NJSIAA Football Committee Meeting Minutes – January 23, 2019

Attendees: Carmine Picardo, Assignor; William Surdovel, State Interpreter; John Fiore, Montclair; Anthony Delconte, A.L. Johnson; Drew Gibbs, Ramapo; Greg Bailey; Jon Fass; John Jacob; Dan Vivino; Kevin Carty, Executive Committee; Jason Morell, AD, West Deptford; Rich Shello, Ridge; Jack DuBois, NJSIAA Director.

Correspondences – None

Order of Business – 2019 Football Dates

- Heat acclimatization start – August 12th
- First practice – August 14th
- First scrimmage – August 21st
- First contest – September 6th (zero week)
- Tournament start – November 8th
- Schools granted a waiver to play their first contest on Double Zero Week – August 29th, 30th and 31st
- Heat acclimatization start – August 5th
- First Practice – August 7th
- First scrimmage – August 14th

Tournament Dates

- Round 1 – November 8/9; Crossover games November 7/9
- Round 2 – November 15/16
- Round 3 – November 22/23 Public Sectional Finals; November 29/30 Regional Championship Games (no Thanksgiving game teams); December 6/7 Regional Championship Games (Thanksgiving game teams)
- Intent Card due date – October 28th
- Seeding Meeting – November 3rd / Cut-off date November 2nd
- Second regional crossover game – School’s responsibility for 2019 season. The committee agreed that a second regional crossover game would be the school’s responsibility to schedule.

Summer Period

- June 9th to official NJSIAA first practice date

NJSIAA official practice period (August 14th or August 7th*) to first contest

- *Indicates schools granted waiver to start – 00 week
- Contact minutes per week – (including scrimmage). The committee unanimously agreed to full contact hours during official NJSIAA practice period capped at 6 hours which includes 3 scrimmages. A scrimmage counts as 1 hour of full contact. Full contact is defined as taking your opponent to the ground. One (1) thud scrimmage will also be permitted during the official practice period. A thud scrimmage does not count toward the 6 hours full contact maximum. 15 minutes of contact per week during the regular season.
Revisions to the Non-Public multiplier for 2019 – John Feury, Montclair HS

- Criteria utilized to determine categories – Winning Percentage – Margin of Victory
  The committee unanimously agreed to adjust the non-public multiplier for 2019. DePaul will move to Category A, Red Bank Catholic and Mater Dei will move to Category B. Camden Catholic removed from the multiplier category – since Camden Catholic did not meet minimum criteria during the 2018 season.

New legislation that will impact football

- Co-op regulation will allow schools to form a co-op program for any sport in any group size.
- Coaches may now work with eighth graders as it pertains to camps and clinics, as long as it doesn’t involve high school students unless it is during the summer recess period.
- Coaches may now conduct non-instructional meetings for the purpose of distributing try-out schedules, medical forms, permission slips to returning lettermen and prospective team candidates.

2018 FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS - Public Sectional Champions

NORTH JERSEY, SECTION I

Group V  Ridgewood High School
Group IV  Wayne Hills High School
Group III Ramapo High School
Group II  Kittatinny High School
Group I  Butler High School

NORTH JERSEY, SECTION II

Group V  Piscataway High School
Group IV  Phillipsburg High School
Group III Summit High School
Group II  Rutherford High School
Group I  Hasbrouck Heights High School

CENTRAL

Group V  Sayreville High School
Group IV  Long Branch High School
Group III Rumson High School
Group II  Hillside High School
Group I  Willingboro High School
SOUTH

Group V    Williamstown High School
Group IV    Shawnee High School
Group III   Woodrow Wilson High School
Group II    Haddonfield High School
Group I     Penn Grove High School

Non-Public Sectional Champions

Group IV    St. Joseph’s Regional High School
Group III   Red Bank Catholic High School
Group II    St. Joseph’s High School (Hammonton)

2018 BOWL CHAMPIONS

NORTH 1 vs NORTH 2

Group 5    Piscataway
Group 4    Wayne Hills
Group 3    Ramapo
Group 2    Rutherford
Group 1    Hasbrouck Heights

CENTRAL vs SOUTH

Group 5    Sayreville
Group 4    Long Branch
Group 3    Rumson
Group 2    Haddonfield
Group 1    Penns Grove

Regional Crossover Games

Public Sectional Champions

- Round 1 – 61 games (week 9)
- Round 2 – 37 games (week 10) – School’s responsibility in 2019
Video Replay – Carmine Picardo

- NJSIAA has petitioned the NFHS for a second year to experiment with video replay.

Rule Revisions for 2019 – Bill Survodel

Football Rules Changes – 2019 - By NFHS on February 18, 2019

BY STATE ASSOCIATION ADOPTION, USE OF VIDEO REVIEW ALLOWED FOR STATE POST-SEASON CONTESTS [1-3-7 NOTE (NEW), TABLE 1-7 – 1-3-7 NOTE (NEW)]

Rationale: By state association adoption, instant replay may only be used during state postseason contests to review decisions by the on-field game officials. This adoption would allow state associations to develop protocols for use of video replay.

IMPROVED VISIBILITY OF NUMBERS [1-5-1c, 1-5-1c(6) (NEW)]

Rationale: The purpose of numbers on jerseys is to provide clear identification of players. In order to enhance the ability to easily identify players, the committee has clarified the size requirements for jersey numbers through the 2023 season. The committee also added a new requirement that, effective in the 2024 season, jersey numbers must be a single solid color that clearly contrasts with the body color of the jersey.

REDEFINED REQUIREMENTS FOR A LEGAL SCRIMMAGE FORMATION [2-14-1, 7-2-5a]

Rationale: A legal scrimmage formation now requires at least five offensive players on their line of scrimmage with no more than four backs. This change will make it easier to identify legal and illegal offensive formations.

PROHIBITION ON TRIPPING THE RUNNER [2-45, 9-4-3o (NEW), 9-4-3o PENALTY (NEW)]

Rationale: In an effort to decrease risk, tripping the runner is now prohibited. It is now a foul to intentionally use the lower leg or foot to obstruct a runner below the knees.

40-SECOND PLAY CLOCK [2-35-1, 3-6-1, 3-6-2a, 7-2-1]

Rationale: To have a more consistent time period between downs, the rules committee approved situations where 40 seconds will be placed on the play clock. The new rule defines when 40 seconds will be placed on the play clock and when 25 seconds will be placed on the play clock.

HORSE-COLLAR TACKLE ADDITION [9-4-3k]

Rationale: Grabbing the name plate area of the jersey of the runner, directly below the back collar, and pulling the runner to the ground is now an illegal personal contact foul.

ILLEGAL KICKING AND BATTING PENALTY REDUCED [9-7 PENALTY]

Rationale: The penalty for illegally kicking or batting the ball was reduced from 15 yards to 10 yards.

2019 EDITORIAL CHANGES

2-6-2b, 5-2-2, 5-2-4, 6-5-4, 7-2-5a, 8-5-2 EXCEPTION, 9-3-8 PENALTY, 10-4-2c EXCEPTION, 10-5-1j,
2019 POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Proper Procedures for Weather Delays
2. Expanded Neutral Zone as it Applies to Run or Pass Options
3. Free-Blocking Zone and Legal Blocking

**As of February 11, 2019

Tournament Seeding Revisions

- Bowl Game – change name to regional championship games
- Continue with North I vs. North II; Central vs. South
- Super Sections – remain at 16, snake seeding will be utilized for 2019
- New Seeding Formula – Dan Vivino – Super football conference will:
  a) Eliminate point spreads
  b) Provide a transparent formula
  c) Limit use of historical data
  d) Undefeated teams – automatic entry, winless teams not included. The committee unanimously endorsed the OSI (Opponent Strength Index) to replace the BPI (Born Power Index) for 2019