



To: NJSIAA Program Review Committee

From: Colleen Maguire, Executive Director

Date: May 12, 2025

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.

Public School Snake Seeding Methodology - Update

Below is a revised seeding procedure that will be used to seed the public-school state tournament:

1. The top 16 teams from each super-section will make the playoffs, following all of the same qualification guidelines as previous seasons, based upon UPR standings.
2. Teams will be ranked #1-#16 in UPR, breaking all ties (as per the current regs), followed by any head-to-head jumps (as per the current regs). At this point in time, the order of the top 16 will be locked and there will be NO MORE jumps.
3. Once the top 16 are declared as per the tournament regulations, the following "sectional seeding procedures" will take place.
4. First, the #1 and #2 teams will be assigned as the #1 seed for each section based on northing numbers – the highest northing number in each super section will be the #1 seed in NI and Central.
5. Next, the remaining teams (#3 - #16) will be sorted by northing number in order to split the remaining teams based on geography. The group with the highest northing numbers will be assigned to NI and Central, the group with the lower northing numbers will be assigned to NII and Central.
6. Once the northing numbers separate each super-section into two sections, we will use the UPR to seed the teams in each section. THERE WILL BE NO ADDITIONAL JUMPS AT THIS POINT IN TIME, UPR NUMBERS ARE FIRMLY LOCKED.
7. The winners of each section will play in the state semifinal against the winner of the other section from within the original super-section, using the UPR ranking to determine who the home team will be.

The committees feel that this revised seeding procedure will reduce travel distances for many schools during the first two rounds of the state tournament while maintaining the integrity of the sectional tournament bracket.

Non-Public Multiplier Schools

Below is the list of non-public schools that will start the 2025-2026 season in the following categories. There are no changes to how the multiplier will be calculated when a public school competes against one of these schools. In addition, consistent with prior year, if a non-public multiplier school loses to a non-multiplier school during the regular season, then they will move down a category or no longer be considered a multiplier school. This allows necessary fluidity during the course of the season to ensure the integrity of the multiplier values.

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

Season Dates – 2025 – 2026 School Year

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

Week 0 – Thursday, August 28, 2025 (all levels)

Week 1 – Thursday, September 4, 2025

Public – First Round – Friday, October 31, 2025, or Saturday, November 1, 2025

Non-Public First Round – Friday, November 7, 2025, or Saturday, November 8, 2025

State Championships – Friday, November 28, 2025 – Sunday, November 30, 2025 *

State Championships – Thanksgiving Day team – Wednesday, December 3, 2025

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