

BY-LAW ARTICLE XIX

Football

Boys

Sect. 1: Football shall be administered by the NHIAA Football Committee and the rules of the National Federation will govern the sport when applicable.

Sect. 2: Medical Coverage

- A. A **licensed** physician, trainer, or emergency medical technician must be provided by the host school and in attendance and on duty for all interscholastic football jamborees, scrimmages, and games for all levels, varsity and sub-varsity, during the regular season and all tournament round games.
- B. Medical coverage, as stated under By-Law Article III, Sect. 1, must be provided for all levels of practice (varsity and sub-varsity) involving player contact.
- C. The medical person shall be responsible for both teams unless the visiting school has its own physician, trainer, or emergency medical technician.
- D. The judgment of the medical person will be final with regard to the medical condition of a player. No player may continue to play against the medical person's advice.
- E. The penalty for violation of this provision is forfeiture of the game and possible disciplinary action by the Football Committee.

Note: Student trainers, high school or college, cannot be used to meet the provisions of this By-Law.

Sect. 3: General Regulations

- A. Football will not be permitted in the NHIAA member schools from the Saturday following Thanksgiving until the opening date of practice in the fall. A player must participate in five (5) practice days before participating in a football game, scrimmage, or jamboree.
- B. All fall schedules shall be submitted to the Executive Director by May 1st. Schedule forms will be provided by the NHIAA.
- C. The NHIAA and the Football Committee shall be notified at the first opportunity concerning postponement of a regularly scheduled football game, together with the intention to reschedule or cancel.
- D. The home team in all football games will accept responsibility for the organization and administration of the half-time program. This program shall be conducted within the time limits established by the rules of the game.
- E. Playing Rules:
 - 1. All high school football games played in New Hampshire will be played in accordance with the National Federation playing rules.
 - 2. Uniforms: The higher seeded team will wear dark colored uniforms and the lower seeded team will wear light colored uniforms.
 - 3. Scrimmages: It is recommended that all interschool football scrimmages (sub-varsity included) be officiated by at least one certified football official.
- F. Practice Requirements:

First three (3) calendar days of practice: Shoes, helmets and shoulder pads. No contact.

Calendar days four (4) and five (5) of practice: Full pads permitted, contact with sleds and dummies allowed, and limited player-to-player contact i.e., contact within drills; no scrimmages.

Calendar day six (6) of practice: Full contact.

Sect. 4: Divisional Alignment

Football shall be aligned into six (6) divisions based upon enrollments and petitions subject to the approval of the Classification Committee. If the number of schools in a division is six (6) or less after petitions, then schools will be realigned.

2011-12 Football Divisional Alignment

DIV. I (1700+)		DIV. II (1235–1699)		DIV. III (885–1234)	
9 Schools		9 Schools		9 Schools	
Pinkerton	3325	Keene	1654	*Goffstown	1235
Nashua - South	2226	Dover	1563	Bedford	1223
Man. Central	2220	Spaulding	1550	Portsmouth	1048
Man. Memorial	2092	Merrimack	1514	Con-Val	1011
Nashua - North	2003	Timberlane	1477	Milford	959
Concord	1878	Alvirne	1463	Pembroke	946
Salem	1850	Man. West	1383	Hollis/Brookline	903
Londonderry	1765	Winnacunnet	1265	Souhegan	894
Exeter	1701	*Bishop Guertin	886	*Pelham	690
DIV. IV (690–884)		DIV. V (550–689)		DIV. VI (1–549)	
10 Schools		10 Schools		10 Schools	
*Merr. Valley	910	*Sanborn	755	*Epping-Newmarket	603
Kingswood	872	*Windham	734	*Gilford	571
Kennett	853	St. Thomas	676	Winnisquam	538
John Stark	838	Kearsarge	640	Newfound	464
Laconia	782	Stevens	635	Raymond	459
Plymouth	748	Fall Mt.	632	Farmington	443
Hanover	740	Bow	613	Franklin	437
Lebanon	698	Somersworth	588	Mascoma	436
*Monadnock	649	Campbell	550	Newport	409
*Trinity	409	*Bishop Brady	369	*Inter-Lakes Moultonborough	388

* Petition

Sect. 5: Criteria of Play

No school may play another school more than once during the regular season except when the number of schools in a division is eight (8) or less after petitions, then a school may play one other school twice during the regular season. Thanksgiving Day games are to be submitted on your original schedule. However, these games will not count toward your maximum/minimum number of games nor will they be counted in the standings.

Sect. 6: Tournament Selection

For All Divisions:

Tournament selection will be based on

1. Win/Loss record in division games. In case of a tie the Tie-Breaking Procedure (Sect. 7) will be applied.
2. Only games in division will count toward tournament selection prior to the Tie-Breaking Procedure.

Divisions I – VI will use the win/loss record to determine tournament selection. The four schools in each Division with the highest win/loss record shall qualify for the playoffs. All games must be played in Division. Only games in Division will count toward tournament selection. Non-divisional and out-of-state games DO NOT count in the standings for all divisions.

Sect. 7: Tie Breaking Procedure

In the event of a tie for a tournament position, the Football Committee shall resolve the tie by using the following criteria:

- A. If two schools are tied for a tournament position:
 - 1. The winner of head-to-head competition will be selected.
 - 2. The Football Point Rating System will be applied.
 - 3. Rating against NHIAA division opponents selected for the tournament including all teams involved in a tie for the last position. Once the tournament teams have been selected, the teams that were tied for the last position are no longer used in breaking ties as they are not considered tournament teams.
 - 4. Quality of wins against tournament teams in class including all teams involved in a tie for the last position.
 - 5. Wins against opponents on the road regardless of division.
 - 6. Wins against opponents at home regardless of division.
 - 7. If teams are still tied, the team that defeated the highest NHIAA seeded team in their division (includes both tournament and non-tournament teams) will be selected.
 - 8. As determined by sports committee.
- B. If three or more schools are tied for a tournament position:
 - 1. The rating in head-to-head competition will be used if all schools involved in the tie have competed against each other.
 - 2. The Football Point Rating System will be applied.
 - 3. Rating against NHIAA division opponents selected for the tournament including all teams involved in a tie for the last position. Once the tournament teams have been selected, the teams that were tied for the last position are no longer used in breaking ties as they are not considered tournament teams.
 - 4. Quality of wins against tournament teams in class including all teams involved in a tie for the last position.
 - 5. Wins against opponents on the road regardless of division.
 - 6. Wins against opponents at home regardless of division.
 - 7. If teams are still tied, the team that defeated the highest NHIAA seeded team in their division (includes both tournament and non-tournament teams) will be selected.
 - 8. As determined by sports committee.

Note: The final tournament positions will be determined before seeding.

Sect. 8: Football Rating System

The point rating system that will be used to break ties for playoff seeding purposes:

10 points per win

Out-of-state games and out of Division will not be rated

Opponents' Value earned as a result of wins or ties by opponents who were beaten or tied by a school:

	WIN	TIE
Beaten opponent	2	1
Tied opponent	1	.5

The point rating of a school will be determined by adding the total of "own value" plus "opponents' value" and dividing by the number of games played by the school.

Sect. 9: Playoff Game Sites and Officials

- A. All playoff games in each division will be played at the site of the higher seeded school. In the case of a tie or other conditions, playoff games will be played as determined by the Football Committee.
- B. Officials for all playoff games will be selected by a committee composed of the Chairman of the Football Committee, the Supervisor of Football Officials and the Executive Director of the NHIAA.

Sect. 10: Awards

Official NHIAA championship and runner-up plaques, in addition to 45 team medals, will be awarded to the respective champion and runner-up teams in each division.