



CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION

STATE MEDIA RELEASE

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California High School Sports Participation at All-Time High for Sixth Consecutive Year *808,557 Student-Athletes Participating Throughout the State*

SACRAMENTO, CALIF. – High school sports participation continues to increase in California and is at an all-time high for the sixth consecutive year according to the 2018 California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Sports Participation Survey. Up by 2.95% since the previous survey in 2017, 808,557 student-athletes are competing in education-based athletic programs in California.

“It’s encouraging to see the continued participation increase in education-based athletics,” stated CIF Executive Director Roger L. Blake “Our member schools are offering more opportunities for their students which is an important part of the overall education of our youth.”

Along with the overall participation increase in high school athletics there were a few sports that saw noticeable increases across both genders. Of the top 10 sports, swimming and diving saw the largest percentage increase, a combined 4.46% or 2,307 more participants (4.84% or 1,439 participants increase for girls; 3.94% or 868 participants increase for boys), followed by golf with a 3.29% increase or 611 more participants (5.74% or 462 participants increase for girls; 1.41% or 149 participants increase for boys). Additionally, girls’ wrestling participation continues to increase, this year by 17.33% as 781 more girls are competing in the sport for 5,286 total participants as of 2018.

Football (11-player) continues to lead the top 10 boys’ sports with 94,286 participants which decreased, by 2.87% (2,793 participants). Track and field (56,606) is the second most popular sport, which increased participation by 1.02% since 2017 followed by soccer (53,262); basketball (47,584) and baseball (44,477) rounding out the top five boys’ sports. Additionally, boys’ swimming and diving participation increased (3.94%) and took over the seventh spot, surpassing wrestling, with 22,872 participants.

For girls, soccer captured the top spot for the third consecutive year with 47,186 participants, followed by former top 10 leader track and field (46,327 participants). Volleyball still trails a third (45,139), which increased participation by 1.37% since 2017, followed by basketball (34,631) and softball (33,400). Additionally, traditional competitive cheer participation claimed the 10th spot, ousting lacrosse, with 9,212 participants in its first year as an approved CIF sport.

The CIF’s 1,606-member schools participated in the survey as part of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) nationwide survey that measures the number of students competing in sports in the country.

A chart indicating results from the last 10 participation surveys follows. Only CIF-approved sports are listed individually. Also, a summary of the top 10 sports by gender, based on participation numbers, can be located on subsequent pages.

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BOYS' PARTICIPATION BREAKDOWN

SPORT	BOYS 2007	BOYS 2009	BOYS 2011	BOYS 2012	BOYS 2013	BOYS 2014	BOYS 2015	BOYS 2016	BOYS 2017	BOYS 2018
Badminton	3,512	4,036	3,987	3,924	3,585	3,604	3,651	3,958	3,820	3,964
Baseball	42,835	42,064	42,977	43,236	43,253	43,482	44,361	44,131	43,913	44,477
Basketball	44,722	42,521	43,176	43,989	43,766	44,097	44,809	45,685	46,114	47,584
Cheer-Trad.Com.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	**147	639
Cheer-Com. Sport	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	**35	272
Cross Country	25,790	26,766	29,580	29,130	29,583	29,987	29,415	29,632	31,830	32,951
Field Hockey	193	123	76	67	195	92	51	1	2	0
Football 11-player	107,916	104,224	103,921	103,088	102,505	103,464	103,725	100,205	97,079	94,286
Football 8-player	1,784	2,507	2,241	2,168	2,114	2,247	2,437	1,928	2,124	2,088
Golf	11,897	11,295	11,288	11,027	11,062	10,986	11,032	10,828	10,523	10,672
Gymnastics	37	79	75	62	36	36	57	13	14	1
Lacrosse	5,323	7,365	8,288	8,567	8,813	9,091	9,294	9,264	9,569	9,684
Skiing	761	671	707	616	564	595	596	428	474	503
Soccer	44,730	44,705	47,078	47,753	47,861	48,564	49,307	52,266	52,795	53,262
Softball	743	311	26	107	226	172	18	13	37	99
Swimming & Diving	18,852	21,518	22,586	22,339	22,971	23,075	23,393	21,971	22,004	22,872
Tennis	19,139	19,266	19,514	19,342	19,039	18,931	19,007	18,771	18,834	18,737
Track and Field	49,911	51,689	57,922	54,319	55,221	54,062	54,854	55,877	56,032	56,606
Volleyball	14,532	15,638	16,087	15,876	15,926	16,242	16,553	18,173	19,676	20,790
Water Polo	14,064	14,852	15,666	15,694	16,377	16,263	16,509	16,634	16,780	17,143
Wrestling	25,896	27,469	27,833	27,665	27,634	27,461	26,327	23,969	22,385	22,441
Other**	1,472	1,462	6,368	7,962	7,164	7,412	8,745	11,148	10,353	12,919
Total	437,592	438,561	453,037	448,971	450,729	452,452	455,396	453,747	454,005	459,171

Whenever a school provides only a team for boys in a particular sport, girls are permitted to qualify for the “student” team(s).

**Note: As part of the NFHS survey, the CIF measures participation in all sports and activities. The above list does not comprise all sports/activities sponsored by schools and required in the NFHS survey.

Top 10 Boys Sports	Participants	Increase or Decrease (Since 2017)
81. Football	94,286	-2.87%
82. Track & Field	56,606	+1.02%
83. Soccer	53,262	+0.88%
84. Basketball	47,584	+3.18%
85. Baseball	44,477	+1.28%
86. Cross Country	32,951	+3.52%
87. Swimming & Diving	22,872	+3.94%
88. Wrestling	22,441	+0.25%
89. Volleyball	20,790	+5.66%
90. Tennis	18,737	-0.51%

GIRLS' PARTICIPATION BREAKDOWN

SPORT	GIRLS 2007	GIRLS 2009	GIRLS 2011	GIRLS 2012	GIRLS 2013	GIRLS 2014	GIRLS 2015	GIRLS 2016	GIRLS 2017	GIRLS 2018
Badminton	4,491	5,219	5,119	4,994	4,806	5,012	5,049	5,056	5,005	5,302
Baseball	385	325	83	307	448	323	503	406	283	367
Basketball	34,991	32,980	32,839	35,133	33,411	33,443	33,988	34,386	34,222	34,631
Cheer-Trad.Com.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	**367	9,212
Cheer-Com. Sport	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	**101	3,847
Cross Country	20,873	21,901	23,651	23,758	24,362	25,192	24,775	25,110	25,600	25,377
Field Hockey	3,654	3,925	3,255	3,345	3,431	3,329	3,337	3,341	3,695	3,692
Football 11-player	149	141	179	273	232	252	237	333	420	469
Football 8 -player	15	46	73	44	22	48	29	47	38	27
Golf	6,652	7,017	7,022	6,918	6,985	6,951	7,161	7,531	8,044	8,506
Gymnastics	732	1,039	1,074	1,018	1,091	1,076	958	799	825	760
Lacrosse	3,154	4,956	5,108	5,432	5,736	6,039	6,571	7,555	8,495	8,880
Skiing	544	565	626	446	363	371	404	291	302	304
Soccer	40,895	41,727	42,720	43,391	43,282	43,820	44,809	46,778	47,139	47,186
Softball	31,306	31,801	32,816	32,659	32,097	32,238	32,904	33,366	33,265	33,400
Swimming & Diving	25,115	26,965	27,983	28,182	28,280	28,496	29,192	29,016	29,722	31,161
Tennis	21,818	22,908	22,460	22,527	22,210	22,270	22,704	22,585	23,077	23,428
Track and Field	38,817	41,736	44,625	43,727	44,200	44,567	45,433	45,974	46,276	46,327
Volleyball	36,499	38,920	39,122	40,471	40,271	40,751	41,783	43,423	44,526	45,139
Water Polo	13,482	13,871	14,040	14,239	14,418	14,393	14,655	15,407	15,913	16,085
Wrestling	1,142	1,493	1,910	2,016	2,099	2,286	2,771	4,105	4,505	5,286
Other**	684	631	11,863	32,234	32,052	33,130	37,318	40,610	46,686	35,383
Total	297,911	298,166	304,696	308,879	307,745	310,854	317,263	325,509	331,352	349,386

Whenever a school provides only a team for boys in a particular sport, girls are permitted to qualify for the "student" team(s).

**Note: As part of the NFHS survey, the CIF measures participation in all sports and activities. The above list does not comprise all sports/activities sponsored by schools and required in the NFHS survey.

Top 10 Girls Sports	Participants	Increase or Decrease (Since 2017)
81. Soccer	47,186	+0.10%
82. Track & Field	46,327	+0.11%
83. Volleyball	45,139	+1.37%
84. Basketball	34,631	+1.19%
85. Softball	33,400	+0.40%
86. Swimming & Diving	31,161	+4.84%
87. Cross Country	25,377	-0.87%
88. Tennis	23,428	+1.52%
89. Water Polo	16,085	+1.08%
90. Traditional Competitive Cheer	9,212	N/A