

Article ONE
BYLAWS/GENERAL RULES

1.1 ATHLETIC COUNCIL (ADs):

- 1.1-1 Will consist of two representatives from each school if possible. It is recommended that one representative be male and one female.
- 1.1-2 All recommendations must go through the Athletic Council for approval before presentment to the Board of Managers.
- 1.1-3 The following schools will chair the following sports:
 - 1. Pioneer - Flag Football, Volleyball (Boys/Girls)
 - 2. River City - Water Polo (Boys/Girls), Softball
 - 3. Rodriguez - Golf (Boys/Girls), Swim & Dive (Boys/Girls)
 - 4. Sacramento - Basketball (Boys/Girls)
 - 5. Vacaville - Football, Wrestling, Cross Country (Boys/Girls), Track & Field (Boys/Girls)
 - 6. Vanden - Tennis (Boys/Girls), Baseball
 - 7. Wood - Badminton, Soccer (Boys/Girls)
- 1.1-4 All-League players, for MEL Sports, will be selected by a process approved by the Board of Managers (BOM) and conducted by the Athletic Director in charge of each sport.

1.2 STARTING DATES: Will follow the Sac-Joaquin Section season of sport calendar

1.3 AWARDS:

- 1.3-1 League Champions will receive a pennant.
 - A. Only MEL member schools are eligible for the League Awards, pennants, patches, and medals.
 - B. All league games will count towards the league championship.
- 1.3-2 Criteria for determining a league champion is located in each sport specific bylaw.
- 1.3-3 All-League players, for MEL Sports, will be selected by a process approved by the Board of Managers (BOM) and conducted by the Athletic Director in charge of each sport.

The following number of All-League patches will be awarded:

Badminton	12 All League patches
Baseball	18 All League patches
Basketball (Boys & Girls)	14 All League patches each
Cross Country (Boys & Girls)	8 All League patches each
Football	28 All League patches

Golf (Boys & Girls)	8 All League patches each
Soccer (Boys & Girls)	22 All League patches each
Softball	18 All League patches
Swimming & Dive (Boys & Girls)	21 All League patches each
Tennis (Boys & Girls)	12 All League patches each
Track & Field (Boys & Girls)	26 All League patches each
Volleyball (Boys & Girls)	14 All League patches each
Water Polo (Boys & Girls)	8 All League patches each
Wrestling (Boys & Girls)	14 All League patches each

1.3-4 Track, Swimming, and Wrestling will have 2nd and 3rd place finishers recognized.

1.3-5 Academic All-League Certificates shall be awarded to those athletes who have attained the following level of achievement:

1. The Athlete must be on a Varsity team
2. The Athlete must have been on the Varsity all season long
3. The Athlete must have attained a 3.50 unweighted GPA at the grading period closest to the last League game of the season
4. The Athlete does not have to be selected for any other honor (All League, Honorable Mention, or MVP)
5. The certificate shall read All League Academic Team

1.4 SCHOOL OF THE YEAR:

A pennant will be awarded to the school accumulating the most points on the following basis:

- 1st place = 10 pts
- 2nd place = 8 pts
- 3rd place = 6 pts
- 4th place = 4 pts
- 5th place = 3 pts
- 6th place = 2 pts
- 7th place = 1 pt

There will be only one School of the Year pennant awarded.

1.5 LEAGUE SPORTS:

1.5-1 To be considered a league sport, four (4) schools must have teams. If there is a recognized league sport, a league schedule must be presented. Frosh/Soph sports will not be considered a league sport.

1.5-2 Schools assigned to another league and requesting to compete in a MEL sport shall be assessed one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per sport each season if the request is granted.

1.6 ADMISSION PRICES:

1.6-1 Admission prices are as follows:

Football Ticket Prices

Adults - \$10

Students - \$7

Seniors - \$5

Children (5 and under) - Free with adult supervision

All Other Sports Ticket Prices (Including Freshman Football)

Adults - \$8

Seniors/Students - \$5

Children (5 and under) - Free with adult supervision

League Wrestling Tournament

Adults - \$10

Seniors/Students - \$5

Children (5 and under) - Free with adult supervision

Admission for all other League Tournaments

Adults - \$8

Seniors/Students - \$5

Children (5 and under) - Free with adult supervision

- 1.6-2 The term "student" as used in the schedule of admission prices will be defined as a student at the home school and students at the opponent's school with a student body card.
- 1.6-3 Cheerleaders, Pom Squads and Drill Team members in uniform may be admitted free of charge. If band members are not in uniform, the band director may identify them.
- 1.6-4 Individual schools will have the option of allowing students from their own school with student body cards to be admitted free of charge.
- 1.6-5 If only one school is charging admission for a particular sport (i.e. baseball, soccer, etc.) that school may set the admission price either lower than or equal to the League required admission price.

1.7 FIELDING TEAMS: If a school has only one team, it must be a varsity team.

1.8 PROTESTS:

1.8-1 All Protests are dealt with by the Section office.

1.9 CHANGE IN PLAYER STATUS:

- 1.9-1 An athlete eligible in all aspects---Academics, age and grade level may move from one classification to another (varsity, junior varsity, etc.). However, an athlete may not compete in more than one classification in a day, (Section bylaw 503.7)
- 1.9-2 In those sports where there are section playoffs a frosh/soph may move down for the post-season competition.

1.9-3 In swimming, after the dual meet season, a frosh/soph may move from varsity to junior varsity for the league championship meet.

1.9-4 This rule does not apply to wrestling.

1.9-5 League Recommendation:

1.9-5.1 The Frosh season should end before the next sport season try-outs begin.

1.10 ADULTS:

For league purposes an adult is defined as anyone over 18 years of age who is out of high school.

1.11 RENEWAL OF A SPORT:

If a district within the league abolishes a sport, and if a school within that district wishes to continue or to renew competition in that sport, they must notify the league of their intentions no later than the opening day of the season of that sport in which they wish to participate.

1.12 FORFEITS:

1.12-1 As soon as the possibility of a forfeit arises the commissioner is to be notified. If the dispute is not resolved by the two schools, the commissioner will form a committee of three neutral principals or athletic directors to resolve the matter.

1.12-2 Consequences of a forfeit:

A) In football, if a visiting team forfeits, that team will lose home field advantage the following year.

B) The protest committee may levy additional penalties

1.12-3 If a team is forced to cancel its season after the first league game, none of its games will count in league standings.

1.13 SUPERVISION:

1.13-1 The League requires an administrator or his/her designee from both schools at all football games.

1.13-2 Administrative supervision from both schools will take place at the rival game in basketball.

1.13-3 Requests by the home school for the visiting school to also provide an administrator will be honored.

1.14 CONTACTS

1.14-1 The number of contacts per sport will be determined by the Sac-Joaquin Section. See Article 12 (approved sports) for specific details.

The maximum number of allowable contacts is in effect for teams during the regular season.

The maximum number of allowable contacts does not include Section Foundation or Scholarship Games, League culminating tournament, Section, Regional or State Championships.

1.15 SCRIMMAGES:

- 1.15-1 The number of contacts per sport will be determined by the Sac-Joaquin Section.
- Scrimmages taking place before a team's first official contest shall not count as contacts.
 - Scrimmages held after a team's first official contest shall count as a contact.
- 1.15-2 A scrimmage is defined as supervised competition between two or more teams where:
- No officials are paid.
 - Admission may be charged, but the price may not exceed \$4; closed scrimmages are Permissible.
 - No score/results are released to the media.
 - No awards are presented.

1.16 STARTING TIMES

Badminton	4:00pm
Baseball	4:00pm
Basketball (Boys & Girls)	4:30pm (Freshman), 6:00pm (JV), 7:30pm (Varsity)
Cross Country (Boys & Girls)	3:30pm (Can be moved by mutual agreement)
Football	5:15pm (Frosh or JV), 7:30pm (Varsity) *Saturday "day game times" TBD
Golf (Boys & Girls)	Between 2:30pm and 3:30pm (based on course availability)
Soccer (Boys & Girls)	5:00pm (JV), 7:00pm (Varsity)
Softball	4:00pm
Swimming & Dive (Boys & Girls)	4:00pm
Tennis (Boys & Girls)	4:00pm
Track & Field (Boys & Girls)	3:30pm
Volleyball (Boys & Girls)	Girls: 4:30pm (Frosh/JVB), 5:30pm (JV), 6:30pm (Varsity) Boys: 5:00pm (JV), 6:00pm (Varsity)
Water Polo (Boys & Girls)	Game 1: 5:00pm Game 2: 6:00pm
Wrestling (Boys & Girls)	Single Dual: JV at 6pm with Varsity to follow Quad: JV Boys at 4:00pm with girls and then Varsity to follow

1.17 MUTUAL AGREEMENT:

Dates and starting times in all sports may be changed by mutual agreement between the schools involved.

1.18 SPRING BREAK:

If the school districts within the league are divided on spring break dates, there will be a one-week break before or after Easter depending on the majority of the school districts. The remaining schools will schedule games during this period by using the mutual agreement clause.

1.19 LEAGUE PASSES:

Each school will receive 50 passes. The commissioner will provide each superintendent with 10 passes for the district's school board and his/her discretion.

1.20 POST GAME HANDSHAKES:

This will be left to the discretion of the coaches.

1.21 CANCELLED GAMES:

In all sports all cancelled games will be made up at the earliest available date.

1.22 SPORTSMANSHIP POLICY (Ejections):

1.22-1 The Sac Joaquin Section Commissioner shall decide the number of games of suspension for all ejections of fighting, leaving the bench during a fight, assaultive behavior, or gross unsportsmanlike conduct.

The student's school Principal will have 48 Hours to submit a notification to the Section Commissioner with a copy to the League President and League Commissioner of an appeal. Appeals may only include misidentification of the player or misapplication of the rule.

1.22-2 Protests regarding misidentification of player or misapplication of rule(s) must be made in writing by the principal of the school that is protesting to the Section Commissioner.

1.23 SUSPECTED VIOLATION PROCEDURE:

- A. First step of a suspected violation will be the inquiry step. The inquiry step is more informal in nature and may eliminate the more formal steps of suspected violation. The inquiry step would mean that the principal of school A suspecting school B of a possible violation would make personal contact with that Principal. School B would have 5 days to get back to School A with the findings. If school B validates the violation, then a self-report would be made to the Section and League. If school B does not validate the violation, then school A would have the option to accept the findings or proceed with the next steps in the violation process.
- B. If a school suspects a violation of M.E.L. or C.I.F. rules, a letter will be sent by the principal to the suspected school's principal clearly outlining the suspected rule violation and provide evidence confirming the violation. If the suspected infraction violates M.E.L. rules a copy of the letter shall be sent to the M.E.L. President and Commissioner. If the suspected infraction violates C.I.F. rules, a copy of the letter will be sent to the Sac-Joaquin Section Commissioner, the M.E.L. President, and the M.E.L. Commissioner. All questions of eligibility shall be submitted directly to the Sac-Joaquin Section Commissioner.

- C. The school suspected of the rule violation will have 30 calendar days from the receipt of the letter to respond to the inquiring school. The communication will be from school principal to school principal with copies mailed as outlined above. The response will either confirm or reject the suspected violations. If the suspected violation is confirmed the violating school will provide and “in house” penalty for violating the rule.
- D. The inquiring school will have five working days to accept or reject the suspected school’s response. If accepted and an infraction of the rule has occurred, the league will be informed of the infraction and self-imposed penalties. If the response is rejected and is a violation of M.E.L. rules the presentment will Then be made to the M.E.L. President at the next BOM meeting and/or at a special meeting. The President will then commence with scheduling the Requested Hearing.

1.24: REQUESTED HEARINGS

- 1.24-1 The Hearing committee shall consist of the league Principals on the Board of Managers. A quorum shall consist of 2/3 of the membership schools.
- 1.24-2 Voting: all voting shall be done by the school’s principal and his/her designee as the person authorized to vote. When a quorum is present, most of the votes cast, ignoring abstaining votes, is sufficient for the adoption of any motion that is in order.
- 1.24-3 Meetings: The Hearing committee shall meet as a segment of regularly scheduled Monticello Empire League meetings and/or special meetings convened upon the call of the president. An appeal presentation received by the president shall activate the committee.

1.25 HEARING RESULTS:

- 1.25-1 Hearing Chairperson:
If the affiliation of the accused or the signer of the presentment renders the league president ineligible to act as the committee chairperson, the chair passes to the next non-affiliated member in order of ascendancy to the presidency.
- 1.25-2 Evidence:
To be presented at the hearing, evidence must be written and signed.
- 1.25-3 Penalties:
The hearing phase of the committee shall determine guilt or acquittal.
 - A) Level One Misconduct--suggested penalty:
 - 1. In house action to be reported back to league.
 - 2. A written league reprimand to the school involved.
 - 3. One sport--one year probation.
 - 4. In-service on CIF/MEL rules and regulations.
 - B) Level Two Misconduct--suggested penalty:
 - 1. One sport--two-year probation.
 - 2. Loss of playoff share.
 - C) Level Three Misconduct--suggested penalty:

1. Team--not eligible for playoff participation; not eligible for league championship.
2. Individual--not eligible for playoff participation.
3. Loss of playoff shares.

D) Level Four Misconduct--suggested penalty:

1. Sport--Reduce future schedule by ten percent.
2. Game(s) forfeiture.
3. Player ineligibility for season.
4. Request that coach be suspended by his/her principal.

1.25-4 Penalty Phase:

Penalty phase shall focus on the level of misconduct and be appropriate for the guilty party (athlete, team, coach, and/or school). Penalty prescribed may include one or more items from any suggested penalties more severe than the identified level of misconduct.

1.25-5 Charges brought by another School:

A school found guilty of a CIF4 and/or MEL rule that was brought to their attention by another school may be found guilty of any level of misconduct as determined by the hearing committee.

1.25-6 Self-Presentation:

Self-discovery/self-presentation offenses for the first time shall be considered level one or level two misconduct.

1.25-7 Second and Third Offenses:

Second and Third offenses shall be considered level three and/or four as deemed appropriate by the hearing committee.

1.25-8 Statute of Limitations:

The statute of limitations shall be one calendar year.

1.25-9 Appeals Procedures:

Decisions of this committee may be appealed to the C.I.F. Sac-Joaquin Commissioner.

1.26 TIE-BREAKER PROCEDURE:

1.26-1 For all sports except football: Once one team has been designated as a play-off team, the procedure returns to the Head-to-Head competition and start the process again. This continues until all teams have been selected.

1. Head-to-head competition
2. Descending head-to-head competition within the tie
3. Using only the team with the tie, total points/goals allowed against each other at the end of regulation will be used
4. Coin toss

1.26-2 Football tie breaker procedure: Football will use the Sac-Joaquin Section rule 1908.6: Universal Tiebreaker.

1.27 SENIOR NIGHT RECOGNITION:

1.27-1 Teams honoring "senior" players before/after warm-ups or just before the game can announce

the following: **Player name, number, position, and Mom/Dad or guardian name(s).**

1.27-2 Honoring seniors after the completion of the game the announcing of other items such as college acceptance, stats, etc. is acceptable.

1.27-3 Senior participants of support groups such as cheerleader, band, and drill team can be done at half time if it does not extend the half time break. Otherwise, it must be after the game.

1.28 COPIES OF LEAGUE DOCUMENTS:

1.28-1 The first ten pages requested in any one-month shall be free. Any pages after the first ten will be charged a 25 cents per page fee.

1.28-2 If any research is involved the commissioner will charge \$50 per hour for time and labor. (Note: most information may be found on the M.E.L. website.

1.29 If a sport has a season ending League Tournament and there is an admission fee for spectators, all proceeds from the gate, after expenses, will be sent to the MEL Commissioner for deposit in the league treasury. The host school must use the League financial statement that lists acceptable categories for expenses. Charges for game director, scorers and timers will follow the Section rates.

(The form is available http://www.melsjs.org/index_htm_files/MELFinancialreport.pdf)

Last Update: September 28th, 2025