NJSIAA Football Committee Meeting Minutes – January 22, 2020


Meeting called to order at 9:45am

II. Order of Business:
   A. 2020 Football Dates:
      • Start Date – August 28 (0 Week)
      • Heat Acclimatization & First Official Practice – August 3rd
      • First Scrimmage – August 10th
      • Start Date – September 3, 4, 5 (Week 1)
      • Heat Acclimatization & First Official Practice – August 10th
      • First Scrimmage – August 17th
      • Tournament Seeding – November 1st / Intent Card Due October 26th
      • Tournament Dates:
         ▪ Round 1 – November 6/7; Crossover Games November 5/7
         ▪ Round 2 – November 13/14
         ▪ Round 3 – November 20/21 (Public Sectional Finals)
         ▪ Round 4 – November 27/28 (Regional Championship Games) at MetLife Stadium (North I vs. North II) no Thanksgiving Game Teams
         ▪ Round 5 – December 5/6 Regional Championship Games at Rutgers SHI Stadium (Central vs. South)
         ▪ Summer Period – June 14, 2020 to Official NJSIAA First Practice Date (August 3rd 0 Week Start) - (August 10th Week 1 Start)
      • August 28, 2020 Start of Regular Season – No Waiver Request
   
   B. Proposed legislation that will impact football:
      i. Tri-op for Group I schools
      ii. Removal of constitution statement in Article IX. No state championship; however, shall be declared in football.
   
   C. Sport Specific Regulation #4 Disqualifications:
      The committee discussed team members leaving their bench area to participate in an on-field altercation and if the head coach should automatically be disqualified and/or the team disqualified from the state championship tournament or the regional crossover round. This discussion item will be presented to the NJSIAA attorney for clarification.

   D. Tournament Seeding Procedures – Page 7:
      Within the North and South super section for each group, the top 16 teams will qualify for the championships; any undefeated team with 8 or more wins that is not in the top 16 will qualify for the championships, replacing the lowest ranking UPR team(s) in the Super Section.

      UPR Ranking System – Page 5:
      Any no-loss or tie team that is not in the top 16 will automatically qualify for the championship playoffs, replacing the lowest ranked UPR team(s) in the Super Section.
E. Ivy and Union League Divisions will be permitted to conduct their championship game on a Friday night. All forfeits must be accepted.

F. Teams on NJSIAA probation for the 2020 season:
   • Dwight Morrow
   • Paterson Eastside
   • Phillipsburg
   • Salem

G. Adjustments to the Non-Public Multiplier:
   The committee recommended that Donovan Catholic and Notre Dame be added to the Category C multiplier. St. Augustine Prep was moved to the multiplier B Category. The committee agreed that schools could be added to multiplier groups every year; however, schools can only be removed from the multiplier groups after a two (2) year cycle.

H. Regional Crossover Games Week 9 will be scheduled and assigned by the NJSIAA

I. Championship brackets were presented to the committee with discussion regarding the combining of the non-public groups 2 & 3. The committee recommended that a survey be sent to all non-public group 2 and 3 football schools requesting their feedback on combining groups.

J. The NJSIAA / NCAA open recruiting/evaluation period was discussed and approved by the committee.

K. Video Replay:
   NJSIAA was approved for a year three (3) regular season video replay experiment. DV Sports will again be used for video replay during all 2020 regional championship games at MetLife and Rutgers Stadium.

L. Officials:
   Carmine Picardo discussed using the top individual officials versus the crew concept for the assignment of officials to the regional championship games.

M. The round one (1) and two (2) championship games will be the responsibility of the higher seeded (home team) in 2020. Field officials’ fees will be set at $100 per round.

N. Revision to the running clock in the second half after 33 point differential and remaining until score differential drops below 25 points was approved by the committee.

O. NFHS Rule Revisions for the 2020 season were introduced by state rules interpreter Bill Surdovel.

P. NJFCA Report – John Jacob:
   The coaches association recommended that all championship round Friday night games start at 7:00pm unless mutual agreement for an earlier start time has been reached.

Q. The strength index – OSI – will be re-centered at 60% for all schools to start the 2020 season.

III. Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm