

MINUTES OF THE IHSA FOOTBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
December 12, 2024

The IHSA Football Advisory Committee met on December 12, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Committee members present: Abdullah Asad, Chicago (King); Dave Archibald, Arlington Heights (St. Viator); Jeff Reents, Wilmington; Patrick Lower, Fulton; Josh Roop, Downs (Tri-Valley); Joey Dion, Jacksonville (H.S.); Kevin Greene, Salem; Steve Walliser, Official – Darien; and Sam Knox, IHSA

TERMS & CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

1. X. A. Quarterfinal & Semifinal Awards

Recommendation: A team that wins its Round 2 game receives a Quarterfinal plaque to recognize the fact that the team advanced to the Quarterfinals. A team that wins its Quarterfinal game receives a Semifinal plaque to recognize the fact that the team advanced to the Semifinals.

Rationale: This recommendation intends to align football awards with other team bracketed sports. Currently in football, teams that lose their Quarterfinal game or Semifinal game receive a plaque. Football is the only IHSA sport where the losing team receives an award prior to the State Finals. In most other team bracketed sports, teams that qualify for the State Finals receive Regional, Sectional, and Super Sectional plaques in addition to a State Finals trophy. Football teams that qualify for the State Finals receive a State Finals trophy. If this recommendation is approved, a team that qualifies for the State Finals will receive Quarterfinal and Semifinal plaques along with a State Finals trophy.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

1. The committee reviewed the minutes from the 2023 meeting.
2. The committee discussed by-law amendment proposals that are directly connected to football.
3. The committee discussed the 2024 playoff games and State Finals at ISU.
4. The committee discussed the concept of playing all semifinal games at neutral sites. The committee understands this is not a realistic option since semifinal games are the weekend prior to Thanksgiving when most colleges are closed for Thanksgiving break. Asking a neutral site high school to host a game that weekend when its team is done playing for the season is also a challenge since those schools and their staffs have moved on to winter sports.
5. The committee discussed the efforts of the Football Ad Hoc Committee that is studying potential changes to the football playoff structure intended to slow the constant conference changes.
6. The committee discussed items related to boundaried and non-boundaried schools and their levels of success in the postseason.
7. The committee discussed potential options to change football classifications (one-year classifications, multiplier & waiver, success factor, and football enrollments).
8. The committee discussed the need to increase officials' fees for Round 1 and Round 2 playoff games.
9. The committee discussed options to increase the number of ratings officials receive from coaches.

The committee recognized outgoing member, Jeff Reents, Wilmington.