



**FOOTBALL SPORTS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**2021 – 2022 SEASON**  
January 27, 2022 – 10:00am

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Greg Bailey, Football Coordinator  
Mark Bitar, State Assignor  
Mike Bartram, State Rules Interpreter  
Jason Corley, Long Branch HS Athletic Director, NJSIAA Executive Committee 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President  
Gregory Troxell, Phillipsburg HS Superintendent, NJSIAA Executive Committee Representative  
Jason Morrell, West Deptford HS Athletic Director  
John McKenna, DePaul Catholic Athletic Director  
Tarig Holman, JFK Iselin HS Coach  
Tim Gushue, Shawnee HS Coach  
Mike Alberque, St. John Vianney Coach  
Gary Mobley, Columbia HS Coach  
Bryan Ille, Hasbrouck Heights Coach  
Bill Fitzgerald, Seton Hall Prep Coach

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Tom Mullahey, NJSIAA Executive Committee President  
Jon Fass, Gridiron New Jersey

1. Season in Review

Committee members agreed that allowing flexibility with Week 0 scheduling was well received by all schools. It is the committee's recommendation to continue to allow this flexibility. The rotation of officials between sidelines during halftime went well, the committee also recommends this practice continue next season.

2. Tournament in Review

Committee members all agreed that the use of local assignors for the preliminary rounds was well received by all schools and worked well. It is the committee's recommendation to continue with this model for the first two rounds of the tournament.

Bill Fitzgerald requested that NJSIAA put out reminders as to what is and is not permissible during the summer recess period. Coaches agreed there is confusion and misunderstanding surrounding summer recess workouts. Colleen agreed this is important messaging and will post guidelines that clearly define what is and is not permissible prior to the start of the summer recess period.

Committee members discussed the use of video replay during the public regional finals and non-public state finals. Tournament assignor, Mark Bitar, laid out the salient concerns with the use of video replay at the high school level. The committee members discussed the pros and cons of video replay but ultimately agreed that the limitations were too significant. Greg Troxell made a motion to

no longer use video replay during the NJSIAA post-season. Jason Morrell seconded the motion. All committee members were in favor, motion passes.

Jon Fass commented to the committee the importance of receiving timely and accurate results to ensure all data on [www.gridironnewjersey.com](http://www.gridironnewjersey.com) is correct. Jon continues to spend too much time hunting down results during both the regular season and postseason. Colleen will continue to work with the NJ Football Coaches Association on relaying the importance of providing this information on a timely basis. Colleen also commended Jon for his efforts and hard work on a weekly basis during the entire season – but specifically his efforts in the days leading up to the seeding meeting.

### 3. 2022 Season Recommendations

The 2022 season will be the first season in the new framework approved by the membership at the June 2021 Annual Meeting. The new framework allows the public schools to play to an overall state champion by group. The dates, as approved by the legislation, were reviewed. Below are the important dates:

First day of practice – Wednesday, August 10, 2022

Week 0 (optional) – Friday, August 26, 2022

Week 1 (Labor Day weekend) – Thursday, September 1, 2022

Public cut-off – Week 8 – Friday, October 21, 2022/Saturday, October 22, 2022

Non-Public cut-off – Week 9 – Friday, October 28, 2022/Saturday, October 29, 2022

Public state finals – Saturday, December 3, 2022/Sunday, December 4, 2022 \*

Non-Public state finals – Saturday, November 26, 2022 \*

\*Days and times subject to change due to host site availability.

Colleen provided a list of recommendations on behalf of the football leagues and conferences committee – this committee is comprised of the leadership of each of the five football leagues and conferences, as well as a representative from the NJ Football Coaches Association. Their recommendations are as follows:

**a. Scheduling framework** – In order to provide a consistent scheduling framework for all football leagues and conferences to follow, the following framework has been agreed upon by all leagues and conferences:

i. Maximum games to be played is 14 games – August 26<sup>th</sup> through December 4<sup>th</sup>.

ii. Public schools:

a. Non-Thanksgiving teams – 9 games (week 0-8)

b. Thanksgiving teams – 8 games (week 0-8), plus Thanksgiving game

iii. Public schools will play a maximum of 5 games after the cut-off date, excluding Thanksgiving

iv. Non-Public schools:

a. Non-Thanksgiving teams – 10 games (weeks 0-9)

b. Thanksgiving teams – 9 games (weeks 0-9), plus Thanksgiving game

v. Non-public schools will play a maximum of 4 games after the cut-off date, excluding Thanksgiving

vi. Season end date – Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup> \*

\*Only games played after this date are NJSIAA State Finals

**b. Multiplier schools** – The following categories and multiplier values have been agreed upon by all leagues and conferences. It is also recommended that new to 2022, schools may receive multiplier points for 2 opponents – two highest games will be used.

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. Joseph (Hammonton)	St. John Vianney
St. Joseph (Montvale)	St. Augustine	
St. Peter's Prep		

c. **Minimum qualification** – It is the recommendation that new to 2022, a minimum of two wins will be necessary to be eligible for the championship playoffs.

d. **Forfeits** – In order to avoid manipulation of the United Power Rank (UPR), it is recommended that the following language be added to the forfeit section of the football regulations:

“When a forfeit win is awarded to a school prior to the game, the affected schools must accept the forfeit unless they can replace the game.”

Add: 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.

Add: 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.

Gary Mobley made a motion to approve all recommendations put forth by the football leagues and conference committee. Tim Gushue seconded the motion. All committee members present were favor, motion passes.

The committee agreed that the public sectional finals will remain at the higher seed and recommends that NJSIAA solicit neutral sites for the public state semifinals. Colleen agreed to post a message to all member schools soliciting interest in hosting these 10 games.

The committee reviewed the plans for the “Next 8” regional tournament – these games will be seeded by Super Section and will be hosted by the higher seed.

4. NFHS Football Rules Committee

Greg Bailey attended the NFHS Football Rules Committee on January 23<sup>rd</sup> – January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in Indianapolis, IN. Greg provided a brief overview of the committee and indicated that the new rule proposals that were passed will be publicly shared by the NFHS in February.

5. Football Officials Recruiting Efforts

Mark Bitar updated the committee on state-wide efforts to host spring cadet classes and offer a hybrid model that allows some classes to be in person and some classes virtual – Mark is working with the leadership across all four football officials’ associations. Mark is also assisting the official’s associations with their social media presence in order to reach more interested people.

Respectfully submitted,  
Colleen Maguire, Executive Director