

Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc.  
**FOOTBALL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
 January 25, 2018, 9:30 a.m.

**Members Present:**

Craig Anderson, Adrian  
 Ron Bellamy, West Bloomfield  
 Mike Burger, Pittsford  
 Brad Bush, Chelsea  
 Mike Campbell, Mayville  
 Darren Conklin, Plainwell  
 Jim Conway, Mt Pleasant  
 Curt Copeland, Grand Rapids  
 Mike Evoy, Detroit  
 Ed Greenman, Battle Creek  
 Vicky Groat, Battle Creek  
 Don Gustafson, St Ignace  
 Courtney Hawkins, Mt Morris  
 Wayne Karsten, Posen  
 Kevin Langs, Climax  
 Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake  
 Don McKenzie, Lincoln Park  
 William McKoy, Romulus  
 Larry Merx, MHSFCA  
 Jack Nummerdor, Holton

Andrew Pratley, Holland  
 Scott Robertson, Grand Haven  
 Greg Vaughn, Traverse City

**Members Absent:**

Scott Barr, Cedarville  
 Dan Boggan, Lansing  
 Vernon Crump, Canton  
 Scott McVittie, Deckerville  
 Joe Pontbriand, Iron Mountain  
 Mike Smith, Eaton Rapids

**MHSAA Staff:**

Nate Hampton (Recorder)  
 Mark Uyl

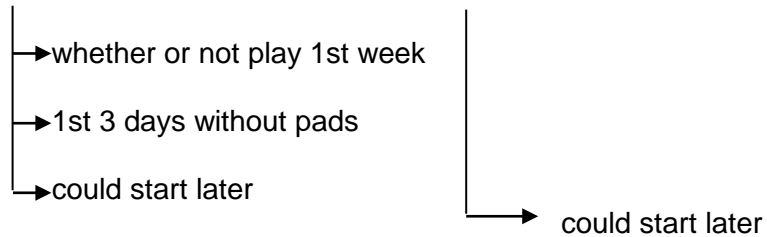
The committee met for the purpose of reviewing NFHS playing rules, MHSAA Regulations and 8-Player and 11-Player Tournament procedures/policies and concerns involving High School Football. Following is a review of items discussed by the committee as well as recommendations to MHSAA staff and for possible Representative Council consideration.

**Calendar**

MHSAA staff provided the committee a six-year calendar demonstrating the earliest practice date, the earliest game date and the number of contests prior to Labor Day. For 2018 season, the earliest practice date is August 6, and the earliest game date is August 23 allowing for two scheduled contests prior to Labor Day.

**2018-2023 FOOTBALL DATES**

Year	Earliest Practice	Earliest Game	Labor Day (Games Before)
2018	Aug. 6	Aug. 23	Sept. 3 (2)
2019	Aug. 12	Aug. 29	Sept. 2 (2)
2020	Aug. 10	Aug. 27	Sept. 7 (2)
2021	Aug. 9	Aug. 26	Sept. 6 (2)
2022	Aug. 8	Aug. 25	Sept. 5 (2)
2023	Aug. 7	Aug. 24	Sept. 4 (2)



Monday, August 6 - First allowable day of 2 days of conditioning period, helmets only. Shoulder pads may be added on the third and fourth days. First date of official practice, with full pads (if 2 days of conditioning were completed during the week) is on the fifth day.

Thursday, August 23 - First game date.

- Schools may not conduct inter-squad scrimmages until after nine separate days of practice.
- Interscholastic games (all levels) cannot be played until teams have completed 12 separate days of practice over a 3-week period.

### Tournament Review

The committee was provided 2017 Football Playoff Tournament information for both the 11-player format and the 8-player format, with statistical data for all levels of tournament competition. The data demonstrated consistency with previous years under the current format when comparing school classification, division enrollment breaks and the numbers of automatic qualifiers.

In 2015, 2016 and 2017, there were 216, 218 and 223 schools, respectively, which qualified automatically based on regular season records. The 32 8-Player schools with the highest playoff point averages qualified for the 8-player tournament. There were thirty-nine 11-Player and eight 8-Player games that were subject to the “Point Differential” procedure.

#### 2017 Enrollment Range by Division

Division 1	3016-1586
Division 2	1582-1163
Division 3	1140-850
Division 4	841-597
Division 5	594-457
Division 6	443-355
Division 7	353-253
Division 8	248-112
8-Player D1	201-152
D2	151-74

#### 2017 Classification by Divisions

Division 1	32 Class A
Division 2	32 Class A
Division 3	26 Class A, 6 Class B
Division 4	32 Class B
Division 5	32 Class B
Division 6	9 Class B, 23 Class C
Division 7	32 Class C
Division 8	15 Class C, 17 Class D
8-Player D1	16 Class D
D2	16 Class D

### General Discussion

1. 2017 Committee minutes and Representative Council Recommendations
2. Semifinal facilities
3. National Federation Rule changes for 2018
4. National Federation 40 Second Clock Michigan experiment
5. Junior High/Middle School Football
6. Finals venue review – Ford Field/Northern Michigan University
7. Health and Safety Issues; Concussion, Heat and Humidity
8. NFHS Injury Report
9. Pre-season practice limits – Review and suggestions
10. Tournament Ball - Wilson
11. Preseason Guide – Safety Blitz
12. 8-Player Football Two Divisions
13. 8-Player Mock MHSAA Regional Assignments

## 14. MHSFCA- Enhanced Strength of Schedule Proposal

### **Health and Safety**

Pre-season Practice – 90 minutes per week total live contact limits.

The committee suggested that the limits placed on live contact has been successful and that most coaches were actually using less time in full contact activity during the practice week.

MHSAA staff reported that the National Center for Catastrophic Sport Injury Research reported that in 2017 there were 3 direct (head/neck) deaths and 6 indirect (heart/heat) related deaths.

Football continues to have the highest injury rate in the 22 sports under RIO surveillance with an overall practice and competition rate of 3.82 per 1,000 athletic exposures.

Football had the highest concussion rate of the 22 sports under RIO surveillance at 10.2 per 10,000 athletic exposure. 61.5% of concussions occurred during competition, with 58.1% of these occurring in the second half of the game. Michigan data for football concussion suggest similar findings. In 2016-17 1,647 reports were filed for head injury in football. In 2017 member schools reported 1,446 football head injuries. 653 Varsity, 562 Junior Varsity and 231 were freshmen. 529 were reported during practice and 917 were reported during competition.

### **40 Second Clock Experiment**

In 2017, there were 125 varsity contest and 140 junior varsity contest that used the 40 second clock protocols. School teams and contest officials responses of those reporting demonstrated the below:

99% found more consistency in getting the ball spotted using the :40 second play clock.

98% found that the crew was efficient in getting the ball marked for the snap.

98% of both officials and coaches would prefer the :40 second format.

98% experienced fewer delay penalties.

100% experienced fewer pre-snap infractions.

### **Officials**

MHSAA Assistant Director, Mark Uyl, presented data that demonstrated more 7-person crews are being used during the regular season and that player and coach disqualifications were basically unchanged. It was noted that school appeals for MHSAA staff to review film of officials calls relating to targeting were considerably less than in previous years since the rules change that penalized for targeting.

### **8-Player Football**

Plans for the MHSAA to group four Regions geographically in each of the two divisions have begun. It is anticipated that schools within each Regional will schedule each other during the regular season. It is possible that the Representative Council at its December 2018 meeting will act for both the 2019 and 2020 seasons.

The committee was provided a sample of how the protocols would look based on 2017 enrollment data. There were no negative comments relating to the plan.

### **MHSFCA Proposal - Enhanced Strength of Schedule**

Purpose – To ameliorate football scheduling concerns by rewarding teams for playing strong opponents. The hope is that this proposed football playoff system will encourage more “local scheduling without the need to “schedule for wins”.

When the initial proposal was made four years ago it was edited to include automatic qualifiers with 7 wins and the additional protocol that a team have a minimum of 4 games in order to be tournament eligible. The automatic qualifiers with 7 wins and 4 minimum games have been removed from this updated version.

- A. Divisions – Establish prior to the start of the season. Each division will have 72-75 school teams.
- B. Tournament Qualifiers – By playoff points filling 32 positions within each division.
- C. Playoff Points –  
Div.1 = 60, Div. 2 = 55, Div. 3 = 50, Div. 4 = 45, Div. 5 = 40, Div. 6 = 35, Div. 7 = 30, Div. 8 = 25
- D. Bonus Points for opponents win/loses – A team will earn points for each of its opponents wins regardless of whether or not the team defeated the opponents.
- E. Bonus Point Multiplier – The multiplier is adjusted depending on the enrollment/division of each opponent.  
Div. 1 = 6, Div. 2 = 6, Div. 3 = 5, Div. 4 = 5, Div. 5 = 4, Div. 6 = 4, Div. 7 = 3, Div. 8 = 2
- F. Out of State Opponents – Michigan teams will be awarded playoff points and bonus points based on enrollment.

### **Recommendations to the Representative Council**

1. Request that the MHSAA and the NFHS continue for the third year the 40 second play clock experiment for the 2018 season. (23-0)
2. Adopt the MHSFCA enhanced strength of schedule plan effective for the 2020 football season. (19-2)