

MINUTES OF THE IHSA FOOTBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
December 7, 2023

The IHSA Football Advisory Committee met on December 7, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

Committee members present: Brian Glashagel, Antioch; Jeff Reents, Wilmington; Patrick Lower, Fulton; Joey Dion, Jacksonville (H.S.); Ray Kauling, Trenton (Wesclin); Steve Walliser, Official – Darien; and Sam Knox, IHSA

Abdullah Asad, Chicago (King) and Tim Turner, Champaign (Central) were absent.

Patrick Elder, Cambridge, attended as a representative of the Illinois 8-Man Football Association.

**TERMS & CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

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

**Classes 1A-6A:** In Round 1, if there are more than four trips of at least 150 miles in a class, that class will be separated into two brackets of 16. If separating a class into two brackets of 16 creates additional trips of 150 miles or more, that class's bracket will remain seeded 1-32.

**Classes 7A & 8A:** Brackets will be seeded 1-32.

**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 classes all classes 1-32 will create a competitive bracket, regardless of geography, with the condition that if Round 1 travel is excessive in a 1A-6A class, that class will be divided into two brackets of 16.

**Died for Lack of Motion**

**ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:**

1. The committee discussed by-law amendment proposals on the ballot that are directly connected to football.
2. The committee discussed the 2023 playoff games and State Finals at ISU.
3. The committee discussed the concept of playing all semifinal games at a neutral site. The IHSA office will communicate with colleges and universities to gauge their interest level in hosting semifinal games.
4. The committee discussed the concept of the higher seed hosting all playoff games.
5. The committee discussed data related to public and private schools and their levels of success in the IHSA state series in all sports.
6. The committee discussed the order of games at the State Finals and whether there is a benefit to playing games in a different order.

7. The committee discussed details regarding Quarterfinal and Semifinal plaques.
8. The committee discussed the current and future status of 8-man football.
9. The committee discussed the need to increase officials fees for playoff games.
10. The committee discussed ways to increase the number of ratings officials receive from coaches.
11. The committee discussed the rating language a coach considers when he rates an official.

The committee recognized outgoing members Brian Glashagel, Antioch and Ray Kauling, Trenton (Wesclin).