

PLAY-OFF SPECIAL



IT'S A REALITY!!

BLUE-RIBBON GROUP OK'S PREP PLAY-OFFS

When the Michigan high school football coaches formed an association in 1972, one of its primary goals was to see a state high school play-off become a reality. But it's unlikely that anyone expected that to happen so quickly.

Now, however, there is every reason to expect that an actual playoff will be held in 1975.

At its May, 1973, meeting, the Representative Council established a Blue Ribbon Football Play-off Committee to study the possibilities of a play-off. At its first meeting in October, the Blue Ribbon Committee asked the members who were also coaches to further define the procedures, which was completed in later meetings of the coaches.

On February 26, the entire Committee met for the second time and made recommendations to be presented to the high school principals for consideration. The Committee congratulated the coaches for the professional manner in which the material was organized and presented. The Committee felt there was merit to the proposal.

The Committee urges principals to seriously study the recommendations, talk to their own coaches and administrative staff members, or to the Blue Ribbon Committee Members, before making a decision.

The Blue Ribbon Committee recommended the following items:

1. A paper play-off to be run in 1974 with all the totals computed to determine the winners in each region but they would not actually play-off. After an evaluation of the paper play-off, consider an actual play-off in 1975 and 1976 and re-evaluate at that time.

A system utilizing four regions in each class. The regions will be composed of those 40 to 50 teams in the Districts and Regionals that could

have won and gone into the previous year's basketball quarter-final centers.

3. That the schools continue their classification through the play-offs in the same class as the school was the previous spring.

4. A system of point accumulation for football play-offs in each region as formulated by the Football Coaches Association. (A copy of the system is enclosed for your study.)

Members of the Blue Ribbon Committee are Charles Arnane, principal, Wyoming-Godwin Heights; Roger Chiaverini, football coach, Muskegon Catholic Central; Donald Clark, principal, Capac; John K. Cotton, athletic director, Farmington Public Schools; Donna Curtiss, principal, Lawrence; John Dean, football coach-athletic director, Detroit Northern; Dave Driscoll, football coach, Jackson-Parkside; Willard Fensch, principal, Warren Lincoln; Donald Gaviglio, principal, Flint Northern; Art Gillespie, boys physical education director, Alpena; Leslie F. Green, superintendent, Clarkston; Robert Hall, executive secretary, MASSP, Ann Arbor; Earl Lancaster, superintendent, St. Johns; Reed Laughlin, athletic director, Port Huron; Harry Monson, principal, Iron River-West Iron County; Harley Pierce, football coach, Sturgis; Marvin Shebel, principal, Cheboygan.

Members of the football coaches play-off committee are: Art Gillespie, chairman, Alpena; Rich Jeric, Monroe; Dutch Schrottenboer, Alpena; Harley Pierce, Sturgis; Dave Driscoll, Jackson Parkside; Ron Holland, North Farmington. When the playoffs become a reality the football coaches association, the MHSAA, the representative Council, and the Blue Ribbon Committee members will truly appreciate the effort of Art Gillespie. Art has done a fantastic job in studying, selling, promoting, and explaining the football coaches association position in establishing a state football play-off.

Each Class Broken Into Four Regions For Play-off

The Blue Ribbon Committee proposed a system using four regions in each of the state four classes -- A, B, C and D. It also added that the regions will be composed of all those teams feeding into the previous year's basketball quarter-final centers.

Figures from the Michigan High School Athletic Association indicate an interesting breakdown in the make-up of the four quarter-final centers in each class.

Region I has 47 Class A schools, 49 in class B, 47 in C and 36 in Class D. Region II breaks down like this: 43 in Class A, 53 in Class B, 50 in Class C and 33 in Class D. Region III: 48 in A, 49 in B, 48 in C, 38 in D. Region IV: 48 in A, 30 in B, 38 in C and 27 in D. Region III has the most schools overall, 185, while Region IV has the fewest, 143. Regions I and II have 179 schools each total.

The 1974 February Tournament Issue of the MHSAA Bulletin (pages 362 to 372) has a complete breakdown of the basketball quarter-final centers and the districts and regionals feeding into each center in each Class. If interested, coaches can determine which quarter-final center they will be eligible for and those teams which would compete with them in that quarter-final center.

System Of Accumulating Points For Football Play-off

(RECOMMENDED BY FOOTBALL COACHES BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE)

1. If adopted, the play-off will be administered by the Michigan High School Athletic Association. Participation by member schools in the play-offs will be voluntary.
2. The margin of winning in a game will have no effect on the number of play-off points a team receives.
3. Four Regions to be formed from the schools feeding into the Quarter-Finals of the previous year Basketball Tournaments.
4. The team in each region in each classification accumulating the greatest number of play-off points will be eligible for the first round game in the play-offs. In the event a qualifying team chooses not to compete, the next highest eligible team will qualify.
5. In each class four teams, one from each region, qualify to the first round games. The winners of those two games will play in the final game.
6. Play-off ranking is determined by dividing the total number of play-off points and bonus

points by the number of games played. A member school must play a minimum of seven games to be eligible.

7. Out of state competitor schools enrollments will be transposed to Michigan classification.
8. Play-off points are received for winning, or tying, or when an opponent that has defeated you wins. When a team defeated by you wins or ties a game with an opponent your team receives bonus points. The accumulation of play-off points and bonus points is divided by the number of games you played to get your play-off total rounded off to the nearest one thousandths.
9. In case of ties in ranking a winner, the tied teams will be selected by the one being ahead at end of third quarter most often. If still tied, at end of half. If still tied, at end of first quarter. If still tied, by drawing by lot.
10. To be considered all games must be completed by Sunday of ninth date in zone 1; first round games played on 10th date; Finals on

11th football date.

Points will be accumulated as follows:

Play-off points:

Your team receives 80 points for beating a Class A team; 64 points for beating a Class B team; 48 points for beating a Class C team and 32 points for beating a Class D team. Your team will receive 40 points for a tie with a Class A team; 32 points for a tie with a Class B team; 24 points for a tie with a Class C team; and 16 points for a tie with a Class D team.

Bonus points:

8 bonus points are earned for each game one of the opponents you defeated wins.
4 bonus points are earned for each game one of the opponents you defeated ties.
4 bonus points are earned for each game one of the opponents you tied wins.
1 bonus point is earned for each game one of the opponents you tied ties.
1 bonus point is awarded when an opponent defeats you, wins.

Example: Your team is a Class B team and had the following record:

Game	Won or Lost by You	Class of Opponent	Play-off Points	Bonus Points	Total Points
1	Won	B	64	8	72
2	Won	C	48	36	84
3	Won	A	80	36	116
4	Lost	B	0	7	7
5	Lost	C	0	0	0
6	Tied	A	40	20	60
7	Won	B	64	64	128
8	Won	D	32	32	64
Divide by 8					531

Play-off points for Ranking 66.375

Clarification of the Bonus Points received from other games won or tied by your opponents from the above schedule are as follows:

- a. Opponents in game 1: lost 6 games; won from Class B school (1) (8 bonus points)
- b. Opponent in game 2: lost 3 games; tied a Class B team (4); won over 4 Class C teams (32) (36 bonus points)
- c. Opponent in game 3: tied one Class B team

(4); won 2 Class A games (16); (20 bonus points)

- d. Opponent in game 4: won all games but this one (7 wins) (7 bonus points)
- e. Opponent in game 5: you lost (0) opponent lost all games (bonus points 0)
- f. Opponent in game 6: tied one Class A game (4); tied one Class B game (4); won 3 Class A

games (12); lost 3 Class A games (0) (0 bonus points)

- g. Opponent in game 7: won 4 Class A games (32); won four Class B games (32) (64 bonus points)
- h. Opponent in game 8: won 3 Class C games (24); tied one Class D game (4); lost 2 Class C games (0); lost 2 Class D games (0); tied one Class D game (4) (32 bonus points)

Directions For Computing Your Rating

Using the following directions and the enclosed rating form, (separate sheet), coaches may tabulate the number of points they accumulate weekly and their season's total. When divided by number of games played, the average point total is determined. Determining factor in selecting each regional champion will be the average point total for the season.

1. After posting in a box eleven horizontal and vertical weekly football dates, that make up your schedule you list in each box your opponents city, name of the high school, and the class of their high school
2. Then enter your school's schedule on a diagonal under corresponding dates. Please use a different colored pencil or circle the entry in pencil.
3. Under corresponding dates enter the schedule of your opponents horizontally (across) under the corresponding date.
4. In the top small square to the right of the city, place a large capital W if you win, an L if you lose, and a capital T if tied for your

opponents opponent. For teams you have played, only record the point total. Remember you are only recording your direct game results of your opponents opponent.

5. In the top small square place the points you will have won for playing your opponent. For beating a Class:

A	B	C	D
80	64	48	32
For a tie: 40	32	24	16

6. Now record the following Bonus Points in the lower small square.

8 bonus points are earned for each game one of the opponents you defeated wins.
4 bonus points are earned for each game one of the opponents you defeated ties.
4 bonus points are earned for each game one of the opponents you tied wins.
1 bonus point is earned for each game one of the opponents you tied, ties.
1 bonus point is awarded when an opponent who defeated you wins.

7. If after your fifth game you feel your team is a contender for the state football play-off, forward a second copy of this schedule to the state office with the rest of your schedule recorded and your opponents schedule completely filled out EXCEPT POINTS. For the remainder of your schedule you must send in your weekly game results so they are in the state office by 12:00 a.m. the Monday after the weekend played.

8. At the conclusion of your season, add and record the total points gained for the season. Add across and record in the total column.

9. Add the total points earned for the entire season (down) and divide by the number of games played for your seasonal rating to the nearest thousandth.

10. For those teams that have previously decided to participate in the football play-off, return this sheet to the state office by November 15, signed by the athletic director or principal.

PRINCIPALS TO RECEIVE A PLAY-OFF QUESTIONNAIRE

Complete information concerning the procedures for the recommended high school football play-off has been sent to the principal of each senior high school sponsoring football.

After careful consideration, the principals will have an opportunity to express opinions and vote on the proposed play-off procedures.

Upon receipt of the principals questionnaire, no later than April 21st, the results of the play-off tabulation will be available to the Council at its May meeting.

The sample questionnaire for the principal to sign is shown below:

We have discussed the football play-off system with staff members.

CHECK ONE

- () We DO want a paper play-off in 1974; then have an evaluation of it to consider actual play-offs the next two years.
() We DO NOT want a paper play-off in 1974 with further consideration of actual play-offs the next two years.

Please list reasons why you voted as you did.

(School)

(Date)

(Signed)

(Principal)

APPLICATION FORM

On _____, _____, there will be a recommended regional meeting, statewide, for all football coaches and interested persons to inform and discuss the present MHSAA blue-ribbon committees recommendation on playoffs.

The Region _____ meeting will be held on _____ at _____, starting at _____ p.m.

It is important that all members of the association and any guests attend this meeting.

Yes, I will attend and will bring _____ guests.

No, I cannot attend.

The Pros and Cons...

A MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAY-OFF

There has been a great deal of conversation in recent months concerning the pros and cons of a state high school football play-off. The Michigan High School Football Coaches Association, after hours of research and discussion, has come up with a list of items which most regularly are brought up when "pros and cons" are discussed.

The following list is to help acquaint you with the various arguments favoring a state tournament. Also, there's a list of anti-play-off arguments. It is important that all of the state's football coaches are familiar with the arguments. This is by no means a conclusive list but is meant only to give you some ideas.

PROS - For a football play-off

1. We are in agreement by recognizing what the National Federation of State High School Association has to say in their statement of purpose and philosophy.
2. Only 16 schools would have their season extended one week and only eight out of the 630 schools would extend their season two weeks.
3. The play-off is educationally sound.
4. The play-off game would be played on Saturday.
5. Michigan would then bring their total season games in line with other states.
6. by using a point system in selecting a regional champion, it will provide an unbiased method of determining the best high school team.
7. Thirty states are currently involved in a football play-off.
8. Provides a new dimension of motivation.
10. Provides a comparison of excellence of geographical areas.

11. Provides a social experience in living for teams and gives spectators the opportunity to follow a successful team.
12. Provides revenue for the state.

CONS

1. Lengthen the regular season. (2 weeks for 8 teams)
2. Interferes with the school day. (?)
3. Too much emphasis on football competition. (No more than any other state play-off)
4. Interferes with school activities. (?)
5. Too many problems involved with such a play-off. (Over 30 other states have overcome)
6. Cold and muddy weather conditions. (On artificial turf)
7. Not a good way to determine a true regional champion.
8. Financial problem (It will pay for itself)
9. Possible League busting in order to play a independent schedule of the better schools in other leagues.

Conditioning Week Big Hit

The Rules Committee, in a survey of 317 schools, discovered that all but one - 316 - used the extra week of conditioning. The survey shows an unquestionable acceptance of the early week and also that the beginning of the season could possibly be moved ahead one week, for either reasons of weather, facilities or moving the program closer to the Upper Peninsula, which starts two weeks earlier.

Coaches

The MHSFCA Needs More Members



JOIN TODAY

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACHES ASSN.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR



TO:

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Reverview High
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