



To: NJSIAA Program Review Committee

From: Colleen Maguire, Executive Director

Date: February 12, 2024

RE: NJSIAA Football Tournament Regulations

On behalf of the Football Committee and the Football Leagues and Conferences Committee, NJSIAA staff recommends the following updates to the football tournament regulations.

Non-Public Multiplier

The non-public multiplier will no longer be applied to power points but will provide an increased percentage of a multiplier's Strength Index (SI) for a loss. In addition, the non-public multiplier schools will be placed into four categories – A through D. For a loss, a school receives 50% of the opponent's SI. For a loss against a multiplier school, a school can receive up to 80% of the opponent's SI depending on which category the multiplier school is in. If a non-public multiplier loses to a non-multiplier school during the season, then they will move down a category or no longer be considered a multiplier school.

This will allow leagues and conferences to have an incentive to assist with scheduling their regular season, but also allows fluidity during the course of a season to ensure multiplier schools are accurately identified.

The entirety of the multiplier proposal has been attached for your reference.

Point Differential/Running Clock Rule

Currently, when the score differential reaches 33 points or more during the second half of a game, a running clock will be in place. If the score drops below 25 points, normal timing rules will resume. The recommendation is to remove reference to normal timing rules and only allow the clock to stop for scores, timeouts, penalties or injuries – regardless of the score differential. The rule is applicable to all levels of play in both the regular season and state tournament. Recently, concerns have been raised during the running clock period – specifically with unsportsmanlike behavior.

The new rule will be as follows:

For all levels of play, during both the regular season and NJSIAA state tournament games, if the score differential reaches 33 points or more in the 2nd half, the clock will stop only for a score, time out, penalty or injury. ~~If the score differential drops below 25 points, normal timing rules will again be in effect.~~

Games Per Nine Days, Per 24-Hour Period Rule

NJSIAA rules do not allow a player to participate in more than one scheduled game during a twenty-four (24) hour period. It is the committee's recommendation to modify this rule to not allow a player to participate in more than five (5) quarters on consecutive days. This will allow flexibility for players to participate in a Friday night varsity game while also being available to participate in a Thursday or Saturday sub-varsity game. In addition, the use of five (5) quarters is in line with participation limits across other sports which are based on quarters, or halves, and not hours. This recommendation has been reviewed and endorsed by the NJSIAA Sports Medical Advisory Committee (SMAC). However, NJSIAA SMAC recommends that this rule be approved under a two-year pilot program to solicit feedback and data before supporting full adoption.

The new rule will be approved for a two-year pilot program is as follows:

A player may not participate in more than five (5) quarters on consecutive days.

Non-Public Classifications

Due to declining participation in the Non-Public B state tournament, the Committee recommends changes to the current classifications to increase participation in the Non-Public B state tournament. The classifications currently divide all schools equally into Non-Public A and Non-Public B, with any remainders being placed in Non-Public B. NJSIAA proposes that non-public schools with an enrollment equivalent to a public Group V, Group IV or Group III be classified as Non-Public A and non-public schools with an enrollment equivalent to public Group II and Group I be classified as Non-Public B. Based on the current year classifications, this will increase the number of schools classified as Non-Public B while keeping the enrollment differentials in line with the public-school classifications.

Season Dates – 2024 – 2025 School Year

Below is a list of regular season start dates and state tournament dates:

Week 0 – Thursday, August 29, 2024 (all levels)

Week 1 – Thursday, September 5, 2024

Public – First Round – Friday, November 1, 2024, or Saturday, November 2, 2024

Non-Public First Round – Friday, November 8, 2024, or Saturday, November 9, 2024

State Championships – Friday, November 29, 2024 – Sunday, December 1, 2024 *

State Championships – Thanksgiving Day team – Wednesday, December 4, 2024

*Dependent on facility availability at Met Life Stadium and Rutgers University.

Multiplier Adjustments

2024 Season

Non-Public schools will be classified in 4 potential categories for multiplier (A, B, C & D), or not included at all.

Classifications will be using the same criteria that we have in the past, focusing on consistent performance against non-multiplier and also valuing the quality of the public schools that they played, as well as their performance against one another. Schools may be demoted or moved out of the multiplier category during the season, based upon performance. They may not however be moved up during the season, that may only occur in the offseason.

Multiplier values will be assigned to the OSI portion of the formula rather than the Power Point portion. The rationale is that Power Points are a fixed amount/value and that column is designed to rate wins/losses (stronger portion of the category) rather than the full strength of the opponent. OSI values wins and losses, but it is designed to rate the strength of your opponents more so than Power Points. Therefore, the committee recommends the following for the 2024 season:

A - 80% of the Non-Public SI is awarded for a loss

B - 75% of the Non-Public SI is awarded for a loss

C - 70% of the Non-Public SI is awarded for a loss

D - 70% of the Non-Public SI is awarded for a loss

If an A, B, or C, is defeated by a non-multiplier school during the season, they will be demoted to a D level multiplier. If a D level multiplier is defeated by a non-multiplier school, they will be removed from the multiplier altogether. In essence, this means that an A, B, or C level team would need to lose to 2 non-multiplier schools to lose its multiplier status while a D level team would only need to lose once. The addition of the D level multiplier allows for schools in transition to be considered a multiplier until they prove otherwise. The committee feels that this is a tremendous safeguard and a good spot for borderline teams.

The committee feels that this new addition will act as a safeguard against non-public schools that quickly fall off or don't perform well, which we have seen across the entire state in the last 4-5 years. Furthermore, the OSI multiplier will also consider and value each non-public school's independent value rather than a generic point assignment. If an A, B, or C level school loses to a non-multiplier school and performs poorly against other non-public or non-multiplier schools (but still beats the other public schools) then their SI will be a bit lower and 70% of that final number will be a more authentic representation of the multiplier value. On the other hand, if a team performs extremely well all year and their SI increases, then their assigned category % will lead a slightly higher value, which will also be more authentic.

If a non-multiplier school defeats a multiplier school, then they will receive full value of the SI, like any other victory. If a non-multiplier school loses to a multiplier school and they eventually fall out of the multiplier category by losing to other public schools, then the non-multiplier school(s) that lost to the multiplier school will no longer receive the additional % and they will simply receive 50% like all other losses. The group feels that this is a great safeguard, and it is also not an arguable point by any public schools that no longer receive the additional %. The non-public school proved to be more of a common opponent, and they should be valued as such.

Multiplier Category Assignments

A (80% of SI)	B (75% of SI)	C (70% of SI)	D (70% of SI)
Bergen Catholic Delbarton Red Bank Catholic St. Joe's (Montvale)	DePaul Don Bosco Donovan Catholic Pope John Seton Hall Prep St. Augustine St. Thomas Aquinas	Holy Spirit Paramus Catholic St. Peter's Prep	Notre Dame Paul VI SJV St. Joe's (Metuchen)