



**PIAA DISTRICT III M&T BANK FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
FOOTBALL PLAYOFF FORMAT
2018 Football Season**

The purpose of this memorandum is to develop the format for and to provide the process to inform the PRINCIPAL, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, AND HEAD FOOTBALL COACH of each member school concerning the 2018 PIAA District III Football Championships. Additionally, it is important that the principal, athletic director, and head football coach of all teams that will participate in the 2018 PIAA Football Championships and all persons who will have responsibilities involving these activities are fully informed of the policies and procedures described herein. It is also necessary that everyone associated with these championships comply with all policies and procedures without exception.

CLASSES

Football playoffs will be conducted in District III for Senior High Schools in the following six (6) classes: 6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, and 1A. Placement of schools is determined by PIAA classifications on a statewide basis.

Class participation will be as listed with the PIAA office. A listing of District III schools by classification is included with this document.

The District III Football tournaments will begin in Week Ten of the season (November 2-3, 2018). Teams that wish to play ten (10) regular season games and participate in the tournament must begin play in Week Zero (August 24-25, 2018)

PARTICIPATION

It is expected that all schools that qualify for the playoffs will participate. Schools that do not wish to participate are expected to notify the District Football Chairman by the Monday following the Week Seven game. **Deadline to decline participation in the playoffs is Monday, October 15, 2018 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 2018 – 2019 Football Playoffs if, in its judgment, it becomes necessary to do so.

RANKING

At the completion of Week Nine of the season (October 26-27, 2018) the following number of teams will be selected to participate in the playoffs: 6A – 8 teams, 5A – 14 teams, 4A – 10 teams, 3A – 6 teams, 2A – 4 teams, and Class A – 2 teams. The method used to obtain the rankings is the District III power ranking system.

A maximum of ten (10) games may be played from Week Zero (August 24 & 25) to Week 9 (October 26 & 27). **Only games that have been scheduled prior to Week Zero and played on or prior to October 27, 2018 will be used to determine rankings.** Games against non-PIAA opponents will not be included in the power rankings calculations.





POSTING OF RANKINGS

The football rankings will be posted on the District III website (piaad3.org) on an ongoing basis beginning with results from Week Zero. The final and official power ranking will be posted on the website and distributed via Twitter on a pdf once all regular-season games have been completed.

SEEDING

Teams will be bracketed in normal tournament format. Seeding will be based on each team's final power ranking in its classification.

TOURNAMENT DATES

Friday, November 2, 2018	Class 6A Quarter-Finals – 4 games Class 5A Preliminary games – 6 games Class 4A Preliminary games – 2 games Class 3A Quarter-Finals – 2 games Class 2A Semi-Finals – 2 games Class A Final – 1 game
Friday, November 9, 2018	Class 6A Semi-Finals Class 5A and 4A Quarter-Finals Class 3A Semi-Finals Class 2A Final Class A Sub Region at District XII
Friday, November 16, 2018	Class 6A Final Class 5A and 4A Semi-Finals Class 3A Final Class 2A - Open Date Class A – Sub Region Champion hosts District IV Champion
Friday, November 23, 2018	Class 6A – Open Date Class 5A and 4A Finals Class 3A – Home vs. either District I, XI, or XII Champion Class 2A – Away vs. District IV Champion
Friday, November 30, 2018	Class 6A - Home vs. District 1 Champion Class 5A - Away vs. District I Champion Class 4A – Home vs. either District VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X Champion





GAME TIMES

Starting time for a single game is 7:00 PM (night) and 1:00 PM (day). Time adjustments may be made by the District football chairman as needed to accommodate facility use and programming.

GAME SITES

Unless unsuitable, the home sites of higher seeded teams in all classifications will be used for all games prior to the District Finals. District Final contests will be conducted on neutral fields approved by the District III Committee. All 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 if not a neutral field.
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 quarterfinal and semifinal playoff games is the responsibility of the District III Football Chairman and the District III Committee.





POSTPONEMENT/SUSPENDED CONTESTS

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

Any PIAA District III Football playoff contest interrupted due to events beyond the control of PIAA District III will be resumed at the point of suspension later that same day or the next playable day unless deemed an official contest by NFHS rule.

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.

Artificial Turf Restrictions – Each hosting school may have their own restrictions concerning their artificial surface field. However, the following should serve as a guideline. 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 artificial surface. Violating teams will be billed for any excessive clean-up of the turf.

SPECTATORS ENTERING THE COMPETITION SURFACE

PIAA member schools are responsible for the treatment of all visitors and officials attending contests conducted by their school. Access to competition areas should be limited to participating student athletes, coaches, officials, and game personnel. For the safety of participants and spectators alike, at no time before, during or after a contest should spectators be permitted to enter the competition area prior to the teams and contest officials leaving the competition area.

35-POINT DIFFERENTIAL AFTER FIRST HALF, RUNNING CLOCK RULE

By PIAA Board of Directors adoption, upon the completion of the first half and when one team gains a 35 point differential over its opponent, the clock shall be stopped only when an official's time-out is taken, a charged time-out is granted, penalty is called, the period ends, or a score occurs.





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.

Weather permitting, 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 15 minutes prior to game time. The HOME TEAM band will be responsible for playing the National Anthem FROM THE STANDS.

Weather permitting, 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.

CONTEST SCOUTS/COLLEGE RECRUITERS

At no time shall high school or college scouts and/or college recruiters be permitted in the press box, nor will they be admitted free-of-charge to the contest. High school and college scouts and/or college recruiters will be required to purchase tickets for admission to any contest.

USE OF DRONES POLICY

For the purposes of this policy, a drone is any unmanned aerial device ("UAV").

Drones are not permitted above the competition surface or spectator areas during interscholastic Contests, Inter-school Practices and Scrimmages. Drones may not be used to scout opposing team practices. Member schools may utilize drones for their own school team practice sessions based upon their local school policies.

TEAM ROSTERS

Each participating team is expected to bring 15 copies of a type written roster to each game for use by the media.





AWARDS

Medals will be provided for members of both the champion and runner-up teams. Medals will NOT be presented on the field following the championship games. Immediately following the championship game a team trophy will be presented on the field to the champion in each class.

Individual medals – 50 (6A & 5A), 45 (4A & 3A), 40 (2A & A). Schools may obtain additional medals to meet their needs by contacting Jostens.

CONCESSIONS

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

GAME PROGRAM/TEAM INFORMATION

DAVID A. SMITH 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 19, 2018. The electronic team information may be updated throughout the season. However, any changes made after the deadline for submission (October 29, 2018 at 10:00 AM) will not be accepted.

MEDIA

All media personnel with proper identification will be admitted free. It is 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.

Broadcast media will be afforded facilities on a first come – first served basis. The schedule of broadcast media fees is available on the PIAA District III Website. Livestreaming of District III championship events by all parties, including spectators, is prohibited. This includes spectators.

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 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 stationery from their athletic director.

Individuals with a **LIGHT BLUE** credit card style District III Pass or District III Gold Card should be admitted free of charge along with one (1) guest. ***No other passes, other than accredited media, will 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 reconciled with the game manager at least 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 is the higher seeded team and will wear dark colored jerseys. The visiting team is the lower seeded team and will wear white jerseys. Teams carry their initial seed throughout the championship.

DISTRIBUTION OF GAME MATERIALS

Game materials (tickets, balls, financial sheets, etc.) will be prepared on Monday, October 29 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 of 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. Any disputes regarding film exchange should be directed to the District football chairman.

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.

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 conducted at mid-field five (5) minutes prior the kickoff.





TIES

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

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 PIAA 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.

PIAA DISTRICT III INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Ninety minutes (1 hour and 30 minutes) is the maximum length of delay of a contest due to weather conditions. When lightning is a factor and instrumentation is available on site, officials shall consult with the Game Manager of the District III contest.

Thirty (30) minutes from the most recent lightning strike must elapse before teams retake the field. If the last strike does not allow enough time to resume the game due to maximum delay (90 minutes) and a winner cannot be determined by NFHS or PIAA rule, the game shall be rescheduled or resumed at the point of stoppage to be played on the next available day.

The Game Manager is responsible for game procedures until the start of play. Once play begins and weather becomes a factor, the Game Manager will consult with the officials to make a decision. Ultimately, the Game Manager, upon consultation with officials, will make the determination if weather does not permit continuation of the event.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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