



2024 State Football Series Terms & Conditions

In accordance with Section 1.450 of the Constitution, the Terms and Conditions governing the 2024 IHSA Football Playoffs have been approved by the Board of Directors.

I. CLASSIFICATION

Classifications in the IHSA Football State Series will be determined according to IHSA Policy 17 (Classification System).

Request to play up a class may be made through the IHSA by September 1.

II. DATES AND SITES

A) Dates for Playoffs:

The Playoffs shall commence on the weekend following the completion of the ninth week of the season. The schedule will be:

First Round Games — Friday, November 1, or Saturday, November 2

Second Round Games — Friday, November 8, or Saturday, November 9

Quarterfinal Games — Friday, November 15, or Saturday, November 16

Semifinal Games — Friday, November 22, or Saturday, November 23

Championship Games — Friday, November 29 (Class 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A) and Saturday, November 30 (Class 5A, 6A, 7A, 8A)

Note: See Item VI-A for starting times.

III. ONLINE ENTRIES, WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES, ELIGIBILITY AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

The policy for Original Entry Deadlines, Late Entries, and Late Withdrawals shall be the policies and procedures regarding entry for all IHSA-sponsored sports/activities included in the online 2024-25 Entry Policies and Procedures.

A) Entries:

All member schools must enter their school into the state series competition through the IHSA School Center on the IHSA Website at www.ihsa.org. The deadline for entry into football is August 26, 2024. The 2024-25 Entry Policies and Procedures outlining the online entry procedures for all IHSA-sponsored tournaments can be found in the Schools Center on the IHSA website.

B) Late Entries:

Any attempt to enter a sport or activity online after the established deadlines will be denied. Schools that wish to enter after the deadline will be considered late. To be considered for late entry, the Principal/Official Representative must contact the IHSA administrative officer in charge of that sport or activity. The penalty for late entry shall be a payment of \$100 for that sport/activity by the school.

C) Breach of Contract By-Law 6.041:

To withdraw without penalty, the Principal or Athletic Director must notify the IHSA Office, in writing, of the school's

withdrawal from the respective sport prior to the seeding meeting date and/or the date the List of Participants is due for that sport.

If a school withdraws after the seeding meeting date/List of Participants due date but before the first competition, the school will be charged a \$500 penalty and, if applicable, the cost of game officials and the host school guarantee provided in the Terms and Conditions.

If a school does not officially withdraw prior to the first competition and/or does not show up for competition, the school will be charged a \$500 penalty, the cost of game officials, and the host school guarantee according to the Terms and Conditions for the respective sport.

D) Eligibility: All member schools in good standing may enter one team under the provisions of By-law 3.054.

E) Affirmative Action: Only boys shall be permitted to participate in the state series except as provided in the IHSA Affirmative Action Policy.

IV. HOST FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

A) In the First Round, Second Round, Quarterfinal Round, and Semifinal Round, each game shall be financially independent.

- 1) The host school shall receive a host school guarantee of the greater of \$1,100 or 10% of gate, the cost of the game officials, and 15% of the net income. The IHSA office will pay all playoff officials.
- 2) The visiting school shall receive the greater of 15% of the net income or \$5 per round trip mile for the first 50 miles and \$3 for each additional mile.

B) Admission Fees: The following Playoff ticket prices have been set by the IHSA Board of Directors. The Local Manager is responsible for the printing of tickets for the game(s) their school hosts when applicable. First Round and Second Round game ticketing will be determined by the host school. If GoFan digital ticketing is used for First Round or Second Round Games, any available cash tickets will be available for \$1 more than the digital ticket. Tickets for the Quarterfinal and Semifinal games will be digital tickets sold via the GoFan app or at www.GoFan.com. Any available cash tickets will be available for \$1 more than the digital ticket. A baby in arms is free at all rounds of the playoffs. Pricing for all other individuals is as follows:

FIRST ROUND: If the host school does not use GoFan:

All Tickets: \$6

**If the host school uses GoFan:* Digital Ticket: \$6 & Cash Ticket: \$7

SECOND ROUND: If the host school does not use GoFan:

All Tickets: \$7

**If the host school uses GoFan:* Digital Tickets: \$7 & Cash Tickets: \$8

QUARTERFINAL: GoFan is Required:

Digital Ticket: \$8

Cash Ticket: \$9



SEMIFINAL: GoFan is Required.

Digital Ticket: \$9
Cash Ticket: \$10

- C) **State Final Prices:** (Hancock Stadium at Illinois State University in Normal)
Single-day tickets at a rate of **\$15.00 each will be available to member schools and the public.** There are no pass outs at the State Finals. Fans who leave the stadium must purchase another ticket to re-enter.
- D) **Rights Fees for TV and Radio:**
See the IHSAA website (www.ihsa.org) for the fees to be charged by Local Managers and/or the IHSAA for television and cable broadcasts and radio originations.
The Policy regarding media requirements for each Local Manager is contained in these Terms and Conditions under Item IX-O.

V. TOURNAMENT ASSIGNMENTS AND PAIRINGS

- A) Sites, Rankings, Pairings:
 - 1) There shall be eight (8) classes containing 32 teams in each.
 - 2) After determining the 32-team bracket, in classes 1A-6A, the teams will be separated into two (2) brackets of sixteen. In classes 7A-8A, the teams will be seeded 1-32. No consideration will be given to conference schools or teams that played each other the last week of the current season. Teams will be seeded by using record and at-large points as criteria.
 - a. If teams are tied for seed with the same number of wins and at-large points, the higher seed shall go to the team with the most wins of defeated opponents.
 - b. If two teams are tied for seed with the same number of wins and at-large points and have played each other during the regular season, the higher seed shall go to the winner.
 - 3) First Round host schools shall be at the top of the bracket.
 - 4) After the First Round, the team that has hosted the fewest games in the current playoffs shall be the host for the next round. If both teams have hosted an equal number of games in the current playoffs, the game shall be hosted by the higher seed.
 - 5) When circumstances warrant, a site other than the designated host school's field may be requested by either school or may be used subject to the approval of the IHSAA Office after consulting with the host school.
 - 6) All football fields that host a playoff game must meet the NFHS football requirements that state: NO barrier within five (5) yards of the end line or sideline.

VI. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE AND TIME SCHEDULES

- A) Day and Times:
 - 1) Saturday Games: All games shall be scheduled between 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Exact starting times shall be determined by the host school after consulting with the

visiting school. If mutual agreement cannot be met, then the IHSAA will set the game time after consulting with both schools.

- 2) Friday Games: If participating schools mutually agree, any game prior to the State Final may be played on Friday. Games shall not be scheduled during school hours.
- 3) Kickoff for championship games to be played at Hancock Stadium, Illinois State University in Normal.

**SESSION I
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29**

10:00 a.m. - Class 1A
1:00 p.m. - Class 2A
4:00 p.m. - Class 3A
7:00 p.m. - Class 4A

**SESSION II
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30**

10:00 a.m. - Class 5A
1:00 p.m. - Class 6A
4:00 p.m. - Class 7A
7:00 p.m. - Class 8A

VII. ADVANCEMENT OF WINNERS

- A) **Team Advancement:** All teams selected for the Football Playoffs will participate in the first round. Winners of the first round will advance to the second round. Second-round winners will compete in the quarterfinal round. Quarterfinal winners will compete in the semifinal round with semifinal round winners advancing to the State Final in each respective class.

VIII. TOURNAMENT RULES

- A) **Size of Squads:** The number of players carried on the regular season varsity traveling squad for each individual school is the number permitted to be published in the IHSAA Football Playoff Program.
- B) **Team Sideline Personnel:** Only member school students from the competing team's school, school-recognized adult team manager, certified coaches, and school-approved athletic trainers may be present on the team sidelines
- C) **Team Sideline Passes:** The number of sideline passes for competing teams will not exceed the number of uniformed players plus the following: three (3) official passes for the principal, athletic director, and superintendent, (1A, 2A, 3A, 4A) 20 sideline passes and (5A, 6A, 7A, 8A) 30 sideline passes. These sideline passes are for all coaches, managers, and anyone else that is approved by the school administration. No extra passes will be provided. Schools may request one Athletic Trainer Pass for the team athletic trainer or team doctor.
- D) **Tie Games:** All regular season Varsity football games shall be played to completion. Tie games shall be resolved in accordance with the recommended 10-Yard Line Overtime Tiebreaker Plan as printed in the National Federation of State High School Association Football Rule Book.



- 1) All regular season varsity games scheduled between member schools must use the 10-yard line tiebreaker as recommended in the National Federation Rule Book. If a game should be played between member schools and the tiebreaker is not used, both teams will be ineligible for the IHSAA playoffs, and for at-large points, the game will be considered a no-game.
- 2) It is strongly recommended that games with out-of-state opponents use the 10-yard line tiebreaker. If the tiebreaker is not used against out-of-state teams, the game (if tied) will be considered a no-game. However, the school involved may still qualify for the IHSAA playoffs if it is a conference champion or has earned enough points to qualify as an at-large qualifier.
- 3) In accordance with National Federation Football Rule 3-1-2, the IHSAA Board of Directors has approved for use of a point differential as follows: When either team has gained a 40-point differential at any time during the second half, the game clock shall run continuously for the remainder of the game with only the following exceptions:
 - a. Time-out charged to the team
 - b. After a score
 - c. Time-out between 3rd and 4th quarter
 - d. Extended injury time-out as determined by the referee
 - e. The rule shall apply to all play-off and regular-season contests.

E) Rules of Play: The current National Federation of State High School Football Rules for eleven (11)-man football shall be official.

F) Game Ball: The host school shall supply a top-quality Wilson leather or composition-covered ball. If the visiting team desires to use a different type (leather or composition) it may do so provided the ball is a Wilson and the team furnishes the ball. This provision shall also apply to the Championship games.

G) Selection of Playoff Participants: Conference champions are automatically selected for the Playoffs. When a co-championship exists, the conference representative to the IHSAA shall be determined by applying the following steps until only one team remains.

- 1) The team with the most wins (highest winning percentage) in the conference is the conference champion. If two or more teams are tied, go to step 2.
- 2) If exactly two teams are tied, the team that won the head-to-head conference game is the conference champion. If three or more teams are tied, any team that defeated all the other tied teams in conference play is the champion. If this step does not resolve the tie, go to step 3.
- 3) If all the tied teams played a conference game against each other, sum the points allowed by each team in each of these games. The team with the lowest total is the conference champion. If two teams remain tied after this step, go to step 2. If three or more teams remain tied after this step, go to step 4.
- 4) If all the tied teams played a conference game against each other, sum the point differential for each team in each of these games. The point differential is the points scored minus the points allowed in each game, from a minimum of -14 points to a maximum of +14 points. (Forfeited games count as +14 or -14.) The team

- with the highest total is the conference champion. If two teams remain tied after this step, go to step 2. If three or more teams remain tied after this step, go to step 5.
- 5) Sum the points allowed by each tied team in every conference game. The team with the lowest total is the conference champion. If two teams remain tied after this step, go to step 2. If three or more teams remain tied after this step, go to step 6.
 - 6) Sum the point differential for each tied team in every conference game. The point differential is the points scored minus the points allowed in each game, from a minimum of -14 points to a maximum of +14 points. (Forfeited games count as +14 or -14.) The team with the highest total is the conference champion. If two teams remain tied after this step, go to step 2. If three or more teams remain tied after this step, go to step 7.
 - 7) The team with the most wins in all games (conference and non-conference) is the conference champion. If two teams remain tied after this step, go to step 2. If three or more teams remain tied after this step, go to step 8.
 - 8) A random drawing by the IHSAA Office will determine the conference champion.

In addition to conference champions, at-large teams will be selected to fill out the 256 teams.

H) Qualifications for Playoffs:

- 1) In addition to these Terms and Conditions, all member schools wishing to participate in the IHSAA Football Playoffs must comply with IHSAA By-laws 5.061, 5.062 and the interpretations provided in the IHSAA Handbook with Illustrations.
- 2) In order to qualify its champion, a conference must involve at least six (6) football-playing schools and play at least five (5) conference football games. Further, a conference must have more than half its members as Illinois football playing schools. All schools not meeting these qualifications must qualify as independents.
- 3) An independent school must play at least one (1) IHSAA member school to qualify for consideration as an at-large selection.
- 4) A maximum of nine (9) games may be counted toward the playoffs. A maximum of one (1) game per week may count toward the playoffs unless an exception has been granted by the Executive Director of the IHSAA.
- 5) Competition against non-varsity opponents shall not be considered for playoff competition.
- 6) All games must be scheduled no later than 1:00 p.m. on the final Saturday of the regular season.

Note: Football schools are required to enter their 2025 Football schedule online at www.maxpreps.com.

- I) AED:** Host schools must have an AED on-site and be available at all IHSAA postseason contests.

IX. TOURNAMENT POLICIES

- A) Postponed Games:** Interscholastic varsity football contests which have been tentatively postponed because one or both schools were not able to fulfill their contract should be rescheduled and a letter to that effect must be on file with the Executive Director no later than the conclusion of the 7th week of the season.
- 1) If the game cannot be played due to striking employees, every effort must be made to reschedule the game.



- 2) If a game cannot be rescheduled, the striking team which must forfeit will receive a loss on its record for that game.
- 3) If the game cannot be rescheduled, the team receiving the forfeit will accept the forfeit as a win, but that is the only game that will count for that week.
- 4) If a game cannot be played when both schools have striking employees and the game cannot be rescheduled, the game will not be considered a win or loss.

B) Discontinuation of Practices: In the event practices have been terminated, the following restrictions will be enforced:

- 1) If practices have been terminated for a period of at least seven (7) days, but less than fourteen (14) days, a school may not resume competition until after three (3) separate days of practice.
- 2) If practices have been terminated for a period of fourteen (14) days or more, a school may not resume competition until after five (5) separate days of practice.
- 3) Days in 1) and 2) above shall be interpreted as calendar days, excluding Sundays.

C) Added Games: Any game contracted after the third weekend of the football season, shall not count toward a team's record for at-large consideration in the Football Playoff Series without approval of the Executive Director. Notification of any game added to a school's schedule, that is not included in the Master Schedule (which is available online), must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director not later than the third weekend of the season.

D) Selection Procedure:

- 1) Member schools who have scheduled games with out-of-state opponents will be responsible to forward a copy of each out-of-state opponent's Football schedule to the IHSA Office no later than September 30th of the current Football season.
- 2) Member schools who have contracted games with out-of-state opponents shall not be awarded a forfeit victory if the contract cannot be fulfilled because the out-of-state opponent has qualified for the playoffs in their state.
- 3) For purposes of at-large selection, the first nine (9) games of an out-of-state opponent's schedule shall be considered as the schedule for that opponent. Playoff games of out-of-state opponents may be considered as a part of the nine-game season schedule for at-large points. Playoff games in other states must meet other criteria established in these Terms and Conditions, such as starting times, tiebreakers, etc.

E) Selection Procedure: To Qualify:

- 1) All games (see VIII-G-4) played through the weekend of the ninth week of the season (October 26, 2024) shall be used in determining a school's point total.
- 2) Enter all Conference Champions
- 3) After Conference Champions consider number of wins only and
 - a. Enter any team not meeting above criteria with 9 wins
 - b. Enter any team not meeting above criteria with 8 wins
 - c. Enter any team not meeting above criteria with 7 wins
 - d. Enter any team not meeting above criteria with 6 wins

- e. Enter any team not meeting above criteria with 5 wins

Continue through a, b, c, d, and e above until 256 teams are selected. Conference and independent teams are considered equally.

- 4) The point in the selection of teams when ties must be broken, proceed as follows:
 - a. Consider all games of tied teams – Award 1 point for each opponent's victory
 - b. If a tie remains, consider only games won by tied teams – Award 1 point for each opponent's victory
 - c. If two teams remain, use head-to-head competition
 - d. Consider the number of playoff teams that the tied teams played – Award 1 point for each playoff-bound team
 - e. Consider the total number of wins accumulated by the playoff teams that you played – Award 1 point for each opponent's victory
 - f. Consider the number of playoff teams that the tied teams played - determine the total defensive points allowed for those teams and the team with the fewer total points allowed would receive the playoff bid
 - g. Draw for remaining teams

F) Team Reimbursements: In the championship games, the IHSA will pay each school an amount based on its mileage from the site of the State Final based upon the following:

Round Trip Distance in Miles	Mileage Flat Rate	Allowance
0-150	\$750.00	\$5.00/mile
151-300	\$1,850.00	\$5.00/mile
301-over	\$2,700.00	\$5.00/mile

G) Unsportsmanlike Conduct: Managers and officials have the strictest instructions to disqualify any player or coach guilty of profane or indecent language or of gross unsportsmanlike conduct. The IHSA By-laws 4.061 and 3.141 give the Board of Directors complete authority to penalize a school for any unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of the principal, the coach, or any member of the faculty or Board of Education, or any other official representative of any participating school. This authority will be exercised by the Board of Directors.

H) All-Star Teams: No officers of the playoffs, nor any member official, nor anyone serving under the supervision of the IHSA may cooperate in any way in the selection of any All-Star playoff team.

I) Bands: The playing of the national anthem is to be done by the home school band unless it is mutually agreeable that the visiting team's band or both school bands should play. No PA music or band music is allowed after the Referee's ready-to-play whistle on each play. If there is no ready-for-play whistle, all music must stop when the offense breaks the huddle and heads to the line of scrimmage. If the offense runs a no-huddle offense, all music must stop when the offensive linemen are at the line of scrimmage.

The marching band of each competing school may perform at half-time of the game in which their school is involved. Each band will be allotted a maximum of six (6) minutes for its half-time performance. The band representing the visiting team shall perform first. Should only one band perform at halftime, the time allotment shall be twelve (12) minutes.



Note: At the State Finals, the national anthem will only be played prior to the first game on Friday and the first game on Saturday.

J. Artificial Noisemakers:

Fans are allowed to use artificial noisemakers at football playoff games if the host school administration approves.

K. Signs and Banners:

The display of signs, banners, placards, or similar items at IHSA state series events is permitted, provided:

- a. They are in good taste and reflect good sportsmanship in their message and use.
- b. They reflect identification and encouragement to participants and their school/community.
- c. They are not displayed on the field of play or in a manner that interferes with play.
- d. They do not obstruct the view of participants or spectators; and
- e. They are not safety hazards.

J) Cheerleaders and Mascots: The number of cheerleaders permitted to cheer for the championship games shall be the same number that has cheered in the current playoff games.

K) Damage to Property or Equipment: If contestants or people from any school entered in a state series are found guilty of carelessness or maliciously breaking, damaging, or destroying property or equipment belonging to the host school, such school shall be held responsible for costs incurred in replacing or repairing such property or equipment.

L) Pre-Game Practice: After pairings have been determined, play-off teams will not be allowed practice time on the playing field at the site of the State Final games. Further, hosting schools have no obligation to permit visiting teams access to the game field prior to one hour before the game.

M) Media Requirements:

1) Coverage

a. State Series hosts should work to accommodate media members with space to cover State Series events whenever possible.

b. For State Series events, the IHSA Press Box Policy should be used as a guide for determining media press box access should space become an issue.

2) Broadcasting

a. Radio or audio-only internet broadcasts are not subject to a broadcast rights fee at the Regional, Sectional, or Super-Sectional levels. A \$100 fee exists at the State Final round, pending approval by the IHSA after completion of the IHSA's broadcast application form.

b. If a State Series contest/event is broadcast on the NFHS Network, then there is no rights fee due and no other video streaming/TV broadcasts will be allowed, pending special permission from the IHSA.

c. If a State Series contest/event is not broadcast on the NFHS Network, then the broadcast rights may be purchased to broadcast via video streaming/TV pending approval by the IHSA after completion of the IHSA's broadcast application form.

Note: Broadcast application forms can be accessed by Googling "IHSA Broadcast Applications" or directly at [IHSA.org/News-Media/News-Media-Center/Broadcast-Applications](https://www.ihsa.org/News-Media/News-Media-Center/Broadcast-Applications)

N) Videotaping by Schools or Spectators: The following film and video taping policy shall be adhered to during the state series.

1) Videotaping will be allowed provided the local manager has a comparable area for both competing schools to videotape. When one school requests the video space, then the local manager shall provide similar space to both competing schools. Noncompeting schools and spectators will be allowed to videotape contests in the stand, provided they do not obstruct the view of participants and spectators.

2) Teams who qualify for the playoffs will be required to participate in a timely exchange of a minimum of two (2) films with their opponent for each round. The films exchanged will be selected by the opposing coach.

3) Coaches must contact the opposing coaches to set arrangements for film exchange. This film exchange must occur by 6:00 p.m. Sunday.

4) An IHSA Official Roster of players must be exchanged with the film.

5) Coaches must abide by Rule 1-6-1.

6) The home team must provide the visiting team a comparable area for an equal number of spotters, i.e. if you spot with three (3) from Press Box, the visitor must be able to spot with three (3) from Press Box or an area equal if they have a Press Box on the visitor's side.

O) Tobacco/Liquid Nicotine Products: The use of tobacco or liquid nicotine products in any competition area, either during practice or while a contest is in progress, or affiliated property of any IHSA state series contest by any coach, player, or any other person connected with a team, or fan shall be prohibited. State series hosts are required to make all-state series contest sites and any affiliated property, including parking lots, fan accommodation areas, and other school or event venue property, and tobacco/liquid nicotine-free zones on the date or dates of any IHSA event being held at the site.

P) Use of Inhalers: A student with asthma may possess and use his/her medication during an IHSA competition, while under the supervision of school personnel, provided the school meets the outlined procedures of self-administration in the Illinois School Code.

Q) Alcoholic Beverages and IHSA State Series: The possession, distribution, sale, and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages are prohibited at the site and on any affiliated property of any IHSA state series contest. State series hosts are required to make all-state series contest sites and any affiliated property, including parking lots, fan accommodation areas, and other school or event venue property, alcohol-free zones on the date or dates of any IHSA event being held at the site. Violation of this policy by an event host will subject the host to a penalty for violation of IHSA By-law 2.020. Such penalty may include but not necessarily be limited to prohibition against subsequent event hosting assignments. Violation of this policy by a non-hosting member school will subject the school to a penalty for violation of IHSA By-law 2.020. Patrons of any IHSA state series contest determined to be in violation of this policy will be removed from the premise, and law enforcement officials will be called as warranted. No ticket refunds will be granted in such cases.

R) Prayer over the Public Address System: Prayer at an IHSA state series contest that takes place over the public address system is prohibited.



X. AWARDS

Appropriate awards will be furnished by the IHSAA as follows:

- A) **Quarterfinal and Semifinal:** Each school in each class participating in the quarterfinal and/or semifinal round which does not advance to the next round will receive a suitable award.
- B) **Team Awards:** Trophies will be awarded to the winner and runner-up in each class in the State Final.
- C) **Individual Awards:** Medallions not to exceed fifty-five (55) (6 medallions are for Supt., Prin., AD, 2 coaches, and athletic trainer) will be presented to members of the winning and runner-up team in each class at the State Final. Qualifying schools may purchase additional medallions by contacting the IHSAA Office.
- D) **Awards Presentation:** Superintendent, Principal, AD, Head Coach, and Captains will be recognized at the conclusion of the state final contest.

XI. OFFICIALS

- A) **Appointments and Fees:** Where possible certified football officials will work the playoff games. Playoff officials will be appointed by the IHSAA Office. According to National Federation rules, there is no appeal. Officials' decisions are final.
- B) **First and Second Round:** Each official shall receive \$90.00 per game (crew of five). The IHSAA office will pay all playoff officials.
- C) **Quarterfinal Round:** Each official shall receive \$112.00 per game (crew of five). The IHSAA office will pay all playoff officials.
- D) **Semifinal Round:** Each official shall receive \$152.00 per game (crew of five). The IHSAA office will pay all playoff officials.
- E) **Championship Games:** Each official shall receive \$200.00 per game, plus up to one night's lodging at a hotel designated by the IHSAA Administrator (crew of five).
- F) **Mileage Reimbursement Policy:** In the state series, to assist officials for out-of-pocket expenses, a voucher system will be used to compensate officials when they actually drive in excess of 70 miles round trip per contest. Payment will be made through the IHSAA Office, after completion of the tournament series, at a rate of forty-five cents per mile for all mileage more than 70 miles round trip. No compensation will be permitted for trips of less than 70 miles round trip.