



FOOTBALL SPORTS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
2024 – 2025 SEASON
January 21, 2025 – 10:00am

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Greg Bailey, Football Coordinator
Mike Bartram, State Rules Interpreter
Greg Troxell, Superintendent, Phillipsburg
John McKenna, DePaul Catholic Athletic Director
Anthony Browning, Woodbury Athletic Director
Brian Dunn, No. Valley Old Tappan Coach
Gary Mobley, Columbia Coach
Shane Fallon, Red Bank Regional Coach

1. Season in Review

Non-Public Multiplier:

Colleen presented the list of non-public multiplier schools by category as proposed by the Football Leagues & Conferences. The committee commented that the changes to the application of the multiplier during the 2024-2025 season were well received – the flexibility to ensure that multiplier schools are accurately identified during the course of the season worked well.

Anthony Browning made a motion to approve the non-public multiplier schools by category as proposed by the Football Leagues & Conferences, John McKenna seconded the motion – all present were in favor.

Games Per Nine Days, 5 Quarters per Consecutive Day Rule:

Colleen solicited feedback from the committee on the change from the twenty-four-hour rule to the 5 quarters per consecutive day rule. Overall feedback was positive, and the committee commented that the flexibility and simplicity of the rule is appreciated.

Overtime Proposal:

The Football Leagues & Conferences have reviewed different overtime options with Mark Bitar and Mike Bartram and proposed a new overtime format; however, the feedback has been supportive of the current rule and there is no consensus feedback on the need to change the current overtime procedures. There will be no proposal to change the overtime procedures for the 2025-2026 season; however, NJSIAA staff will monitor overtime periods and continue to solicit feedback moving forward.

NFHS Uniform Rules – Reminders:

Greg Bailey provided an update from the recent NFHS Football Rules Committee meeting which was held the prior week in Indianapolis. Mike Bartram attended the meeting as well as a member of the NFHS Football Game Officials Manual Committee. Both commented on the amount of time that NFHS staff spent expressing concerns about an increasing trend in uniform violations. The committee informally discussed the concerns and offered some general feedback on what else can be done to help officials enforce compliance with the rules.

Tinted Visor Requests:

Colleen informed the committee that the NJSIAA Sports Medical Advisory Committee will be issuing formal guidance on requests for the use of a tinted visor – NFHS rules currently prohibit the wearing of a tinted visor during competition. NJSIAA staff will also be creating an online form for a school to request a medical waiver that will allow a student-athlete to wear a tinted visor. This guidance and online form will be available before the start of the 2025-2026 season.

2. Post-Season in Review

Public School Seeding:

Colleen presented a proposal from the Football Leagues & Conferences to modify the seeding rules for the public-school state tournament – this is due primarily to increasing concerns with some travel distances for the central and south sections during the preliminary rounds. The proposal will keep the qualification criteria in place for each super section but will no longer use a snake-seeding process. Once the top 16 teams in each super section are locked, then the #1 and #2 seed in the super section will be assigned as the #1 seed in each section. The remaining teams (ranked #3 - #16) will be sorted by northing number to split them by geography – the northernmost teams (i.e., N I and Central) versus the southernmost teams (i.e., N II and South). Once the remaining teams are split by geography, then the teams in each section will be re-sorted by UPR and seeded #1 - #8 – there will be no head-to-head jumps after the teams are split by northing number and re-sorted by UPR.

The Football Leagues & Conferences reviewed this past year's tournament seeding under these proposed rules and agreed that these rules better align teams geographically while also keeping the spirit and integrity of the qualification criteria in place. Gary Mobley made a motion to approve the proposal, and Anthony Browning seconded the motion – all present were in favor.

3. Season Dates

Colleen provided a handout to the committee of proposed dates for the 2025 season, which primarily reflect corresponding dates to the 2024 season.

4. Tournament Staff Updates

Mike reminded the committee of his availability to review uniform proofs prior to ordering to ensure they are compliant with NFHS rules. Mike also reminded the committee that it is the responsibility of the head coach to ensure all players are legally equipped. NJSIAA staff will continue to message this to coaches and administrators prior to the start of the 2025-2026 season.

Mark Bitar was unable to attend the meeting but provided a written report that Colleen shared. The use of 7-man crews starting at the public sectional finals was well received and the Association will continue to do so moving forward. New to this past season, Mark assigned chain crews to all games beginning with the second round of both the public school and non-public school tournament – the Association will continue to do so moving forward. Lastly, all four football officials' chapters were represented in the 7 state championship games.

5. New Business – Old Business

There were no items noted.

6. Correspondence

There were no correspondences submitted for the committee's consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Maguire, Executive Director