



NJSIAA Football Tournament Regulations – 2023-2024

NJSIAA reserves the right to adjust, change or cancel dates, times, and locations for all NJSIAA State tournaments. Member schools will not be eligible to participate in any NJSIAA Tournaments if it has violated the NJSIAA Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Policies, or Procedures.

Any student-athlete who transfers after the competition start date will not be eligible for this tournament (Bylaws, Article V, Section 4.K. 5).

Schools entering the tournament will not be granted a change of date/time due to any conflicts with school trips, proms, banquets, SATs, unless agreed upon by both schools. The NJSIAA will make every effort to accommodate schools that have a conflict with their graduation.

Schools that are disqualified from state tournament competition after the tournament has been seeded but prior to the bracket being final, then the bracket will be reseeded and the next ranked school who entered the tournament will be included. If a school is disqualified from state tournament competition after the tournament has been seeded and after the bracket is final, then the bracket will not be reseeded, and no additional school will be included. If a school is disqualified from state tournament competition during the state tournament, then the school will be removed from the tournament immediately and their last opponent will advance in their place.

Schools participating in any NJSIAA tournament are responsible for the actions and behaviors of their spectators. Schools are required to provide adequate staff security to ensure there is proper oversight of their spectators. In addition, schools are financially responsible for any damages to the property or premises caused by their student-athletes, staff, or spectators (spectators include, but are not limited to, cheerleaders, marching band participants, students, and other fans).

NJSIAA requires Certified Athletic Trainers at all its tournament events. The ATC must document all injuries on an injury report form. This form must be available to the NJSIAA upon request.

Member schools not willing or able to comply with these tournament regulations and any relevant procedures found in the Operating Procedures Handbook should not enter the tournament. Member schools are encouraged to review these tournament regulations with the school administration. Coaches must have a copy of these regulations as well as a copy of the Rule Modifications (if any) for this tournament available at all contests. Copies of these documents are available on the NJSIAA website.

NJSIAA Director of Football

Colleen Maguire

(609) 259-2776

cmaguire@njsiaa.org

Football Coordinator

Greg Bailey

(973) 703-1492

gbailey@njsiaa.org

NJSIAA Rules Interpreter

Mike Bartram

(609) 351-1902

njfbrules@gmail.com

NJSIAA Statistician/Scores Reporting

Jon Fass, Gridiron New Jersey

(908) 872-4482

football@njsiaa.org

New for the 2023-2024 Season

1. An optional 2-day early start for heat acclimatization is permissible with school district approval; however, the optional early start does not change the first scrimmage date or competition start date.
2. The Regional Invitational Tournament is replaced with Regional Consolation Games – which will include four team pairings with the winners advancing to Round 2, losers may mutually agree to play.
3. St. Thomas Aquinas has been added to the non-public multiplier C category.
4. Public state semifinals will be played at the higher seed school.
5. During the NJSIAA State Tournament, NJSIAA reserves the right to move a game to another site if the field conditions are not considered suitable.
6. During the NJSIAA State Tournament, all regular season and state tournament games must be exchanged via the Qwikcut or Hudl platforms only – hard copy or other exchange methods are prohibited.
7. All state championship games, both public and non-public, will be played no later than Thursday, November 30, 2023 – dates and times are subject to availability at our host sites.

Football Important Dates		
Event	Dates	Location
Heat acclimatization starts *	August 7, 2023	
First Practice	August 9, 2023	
First Scrimmage	August 16, 2023	
Opening Day (Week 0 – All Levels)	August 25, 2023	
Opening Day (Week 1)	August 31, 2023	
Post-Season Transfer by Date	August 31, 2023	
Entry Form – Open	October 1, 2023	
Entry Form – Close	October 15, 2023	
Officials Conflict of Interest Form:	October 15, 2023	
Cutoff (Public)	October 21, 2023	
Tournament Seeding (Public)	October 22, 2023	
Cutoff (Non-Public)	October 28, 2023	
Tournament Seeding (Non-Public)	October 29, 2023	
Regular Season Competition Ends	November 26, 2023	
Post Season Meeting	January 23, 2024	
Public Tournament		
Round 1	October 27 or 28, 2023	Higher Seed
Round 2	November 3 or 4, 2023	Higher Seed
Sectional Finals	November 10 or 11, 2023	Higher Seed
State Semifinals	November 17 or 18, 2023	Higher Seed
State Finals **	November 26, 27, or 28, 2023	Met Life/Rutgers University
State Finals (Thanksgiving Day team) **	November 29, or 30, 2023	Met Life/Rutgers University
Non-Public Tournament		
Round 1	November 3 or 4, 2023	Higher Seed
Round 2	November 10 or 11, 2023	Higher Seed
Round 3 (Semifinals)	November 17 or 18, 2023	Higher Seed
State Finals **	November 26, 27, or 28, 2023	Met Life/Rutgers University
State Finals (Thanksgiving Day team) **	November 29, or 30, 2023	Met Life/Rutgers University

*School District approved early start for heat acclimatization only – this does not count towards the 6-day practice rule.

**Date and location will be dependent on facility availability.

Maximum Games/League & Conference Scheduling Framework

1. The maximum games to be played by any team is 14 games – August 25, 2023 (Week 0) through November 26, 2023 (season end date).
2. Public schools:
 - a. Non-Thanksgiving teams – 9 games (week 0-8)
 - b. Thanksgiving teams – 8 games (week 0-8), plus Thanksgiving game
3. Public schools may play a maximum of 5 games after the cut-off date, excluding Thanksgiving.
4. Non-Public schools:
 - a. Non-Thanksgiving teams – 10 games (weeks 0-9)
 - b. Thanksgiving teams – 9 games (weeks 0-9), plus Thanksgiving game
5. Non-public schools may play a maximum of 4 games after the cut-off date, excluding Thanksgiving.

Regular Season Contact Limits

NJSIAA schools will be limited to 15 minutes of full contact per week once their regular season starts. A school's regular season start date is the date of that school's first regular season game. The period prior to the first regular season game is considered pre-season and all pre-season full-contact requirements must be adhered to. Please note that the 15 minutes of full contact per week requirement will be in place for the remainder of the school's season, which includes the championship playoffs. It is a recommendation that schools utilize the "Practice Like a Pro" technique, which is not included in the 15 minutes of full contact per week requirement.

Full contact is defined as contact in which players are being tackled to the ground. Thud contact is defined as contact in which players are not being tackled to the ground.

- Pre-season full contact is reduced to a total of 6 hours.
- A scrimmage counts towards one hour of full contact.
- A maximum of 3 full contact scrimmages are allowed during the pre-season.
- One additional "thud" only scrimmage is permitted.
- In-season full contact is limited to 15 minutes per week.*
- There is no limit to "thud", tackling onto a tackling crash mat, or use of tackling dummies.

*A school's in-season period begins the Monday following their first regular season game.

Game Management – Running Clock Rule

For all levels of play, during both the regular season and NJSIAA state tournament games, if the score differential reaches 33 points or more in the 2nd half, the clock will stop only for a score, time out, penalty or injury. If the score differential drops below 25 points, normal timing rules will again be in effect.

Exchange of Game Film

The NJSIAA expects every school to adhere to the following policy regarding the exchange of game film:

1. Regular season league/conference games – Refer to the league/conference policy in place regarding film exchange.
2. Regular season non-league/conference games – Game film exchange is to be mutually agreed upon by both teams prior to the scheduling of the game. The NJSIAA will have no oversight of the exchange of game film for these games.
3. NJSIAA State Tournament games (Championship Tournament and Regional Consolation Games) – All regular season and state tournament games must be made available for exchange to all opponents upon their request during every round of the state tournament via an appropriate exchange method. Please note this means that the entire regular season and every state tournament game must be exchanged with all opponents. Upon seeding of the state tournament, all regular season games must be made available no later than 5:00pm on the day of the seeding meeting and must remain available for the entirety of the post-season tournament. All state tournament games thereafter must be made available within 12 hours of the conclusion of each game.
4. Regular season games after the cut-off date – For any regular season game scheduled after the cut-off date, game film exchange is to be mutually agreed upon by both teams prior to the scheduling of the game. The NJSIAA will have no oversight of the exchange of game film for these games.

During the NJSIAA State Tournament, all regular season and state tournament games must be exchanged via the Qwikcut or Hudl platforms only – hard copy or other exchange methods are prohibited.

To qualify for the Tournament

1. Teams must be competing on a varsity interscholastic basis and sixty percent (60%) of the games played on or before the cutoff date must be against New Jersey schools.
2. The United Power Ranking system will be used to qualify all teams for the tournament.
3. State Tournament – the 16 highest public school power ranking totals in each Super Section and group will qualify for the State Tournament.
4. Regional Consolation Games – the next 4 highest public school power ranking totals in each Super Section and group will qualify for the Regional Consolation Games.
5. Each non-public school bracket may be filled up to 16 teams.
6. Games played after the cutoff date will not count toward the power ranking calculation.
7. Any player with two (2) or more disqualifications in the current season, prior to the start of any NJSIAA tournament, which includes both the State Tournament and Regional Consolation Games, will not be permitted to participate in either tournament.
8. Any varsity team accumulating three (3) or more player or coach disqualifications prior to the start of any NJSIAA tournament, which includes both the State Tournament and Regional Consolation Games, will not be permitted to participate in either tournament. Seeded teams will forfeit their right to compete if a disqualification limit is reached prior to the start of the tournament for the team.

Entry Procedure

1. The tournament entry form must be submitted online only during the period listed above.
2. **The online entry form is applicable to both the State Tournament and Public Regional Consolation Games.**
3. Schools will have the option to select the State Tournament, Public Regional Consolation Games, or both via the online entry form.
4. The Officials Conflict of Interest form must be completed by October 20, 2023.
5. All schools will be required to submit their regular season game schedule only and primary team contact information (name, title, cell phone number) via the NJSIAA online form or directly Gridiron New Jersey via email to football@njsiaa.org.
6. All varsity rosters must be reported to www.njschoolsports.com and must be checked and updated, if necessary, by the start of the tournament. We cannot guarantee any roster changes made after the start of the tournament will make it into the tournament program. If you encounter problems, please contact hssupport@njadvancemedia.com.
7. Final scores must be reported within 2 hours of the conclusion of each game to Gridiron New Jersey via email to football@njsiaa.org or via text to Jon Fass (908) 872-4482. Please be sure to include both team names and final score. For those schools not reporting their game results timely, as indicated above, a warning will be given the first time the school fails to comply. Future instances may be subject to a \$150 fine.

Entry Fee

- \$90.00 per team, Payable to the NJSIAA (Please note Football Tournament).
- Forward all entry fees to the NJSIAA, 1161 Route 130 North, Robbinsville, NJ 08691
- Withdrawing after a team is seeded in either the State Tournament or Regional Consolation Games is subject to the \$90 entry fee and a \$150 fine. In addition, the team is not eligible for participation in the 2024-2025 State Tournament or Regional Consolation Games.

Tournament Seeding (Public Schools State Tournament)

1. Within the North and South Super Sections for each Group the top 16 teams will qualify for the Championship Playoffs.
2. The Super Section will first be subject to a Head-to-Head Rule from top to bottom and will end when #16 did not lose to #17 (See Head-to-Head Rule below).
3. Once the Head-to-Head Rules have been applied, the Top 16 teams will be “Snaked” by final ranking into two sections for each Super Section. (See Snaking Procedures below)
4. Once snaking is completed all brackets are FINAL and NO further movement will occur.

Tournament Seeding (Public Regional Consolation Games)

1. Within the North and South Super Sections for each Group, teams ranked #17 - #20 will be paired into 4-team groupings. The Super Section will first be subject to a Head-to-Head Rule from top to bottom and will end when #20 did not lose to #21 (See Head-to-Head Rule below).

2. The four teams in each group will be paired based on UPR rank.
3. If an odd number of teams wish to participate in the Regional Consolation games, then the Seeding Committee will strive to schedule at least one game but there is no guarantee.
4. **NJSIAA reserves the right to crossover between Super Sections and Groups to complete any four team pairings or additional Regional Consolation game requests**

Public Regional Consolation Games - Rounds

1. The winners of Round 1 within each group will advance to Round 2.
2. The losers of Round 2 may mutually agree to play in Round 2.

Snaked Brackets:

The highest ranked team in each Super Section will be the #1 seed in their traditional section based on Northing number. The teams will alternately be seeded in pairs between brackets (NI/NII v. Central/South) and end with the #16 ranked team per the Super Section as the #8 seed in the #1 UPR ranked team’s traditional section. For instance, Team A is the #1 UPR ranked team in the North Super Section and its traditional section is North I. Therefore, the Sections will be seeded as follows:

North I	North II
Team A	#2 final UPR rank
#4 final UPR rank	#3 final UPR rank
#5 final UPR rank	#6 final UPR rank
#8 final UPR rank	#7 final UPR rank
#9 final UPR rank	#10 final UPR rank
#12 final UPR rank	#11 final UPR rank
#13 final UPR rank	#14 final UPR rank
#16 final UPR rank	#15 final UPR rank

Tournament Seeding (Non-Public State Tournament)

For Non-Public Schools, at the conclusion of Week 9, the top 16 teams per Group will be seeded. A Seeding Committee, as determined by the NJSIAA, will seed both Group A and Group B. The seeding committee will rely primarily on head-to-head results and strength of schedule; however, other criteria may be taken into consideration.

Tiebreaker rule:

If there is a tie for qualification or seeding, then the following tie breaking criteria will be applied:

1. Head-to-Head
2. Common Opponents
3. OSI Ranking
4. Power Point Power Rank
5. Coin Flip

Head-to-Head Rule (Top 16 Qualifiers per Super Section):

The Head-to-Head rule will apply from the “top-down” beginning with the highest ranked team in each Super Section. The criteria for this rule are as follows:

1. Head-to-Head results receive consideration only when a lower ranked team has defeated the higher ranked team immediately above them.
2. If team A, directly below team B, has defeated team B head-to-head, team A would move ahead of team B within that respective Super Section.
3. Teams can only move ahead of a team they defeated that are directly above them in their Super Section.
4. Movement of more than one seeding slot can occur, 1 “jump” at a time providing the teams defeated are directly above them with no “space” in between.

Brackets

1. The Public State Tournament and Public Regional Consolation Games brackets will be posted to www.gridironnewjersey.com on Sunday, October 22, 2023. The Non-Public State Tournament brackets will be posted to the same website on Sunday, October 29, 2023.

2. The media may post brackets following the completion of the seeding meeting, however, seedings and brackets do not become official until 12:00pm on the day after seeding.

Tournament Rules & Information

1. The NFHS Football Rules along with any NJSIAA Football Rule Modifications will govern this tournament.
2. All public and non-public state championship games will be played at Rutgers University or MetLife Stadium. Dates and times of all games will be determined by the NJSIAA.
3. Teams submitting a tournament entry form for either the State Tournament or Public Regional Consolation Games agree to play at any predetermined multi-game site for any round when deemed necessary by NJSIAA staff. Teams not agreeing to play at a predetermined multi-game site will not be eligible for participation in the State Tournament or Public Regional Consolation games the following season.
4. The home field of the higher seeded team will host all games up to the State Championship games.
5. Those games where a designated site other than the home site of the higher seed is used, the higher seeded team will be the "home" team, wear dark-colored jerseys, and use the "home" bleachers.
6. Equal accommodation shall be made for both team spotters at all State Tournament games.
7. A game site will not be changed because of wet or muddy conditions at a particular field. It must be anticipated that similar conditions may be present across all fields at that time of year. However, NJSIAA staff reserves the right to move a game to another site if the field conditions are not considered to be suitable for competition.
8. NJSIAA will not cover the costs related to the rental of bleachers, maintenance, or ground costs (including snow removal). All such costs must be at the expense of the participating teams. Any exceptions must be authorized in writing in advance by the NJSIAA.
9. All tickets and costs associated with the public and non-public first and second round games will be the higher seeded school's responsibility.
10. Any host school electing to play at another site will be responsible in full for any rental or custodial costs.
11. All host schools for preliminary round games will be responsible for assigning and paying all officials. The preliminary round games should be treated like regular season games. The host school will set the day and time of the game.
12. For the public sectional finals and public state semifinals, the NJSIAA will be financially responsible and will retain all game receipts. All tickets for these games will be sold by the NJSIAA via Hometown ticketing.
13. For the public sectional finals and public state semifinals, host schools will be provided a stipend reimbursement check for all event workers. Police bills can be submitted directly to NJSIAA for payment. Any exceptions to the allowable event staff/police security must be approved by the NJSIAA.
14. The NJSIAA State Assignor will schedule the start time for all public sectional final and public state semifinal games. Changes to the assigned start times must be approved by NJSIAA.
15. All championship games played at Rutgers University and MetLife Stadium will be selling tickets through the box office at each facility.

Game Ball Procedures:

1. The game ball will be changed by the officials upon each change of possession.
2. Each school should supply three approved footballs for use during each round of the playoffs, except for the state championship games.
3. Each team shall provide a "ball boy or girl" (age 12 or older) available on the sideline with drying towels available for the officials use.
4. The NJSIAA will provide Wilson G.S.T. F-1003 footballs for the state championship games.

Postponed Football Game:

It shall be the decision of the Site Manager (normally the Director of Athletics of the host school) as to whether a game should be postponed because of inclement weather. Such decision should be made no later than 4 hours prior to kick-off the day of the game, and the Site Manager will attempt to consult with the Director of Athletics of the competing school prior to making his final decision.

1. The final determination of the time and date of any postponed game rests with the higher seeded team (home team). However, schools must mutually agree to reschedule the game to an earlier date.
2. In the event both schools do not mutually agree, then NJSIAA will make the final determination regarding the status of the game.

Overtime Procedures:

The NJSIAA has adopted a 25-yard line procedure to determine a winner in regular season games at the varsity level which end regulation play in a tie. The 25-yard line procedure will utilize the National Federation OVERTIME PROCEDURE in the National Federation Football Rule Book with the following modifications:

1. At the end of regulation playing time, the referee, in the presence of the field captains, shall toss a coin which the visiting team shall call. All other regulations as detailed in the National Federation Football Rules then prevail.
2. To start the overtime, the offensive team shall put the ball in play, 1st and 10, from the 25-yard line of their opponents unless a penalty shall cause the ball to be placed elsewhere.
3. It is possible for a team to earn or be awarded a first down during a team's possession; thus, giving them an additional four (4) downs during their possession to move the ball ten (10) yards for a new series or to score. Since it is possible to earn a first down, the line to gain equipment must be used during the 25-yard line procedure.
4. The defense may score during the OVERTIME PROCEDURE. The ball remains alive if there is a change of possession. Any foul, which occurs after a change of team possession, is automatically refused. If there is a change of possession and the team in possession fouls and subsequently scores, the score is canceled, and A's series has ended. If neither team scores after a change of possession, A's series has ended. If B scores, they are the winners, and the game is over. If a foul occurs before the change of possession, it will be treated as any foul is treated in regulation. If there is an inadvertent whistle after a change of possession, the team with the ball will have the option of accepting the play or to replay the down. This will also be the end of A's series.
5. Each team will be permitted only one (1) time-out during each overtime period. Any unused time-outs from regulation or a previous overtime period WILL NOT be transferred over.
6. Except as specifically provided above, the 2023 National Rules and Regulations, as adopted by the NJSIAA, shall prevail. There is no need to use the scoreboard time during the 25-yard line procedure.
7. In the event of a tie during the regular season, a maximum of 3 series will be played. In the 3rd series, teams must utilize the 2-point try.
8. During the Championship Playoffs, the maximum three (3) series overtime limit will not be enforced. The overtime series will continue until a winner is determined using the 2-point try in the third and subsequent periods if necessary.

Officials Assignment & Fees

Round 1 (Public and Non-Public Schools)

- Higher seeded school will contact their local assignor to schedule officials.
- Six (6) officials will be assigned to each game by the local assignor.
- One (1) game clock operator will be assigned to each game by the local assignor.
- Higher seeded school will pay all officials and the clock operator at the area agreed-upon rate.
- It is the higher seeded school responsibility to secure and pay for the chain crew.
- If applicable, a play clock operator will be assigned to the game by the local assignor,

Round 2 (Public Schools Only) and Rounds 2 and 3 (Non-Public Schools Only)

- Higher seeded school will contact their local assignor to schedule officials.
- Higher seeded school will contact their local assignor to schedule the chain crew.
- Six (6) officials will be assigned to each game by the local assignor.
- One (1) game clock operator will be assigned to each game by the local assignor.
- Higher seeded school will pay all officials, chain crew and clock operator at the area agreed-upon rate.
- If applicable, a play clock operator will be assigned to the game by the local assignor.

Sectional Finals (Public Schools Only)

- NJSIAA will assign and pay for 6 game officials.
- NJSIAA will assign and pay for 3 chain crew personnel.
- NJSIAA will assign and pay for 1 game clock operator.
- If applicable, NJSIAA will assign and pay for 1 play clock operator.

State Semi-Finals (Public Schools Only)

- NJSIAA will assign and pay for 7 game officials.
- NJSIAA will assign and pay for 3 chain crew personnel.
- NJSIAA will assign and pay for 1 game clock operator.
- If applicable, NJSIAA will assign and pay for 1 play clock operator.

State Championship Games (Public and Non-Public Schools)

- NJSIAA will assign and pay for 7 game officials.
- NJSIAA will assign and pay for 3 chain crew personnel.
- NJSIAA will assign and pay for 1 game clock operator and 1 play clock operator.

Public Regional Consolation Games – All rounds

- Higher seeded school will contact their local assignor to schedule officials.
- Six (6) officials will be assigned to each game by the local assignor.
- One (1) game clock operator will be assigned to each game by the local assignor.
- Higher seeded school will pay all officials and the clock operator at the area agreed-upon rate.
- It is the higher seeded school responsibility to secure and pay for the chain crew.
- If applicable, a play clock operator will be assigned to the game by the local assignor.

It is the Athletic Directors responsibility to confirm all assignments of game officials.

Awards

Sectional Champions:

A team trophy and sixty (60) certificates to each Sectional Championship in each Section and Group.

State Group Champions:

A team trophy and sixty (60) certificates to the State Champion in each Group.

United Power Ranking System

The United Power Ranking system will be the sole criteria used to qualify for any NJSIAA tournament, except as noted for the Non-Public Group A and Group B. Once each team's OSI and Power Points calculations are determined, they'll be ranked by their standing within their section.

For example, Team A has the best OSI in its section. Team B has the second best OSI in its section. Team C has the third best OSI in its section. Team D has the fourth best OSI in its section. Team E has the fifth best OSI in its section.

Team A also has the most power points in its section. Team B is 4th in power points. Team C is 5th in power points. Team D is second in power points. And Team E 6th power points.

With OSI accounting for 60% of a team's UPR and power points accounting for 40%, here are the breakdowns for calculating UPR:

Team A: $1(.6) + 1(.4) = 0.6 + 0.4 = 1$
Team B: $2(.6) + 4(.4) = 1.2 + 1.6 = 2.8$
Team C: $3(.6) + 5(.4) = 1.8 + 2.0 = 3.8$
Team D: $4(.6) + 2(.4) = 2.4 + 0.8 = 3.2$
Team E: $5(.6) + 6(.4) = 3.0 + 2.4 = 5.4$

Therefore, Team A (1) is first in this section, while Team B (2.8) in second, Team D (3.2) in third, Team C (3.8) is fourth, and Team E (5.4) is fifth.

The United Power Rank (UPR) will be based on a weighting of two rating systems: Power Points and the Opponent's Strength Index (OSI). The UPR will use a formula that will weigh Power Points at 40% and the OSI at 60%. Please note that all games played will count towards playoff qualification.

Any undefeated team with 7 or more wins against NJSIAA member schools, and no ties, that does not fall in the top 16 of their Super Section after all ranking criteria has been applied, will automatically replace the #16 team.

The ranking criteria includes, but is not limited to, tiebreakers and the head-to-head rule. If multiple teams with 7 or more wins, and no ties, do not fall into the top 16 of a Super Section, then each team will replace the lowest ranked team based on the undefeated teams' UPR standings.

Any team with less than 2 wins against NJSIAA member schools will automatically be ineligible for the State Tournament. Lastly, 7 games will be the minimum number of games used when averaging both the Power Points and OSI totals for use in the UPR system. For instance, if your team only plays 6 games, then both the Power Points and OSI totals will be divided by 7 games for UPR purposes.

The UPR will be made officially available at www.gridironnewjersey.com beginning with the conclusion of Week 2. For Weeks 2 – 7, the UPR will be available no later than Tuesday at 12:00pm. For week 8, the UPR will be available no later than 10:00am on Sunday.

Please notify Gridiron New Jersey (football@njsiaa.org) if any Week 8 Saturday game involving public schools is scheduled to start at 4:00pm or later.

Power Points:

Gridiron New Jersey will maintain a weekly update of the Power Point totals beginning with Week 2. All games will count towards a team's final Power Point average. A team's final Power Point total will be divided by the number of games played (i.e., 7, 8 or 9) prior to, but including, Week 8. However, the final Power Point total will only include Residual Points for your opponent's first seven games played and will be capped at 18 points. Below are examples of how residual points are calculated.

1. Team A is 5-2, Team B is 4-3, and they play each other in their 8th game. After Team A wins the game, their record improves to 6-2, while Team B falls to 4-4. Because residual points are calculated using an opponent's first seven games played, Team A receives 12 residual points (4 x 3), and Team B receives 5 residual points (1 point for each of their opponent's wins through their first seven games).
2. Team A is now 6-2, and plays Team C, who is 7-0. After a Team A victory, their record improves to 7-2, while Team C falls to 7-1. Team A receives 18 residual points (residuals are capped at 18), while Team C receives 5 residual points (because Team A has 5 wins through its first seven games).

Opponent's Strength Index (OSI):

A team's OSI will be the average value of their opponent's Strength Index for all games played. Please see page 11 for a detailed explanation of the Strength Index. Gridiron New Jersey will maintain a weekly update of each team's OSI beginning with Week 2. Opponent's Strength Index points will be awarded as follows:

1. For wins, 100% of the opponent's SI rating
2. For losses, 50% of the opponent's SI rating
3. For ties, 75% of the opponent's SI rating

Upon conclusion of Week 8, the OSI points received from each opponent will be added together and divided by the number of games played (i.e., 7, 8 or 9). This average value of their opponent's SI ratings will be the 60% value used by each team in the United Power Rank formula. All SI ratings will be locked on Tuesday, October 17, 2023; however, the results from Week 8 games will count towards a team's OSI.

Non-Public Group Equivalents:

When a Public school plays a Non-Public member school, the Non-Public's Group equivalent will be used in the power point calculation. When two Non-Public schools play each other, the actual Group size will be used. The Non-Public Group Equivalency chart is included in the Football Classifications that can be found on the NJSIAA website under Football.

Non-Public Multiplier:

When a Public School plays a Non-Public school, the following multipliers will be in effect.

Category A (6 teams)	Category B (5 teams)	Category C (4 teams)
Win = 48 pts; Loss = 32 pts	Win = 42 pts; Loss = 28 pts	Win = 36 pts; Loss = 24 pts
Bergen Catholic	Delbarton	Holy Spirit
DePaul	Donovan Catholic	Pope John
Don Bosco Prep	Red Bank Catholic	Paramus Catholic
Seton Hall Prep	St. Augustine	St. John Vianney
St. Joseph (Montvale)	St. Joseph (Hammonton)	St. Thomas Aquinas
St. Peter's Prep		

There will be no multiplier in effect for all other remaining Non-Public schools. A public school may receive multiplier points for 2 games against opponents listed in the categories above. If a public school plays more than two non-public multiplier schools, then the public school will receive the 2 highest combination of the multiplier values and natural power points.

Non-Public Multiplier Criteria:

The teams in each multiplier category are reviewed annually by the NJSIAA Football Committee and changes may be made based on this review. The annual review primarily relies on historical results against public schools. Schools can be added or moved up annually, while schools can be removed or moved down with each new two-year classification cycle. To be considered as a new multiplier school, then a school must have beaten at least one multiplier school in the prior year.

Non-Playoff Eligible Teams:

Teams participating in a non-playoff eligible division within their league and/or conference (i.e. Union or Ivy division), will not appear in the UPR rankings found at www.gridironnewjersey.com.

Non-playoff eligible teams participating in a non-playoff eligible division may not compete against a playoff eligible team prior to the cut-off date – Saturday, October 21, 2023.

Out of State/Non-Member Opponents:

Games played against out of state/non-member opponents will not be included in the United Power Rank calculation. Therefore, neither power points nor an opponent's strength index will be calculated. However, the games will count as a game played towards the maximum number of games allowed during the season.

Power Point Calculation

1. Quality Points – Each school will receive the following Quality points for a win or a tie from all games played up to, and including, week 8:
 - Win = 6 points
 - Tie = 3 points
 - Loss = 0 points

2. Group Points – Each school will receive the following Group points from a team they defeated or tied for all games played up to, and including, week 8:
 - Group V = 5 points
 - Group IV = 4 points
 - Group III = 3 points
 - Group II = 2 points
 - Group I = 1 point

3. Residual Points – Each school will receive the following Residual points from their opponent's first seven games played only based on the result of the games:
 - a. For every win, a school will receive the following points for each of their opponent's wins or ties:
 - Win = 3 points*
 - Tie = 1.5 points
 - Loss = 0 points

*Total residual points from your opponent's wins will be capped at 18 points.

- b. For every tie, a school will receive the following points for each of their opponent's wins or ties:
- Win = 1.5 points
 - Tie = .75 points*
 - Loss = 0 points

*No points will be awarded when the school's game is their opponents only tie, the school has already been awarded points for that tie.

- c. For every loss, a school will receive the following points for each of their opponent's wins or ties:
- Win = 1 point
 - Tie = 0 points
 - Loss = 0 points

Forfeits:

When a forfeit win is awarded to a school prior to the game, the affected school must accept the forfeit unless they can replace the game. The substituted game must be played the same week to replace the forfeit. If a team cannot play, for any reason, they must accept a forfeit loss. The exception of natural disasters will be determined by the NJSIAA.

Once a school starts its regular season competition, then all scheduled games are expected to be played. No scheduled game can be "mutually dropped" by both teams. Games must either be played, or a forfeit be declared. If there are extenuating circumstances that would prevent two schools from playing a scheduled game, then the League or Conference must submit a written summary of the circumstances that necessitated the need to mutually drop a scheduled game.

When a forfeit win is awarded to a school after the game is played (i.e. due to a rule infraction such as an ineligible player), the opponent will receive a win and the forfeiting school's record will be updated to reflect the forfeit loss(es) and the opponent's record will be updated to reflect the forfeit win(s). All residual points will be based on the updated records.

Power Point Examples

Example 1 (Win)

Team A defeats Team B (G IV) Team A record: 5-2

Team B record: 7-0

Team A earns a total of 28 points: 6 points for the win, 4 points for group size, 18 residual points

Example 2 (Win)

Team A defeats Team B (G IV) Team A record: 5-2

Team B record: 5-1-1

Team A earns a total of 27.5 points: 6 points for the win, 4 group points, 17.5 residual points

Example 3 (Tie)

Team A ties Team B (G IV) Team A record: 5-1-1 Team B record: 4-2-1

Team A earns a total of 13.0 points: 3 points for the tie, 4 group points, 6 residual points

(1.5 points per Team B win only, there are no points for Team B's tie as Team A is their only tie)

Example 4 (Tie)

Team A ties Team B (G IV) Team A record: 5-1-1 Team B record: 4-1-2

Team A earns a total of 13.75 points: 3 points for the tie, 4 group points, 6.75 residual points (1.5 points per Team B win plus .75 for Team B tie against another opponent)

Example 5 (Loss)

Team A loses to Team B (GIV) Team A record: 2-5

Team B record: 4-3

Team A earns a total of 4 points: 0 points for the loss, 0 group points, 4 residual points

Strength Index (SI)

The Opponent's Strength Index (OSI) will be the average value of a team's opponent's Strength Index (SI) for all

games played. The Strength Index will be calculated on a weekly basis and will move based on the game results in relation to the expected outcome of the game.

The Strength Index for all games played during 2022 season will be averaged and then re-balanced by 1/3 to move closer to a Strength Index rating of 60 – this will be the 2023 starting Strength Index. Prior to the start of the season, the 2023 starting Strength Index will be posted to Gridiron New Jersey upon submission of all regular season schedules (please see requirements on page 4). Please note that the Strength Index numbers will be calculated and rounded to the hundredths decimal place (i.e. two decimal points).

For any new program that does not have a 2023 Strength Index rating, they will be assigned a starting SI of 20 points for the season. For any new cooperative sports program, the starting SI rating will default to the highest end of season SI rating from the most recent prior season of the participating teams. When an existing cooperative sports program is dissolved, each school's stand-alone SI rating will be determined by the NJSIAA.

For instance, Team A's BPI was 90 at the end of the season. Therefore, 90 minus 60 equals 30 so Team A will move down by 1/3 of 30 (or 10 points) to a starting SI value of 80 points. Team B's BPI was 39 at the end of the season. Therefore 60 minus 39 equals 21 so Team B will move up by 1/3 of 21 (or 7 points) to a starting SI value of 46 points.

All teams with a Strength Index of 0 or a negative value at the end of the 2022 season will have a starting SI rating of 20 points...no team will start the 2023 season with a SI rating of less than 20 points. For purposes of the OSI calculation only, no opponent will be valued at less than a 20-point SI rating.

For all games up to and including Week 7, a team's SI will move weekly based on the game results compared to the expected outcome of each game. The expected outcome of a game is determined by the SI values prior to the start of the game. For every point off the expected outcome, teams will move by 1/5 (or .2) in the appropriate direction depending on the game result. However, please be reminded that a school's own SI rating has no bearing on its OSI calculation that is included in the United Power Ranking system.

For example, team A's SI is 70 and Team B's SI is 50...the expected outcome of the game is a 20-point difference in favor of Team A.

1. If the game result is a 20-point win by Team A, then there is no change in either Team's SI.
2. If the game result is a 10-point win by Team A (10 points less than the expected outcome), then Team A will move down by 2 points (10 points X .2 = 2 points) and Team B will move up by 2 points.
3. If the game result is a 40-point win by Team A (20 points more than the expected outcome), then Team A will move up by 4 points (20 points X .2 = 4 points) and Team B will move down by 4 points.
4. If the game result is a 5-point win by Team B (25 points more than the expected outcome in favor of Team B), then Team B will move up by 5 points (25 points X .2 = 5 points) and Team A will move down by 5 points.

The Strength Index ratings will be final on Monday, October 16, 2023; however, please note that all games played will count towards playoff qualifications. The final Strength Index ratings will be used in the average calculation that will determine a team's OSI rating which is 60% of a team's UPR. Therefore, a team's OSI rating will be updated weekly during the season, but the value of the opponent's SI will be updated and final on Monday, October 16, 2023.

Forfeits:

When a forfeit win is awarded to a school prior to the game, the affected school must accept the forfeit unless they can replace the game. The SI value for each school will remain unchanged and the SI values will go unchanged. The substituted game must be played the same week to replace the forfeit. If a team cannot play, for any reason, they must accept a forfeit loss. The exception of natural disasters will be determined by the NJSIAA.

Once a school starts its regular season competition, then all scheduled games are expected to be played. No scheduled game can be "mutually dropped" by both teams. Games must either be played, or a forfeit be declared. If there are extenuating circumstances that would prevent two schools from playing a scheduled game, then the League or Conference must submit a written summary of the circumstances that necessitated the need to mutually drop a scheduled game.

When a forfeit win is awarded to a school after the game is played (i.e. due to a rule infraction such as an ineligible player), the SI values for the forfeited game will not be recalculated. However, the OSI will be updated to reflect the new win-loss result.

Head-to-Head Rule (Top 16 Qualifiers per Super Section)

The Head-to-Head rule will apply from the “top-down” beginning with the highest ranked team in each Super Section only. Once a Super Section is divided into two Sections, there will be no jumps within a Section.

Below are examples of how this rule will be applied.

1. If team A, directly below team B, has defeated team B head-to-head, team A would move ahead of team B within that respective Super Section. Example:
 - a. In Group 2, Central/South Super Section, Team A is the #3 ranked Team and Team B is the #4 ranked team.
 - b. Team B defeated Team A in the regular season.
 - c. Team B will now become the #3 ranked Team
 - d. Team A will now become the #4 ranked team.

2. Teams can only move ahead of a team they defeated that is directly above them in a Super Section. Example:
 - a. In Group 4, North I/North II Super Section, Team A is the #13 ranked team and Team B is the #15 ranked team.
 - b. Team B defeated Team A during the regular season
 - c. Team B did NOT play OR lost to the #14 ranked team.
 - d. Team B will remain the #15 ranked team and Team A will remain the #13 ranked team because there is “space” in between them.

3. In Super Sections, movement of more than one seeding slot can occur, 1 “jump” at a time providing the teams defeated are directly above them with NO “space” in between. Example:
 - a. In Group 1, Central/South Super Section we have Team A #6 ranked team, Team B #7 ranked team and Team C #8 ranked team.
 - b. Team C (#8) has defeated Team B (#7) and Team A (#6)
 - c. Team B (#7) DID NOT play Team A (#6)
 - d. Team C is now the #1 ranked team
 - e. Team A is now the #2 ranked team
 - f. Team B is now the #3 ranked team