

# 2008 Football Policy

## I. LEAGUE / REGION QUALIFYING

### *1. 1A Northern and Southern Leagues*

The top four (4) teams from the Southern League and the top four (4) teams from the Northern League, based on regular-season standings, qualify for their respective (Southern / Northern) league playoff round; The 1A state bracket includes the eight-team league playoff round.

The league playoff games will be played as indicated on the bracket unless both principals and the NIAA Executive Director agree to another time and/or date. The league playoff games are scheduled to be played Saturday at 1:00 p.m. The league playoff games will be hosted by the higher seed.

The league playoff round will feature the No. 1 seed hosting the No. 4 seed and the No. 2 seed hosting the No. 3 seed within the same league. After the league playoff round, the winning teams will be re-seeded for the state semifinals. The top remaining seed out of each league will earn the No. 1 position and the lower remaining team will earn a No. 2 position.

The state semifinal games will then have the No. 1 team from one league hosting the No. 2 team from the other league in a cross-bracket format.

The state semifinal games will be played as indicated on the bracket unless both principals and the NIAA Executive Director agree to another time and/or date. The state semifinal games are scheduled to be played Saturday at 1:00 p.m. The state semifinal games will be hosted by the higher seeds.

### *2. 2A Northern and Southern Leagues*

The top four (4) teams from the Southern League and the top four (4) teams from the Northern League, based on regular-season standings, qualify for their respective (Southern / Northern) league playoff round; The 2A state bracket includes the eight-team league playoff round.

The league playoff games will be played as indicated on the bracket unless both principals and the NIAA Executive Director agree to another time and/or date. The league playoff games are scheduled to be played Saturday at 1:00 p.m. The league playoff games will be hosted by the higher seed.

-- more --

The league playoff round will feature the No. 1 seed hosting the No. 4 seed and the No. 2 seed hosting the No. 3 seed within the same league. After the league playoff round, the winning teams will be re-seeded for the state semifinals. The top remaining seed out of each league will earn the No. 1 position and the lower remaining team will earn a No. 2 position.

The state semifinal games will then have the No. 1 team from one league hosting the No. 2 team from the other league in a cross-bracket format.

The state semifinal games will be played as indicated on the bracket unless both principals and the NIAA Executive Director agree to another time and/or date. The state semifinal games are scheduled to be played Saturday at 1:00 p.m. The state semifinal games will be hosted by the higher seeds.

### **3. *3A Northern and Southern Leagues***

The top four (4) teams from the Southern League and the top four (4) teams from the Northern League, based on regular-season standings, qualify for their respective (Southern / Northern) league playoff round; ***The 3A state bracket includes the eight-team league playoff round.***

The league playoff games will be played as indicated on the bracket unless both principals and the NIAA Executive Director agree to another time and/or date. The league playoff games are scheduled to be played Saturday at 1:00 p.m. The league playoff games will be hosted by the higher seed.

The league playoff round will feature the No. 1 seed hosting the No. 4 seed and the No. 2 seed hosting the No. 3 seed within the same league. After the league playoff round, the winning teams will be re-seeded for the state semifinals. The top remaining seed out of each league will earn the No. 1 position and the lower remaining team will earn a No. 2 position.

The state semifinal games will then have the No. 1 team from one league hosting the No. 2 team from the other league in a cross-bracket format.

The state semifinal games will be played as indicated on the bracket unless both principals and the NIAA Executive Director agree to another time and/or date. The state semifinal games are scheduled to be played Saturday at 1:00 p.m. The state semifinal games will be hosted by the higher seeds.

4. ***4A Northern, Sunrise and Sunset Regions***

The top four (4) teams from the Sierra League and the top four (4) teams from the High Desert League, based on regular-season standings, qualify for the eight-team Northern Region playoffs.

The top four (4) teams from the Northeast League and the top four (4) teams from the Southeast League, based on regular-season standings, qualify for the eight-team Sunrise Region playoffs.

The top four (4) teams from the Northwest League and the top four (4) teams from the Southwest League, based on regular-season standings, qualify for the eight-team Sunset Region playoffs.

All three region playoffs will be single-elimination brackets.

- 4b. The regional playoffs will consist of the top four teams from one league playing off against the top four teams from the other league within the same region (in a cross-bracket format). Games will be hosted by the highest seed.

If the two teams playing are equally seeded, a rotation between the two leagues has been established (listed below) to determine the hosting team (see top of next page).

Note: Class 4A region playoff game times will be as follows:

Northern Region with lights – 7:00 p.m. on Friday \*

Northern Region without lights – 1:00 p.m. on Saturday

Sunrise and Sunset Regions – 6:00 p.m. on Friday \*

(\* subject to date change depending on the Nevada Day and Veterans Day holidays)

Any change in game dates or times must be approved by both principals and the NIAA Executive Director.

Note: If teams are equally seeded, the following procedure will be used to determine the host/home team in region playoff games:

Northern Region – In even years, the Sierra League will host.

In odd years, the High Desert League will host.

Sunrise Region – In even years, the Northeast League will host.

In odd years, the Southeast League will host.

Sunset Region – In even years, the Northwest League will host.

In odd years, the Southwest League will host.

***The 4A Northern Region championship / state semifinal game will be played at Damonte Ranch High School in Reno (Friday, Nov. 28).***

## **II. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### ***1. Class 1A***

The state final game is scheduled to be played in the South (as a tripleheader with the 2A and 3A at a neutral site) during even years and in the North (as a tripleheader with the 3A and 2A at a neutral site) during odd years.

If both participating teams are from the same area of the state but not the same designated location of the state final, the NIAA will designate a host location.

### ***2. Class 2A***

The state final game is scheduled to be played in the South (as a tripleheader with the 1A and 3A at a neutral site) during even years and in the North (as a tripleheader with the 1A and 3A at a neutral site) during odd years.

If both participating teams are from the same area of the state but not the same designated location of the state final, the NIAA will designate a host location.

The 1A game will be played first. The 2A game will be played prior to the 3A game when the games are set to be played in the South.

### ***3. Class 3A***

The state final game is scheduled to be played in the South (as a tripleheader with the 1A and 2A at a neutral site) during even years and in the North (as a tripleheader with the 1A and 2A at a neutral site) during odd years.

If both participating teams are from the same area of the state but not the same designated location of the state final, the NIAA will designate a host location.

The 1A game will be played first. The 3A game will be played following the 2A game when the games are set to be played in the South.

### ***4. Class 4A***

In 2008, the winner of the Northern Region playoffs will earn a berth in the state championship game. The Sunrise Region playoff champion will play the Sunset Region playoff champion at a neutral site in the semifinal round with the winner advancing to the state championship game. The state final will be played in Northern Nevada.

*The 4A Northern Region championship / state semifinal game will be played at Damonte Ranch High School in Reno (Friday, Nov. 28). The Sunrise – Sunset state semifinal game will be played Saturday, Nov. 29 at a neutral site to be announced.*

In 2007, the winner of the Sunset Region playoffs earned a berth in the state championship game. The Sunrise Region playoff champion played at the site of the Northern Region playoff champion in the semifinal round. The winner advancing to the state championship game. The state final was played in Southern Nevada.

In 2006, the winner of the Sunrise Region playoffs earned a berth in the state championship game. The Sunset Region playoff champion played at the site of the Northern Region playoff champion in the semifinal round. The winner advanced to the state championship game. The state final was played in Southern Nevada.

- 4b. The rotation of the three brackets has been set in a three-year cycle in order to insure that no No. 1 seeded team will have to travel to the Northern Nevada or Southern Nevada area two weeks in a row and so that no No. 2 seed (old format) would advance in to a semifinals rotation.

### **III. UNIVERSAL TIE-BREAKER (qualifying for the post-season)**

1. The win-loss record(s) of the teams in league play shall determine seeding into the league/region playoffs. The league's administrators will determine win-loss records based on previously approved schedules. In the event of a tie, the tie shall be broken using the following procedures:
2. Tie between two (2) teams
  - A. Head-to-head competition in league play among tied teams.
  - B. If the tie remains, each tied team shall receive one point for each game won in league play by their defeated opponents. The team with the most points will receive the highest seed.
  - C. If the tie remains, if applicable, the team that won the second scheduled league game between the tied teams will receive the higher seed.

EXCEPTION: Step 'C' is only to be used for seeding. A team shall not be eliminated from the league/region playoffs by the application of step 'C.' If the tie is not broken in steps 'A' and 'B' and a team will be eliminated, the tie-breaking process will continue with 'D.'

- D. If the tie remains – Defensive points allowed between league teams: Each tied team will total their defensive points allowed per game up to but not more than thirteen (13) points in any one league game. The team with the lowest total is awarded the higher seed.
  - E. If the tie remains – Defensive points allowed between league teams with NO 13-point rule: Each tied team will add their total defensive points allowed for each league game. The team with the lowest total is awarded the higher seed.
  - F. If the above procedures do not break the tie, the following procedures will be used:
    - 1. If the two tied teams remaining will not be eliminated from the playoffs and are only tied for seeding or site location, a coin flip will be conducted by the NIAA Executive Director. The winner of any coin flip will be awarded the highest seed.
    - 2. If a team will be eliminated from the playoffs, the tied teams will use the Kansas tie-breaker at a neutral site to be determined by the NIAA Executive Director to break the tie.
3. Tie between three (3) or more teams
- A. In all cases of ties involving more than two teams, as each team is removed from the tie, all other tied teams revert back to head-to-head competition based on the number of teams remaining in the tie.
  - B. Head-to-head competition in league play among tied teams.

Example of multiple team ties:

- i. Games
  - Team A defeated Team B and Team C
  - Team B defeated Team C but lost to Team A
  - Team C lost to Team A and Team B
- ii. Mini Standings
  - Team A is 2-0
  - Team B is 1-1
  - Team C is 0-2

- iii. Results
  - Team A is awarded highest seed
  - If applicable, Team B is awarded second highest seed because of head-to-head record against Team C.

C. If the tie remains – Thirteen (13) point system: Tied teams will compare their margin of victory with each other in league play. Each team will total their margin of points against the other tied teams with marginal points being the difference in the scores of a game. Winning teams will add the margin of points while losing teams will subtract the margin of points. No more than thirteen (13) points will be added or subtracted in any league game. The team with the highest number of marginal points will be awarded the best possible seed. If there is a tie for highest marginal points, then those tied teams shall revert back to head-to-head to break the tie. Once a team is eliminated, refer back to head-to-head for the remaining teams.

Example of 13-point system:

- i. Games
  - Team A defeated Team B, 23-7
  - Team B defeated Team C, 21-16
  - Team C defeated Team A, 10-9
- ii. Mini-Standings
  - Marginal points for A +12
  - Marginal points for B -8
  - Marginal points for C -4
- iii. Results
  - Team A is awarded highest seed.
  - If applicable, Team B is awarded second highest seed because of head-to-head record against C.

D. If the tie remains, each tied team shall receive one point for each game won in league play by their defeated opponents. The team with the most points will receive the highest seed.

E. If the tie remains – Defensive points allowed between tied teams: Each tied team will total their defensive points allowed up to but not more than thirteen (13) points for each league game with the tied teams. The team with the lowest total is awarded the highest seed. If there is a tie for the lowest defensive point total, the tied teams shall revert back to head-to-head to break the tie. Once team is eliminated, revert back to head-to-head for the remaining teams.

Example of defensive points with 13-point rule:

- i. Games
    - Team A defeated Team B, 20-7
    - Team B defeated Team C, 20-18
    - Team C defeated Team A, 6-3
  - ii. Mini-Standings
    - Team A's total defensive points allowed 13
    - Team B's total defensive points allowed 26
    - Team C's total defensive points allowed 16
  - iii. Results
    - Team A is awarded highest seed.
    - If applicable, Team B is awarded second highest seed because of head-to-head record against Team C.
- F. If the tie remains – Defensive points allowed between league teams: Each tied team will total their defensive points allowed per game up to but not more than thirteen (13) points for all league play. The team with the lowest total is awarded the highest seed. If there is a tie for the lowest defensive point total, the tied teams shall revert back to head-to-head to break the tie. Once one team is eliminated, refer back to head-to-head for the remaining teams.
- G. If the tie remains – Defensive points allowed between tied teams with NO 13-point rule: Each tied team will add their total defensive points allowed for each league game with the other tied team(s). The team with the lowest total is awarded the highest seed. If there is a tie for the lowest defensive point total, the tied teams shall revert back to head-to-head to break the tie. Once one team is eliminated, revert back to head-to-head for the remaining teams.

Example of defensive points with NO 13-point rule:

- i. Games
  - Team A defeated Team B, 20-7
  - Team B defeated Team C, 20-18
  - Team C defeated Team A, 6-3
- ii. Mini-Standings
  - Team A's total defensive points allowed 13
  - Team B's total defensive points allowed 38
  - Team C's total defensive points allowed 23

- iii. Results
  - Team A is awarded highest seed.
  - If applicable, Team B is awarded second highest seed because of head-to-head record against Team C.
  
- H. If the tie remains – Defensive points allowed between league teams with NO 13-point rule: Each tied team will add their total defensive points allowed for each league game. The team with the highest total is eliminated. If there is a tie for the highest defensive point total, the tied team shall revert back to head-to-head to break the tie. Once a team is eliminated, refer back to head-to-head for the remaining teams.
  
- I. If the above procedures do not break the tie, the following procedures will be used:
  - 1. If the two teams remaining tied will not be eliminated from the playoffs and are only tied for seeding or site location, a coin flip will be conducted by the NIAA Executive Director. The winner of any coin flip will be awarded the highest seed.
  
  - 2. If a team will be eliminated from the playoffs, the tied teams will use the Kansas tie-breaker at a neutral site to be determined by the NIAA Executive Director to break the tie.