

# **NJ United Playoff Proposal - Committee Members:**

## **Conference Representatives:**

**West Jersey-** Tim Gushue

**GMC-** Chris Beagan

**Mid-State 38-**Jim Williams

**NJIC-** Rich Tuero

**Shore-**Steve Antonucci

**NJSFC-**Cosmo Lorusso



## **NJFCA Executive Committee Members:**

John Fiore

John Jacob

Kevin Carty

Ed Sadloch

## **NJSIAA Mediator:**

Colleen Maguire

## **Athletic Directors:**

Dennis Nelson

Dave Ryden

Dan Vivino

Ben LaSalla

**The NJ United Proposal represents a merger of the 2 plans previously known as “The NJSFC Plan” and “The Coalition Plan”**

## **Coalition Plan Creators:**

Dave Ryden

Charlie Voorhees

Rich Carroll

Rich Shello

Bud Kowal

## **NJSFC Creators:**

Dan Vivino

Denis Nelson

# Outlined Overview of the NJ United Playoff Proposal:

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## I. Creation:

- The **NJ United Proposal** was created as a merger of the NJSFC & Coalition proposals. Working closely with the NJFCA (New Jersey Football Coaches Association), the creators of the NJSFC & Coalition plans were able to agree on the key points resulting in a plan that they both support. Furthermore, the plan has been formally endorsed by the NJFCA playoff proposal sub-committee, as they provided extremely valuable input towards the development of the plan. That input was a direct reflection of the sentiment expressed by our state coaches through various modes of communication (i.e. surveys, meetings, emails, etc.)

For NJSIAA procedural reasons, plans can only be amended at this point. A new plan may not be created. Therefore, the NJSFC group has volunteered to withdraw their plan in favor **The NJ United Plan**, which will be a modified version of the Coalition Plan. The gesture that was enacted by the NJSFC leadership will result in only one plan being placed on the December Ballot. This will eliminate any confusion when it is time to vote. Our state will be left with one of two choices – **The NJ United Plan** or **Status Quo**.

## II. NJ United Proposal - Calendar based on 2018-19 School Year

- Week 0 - 9/1 (Optional- You do **NOT** have to play week 0)
- Week 1 - 9/7
- Week 2 - 9/14
- Week 3 – 9/21
- Week 4 – 9/28
- Week 5 – 10/5
- Week 6 – 10/12
- Week 7 – 10/19
- Week 8 – 10/26
- Week 9 – 11/2
  - 1<sup>st</sup> round of Public Playoffs
  - NJSIAA Assigned Regional Crossover Games for Non-Playoff Qualifiers
  - 1<sup>st</sup> round of Non-Public Playoffs for with up to the Top 6 receiving byes
- Week 10 – 11/9
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> round of Public Playoffs Sectional Semi-Finals
  - Optional Additional Game for teams that did not make the playoffs or have been knocked out (This additional game can be assigned by NJSIAA if requested)
  - Non-Public Quarter Finals of Playoffs
- Week 11 – 11/16
  - Public Sectional Championships at Neutral sites – i.e. Metlife, Rutgers, etc
  - Non-Public Semi-Finals
- Thanksgiving Week 11/22
- Week 12- 11/30
  - Public “Single A” and “Double A” Bowl Games at neutral sites
  - Non-Public Finals at Neutral Sites – i.e. Metlife, etc.

### III. Key Points:

- 20 State Sectional champions remain as is, 5 groups of 4 sections
- The top 32 teams in each of the 5 groups will make the playoffs - 4 sections with 8 teams in each bracket
- Leagues still control scheduling, individual teams can choose if they would like an 8 or 9 game schedule
- The playoffs begin in week 9, sectional finals are week 11, an additional round/championship game will be played the week after Thanksgiving
- Non-public schools will also have an additional round of the playoffs
- This plan does not address or alter the power-point system by implementing an algorithm. Power-points are a separate issue that will continue to be examined by the appropriate committees
- The first 8 games will be counted for power-points
- Playoff qualification inequities will be reduced, and this plan will promote the ability to create better schedules

### IV. Making the Playoffs:

- First 8 games will count towards Playoff Qualification/Seeding
  - Rationale - we are moving from counting 7 out of 8 to counting 8 out of 8 as a result of the overwhelming sentiment from our state coaches desire to count 8 out of 8 games as evidenced through the surveys conducted by the NJFCA (over 80%)
- Seeding: The top 32 power point earners will be seeded in each group and then broken into sections based on NJSIAA Northing Numbers. Therefore sections will be determined upon the conclusion of week 8.
  - Rationale: We must ensure to the best of our ability that the most deserving teams are rewarded with the opportunity to enter the NJSIAA Playoffs. The current system does not accomplish this initiative. We have applied this seeding process to the 2016 season and the outcome clearly illustrates the legitimacy and immediate need for this change. Here are some of the most compelling points of analysis extracted from our findings:
    1. 16 teams that did not qualify in 2016 would qualify in this format
    2. Sections do not change significantly, yet it is significant change for those 16 teams that missed
    3. Of the 16 removed:
      - 9 were under .500
      - 3 were .500
      - 4 were 5-3
      - Overall combined record = 55-73
    4. Of the 16 added:
      - **ALL 16 were .500 or better**
      - 6 were 5-3 or 6-2
      - Overall combined record = 77-51
    5. 12 teams that were sub .500 qualified in 2016. Only 3 would qualify under this format. **NO 2 WIN TEAMS WOULD HAVE MADE THE PLAYOFFS IN 2016**
    6. Asbury Park won Central G1 as a 5 seed, yet they **WOULD NOT HAVE QUALIFIED IN - N1 G1**

## V. Public Playoff Format:

- 5 Groups with 4 sections: North I, North II, Central, & South
- At the conclusion of week 8, each team's first 8 games will be counted for power-points.
- Within each group the top 32 teams will be awarded a playoff spot.
- Following the establishment of the top 32 power-point earners within each of the 5 groups, "northing" numbers (current way the state divides sections) will be used to create the 4 sections.
- Each section will then be seeded based upon power-point totals.
- Weeks 9-11 will mimic our current playoff format, sectional finals will be played at neutral sites in week 11 (week prior to Thanksgiving)
- 20 sectional champions will be crowned, and the 4 winners in each of the 5 groups will be paired.
  
- The 4 sectional champions in each group will be paired for "Single A" and "Double A" "Bowl Games" as follows (Group 1 example):
  - Of the 4 sectional champions in Group 1 the two largest in terms of enrollment will play in the "1AA" game and the two smallest will play in the "1A" game.
  - Geography is not a factor in determining which teams pair up, it will not be a group semifinal where North 1 vs. North 2 & Central vs. South is predetermined.
  
- 2016 Examples of "AA" & "A" Bowl Games:
  - 5AA - Piscataway, (Central, 1598) vs. Westfield (North II, 1398)
  - 5A - Ridgewood (North I, 1294) vs. Millville (South, 1348)
  - 4AA - Wayne Hills (North I, 1015) vs. Sayreville (North II, 1248)
  - 4A - Allentown (Central, 958) vs. Timber Creek (South, 992)
  - 3AA - Morris Hills (North II, 940) vs. Wall (South, 892)
  - 3A - River Dell (North I, 786) vs. Rumson-Fair Haven (Central, 750)
  - 2AA - Manasquan (Central, 749) vs. Mahwah (North I, 714)
  - 2A - West Deptford (South, 701) vs. Madison (North II, 634)
  - 1AA Hasbrouck Heights (North I, 430) vs. Weequahic (North II, 332)
  - 1A - Asbury Park (Central, 264) vs. Paulsboro (South, 284)

**VI. Non Public Playoff Format:**

- 10 teams will qualify in groups 3 & 4, 12 teams in group 2
- Groups 3 & 4 week 9: 1-6 receive a bye, 7-10, & 8-9 will play
- Group 2 week 9: 1-4 receive a bye, 5-12, 6-11, 7-10, & 8-9 will play
- Weeks 10-12 are exactly the same as they are now. Group championships are played at neutral sites the week after Thanksgiving.
- Group 3 & 4 automatic playoff bids are no longer an issue.
- Group 2 sees an increase in qualification which will help with regular season scheduling imbalances across the group.

**VII. Scheduling:**

- **Optional 0 Week and Thanksgiving Games are preserved**
- **How does a team guarantee that they play 10 Games?**
  - **Option 1:** Play straight through from week 0 to week 8 and play a postseason playoff game or regional crossover
  - **Option 2:** Play 8 times in weeks 0 through 8, play Thanksgiving, and play postseason-playoff game or regional crossover
  - **Option 3:** Play 8 times in weeks 0 through 8, play postseason- playoff game or regional crossover, and play an additional game in week 10 if you do not advance in the postseason.
- **What if my team is done with the postseason after week 9, but would still like to play, or plays on Thanksgiving?**
  - A Thanksgiving team that finishes their 9 games in week 9 would be allowed to pick up an additional game in week 10 or 11 in order to bridge the gap to their Thanksgiving game. Additionally, a team that is out of the playoffs in week 9 may play an additional game in week 10 or 11, if they choose to do so.