

**PIAA DISTRICT III
FOOTBALL PLAYOFF FORMAT
2016 Football Season**

CLASSES

Football playoffs will be conducted in District III for Senior High Schools in the following six (6) classes: 6A, 5A, AAAA, AAA, AA, and A. Placement of schools is determined by P.I.A.A. classifications on a statewide basis.

Class participation will be as listed with the P.I.A.A. office. A listing of District III schools by classification is attached to this document.

PARTICIPATION

It is expected that all schools that qualify for the play-offs will participate. Schools who do not wish to participate will be expected to notify their District Football Chairman by the Monday following the eighth week game. **Deadline to decline participation in the playoffs is Monday, October 24, 2016 at 12:00 Noon.** Entry of a team in the Football Playoffs/Championships signifies that the member school accepts the conditions and provisions that are described below. Furthermore, a member school accepts the fact that the PIAA District III Committee reserves the right to make changes in the management, schedule, location of game sites and operation of the 2016 – 2017 Football Playoffs if, in their judgment, it becomes necessary to do so.

RANKING

At the completion of the tenth week of the season (November 5, 2016) a maximum of the eight (8) highest ranked teams in Classes 6A, 5A, and AAAA will be named to participate in the play-offs. A maximum of the four (4) highest ranked teams in Class AAA will be named to participate in the playoffs. A maximum of the two (2) highest ranked teams in Class AA and A will be named to participate in the playoffs. The method used to obtain point totals is the District III ranking system

A maximum of ten (10) games may be played from Week Zero (August 26 & 27) to Week 10 (November 4 & 5). **Only games played on or prior to November 5, 2016 will be used to determine rankings.**

POSTING OF RANKINGS

The football rankings will be posted on the District III web site on a real-time basis throughout the season.



SEEDING

Teams will be bracketed in normal tournament format. In the first round of Class 6A, 5A, and AAAA, the number one (1) seeded team will play the number eight (8) seeded team, number two (2) will play seven (7), number three (3) will play number six (6), and number four (4) will play number (5). In the first round of Class AAA the number one (1) seeded team will play the number four (4) seeded team, the number two (2) will play the number three (3) seed. In Class AA and A the number one (1) seeded team will play the second seeded team.

DATES

Friday, November 11, 2016	Class 6A, 5A, and AAAA Quarter-Finals Class AAA Semi-Finals Class AA and A Final
Friday, November 18, 2016	Class 6A, 5A, and AAAA Semi-Finals Class AAA Final
Friday, November 25, 2016	Class AAAA & 5A Finals
Saturday, November 26, 2016	Class 6A Final

GAME TIMES

Starting time for a single game is 7:00 PM (night) and 1:00 PM (day). Time adjustments will be made as needed to accommodate facility use and programming. Saturday games at Hersheypark Stadium will be played at either 12:00 Noon and/or 6:00 PM.

GAME SITES

If possible the home sites of higher seeded teams in all classifications will be used for all games up to the District Finals. District Final contests for classes 6A, 5A, and 4A will be conducted at Hersheypark Stadium. District Finals for Classes AAA, AA, and A will be conducted on neutral fields approved by the District Committee. All other game sites will be determined and approved by the District Committee. The selected sites will provide the following personnel and equipment:

- Game manager
- Security Police
- Ticket Takers and Sellers
- P.A. System and Announcer
- Ambulance Service and Physician/Trainer
- AED** (Automatic External Defibrillator)
- Field Markers and Chains
- Lockers and Dressing Rooms
- Scoreboard Operator and Clock Operator
- Other required facilities and equipment



GAME SITE CRITERIA

The following conditions/criteria must be agreed upon and accepted by the participating member school if it chooses to host a District III football playoff game at its home site.

1. There will be no rental fee charged for the use of the facility.
2. The site must have suitable means and area to accommodate media.
3. The site must have lights and be available the next day in case of postponement.
4. Normal game expenses will be paid. Reasonable local rates for personnel may be used.
5. The visiting team must have similar/equal accommodations as the home team.
Accommodations shall include team parking, locker rooms, training facilities, seating for teams, seating for spectators, scouting/videoing areas, and communication to sidelines.
6. The playing surface and stadium area must be suitable and conducive to championship play.
7. Confirmation for the use of a home site for preliminary, quarter-final and semi-final playoff games is the responsibility of the District III Football Chairman and the District III Committee.

POSTPONEMENT

The postponement and/or rescheduling of play-off games will be at the discretion of the District Football Chairman and the District Committee.

SPECTATOR AND TEAM BOX DECORUM

Sirens, whistles, artificial noisemakers, laser lights, moving banners and hand-held signs are not permitted. Stationary banners (fixed to the stadium walls and railings), displaying sportsmanship messages are permitted. The use of pom-poms by cheerleaders and small listening devices with earphones is permitted. **Spectators are prohibited from removing their shirts and/or using body paint while in attendance at District and Inter-District Contests. The Principal and Athletic Director of each competing school shall announce and publicize these regulations.**

The principal, athletic director, coaches, team physician, team trainer, players in uniform, managers, ball handlers, and statisticians are the only persons permitted in the team box.

Hershey Turf Restrictions - The competition surface at Hersheypark Stadium is the A-Turf Premier Synthetic Playing System. Gum, sunflower seeds, and/or the unwrapping of Tape on the sidelines are prohibited. After the contest coolers are to be emptied onto the macadam surface, not the A-Turf. Violating teams will be billed for any excessive clean-up of the Turf.



BANDS

All band members in uniform of both participating schools will be admitted free and will be designated a section of the stands by the game manager. Only that number of band members in each band who participated throughout the season will be allowed. No joint junior high/middle school and senior high bands will be permitted. With the exception of the band director(s), all non-uniformed band personnel must have tickets. Prior arrangement as to the number of members in the band must be made with the game manager to reserve sufficient space. Schools' bands are prohibited from playing whenever the opposing schools' football team is in a scrimmage or scrimmage kick formation.

The HOME TEAM band may perform on the field prior to the game for a maximum of 15 minutes and must exit the field no later than 10 minutes prior to game time. The HOME TEAM band will be responsible for playing the National Anthem FROM THE STANDS.

The VISITOR'S TEAM band may perform during half time of the game and will arrange its program not to exceed 15 minutes including entering and exiting the field.

The game manager has the option to change these procedures to accommodate specific problems at the site.

TEAM ROSTERS

Each participating team is expected to bring 15 copies of a type written roster to each game for use by the media. Media packets will be prepared for the final games at Hersheypark Stadium.

AWARDS

Medals will be presented to members of both the champion and runner-up teams. A team trophy will be presented to the champions in each class.

Individual medals – 50 (6A & 5A), 45 (AAAA & AAA), 40 (AA & A)

CONCESSIONS

The host school will be responsible for the operation of concessions and will retain all profits.

GAME PROGRAM/TEAM INFORMATION

SMITH-HUGGINS PUBLISHING has been chosen by the District III Committee to be the exclusive publisher of the District III Football Program. Schools with a chance to enter the playoffs must complete the team information electronically. This information includes team roster, team picture, and season highlights. Directions for submitting team information will be sent to schools through the District III List Server with specific instructions and due dates.

The electronic team information form and an appropriate team picture must be submitted as early as possible, but no later than 4:00 PM, Friday, October 28, 2016. The electronic team information may be updated throughout the season. However, any changes made after the deadline for submission (November 7, 2016 at 10:00 AM) will not be accepted.



MEDIA

All media personnel with proper identification will be admitted free. It will be the media's responsibility to contact the game manager for any further arrangements. Each media organization will be given a copy of the team rosters provided by each team.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

Any property damage at a play-off site by participants or spectators of competing schools shall be the liability of that school to repair or replace. Other damages to facilities not attributable to competing schools could be a legitimate play-off expense and be deducted from play-off receipts.

TICKETS/PASSES

Players, coaches, trainers, equipment managers, etc. will be admitted without tickets. This number may not exceed 75. Personnel to be admitted free of charge will be identified by the head coach upon arrival at the game site.

Varsity football cheerleaders in uniform will be admitted free of charge. The chaperone/coach will be admitted with the cheerleaders.

Each participating school will receive of 15 complimentary tickets for each round they are in the playoffs. Coaches scouting games will be admitted free of charge with a letter on school stationary from their athletic director.

Individuals with a **WHITE** credit card style District III Pass should be admitted free of charge. ***League passes, officials' passes, and faculty passes will not be honored.***

Participating schools will be given tickets for pre-game sale at their respective schools. The prices for Pre-sale tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for students. Money and unsold tickets are to be checked with the game manager one (1) hour prior to the game.

All gate sale tickets cost \$6. **Children under the age of 6 are admitted free of charge.**

UNIFORMS

The HOME team will wear a dark colored jersey. The visiting team will wear a light colored jersey.

DISTRIBUTION OF GAME MATERIALS

Game materials (tickets, balls, financial sheets, etc.) will be prepared on Sunday, November 6 and will be distributed to qualifying schools by members of the District Committee. **There will not be a pre-tournament meeting of selected schools.**

FILMS/VIDEOS

All competing schools will trade tapes, DVDs, or on-line access to images of their last three (3) games played. All traded tapes must be returned prior to game time. Film exchanges for second, third, and fourth rounds of the playoffs are the responsibility the competing schools. Each participating school will be allowed to film its play-off games by making prior arrangements with the game manager. This procedure will apply to all rounds of games.



TEAM WARM-UP

Practice sessions at a designated game site will not be permitted prior to the date of the game. Warm-up period prior to the game will be limited to one (1) hour beginning 90 minutes prior to kick-off. All teams must leave the field 30 minutes prior to the game and return 10 minutes before game time. At Hershey Stadium the school designated as the Home team will warm up at the scoreboard end and the team designated as Visitors will warm up at the stage end of the stadium.

COIN TOSS

At 30 minutes prior to game time the officials will call team captains, head coaches, and administrators together for the coin toss and the reading of the PIAA sportsmanship message. The visiting team will call the toss. A “mock” toss will be held prior the kickoff.

TIES

If the score is tied at the end of regulation play, overtime shall be used until a winner is declared. The tie-breaking procedure shall follow National Federation Rules unless amended by the P.I.A.A.

OFFICIALS

The District III Committee will assign game officials. There will be seven (7) officials for each game. In addition, local chapters will be requested to furnish officials to work as chain crew.

INSURANCE

Liability insurance is provided through the P.I.A.A. office. Each school is responsible for extending their individual student accident insurance to cover injuries.

OFFICIAL FOOTBALL

The official game ball for all District III and PIAA football games is the Wilson GST 1003. Each participating school will be supplied with a ball for each game in which they participate. Schools are required to bring and use the GST or other Wilson NFHS approved footballs for all District play-off games.

