



MIAA Football Committee Meeting Highlights June 15, 2021

The Football Committee met virtually on June 15, 2021 with approximately 22 people on the call including football committee members, MIAA staff, tournament directors and media.

Football Alignment Update: Jim O’Leary detailed actions relative to the Fall 2021 alignment process. A total of 59 schools applied for an appeal, 44 were granted and 15 were denied. The goal is for final alignments to be available by the end of June.

Football Format: The format was approved at the previous meeting in March. The committee discussed the non-playoff scheduling for weeks 9 & 10. It was agreed that non-playoff scheduling committees would work regionally to schedule games. Don Heres, AD Northeast Metro, brought forward a proposal for the vocational schools to opt out of week 10 of the non-playoff bracket. The “opt out” would only be for those vocational schools not participating in the MIAA State Football Tournament.

Motion: Add language to the format, “The Non-Playoff Scheduling Committee will give consideration for vocational schools to align vocational opponents for week 10.” (D. Heres/J. O’Leary) **APPROVED** 14-0-1

Members also discussed the possibility of a team with 0, 1 or 2 wins to be seated in the tournament because of the power rating system. Members expressed concern that teams with less than 3 wins should not be entered into the state tournament.

Motion: Add language to the format, “To qualify for Tournament Play, teams must have won no less than three (3) games.” (S. Dombowski/R. Conway) **APPROVED** 7-6-2

NFHS and MIAA promotion, #ThisIsHSFootball: Richard Pearson showed a video put together by the NFHS to promote the sport of football across the country. Other resources, which can be found on the MIAA Football Committee page, are available for schools to utilize on social media and with their school communities. <https://thisishighschoolfootball.com/>

Officials Topics: Tom Azevedo, football official’s representative, spoke to the efforts officials have done to continue education on NFHS rules. He discussed work on moving the umpire back behind the defense to better observe the playing field. He also mentioned to the committee one rule change for 2021 relative to blocking below the waist which will be emphasized for the upcoming season.

Other Topics: A few members of the committee discussed the challenge of finding an additional team medical person, one for each varsity team, which will now be required as a result of the rule change approved for July 1, 2021. Committee members discussed the challenge and their thoughts on how best to manage the new rule requirement.

Next meeting: TBD, Fall 2021

EDUCATIONAL ATHLETICS

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