

MINUTES OF THE IHSA FOOTBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
December 8, 2021

The IHSA Football Advisory Committee met virtually on December 8, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Committee members present: Brian Glashagel, Antioch; Tony Sheehan, Oak Lawn (Richards); Derek Spates, Decatur (MacArthur); Rich Thompson, Concord (Triopia); Ray Kauling, Trenton (Wesclin); Jim Maddock, Official - Washington; and Sam Knox, IHSA

Dante Culbreath, Chicago (Simeon) and Jay Mullens, Byron were absent.

John Lalor, Hebron (Alden-H.) and Jason Kirby, Biggsville (West Central) also joined the meeting to discuss 8-man football.

## **TERMS & CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **1. V. A. 2) Sites, Rankings, Pairings**

**Recommendation:** After determining the 32 qualifying teams in each class, brackets will be seeded 1-32 in all classes.

**Rationale:** The committee understands the IHSA's geographic principle of assigning teams to state series tournaments. However, some schools already face long trips in the football playoffs with the current north/south bracketing in 1A-6A. Additionally, some schools travel long distances for football games in the regular season due to conference realignments or to play non-conference opponents. The committee feels seeding all classes 1-32 would add more excitement and interest to the football playoffs as teams advance through the bracket to determine a state champion, regardless of geography.

Approved by Consent

### **Administrative Recommendation:**

The committee recommends the IHSA conducts a state series in 8-man football beginning in the 2023-24 school year.

**Rationale:** The number of schools participating in 8-man football continues to grow as the sport has become a reality for small schools that want to maintain a football team. The Illinois 8-Man Football Association anticipates 30 schools will have a team in the 2022-23 school year with that number potentially increasing to 36-38 schools for the 2023-24 school year, based on communication from schools that are currently considering this option. The committee is confident that if the IHSA is responsible for an 8-man state series, even more small schools will consider 8-man football and the opportunity to participate in the IHSA playoffs.

Tabled

## **ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:**

1. The committee discussed start times for Saturday games in the playoffs.
2. The committee discussed the recent playoff expansion by-law proposal.
3. The committee discussed contact days and what football teams are allowed to do in the summer. The committee learned that any changes must come through the by-law amendment process.
4. The committee discussed the possibility of preseason scrimmages with other schools. The committee learned that any changes must come through the by-law amendment process.
5. The committee discussed the pros and cons of eliminating the dead week in the summer. The committee learned that any changes must come through the by-law amendment process.
6. The committee discussed the weekly player participation limit (Policy 13).
7. The committee discussed the State Finals schedule of playing the games in order 1A-8A.
8. The committee discussed postseason officials fees and the possibility of increasing Round 1 and Round 2 playoff fees to be similar to the fees schools are paying for regular season games.
9. The committee recognized outgoing members Tony Sheehan, Oak Lawn (Richards); Derek Spates, Decatur (MacArthur); and Rich Thompson, Concord (Triopia).

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.