

Football

PLAYOFF ELIGIBILITY FOR 8-PLAYER AND 11-PLAYER FOOTBALL

1. **SCHOOLS MUST DECLARE FOR 8-PLAYER OR 11-PLAYER TOURNAMENT ELIGIBILITY BY OCTOBER 1 IN EVEN YEARS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A TWO-YEAR PLACEMENT IN THE 8-PLAYER OR 11-PLAYER TOURNAMENT SERIES.** Programs are not eligible to transition from 11-player to 8-player competition, tournament or join a cooperative team during a required two-year assignment. Any 11-player school, changing to 8-player outside the designated realignment process will be ineligible for the playoffs for the following two-years.

Any 8-player teams desiring to transition from 8-player football to 11-player football should contact the WIAA office to review their options and understand any sanctions that could be associated with the transition.

PLAYOFF PROCEDURES FOR 8-PLAYER FOOTBALL

1. **SCHOOLS ARE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN 8-PLAYER FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT SERIES WITH THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS:**
- Programs must play a minimum of five varsity conference games, plus mandatory crossovers in an 8-team conference and not exceed the season maximum number of contests to be eligible for playoff consideration.
 - A 3-year enrollment average of 200 (most recent three years to be averaged) to participate in the post-season tournament. No program is eligible for 8-player playoff consideration in any corresponding next season that its three-year average enrollment exceeds 200.
Note: Schools qualifying with an average enrollment of 200 or less in the first year of the two-year commitment will be allowed to participate in the second year of their two-year commitment regardless if their average three-year enrollment exceeds 200.
 - Teams with a winning record (above .500) in conference games only.
 - Program Voluntarily Abandons Conference Without Conference and WIAA Approval
 - All scheduled conference opponents will receive a forfeit victory on the schedule contest date.
 - The re-scheduled opponents on vacated conference game weeks will include the game on their won-loss record for playoff purposes.
 - Football regulation sanctions implemented for future years.
 - Program Eliminates Varsity Schedule
 - All scheduled conference and conference crossover opponents will receive a forfeit victory for the current season on the scheduled date of the contest, regardless of the result if they schedule a non-conference opponent to fill the date
 - Teams without WIAA conference affiliation, playing an independent schedule against approved competition that win a minimum of six varsity games.
Note: 1. A team that withdraws from a conference without conference and WIAA approval during a football season shall be ineligible for playoff consideration during that school year and shall also be subject to a two-year ineligibility period as set forth in 1-e.
2. Teams which have voluntarily withdrawn from a conference will not be seeded in the playoff series.
 - Teams that voluntarily withdraw from a conference without conference and WIAA approval shall be ineligible for football playoff consideration the next two school years. The fact that the team which has withdrawn from a conference has thereafter rejoined the same conference, joined another conference, or changed the team status in any other manner during its two-year ineligibility period will not affect its ineligibility for playoff consideration during the two school years that follow its initial withdrawal.
2. **WIAA POST SEASON**
- A 16-team tournament series will be used.
 - The Tournament Plan
 - The tournament playoff field will be determined during Week 15 of the NFHS calendar with games scheduled Weeks 16-19:
 - Level 1 - Week 16
 - Sectionals - Week 17
 - State Semifinals - Week 18
 - State Championship Game - Week 19
 - After the qualifying procedures are applied and playoff teams are determined, four geographical sections (A, B, C, D) of four teams each will be placed in the bracket with consideration given to geography and limiting excessive travel. Teams will advance through the tournament from the brackets established at Level 1. There will be no re-pairing after Level 1.
3. **THE WIAA 8-PLAYER FOOTBALL PLAYOFF FIELD SHALL CONSIST OF 16 TEAMS. TEAMS THAT MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA RECEIVE PLAYOFF CONSIDERATION.**
- Teams (16 teams) with the best overall W-L percentage with a minimum of five varsity games will be added to the field.
 - Should two or more teams be tied for the berth in the playoff field, teams will be added to the field in order of the best combined won-lost percentage of the opponents defeated. Teams with the best defeated opponents' winning percentages will be added to the field.
Example: Team "A" has a 4-4 overall record. Its four defeated opponents have a combined overall W-L record of 12-20 in all games for a .375 percentage.
 - Should more **than two teams** remain tied for remaining playoff berth following step 3b, the following order of tie-breakers will be applied:
 - Head-to-head result (when applicable)
 - W-L percentage vs. qualifying teams as determined by steps 3a and 3b
 - Best defeated opponents (all wins) combined W-L percentage (same calculation as step 3b)
 - First half points allowed/per game average through Week 8
 - Coin flip

Note: At any point during the process in step c when only two teams remain, advance to step d.
 - At any point, when **two** teams remain tied for the final playoff berth after step 3b, the following order of tie-breakers will be applied:
 - Head-to-head result (when applicable)

- (2) W-L percentage vs. other teams qualifying as determined by steps 3a and 3b.
- (3) W-L record vs. common opponents
- (4) Best defeated opponents (all wins) combined W-L percentage (same calculation as step 3b)
- (5) First half points allowed/per game average - through Week 7 (conference games only)
- (6) Coin flip

Note: Regular season must be completed by Friday prior to opening round of playoffs (October 14). Games played later will not be considered in any playoff selection steps.

PLAYOFF PROCEDURES FOR 11-PLAYER FOOTBALL

Note: In the event scheduled classes are interrupted or terminated due to infectious/communicable disease, refer to WIAA Bylaws, Article II, Section 6-A. (p. 25) of WIAA SENIOR HIGH HANDBOOK.

1. THE WIAA 11-PLAYER FOOTBALL PLAYOFF FIELD SHALL CONSIST OF 224 TEAMS. TEAMS WHO MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA RECEIVE PLAYOFF CONSIDERATION:

- a. Champions of WIAA approved conferences, including divisional champions within a WIAA approved conference, with a winning record in conference games, minimum seven conference games or six with a conference crossover. Conference crossover wins counting as a conference game will count for playoff qualification as a conference game, but conference champions are determined based on conference bylaws.
 - (1) Crossover Games
 - (a) Each conference does retain the duty of identifying their conference champion vis their Bylaw language.
 - (b) A conference can determine their champion from only the conference games played within their conference.
 - (c) The crossover game can be excluded in determining the conference champion.
 - (d) Conference Bylaws can be written to reflect that a conference will not count the crossover game for conference standings.
 - (e) The crossover game is used by the WIAA for "qualifying" purposes as 11-player football teams have to play seven "conference" games.
 - (f) The crossover game will have an impact on seeding.
- b. Teams with a winning record (above .500) in conference games only.
 - (1) Program Voluntarily Abandons Conference Without Conference and WIAA Approval
 - (a) All scheduled conference opponents will receive a forfeit victory on the schedule contest date.
 - (b) The re-scheduled opponents on vacated conference game weeks will include the game on their won-loss record for playoff purposes.
 - (c) Football regulation sanctions implemented for future years.
 - (2) Program Eliminates Varsity Schedule
 - (a) All scheduled conference and conference crossover opponents will receive a forfeit victory for the current season on the scheduled date of the contest, regardless of the result if they schedule a non-conference opponent to fill the date
- c. Teams without WIAA conference affiliation, playing an independent schedule against approved competition that win a minimum of six varsity games.

Note: A team that withdraws from a conference without conference and WIAA approval during a football season shall be ineligible for playoff consideration during that school year and shall also be subject to a two-year ineligibility period as set forth in 1-d.
- d. Teams that voluntarily withdraw from a conference without conference and WIAA approval shall be ineligible for football playoff consideration the next two school years. The fact that the team which has withdrawn from a conference has thereafter rejoined the same conference, joined another conference, or changed the team status in any other manner during its two-year ineligibility period will not affect its ineligibility for playoff consideration during the two school years that follow its initial withdrawal.
- e. The WIAA Board of Control has given final authority to the WIAA Executive Staff to make necessary determinations in football playoff qualifying procedures in unique situations in order to preserve conference affiliation and to resolve all issues of concern in a manner which serves the greater interest of the membership and the football playoff series.

Qualifying Criteria If Steps 1, a-f Total Less Than 224 Teams

If the number of teams qualifying under steps a-d (above .500 conference record) is less than 224, the balance of the playoff field will be chosen from the remaining pool of teams that have .500 records in conference games only, or a .500 record as an independent or a .500 conference record as a member of a non-WIAA conference according to the following criteria.

Note: If at anytime there is a tie when applying qualifying criteria as contained in Steps 1-4 below, teams with .500 conference records will be selected ahead of .500 teams playing an independent schedule, with fewer than 6 wins.

- (1) Teams with the best W-L percentage of conference games will be added to the field.
- (2) Should more than two teams remain tied for final playoff berths, teams will be ranked in order of the combined won-lost percentage (conference games only) of conference opponents they have defeated. Teams whose conference opponents had the best winning percentages will be added to the playoff field. Nonconference opponents and nonconference wins by defeated conference opponents will not count in this step.

Example: Team "A" has a 4-4 conference record. Their four defeated opponents have a combined W-L record of 12-20 in conference games for a .375 percentage.

- (3) Should more than two teams remain tied for remaining playoff berths under step (2), the following order of tie-breakers will be applied reverting back to step (a) as teams are selected, until two teams remain:
 - (a) Head-to-head result (when applicable)
 - (b) Result vs. conference champion
 - (c) W-L percentage vs. playoff field as determined by steps 1, a-d.
 - (d) Defeated opponents (conference wins only) overall W-L percentage
 - (e) Defeated opponents (all wins) overall W-L percentage

- (f) Overall W-L percentage
- (g) First half points allowed/per game average - through Week 8 (conference games)
- (h) Coin flip
- (4) When two teams remain tied for the final playoff berth after step (2) the following order of tie-breakers will be applied:
 - (a) Head-to-head result (when applicable)
 - (b) Result vs. conference champion
 - (c) W-L percentage vs. playoff field (as determined by steps 1, a-d)
 - (d) W-L record vs. common opponents
 - (e) Defeated opponents (conference wins only) overall W-L percentage
 - (f) Defeated opponents (all wins) overall W-L percentage
 - (g) Overall W-L percentage
 - (h) First half points allowed/per game average - through Week 8 (conference games)
 - (i) Coin flip

Qualifying Criteria If Steps a-d Exceed 224 Teams

If the number of teams in steps a-d (above .500 conference record) is greater than 224, teams with fewer than 5 conference wins will be placed in a pool. The following criteria will then be applied to the teams in the pool to determine which teams will be added to fill the field to 224 teams.

- (1) Teams with the best W-L percentage of conference games will be added to the field.
- (2) If there is less than 224 teams in the field after step (1), teams remaining in the pool after step (1) will be ranked in order of the combined won-lost percentage (conference games only) of conference opponents they have defeated. Teams whose opponents had the best percentages will be added to the playoff field. Nonconference opponents and nonconference wins by defeated conference opponents will not count in this step.

Example: Team "A" has a 4-3 conference record. Their four defeated opponents have a combined W-L record of 12-20 in conference games for a .375 percentage.

- (3) Should more than two teams remain tied for remaining playoff berths under step (2), the following order of tie-breakers will be applied reverting back to step (a) as teams are eliminated, until two teams remain:
 - (a) Head-to-head result (when applicable)
 - (b) Result vs. conference champion
 - (c) Defeated opponents (conference wins only) overall W-L percentage
 - (d) Defeated opponents (all wins) overall W-L percentage
 - (e) Overall W-L percentage
 - (f) First half points allowed/per game average - through Week 8 (conference games)
 - (g) Coin flip
- (4) When two teams remain tied for the final playoff berth after step (3), the following order of tie-breakers will be applied:
 - (a) Head-to-head result (when applicable)
 - (b) Result vs. conference champion
 - (c) W-L record vs. common opponents
 - (d) Defeated opponents (conference wins only) overall W-L percentage
 - (e) Defeated opponents (all wins) overall W-L percentage
 - (f) Overall W-L percentage
 - (g) First half points allowed/per game average - through Week 8 (conference games)
 - (h) Coin flip

Note 1: Regular season must be completed by Friday prior to opening round of playoffs. Games played later will not be considered in any playoff selection steps.

Note 2: Conferences must continue to have tie-breaker procedures to determine conference champion.

2. TOURNAMENT PLACEMENT AND PAIRING PROCEDURES, DIVISION DETERMINATION

a. 11-Player

- (1) The 224 teams in the football playoff field will be grouped by enrollment, largest to smallest on the basis of the enrollment indicated in the 2023-24 WIAA DIRECTORY OF MEMBER SCHOOLS. Cooperative teams will be listed on the basis of the enrollment of both schools. There will be seven divisions with 32 teams in each division.

Note: When a playoff division cutoff involves schools with the same enrollment, the enrollment of the Friday of the third week in September of the current school year will be used to break the tie. If the same enrollment continues for both schools, the prior years enrollment is used and continues to go back year by year until the tie is broken.

- (2) Each 32 team division will be divided into four geographical sections (A, B, C, D) of 8 teams each with priority given to having an equal number of conference champions in each section.

In addition, undefeated conference champions (8-0, 8-1; 7-0, 7-2; 8-0, 9-0) will be identified. An attempt to equitably divide them throughout the geographical groupings shall be made.

Note 1: Once the playoff field is finalized no additions or substitutions to the field will be made. If a disqualifying violation is confirmed the offending school will be removed from the field and the highest seeded team will be given a first round bye.

Note 2: If a disqualifying violation is confirmed after brackets have been announced, the opponent of the disqualified team shall advance regardless of their bracket position and no other adjustments shall be made within the bracket.

b. 8-Player

- (1) The 16 teams in the football playoff field will be grouped by enrollment, largest to smallest on the basis of the enrollment indicated in the 2023-24 WIAA DIRECTORY OF MEMBER SCHOOLS. Cooperative teams will be listed on the basis of the enrollment of both schools. There will be one division with 16 teams in this division.
- (2) The 16-team bracket will be divided into four geographical sections (A, B, C, D) of 4 teams each with consideration given to geography and limiting excessive travel.
- (3) A priority will be given to equitably dividing undefeated teams throughout the geographical groupings.

Note 1: Once the playoff field is finalized, no additions or substitutions to the field will be made. If a disqualifying violation is confirmed prior to the field being released, the offending school will be removed from the field and the highest-seeded will be given a first-round bye.

Note 2: If a disqualifying violation is confirmed after brackets have been released, the opponent of the disqualified team shall advance regardless of their bracket position and no other adjustments shall be made within the bracket.

c. SEEDING PROCEDURES

Seeding will be conducted electronically. The seeding program will be run on the Saturday after the last regular season game (October 14 in 2023). WIAA will release pairings to the media.

- (1) Schools paired in Level 1 will exchange the last two game tapes of the season after seeding is done.
Game film of each team's last two games shall be shared. All game film exchanges must be completed by 12:01 a.m. on Sunday following the last game. Those coaches without HUDL must make arrangements to share a DVD or alternate media.
- (2) Electronic seeding will be based on the following factors:
 - Team's Win Percentage
 - Opponents' Win Percentage
 - Opponents' Opponents Win Percentage
 - Defeated Opponents' Win Percentage
 - Defeated Opponents' Opponents Win Percentage
 - Historical Conference Playoff Win Percentage
 - Historical Team Playoff Win Percentage
 - Strength of Loss Game Value
 - Computer Random Draw

Note: Forfeit wins count only for playoff qualifying. Forfeits will not count in seeding criteria. Rescheduled contests on the week of a forfeiture will count in seeding for both teams.

- d. **11-Player:** A 32-team bracket in each division will be established for Level 1 games. After the seeding procedures are applied, the eight-team geographical groupings will be placed in the bracket with group A occupying the top quarter-bracket, followed by group B in the next quarter-bracket, followed by group C in the next quarter-bracket and group D in the bottom quarter-bracket. Teams will advance through the four levels of playoffs from the brackets established at Level 1. There will be no re-pairing after Level 1.

8-Player: A 16-team bracket in one division will be established for Level 1 games. After the qualifying procedures are applied and playoff teams are determined, four geographical groupings consisting of four teams are placed in the bracket with group A occupying the top quarter-bracket, followed by group B in the next quarter-bracket, followed by group C in the next quarter-bracket and group D in the bottom quarter-bracket. Teams will advance through the tournament from the brackets established at Level 1. There will be no re-pairing after Level 1.

PLAYOFF DATES AND TIMES

- (1) Unless permission is received from the WIAA, all playoff games will start at:
 - (a) Level 1: Friday, October 25, at 7 p.m. (11-Player and 8-Player)
 - (b) Level 2: Friday, November 1, at 7 p.m. (11-Player and 8-Player)
 - (c) Sectionals: Friday, November 8, at 7 p.m. (11-Player)
 - (d) State Semifinals: Friday, November 15 or Saturday, November 16 at neutral sites (11-Player). The WIAA will have final authority to determine location, dates and start times.

- Note: 1. At Levels 1, 2 and sectionals, if travel is more than 120 miles between opponents, the game will be played on Saturday unless both schools agree to play on Friday.
2. At Levels 1, 2 and sectionals, if both schools agree, the game may be played on Saturday, no earlier than 1 p.m. and no later than 7 p.m. If agreement on start time cannot be reached by participating teams, Saturday game start time will be 4 p.m.
 3. At any level, where a neutral site is determined to be necessary, the WIAA reserves final authority to determine location, dates and start times when participants and/or host site are at an impasse.
 4. If a neutral site is requested by a participating school, the game will be scheduled for Saturday at 1 p.m. If schools mutually agree, the game may be played at an alternate time on Saturday.
 5. At any level, where a neutral site is determined to be necessary, the WIAA reserves final authority to determine location, dates and start times when participants and/or host site are at an impasse.
 6. In the event of inclement weather or other circumstances causing a game to be postponed either prior to start of play or suspended after play has begun, the WIAA office and game manager will decide on all aspects of rescheduling.

(2) State Finals

- (a) The 11-Player State Finals Championship games will be played Thursday and Friday, November 21-22 at Camp Randall Stadium in Madison. Four championship games will be played on Thursday, Divisions 7, 6, 5, and 4 at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. in that order. Three Championship games will be played on Friday, Divisions 3, 2, and 1 at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. in that order.
- (b) The 8-Player State Final Championship game will be played Saturday, November 16 at Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln H.S. The championship game will be played at 1 p.m.

3. DETERMINATION OF HOST SCHOOL FOR 11-PLAYER LEVELS 1, 2, SECTIONALS AND STATE SEMIFINALS GAMES AND 8-PLAYER LEVEL 1, 2 AND 3 GAMES

The WIAA will determine the approved site list for all levels of the football playoffs. **The football approved site list and availability will be maintained as previously established. Any changes/additions to football playoff approved site list must be submitted by Friday, October 6.** Minimum seating capacity, crowd control, press box facilities and field condition are among the standards used to determine what facilities are on the approved site list. Schools may host playoff games at other than their own facility provided appropriate arrangements for that other facility have been made and it is on the approved site list. The approved site list will be posted on the WIAA website and emailed to schools. The actual sites for Level 1 games will not be announced until the 224 schools participating in the playoffs have been determined.

The WIAA office has received the final authority from the Board of Control to decide location of all playoff sites on the basis of (a) interpretation of provisions of this section heretofore and hereafter mentioned and (b) determination of adequacy of facilities for a particular game. School administrators should understand even though their school is on the approved site list, their facilities may not be regarded as adequate to host second, third and fourth round games. Usually, they will be adequate for a first round game, but participating schools expect more than adequate facilities for Levels 2, sectionals, and State Semifinals play and, where better facilities are available, such facilities may take precedence even though a participating school is on the approved list.

Note: 1. Schools which share a common facility must file their hosting priority plan with the WIAA, when both schools are willing, or may be eligible to host a playoff game. Two games will not be scheduled at the same site/same level on grass fields. More than one game may be scheduled at the same site/same level if the games are played on an artificial turf field.

2. Fields with high school width goal posts will be used for all levels of playoff games.
3. At any level, when a college field is used, the WIAA has the final authority to set dates and starting times when participants and/or host sites are at an impasse. College goal posts may be used in playoff games at top quality facilities where changing goals would be impossible or result in great expense.
4. At any level, when a field is used which does not have lights and/or cannot host due to darkness, the WIAA has the final authority to set date and starting time of game when participants and/or host site are at an impasse.
5. At any level, where a neutral site is determined to be necessary, the WIAA reserves final authority to determine location, dates and start times, when participants and/or host site are at an impasse.
6. Schools may host a playoff game at a facility other than their own provided proper arrangements have been made with administration and the WIAA has been notified of this arrangement in advance of the October deadline.
7. If the host school's field is not usable, a substitute field can be used provided it is on the approved site list and available.
8. When unexpected situations arise at anytime during the playoffs, the WIAA is authorized to use best discretion and judgement to meet and resolve issues of concern in accordance with Association provisions and the greater interests of the playoffs.
9. A school which is designated as a host school and voluntarily relinquishes its hosting opportunity after the field has been determined will have the opportunity counted as hosting for succeeding levels.
10. During the 8-Player Tournament, 100-yard fields and NFHS-approved dimensions are used at neutral and State Tournament sites.

The following procedures will be followed to determine host locations for WIAA Football Playoff games.

Level 1

1. The highest seeded team will host if on the approved site list unless a neutral site is deemed to be necessary. If that school is not on approved site list, the opponent will host if on approved site list.
2. **Schools not on the approved site list may be allowed to host at Level 1 provided their facility will adequately accommodate the games they have indicated their willingness to host, and neither school is on the approved site list.**
3. If neither school can host due to facility limitations, a neutral site will be considered by the WIAA.

Level 2

1. The highest seeded team will host if on the approved site list unless a neutral site is deemed to be necessary. If that school is not on approved site list, the opponent will host if on approved site list.
2. **Schools not on the approved site list may be allowed to host at Level 2 provided their facility will adequately accommodate the games they have indicated their willingness to host, and neither school is on the approved site list.**
3. If neither school can host due to facility limitations, a neutral site will be considered by the WIAA.

Sectionals

Neutral sites will be used if at the sole discretion of the WIAA travel time is deemed excessive, neither school is on the approved site list, and/or the WIAA office determines a host school site inadequate. If a neutral site is not necessary, the following will be applied to determine the host school:

1. The highest seeded team will host if on the approved site list unless a neutral site is deemed to be necessary. If that school is not on approved site list, the opponent will host if on approved site list.

Note: If schools are not on the approved site list, neutral sites will be used at sectionals.

At any level where a neutral site is determined to be necessary, the WIAA reserves final authority to determine location, dates and start times when participants and/or host site are at an impasse.

State Semifinals

The WIAA will determine the most desirable neutral site for all State Semifinal games. Geography, available sites, and other factors heretofore outlined for other levels will also be applied.

4. RULES GOVERNING PLAYOFF COMPETITION – ALL LEVELS

All specifications of Numbers 8 and 16 under SEASON REGULATIONS (pages 12 and 13) will apply with these exceptions and additions:

Athletes who are ineligible during the WIAA Tournament (for any reason) may not appear in uniform, participate in warm-ups, and may not participate in the awards ceremony at the WIAA Tournament. Exception: An injured athlete will be allowed to participate in the awards ceremony provided he/she is included in the roster allotment for that game.

Note 1: Lotteries, raffles, fundraising, contests, campaigns and solicitation are prohibited at WIAA Playoffs.

- Note 2: At all WIAA tournament sites, the public address system is only to be used for announcements necessary for the administration of the contest.
- Note 3: Where rules are not specified in the 8-player section, 11-player rules shall apply (i.e. hosting, dates and times, rules governing playoff competition, neutral sites, Levels 1, 2, **Sectionals** and **State Semifinals**).
- a. Game Film Exchange:

Teams meeting in the playoffs will exchange copies of their 2 most recent games at the seeding meeting if possible. Note: Teams are required to exchange their two most recent game films at every level of the playoffs. All game film exchanges must be completed by 12:01 a.m. on Sunday following the last game. Those coaches without HUDL must bring DVDs to burn copies of game films.
 - b. Rosters

(1) A school may change its squad make-up from one playoff game to the next.

Note: See reimbursement limitations under Tournament Finances Section in HANDBOOK.
 - c. Jersey Colors

The host team shall wear their home jerseys in Levels 1-2-**Sectionals**. At neutral sites, the following procedure will be used. The first school alphabetically will wear white jerseys during the even-numbered years (2024, 2026, etc.), and the second school alphabetically will wear white jerseys during the odd-numbered years (2025, 2027, etc.).
 - d. Game Balls

For playoff games at **Sectionals, State Semifinals** and the State Finals, only Wilson footballs may be used. For Levels 1 and 2, any legal football may be used.

Note: Wilson will provide one new game ball to each team qualifying for **Sectionals** and **State Semifinals** playoff games.
 - e. Coin Toss

The team wearing dark colored jerseys shall be heads. The team wearing white jerseys shall be tails.
 - f. Only the designated number of players, comparable to a normal traveling squad for a regular season game, will be permitted to enter the playing area and allowed to be on the sidelines during the contest.
 - g. Game management, with assistance from the WIAA, if necessary, will determine which school will use the home side of field as its sideline in all Levels 1, 2, **Sectionals**, and **State Semifinal** games.
 - h. Schedule Changes
 - (1) School Closure due to Infectious/Communicable Disease

In the event scheduled classes are interrupted or terminated due to infectious/communicable disease, refer to WIAA Bylaws, Article II, Section 6-A. (p. 25) of WIAA SENIOR HIGH HANDBOOK.
 - (2) Schedule Changes Because of Conflicts with other WIAA Tournaments.

Host and participating schools hopefully work cooperatively to adjust times of games if either or both are also in the State Volleyball Tournament, or if there are any other conflicts (i.e., swimming, soccer, etc.) during the playoffs.
 - (3) Rescheduling Because of Weather

In the event of inclement weather or other circumstances causing a game to be postponed either prior to start of play or suspended after play has begun, the WIAA and game manager will decide on all aspects of rescheduling.
 - i. Space for Teams' Representative in Press Box/Communication Center

Space should be adequate to provide for (in order of priority):

 - (1) Game management personnel, i.e., scoreboard operator(s), announcer, and spotter to assist the announcer.
 - (2) One position for each participating team.
 - (3) Space to accommodate media personnel that might be expected, i.e., radio, newspaper.

Have equal space available for both teams. It is not required that you provide field phones for both teams. If, for example, you have only one set, you may leave them in place for whichever team is assigned that bench or they may use their own. Ultimately the participating schools are responsible for furnishing their own field phones and filming equipment.

The host is responsible only for being certain both schools have equal "space" available from which to spot and/or film.
 - j. Length of Half Time

The half time will be 15 minutes plus the 3 minute warm-up.
 - k. Sideline Heaters

Sideline heaters are permissible if the participating schools wish to provide them themselves. They should not be allowed, however, if they cause the host school additional expense, pose any kind of safety problem, or block the view of spectators.
 - l. National Anthem

The host school decides which school will play the National Anthem. If both schools have a band present and wish to play, a coin toss will decide the school.
 - m. Lotteries, raffles, fundraising, contests and solicitation are prohibited at WIAA Playoffs.**
 - n. State Tournament game ball will be: Wilson

Note: For other details see 2024 Football Playoff Manual
 - o. WIAA Tournament UAV Policy

The Board of Control has approved a policy for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles or drones at outdoor WIAA State Tournament Series events. UAVs are prohibited at all WIAA indoor tournaments. Drone operation requires a Remote Pilot Command license. Operators must also receive written consent from the WIAA executive office at least 24 hours in advance, as well as approval of the host facility event management. The complete policy for UAVs is located on page 50 of the Senior High Handbook. Contact the WIAA office with all requests to operate drones at WIAA Tournament events.
 - p. A designated, on-site event, appropriate health-care professional who determines an athlete should not participate, shall not be overruled.

5. LEVELS 1, 2, SECTIONALS, AND STATE SEMIFINAL GAMES

- a. Scheduling of Competition – see page 18 under Playoff Dates and Times
- b. Officials
 - (1) The WIAA will contract 5-man crews, meeting specified criteria, to work all games.
 - (2) Officials will be paid:
 - (a) Officiating Fee - \$85. Checks and contracts will be issued by the host school.
 - (b) Expenses - 55¢ per mile (round trip) for travel.
 - (c) Officials shall travel together when geographically feasible with mileage paid to one official. If officials choose to travel separately, the mileage for the longest trip may be split between the officials.
 - (d) There is no separate meal and/or room allowance.
- c. Awards
 - (1) Playoff Qualifying Plate: Each team (224 11-Player and 16 8-Player) will receive an engraved plate in recognition of its qualifying for participation in the playoffs. Schools qualifying for the Football Playoffs for the first time since 1999 will receive a playoff plaque and attached plate.
 - (2) 11-Player sectionals and 8-Player sectionals:
 - (a) Plaque to championship team only.
 - (3) 11-Player State Semifinals and 8-Player State Semifinals:
 - (a) Medals to members of both teams.
Medals teams receive:

Division 1 - 60	Division 3 - 52	Division 5 - 44	Division 7 - 38
Division 2 - 56	Division 4 - 48	Division 6 - 40	8-Player - 24
- d. Finances
 - (1) Host School Allowance
 - (a) A financial report on forms provided by the WIAA must be filed by each school conducting a game.
 - (b) The following items are authorized for payment out of tournament receipts:
 - 1) The school will receive 30% of receipts or \$720, whichever is greater to cover such items as workers, lights, chain crew, etc., including game managers fee of \$90.
 - 2) Fees and expenses of officials.
 - (c) The WIAA will receive the balance of receipts to cover tournament administrative costs, awards, etc.

Note: The WIAA may make special financial arrangements, if necessary, with host schools which conduct playoff games in nonschool facilities. However, these arrangements must be approved in advance by the WIAA.
 - (2) Ticket Prices
 - (a) Prestate championship playoff (each game)
Child/Student/Adult Level 1 - \$6 Level 2 - \$6 Sectionals - \$7 State Semifinals - \$7
 - (b) Host schools may sell, if their facilities permits, a \$1 ticket for children under 6 years of age, if accompanied by a parent.
 - (3) Ticket Allocations
 - (a) It is expected that determination of prestate championship sites will rest heavily on seating capacities of the host school; thus, there may be no need to allocate tickets. However, in the event a policy is necessary, the following will be applicable:
 - 1) If host school is one of two teams playing a game, no less than 50% of the tickets must be made available to the visiting team.
 - 2) If host school is not one of the two teams playing a game, each of the two participating schools must be given an opportunity to purchase a minimum of 45% of the tickets with the remainder to be allocated at the discretion of the host school.
 - (4) Admission Policies
 - (a) Each school participating in a playoff game shall be allowed free admissions in the form of field passes for a party comparable to a normal traveling squad, in uniform.
 - (b) Each school playing in a prestate championship playoff, BUT NOT championship game, shall be allowed free admissions for:
 - 1) A maximum of eight cheerleaders.
 - 2) A maximum of eight individuals designated by the participating schools. It is expected that staff members from that pool will be available for any assistance associated with contest management. Whether a program is a stand-alone or part of a multi-school co-op, a maximum of 8 individuals will be provided free admission. The same allotment may be applied to host schools which are not playing in the tournament.
 - 3) Game officials, ticket takers and sellers, ushers and concessionaires along with the game manager and a person designated as assistant shall be admitted without charge but must be identified by means of a ribbon or tag. Workers are entitled to free admission only for themselves, and may not be provided with an additional ticket for a companion.
 - 4) Provisions must be made for working members of press, radio and television services.
 - 5) No other persons from any school or any community (including host school and community) shall be provided with complimentary admissions. If the host school wishes to permit its usual complimentary ticket contingent to see a game at no cost, the host school must purchase tickets for such persons.
 - 6) Free admissions permissible under the above paragraphs are not transferable.
 - 7) **If a band performs on or off the field prior to or during intermission of a game or if a host school band participates in pre-game activities, free admission shall be given to band members.**

- e. Footballs - Game managers at Levels 1, 2, sectionals, and State Semifinal games should instruct participating schools to provide their own footballs. Note: Only Wilson footballs may be used at sectionals and State Semifinals. Wilson will provide one new game ball to each team qualifying for sectionals and State Semifinal playoff games.

6. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

a. Scheduling of Competition

- (1) The 11-Player games at Camp Randall Stadium will be scheduled as follows:
 - (a) Thursday, November 21, at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m., and 7 p.m. - Divisions 7, 6, 5, and 4 in that order.
 - (b) Friday, November 22, at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., and 4 p.m. - Divisions 3, 2, and 1 in that order.
- (2) The 8-Player State Final Championship game will be played Saturday, November 16 at Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln H.S. The championship game will be played at 1 p.m.

b. Officials

- (1) The WIAA will contract 5-man crews to work all games.
- (2) Officials will be paid:
 - (a) Officiating Fee - \$130 Chain Crew - \$45
 - (b) Expenses - 55¢ per mile (round trip) for travel.
 - (c) Officials shall travel together with mileage paid to one official. If officials choose to travel separately, the mileage for the longest trip may be split between the officials.
 - (d) Officials shall receive reimbursement for necessary food and lodging expenses.

c. Awards

- (1) Trophy to championship and runner-up team.
- (2) Medals to members of championship and runner-up team.

Medals teams receive:

Division 1 - 60	Division 3 - 52	Division 5 - 44	Division 7 - 38
Division 2 - 56	Division 4 - 48	Division 6 - 40	8-Player - 24

d. Finances

(1) Allowance to Participating School

- (a) Schools participating in the 11-Player State Football Playoffs in Madison shall receive expense allowances as follows:
 - 1) \$1.75 per round trip mile, plus
 - 2) \$1375 if less than 75 miles from Madison, or
 - 3) \$1670 if less than 150 but more than 75 miles, or
 - 4) \$1950 if over 150 miles.

Hotel accommodations, when deemed necessary and cleared in advance, may be authorized in addition to the above allowances. Schools less than 50 miles from Madison will not be reimbursed for lodging.
- (b) Schools participating in the 8-Player State Football Championship shall receive expense allowances as follows:
 - 1) \$1.75 per round trip mile, plus
 - 2) \$1000 if less than 75 miles from Championship venue, or
 - 3) \$1200 if less than 150 but more than 75 miles, or
 - 4) \$1500 if over 150 miles.

(2) Ticket Prices

- (a) Championship playoffs – 11-Player (Child/Student/Adult) – Children two and under do not require a ticket
 - 1) Thursday - Day 1.....\$30 *
 - 2) Friday - Day 2.....\$25 *
 - 3) Single Game.....\$11 #

#Ticket holders leaving the stadium will need to purchase ticket to return.
*On-line ticket sales subject to processing and handling fees.
- (b) Championship – 8-Player (Child/Student/Adult) – Children two and under do not require a ticket.....\$11 *
*On-line ticket sales subject to processing and handling fees.

(3) Ticket Allocation

- (a) In view of the number of seats available at Camp Randall Stadium, there will be no special allocation of tickets for the championship games but seats (all unreserved) will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
- (b) Complete information relating to tickets for the championship games will be provided to member schools via email.

(4) Admission Policies

- (a) Each school participating in a playoff game shall be allowed free admissions in the form of field passes for a party not to exceed: The normal traveling squad in uniform plus eight additional people (coaches, assistant coaches, trainers and managers).
- (b) For WIAA team championships, where space is available, one complimentary ticket will be provided to the athletic director and principal of participating schools for their personal use. These tickets are not transferable and will be provided upon request.
- (c) Free admissions are not transferable.
- (d) There is NO provision for free admission for bands whether or not they perform.

- e. Footballs - The WIAA will provide game balls for State Final games. Participating teams must provide their own warm-up balls. The State Tournament Game Ball will be: Wilson. **Schools may provide their own game balls for State Finals, as long as they are WILSON.**