

**NEW JERSEY STATE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**  
1161 Route 130, P. O. Box 487      Robbinsville, NJ 08691

**2017 NEW JERSEY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL REGULATIONS**

**RULE 8. FOOTBALL**

Section 1. Rules. The National Federation Football Rules shall govern all NJSIAA games.

Section 2. Start of Practice. Practice starts August 7, 2017. See Rule 2, Section 6.

Section 3. Start of Regular Schedule. Friday before the Second Saturday of September OR August 31 optional.

Section 4. End of Season. As provided for in Rule 2, Section 10.

Section 5. Scrimmages. Football scrimmages will be permitted twice per week. Scrimmages during the regular season count toward the allowable number of games.

Section 6. Games Per Nine Days, Per 24-Hour Period. It is recommended that a player participates in no more than two football games during any nine-day period; however, a player may not participate in more than one scheduled game during a twenty-four (24) hour period. This includes freshman, sophomore, junior varsity and varsity competition. A team may not play more than two football games in a period of nine days. The 24 hour period begins with the start of the first game until the start of the next contest.

Section 7. Maximum Games. A member school may play no more than nine (9) games (including scrimmages as provided for in Rule 2, Section 7, Article 2).

*CL 1 Teams indicating their intention to participate in the tournament/consolation game may schedule a maximum of 10 subvarsity games at each level.*

Section 8. Postponed/Suspended Games. Member schools must play a postponed game no later than Tuesday of the following week (Monday if either team is scheduled to play on the following Friday.) This rule also applies to suspended games which are to be continued according to Conference or NJSIAA procedures.

Section 9. Play-off Games. Member schools may, with Executive Committee approval, play play-off games to break a tie for league or conference championships so long as the maximum number of games either school plays during that season does not exceed nine games, including the play-offs. Such play-off must be played no later than ten (10) days after Thanksgiving. This provision not applicable to the NJSIAA Football Play-off resolution.

Section 10. Tie-Breaking Procedure. During the regular season member schools must use the 25 yard line in the Football Overtime Tie-Breaking Procedure when a scheduled varsity game ends in a tie. In the third overtime, teams must "Go for two". If a tie remains after each team has played three (3) series, the results will remain a tie. The procedure may be used at the subvarsity level when approved by the schools/conference prior to the game.

Please note - A student athlete who transfers after **October 10, 2017** regardless of whether the transfer was the result of a bona fide change of residence, shall be ineligible to participate in any post season championship competition at the new school.

**New Procedure:**

All schools are required to enter your rosters, schedules and team info, and report their weekly results to [njschoolsports.com](http://njschoolsports.com). If you do not know your school code or encounter problems, please contact [support@njschoolsports.com](mailto:support@njschoolsports.com). PLEASE CHECK THE ACCURACY OF YOUR TEAM RECORDS, ROSTERS AND TEAM INFO BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT CUTOFF date of November 4, 2017.

**FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS**

1. Participating in the football playoffs is an option of each member school. All member schools must declare their intentions by October 23, 2017.

Entry Fee: Eighty dollars (\$80.00) - All teams participating in the championship and consolation contests.

THE FORMALIZATION OF THE LEAGUES AND CONFERENCES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE POWER RANKING SYSTEM HAVE REFINED THE SELECTION PROCESS. THEREFORE, NO APPEALS WILL BE HONORED FOR A SCHOOL'S FAILURE TO SCHEDULE EIGHT (8) GAMES, A SCHOOL LOCKED INTO A MULTI-GROUP CONFERENCE, OR SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES THOUGHT TO BE BEYOND THE CONTROL OF THE MEMBER SCHOOL.

- A. To qualify for the tournament, teams will be selected based solely on their power rating from a team's best seven (7) of their eight (8) completed games. Seventy percent (70%) of a team's entire schedule must be played against in-state schools. To promote fairness in competition and the health and safety of student athletes, no NJSIAA member school will be eligible to participate in any NJSIAA Championship Tournament if it has violated the Specific Sports Regulations for the sport including, but not limited to, the start of practice, the start and ending of the sport season and the maximum games permitted during the regular season. The applications of this eligibility standard is un-appealable. The United Red and White Divisions of the North Jersey Super Football Conference will receive automatic entry into the championship tournament.
- B.
  1. Any Varsity team accumulating three or more player or coach disqualifications for flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct prior to the start of the NJSIAA tournament will not be permitted to participate in same. Seeded teams will forfeit their right to compete if a disqualification limit is reached prior to the start of the tournament for the team.
  2. Any player with two or more disqualifications in the current season, prior to the start of an NJSIAA tournament, will be ineligible to compete in said tournament.
- C. If a school has played nine (9) games by the playoff, cutoff date (weekend of Friday, November 4, 2017), only the first eight (8) games will be considered in establishing playoff eligibility.
- D. When a game is postponed on the playoff, cutoff weekend, that game must be played on the next day, i.e., Friday games on Saturday, Saturday games on Sunday. **NO REGULARLY SCHEDULED GAMES ARE PERMITTED FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2017. ONLY TERMINATED GAMES FROM FRIDAY OR SATURDAY MAY BE PLAYED SUNDAY. MONDAY PLAY IS NOT PERMITTED.**

Prior to the "cutoff weekend", a postponed game must be completed by no later than Tuesday following the postponement.

- E. Games forfeited for any reason will count as wins or losses for the respective schools.
- F. The pairings will be released to the state newspapers through the wire services and on the nj.com website on Sunday, November 5, 2017. The NJSIAA will utilize [www.arbitersports.com](http://www.arbitersports.com) to notify all competing schools of the date, site, time and officials assigned for all playoff and regional crossover games.

2. **DATES OF GAMES**

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Round/Quarterfinals & Regional Crossover Games – | November 9-11, 2017            |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Round/Semifinals -                               | November 17/November 18, 2017  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Round/Finals -                                   | November 30/December 1-3, 2017 |

**Regional crossover games must be scheduled on Thursday November 9, 2017 or Saturday November 11, 2017. Under no circumstance may a regional crossover game be scheduled on Friday, November 10, 2017. The NJSIAA reserves the right to schedule crossover opponents with similar power ranking and geographic region whenever possible; however, in some situations the scheduling of repeat regular season opponents or opponents from a different geographic region may be necessary.**

**\*REMINDER: December 2 – SAT date – make alternate arrangements in advance for SAT Students.**

*THE NJSIAA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE THE DATES OF THE PLAYOFF GAMES IN SECTIONS WITH LESS THAN FIVE (5) TEAMS QUALIFYING.*

Note: It is recommended that schools participating in the Playoffs move the Thanksgiving Day game to the Saturday following Thanksgiving. Said conditions should be reflected in individual contracts between schools.

- A. FIRST AND SECOND ROUND GAMES – The higher-seeded team shall determine the date and time of play as submitted to the NJSIAA on the Intention Card by October 23, 2017.
  - B. FINAL ROUND - All Final Round games will be played at neutral sites as determined by the NJSIAA.
  - C. POSTPONEMENTS – It shall be the decision of the Site Manager (normally the Director of Athletics of the host school) as to whether a playoff 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 in the first two rounds rests with the higher seeded team (home team).
    - (2) In the final round, the NJSIAA will determine the time and locations for any postponed games.
3. The eight (8) highest ranked schools will participate in the playoffs in each Group in each Section according to the following criteria. Each criterion shall be considered in the order listed.



9. Out-of-Division teams that use the power point incentive and have a 2-6 record or lower can be jumped by teams (for qualification purposes only) in their section if those teams have a .500 record or better and a lower power point total. **(Example) If Team A finished 2-6 or lower and was the #5 seed but the #9 seed, Team B had a 4-4 record or better, what should happen and the intent is that #5 would be out, #6 would move to #5, #7 would move to #6, #8 would move to #7 and Team B would be in as the #8. If Team A is 305 nothing changes and no moves are made. Team A remains as the #5 as do #6, #7 and #8 and Team B remains the #9 and out of the playoffs.**
10. Out of State Opponents – United Red & United White teams when playing out of state opponents will get 32 points for a win and 16 points for a loss. In the event of a tie the United Red & United White teams will get 24 points

**NJSFC United Red Division teams:**

Bergen Catholic  
 Don Bosco  
 Paramus Catholic  
 St. Joseph's  
 St. Peter's Prep

**NJSFC United White Division teams:**

Delbarton  
 DePaul Catholic  
 Pope John  
 Seton Hall Prep

**NON-PUBLIC GROUP EQUIVALENTS**

When a Non-Public team plays a Public team, the Non-Public's Group Equivalent will be used. When two Non-Public teams play each other, the actual Group values will be used. The NJSIAA will assign Group values to out-of-state and in-state non-member teams based enrollment in Grades 9-11.

**GAMES INVOLVING A TEAM PLAYING ITS EIGHTH GAME AGAINST A TEAM PLAYING ITS NINTH**

Teams playing an eighth game against a team playing its ninth game will be eligible for all quality and group points, but residuals will be adjusted as follows:

- a. If the team playing its ninth game is 8-0 at cutoff, and the team playing its eighth game wins, the eight-game team will receive 3 residual points for each of the nine-game team's victories, minus 3 points, for a net total of 21 points. If the team playing its ninth game has one or more losses, the eight-game team wins, the eight-game team will receive 3 points for each of the nine-game team's victories. No points will be deducted.
- b. If the team playing its ninth game defeats the team playing its eighth game, the eight-game team will receive 1 point for each of the nine-game team's victories against its other opponents, minus 1 point. For example, if the nine-game team is 6-2 at cutoff and defeats the eight-game team, the eight-game team will receive 5 points.
- c. If the game between the teams ends in a tie, the eight-game team will receive .5 points for each of the nine-game team's victories and .25 points for each of the nine-game team's ties against any other opponent. No points will be deducted.

1. Residual Points - Each team will receive residual points from one of the categories below based on the result of the game.
  - A. Each school will receive "Residual Points" from a team they defeated. For each win or tie your opponent has from the first eight games, you will receive the following (see examples 1 & 2):  
Win = 3 points; Tie = 1.5 points; Lose = 0 points
  - B. Each school will receive "Residual Points" from a team they tied. For each win or tie your opponent has from the first eight games, you will receive the following (see examples 3 & 4):  
Win = 1.5 points; Tie = .75 points (See note below); Lose = 0 points  
  
**Note:** No points will be rewarded when calculating "Residual Points" when your game is the opponent's only tie, since you already have been awarded points for that tie.
  - C. Each school will receive "**Residual Points**" from a team they lost to. For each win your opponent has that defeated you (not including your game) from the first eight games, you will receive the following (see example 5):  
Win = 1 point; Tie = 0 points; Lose = 0 points

**Example 1 (win)**

Team A defeated Team B (Group IV)  
Team A record 6-2  
Team B record 7-1

Team A would earn a total of 31 points for the Team B win. (6 points for the win, 4 group points, 21 residual points)

**Example 2 (win)**

Team A defeated Team B (Group IV)  
Team A record 6-2  
Team B record 6-1-1

Team A would earn a total of 29.5 points for the Team B win. (6 points for the win, 4 group points, 19.5 residual points)

**Example 3 (tie)**

Team A ties Team B (Group IV)  
Team A record 6-1-1  
Team B record 5-2-1

Team A would earn a total of 14.5 points for the Team B tie. (3 points for the tie, 4 group points, 7.5 residual points)

**Example 4 (tie)**

Team A ties Team B (Group IV)

Team A record 6-1-1

Team B record 5-1-2

Team A would earn a total of 15.25 points for the Team B tie. (3 points for the tie, 4 group points, 8.25 residual points)

**Example 5 (loss)**

Non-Public (III) Team A defeated Public Team B

Team B record 6-2

Team A record 7-1

Team B would earn a total of 6 points from the Team A defeat.  
(6 residual points)

- A. Power Ranking – The eligible schools in each Group in each Section for the Public Schools, and in each Group on a state-wide basis for the Non-Public Schools will be seeded according to the following power ranking.
- B. The power ranking system will be the sum total of the best seven (7) of their eight (8) completed games played up to and including the cut-off date.
  - 1. The qualifying schools in each Group in each Section for the Public Schools, and in each Group for the Non-Public Schools will be seeded according to the power rankings based on the calculations of the Power Point System.
  - 2. The eight (8) highest ranked schools will participate in the playoffs in each Group in each Section.
- C. Tie-Breaker Procedure (in the following order)
  - (1) Head-to-head - If two schools have met on the field of play, the school that won shall be considered stronger. If more than two schools have the same power ranking, and all teams have not met each other, Regulation 2.b.(2) will be considered.
  - (2) Opponents' Group + Opponents' Record (including losses).  
(Opponents' strength factor) See Example in 3.a.
  - (3) Common opponent -The record against common opponents (two points for a win; one point for a tie).  
(All schools must have met to consider this criterion.)
  - (4) Composite record of each school's opponents (winning percentage).
  - (5) If tied schools played a school using an ineligible player are tied for a playoff qualification and/or power ranking, the school(s) which defeated the school while the ineligible player participated will be considered to have a higher power ranking.

- (6) If a tie remains, the Football Committee will meet with all affected schools to determine the qualifiers for the football playoffs by a coin flip.

**D. RESIDUAL POINTS FOR FORFEITED GAMES**

A team that wins by forfeit will receive full Residual points from the defeated opponent's record. A team that loses by forfeit will receive zero Residual points from the forfeit winner. Additionally, a team that loses by forfeit will not be allowed to count that game as its lowest power points total in the best-seven-of-eight calculation. Instead, the lowest total from a non-forfeit game will be dropped. Regardless of the number of forfeited losses recorded by a team, only a non-forfeited game can be dropped from the best-seven-of-eight calculation.

**4. 2017 Playoff Schedule**

- (a) NO APPEALS FOR CHANGE IN SEEDING ORDER WILL BE HEARD BECAUSE SCHOOLS HAVE PLAYED EACH OTHER OR WILL PLAY EACH OTHER AFTER THE CUTOFF DATE.

If any schools merit being heard, said hearings will take place on November 8, 2017, with all affected schools participating as part of the Executive Committee meeting.

- (b) The playoff schedule will be as follows, with the exception that the NJSIAA reserves the right to determine the dates and times of playoff games in sections with less than five (5) teams qualifying. There is no reseeding of the brackets in the event of upsets.

Number of Teams Qualifying	Number of Rounds	First Round November 10, 11	Second Round November 17, 18	Finals November 30 December 1-3
1 (Champ)				
2	1			#1 vs. #2 (Champion)
3	2		#3 vs. #2	Winner vs. #1 (Champion)
4	2		#1 vs. #4 #2 vs. #3	Winner 1 & 4 vs. (Champion) Winner 2 & 3
5	3	#4 vs. #5	Winner 4 & 5 vs. #1 #2 vs. #3	Winner 4/5 & 1 vs. (Champion) Winner 2 & 3
6	3	#4 vs. #5 #3 vs. #6	Winner 4 & 5 vs. #1 Winner 3 & 6 vs. #2	Winner 4/5 & 1 vs. (Champion) Winner 3/6 & 2



7	3	#2 vs. #7 #3 vs. #6 #4 vs. #5	Winner 2 & 7 vs. Winner 3 & 6  Winner 4 & 5 vs. #1	Winner 2/7 & 3/6 vs. (Champion) Winner 4/5 & 1
8	3	#1 vs. #8 #4 vs. #5 #3 vs. #6 #2 vs. #7	Winner 1 & 8 vs. Winner 4 & 5  Winner 3 & 6 vs. Winner 2 & 7	Winner 1/8 & 4/5 vs. (Champion) Winner 3/6 & 2/7

(c) ALL NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL KEEP THEIR CURRENT GROUP DESIGNATIONS FOR POWER POINTS.

5. GAMES PLAYED WITH ALUMNI OR JUNIOR VARSITY TEAMS SHALL NOT BE USED IN CALCULATING THE POWER RANKING.

6. **SITES**

Due to the unavailability of sites, if suitable, playoff games shall be held on the home site of the higher seeded team as determined by the power ranking and tie-breaking procedure. This includes undefeated and untied teams.

Suitability of the playing field and/or seating facilities, as well as the selection of a designated site will be the sole determination of the NJSIAA Executive Director, and must be accepted by the competing schools. The decision on the change in site will be made when the site is inappropriate due to the lack of facilities or cannot seat the anticipated crowd. The schools must understand that they cannot be guaranteed that they will have a practice workout at the designated field due to weather or other conditions. A designated field may also be used more than one time for a team in a specific group playoff.

(a) Teams must indicate on their Football Intention Card that they will go to any predetermined multi-game site for any round or not be eligible for the playoffs if selected. The selection process will be determined by the highest-powered ranked team per game in descending order, given geographic considerations.

(1) Neutral sites will be used for all North I, North II, Central, South; and all non-public finals. [In the event of Rutgers University, Rowan University, Kean University, College of New Jersey or MetLife Stadium not being available, neutral sites would be selected at local high schools with all weather turf fields or at home sites if necessary]

(2) MetLife Stadium selection process

If MetLife Stadium is used, the selected teams will be determined by the NJSIAA.

(3) The remaining games would be scheduled at Rutgers, Rowan University and Kean University.

(4) Short bracket final games will be played at a neutral site as determined by the NJSIAA on the weekend of the finals (November 30, December 1-

- (5) The scheduling of the games at the two sites once determined by (2) and (3) above would be at the discretion of the NJSIAA.
- (6) Non-Public schools would not be excluded from any predetermined multi-game site.
- (7) The tie-breaking procedures listed in these regulations will be used if a tie exists after (c) above.

Separate administrative regulations shall be issued to schools playing at predetermined, multi-game sites. The home field of the higher seeded team will normally be the site of each game. If the playing field or facilities of the higher seeded team is not considered suitable by the NJSIAA Executive Director, he may then assign a designated playing site, or the lower seeded team's field, and his decision must be accepted by the competing schools.

Suitability of the playing field and/or seating facilities, as well as the selection of a designated site for any round will be the sole determination of the NJSIAA Executive Director, and must be accepted by the competing school. The schools must understand that they cannot be guaranteed that they will have a practice workout at the designated field due to weather or other conditions. A designated field may also be used more than one time for a team in a specific group playoff.

In those games where a designated site other than the home site of the lower seed is used, the higher seeded team will be the "home" team, wear dark-colored jerseys, and use the "home" bleachers. Equal accommodations shall be made for both team spotters at state playoff and regional cross over games.

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 at all fields at that time of year.

No rental of bleachers, maintenance or grounds costs will be permitted, unless solely at the expense of the home team/or visiting team, and not chargeable to the gate receipts. No rentals will be reimbursed for home site. (All exceptions must be authorized in writing through the NJSIAA.)

7. The playoff games administration, *i.e.*, tickets, officials, etc., shall be under the direct supervision of the NJSIAA Executive Director or his designee and all net game receipts shall be retained by the NJSIAA to offset the costs of this and other Association programs.

8. **GAME BALL**

Wilson Footballs must be used in all three rounds. The NJSIAA will provide three (3) (Wilson G.S.T. F-1003) footballs as part of Second Round play. The Wilson game ball will be the choice of each participating team. The Wilson game ball will then be changed by the officials as the offense and defense changes. Each team will be responsible for having a "ball boy" (twelve {12} years of age or older) with drying towels assigned to the officials working the game. If a school chooses to use a Wilson football other than the Wilson G.S.T. F-1003, that school must supply three (3) Wilson footballs of their choice. [Winner keeps two (2) balls for the next game.]

9. **GAME OFFICIALS**

Six (6) NJSIAA-registered field officials, plus a clock operator will be assigned by the NJSIAA Central Office to work all championship round games. "Chain-Crews" will be assigned by the schools in the first round. Second and Third Round "chain-crews" will be selected by NJFOA Chapter Secretaries or Assignors. The schools will be given an opportunity to submit to the

NJSIAA Central Office a recommended list of officials for assignment to playoff games, as per the attached form. **The athletic director must call the referee to confirm the assignment.**

<u>Fees:</u>	Game officials	Clock Operator	"Chain-Crews"	
1 <sup>st</sup> Round	\$85	\$65	\$50	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Round	\$87	\$65	\$50	
Final Round	\$95	\$70	\$55	

10. **COMPLIMENTARY PASSES** (NJSIAA)  
 NJSIAA passes will be issued for your school with the game operation and participant notification information. These passes will be good only at NJSIAA member school facilities. They will not be accepted at any other sites. When your team is selected to play at a non-school site (e.g. Rutgers University or MetLife Stadium), site-specific complimentary tickets will be used for said venues.
  
11. **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISION**  
 These regulations specifically provide the requirement that all member schools that elect to enter the NJSIAA Football Tournament, after meeting the necessary requirements, will provide the presence of administrative personnel that will assist the efforts of on-site management in **MAINTAINING CONTROL AND CONDUCT OF THEIR STUDENT SPECTATORS AT ALL GAMES IN THE TOURNAMENT IN WHICH THEIR TEAM IS A PARTICIPANT. THIS IS A REQUIREMENT FOR ENTRANCE INTO THE TOURNAMENT.**
  
12. **SIDELINE PASSES**  
 Each school will be provided 25 sideline passes at the championship final site. These passes must be used by the head football coach, assistant coaches, administrative personnel, doctor(s) and dentist(s), trainer(s), managers and statisticians, and any injured players who are not in uniform. Only those individuals wearing a sideline pass shall be permitted on the sidelines of their respective teams during the game, with the exception of team members in full uniform. **THIS REGULATION MUST BE STRICTLY ENFORCED BY THE SITE DIRECTOR!**  
  
 Only fully dressed squad members will be permitted on the playing field.
  
13. **EXCHANGE OF GAME FILM/VIDEO TAPE**  
 The Director of Athletics or the head football coach of each team involved in a particular playoff game will arrange for the exchange of a minimum of two full games, of huddle games tapes or other types of game videos for each upcoming playoff opponent.  
  
 Only two individuals from each school shall be permitted admittance to the press box area to take playoff game films.
  
14. **MEDICAL SERVICES**  
 In the event the regular team physician for either team is not available, the Site Manager will be responsible for securing one physician for the game, to be paid ninety dollars (\$90.00), if hired by the site manager. The Site Manager at each game will make the necessary arrangements for

a First Aid Squad and ambulance coverage at the prevailing rate. Each team may, at its own expense, bring its own team physician, but he/she will not be paid by the NJSIAA.

It will be the responsibility of all schools participating in the championship tournament to provide athletic trainer services for their respective team during all rounds of competition.

15. **CUSTODIAL AND OTHER SERVICES**

The host school shall assume all maintenance and operation costs, no costs for custodial/maintenance services should be listed on the operations report. Any home team electing to play at another site will be responsible in full for any costs beyond the normal expenses.

Other fees: Police -On a need basis with no more than four (4) in number at prevailing rate. Requests for additional coverage must be approved in writing by the NJSIAA.

Site Manager - \$100

Ticket Taker – \$50

Ticket Seller/Cashier – \$55

Announcer - \$65

16. **NO TRAVEL ALLOWANCE**

All teams entered in the football playoffs must pay for transportation for teams, cheerleaders, drill teams, bands, and other game support units.

17. **GAMES SCOUTS**

At no time shall scouts for future opponents, or college scouts be permitted in the press box.

18. **COMPETITOR AND STAFF ADMISSIONS**

Each competing school will be given complimentary admission tickets for the following staff members:

A. Cheerleader Advisor - 1 pass

B. Band - 5 passes for Support Personnel (Band Director, Majorettes, Advisor, etc.) Squad members, coaches, managers, cheerleaders, band members, drill teams, majorettes, color guard, and flag squad will be admitted free provided they are in full uniform and enter as a group.

Junior Varsity and/or Freshman football squad members WILL NOT be admitted free.

19. **BAND ACTIVITY - PRE-GAME**

A. The "visiting team" band ONLY will present a maximum ten-minute (10-minute) pre-game show, including the playing of the National Anthem, from the field prior to the game. The Site Manager shall coordinate the starting time of this show with the two head coaches and visiting school band director in order that it will not interfere with the pre-game warm-up drills of the competing schools and in order to be completed prior to the scheduled starting time of the game.

B. Pre-game commercial music must meet both schools standards.

HALF-TIME - TEAMS - FIFTEEN (15) MINUTES + THREE (3) MINUTES MANDATORY WARMUP. **BAND ACTIVITY - HALF-TIME**

The "home team" band ONLY will present a maximum ten-minute (10-minute) half-time show.

20. **PHOTOGRAPHERS - GAME FILMS**

Competing schools filming, video taping, or taking photographs of a playoff game are advised that any expense incurred is the financial responsibility of the individual school.

21. **WORKING PRESS - PHOTOGRAPHERS**

The Director of Athletics of the school at the site of the playoff game will normally be the Site Manager and all arrangements for press accommodations must be made through the Athletic office. The Site Manager has the responsibility to accommodate newspaper representatives from not only the area newspaper servicing the competing schools, but also the larger newspapers of the state. It is recommended that press box facilities be used whenever possible rather than "on field" coverage by sportswriters.

The Sports Editors of the New Jersey newspapers will be requested to contact each Site Manager in advance in order that he/she will be aware of the number of sports reporters and/or photographers who will be covering a particular playoff game. Competing schools are asked to give complete cooperation to the media representatives and to provide them with the actual paid attendance as soon as ticket sales are closed for each game; in addition, the actual paid attendance must be announced by the P.A. announcer.

22. **ADMISSION TICKETS**

All tickets will be sold at the game site, unless otherwise directed by the NJSIAA Executive Director. The prices for playoff game tickets at home sites will be announced at a later date.

**NJSIAA TICKETS MUST BE USED FOR ALL PLAYOFF GAMES P.A. ANNOUNCER MUST ANNOUNCE ACTUAL PAID ATTENDANCE AFTER TICKET SALES HAVE BEEN TERMINATED.**

23. **GATE RECEIPTS**

All net gate receipts shall be retained by the NJSIAA in order to fund the operational expenses of these events as well as the other activities of the Association.

24. **OVERTIME PROCEDURES FOR TOURNAMENT PLAY**

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. This 25-YARD LINE PROCEDURE will utilize the National Federation OVERTIME PROCEDURE (in the 2014 National Federation Football Rule Book) with the following modifications:

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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.
- (c) 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.

- (d) 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 cancelled 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 the regular game. 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.
- (e) Each team will be permitted only one (1) time-out during each OVERTIME PROCEDURE. Any unused time-outs from the regulation game or a previous overtime procedure WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.
- (f) Except as specifically provided above, the 2015 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 OVERTIME PROCEDURE.
- (g) In the event of a tie during the regular season, a maximum of 3 series will be played. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> series, teams must utilize the 2 point try.
- (h) During the Football Playoffs, the maximum three (3) series overtime limit will not be in force. The overtime series will continue until a winner is determined using the 2 point try in the third and additional periods if necessary.

25. **FORFEITURE** - When a forfeit win is awarded a school due to the termination of their opponent's football program or for their failure to fulfill their contractual obligation, the affected school has the option of accepting the forfeit win or playing a game with another school with the results of the newly scheduled school being the official game for power-ranking purposes.

**For both Public and Non-Public Football Group Classifications see the Front Page of the NJSIAA Website ([www.njsiaa.org](http://www.njsiaa.org))**

26. **SUSPENDED FOOTBALL GAME REGULATIONS:**  
 Games interrupted/suspended due to reasons beyond anyone's control, e.g., electrical storms, torrential rains, and the like. All games to be continued will be at the site of the interrupted game unless otherwise agreed upon by competing schools.
- a. If both schools agree, the game will be a completed game or the game will be continued from the point of interruption, but no later than Tuesday of the following week.
  - b. If the schools do not agree to resolve the issue, the NJSIAA will resolve the issue as follows:
    - 1) If the point difference is twenty-two (22) points or more, the game shall be a completed game regardless of the point of interruption.
    - 2) If the interrupted game has completed three (3) quarters, the game will be a completed game.
    - 3) If the game is interrupted after the completion of the first half and the point difference is fifteen (15) or more points, the game shall be a completed game.
    - 4) All other regular season games, except as provided in #5, will be continued from the point of interruption no later than Tuesday of the following week. If the schools cannot agree on the date, the game will be continued on the Monday following the game at 3:00 p.m.

- 5) **In the first two rounds** tournament games, except as provided in #6, shall be completed with the time and date determined by the higher seeded team.
- 6) Whenever it is not considered prudent to complete an interrupted game, the Executive Director will have the authority to rule on the status of the game.

31. **GAME MANAGEMENT – RUNNING CLOCK RULE**

**For all levels of play (regular and playoffs) in season and consolation games, if the score differential reaches 35 points or more in the second half, the clock shall stop only for a score, a time out, a penalty or an injury. If the score differential drops below 35 points, normal timing rules will again be in effect.**