTUSD Decision Authority

## School Board

- Sets district policy

## District Staff

- Align the district with California law and board policy, ensuring legal compliance
- Operational decision-making

# TTUSD Process

- **District Staff**
  - Legal counsel review and opinion
  - Conversations with CIF and NIAA
  
- **TTUSD Athletic Committee**
  - Review of TTUSD board policies & CA Law
  - Explore logistics of a switch to CIF (travel, schedules, sport seasons)
  - Examine impacts to soccer and brainstorm mitigation ideas

# CIF Transition Impacts

## Cons

- Winter sports logistics
  - Summit travel
    - rescheduling/cancellations/forfeits both TTUSD teams and visitor teams
- Soccer switch to winter season
  - Practice locations
  - Home game sites
  - Roster impacts due to dual-sport athletes
  - Potential decrease in athlete participation
  - Potential loss of coaches who can't accommodate a winter season
- Tennis switch to spring season
  - Early season practice locations
  - Early season home match sites

# CIF Transition Impacts

## Pros

- Alignment between CA Ed Code and CIF bylaws
  - Rules, policies, laws regarding student play
- Competitive equity around league placement
  - Based on enrollment/competitiveness
- Higher profile postseason
  - More schools, multiple levels to championships (league, section, state)
- Increased athletic visibility for recruiting and scholarships

## Pros

- Less travel time, less missed school, fewer overnights
  - No more overnight trips to Elko, Winnemucca, West Wendover, Battle Mountain, etc.
- Potential new sport offerings
  - Girls flag football
  - Lacrosse (girls & boys)
- CNISSF alignment for Alpine Ski teams
- Non-conference scheduling can maintain long standing matchups and rivalries

# Community Concern Highlights

- **Student Safety**
  - Traveling over Donner Summit, especially in winter
- **Impact on Athletics**
  - Changes to sports seasons soccer in winter & tennis in spring,
- **Lack of Transparency and Community Input**
- **Disruption of Tradition and Community**
  - Loss of long-standing rivalries
- **Practical Issues**
  - Lack of indoor practice facilities for winter sports, potential for game cancellations due to weather and loss of home games.

# Community Requests for Reconsideration and Alternatives

- **Reconsider Decision**

- Follow Lake Tahoe Unified School District (South Lake)'s Decision (stay in NIAA)
  - Superintendent Cutler- *“At this time we are still in NIAA. We are exploring our options and considering legal implications. We want to do what is in the best interest of our students.”*

- **Seek Waiver**

- CA Department of Education Waiver to allow TTUSD to remain in NIAA
- NIAA waiver of new policy for TTUSD

- **Delay Implementation**

Thank you!