

2024 Football Tournament Regulations

These regulations were adopted by the Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors on **June 7, 2024**.

The following regulations apply to all levels of the tournament unless otherwise specified. The Football Administrator is authorized to modify these regulations when it is deemed necessary by the Football Administrator, subject to ratification by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 1 – TOURNAMENT ORGANIZATION

1. Sponsorship & Management

The Ohio High Athletic Association sponsors the Regional and State Football Tournaments. Each tournament game shall be conducted in accordance with the 2024 Football Tournament Regulations. The OHSAA will contract with member schools, collegiate and/or professional sites to host a tournament contest. A game manager shall be appointed by the administrator of the contracted site. The OHSAA Football Administrator retains the right to approve all managers for each football tournament contest. The OHSAA Football Administrator is the final authority on all questions and situations arising from the regulations and the management of the football tournament.

2. School Sponsored Football Team Schedule

OHSAA member schools that sponsor a varsity football team shall enter their home games and accept their away games in the **DragonFly system by August 1**. Games played with non-OHSAA members (home or away) must be entered by the OHSAA member school. Conferences may have “TBA” opponents for week 10 contests if the process for determining the opponents is approved by the Football Sport Administrator prior to the season. In order for a schedule change to be used for the tournament rating purposes the following conditions apply:

- 2.1 Any addition/deletion or change must be entered into the DragonFly system before the game is played and;
- 2.2 There must be a written, signed agreement between the opposing schools dated prior to the date of the game, but not later than **October 1, 2024** and;
- 2.3 Provided there is not a cancellation of a game already under contract, except if the date becomes open due to the prospective opponent school being on strike or discontinuing its football schedule and;
- 2.4 The game is not a “playoff” game involving intraleague or interleague play.
- 2.5 All regular season games must be played on or before the Saturday of the 10th week (October 26, 2024) to count in the Harbin Ratings.

NOTE 1: Only contests played against NFHS Member State Association schools or OHSAA approved Affiliate Association schools will count towards the Harbin Ratings.

3. Division Assignments

The division to which a school is assigned is based upon the male enrollment of the school in grades 9-11 as reported by the State Department of Education in odd years, with the addition of the Competitive Balance numbers. Base enrollment numbers were calculated for a two-year period beginning February 1, 2024 and Competitive Balance numbers will be added each year before determining divisions. **Note that the number of schools sponsoring football may change from one year to the next.**

The division ranges with point values are:*

Division	Male Enrollment	Points	No. of Schools
I	620 and More	6.5	70
II	385-619	6	105
III	274-384	5.5	106
IV	206-273	5	106
V	158-205	4.5	105
VI	115-157	4	105
VII	114 and less	3.5	105
			Total: 702

NOTE: The Division totals may change as schools adding football and schools that merge are added to divisions on September 10, as outlined in Bylaw 2.

4. Eligibility for Football Tournament Participation

In order to be eligible for regional tournament participation the following requirements must be met:

- 4.1 The school must be a member of the OHSAA and in good standing.
- 4.2 A regular season football schedule must be submitted on the DragonFly system as required above.
- 4.3 An eligibility certificate listing all eligible players on the football team must be filed in the high school principal's office prior to the first regular season game.
- 4.4 The football team must play a minimum of eight regular season varsity high school games (**A school may have less than 8 Harbin Rated games with permission from the Football Administrator**).
- 4.5 Any dispute to the regular season scores posted on the OHSAA website must be filed by 11:00 P.M. on October 26, 2024. **Schools should report discrepancies to Keaton Jones at kjones@ohsaa.org**

5. Football Team Computer Rating System

The procedure used to rate football teams is based upon a system developed by Jack Harbin of Cleveland and used with his permission. The Board of Directors has modified the original system. Each team will earn points as explained below.

POINT SYSTEM

On the first level:

Points are earned for each game a team wins.

(FULL VALUE)

Points are earned for each game a team ties.

(ONE-HALF VALUE)

On the second level:

Points are earned for each game a defeated opponent wins.

(FULL VALUE)

Points are earned for each game a defeated opponent ties.

(ONE-HALF VALUE)

Points are earned for each game a tied opponent wins.

(ONE-HALF VALUE)

Points are earned for each game a tied opponent ties.

(ONE-FOURTH VALUE)

Points are earned on the following basis:

Division VII opponent win – 3.5 points; tie – 1.75 points

Division VI opponent win – 4.0 points; tie – 2.0 points

Division V opponent win – 4.5 points; tie – 2.25 points

Division IV opponent win – 5.0 points; tie – 2.5 points

Division III opponent win – 5.5 points; tie – 2.75 points

Division II opponent win – 6.0 points; tie – 3.0 points

Division I opponent win – 6.5 points; tie – 3.25 points

5.1 First Level Points are awarded for

- a. Each game a team wins (full value)
- b. Each game a team ties (half value)
- c. No points are awarded for game lost

5.2 Second Level Points are awarded as a result of a team defeating or tying an opponent according to the following formula:

- a. Defeating an opponent awards to the winner the loser's first level points.
- b. Tying an opponent awards the team one half the opponent's first level points.
- c. No second level points are awarded for losing to an opponent.
- d. A divisor is used to determine second level points. It is based on the number of games that opponents have played to date. For each open date that an opponent has had to date, a smaller divisor is used to calculate second level points.

Note: Before any games are played, the computer assumes that the opponents on each school's schedule will play a full complement of games and assigns the divisor of 100 (10 weeks times 10 opponents=100). After each week of the season, for each open date that occurs for an opponent that a school has played to date, the computer subtracts the divisor by one. In other words, if week five has just been completed and all five of a school's opponents have played a full

complement of games, then the divisor remains at 100, and second level points are divided by 100. If one opponent on a school's schedule to date has an open date, then the divisor reduces by one to 99, and second level points are divided by 99, and so on. The second level points are then multiplied by the factor 10 in order to move the decimal point higher so that the averages are comparable to those in past years.

5.3 Non-member OHSAA school opponents are assigned a point value based upon the male enrollment biannual collection process used for member schools. Enrollment for grades 9-11 used in the first year. If the opponent was not played in the first year, grades 10-12 are used in the second. Second level points are awarded based upon the point value of the OHSAA non-member school multiplied by the number of victories by the non-member school (one-half value for a tie).

Note: It is the responsibility of the OHSAA member school to monitor the posted scores for accuracy and out of state records. Schools should report discrepancies to Keaton Jones at kjones@ohsaa.org by Tuesday following the game, with all discrepancies reported by 11:00 P.M. on October 26, 2024.

5.31 Three grade enrollment for non-member schools will be collected from the respective State Association's website.

5.31.1 Where total male and female enrollment are combined, the number will be divided by two.

5.31.2 Where total male enrollment combines 4 grades, the figure will be multiplied by .75.

5.31.3 If a State Association does not publish enrollment figures, the figures will be collected in the manner above from the Department of Education, or similar governing body.

5.31.4 If enrollment figures are not published by the Department of Education or similar governing body, figures will be collected directly from the non-member school.

5.32 When the non-member school plays more than 10 regular season games, only the first 10 games will count unless the game with the OHSAA member school is the 11th game in which case the nine games preceding it shall be counted.

5.33 When the non-member school plays less than 10 regular season games, the open dates will be considered an open date except in those states which conduct a state tournament in which case the first tournament game in those states will be counted, when the game is played before the final OHSAA football computer ranking is completed.

5.4 Calculation of Points for Ranking Purposes

Each week, a team's first level points will be added to the team's second level points. The total points obtained will be divided by the number of games played to obtain a per game average. Teams will then be ranked within each region based upon their per game average. The margin of victory is not a factor. A win by one point or 20 points counts only as a win. In order to be eligible for tournament participation, a team must play a minimum of eight games.

5.5 Only forfeits that result from a violation of OHSAA Bylaws and/or Sport Regulations (see Football Regulation 1.7) will affect a team's wins and losses recognized by the OHSAA and thus impact the calculation of first and second level points. Self-imposed forfeits that result from violation of school district policy and/or league/conference policy without a contemporaneous violation of the OHSAA Bylaw or Sport Regulation will not affect wins and losses recognized by the OHSAA and will not impact first or second level points used in these calculations.

6. Reporting Regular Season Results

6.1 Regular season results week 1 through 9 will be posted on the OHSAA website by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday following the game. It is the responsibility of the OHSAA member school to monitor the posted scores for accuracy. Schools should report discrepancies to **Keaton Jones at kjones@ohsaa.org** by Tuesday following the game.

6.2 Games on Friday, October 25, 2024 will be posted on the OHSAA website by 11:00 A.M. Saturday, October 26, 2024. It is the responsibility of the OHSAA member school to monitor the posted scores for accuracy. Schools should report discrepancies to **Keaton Jones at kjones@ohsaa.org** by 11:00 P.M. Saturday, October 26, 2024.

6.3 Games on Saturday, October 26, 2024 will be posted on the OHSAA website by 11:00 P.M. Saturday, October 26, 2024. It is the responsibility of the OHSAA member school to monitor the posted scores for accuracy. Schools should report discrepancies to **Keaton Jones at kjones@ohsaa.org** by 11:00 P.M. Saturday, October 26, 2024

6.4 Games played or completed after 11:59 PM Saturday, Saturday, October 26, 2024 will not count in the computer rankings.

The OHSAA Computer Rankings will be released after the game results of the first four weeks of the season. The rankings will be available on the OHSAA web site (www.ohsaa.org) and through the Associated Press on a weekly basis through the end of the season.

The rankings *do not* reflect the relative strengths of teams nor do they predict the results of future games. Rankings are used by the OHSAA to select the best teams for the tournaments based upon the caliber of their opponents.

7. Regional Qualifying Teams

The sixteen schools with the highest per game average of points in each region will qualify for the regional football tournament. If a school chooses not to participate in the regional tournament, the school with the next higher per game average will become a qualifier.

7.1 In case of a tie in any region, the point values of the tied teams shall be calculated using the third level of competition to break the tie.

On the third level of competition:

Points are earned for each game that a defeated opponent's defeated opponents may win (FULL VALUE)

Points are earned for each game that a defeated opponent's defeated opponents may tie (ONE-HALF VALUE)

CASE #1: Team A and Team B after 10 games of the regular season are tied for fourth place in their region, each with an average of 7.6500 points. By using the third level of competition for Team A and Team B, it is determined that Team A earned, with third level points, an average of 12.3500 points and Team B earned, with third level points, an average of 13.2785 points. Team B qualifies for the fourth place in the regional tournament, Team A qualifies for fifth place.

CASE #2: After 10 games of the regular season Team C and Team D are tied for eighth place in their region; each with an average of 12.4500 points. It is determined that Team C had played and defeated an out-of-state school opponent. **Third level competition points are unavailable when an out-of-state or non-member opponent is involved, therefore the tie shall be resolved by following these steps, in the order listed:**

- 1) The team that won in head-to-head competition.
- 2) If the teams did not play each other, the team with the most regular season victories will qualify.
- 3) If the teams have the same number of regular season victories, the team whose opponents earned the most victories will qualify.
- 4) If the total victories of the opponents are equal, the team with the highest victory percentage will qualify.
- 5) If the teams have identical victory percentages, there will be a blind draw conducted by the Football Administrator to determine the qualifying team.

7.2 In the event there is an error in determining tournament qualifiers, the OHSAA reserves the right to make the correction and to insert the correct team into the tournament provided the error is discovered prior to 12 P.M. (noon) Tuesday of the week of the first-round game. If the error is discovered after the first-round game has been played, no change will be made.

7.3 If there is a forfeiture of one or more regular season games after the qualifying teams have been announced and the team announcing the forfeiture is a qualifier and would not qualify for the tournament when the forfeiture(s) is counted, only the qualifying team that forfeits will be removed from the tournament. Their line on the tournament bracket may be taken by the highest ranked non-qualifying team when the qualifying teams were first announced **or** the last team defeated **provided** the ineligibility is determined on or before 12:00 P.M. (noon) Tuesday of the week the game is scheduled to be played. The line on the bracket will remain vacant (a bye) if the ineligibility is determined after 12:00 P.M. (noon) on Tuesday of the week the game is scheduled **or** if the new eligible team chooses not to participate.

Note: The computer rankings will not be rerun in any other region.

8. Notification of Regional Qualifying Teams

Qualifiers and pairings for the first round will be available on the OHSAA web site (www.ohsaa.org) and through the Associated Press by 2 P.M. on Sunday, October 27, 2024.

Teams that finish 1-8 in the final computer rankings will be given the opportunity to be the host (home) teams for finishers 9-16 in the first round. The higher seed in the second round games will be given the opportunity to be the host (home) team. First and second round host sites are required to select a game manager. Game managers are required to meet at 4:00 P.M. on Sunday, October 27, 2024 in a Microsoft Teams virtual meeting (details to be sent to affected schools).

9. Region Assignments

NOTE: The number preceding the school name is the school identification number, not the enrollment. For complete list of region assignment, click on link www.ohsaa.org.

10. Regional Pairings – 2024 OHSAA Football Tournaments – All Divisions

First Round Games	Teams 1-8 host
Regional Quarterfinals	Highest Seeded Teams Host
Regional Semifinals	Neutral Sites - no rebracketing
Regional Finals	Neutral Sites - no rebracketing
State Semifinals	Neutral Sites – re-bracket <u>may</u> occur

11. Regional Dates and Times

First Round		
Friday, Nov. 1	All Divisions	7:00 P.M.

Quarterfinals		
Friday, Nov. 8	All Divisions	7:00 P.M.

Semifinals		
Friday, Nov. 15	All Divisions	7:00 P.M.

Finals		
Friday, Nov. 22	All Divisions	7:00 P.M.

State Dates and Times

Semifinals		
Friday, Nov. 29	All Divisions	7:00 P.M.

Finals		
Thursday, Dec. 5 (1 Game) OR Friday, Dec 6. (3 Games)		
	Division I	TBD
	Division II	TBD
	Division III	TBD
	Division VII	TBD
Saturday, Dec. 7 (3 Games)		
	Division IV	TBD
	Division V	TBD
	Division VI	TBD

SECTION 2 – TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT

1. Tournament Sites

- 1.1 First Round and Regional quarterfinal games will be played at the home site of the highest ranked teams in each region. These games will be played at the time and on the date as adopted by the Board of Directors. If the site of the higher ranked team is not available at that time/date then the higher ranked team shall obtain a neutral site. If a neutral site is not available the game will be played at the opponent's field. If the proposed school does not wish to host the game based on the financial regulations, the Football Administrator's office will assign the game to the opponent's site or a neutral site. The Football Administrator's office has the right to change the host site if a site has been negligent with their tournament financial reporting in the past. The Football Administrator's office has the right to change the host site if a site cannot provide adequate amenities for their opponents including, but not limited to heated and dry locker rooms with shower and toilet facilities. When the host site has an unlighted field the game will be played at 1:30 p.m. on the corresponding Saturday. When multiple schools play at the same site, games may be moved to the corresponding Saturday in the first two rounds.
- 1.2 **The Football Administrator will select the sites for all other regional and the state semifinal games. The site of all tournament games will be based upon the best site available based on TOTAL travel and the accommodations of the site. It is NOT our intention to have schools travel the same distance to sites. Regional Final and State semifinal sites will be based entirely on the accommodations of the site.**
- 1.3 **The Football Administrator retains the authority to assign any tournament game to the home site of a competing team, but primary consideration is given to a site not used as a home site by either team during the regular season.**

2. Game Manager

There shall be a game manager for each game site. The manager will be responsible for selecting and supervising personnel necessary for the administration of the game; e.g., media coordinator, ticket sellers, ticket takers, ushers, clock operators, and police. The manager will conduct each tournament game in accordance with the 2024 Tournament Regulations and current football management guidelines.

3. Management Restrictions

3.1 Prohibited Advertising

There shall be no advertising through printed media, billboards, radio, or television that includes beer, wine, liquor, tobacco, political parties or candidates or any other information contrary to the philosophy of the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

3.2 Raffles

Raffles are permitted with policies and procedures to be distributed to tournament managers and posted on the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org).

3.3 Prohibited Sales

The sale of, the distribution of, and the consumption of alcoholic beverages is not permitted at the site of any contest involving OHSAA member schools. The sale of clothing, souvenirs or any other item at the game site is prohibited without written permission of the OHSAA Football Administrator.

3.4 Air Horns/Powered Noisemaker Prohibited

Air horns are not permitted in the stadium. Noisemakers that require electric or power of other sorts are prohibited.

4. Property Damage

There is no insurance covering property damage. If property is damaged at a tournament site by competing school teams, student body or spectators, that school shall liable and pay the cost of repair or replacement. Extensive damage must be reported to the Football Administrator as soon as possible after the event.

5. Unsporting Conduct Penalty

During participation in OHSAA Football Tournaments any athlete or coach ejected for unsporting conduct or a flagrant foul shall be ineligible for the remainder of that contest and the following contest.

Exception 1: A player disqualified for flagrant personal fouls **other than fouls in Rule 9, Section 4 Articles 1, 2 and 3-j**, shall be ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day. The disqualification for these fouls may be extended through the next scheduled game at the same level of the disqualification by the OHSAA Football Administrator or his/her designee. **Video of these fouls shall be emailed to the OHSAA Football Administrator or his/her designee within 48 hours of the contest.**

Exception 2: A player disqualified for fighting shall be ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day and the **following 2 contests**. The disqualification for these fouls may be reduced by the OHSAA Football Administrator or his/her designee. **Video of these fouls shall be emailed to the OHSAA Football Administrator or his/her designee within 48 hours of the contest.**

The game officials shall report ejections for unsporting conduct to the OHSAA Football Administrator. The Football Administrator may impose additional penalties in accordance with Bylaw 11.

6. Banners and Signs

Banners and signs will be permitted provided they are not personal, negative, unsporting, or vulgar. **Signs or banners may not be attached or fastened to a building or facility unless approved in advance by the manager. The school representatives who put the signs up with permission are responsible for removing them following the game. Parades with signs or banners will not be permitted.**

7. Use of Drones (Unmanned aerial vehicles)

7.1 The use of drones is prohibited for any purpose by any persons at OHSAA tournament contests or practices beginning an hour before the scheduled start time to an hour after the contest ends. At tournament contests, if management discovers that a drone is being used, management shall attempt to locate the operator to have the drone removed from the facility area, but the contest shall not be delayed. Management shall remove anyone attempting to use a drone and/or confiscate the drone until the event has been completed

Note: An exception to this policy may be made in specific cases for the OHSAA's official television partner or official photographer, provided the operator of the drone is licensed by the FCC, that authorization can be verified and the management of the tournament facility permits the presence of drones for broadcast purposes under the control of the OHSAA. **Schools are also prohibited from using drones to videotape/photograph practice(s) of an upcoming opponent.**

SECTION 3 – GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Game Managers and Meetings

Game managers will be selected and announced on Sunday prior to the date of the game. Game managers for all first-round games and teams 1-8 will be required to meet with the Football Administrator on the **Sunday, October 27. The managers' meeting will take place at 4:00 P.M. on the Microsoft Teams platform**. Managers for all other regional and state semi-finals will receive all information electronically and via courier.

The game manager will conduct a meeting of representatives from both schools to cover all aspects of game administration as early in the week as is possible.

2. Videos

The exchange of VIDEO (DVDs or electronic) between competing schools shall be the responsibility of the schools involved. Each school shall provide the opponent with video of any three regular season or tournament games. **The opponent shall have the choice of the three games**. The opponent's choice of game footage must be exchanged electronically by 8:00AM the day following the previous round game. The penalty for failure to comply is \$750.00. The Football Administrator may impose additional penalties.

2.1 Tournament – The OHSAA will not record regional or state semifinal tournament games. Game managers will make arrangements for each participating team to record the game in which the team is participating.

2.2 Third Party Video – It is not permissible for a school or school representative or any person from a school not playing in the game to record a tournament game without the written consent of the school administrators of the teams participating in the game.

3. Student Eligibility

All eligibility certificates listing the names of all players in uniform will be kept at each respective school and verification may be requested by the Football Administrator.

A student who uses anabolic steroids or other performance enhancing drugs is ineligible for interscholastic competition until such time as medical evidence can be presented that student's system is free of anabolic steroids or other performance enhancing drugs.

4. Game Balls

The official football of the OHSAA football tournaments is the Wilson GST. Game balls must be any Wilson brand and shall be provided to the Referee a minimum of one hour prior to the scheduled kickoff. The officials may maintain possession of the balls until game time. Use of a football other than a Wilson brand ball will result in a financial penalty to the offending school not to exceed \$2,500.

5. Fan Education

The OHSAA requests that participating school administrators take this opportunity to educate students and adults from your school of the importance of proper behavior and conduct. Please relay this information to the fans from your school community. Student crowd control at OHSAA sponsored tournaments is the responsibility of the principals of the competing schools. A positive approach to this matter prior to the game will result in a more pleasant atmosphere. Fans should be reminded to stay off the field at the conclusion of all games.

6. Programs and Publicity Materials

PROGRAM MATERIALS FROM PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS/GAME MANAGERS – The OHSAA will notify all schools with directions on what information is needed for tournament program, such as team photo, caption, roster and information form.

7. Playing Rules

The NFHS football rules as written and interpreted shall apply in all tournament games. There are 3 state adopted rules we use in Ohio: 1) The 20-yard overtime procedure (located in the 2022 OHSAA Football Officiating Mechanics Handbook, Gold Book),, 2) The Point Differential Rule (located in the 2022 Football Regulations) and 3) Replay at the State Final Championship Games (Located in the Replay Manual). The coin toss will be held at center field 20 minutes prior to game time in accordance with adopted mechanics.

8. Officials

8.1 GAME OFFICIALS

Game officials will be assigned from the Football Administrator's office. A team of officials – referee, umpire, head linesman, line judge and back judge will be assigned to each game. Crews 1-56 assigned to regional semifinal through state final will have a sixth official, a Center Judge, assigned to their officiating team. Some contests in weeks 11 and 12 will have a sixth official.

Each official is permitted one complimentary admission.

8.1.1 An Alternate Official may be assigned from the Football Administrator's office.

8.1.2 OFFICIALS DRESSING ROOM

A private room for the officials who officiate the game shall be provided. The room must include toilet and shower facilities. Uniformed police or security will be assigned to the official's room before and after the game as well as at halftime and will escort officials to and from the playing field. No one other than the game officials, official observers, or tournament personnel is authorized to enter the official's room.

8.2 ASSISTANT OFFICIALS

The game manager for all regional and state semifinal games shall appoint the timer(s) and the line-to-gain crew. **The timer and Play Clock Operator shall meet with the crew of officials 45 minutes prior to kickoff.**

8.3 OBSERVERS

Officiating observers/evaluators may be assigned to tournament games.

9. Awards

A team trophy will be awarded to the regional runner-up and to the regional championship team. No awards will be given until the Regional Finals (refer to Section 7 regarding state awards).

10. Extra Equipment

Each school shall be responsible for bringing extra equipment in case of emergencies.

11. Sideline Spirt Participants & Mascots

Eight sideline spirit participants in uniform, one student mascot and one sponsor will be admitted free. Only sideline spirit participants in uniform and the student mascot will be allowed to participate. A maximum of 16

sideline spirit participants in uniform are permitted to lead cheers at field level. More than 16 sideline spirit participants will result in sanctions and any additional sideline spirit participants will be removed from the field.

11.1 All sideline spirit teams must comply with the OHSAA General Sports Regulation 27, Safety Regulations for Sideline Spirit Participants.

SECTION 4 - GAME ADMINISTRATION OUTLINE

11. Lightning and Inclement Weather

Refer to the OHSAA Handbook regarding lightning and inclement weather

12. Certified Athletic Trainer Present During Game

A Certified Athletic Trainer will be present for all games. Whenever possible a doctor will be present. A team may furnish its own doctor or trainer.

13. The Public Address Announcer

The game manager shall appoint a public address announcer. No announcement shall be made without the permission of the game manager. Each school shall provide a spotter to assist the game announcer when requested by the manager.

13.1 Introduction of Players - Eleven players from each school will be introduced. The names of the players to be introduced shall be provided to the announcer prior to the contest.

14. Security

The game manager will provide uniformed police and/or security in sufficient numbers to provide adequate public safety.

15. Concessions and Parking

All concessions and parking will be operated under the direction of the game manager. Income from those sources will not be considered as game receipts. Sites may charge up to \$5.00 for parking. The OHSAA Football Administrator must approve higher parking charges.

16. Warm-Up Period

Teams may use as much time as they desire for pre-game warm-up provided the field is cleared of all players 15 minutes prior to game time.

17. Uniforms

White and Dark jerseys – In Regional play, the higher seed in each Regional bracket is designated as the home team and will wear Dark jerseys (as stated in Rule 1-5-1b, 3 of the NFHS Rules Book). The top team in each bracket is designated the home team in the Semi-Finals and Finals and will wear Dark jerseys (as stated in Rule 1-5-1b, 3 of the NFHS Rules Book). The Visiting team will wear White jerseys (as stated in Rule 1-5-1b, 2 of the NFHS Rules Book).

18. Dressing Rooms and Team Areas

The game manager, at the pre-game information meeting, will assign teams to dressing rooms and team areas. The team designated as the home team will be assigned to the normal home dressing room and team area. A responsible person will be on hand in the dressing rooms at all times.

19. Field Passes

All team area personnel not in a football uniform must wear a field pass. Ball boys/girls and student trainers may be in a team jersey and count as part of the team. Each coach will receive up to 30 field passes from the game manager. Individuals wearing school field passes or uniforms/jerseys must remain between the 25-yard lines during play (Exception: ball boys/girls).

20. Field Phones and Press Box Coaches

Competing teams must supply their own headphones.

Space for a minimum of three coaches per team will be allowed in the press box. When the manager determines that space is available for an equal number of additional coaches per team these coaches may enter the press box. All coaches must wear a field pass (see item above). Each school may have one statistician in the press box.

21. Marching Bands

21.1.1 PRE-GAME

When both schools have a marching band, each is allowed six minutes for a pre-game show. If possible, both bands will join in playing the National Anthem. If a joint performance is not possible, the home team band will play.

In the event there is only one marching band present, it may use the entire 15 minutes for a pre-game show and to play the National Anthem.

21.1.2 HALFTIME

The visiting team band shall perform first and must be prepared to start its performance within one minute after the end of the first half of play. The performance by the visiting team band may not exceed **eight (8) minutes** including time to get on and off field. The home team band shall be prepared to start its performance within thirty seconds after the visiting team band clears the field. The performance by the home school band may not exceed **eight (8) minutes** including time to enter and leave the field. The clock will be in operation between halves, and will be started on the referee's signal. The 20-minute halftime shall be timed on the field clock. **The field should be clear with 2 minutes left on the 20-minute clock. Teams may enter the field at this time.**

The game clock will be reset to 3 minutes after the 20-minute halftime has expired, and immediately started, by NFHS Rules.

SPECIAL NOTE: No team will be penalized if the band exceeds the time allotted, causing a delay in starting either half.

21.1.3 ANNOUNCER

If a special announcer is required for the band show, previous arrangements shall be made with game manager in order to gain access to the public address system.

SECTION 5 – ADMISSION INFORMATION

1. Admission

First Round, Regional Quarterfinals, Semifinals & Finals	TBA OHSAA Process
State Semifinals	TBA OHSAA Process

Note 1: Children age 6 or older will be charged regular admission through State Semifinals.

Note 2: The OHSAA Football Administrator is authorized to deviate from the established admission prices when “double headers” are conducted.

2. Ticket Information (excluding State Finals)

The following ticket procedure will be followed:

- a.) Tickets will be sold electronically. Spectators may visit www.ohsaa.org/tickets to purchase tickets. Member schools should also offer tickets at the gate available for cash. **Ticket prices are the same at the gate and online.**
- b.) Member school personnel are responsible for recording all gate sales in the OHSAA Hometown Ticketing Box Office using the same login credentials used to scan tickets.
- c.) Gate sales cash collected will be deducted from hosting fees due. Any overage will be invoiced by the OHSAA to the school at the end of the season.
- d.) Events at non-high schools can use a QR code at the gate which will direct spectators to purchase an online ticket. Events held at high school venues will be required to sell tickets for cash at the gate if the event is not sold out.
- e.) Managers shall not use pass-out tickets. A good rule to follow is: “If you’re in, you’re in; and if you’re out, you’re out.” It is not necessary to give pass-out checks. It simply invites people to move in and out of the stadium. In the event it is necessary (inclement weather, outside restrooms or concession facilities, etc.) the manager is authorized to provide a pass-out system.
- f.) Every person who enters the venue must have a scannable electronic ticket or digital pass distributed by the OHSAA.
- g.) All information regarding tickets will come from Claudia Markoff, OHSAA Customer Experience Manager (cmarkoff@ohsaa.org)
- h.) Questions about tickets should be directed to Claudia Markoff at cmarkoff@ohsaa.org or 614-549-6973. For spectator online ticket support, Hometown Ticketing customer service can be reached by phone: 1-866-488-4849 or by email: fansupport@hometownticketing.com

3. Reserved Sections

The game manager has the option of providing reserved seats if it is believed there is sufficient need. If seats are reserved, the schools shall be notified in advance. There is no adjustment in ticket prices.

4. Ticket Distribution

The entire capacity of tickets will go on sale the Monday or Tuesday prior to each contest.

5. Ticket Sales/Gates Open

5.1 Gates should be open 90 minutes prior to kickoff.

6. Complimentary Admission

Managers will adhere to all regulations pertaining to complimentary admission. It would be unfair and defeat the purpose of Board adopted regulations if game managers are not consistent in the application of these regulations. Participating school administrators can assist the manager by reviewing admission information with coaches, faculty members, players, band members and others.

6.1 Team and School Personnel

The number of players that will be in uniform for the game and up to 30 others will be admitted at the team pass gate.

6.2 Cheerleaders

Up to 16 cheerleaders in uniform, one student mascot and one sponsor will be admitted free provided a certified list is filed at the **Pass Gate**. Note: A maximum of 16 cheerleaders in uniform are permitted to lead cheers at field level. If more than 16 cheerleaders lead cheers, the school will be sanctioned and the number of cheerleaders greater than 16 will be removed from the field.

6.3 Bands

Marching bands, Flag or Drill Corps must be in uniform to be admitted. Schools must notify game manager at least 48 hours prior to game time if special seating is required for the Band and the number of seats needed. The game manager shall reserve the space needed for the bands if notified 48 hours before the game. A maximum of three adult chaperones per bus shall be admitted free.

6.4 Administrative Passes

The schools competing at the site are entitled to eight complimentary administrative passes. These tickets should be used as complimentary tickets for Superintendent (2), Principal (2), Athletic Director (2) and two additional. These ticket codes will be provided to each school's administration.

6.5 Admission for Team Scouts

The OHSAA will provide admission for a maximum of four persons for the purpose of scouting a potential opponent in the tournament. Scouts must contact Claudia Markoff at cmarkoff@ohsaa.org for electronic tickets.

6.6 Media Credentials

All requests for media credentials and broadcast or telecast space shall be directed to the Media Coordinator. Proper identification must be presented for admission at pass gate and credentials shall be worn at all times during the contest. All on-field news media personnel are required to stay a minimum of six feet from the side or end line and are not permitted in team areas during the game. (All fields will be marked with a 4-inch wide broken line around the entire field a minimum of six feet from the boundary lines).

6.7 Game Officials

Game officials are permitted one complimentary admission.

SECTION 6 - FINANCES & GAME EXPENSES

1. Game Manager

Duties of the manager include game day oversight, compliance with OHSAA regulations, and enforcement of OHSAA tournament regulations. Host school treasurers or finance officers are responsible for the completion of accurate financial reports and ticket reconciliations, payment of venue expenses and other expenses as outlined by the OHSAA Finance Office.

SECTION 7 - STATE FINALS INFORMATION

1. State championship games will be played at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium.

2. Admission Prices*

School Presale	TBA
All-Session Reserved Club Seats	TBA
All Session Reserved	TBA
Single Game Reserved/Premium	TBA
Single Game Reserved (non-club)	TBA
Note: Children age 2 or older will be charged regular admission.	

* Subject to change at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

3. Finalist Meeting

A meeting of school representatives will be conducted by the OHSAA Football Administrator on Sunday, December 1, 2024 at 1:00 P.M either virtual or in person is TBD. Each qualifying school may have up to four individuals attend. It is recommended that the Athletic Director and/or principal, the ticket manager and if possible, the Head Coach or another coach be present.

4. Game Recording

The OHSAA will provide a recording of the championship game to each school. The video will be a copy of the telecast. In addition, each school will be provided space for one camera and one videographer.

5. Live Telecast

No live telecast of any regional or state football tournament game is permitted without the consent of the OHSAA Football Administrator.

6. Awards

A championship and runner-up trophy will be awarded at the conclusion of the state championship game. In addition, 70 individual player awards and one coach award will be provided to the runner-up and championship teams. Additional awards may be purchased by contacting Croton Craft 1-800-947-5521.

7. Game Officials

Game officials will be assigned from the Football Administrator's office. A team of officials – referee, umpire, center judge, head linesman, line judge and back judge will be assigned to each game. An Alternate official will also be assigned to each game.

8. Line to Gain Crews

Local officials associations will provide line-to-gain crews for the state finals. Seven OHSAA registered football officials will be used.

Local Associations selected to provide one crew each:

- Pickaway County Football Officials Association (C)
- West Virginia - Ohio Football Officials Association (E)
- Cleveland Football Officials Association (NE)
- Northwest District Football Officials Association (NW)
- Athens Football Officials Association (SE)
- Southwestern Ohio Football Officials Association (SW)
- Chillicothe Football Officials Association (SE)