MEMORANDUM – Oct. 28, 2026
TO: CIF Central Section High School Principals and Athletic Directors
FROM: Central Section Assistant Commissioner Marty Bitter
SUBJECT: CIF Central Section Scholarships

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

We will award up to 46 graduating seniors from each league/conference, represented by the corresponding number of Board seats, with a scholarship. Here are the steps to nominate the deserving individuals:

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.

1. Each student should submit their applications to their athletic directors by a deadline determined by each school. The applications should be reviewed at a league/conference meeting before the filing deadline, preferably no later than February.
2. Each league will select their most deserving student athletes and forward those applications to the Central Section office.
3. Applications must be received in the Section office from each league/conference by Monday, March 1, 2027.
4. A selection committee made up of administrators from Central Section schools will determine the top male and female recipient from the pool of league/conference final selections.
5. Award winners will be notified no later than Monday, March 22, 2027 and invited to the awards dinner.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- A senior on track to graduate in 2027
- Participation in at least one varsity sport
- A 3.5 cumulative grade point average (weighted)
- Record of good citizenship

AWARDS

- Up to 46 individuals will receive $500 scholarships.
- Two individuals (one male and one female) will receive $1,000 scholarships.
- All recipients will receive a check, a patch and an engraved award.
- Recipients will be presented at an awards evening, scheduled for Monday, May 3, 2027

REQUIREMENTS

1. Completed application form (Page 2)
2. Student Essay – This year's topic is "A Great Example of Sportsmanship I Have Experienced." Whether on your team or another squad, a subtle or grand gesture, a lesson a coach taught, describe what happened, how you felt about it and how it affected your behavior since. Maybe it was something you did! Why did you do it and how was it received?
3. Two letters of recommendation
4. 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.)

League presidents: Please submit all application materials by March 1, 2027 via email to kellyjones@cifcs.org.

CENTRAL SECTION SCHOLAR ATHLETE OF THE YEAR APPLICATION 2026-27

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

NAME: _____ **EMAIL:** _____
HIGH SCHOOL: _____ **PARENTS/GUARDIANS NAMES:** _____
LEAGUE: _____ **PARENT EMAIL:** _____

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? (Interests, family roles, goals, etc.)

Application checklist – all fields required:

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

School administrator's signature: _____

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

Date: _____