

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE VALLEY OAK LEAGUE

The Valley Oak League was formed in 1947 to provide common opponents in the sports of football, basketball and baseball. Charter members of the league were Ceres, Livingston, Manteca, Oakdale, Sonora and Tracy High Schools. From time to time, other valley schools came into the league and some of the charter schools left for brief periods of time. In the 50's and 60's new members included St. Mary's, Lincoln, Atwater, Downey and Los Banos. During that period of time, Manteca and Oakdale left the league for a brief stint in the Central California Conference (CCC), and Tracy left for the San Joaquin Athletic Association (SJAA). East Union joined the league in the late 60's. Livingston also left the league in the early 70's, rejoined then left in the 80's then rejoined again in the early 90's. After two more years in the VOL, Livingston left again to join a smaller league. New to the league in 1993-94 was Merrill West, the second high school in Tracy, and in 1994-95, Sierra, the third high school in Manteca joined the VOL. Bear Creek of Lodi joined the league in 1992-93, and left after four years to join the larger SJAA. Long time VOL member Ceres, joined the Division I CCC league in 1995-96. Tracy returned to the league from the SJAA in 1996-97. Buhach Colony of Atwater joined the League in 2001. Pitman of Turlock joined the league in 2002. Tracy and West left to join the SJAA in 2002. Weston Ranch joined the league in 2003. Los Banos and Pitman joined the CCC in 2004. Central Valley of Ceres joined the league in 2005. Buhach left in 2006 and Ceres returned in 2006. Lathrop joined the league in 2008. Central Valley & Ceres left in 2010 and Kimball of Tracy joined in 2010. Sonora left the VOL in 2014, and was replaced by Central Catholic. Weston Ranch left the VOL in 2021 to join the SJAA. River Islands joined the VOL in 2022 as a new school for a two-year period and will join the CCAA in 2024-25. Kimball moved over to the TCAL in 2024-25. Mt. House and Patterson joined the VOL in 2024-25.

Ed Brasmer became the first VOL Commissioner in 1994. He served until 1998, and Dick Durham took over Commissioner duties in April 1998. He served until January 2001, when Norm Antinetti started his tenure. After the sudden passing of Norm Antinetti in December of 2021, President Steve Clark filled in until Rick Francis became the new Commissioner in April of 2022.

The current members beginning in 2024-25 are: Central Catholic, East Union, Manteca, Mt. House, Oakdale, Patterson and Sierra.