



MEMORANDUM – Oct. 8, 2025

TO: CIF Central Section High School Principals and Athletic Directors

FROM: Central Section Commissioner Ryan Tos

SUBJECT: CIF Central Section Scholarships

Each year, the Central Section honors many deserving senior student-athletes with scholarships for their outstanding achievements both in the classroom, the community and in their athletic endeavors.

We award two graduating seniors from each league (one male and one female) with a scholarship and award dinner in the spring. Here are the steps to nominate the deserving individuals:

1. Each student should submit their applications to their athletic director by a deadline determined by each School, ideally by Feb. 20. The applications should be reviewed at any league meeting before the filing deadline.
2. Each league will select their most deserving male and female student athletes and forward those two applications to the Central Section office.
3. Nominations must be received in the Section office from each league by Friday, March 6, 2026.
4. A selection committee made up of administrators from Central Section schools will determine the top male and female from the pool of league award winners.
5. Award winners will be notified no later than Tuesday, March 24, 2026.

The Section is seeking candidates whose academic and athletic careers have been truly exemplary, students whose personal high standards and accomplishments are a positive model for others; students who possess high levels of integrity and honesty, and who have benefited from their participation in high school interscholastic programs.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- A senior on track to graduate in 2026.
- A 3.5 cumulative grade point average (weighted)
- Participation in at least one varsity sport
- A record of good citizenship

AWARDS

- Two individuals (one male and one female) will receive \$1,000 scholarships.
- Forty-two individuals (21 males and 21 females) will receive \$500 scholarships.
- All nominated individuals will also receive a letterman's jacket patch and personalized trophy.
- Scholarships and awards will be presented at an awards ceremony scheduled for Monday, May 4, 2026.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Completed application form (Page 2)
2. Recent photograph in JPEG form (Suitable for a program and social media posts – often a senior picture. Please email AD or submit on a flash drive. Copied photos or those submitted in a Word file are not acceptable.)
3. Student essay – This year's topic is "Life lessons I have learned while participating in high school sports."
4. Two letters of recommendation

League presidents: Please submit all application materials by March 6, 2026 via email to kellyjones@cifcs.org.

CENTRAL SECTION SCHOLAR ATHLETE OF THE YEAR APPLICATION 2025-26

To be completed by the student, preferably typed. If space is not adequate, please use additional pages.

NAME: _____ STUDENT EMAIL: _____
HIGH SCHOOL: _____ PARENTS'/GUARDIANS' NAMES: _____
PHONE NUMBER: _____ PARENT EMAIL: _____
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: _____ LEAGUE: _____

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Cumulative GPA (weighted): _____ CLASS RANK/SIZE: _____

ATHLETIC INFORMATION

Please be specific in listing sports and levels played throughout each year of high school.
Please include any awards, student body offices and athletic achievements for each year.

COMMUNITY SERVICE INFORMATION

Please list any community service you completed throughout high school.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD THE COMMITTEE KNOW ABOUT YOU?

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

I plan to attend (name of college or university): _____

I plan to major in (name of major): _____

Do you plan to participate in intercollegiate athletics? If so, which sport? _____

Application checklist – all fields required:

- Student application
- Student essay
- Letters of recommendation (2)
- Photos suitable for awards program and social media publication (JPEG, please email AD)
- Principal or administrator signature verifying information in application.

School administrator's signature: _____

Administrator's name & title (please print): _____

Date: _____