

## **GHSA FOOTBALL PLAYOFF SYSTEM**

The GHSA Football Playoff system has gone various routes over the last several years, and there have been positives and negatives both ways. GHSA is trying a “hybrid system” this year that we believe will be better for all involved, players, coaches, & officials. Dr. Hines, Ernie Yarbrough, and I have met with and listened to officials and coaches from all over the state, and this plan incorporates many of the concerns and ideas expressed. Like any plan, for it to work, you the working parts, must be on board.

### **District Crews.**

GHSA will allow each of the six Districts to nominate two crews.

- We want each association to nominate quality officials for the District Crew/s by Week 4 of the season.
- These officials will be evaluated and crew/s chosen by Week 9 of the season, and beginning with Week 11 start working together and stay together as a crew, as far as they progress in the playoffs.
- We would like to ask that where possible nominations would be in pairs, if proficiency levels are similar, (ie. Referee and umpire, side judges, back judges, or side judge and back judge on the same side.) If you only have one official in any of these categories to nominate, please nominate that official.
- We are “strongly asking” that each association nominates some of their top officials for these District Crews. District Crews will be selected and working together before Association crews have to be nominated for Quarter-Final, Semi-Final, and Final assignments, and officials not chosen to be on the District crews are available for your Association Crews.
- Officials should be asked for availability prior to nomination, and if they will not be available during all of the last three weeks of the playoffs, or not be available to be evaluated, you should go in another direction.

**Association Crews:** GHSA will allow each Association to nominate one crew if they have less than 100 registered officials and two crews if they have more than 100 registered officials.

These association crews will be evaluated during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> rounds of the playoffs and will be considered for the Quarter Finals, Semi Finals and Finals.

Officials selected will be evaluated after each round for advancement. No predetermination that a crew will work in future rounds after the Quarter Finals.

Association crews will be assigned to work the remainder of the 112 1st Round and 64 2nd Round games, not assigned to District Crews. These assignments, as in the past, will be made by the Association after being told by GHSA how many games their Association was asked to call. Be certain that your Association nominated crews are working in these rounds for evaluations.

Associations are reminded that the crews will be judged by the weakest link, and trying to place someone in the mix that doesn't belong may jeopardize your crew's chances of being selected.

**Both District and Association Crews:** Keeping crews from the same District together, and by keeping Association crews together, this should foster great continuity with the crew and mean less travel. This should also make paying everyone easier for the GHSA Office.

Chain Crews and clock operator/s in the playoffs should be supplied by the Host School's Home Association. If Finals are in the Benz, chain crews and clock operators will be selected to work two games each day.

Hopefully many evaluations will be made in person, but we will ask for films of all crews if needed.

Football is going to the same rule concerning working multiple years in the Finals as other GHSA power ranked sports, no one can work more than 3 consecutive years without taking a year off. They are eligible to work through the Semi-finals, and return to the Finals in future years.

Selected District Crew Coordinators will be allowed to work on either a District or Association crew in all rounds of the playoffs, with the stipulation that they furnish a contact person to all the crews for which they are responsible. This person must be able to fix a problem if something goes wrong, along with my assistance if necessary.

All Officials nominated must be at least in their third year and have at least an 80 on this years exam.

Bottom line, we want all our officials treated fairly, and wish everyone could have the opportunity to work a championship game. GHSA also believes that our players and coaches deserve the utmost in quality from our selected officials. In our opinion this will reconcile our wants and beliefs.

Tommy