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Sports

Quake postpones all SCCAL sporting events

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It's official. The Santa Cruz Coast Athletic League has postponed all sporting events until at least Monday.

Yesterday afternoon, SCCAL commissioner Pat Lovell along with Marty Krovetz, president of the league's board of managers, decided that such action was necessary in the wake of Tuesday's big earthquake.

This action includes postponing a full slate of SCCAL football games scheduled for this weekend. The following contests are affected: Watsonville at Santa Cruz; Aptos at North Monterey County; and Soquel at San Lorenzo Valley.

Next week, these schools will continue with their football season. The postponed games will be made up at the end of the season, if the contests will have an effect on the final league standings and/or the playoff race.

"If a team's out of the race, the game may not be played if we don't have to," Lovell said.

Basically, three factors forced this decision. First, all high schools in the Santa Cruz County area have been closed since the quake, and teams have not been able to practice. That would make playing a full-contact sport like football quite dangerous.

Second, there's a lack of facilities. Memorial Field at Santa Cruz High is flooded by a broken

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water main, while both Aptos and Watsonville highs are off limits until an engineer can assess if there's any structural damage to the two schools.

Last but certainly not least, there's the issue of fairness, particularly concerning the scheduled Aptos-North County game, a game that could very easily de-

cide the SCCAL football title.

North County was relatively unscathed by the quake, and the school was able to resume classes and football practice on Thursday. Aptos, on the other hand, is still closed. Its football players can't even get into the locker room to get their equipment.

"You want to be fair, and you want to avoid any unnecessary injuries," said North County athletic director and football coach Larry Souza. "We were able to practice, and Aptos hasn't. For us to have one or two practices and then play a team that hasn't had any isn't necessarily the right thing.

"These should be everyone's priorities right now — family, friends and neighbors," Souza continued. "It's a time for the strong to help the weak. But on the other hand, I feel that getting on with life as soon as possible is important for the kids, too."

Aptos athletic director Jim La Torre agreed. "I think this decision was made in the best inter-

ests of the county and the students," he said.

Football isn't the only sport that's been affected by the quake, and the resulting decision to postpone all athletic events. Girls' volleyball, girls' tennis, water polo and girls' swimming have all had games cancelled, postponed or interrupted at various times this week.

All these games or matches may be made up later.

"Everything is affected by this decision," Lovell said.

At Cabrillo College, classes were cancelled since the quake. The Seahawks' scheduled Coast Conference football game Saturday at Monterey Peninsula College has been postponed.