



Releaguings Update - March 31, 2017

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. James 1:5

Q - Is it true that Orange County principals recently voted to now releague every two years instead of every four years?

A - Yes. The large school principals recently voted to releague every two years. The rationale behind this stemmed from the principals' desire to more regularly review and adjust competitive equity, and provide relief when needed.

Q - The newspaper reported [earlier this week](#) that Orange County principals pared down individual school proposals to three final proposals . Today (3/31) it was reported that Crean Lutheran was likely head to the Empire League. What has been the process, and what is the school's position?

A - Earlier this week, Orange County's large school principals and athletic directors met to review 60 proposals that had been submitted. A vote by the principals winnowed the list of potential recommendations for Orange County's new league affiliations ([beginning 2018-19](#)) to five proposals, and then to three final proposals. These proposals, in order of voting results, potentially show Crean Lutheran in the following scenarios:

Proposal #1: 6-team league Empire League (with: Tustin, Kennedy, Pacifica (in Garden Grove), Valencia (Placentia), and Garden Grove HS).

Proposal #2: 6-team league Empire League (with: Tustin, Kennedy, Pacifica (Garden Grove), Valencia (Placentia), and Cypress HS).

Proposal #3: 8-team conference (**Note:** This model consists of two, four-team leagues, organized by competitive equity in each sport, under umbrella of conference.) **Sunset League** (with Edison, Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach, Marina, Los Alamitos, Newport Harbor, Cypress HS).

Q What is Crean Lutheran's position on these proposals?

A - Crean Lutheran believes in and will strongly advocate for Proposal No. 1. The school believes alignment with these schools will provide a very good challenge in a very well respected league. For those curious about the distance to these schools and how geography plays into re-leaguings, the filter of placing schools locally has become a distant third to competitive equity (No. 1) and enrollment (No. 2) in the process. The distance for some schools in this proposal would be akin to our current Academy League schools like Oxford and Witney.

Q - Does this mean that CLHS will not be in the Trinity League?

A - As the three final proposals suggest, Orange County administrators agree that Crean Lutheran is not a good fit in the Trinity League.

Q - What is next?

A - At this point, each current large school leagues may submit proposals to be considered by the Orange County principals alongside the three final proposals. On May 8, the principals will review all proposals and vote to achieve a final recommendation to take to the CIF Executive Council.

[EARLIER FAQs from February 24, 2017...](#)

Q - What is the releaguings process all about, and how often does it occur?

A - Releaguings is a process CIF administrates every four years to help ensure the best level of competitive equity exists among schools based on historical success over a four-year period, school enrollment, and



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geography (e.g. schools of like success, size, and location near one another.) The releguing process also takes into account new schools that need to be added to a league. The current cycle terminates at the end of the 2017-18 school year, and a new cycle begins with the 2018-19 school year. Note: It is also important to point out that CIF is considering a proposal to relegate every two years, and will vote on March 13, 2017 to determine if a change from a four-year cycle to a two-year cycle would occur.

Q - Is CLHS included in the releguing process in Orange County?

A- Yes, CLHS is involved in the county's releguing process. The school's eight years in the Academy League have coincided with increased enrollment and the addition of several sports and levels not consistently offered by all members of the Academy League. This has made it increasingly more challenging to secure a full slate of games for our student-athletes. After consultation with the CIF Southern Section Office on a course of action, CLHS determined that pursuing large school status in Orange County would better address current and future scheduling and competition needs.

Q - How does the process work?

A - In preparing schools for the releguing process, CIF makes a clear point that, for the purposes of releguing, no school is theoretically in a league. Consequently, each of the 76 large schools in Orange County may submit up to three proposals sharing how all 76 schools could be placed. The vast majority will propose the status quo. However, where new schools (e.g. Crean Lutheran and Portola Hills HS) are added, and/or where some schools seek new affiliation, each of the 76 schools may submit up to three proposals to address all situations. The process dictates that each proposal must incorporate all schools. On March 13, 2017, a decision will be made to determine whether a simple majority or a two-thirds vote will be used for the releguing process.

Q - What is Crean Lutheran's position, and is it seeking membership in the Trinity League?

A - While still exploring various considerations, Crean Lutheran is committed to seeking affiliations that follow CIF's purpose in releguing. A scenario that is not endorsed by Crean Lutheran is one that aligns CLHS with the Trinity League. Arguably one of the most competitive leagues in California, with some of the top teams in the country, the Trinity League represents the highest overall level of high school competition in the area. At this stage in Crean Lutheran's development, it would not serve Saints student-athletes, nor Trinity League student-athletes, well to enter into relationship.

Q - When will placements be known, and what sort of petition process is available if a school seeks to appeal placement?

A - The process of releguing, at this point, includes two preliminary meetings on March 13 and March 27, 2017. Schools will be informed if additional meetings are necessary in the spring of 2017. Petitions seeking additional review must be filed with CIF-SS (date TBD) to be considered by the CIF Executive Committee at its April meeting. Potential outcomes include the Executive Committee upholding original placement, or sending the entire placement plan back to Orange County schools for restructuring based upon appeals received. A second review by the Executive Committee could result in upholding the revised placement plan, or the Executive Committee placing a school where it deems best.

We hope this update concerning releguing is helpful to you and useful in any conversations you might have on this subject. If you have any further questions, please contact our Athletic Director, Mr. Eric Olson, who would be glad to assist you. In the meantime, thank you for your prayers for this process, and we will be sure to communicate with you as we learn more.

In Christ,

Mr. Jeffrey Beavers
Executive Director, Operations

Mr. Brian Underwood
Executive Director, Administration