



NJSIAA 2020 Area Football Tournament Modifications

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic the following modifications will be applied to the 2020 NJSIAA Area Football Tournament. The NJSIAA is working with our member schools to offer our student athletes a worthwhile fall sports experience in 2020.

The NJSIAA reserves the right to adjust, change or cancel dates, times and locations for all NJSIAA Area playoff or regional crossover games.

General Information

Season Dates:

First Practice – Monday, September 14, 2020

Heat Acclimatization – may start on Friday, September 11, 2020. This is an optional early start.

Scrimmage – Schools will have the opportunity to participate in one pre-season scrimmage with a neighboring school. The scrimmage may occur any time within seven days of the regular season start date for that sport, Oct. 2. **First Scrimmage date: September 24, 2020.**

First Game – Friday, October 2, 2020

End of Regular Season – Saturday, November 7, 2020

Maximum Number of games allowed for the 2020 Regular Season 6; NJSIAA Area Games 2

Out of State Opponents – Any out of state competition must be approved by the NJSIAA. Please submit a request to the NJSIAA Assistant Director in charge of the sports at least 2 weeks prior to the competition date. Also, League & Conference approval must be solicited and noted in the request to the NJSIAA.

NJSIAA Post Season Tournament

The post season NJSIAA Football Area Playoff/Crossover Games will be open to all our member schools that wish to participate.

Important Dates:

Intent Card must be submitted by Monday, November 2, 2020

Cutoff – November 7, 2020

Seeding Meeting – November 8, 2020

Seeding committee comprised of the president and scheduler from each of the five (5) football conferences.

Student Transfers:

- a. **All Transfers must be entered into home campus, ruling by NJSIAA to be eligible.**
- b. **Student's subject to the Transfer Sit may participate on October 15 (i.e. transfer occurred prior to March 16, 2020)**
- c. **Student transfers after September 1, 2020, shall be ineligible for period of 30 calendar days, or one half of the maximum number of games being played, whichever is less. (NJSIAA max)**
- d. **Students who transfer on or after October 22, 2020 will not be able to participate in post season play.**

Entry Fee: \$90 per team

Seeding Criteria: For Area Playoff games. Four (4) teams from each NJSIAA Section and Group – East and West will be selected to participate in the Area Playoff tournament. Teams not selected will be scheduled at week 7 and/or week 8 game as indicated on their intent card.

- a. **Seeding Committee**

Seeding Committee -

- a. All factors in relationship to this season will be used by the committee to determine seeds.
- b. Seeding by the Committee is FINAL – no appeals.

Classifications –

We will use the 2019-2020 Classifications: THIS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON THE NUMBER OF ENTRIES RECEIVED AND GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF THE ENTRIES. A Regional East/West approach will be utilized including geography, county, conference as well as the combining groups to determine the area playoff brackets.

Locations –

- a. Higher seed as determined by the seeding committee will be the home team.

Dates –

- a. Dates
 1. Round 1 – November 13 (Friday) & November 14 (Saturday)
 2. Round 2 – Area Championships – November 20 & November 21

Assigning of Officials –

- a. NJSIAA State Assignor will assign all Area Playoff and Crossover games.
- b. Please be aware that because of COVID-19 there may be a shortage of qualified officials for the games, especially clock operators.
- c. No varsity game can be played or continued with less than 4 officials.

Coaches and athletes confronting officials – regular season penalties will be utilized.

Site Management:

Site Managers – supplied by home school.

Athletic Trainers – supplied by the home school.

Game Ball –

- a. Wilson GST F-1003
- b. Balls to be sanitized prior to game, between quarters and halftime.

Trophy Presentation –

- a. Because the Sections may be modified based on the entries received all trophies and awards will be mailed directly to the schools after the tournament is competed.

Spectators – NJSIAA Area and Crossover Games – TBA

Game Recommended Protocols -

- a. Home site is responsible for setting up the sideline areas as per NJSIAA modifications to ensure that social distancing and CDC protocols are enforced.

Police Coverage –

- a. Home school is responsible for police coverage if needed.

Common Safety Factors –

- a. NJSIAA COVID-10 and NFHS Modifications will be used.
- b. Sports specific considerations/guidelines will be placed on the NJSIAA website – www.njsiaa.org – click on Sports – Fall – Football
- c. The team box will be extended on both sides of the field to the 10 yard line to create more social distancing for the teams.
- d. Cloth face coverings are permissible.
- e. NJSIAA Sportsmanship Statement to be read to each team during warm-ups in each team's respective endzone.
- f. Coin Toss – Limited to referee, umpire and one designated representative from each team in the center of the field with designated individuals maintaining social distance of 6 feet.
- g. No handshakes prior to and following the coin toss.
- h. Officials must maintain social distancing of 6 feet while performing all pregame responsibilities with all officiating crew members, game administration staff, line-to-gain crew, individuals handling the balls during the game and team personnel.
- i. All Pregame and Post game shaking of hands protocols are suspended.
- j. Press and photographers will be located in the end zone 2 yards behind the end lines and not on the sidelines or in the press box.
- k. Restricted area is to be 4 yards off the sideline. This requires the normal 2 yards plus an additional 2 yards to accommodate adequate social distancing.