



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Sacramento, Calif., April 29, 2022** – Capital Christian Church and Capital Christian School filed a civil rights lawsuit in federal court against the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) challenging CIF’s imposition of discriminatory sanctions on Christian schools, including Capital Christian High School (CCHS). The lawsuit challenges CIF’s decision to impose sanctions in a discriminatory manner by imposing them exclusively on Christian schools.

In early 2021, concerned Sacramento area parents and coaches organized a club football league to give student-athletes an opportunity to play organized sports, offsetting some of the harm to students’ wellbeing during the COVID-19 shutdown. In February and March 2021, the club league hosted a total of 28 football games with participants from dozens of Sacramento-area public and private schools.

In July 2021, CIF determined that participation in this club football league violated CIF’s rules and COVID19 related public health orders prohibiting interscholastic athletics. Following this determination, CIF did not sanction all schools whose students and coaches participated in the league; only CCHS and three other Christian school football programs were sanctioned.

CIF has not articulated any valid rationale for treating religious school student and coach participation differently from secular students and coach participation.

We filed this lawsuit to protect our constitutional right, as specified in the First Amendment, not to be discriminated against simply because CCHS is a religious school. We also filed this suit to protect the rights of our student-athletes to participate in interscholastic sports, including post-season sports, on the same footing as students at non-religious schools.

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