



MHSFCA Preferred Plan Options - Amended 12/1/2020

PLAN #1 The Preferred Plan of MHSFCA

10 Game Regular Season, Post-Thanksgiving, 8-Team Playoff

- Based off the current Connecticut high school plan established in 2010 - also plays on Thanksgiving
- Schools can schedule 10 games over 12 weeks, including Thanksgiving
- Each team must take two byes during the season. One between weeks 4-6 and the other either week 11 or 12 (most likely the normal pre-Thanksgiving Week 11)
- The regular season ends on Thanksgiving (Week 12)
- The 8 highest rated teams per division qualify, 64 total schools – see *Proposed Calendar A*
- Practices after Thanksgiving conducted in uppers (helmet & shoulder pads) or helmets only
- The Quarterfinals begin on Tuesday night (5 days later) -The higher seeds will host unless they lack lights and/or grass ruled unplayable
- The Semi-Finals will be played Sunday (5 days later) at a neutral site
- The Super Bowl will be the following Saturday (6 Days) at a neutral site

Benefits

- Regular season – completing all games prior to the post-season creates an equal path to championship, consistent with other MIAA sport tournaments and the Statewide Tournament plan
- Eliminate consolation/additional games - required to fill the schedule until Thanksgiving, consistent with other MIAA sports
- Power Rating - includes all games and completed league schedule creates an equal qualifying method for all teams, consistent with Statewide Tournament Plan
- Thanksgiving – will be the pinnacle of the season for all teams, provide additional motivation and should increase community interest and attendance
- Post-season tournament – consistent path, format, and qualifying method for all teams – consistent with other MIAA sport tournaments per the Statewide Tournament Plan
- Safety measures – adds two required bye weeks into the season for player recovery
- Set Schedule – allows schools to schedule in advance and removes the burden to schedule last-minute playoff/consolation games
- Best teams – the top 23% of schools per division qualify
- Half of the playoff qualifiers (32 Teams) will miss only two days of the Winter sport season

Arguments Against

- Extended Season - athletes from the 16 state finalist teams (6% of the football schools) will miss an additional week of the winter season
- Two Rounds – played on 5 days rest



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2021 Calendar A Plan 1 – 10-Game Regular, Post-Thanksgiving, 8-Team Playoff November / December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7	8	9	10	11	12 Week 10 Game 9	13 Week 10 Game 9
14	15	16	17	18	19 Week 11 2 nd Bye-Week	20 Week 11 2 nd Bye-Week
21	22	23	24 Week 12 Game 10 THANKSGIVING Eve	25 Week 12 Game 10 THANKSGIVING	26	27
28	29	30 Week 13 Game 11 Quarterfinal	December 1	2	3	4
5 Week 14 Game 12 Semi-Final	6	7	8	9	10	11 Week 14-B Game 13 SUPER BOWLS

All teams receive a bye-week either week 11 or 12

All playoff teams will have a 10-day period without a game before Thanksgiving and the playoffs

Playoff teams playing on 11/24 that advance to the Super Bowl play 4 games over 18 days

Playoff teams playing on 11/25 that advance to the Super Bowl play 4 games over 17 days



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PLAN #2 The Second Option of the MHSFCA

9-Game Regular Season, 8-Team Playoff

- Schools can schedule 9 games in 9 weeks, not including Thanksgiving
- The regular season ends at the conclusion of week 9
- The 8 highest rated teams per division qualify, 64 total schools
- Non-qualifying teams will have the option to play a consolation game week 10 or take a bye before Thanksgiving
- Playoffs begin week 10 -The higher seeds will host unless they lack lights and/or grass ruled unplayable – see *Proposed Calendar B*
- The Semi-Final will be played week 11 at neutral site
- Thanksgiving is week 12, and the final game of the season for 264 of the 280 teams
- The Super Bowl will be Week 13 at a neutral site

Benefits

- Regular season – longer qualifying period (9 games)
- Eliminates consolation/additional games - to complete the season
- Provides flexibility – non-qualifiers have the option to add a week 10 game
- Best teams – Top 23% of schools qualify per division
- Set schedule – will only require the scheduling of one possible consolation or playoff game
- Length of season - no change
- Super Bowls teams still rewarded with post-season

Arguments Against

- Regular season – does not include all scheduled games (Thanksgiving), unlike other MIAA sport tournaments per the Statewide Tournament plan
- Power rating – Thanksgiving not included in the rating, league schedule may not be completed - provides ratings advantage or disadvantage, inconsistent with other MIAA sport tournaments and the Statewide Tournament plan
- Thanksgiving – will continue to be in the middle of the tournament, causing coaches of the 16 state finalists to decide whether to play their starters. Athletes lose the experience, has resulted in lopsided scores and negative media coverage. More prevalent in smaller schools
- Post-Season tournament – the path, format and qualifying method for teams is different is inconsistent with other MIAA tournaments and the Statewide Tournament Plan
- Mental health – this plan causes athletes emotional stress/letdown once teams are eliminated from the post-season and still have games to play



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2021 Calendar B Plan 2 – 9-Game Regular Season, 8-Team Tournament

November / December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	November 1	2	3	4	5 Week 9 Final Regular Season Game Game 9	6 Week 9 Final Regular Season Game Game 9
7	8	9	10	11	12 Week 10 Quarterfinals Optional Consolation Games	13 Week 10 Quarterfinals Optional Consolation
14	15	16	17	18	19 Week 11 Semi-Finals Open *	20 Week 11 Semi-Finals Open *
21	22	23	24 Week 12 THANKSGIVING EVE Game 12	25 Week 12 THANKSGIVING Game 12	26	27
28	29	30	December 1	2	3 Week 13 SUPER BOWLS Game 13	4 Week 13 SUPER BOWLS Game 13

Playoff teams playing on 11/5 that advance to Semi-Finals play 4 games in 20 or 21 days
 Playoff teams playing on 11/6 that advance to the Semi-Final play 4 games in 19 or 20 days
 Teams playing Semi-Final on 11/20 have 4 or 5 days of rest before Thanksgiving