

**Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc.**

**FOOTBALL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

January 20, 2021, 9:30 a.m. via Zoom

**Members Present:**

Steven Baker, Grand Ledge  
Chris Bell, Lake Orion  
Matt Bird, Muskegon  
Brad Bush, Chelsea  
Chris Ervin, St Johns  
Mike Evoy, Detroit  
Mike Farley, Grand Haven  
Scott Farley, Jackson  
Don Gustafson, St Ignace  
Mary Haslinger, Flint  
Wayne Karsten, Posen  
Kevin Langs, Climax

Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake  
Brian Lemons, Brighton  
William McKoy, Romulus  
Andrew Pratley, MHSFCA  
Scot Robertson, Grand Haven  
Jim Sparks, Clawson  
Zac Stevenson, Traverse City  
Chris Westfall, Ypsilanti  
Brian Zdanowski, Greenville

**Guest:**

Mitch Smelis, Fenton, ATC-MATS

**MHSAA Staff:**

Nate Hampton (Recorder)  
Brent Rice  
Mark Uyl

**Members Absent:**

Matt Johnson, New Buffalo  
Pat Russman, Portland  
Tyrone Spencer, Detroit

The committee met for the purpose of reviewing NFHS playing rules, MHSAA regulations and 8-player and 11-player tournament procedures/policies and concerns involving high school football.

Following Committee introductions, a review of the 2019 Meeting Minutes and statement of relationship to the Representative Council the following items were discussed.

**Tournament Review**

The committee was provided 2020 Football Playoff information for both the 11-player format and the 8-player format, with statistical data for all divisions of tournament competition. For this 2020 Altered Season - ALL 11-Player Teams could enter the tournament and ALL Eligible 8-Player teams could enter the tournament. Following a later than normal start to the season and then a several weeks pause, the MDHHS allowed the tournament to resume only with participating player/coach having to complete weekly COVID-19 Rapid Test for the remainder of team participation.

**2020 Enrollment Range by Division**

Division 1 1556-3007  
Division 2 1151-1497  
Division 3 1145-818  
Division 4 817-612  
Division 5 620-456  
Division 6 452-367  
Division 7 365-272  
Division 8 270-116  
8-Player D1 215-154 (42)

**2020 Finalist Enrollment Range**

Division 1 Davison 1745 vs West Bloomfield 2036  
Division 2 Mona Shores 1128 vs De La Salle 672  
Division 3 DeWitt 997 vs River Rouge 993  
Division 4 32Cadillac 799 vs Country Day 654  
Division 5 GRCC 596 vs Frankenmuth 552  
Division 6 Montague 443 vs Clinton 367  
Division 7 TC St Francis 341 vs New Lothrop 297  
Division 8 Ubyly 178 vs Centreville 262  
8-Player D1 Suttons Bay 139 vs Adrian LC 203

### Point Differential Tournament

	Wk 1	Wk 2
Div. 1:	11	6
Div. 2:	10	4
Div. 3:	15	3
Div. 4:	14	2
Div. 5:	12	2
Div. 6:	17	6
Div. 7:	9	3
Div. 8:	9	5
8P Div. 1:	6	4
Div. 2:	12	6

### General Discussion

1. National Federation Rule Changes
2. 40 Second Clock Application – The committee suggest that we work toward more consistency with officials starting the 40-second clock
3. Health and Safety - The impact of limited contact periods in regular season practice
4. COVID – 19 and lessons learned – The committee suggested that there were many lessons learned during this late start and the paused season that included:
  - A. Learning to be more flexible
  - B. Better communication with AD's and Coaches, Coaches and athletes, MHSAA and member Schools
  - C. Practice more efficiently
  - D. Administrators became adapt to changing schedules when it became necessary
  - E. Staying in-house for summer work-outs with school coaches allowed for much less travel by athletes to camps, combines and non-school activity may prove to better condition and train students
5. Update Meeting and other member school surveys that relate to football
6. MHSFCA – The outstanding cooperating between the MHSAA and the MHSFCA along with their continued support of our Final Tournament.
7. ALL- IN Tournament – The committee discussed at length the merits of an ALL-IN Tournament format that was presented by a committee member. Following discussion this proposal did not achieve enough votes to advance.

### Recommendations to the Representative Council

1. Expand the “5-quarter rule” to exempt special teams play (kickoffs and scrimmage kick plays) from the application of the rule. A down in which the offensive team is in a scrimmage kick formation or a free kick occurs does not count in the quarter limitation. (12-9)
2. Sideline officials (linesman and line judge) should change sidelines at halftime. Permit but not required (21-0)
3. Seed playoff regions based on playoff points. 1 vs 8 and 4 vs 5 matchups would make up one district; 2 vs 7 and 3 vs 6 would be the opposite district. (17-4)