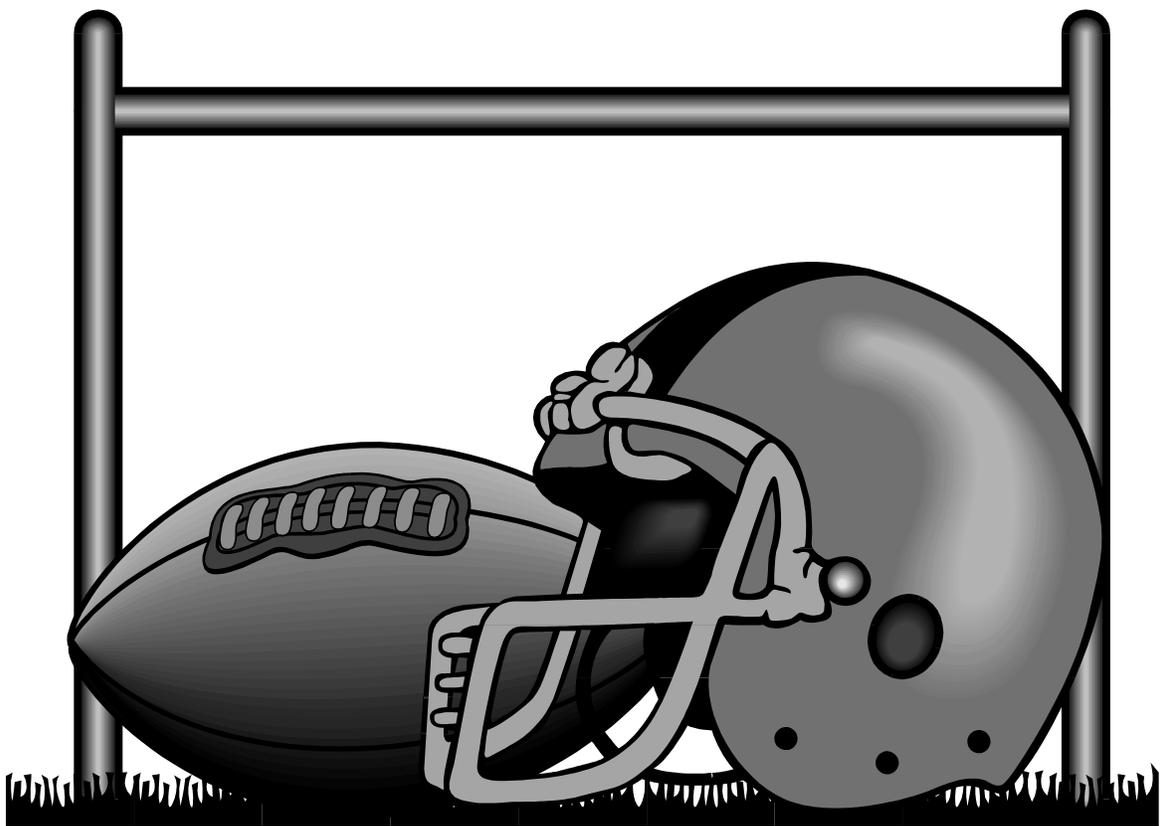




**2017**



**FOOTBALL  
PLAYOFF MANUAL**



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# FOOTBALL PLAYOFF MANUAL

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## FOOTBALL PLAYOFF HISTORY

The framework for determining a high school champion in football was set forth by the principals of West Virginia in 1947. At this time, a resolution was adopted to institute a rating system for use in determining a champion of the larger schools (Class A) and a champion for the smaller or Class B schools. Beginning in 1948, it was decided that champions of the two classes would be decided by a playoff or championship game between the two top rated schools of each class. Although a championship game did not take place in Class A in 1948, the two class procedure and a class championship game existed until 1955. At this time, the schools were divided into three classes: AA, A, and B. A championship game was held in each class among the two top rated teams. The names of the three classes were changed in 1958 to the present system of AAA, AA, and A. Again, championship games were held in each class until 1972, with the exception of 1963, at which time no championship game was held in Class AAA. The four team playoff in each class had its inception in 1972.

The idea of an eight team playoff began in 1976. At this time, it was discussed with the Football Coaches' Committee which is appointed by the Executive Secretary of the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission and which meets yearly to discuss this area of the interscholastic program. The committee expressed unanimous interest and recommended that the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission poll member schools concerning their interest in such a change. A 92% affirmative response prompted the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission to appoint a committee to study and propose a procedure for implementing the eight team concept.

The committee of athletic directors and coaches appointed by the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission consisted of the following people: John Chmara, Paul Clovis, Tom Korab, Ron Renner, Fred Taylor, Frank Vincent, Carl Ward, Kenneth Wright, and Granville Zopp.

The committee presented their findings and possible procedures to the Board of Appeals on two different occasions. After numerous findings and recommendations, the Board of Appeals instructed the Executive Secretary, in December 1977, to present a final draft to each member for study. The final draft was adopted in March 1978 for full implementation in the 1978 season.

In 1990, the Football Coaches' Committee recommended to the Board of Appeals that the playoffs be expanded to sixteen teams in each class. After much discussion, the Board voted to try the sixteen team format for the 1991 season. The Board also voted to limit the regular season to 10 weeks. In 1992, the sixteen team format continued, and the regular season was expanded to eleven weeks.

It is interesting to note that seven major revisions have been made in the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission football rating and playoff program in its history. The latest change has had the same positive impact as previous changes.

**§127-3-23. Football.**

23.1. Rules: Football rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

23.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team conditioning practice will begin on Monday of Week 5 and the first contest may be played during Week 8.

(revised 2008-09)

23.2.a. The following table establishes for senior high school the first date pads with no live contact, first date to use pads with total contact, earliest date for scrimmage or Grid-O-Rama, date for first contest and date season must be completed.

<b>Year</b>	<b>First Date Organized Practice</b>	<b>First Date Pads No Live Contact</b>	<b>First Date Live Contact Allowed</b>	<b>Date For Scrimmage or Grid-O-Rama</b>	<b>Earliest Date For First Contest</b>	<b>Date Season Must Be Completed</b>
2017	July 31	Aug. 4	Aug. 8	Aug. 12	Aug. 21	Nov. 4
2018	July 30	Aug. 3	Aug. 7	Aug. 11	Aug. 20	Nov. 3
2019	Aug. 5	Aug. 9	Aug. 13	Aug. 17	Aug. 26	Nov. 9
2020	Aug. 3	Aug. 7	Aug. 11	Aug. 15	Aug. 24	Nov. 7
2021	Aug. 2	Aug. 6	Aug. 10	Aug. 14	Aug. 23	Nov. 6

23.2.b. Individual students of a team must have practiced on 14 SEPARATE days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

23.2.c. No in season football camps sponsored by a member school or by other school related organizations where football coaching and instruction are given are permitted.

23.2.d. The use of football uniforms, protective equipment, tackling or blocking dummies, charging sleds, or similar devices are strictly prohibited during the conditioning program. However, during the DATE OF PADS NO LIVE CONTACT, the use of sleds, shields and blocking dummies will be allowed. The purpose of this period is to permit gradual adaptation of the students to carrying the weight of their pads and adjusting to temperature variation.

23.3. Length of Season: The football season will end for each team at the end of the regular season or by play-off elimination.

23.4. Maximum Team Contests: A football team will be permitted to play no more than 10 games exclusive of the play-off games.

23.4.a. The total number of quarters for a student in one season is 50 exclusive of the play-off games. (revised 2011-12)

23.4.b. A student may only play 4 quarters in one day.

23.4.c. Any student who participated in one or more downs in one quarter shall be charged with one quarter of play, except those downs in which the football teams are in a free kick formation, or the offensive team is in a scrimmage kick formation, as defined in the National Federation Football Rule Book, the down will not count as a down.

23.4.d. Overtime is considered as an extension of the fourth quarter.

23.4.e. Interscholastic practice game or games in which teams representing a member school play against alumni or other people shall not be allowed.

23.5. A football team is permitted to participate in a Grid-O-Rama and one (1) preseason scrimmage or two (2) preseason scrimmages. See Glossary for definitions of Grid-O-Rama and Scrimmage.

23.6. Special Regulations:

23.6.a. All rules and regulations of these Bylaws pertaining to football are also applicable to six-man and eight-man football.

23.6.b. Any member of a freshman team in a 4-year high school that plays in a varsity contest (scrimmage, grid-o-rama or game) is ineligible to return to the freshman team. (Revised 2015-16)

23.6.c. A student may not play or practice on a non-school football team while a member of his school team.

23.7. A student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events during the school year. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in the Awards Rule. Students may accept only this same type of an award in non-sanctioned event during non-school months.

23.8. The Board of Directors is authorized to adopt a point rating system and overall procedure for determining a state champion in each class.

## FOOTBALL RATING PLAN

**A team must play 6 teams in their class or above to be eligible to be considered in the playoff ratings. When a contract is signed with a school, the classification of that school will be used in determining the 6 game requirement for the length of the contract. Schools will be responsible for notifying the WVSSAC office by October 1. Copies of the contracts will be necessary to verify the agreement. However, rating points will only be given for the true classification.**

1. Games regularly scheduled under the provisions of the official contract form of the Commission which are cancelled by mutual agreement and approved by the Board of Directors shall not be included in any calculation of the rating system. Games which are cancelled or terminated without mutual agreement and for which the penalty features for the contract are paid or ordered paid by the Board of Directors, shall be counted under the forfeiture rule. The offended team may schedule a game to replace the forfeited game; the offending team may not. In such cases, a game so scheduled shall not count in the rating plan.
2. Should a tie exist at the end of regulation play in any regular season football game, the procedure for breaking the tie shall be the same as that described in the National Federation Football Rule modified "20-yard line Overtime Procedure". However, as adopted by the Board of Directors, overtime play shall be limited to three periods in regular season games.
3. Games played by WVSSAC member schools after date listed in Rule 127-3-23.2.1 ("Date Season must be Completed") shall not count in the rating system.
4. A team's final rating shall not be affected by the result of a protest registered after the preliminary playoff meeting held on the Sunday prior to the first round game.
5. The sixteen top rated football teams in each class (AAA,AA,A) shall be eligible for first round playoff competition in their respective class. Pairing for first round games for each class will be as follows: 1 vs. 16, 4 vs. 13, 5 vs. 12, and 8 vs. 9 in the upper bracket and 2 vs. 15, 3 vs. 14, 6 vs. 11, and 7 vs. 10 in the lower bracket.

The winner in each class championship game shall be declared the class champion and the loser shall be declared the runner-up. No determination below champion and runner-up shall be made. If any eligible rated team declines to compete in first round competition, the next eligible rated team shall be designated to participate in first round competition.

Should there be a tie for any position in the final rating for each class, the following criteria will be used to determine first round pairing and resolve ties which create more than sixteen top rated teams for any class (A,AA, and AAA):

- (A) If teams tie for the sixteenth position and competed against each other, the loser will be eliminated. If teams tie for any other position other than sixteenth and competed against each other, the winner will be selected for the higher position in pairing.
- (B) If a tie still exists which cannot be resolved by (A), the wins of their **defeated opponents** will be totaled and the team with the most bonus points *in their class or higher* as computed by the WVSSAC Rating Plan will be selected or moved up for pairing.
- (C) If A and B do not select any sixteenth place team or eliminate a tie above sixteenth, the team with the best win-loss record will be selected (based upon percentage).
- (D) Record against common opponent(s).
- (E) Difference of points scored minus points allowed by defeated opponents.
- (F) In case a tie still exists for any position which cannot be resolved by (A) through (E), a blind draw will be used to determine the position and sixteen participants for each class.

6. If any class championship game cannot be played because of uncontrollable factors as determined by the Board of Directors, the two teams thus affected shall have equal entitlement to all honors and awards.
7. Each school's entire schedule of football games, exclusive of those played against junior varsity opponents, scheduled prior to October 1 and within the seasonal limits shall be counted in the Rating Plan. However, should a high school team compete two times during a given season with the same school, points for both games shall be counted in the Rating Plan (may involve only one (1) team and two games in a season).
8. **Schools are required to post scores by 12:00 noon on Monday following a game date. Failure to post each game scores will result in a \$50.00 fine for each week.**
9. The classification of a non-member school shall be made on the basis of enrollment in a manner similar to the plan used by members of this Commission. Records from non-member opponents who play more than 10 games per season may be included only to the extent of the first nine regularly scheduled games of that opponent in addition to the game with the member school. Games played by non-member schools after the last date, as specified in Rule 127-3-23.2.2 of this manual and WVSSAC Handbook will count only if a rating point(s) is insured as calculated by the method(s) used in this Rating Plan.
10. Schools playing non-member opponents shall furnish the WVSSAC with the following information:
  - A. 127-3-10: 10.1 - Each member high school shall be classified as either AAA, AA or A based on the enrollment figures in grades 9-10-11-12 at the end of the second school month of the odd numbered year preceding the classification.  
**Classification for 2016-2017 thru 2019-2020:**  
**AAA - 933 or more**  
**AA - 460 - 932**  
**A - 459 or fewer**
  - B. Schedule of non-member opponent(s) which shall also include the same information as explained in (A) and including enrollment figures of their opponents.
  - C. Failure to perform the duties as defined above may terminate the right of a member school to participate in the rating plan and said right may be regained only through the Board of Directors.
11. A high school must play a minimum of eight varsity games to participate in the Rating Plan and be eligible for playoff competition.
12. Disputes concerning the validity of any interscholastic athletic contest shall be resolved by the Board of Directors.
13. To determine the final rating, total the points and divide by the number of games played.

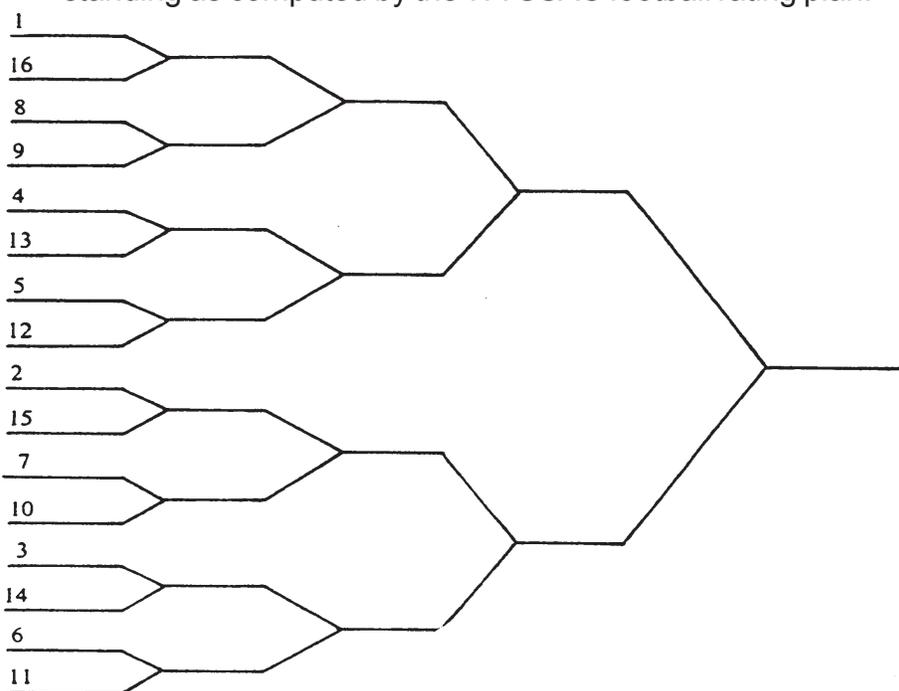
	<b>AAA</b>	<b>AA</b>	<b>A</b>
For winning against	12	9	6
For AAA Tying	6	4 1/2	3
For AA Tying	9	4 1/2	3
For A Tying	9	6	3
For each game won by a defeated opponent in its class or higher	1	1	1
For each game tied by a defeated opponent in its class or higher	1/2	1/2	1/2
For each game won by a tied opponent in its class or higher	1/2	1/2	1/2
For each game tied by a tied opponent in its class or higher	1/4	1/4	1/4

## WVSSAC FOOTBALL PLAYOFF

In 1990-91, the following Football Playoff Procedures were recommended by the Football Coaches' Committee and adopted by the Board of Directors.

### I. FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD ROUND GAMES:

A. The following pairing will be used for all classes: Numbers indicate final regular season standing as computed by the WVSSAC football rating plan.



### B. WVSSAC FOOTBALL PLAYOFF SITE STANDARDS

#### 1. FIELD:

- Field surface must have proper drainage.
- Surface shall be in a safe and playable condition in late season. It must have a grassy surface without extensive rough spots. Excessive use lessens safety and playable conditions. It is suggested that activities in excess of 15 events on most grass fields is probably too much.
- The field may not be used for practice (unless artificial surface) other than a run-through on the night preceding regular season games. Practice by activities which include bands or other teams as well as other events must be limited to this standard.
- Unanchored team benches must be provided and these benches shall be at least 4 yards from the sideline.
- A field barrier, whether permanent fencing or temporary structures, **should be no closer** to the out-of-bounds lines than 5 yards. This field barrier shall have controlled access to permit teams and bands to enter the playing area but must be constructed in such a way that fans cannot enter the playing area. It is preferred that team access be separate. E

- f) Field markings must conform to Rule 1-2. This includes sidelines, end lines, yard lines, pylons, field yard-line markers, properly padded goal posts and team box areas (which shall be a full 6 feet from the sideline). **A 4-inch wide broken restraining line 6 feet outside of and around the playing field is required. Goalline shall be white.**
- g) Field lights must be operable and of sufficient illumination for night games.
- h) An operable electric score board must be available.
- i) An operable 25 second field clock. (Required beginning with the 2007 season).
- 2. SPECTATOR SEATING:** (18" per occupant) AAA - 4,000; AA - 3,000; A - 2,000
  - a) Seating includes that provided for bands, including band seating inside field barrier.
  - b) Seating to be included in total shall only include elevated seats. It is recommended that these seats be elevated at least 3 feet above ground level.
  - c) Handicapped seating must be considered and, if at field level, removed at least 5 yards from any field boundary.
  - d) Seating must meet all local safety standards and have safe and easy access and egress.
- 3. DRESSING ROOMS:** These must be separate and accessible for both teams.
  - a) AAA must have space for a minimum of 60 players and structures (lockers, hangers or pegs) available to get clothes up off the floor as well as seating. AA must have 50 spaces and A must have 40. Space for coaches must be considered.
  - b) Adequate shower and rest room facilities shall be included. Recommendations are: AAA shall have a minimum of 10 operable shower heads, AA 8, and A 6.
  - c) Rest room facilities for players shall be available (at least semi-private).
  - d) A suitable writing surface must be available for coaches of both teams. (Examples: chalkboard, dry eraser board, etc.)
  - e) A separate and private dressing facility must be provided for game officials with adequate accommodations including showers and rest room facilities.
- 4. PRESS BOX:** This structure shall be high enough to give timers and score board operators a clear view of the entire field. Adequate electrical outlets must be available.
  - a) Space shall be provided for press and radio/TV.
  - b) Assistant coaches shall be separated from their opponents and space for film crews must be available.
  - c) AAA should have minimum space for 18 personnel, AA 15, and A 12.
- 5. MEDICAL ASSISTANCE:** On-field medical assistance must be available for both teams.
  - a) Sideline areas may be set aside for these personnel within the team box.
  - b) A plan for transport to a nearby hospital must be considered.
- 6. PUBLIC REST ROOMS AND CONCESSIONS:**
  - a) Easily accessible to spectators.
  - b) Rest room commode/urinal combinations for each sex; numbers suggested are: AAA 8, AA 6, A 4. Portables are permitted to accommodate large crowds.
- 7. PARKING:** It is recommended that parking areas be lighted.
  - a) On site parking for teams, bands, and officials must be provided.
  - b) Spectator parking must be adequate. Appropriate security must be provided if spectator parking is inside same enclosure as field.
  - c) Handicapped parking shall be considered.

## 8. SECURITY:

- a) Adequate security must be available for spectators, players, and officials.
  - b) A security person should accompany officials to and from their dressing room.
  - c) Uniformed security is necessary with at least one possessing powers of arrest.
  - d) Must have a weather emergency plan.
- C. All games in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd rounds will be played at the approved home site of the highest rated team. If the home site is not approved, the game will be played at an approved site selected by the highest rated team subject to the approval of the WVSSAC office. If necessary, the Executive Director may send a committee to inspect the site.

**NOTE: PENDING\*: SCHOOLS LISTED AS (PENDING)\* MUST RECEIVE FINAL APPROVAL BY THE WVSSAC PRIOR TO THE STATE FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS.**

1. **Facilities meeting criteria for all classes:** APPROVED: *Bluefield, Bridgeport, Brooke, Buckhannon-Upshur, Cabell Midland, East-West Stadium, Frankfort, George Washington, Glenville State College (Gilmer Co. High) Greenbrier East, Hedgesville, Huntington, Hurricane (pending)\*, Jefferson, John Marshall, Laidley Field (Charleston), Lewis County, Logan (pending)\*, Martinsburg, Morgantown, Musselman, Nicholas Co., Nitro, North Marion, Parkersburg, Parkersburg South, Point Pleasant, Preston, Princeton, Ripley, Riverside, Roane Co., Robert C. Byrd, St. Albans, South Charleston, Spring Mills, Spring Valley, Tyler Consolidated, University, Washington (pending)\*, Wheeling Island Stadium, Woodrow Wilson (Beckley).*
  2. **Facilities meeting criteria for AA-A:** APPROVED: *Chapmanville (pending)\*, Elkins, Grafton, Greenbrier West, Herbert Hoover, Independence (pending)\*, James Monroe, Keyser (pending)\*, Liberty (H), Lincoln, Logan, Magnolia (New Martinsville), Man, Mingo Central, Oak Glen, Oak Hill, Poca, Pt. Pleasant, Ravenswood, Ritchie Co., Scott, Sherman (pending)\*, Sissonville, South Harrison, Summers Co., Tolsia, Wayne, Weir, Winfield, Wyoming East, Westside.*
  3. **Facilities meeting criteria of Class A only:** APPROVED: *Buffalo, Calhoun, Cameron (pending)\*, Clay-Battelle, Doddridge County (pending)\*, East Hardy, Fayetteville, Meadow Bridge (pending)\*, Midland Trail, Moorefield, Pendleton Co., Pocahontas Co., Richwood, St. Marys, Shady Spring, Tucker County (pending)\*, Tug Valley (pending)\*, Valley (W) (pending)\*, Webster County, Wheeling Central Catholic (Wheeling Jesuit University), Williamstown, Wirt Co..*
- D. If the home site is not listed in the approved sites, the host school may select from the list above. The listed sites are categorized according to their meeting the standards as set forth in Item 2. The home school wishing to use another facility should make the necessary arrangements prior to attending the playoff meeting on Sunday prior to the first round games.
- E. If the participating school cannot secure an adequate game site, the **WVSSAC** will select the playoff site.
- F. In first, second, and third round games, the highest rated visiting schools shall select the date and time of game. If a conflict exists and mutual agreement cannot be reached, the WVSSAC will set time and date. Night games will start at 7:30 p.m. Day games will start at 1:30 p.m. **NOTE: On March 2, 2011, the Board of Directors gave schools the option of a 1:30 pm or 7:30 pm start time on the Friday following Thanksgiving.**
- G. If the visiting school does not feel that the home site meets the criteria as set forth in Item 1-2, a protest, with cause, may be lodged no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Sunday preceding the playoff game. The Executive Director will then select a committee composed of one

(1) Board of Control member (Chairman) and two (2) members from the WVSSAC Football Coaches' Committee to inspect the playing site and make a report with recommendation to the Executive Director of the WVSSAC. This report with recommendations is due no later than 6:00 p.m. on Monday preceding the playoff game. The school filing the protest will assume all costs involved in performing the inspection if the protest is denied.

## II. CHAMPIONSHIP:

A. All championship games will be played on the same weekend and the same game site.

**AA** - Friday - 7:00 p.m.

**AAA** - Saturday - 12:00 noon

**A** - Saturday - 7:00 p.m.

B. The three over-time rule will be waived. A winner for each contest will be determined.

## III. ADMINISTRATION:

**NOTE: *The administrator / game director must be in attendance at all playoff meetings.***

The WVSSAC will appoint a game director for each game site and the director will administer the game according to the regulations of the WVSSAC. His/her duties include:

A. Provide participating schools with any necessary information not included in this manual.

B. Engage statisticians and provide them with WVSSAC forms. The host school is responsible for reporting game results to wire services.

C. Provide competent timer, scoreboard operator, announcer, chain crew, and (2) ball persons.

D. Make arrangement for managing concessions.

E. Arrange to have emergency personnel available at game site.

F. Secure ticket sellers and takers.

G. Assign dressing rooms to the teams and game officials.

H. Make necessary arrangements for marking field in accordance with National Federation Rules.

I. The host school will furnish the equipment for the chain crew. Registered officials, in uniform, shall be used. Each crew member will be paid \$25.00, deducted from gate receipts.

J. Each school will be permitted fifteen (15) passes for cheerleaders.

K. The WVSSAC will supply tickets for first, second and third round games. The winning school will then have tickets available to sell immediately. The game director will have the tickets for the second and third round games.

L. Advance ticket prices will be \$5.00 for students and \$7.00 for adults for the First, Second and Third Round. All tickets will be \$7.00 at the gate. Advance ticket prices for the Super Six Championship will be \$6.00 for students and \$8.00 for adults. All tickets will be \$8.00 at the gate. Book tickets for the three final games will be \$21.00.

M. *The WVSSAC will provide programs for all playoff games. In order to assist in preparing a program, it is necessary that each school submit roster, school information and schedule with game results on-line. Information will only be accepted on-line. Pictures and team page ads can either be e-mailed ([Alice.Goodwin@wvssac.org](mailto:Alice.Goodwin@wvssac.org)) or brought to the initial playoff meeting on Sunday week 19. Instructions for submitting on-line were included in the coaches packet.*

- N. Please inform teams and bands where their buses should be parked and the location of the dressing rooms as well as seating arrangements for the fans.
- O. It is the responsibility of the host school to provide adequate police protection.
- P. Each game director will be paid \$125.00 deducted from gross receipts.
- Q. Each game director will appoint a media coordinator to coordinate media coverage and needs. A local representative of this profession would be ideal to handle this area
- R. Only handheld signs, worded or displayed in good taste, are acceptable. The use of confetti, shredded paper, amplified noise makers and cannons is prohibited. Refer to the Spectator Support Information printed in the Interscholastic.
- S. It is recommended that electrical outlets be provided for sideline heaters, and if heaters are provided for the "home school," that this same service be made available to the "visitor." If heaters are too close to sidelines or present a safety hazard then they should not be provided. If visitors provide their own heater/s they must not be a safety hazard and must have the host's permission.
- T. **WVSSAC POLICY ON FILMING:** Filming or taping of Sectional, Regional, and State events shall be permitted under the following conditions:
  1. A school whose students are participating in a specific contest or match may video tape or film that specific contest or match. The school filming the contest may not sell, rent, or loan the tape or film for commercial purposes. Schools filming or taping under these provisions should make prior arrangements with game management.
  2. Spectator filming may be done at all playoffs or any level of contest under the guidelines of the tournament director. The director of WVSSAC may stipulate a particular area or section for filming purposes as well as adopting other guidelines necessary at that particular site to insure the convenience of all concerned.
  3. Media may, without fee, arrange with game management to take clips of WVSSAC sponsored contest for public news showing. Under no condition may an entire full segment (quarter, period, etc.) be filmed or taped.
  4. The WVSSAC reserves the right to regulate and control the commercial use of all films and/or tapes taken at events sponsored by the Commission.
- V. It was recommended that home administration provide the visitors with a time schedule to make sure that the game starts on time and that the field is cleared five (5) minutes prior to the game of all pre-game activity.

#### IV. **GAMES PROCEDURES:**

- A. The home management is responsible for flag presentation and the playing of the Star Spangled Banner.
- B. Teams are to leave the playing field 15 minutes before game time and return promptly at five minutes before kick-off time. Upon returning to the playing field, the captains will participate in the tossing of the coin.
- C. No team will enter the playing field for pregame warm-up earlier than 1 1/2 hours before the game time. Players will be allowed to walk the field if field conditions permit. No equipment and/or implement of the sport will be permitted during the walk-through.
- D. There can be no practice on the home field anytime during the week of the game unless the field has artificial playing surface.
- E. Sideline Passes will no longer be distributed from the WVSSAC. Distribution will be at the discretion of the game administrator.
- F. Length of half-time shall be 20 minutes.
- G. Bands: Members of the school band (Rule 127-5-2.1) in uniform of the two participating

schools shall be admitted to the game free. Only members of the school band shall be permitted to perform before, during and after the contest. During the half-time intermission of the game, the visiting team band shall perform first and be prepared to start its performance immediately after the end of the first-half play. Performance by the visiting team band shall not exceed ten (10) minutes including time to get on and off the field. Performance by the home team band shall not exceed ten (10) minutes including time to get on and off the field. The field must be cleared for the mandatory three-minute warm-up drills for players. If a special announcer is required for a band show, previous arrangements shall be made with game director in order to gain access to the public address system.

- H. The team designated as the home team will wear dark colored jerseys and the visiting team will wear white colored jerseys. The team finishing the highest in the final WVSSAC rating will be considered the home team for all levels of playoff competition.
- I. Each participating school shall present two (2) legal footballs for game use as per Rule 1-3(1-2-3) to the referee at least thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled kickoff.
- J. ***The NFHS APPROVED Spalding Alpha football may be used in a playoff game. Schools cannot use a product from another company. This was approved unanimously by the Football Coaches' Committee and the Board of Directors.***

V. **GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS:**

**NOTE: The head coach is required to attend the Round One Playoff meeting and the Super Six Playoff meeting. Failure by the head coach to attend the Round One Playoff meeting or the Super Six Playoff meeting will result in the school losing all reimbursement for that round. The administrator/game director must be in attendance at both playoff meetings.**

- A. The meetings for the first round will be held on the Sunday prior to the first round game at the following times: **AAA-9:00 a.m.; AA-11:00 a.m. and A-1:00 p.m.**
- B. ***Each participating school will be required to bring all regular season and playoff game videotapes or to provide electronic access to their games to the playoff meeting for exchange.***
- C. Schools will be reimbursed according to the following numbers as constituting the official party of each classification: **A(40); AA (50); AAA (60).**
- D. The following shall determine the expense allowance for participating schools providing game receipts are otherwise available:

**1. Travel and Meal allowance:**

- (a) Travel:                   0-24 miles - 0  
                                      25 + miles - \$4.00 per mile one way

**(b) Meal allowance:**

Host School:	Visiting School:
Games 1-2-3	Games 1-2-3
(A) \$160.00	(A) \$285.00
(AA) \$200.00	(AA) \$350.00
(AAA) \$240.00	(AAA) \$415.00

**(c) *When travel is in excess of 150 miles one way Lodging and Meals will be \$30.00 per member of official party.***

If housing is provided gratis: \$20.00 per member of official party.

- 2. ***Teams that travel over 275 miles (one way) and play a night game may be reimbursed for two nights if they choose to stay.***
- 3. ***Teams that are entitled to stay overnight and choose not to do so will be given***

***50% of the amount allotted for overnight housing and meals.***

- E. Each participating school shall share in the net receipts according to the following schedule:
  - First Round:** 20%
  - Second Round:** 15%
  - Third Round:** 10%
  - Championship:** 5%
- F. The cost of filming playoff games will not be included as a game expense item.

**VI. OFFICIALS:**

- A. Officials will be assigned to each game by the WVSSAC. Each official will be paid **\$75.00** for working the contest. One car will be allowed .31 per mile round trip travel expense.
- B. The officials will be selected by the WVSSAC and host game director will be notified.
- C. Officials will accept game assignments through Arbiter Sports. Officials will be paid through Arbiter Pay. Officials must set up Arbiter Pay account in order to receive payment for games worked.

**VII. RADIO - TELEVISION - PRESS:**

- A. There will be no delayed or live televising of any championship football game(s) unless approved by the WVSSAC and/or Board of Directors. If any person(s) or TV station requests a delayed taping, please direct them to the WVSSAC office. The fee for delayed broadcasting or viewing is covered in the TV Contract. Request for a live telecast must have prior approval from the Board of Directors.
- B. Any radio station desiring to broadcast any game, live or delayed, in the first three rounds must contact the game director to secure permission to broadcast. For championship games contact METRONEWS.
- C. When broadcasting facilities are limited at the site of the game, the two stations representing the two participating schools shall be assigned the two best facilities, and each school shall designate what radio station is to be given this preference. This is left to the discretion of each individual school that participates in the playoffs. After the first two selections are made, the third best facility should be occupied by a station representing the host school. Thereafter, choice of facilities shall be filled in order of request. A maximum number of three passes any be provided for any authorized radio station.
- D. All requests for space should be done through the game director.
- E. The Board of Directors reserves the right to discontinue broadcasting of any station at any time in the event that such broadcast is considered by the Board to be in poor taste or incompatible with educational dignity or propriety of the high schools of the State of West Virginia. During the game or tournament, there shall be no political, tobacco, liquor, or malt spirit advertising. There shall not be any destructive criticism of the tournament game or game officials and their decisions either directly or indirectly.
- F. The rights to any future use for commercial purpose(s) of any video tapes or radio broadcasts connected with these playoffs are reserved by the WVSSAC.

## WVSSAC FOOTBALL PLAYOFF SITE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of School \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. Applying for following type site: **AAA**      **AA**      **A**
2. Seating Capacity (permanent seats - 18" per occupant)  
**A. Home Side** \_\_\_\_\_ **B. Visitor Side** \_\_\_\_\_ **C. Total** \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Playing Area:**
  - A. Drains properly (approximately 1/4 per foot slope from center to sideline)  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. Does any team use your field as a practice area?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. Do field and markings conform to Rule 1-2-(1-8), National Federation Rules?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
  - D. Is field and participants area separated from fans?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
  - E. Is fence or barrier at least five (5) yards from playing area?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
  - F. Are adequate benches available for each team?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
  - G. Are benches at least four (4) yards from sideline and free standing?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
  - H. Is your turf in safe and playable condition for late season play?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
  - I. Are field lights operable and of high quality for a night game?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
4. Is an electric scoreboard and a 25 second field clock in operable condition. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
5. Are there separate and accessible dressing and showering facilities for both teams?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ State number you can accommodate:  
**Home** \_\_\_\_\_ **Visitor** \_\_\_\_\_
6. Are there separate and accessible dressing and showering facilities for officials?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
7. Are there adequate press box facilities? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
8. Is adequate spectator parking available? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
9. Do you have a medical / weather emergency plan? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
10. Are rest rooms of adequate size and available for home and visitors?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
11. Once a site has been approved, schools/facilities will not have to annually submit the Request to Host/Football Playoff Site Form unless site conditions change.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Principal \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

**SEND TO:** Bernie Dolan, Executive Director  
WVSSAC  
2875 Staunton Turnpike  
Parkersburg, WV 26104

## **WVSSAC 20-YARD LINE OVERTIME RULE**

For any varsity game tied at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> period this overtime procedure will be in effect. In the regular season a maximum of three overtime periods will be used to break the tie. In playoffs no maximum number of periods is required, a winner will be determined.

Each overtime period will begin on the 20-yard line chosen by the captains at the overtime coin toss. The coin toss winner may choose to go on offense first, to go on defense first or choose on which end of the field the first overtime period will be played. The loser of the toss shall have the remaining options. There shall be only one coin toss. The loser of the first toss shall have the first options in the next overtime period and these choices continue to alternate for any other overtime periods.

There shall be a three-minute interval between the end of the regulation 4<sup>th</sup> period and the beginning of the first overtime period. Each team shall be allowed a possession during each overtime period. A two-minute intermission shall be given between any successive overtime period(s). Captains are given the same options for any successive overtime period(s) as they were given at the beginning of overtime.

Regular game rules apply except there can be no Post Scrimmage Kick (PSK) foul options and when the defense gains possession of the ball, the ball becomes dead immediately and the offensive possession ends.

These rules are modifications of the "Resolving Tied Games" rules and interpretations found in the back of each current NF Football Rules Book.

Time Outs: Each team is entitled to three charged team timeouts during each half. Unused first half time-outs cannot be used in the second half. Unused second half time-outs cannot be used in overtime. A team may be awarded one time-out per overtime period.

# WEST VIRGINIA SECONDARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES COMMISSION



2875 Staunton Turnpike, Parkersburg, WV 26104-7219

TELEPHONE: 304-485-5494  
FAX NUMBER: 304-428-5431

E-MAIL: [wvssac@wvssac.org](mailto:wvssac@wvssac.org)  
WEB SITE: [www.wvssac.org](http://www.wvssac.org)



## BULLETIN

TO: Principal, Athletic Director, Football Coach  
FROM: Wayne Ryan, Assistant Executive Director  
DATE: November - 2017  
SUBJECT: Football Playoff Site - Visitors Facilities Report

Since you were the visitors in the first, second, and/or semi-final game, we would appreciate your response concerning the home school facilities.

Round: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Team: \_\_\_\_\_ vs Visitor: \_\_\_\_\_

I. Name of facility: \_\_\_\_\_

II. Does it meet WVSSAC specification of an "approved playoff" site as specified in the WVSSAC Football Playoff Manual?

Yes  No

III. If the answer is no, please list the area(s) not meeting requirements:

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IV. Comments:

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Person Completing Form

Name of School Reporting

**Reimbursement will be withheld until this form is submitted to the WVSSAC.**

**Email: [wayne.ryan@wvssac.org](mailto:wayne.ryan@wvssac.org)**

**Fax: 304-428-5431**

# 2017 Football Bulletin

## WVSSAC Football Game Shortening Rule: Re: NFHS Football Rule 3-1-2

Beginning with the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> period if a 35 point differential has been reached the clock operator will keep the game clock running except for the following situations:

- Clock stopped for an injured player
- A charged Team timeout is awarded
- There is a change of possession
- There is a score
- For a try after touchdown
- Any extended delay

When these instances occur the Referee will face the clock operator and give the Stop the Clock signal (**signal 3**).

When the clock is stopped for any of the above reasons the clock will start on the Ready-for-Play by the Referee. The Referee will face the clock operator and give the start the clock signal (**signal 2**).

### **The game clock will run during the following:**

- Incomplete legal or illegal forward pass
- Runner goes out of bounds
- For Penalty Administration including delay of game fouls
- When a first down is gained with no change of team possession
- When there is a change of possession and the team that had possession at the beginning of the down has possession at the end of the down.

Game officials will use all normal mechanics within the Game Shortening Period. The remainder of the 4<sup>th</sup> period will be under this rule even if the differential is lessened.

**NFHS Rule 3-1-3** may still may be utilized. “A period or periods may be shortened in any emergency by agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee. By mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee, any remaining period may be shortened at any time or the game terminated.”