

2020 Football Tournament Regulations (COVID)

These revised regulations were adopted by the Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors on August 27, 2020.

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.

THESE REGULATIONS MAY NEED TO BE MODIFIED AFTER BOARD APPROVAL DUE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS.

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 2020 Football Tournament Regulations and the 2020 OHSAA Football Manual. 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 ArbiterGame system.

All regular season games must be played on or before Saturday November 14, 2020.

NOTE: Beginning in 2022, only contests played against NFHS Member State Association schools or 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 even years, with the addition of the Competitive Balance numbers. Base enrollment numbers were calculated for a two-year period beginning June 1, 2019 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 | 604 and More | 6.5 | 71 |
| II | 378-603 | 6 | 106 |
| III | 272-377 | 5.5 | 104 |
| IV | 209-271 | 5 | 105 |
| V | 163-208 | 4.5 | 106 |
| VI | 122-162 | 4 | 105 |
| VII | 121 and less | 3.5 | 112 |
| | | | Total: 709 |

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

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 ArbiterGame 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 Schools must have their tournament participation marked "yes" for 11-player football in myOHSAA by 11:59pm on Thursday September 17, 2020.

Note: Schools may withdraw through myOHSAA without penalty by 11:59pm on Thursday September 24, 2020.

5. Regional Qualifying Teams and Seeding

- 5.1 All teams entered in myOHSAA will qualify for the tournament.
- 5.2 Regions will be drawn on Friday September 18, 2020.
- 5.3 Coaches enter team bio information from 8am Sunday September 27, 2020- Monday September 28, 2020 at 11:59pm.
- 5.4 The coaches will vote for seeding in their region from 8am Tuesday September 29, 2020 – Wednesday September 30, 2020 at 11:59pm.
- 5.5 Tournament brackets will be posted after Noon Thursday October 1, 2020.

6. Notification of Regional Qualifying Teams

Qualifiers and pairings for the first round games will be available on the OHSAA web site (www.ohsaa.org) and through the Associated Press by 2 P.M. on Thursday October 1, 2020..

7. Region Assignments

Regions will be drawn on Friday September 18, 2020. For complete list of region assignment, click on link www.ohsaa.org.

8. Regional Pairings – 2020 OHSAA Football Tournaments – All Divisions

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| First Round Games | Top Seeded Teams Host |
| Second Round (if applicable) | Top Seeded Teams Host |
| Regional Quarterfinals | Top Seeded Teams Host |
| Regional Semifinals | Top Seeded Teams Host |
| Regional Finals | TBD on Neutral Sites |
| Winner to State Semifinals | Neutral Sites - rebracket <u>may</u> occur |

Note: The number of rounds depends on the number of schools in each division. Divisions with 64 or more teams will play 7 rounds, divisions with 32 to 63 team will play 6 rounds.

9. Regional Dates and Times

| All Regional Games and State Semi Final Games | | |
|--|--------------------------|-----------|
| Friday, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13* | Division I, II, III, VII | 7:00 P.M. |
| Saturday, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 10/31, 11/7, 11/14* | Division IV, V, VI | 7:00 P.M. |

| State Final Games | | |
|--|--------------------------|-----------|
| Friday, 11/13*, 11/20** (Multiple Sites) | Division I, II, III, VII | 7:00 P.M. |
| Saturday, 11/14*, 11/21** (Multiple Sites) | Division IV, V, VI | TBA |

*State semifinal games will be played on 11/13-11/14 if the division has 64 or more teams, otherwise the state final will be played on these dates.

**State final games will be played on 11/20-21 if the division has 64 or more teams

SECTION 2 – TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT

1. Tournament Sites

- 1.1 Regional 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.

1.2 The Football Administrator will select the sites for all state semifinal games (and possibly Regional Final 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 takers, ushers, clock operators, and police. The manager will conduct each tournament game in accordance with the 2020 Tournament Regulations and current football management guidelines.

3. COVID-19 Information

Here are some links to the COVID documents:

Responsible Restart Mandates

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Youth-Collegiate-Amateur-Club-Pro-Sports.pdf>

Football Modifications

<https://bit.ly/FBRecs>

4. Management Restrictions

4.1 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.

4.2 Raffles

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

4.3 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.

4.4 Air Horns/Powered Noisemaker Prohibited

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

5. 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.

6. 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 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.

7. 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.**

8. Use of Drones (Unmanned aerial vehicles)

8.1 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 will be required to meet with the Football Administrator on the Monday preceding the game to be hosted (10/5). The managers' meeting will take place at 1:00 P.M. on the Microsoft Teams platform. Managers for all other regional and state semi-finals will receive all information 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 DVDs between competing schools shall be the responsibility of the schools involved. Each school shall provide the opponent with DVDs of any three regular season or tournament games. The opponent shall have the choice of the three games. The opponent's choice of game DVDs must be exchanged at the meeting with the site manager or earlier. The penalty for failure to comply is \$750.00. The Football Administrator may impose additional penalties.

2.1 Tournament – The OHSAA will not record on DVD 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

An eligibility certificate listing the names of all players in uniform must be submitted to the game manager for the first round game. First round game managers will keep the certificates for the duration of the tournament.

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, 2) The Point Differential Rule and 3) Replay at the State Final Championship Games. These rules are explained in detail in the 2020 OHSAA Football Officiating Mechanics Handbook (Gold Book), the 2019 OHSAA Football Manual and on the football page on the OHSAA website. The coin toss will be held at center field 20 minutes prior to game time in accordance with adopted mechanics. **Halftime will be 15 minutes.**

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 1-28 will have a sixth official, a Center Judge, assigned to their officiating team.

Early Rounds prior to Regional Quarterfinals-\$100 plus a travel stipend equal to \$1.00 per mile after 50 miles.

Regional Quarterfinal-Regional Finals Fees - \$140 plus a travel stipend equal to \$1.00 per mile after 50 miles.

State Fees - \$190 plus a travel stipend equal to \$1.00 per mile after 50 miles.

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. Cheerleaders & Mascot

Eight cheerleaders in uniform, one student mascot and one sponsor will be admitted free. Only cheerleaders in uniform and the student mascot will be allowed to participate. A maximum of 16 cheerleaders in uniform are permitted to lead cheers at field level. More than 16 cheerleaders and any additional cheerleaders will be removed from the field.

11.1 Pyramids and mounts by cheerleaders are prohibited. Individuals may not stand on another's shoulders or support another individual in any type of mount. Individual cheerleaders violating the regulations shall be immediately removed from the field area.

11.2 Mascots

Live animal mascots are not permitted either outside or inside the stadium.

SECTION 4 - GAME ADMINISTRATION OUTLINE

12. Lightning and Inclement Weather

Refer to the OHSAA Handbook regarding lightning and inclement weather

13. 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.

14. 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.

14.1 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.

15. Security

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

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. Uniforms

White and Dark jerseys – The higher seed in each bracket through the Regional Finals will be the home team and wear dark jerseys. The lower seed will wear white (NFHS Rule 1, Section 5, Article 1-b). The top team in each bracket is designated as the home team in State semi-finals and state final games and will wear Dark jerseys (as stated in Rule 1-5-1b, 3 of the NFHS Rules Book). The bottom team in State games is designated the visiting team and will wear White jerseys (as stated in Rule 1-5-1b, 2 of the NFHS Rules Book).

19. 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. Teams may be encouraged to arrive dressed and use the dressing rooms for rest room needs only to comply with social distance mandates.

20. Field Passes

All team area personnel not in a football uniform must wear a field pass. **There is a limit of 60 players in full uniform.** 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). Everyone on the sidelines must stay social distanced.

21. 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.

22. Marching Bands

22.1.1 PRE-GAME

Only the Home Team Band may be present and perform.

The band may use the entire 15 minutes for a pre-game show and play the National Anthem.

22.1.2 HALFTIME

Only the Home Team Band may be present and perform. **Halftime will be 15 minutes.**

The clock will be in operation between halves, and will be started on the referee's signal. The 15-minute halftime shall be timed on the field clock.

The field must be cleared 15 minutes after first half is ended for mandatory three-minute warm drills for players.

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

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 Prices

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Play-in, Regional Quarterfinals, Semifinals & Finals | \$12 Online Only |
| State Semifinals and Finals | \$15 Online Only |

Note 1: All fans regardless of age will be charged regular admission.

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.) All tickets will be pre-sale and online.
- b.) 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.

3. Ticket Distribution

The pre-sale ticket procedure will be determined by the OHSAA prior to the first week of the tournament.

4. Ticket Sales/Gates Open

4.1 Gates should be open 90 minutes prior to kickoff.

5. 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.

5.1 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.

5.2 Cheerleaders

Eight 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.

5.3 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.

5.4 Administrative Passes

The schools competing at the site are entitled to eight complimentary administrative passes. The game manager is authorized to establish an alternate method of complimentary administrative admission.

5.5 OHSAA Pass

The OHSAA will be creating a tournament pass policy. Please refer to this policy.

5.6 Admission for Team Scouts

The host site manager will provide admission for a maximum of four persons for the purpose of scouting a potential opponent in the tournament. Scouts must contact the manager prior to the game in order to arrange admission. No OHSAA passes are provided for scouting purposes.

5.7 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).

5.8 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 payment of venue expenses and other expenses as outlined by the OHSAA Finance Office.