



MHSFCA 2021 Playoff Plan Design Options Being Discussed

PLAN #1

TMC PLAN - 8 Game Regular Season – Likely 6 or 7 Divisions* - 16-Team Playoff

- The assumed plan
- Teams can schedule 8 games in 8 weeks, not including Thanksgiving
- The regular season ends at the conclusion of week 8.
- The 16 highest MaxPreps rated teams advance per division.
- The playoffs begin week 9
 - 4 Sectionals per division are determined by seeds not team location (1,8,9,16), (2,7,10,15), (3,6,11,14) and (4,5,12,13)* The higher seed hosts.
 - Non-Qualifiers will be assigned consolation games.*
- Week 10, the quarterfinals at the higher seed
 - Another round of consolation games*
- Week 11, (Friday/Saturday before Thanksgiving) the semi-finals at a neutral location.
 - Bye week for everyone else.
- Week 12, Thanksgiving - The final game for all teams unless playing in the state finals.
- Week 13, the Super Bowl played the following Saturday at a neutral site.

Required Amendments

- None – the TMC has already passed this plan. They did not contact the MIAA FB Committee or the MHSFCA for ideas or input.

Benefits

- More Teams (16) qualify for the tournament.

Arguments / Disadvantages

- The MIAA has failed to realize football is unique.
- Football continues to be the only sport that plays its tournament during the regular season
- Thanksgiving Day rivalry games will continue to lose importance, see lower attendance, and will continue to be JV scrimmages for some teams playing for a state title
- Consolation games required to complete season
- First Round playoff games likely not be competitive with 16 teams / undeserving teams advancing
- JV & Freshman games will need to be scheduled for weeks 9 & 10
- Likely more travel issues with more teams qualifying

*** indicates an assumption**



PLAN #2

Post-Thanksgiving 8-Team Tournament - 10 Game Regular Season – 8 Divisions and 8-Team Playoff

- Copy the Connecticut high school plan
- Teams can schedule 10 games in 12 weeks, including Thanksgiving
- Two bye weeks must be taken, one between weeks 4-6 and Week 11 (unless not playing on Thanksgiving).
- The regular season ends on Thanksgiving.
- The 8 highest rated MaxPreps teams per division advance.
- The Playoffs begin on Tuesday night (5 days later) -The higher seeds will host unless they lack lights and/or grass ruled unplayable.
- The Semi-Final will be played Sunday (5 days later) at a neutral site.
- The Super Bowl will be the following Saturday at a neutral site

Recommended Amendments

- All practices after Thanksgiving are uppers only (helmets & shoulder pads)
- The first game/meet or competition of winter sports be pushed back 5 days. This will allow a winter sports to start as scheduled (Monday after Thanksgiving) and increase their pre-season to 15 days.

Benefits

- 8 Divisions in line with other New England States playing on Thanksgiving (Connecticut)
- Makes Thanksgiving relevant again
- Playoff qualification includes all games / League championships will matter
- Moves the playoffs back to the post-season, like other MIAA sports
- Eliminates consolation games, like other MIAA team sports
- Adds two byes into the season for player safety
- AD's will not need to schedule JV, Freshman, or last-minute playoff/consolation games
- Top 22% of teams per division qualify
- MIAA can run the games from the home team's venue in most cases

Arguments / Disadvantages

- The one-week extension of the season will require a rule change
- Playing 3 games in 12 days



PLAN #3

Post-Thanksgiving Tournament 4-Teams - 11 Game Regular Season – 8 Divisions and 4-Team Playoff

- Like our old plan with new statewide divisions and alignment
- Teams can schedule 10 or 11 games in 12 weeks, including Thanksgiving
- One bye must be taken, either week 11 or 12.
- The regular season ends on Thanksgiving.
- The 4 highest MaxPreps rated teams per division advance.
- The Playoffs begin on Tuesday night (5 days later) -The higher seeds will host unless they lack lights and/or grass ruled unplayable, unless the MIAA wants a neutral site.
- The Super Bowl will be Saturday at a neutral site

Recommended Amendments

- All practices after Thanksgiving are uppers only (helmets and shoulder pads)

Benefits

- Makes Thanksgiving relevant again
- Playoff qualification includes all games / League championship mater
- Statewide divisions allow the best to advance
- Moves the playoffs back to the post-season, like other MIAA sports
- Eliminates consolation games, like other MIAA team sports
- AD's will not need to schedule JV, Freshman, or last-minute playoff/consolation games
- MIAA can run the semi-final games from the home team's venue or select a neutral site

Arguments / Disadvantages

- Only 4 out of 35 (11%) qualify for the playoffs
- Playing 3 games in 10 days



PLAN #4

9 Game Regular Season 8-Team Tournament – 8 Divisions and 8-Team Playoff

- Teams can schedule 9 games in 9 weeks, not including Thanksgiving
- The regular season ends at the conclusion of week 9
- The 8 highest rated MaxPreps teams per division advance.
 - Non-qualifying teams will have the option to play a consolation game week 10 or take a bye before Thanksgiving
- The Playoffs begin week 10 -The higher seeds will host unless they lack lights and/or grass ruled unplayable.
- The Semi-Final will be played week 11, (Friday or Saturday) at neutral site
- Thanksgiving is still week 12.
- The Super Bowl will be Week 13 on Saturday at a neutral site

Recommended Amendments

- All practices after Thanksgiving are uppers (helmets and shoulder pads)

Benefits

- 8 Divisions in line with other New England States playing on Thanksgiving
- Consolation game optional
- Top 22% of teams per division qualify
- MIAA can run the games from the home team's venue in most cases

Arguments / Disadvantages

- AD's will not need to schedule JV, Freshman, or last-minute playoff/consolation games
- Playing 3 games in 13 or 14 days