

Why Another Football Playoff Plan? SCHEDULING!

Background

Scheduling six wins, the current basic requirement to qualify for the state football tournament, has caused an annual scheduling nightmare as Michigan football teams, who are traditionally successful, struggle to find teams that will agree to play them often travelling excessive distances, breaking-up traditional rivalries and causing conference re-alignments.

Last spring and again last December a joint committee composed of MHSFCA playoff committee members and members of the MIAAA met to consider alternatives to the “Win six and you’re in” plan currently in place - alternatives that would have the potential to make scheduling football games less of a “challenge” for all involved. This committee thoroughly discussed several alternatives including:

Every team competing in 11 man football would qualify.

The MHSAA would do the scheduling for all teams.

Implementing the “Strength of Schedule” from 2013.

Implementing the Strength of Schedule (SOS) plan from 2013 with a “Conference Multiplier” to equalize conferences that include member schools of different sizes (Division 1 and Division 3, Division 4 and Division 6, *etc.*).

The joint committee unanimously supported a plan that “adjusted” the original point values of the Strength of Schedule proposal from 2013.

The Joint MHSFCA/MIAAA Committee

Barbieri, Tom	MHSFCA	Playoff Chair/Jackson	Kalbfleisch, Daniel	MIAAA	Gibraltar Carlson
Bush, Brad	MHSFCA	Past President/Chelsea	Lattig, Greg	MIAAA	President/Mason
Copeland, Curt	MIAAA	GR S. Christian/OK Conf	Merx, Larry	MHSFCA	Executive Director/Chelsea MS
Dunn, Bill	MIAAA	Saugatuck	Nummerdor, Jack	MIAAA	Holton
Evoy, Mike	MIAAA	Detroit Catholic League	Pratley, Andrew	MHSFCA	Playoff Committee/Holland
Farley, Scott	MHSFCA	2nd VP/Jackson	Vaughn, Greg	MHSFCA	Playoff Committee/TC West
Griffith, Shawn	MHSFCA	Reg 8/Constantine			

Adjusted Strength of Schedule

At the request of the joint committee, the MHSAA evaluated the results of the 2016 season for each 11-man team competing in that year’s schedule using the original SOS point system. After analyzing the numbers and how they affected tournament qualifiers, the points system was re-evaluated and adjusted.

The MHSAA then ran the results of the 2017, 11-man season using the “adjusted” point values.

The joint committee discovered that schools that played competitive schedules would continue to qualify for the tournament without regard to the number of wins they had. A very few schools that qualified in 2017 with six wins would not have qualified under the SOS plan - because many of their wins were against very weak opponents.

On January 25, 2018 the MHSAA Football Committee met and considered the adjusted “Adjusted Strength of Schedule” plan for calculating football playoff qualifiers. The adjustment consisted of different numbers used to reward schools for playing teams who are: larger (Bonus Points) and/or more successful (Win Points) than their own team. The plan was approved to bring to the Representative Council by a 19-2 vote.

What’s Different

- The number of wins plays no part in determining who qualifies.
- Teams will know what Division they will compete in in the Spring preceding the football season.
- Playoff points will be calculated according to a team’s Division. (Not their Class.)
- A team will receive points for each of its opponents’ wins. (Whether they beat the opponent or not.)
- “Win” points are greater the larger the size of the opponent.
- Out of state opponents will be placed in a Division (Not a Class) dependent on their size.

**Current FCA “Win Six and You’re In”
Compared to
“Adjusted Strength of Schedule Plan”**

	Current MHSAA	Adjusted Strength of Schedule (Nov 2017)
Playoff Divisions Set...	On Selection Sunday, after 256 team field has been determined	Equal Divisions set prior to the season. Total number of schools playing 11-man divided by 8.
Points for a Win	Class A = 80 points Class B = 64 points Class C = 48 points Class D = 32 points	Division 1 = 60 points Division 2 = 55 points Division 3 = 50 points Division 4 = 45 points Division 5 = 40 points Division 6 = 35 points Division 7 = 30 points Division 8 = 25 points WIN POINTS
Automatic Qualifiers	6 wins or 5 wins with an 8-game schedule	None
To be considered for the playoffs	5 wins or 4 wins with an 8 game schedule	None
Bonus points for Opponents’ wins & losses	Team A gets more points (8) for each win by an opponent Team A defeats, and fewer points (1) for each win by an opponent by which Team A was defeated by.	Team A gets points for each of its opponents wins regardless of whether or not Team A defeated the opponent.
Bonus points multiplier	The multiplier is 8 or 1	The multiplier changes depending on the size of each opponent. Div 1 = 6 points Div 2 = 6 points Div 3 = 5 points Div 4 = 5 points Div 5 = 4 points Div 6 = 4 points Div 7 = 3 points Div 8 = 2 points BONUS POINTS
Out of State Teams	Placed into a Class based on enrollment	Placed into a Division based on enrollment

Frequently Asked Questions - Adjusted Strength of Schedule Plan

What makes this different than the one that was proposed a few years ago?

After the last proposal was not approved by the Representative Council, we started asking why and began to address some specific team and league issues. We looked at many potential solutions but found that by changing the math for both the win points and bonus points we were able to solve the problems in the previous plan.

How is this different than what we had before we went to six wins and in?

Prior to the current system teams were selected by points, but that was done in predetermined districts. The problem of course is that some 8-1 and even 9-0 teams were left out simply by geography, not on quality of wins. The current, Adjusted Strength of Schedule, proposal selects the top 32 teams in each division of the state based on playoff points regardless of location.

Won't this cause some leagues to break up?

While nobody can predict the future, we do expect the pendulum to swing back in a different direction initially. Leagues have broken up due to football and trying to find six wins. If anything, we feel leagues might go back to a more geographical set-up and we believe the new proposal helps each school find games more easily by allowing for match-ups that might otherwise not take place.

When would this take effect?

The proposal, if passed, would go into effect starting with the 2020 football season. This will allow people to finish current contracts.

Team #1 Using Current Playoff Point System Requiring 6 Wins to Qualify

TEAM:		TEAM #1									
		Final Record: 8-1									
	Class	School	W/L	Playoff Pts	Opp. W	Opp. L	Adj. Opp. W	Multiplier	Bonus Points	Opp Gms	BP Avg
Week 1	B		W	64	7	2	7	8	56	9	6.22
Week 2	C		W	48	6	3	6	8	48	9	5.33
Week 3	B		W	64	4	5	4	8	32	9	3.56
Week 4	B		W	64	6	3	6	8	48	9	5.33
Week 5	B		W	64	6	3	6	8	48	9	5.33
Week 6	B		W	64	8	2	8	8	64	9	7.11
Week 7	B		W	64	7	2	7	8	56	9	6.22
Week 8	B		L	0	9	0	8	1	8	9	0.89
Week 9	B		W	80	4	5	4	8	32	9	3.56
				Playoff Points				Bonus Points	Total		
				/ Games Played				/ Games Played	Playoff		
				Playoff Point Avg.				Bonus Point Avg.	Points		
				512				392	100.44		
				9				9			
				56.89				43.56			

Team #1 Using Adjusted Playoff Point System NO Number of Wins Required to Qualify

TEAM:		TEAM #1									
		Final Record: 8-1									
	Division	School	W/L	Playoff Pts	Opp. W	Opp. L	Adj. Opp. W	Multiplier	Bonus Points	Opp Gms	BP Avg
Week 1	Div 3		W	50	7	2	7	5	35	9	3.89
Week 2	Div 6		W	35	6	3	6	4	24	9	2.67
Week 3	Div 4		W	45	4	5	4	5	20	9	2.22
Week 4	Div 4		W	45	6	3	6	5	30	9	3.33
Week 5	Div 4		W	45	6	3	6	5	30	9	3.33
Week 6	Div 4		W	45	8	2	8	5	40	9	4.44
Week 7	Div 3		W	50	7	2	7	5	35	9	3.89
Week 8	Div 5		L	0	9	0	8	4	32	9	3.56
Week 9	Div 4		W	45	4	5	4	5	20	9	2.22
				Playoff Points				Bonus Points	Total		
				/ Games Played				/ Games Played	Playoff		
				Playoff Point Avg.				Bonus Point Avg.	Points		
				360				266	69.56		
				9				9			
				40.00				29.56			

Team #2 Using Current Playoff Point System Requiring 6 Wins to Qualify

TEAM:		TEAM #2									
		Final Record: 5-4									
	Class	School	W/L	Playoff Pts	Opp. W	Opp. L	Adj. Opp. W	Multiplier	Bonus Points	Opp Gms	BP Avg
Week 1	A		L	0	7	2	6	1	6	9	0.67
Week 2	B		W	64	6	3	6	8	48	9	5.33
Week 3	B		W	64	4	5	4	8	32	9	3.56
Week 4	A		L	0	6	3	5	1	5	9	0.56
Week 5	B		W	64	6	3	6	8	48	9	5.33
Week 6	B		L	0	8	2	7	1	7	9	0.78
Week 7	A		L	0	7	2	6	1	6	9	0.67
Week 8	B		W	64	3	6	3	8	24	9	2.67
Week 9	A		W	80	4	5	4	8	32	9	3.56
				Playoff Points				Bonus Points	Total		
				/ Games Played				/ Games Played	Playoff		
				Playoff Point Avg.				Bonus Point Avg.	Points		
				336				208	60.44		
				9				9			
				37.33				23.11			

Team #2 Using Adjusted Playoff Point System NO Number of Wins Required to Qualify

TEAM:		TEAM #2									
		Final Record: 5-4									
	Division	School	W/L	Playoff Pts	Opp. W	Opp. L	Adj. Opp. W	Multiplier	Bonus Points	Opp Gms	BP Avg
Week 1	Div 1		L	0	7	2	6	6	36	9	4.00
Week 2	Div 4		W	45	6	3	6	5	30	9	3.33
Week 3	Div 3		W	50	4	5	4	5	20	9	2.22
Week 4	Div 2		L	0	6	3	5	6	30	9	3.33
Week 5	Div 4		W	45	6	3	6	5	30	9	3.33
Week 6	Div 2		L	0	8	2	7	6	42	9	4.67
Week 7	Div 3		L	0	7	2	6	5	30	9	3.33
Week 8	Div 3		W	50	3	6	3	5	15	9	1.67
Week 9	Div 2		W	55	4	5	4	6	24	9	2.67
				Playoff Points				Bonus Points	Total		
				/ Games Played				/ Games Played	Playoff		
				Playoff Point Avg.				Bonus Point Avg.	Points		
				245				257	55.78		
				9				9			
				27.22				28.56			