



PIAA DISTRICT III M&T BANK FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYOFF FORMAT AND INFORMATION 2019 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 2019 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 2019 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 play-offs 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 1-2, 2019). Teams who wish to play ten regular season games and participate in the tournament must begin play in Week Zero (August 23-24, 2019)

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 the District Football Chairman by the Monday following the Week Seven game. **Deadline to decline participation in the playoffs is Monday, October 14, 2019 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 2019 – 2020 Football Playoffs if, in their judgment, it becomes necessary to do so.

RANKING

At the completion of Week Nine of the season (October 25-26, 2019) 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 1A – 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 23 & 24) to Week 9 (October 25 & 26). **Only games scheduled prior to Week Zero and played on or prior to October 26, 2019 will be used to determine rankings.**





POSTING OF RANKINGS

The football rankings will be posted on the District III Power Rankings web page:
<http://district3.gimpsoftware.com/Football3Ranking.html?path=football>

SEEDING

Teams will be bracketed in normal tournament format.

TOURNAMENT DATES

Friday, November 1, 2019	Class 6A Quarterfinals – 4 games Class 5A Preliminary games – 6 games Class 4A Preliminary games – 2 games Class 3A Quarterfinals – 2 games Class 2A Semifinals – 2 games Class A Championship – 1 game
Friday, November 8, 2019	Class 6A Semifinals Class 5A and 4A Quarterfinals Class 3A Semifinals Class 2A Championship Class A - Sub Region, District III hosting District XII
Friday, November 15, 2019	Class 6A Championship Class 5A and 4A Semifinals Class 3A Championship Class 2A - Open Date Class A - Sub Region Champion, District III at District IV Champion
Friday, November 22, 2019	Class 6A – Open Date Class 5A and 4A Championships Class 3A – District III at either District I, XI, or XII Champion Class 2A – District III Champion Home vs. District IV Champion
Friday, November 29, 2019	Class 6A – District III at District I Champion Class 5A – District III hosting District I Champion Class 4A – District III at 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

The home sites of higher seeded teams in all classifications will be used for all games in the tournament including the District Finals. **Schools that have a grass surface MUST designate and lock in a suitable artificial Turf field to be used if their field is deemed unplayable.** This MUST be done and communicated to the District Football Chairman prior to the start of the tournament.

All game sites will be approved by the District Committee. All 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. A reasonable rental may be charged for a neutral stadium.
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. Host schools must have adequate seating on both the home and away sides of the field.
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 playoff 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 the 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. **Media is not permitted in the team box. This includes all photographers, videographers and reporters.**

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 shall 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 timeout is taken, a charged timeout is granted, a 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 provide 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 their 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 18, 2019. The electronic team information may be updated throughout the season. However, any changes made after the deadline for submission (October 28, 2019 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.

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. 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 is entitled to 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 **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 will be honored.***

The sale of Pre-sale tickets will be at the discretion of the Home team. If the Home sites opts for Pre-sale, the visiting team must also be allowed to pre-sale. The prices for Pre-sale tickets are \$6. 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 will wear dark colored jerseys. The visiting team will wear their white jerseys.

DISTRIBUTION OF GAME MATERIALS

Game materials will be prepared for Monday, October 28 and will be distributed to qualifying schools by members of the District Committee.

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

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 used 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 and three (3) officials to serve as the 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 tournament 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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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District 3 Football		
School	Classification	Male Enrollment
Annville Cleona High School	AAA	194
Berks Catholic School	AAAA	282
Bermudian Springs High School	AAA	238
Big Spring High School	AAAA	342
Biglerville High School	AAA	205
Bishop McDevitt High School	AAAA	290
Boiling Springs High School	AAAA	278
Camp Hill High School	AA	155
Carlisle High School	AAAAAA	591
Cedar Cliff High School	AAAAA	489
Cedar Crest High School	AAAAAA	569
Central Dauphin East High School	AAAAAA	596
Central Dauphin High School	AAAAAA	675
Central York High School	AAAAAA	725
Chambersburg Area High School	AAAAAA	831
Cocalico High School	AAAAA	389
Columbia High School	AA	172
Conestoga Valley High School	AAAAA	542
Conrad Weiser High School	AAAA	340
Cumberland Valley High School	AAAAAA	1004
Dallastown Area High School	AAAAAA	714
Daniel Boone High School	AAAAA	448
Delone Catholic High School	AA	146
Donegal High School	AAAA	332
Dover Area High School	AAAAA	424
East Pennsboro Area High School	AAAA	294
Eastern Lebanon County High School	AAAA	280
Eastern York High School	AAAA	296
Elizabethtown Area High School	AAAAA	479
Ephrata Area High School	AAAAA	470
Exeter Township High School	AAAAA	500
Fairfield High School	A	124
Fleetwood Area High School	AAAA	270
Garden Spot High School	AAAAA	428
Gettysburg Area High School	AAAA	379





District 3 Football		
School▲	Classification	Male Enrollment
Governor Mifflin High School	AAAAA	538
Greencastle Antrim High School	AAAA	343
Halifax Area High School	A	93
Hamburg Area High School	AAAA	275
Hanover High School	AAA	210
Harrisburg High School	AAAAAA	670
HEMPFIELD HIGH SCHOOL	AAAAAA	847
Hershey High School	AAAAA	440
J P McCaskey High School	AAAAAA	1090
James Buchanan High School	AAA	267
Kennard Dale High School	AAAA	298
Kutztown Area High School	AAA	159
Lampeter Strasburg High School	AAAA	378
Lancaster Catholic High School	AAA	216
Lebanon High School	AAAAAA	581
Littlestown High School	AAA	251
Lower Dauphin High School	AAAAA	427
Manheim Central High School	AAAAA	414
Manheim Township High School	AAAAAA	725
Mechanicsburg Area Senior High School	AAAAA	454
Middletown Area High School	AAA	266
Millersburg Area High School	A	97
Milton Hershey High School	AAAA	367
Muhlenberg High School	AAAAA	458
New Oxford High School	AAAAA	460
Newport High School	AA	121
Northeastern High School	AAAAA	468
Northern Lebanon High School	AAA	272
Northern York High School	AAAAA	398
Octorara Area High School	AAAA	296
Palmyra Area High School	AAAAA	465
Penn Manor High School	AAAAAA	644
Pequea Valley High School	AA	182
Reading High School	AAAAAA	1813
Red Land High School	AAAAA	427
Red Lion Area High School	AAAAAA	602





District 3 Football		
School	Classification	Male Enrollment
Schuylkill Valley High School	AAA	220
Shippensburg Area High School	AAAAA	407
Solanco High School	AAAAA	430
South Western High School	AAAAA	485
Spring Grove Area High School	AAAAA	412
Steelton Highspire High School	AA	143
Susquehanna Township High School	AAAA	299
Susquehannock High School	AAAA	323
Susquenita High School	AAA	193
Trinity High School	AA	178
Twin Valley High School	AAAAA	407
Upper Dauphin Area High School	AA	164
Warwick High School	AAAAA	534
Waynesboro Area High School	AAAAA	524
West Perry High School	AAAA	282
West York Area High School	AAAA	343
William Penn High School	AAAAA	458
Wilson High School	AAAAAA	801
Wyomissing Area High School	AAA	256
York Catholic High School	AA	146
York County School of Technology	AAAAAA	762
York Suburban High School	AAAA	360

