

FOOTBALL GUIDELINES

SECTION I. SEASON LIMITATIONS

- A. IHSA starting date through the final State play-off series.
- B. No player shall be permitted to participate in an interscholastic football game of scrimmage until he has engaged in a minimum of ninety (90) minutes of actual field practice each of twelve (12) days (excluding Sundays) preceding the game.

SECTION II. SCHEDULE

- A. Single round robin schedule within the Conference plus non-conference opponents as determined by individual schools.
- B. Postponed games, dependent upon weather conditions or other emergencies, shall be rescheduled for Saturday, the following Monday, or delayed until after the final game of the season. Extra expenses due to postponement shall be borne by the home school.

SECTION III. LEVELS OF COMPETITION

- A. Six (6) levels of competition within the Conference shall be varsity, junior varsity, sophomore A, sophomore B, freshman A, and freshman B.
 - 1. A player is not a member of a squad until he plays in competition with that squad.
 - 2. No player shall be allowed to play on two (2) different levels or teams on the same day.
 - 3. Only players who will be eligible, as seniors according to age (pertaining to the IHSA age Rule) will be allowed to participate on the freshman/sophomore level teams.

SECTION IV. GAMES/CONTEST MANAGEMENT

- A. Varsity contest is to consist of four (4), twelve-minute periods: junior varsity, sophomore A, sophomore B, freshman A, and freshman B will play four (4) ten - minute quarters. When a varsity contest ends in a tie score at the conclusion of regulation time, the IHSA adopted tiebreaker method (Kansas system) must be employed until a winner is determined.
- B. Preliminary night games begin at 5:15 p.m., (5:00 pm starting in 2005) varsity at 7:30 p.m. Day games begin at 11:15 a.m., varsity at 1:30 p.m.
- C. The home team will wear dark colored jerseys; the visiting team will wear white jerseys. .
- D. Proper attire, as required by the National Federation Rules, will be required.
- E. The host team will provide the following allotment of officials: varsity games (five officials); preliminary game (four officials); junior varsity (three officials); sophomore B (two officials); and freshman A and Freshman B (two officials).
- F. Two (2) sets of officials will be used for varsity and preliminary games.
- G. National Federation Rules apply for all contests.
- H. Coaching as governed by G above.
- I. Dressing facilities provided by Host School.

- J. Each school's athletic director is responsible for mailing four (4) copies of the complete roster and information sheet to each Conference school. This data is to be supplied at the earliest possible date after the first pre-conference game.
- K. The host school shall have a medical doctor present or on call for all varsity and preliminary games.
- L. The home school, facilities permitting, will provide two (2) seats for spotters and one (1) for a cameraman for the opposing team. Scouts for the next opponents will be provided (2) seats, if available.
- M. Phones will not be provided for the visiting team. If the phones break down, the other team may continue to use their phone.

SECTION V. CHAMPOINSHIP DETERMINATION AND STATE REPRESENTATION

- A. Championships will be determined on a percentage basis.
- B. Conference representative to IHSA play-offs in the event of a championship tie:
 1. Win and loss record - the team with the best win and loss record in the Conference shall be declared the Conference representative. Any other games played between teams that are not in the same Conference **SHALL NOT BE COUNTED**>
 2. If two (2) or more teams have identical win and loss Conference records, then the Conference representative to the play-off shall be:
 - a. The winner of the game(s) between the champions of common opponents (head-on-head competition takes priority over all other criteria).
 - b. The team with the greatest total point spread for the season vs. common opponents of Conference games won. **THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF POINTS PER GAME WOULD BE 14.**
 - c. The team with the least number of points scored against it (this criteria would be used if the offensive point spread in 2.b. is a tie).
 3. Any game won by forfeit would receive the maximum of 14 points.
 4. If all the above criteria cannot determine the Conference representative to the State playoffs, the representative shall be determined by a coin flip.

SECTION VI. ALL-CONFERENCE TEAMS

- A. Selected by majority vote of head football coaches or his representative. A coach cannot vote for his own nominees.
- B. The team is composed of a maximum of forty-four (44) honorees.
- C. Selection process:
 1. Selection will take place the Monday after the final Conference football game.
 2. Forms for nomination shall be sent by the athletic director responsible for football two (2) weeks prior to the meeting date. These forms are to be completed by each school. Ten (10) copies of all nomination forms are to be made or distribution at the All-Conference meeting. Forms are to be completed with no additional duplicated material. Mark all forms accurately as there will be **NO CHANGES** of nominations at the meeting. **NO PLAYER** may be nominated for two (2) positions. (Exception Point 9)

3. Nominations and statistical information must be included on the forms provided. Coaches are reminded to nominate with the quality of players and the quality of the Conference in mind.
 4. The coach shall distribute a copy of all nomination forms to each member school and the chairman of the meeting. All nominations for All-Conference consideration shall be placed on poster board or blackboard by the nominating school. The host school shall provide this area.
 5. Before the voting, each coach will have a five- (5) minute opportunity to elaborate upon his nominations. The order of presentation shall be determined by draw.
 6. Voting shall take place on all nominations after the elaboration by member schools.
 7. Each coach can vote for any player except their own nominations.
 8. Teams that play seven (7) conference games, nominations must receive a minimum of five (5) votes to be placed on the All-Conference Team. Teams that play six (6) conference games, nominations must receive a minimum of six (6) votes to be placed on the All-Conference Team.
 9. The Kicking Specialist will be voted on first. The Kicking Specialist may be nominated for a second position, but cannot be elected to two (2) positions.
- D. Nominating formula (doesn't include kicker)
1. Two players for being in the conference
 2. Two players for every conference win
 3. One player for non-conference wins
- E. Voting process:
1. Forty-four (44) nominations are to be selected.
 2. Players are to be selected from the following categories:
 - a. Offensive backs and receivers
 - b. Offensive linemen
 - c. Defensive backs
 - d. Defensive linemen
 - e. Defensive linemen
 - f. Kicking specialist
 3. First round voting - A first-round selection process shall be used to select the top nominations. Coaches will vote for:
 - a. One (1) - Kicking specialist
 - b. Five (6) - Offensive backs
 - c. Six (7) - Offensive linemen
 - d. Three (3) Receivers
 - e. Four (4) Defensive backs
 - f. Five (5) Linebackers
 - g. Five (5) Defensive lineman
 4. The chairman shall tally all votes. Nominations receiving five (5) or more votes shall be All-Conference. If thirty-one (31) nominations did not receive at least five (5) votes, all member schools shall revote for those nominations that received at least one (1) vote. This process shall continue until a minimum of thirty-one (31) players is selected. If ties occur and all players have at least (5) votes, these players shall be placed on the All-Conference Team.

5. Second round voting - all nominations not selected in the primary thirty-one (31) shall be eligible for consideration to complete the All-Conference Team (44).
 - a. Member schools will have a maximum of two (2) minutes to elaborate on their remaining nominations.
 - b. Voting by player rather than position shall take place after elaboration.
 - c. Voting shall continue until the All-Conference Team (44) has been selected.
- F. Further Rules and Regulations
 1. Honorable Mention - all nominations who were not selected to the All-Conference Team shall be classified as Honorable mention All-Conference.
 2. Special Mention - any member school may nominate up to four (4) players to be recipients of this honor. These athletes will not be placed in consideration for the primary forty-four (44) All -Conference Team. The chairman will ask for a vote of approval from the member schools.
- G. Public Release of All-Conference Team
 1. The All-Conference Team of 44 shall be the only general release to the press. Member schools may release Special Mention and Honorable Mention players to the local press.
 2. Press release shall be no later than one (1) week following the voting. If all member schools are eliminated in the first round of the State tournament, release shall occur on the Thursday following voting.
 3. Member schools are not to release information regarding the All-Conference Team to the press, or verbally prior to the above release regulations.
- H. Exceptional All-Conference Players.
 1. Three- (3) offensive and three (3) defensive players shall be selected for special recognition. This will assist the Conference representative in getting Conference players on All-Area and All-State team.
 2. Any coach may nominate player. The three- (3) offensive and three (3) defensive players must earn All-Conference honors in their respective category.
 3. When nominations are closed, member schools will vote for ALL nominations in each area (offense and defense). The vote shall be a rank order of one (1) being the number one choice, two (2) being the number two choice, etc.
 4. The vote tally shall be a total of points received. The three- (3) nominations in each area with the **least number** of points shall be considered the Exceptional All-Conference Players.

SECTION VII. COACHES' MEETINGS

- A. The presiding chairperson will be the athletic director designated as Football Chairperson.
- B. The chairperson may call those meetings necessary to carry out good league management.
- C. Conference business:
 1. Pre - as needed

2. Post - Monday preceding the final game of conference play for the purpose of selecting an All-Conference football team.
3. Spring - as needed

SECTION IX. REPORTING SCHOOLS

Scores should be reported to the Conference school that is the recording school for the particular season.

SECTION X. FILM EXCHANGE

Weeks 3 through 9 – each team would pick two (2) game films plus the film from the game the night before. The film exchange would be made the Friday night the week before the game. If a Conference team conducts a film exchange with the non-Conference opponent, this exchange must follow the Conference regulations.