



## Oregon School Activities Association

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# 2025 FOOTBALL PLAN BOOK

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## SEASON DATES

First Practice Date .....	August 18
First Jamboree Date .....	August 28
First Contest Date .....	August 29
6A, 5A, 1A (8) Rankings Freeze Date .....	10pm, October 31
6A, 5A, 1A (8) Cutoff Date .....	October 31
4A, 3A, 2A (9), 1A (6) Rankings Freeze Date .....	10pm, November 1
4A, 3A, 2A (9), 1A (6) Cutoff Date .....	November 1
All Sub-Varsity Cutoff .....	November 3
All Classifications First Round .....	November 7-8
6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A (9), 1A (8), 1A (6) Quarterfinals .....	November 14-15
6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A (9), 1A (8), 1A (6) Semifinals .....	November 21-22
6A Columbia Cup Finals .....	November 22
6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A (9), 1A (8), 1A (6) Championships .....	November 28-29

Reporting Schedules and Scores – Find Account Instructions on our Help Page at <http://www.osaa.org/help>

## NFHS 2025 FOOTBALL RULES

Order an NFHS Football Rules Book from the [OSAA Corner Store](#) or contact the OSAA (503.682.6722) for more information.

For more information about NFHS Football Rules, visit <http://www.nfhs.org/activities-sports/football/>.

## 2025 RULES CHANGES

<b>Committee Clarifies and Restricts Attachments on Tooth and Mouth Protectors Effective with the 2026 Season [1-5-1d(5)a - 4, 5 (NEW)]</b>	Items that are attached to the tooth and mouth protector that do not serve a purpose and function in protecting the teeth or mouth will not be allowed. Items that are a part of the tooth and mouth protector that are a health or risk issue to the player and can pose a danger to themselves or other players, will not be allowed.
<b>Arm Sleeve Specifications Developed to Guide Manufacturers, Players and Coaches Effective with the 2027 Season [1-5-2d (NEW), 1-5-3c(6)]</b>	The Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA), in working with the football arm sleeve manufacturers and the NFHS, has developed new football arm sleeve performance specifications to be effective with the 2027 playing season. These new specifications closely align with the current rules for football gloves.
<b>Electronic Equipment Approved to Permit Non-Audio and Still Images to Assist with Relaying Plays from the Sideline to Players [1-5-3c(2)]</b>	This change allows for the use of some additional equipment, but continues to preclude in-helmet communication. This would allow for fixed electronic signs with play signals as well as non-audio methods but still would not permit the players between the numbers to watch video.
<b>Rules Additions Further Prohibit the Use of Video and Audio Devices by Players [1-5-3c(3) (NEW)]</b>	No player participating in the game will be allowed to wear any type of audio or video device in order to record or transmit audio or video.

<b>Forward Fumbles Out of Bounds to be Returned to the Spot of the Fumble [3-4-2d (NEW), 3-4-3a, 4-3-1 EXCEPTION (NEW), 8-5-2a EXCEPTION]</b>	A situation potentially giving an unfair advantage to a fumbling team was revised. When a forward fumble goes out of bounds or is ruled out of bounds between the goal lines, the ball shall be returned to the spot of the fumble.
<b>Further Clarifications Made to Rule 10-4 in Specific Situations [9-6 PENALTY, 10-4-4b (DELETED)]</b>	The committee continues its revisions and clarifications within the penalty enforcement rules to ensure consistency, particularly among illegal participation fouls.
<b>Rules for 6-Player Football Revised to Permit Advancement of a Fumbled Snap (Six-Player – Rule 2 and 7, Six-Player – Rule 7)</b>	The committee clarified that as long as there is a change of possession from the snap receiver to another player on offense, the ball can be advanced beyond the line of scrimmage.

## **2025 EDITORIAL CHANGES**

1-5-1b(2)b(1); 1-5-1b(3)b(1); 2-32-16d; 2-33-1a, 2; 2-41-9b; 2-41-9c; 6-1-9; 7-2-5b EXCEPTION 2; 9-4-3p (NEW); 9-4 PENALTY; 9-5-1g; 9-8-1g; 9-8-1j; 10-3-1, 2; 10-3-3c; 10-4-2b; 10-4-2d; 10-4-4a; 10-5-3; NINE-, EIGHT-, AND SIX-PLAYER RULES DIFFERENCES; PENALTY SUMMARY, INDEX. 2025

## **2025 POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

### **ILLEGAL AND IMPROPERLY WORN PLAYER EQUIPMENT**

In high school football, players must adhere to specific equipment standards for safety and fairness concerns. Illegal equipment refers to items that are prohibited such as: jewelry; tinted visors; non-compliant eye shade; bands worn around the upper arm, neck or legs; back pads not covered; and sweatbands and uniform adornments, including towels, that do not conform to the rules. On the other hand, improperly worn equipment pertains to all equipment that is otherwise legal but not worn as intended. Examples include pants not covering the knees as required, tooth and mouth protectors not being worn as play starts, and shoulder pads not properly covered by the jersey. Incorrectly wearing these items can diminish their protective effectiveness and potentially endanger players.

Despite the lack of enforcement at the college level, the NFHS is proud of the work high school players, coaches, and game officials have done to properly enforce all rules that reduce the risk of injury. The rules and regulations governing high school football are designed to reduce the injury risk of players while maintaining the integrity and fairness of the game. These rules, often overlooked by casual spectators, play a crucial role in protecting the athletes and preserving the uniformity of team's appearance. Despite the negative influences by levels of play beyond high school, coaches and game officials must remain vigilant with enforcement of the equipment rules currently in place at the high school level.

Non-compliance with these rules can result in various penalties, ranging from removal of a player for one play for improperly worn equipment, to an unsportsmanlike penalty on the head coach when players are illegally equipped following the pre-game certification.

Chronic violations of the rule for properly worn equipment can significantly impact the game's fairness and safety. Repeated offenses not only jeopardize the individual player's well-being but also negatively impact the pace of the game, and fairness to the opposing team. When players persistently disregard the equipment guidelines, there are several administrative options within current NFHS rules:

- A delay-of-game penalty would be a logical consequence for persistent offenses that significantly impact the pace of play.
- Chronic violations of equipment rules by players could result in an unsportsmanlike conduct foul being assessed under Rule 1-5-3c(10) and 9-8-1h, for equipment not worn as intended by the manufacturer.
- Finally, a coach who demonstrates a lack of interest in supporting these important rules of our sport could be easily judged to be acting in an unsportsmanlike manner.

Coaches play a pivotal role in addressing chronic violations of equipment rules. They must instill the importance of proper equipment use through consistent reinforcement and education. Additionally, fostering an environment where players hold each

other accountable can help minimize infractions. Game officials must also remain vigilant and enforce penalties consistently to deter chronic violations. Issuing temporary removals from the game and escalating penalties for repeated offenses are necessary measures to uphold the integrity of the game.

The high school football player equipment rules are a testament to the sport's commitment to player safety and team unity. This unity extends beyond aesthetics; it reinforces the idea that each player is part of a larger whole, working together toward a common goal. A team's integrity is maintained when no player stands out for the wrong reason. While it may seem like a minor detail, these regulations play a significant role in reducing injury and maintaining the integrity of the game.

### **SPORTSMANSHIP**

Unsportsmanlike conduct is incompatible with the values of education-based athletics. As unsporting acts increase at the college and professional levels, all stakeholders must work together to ensure high school football embodies the highest principles of sportsmanship and fundamental ethics of competition.

The focus of high school football is on the team – not the individual. The “individual over team” emphasis is contrary to the mission of education-based sports.

High school football is a game of extreme emotion played by exceptionally talented teenagers. Game officials should not be overly technical in applying the rules, but they should always be aware of conduct that does not exemplify sportsmanship. In determining whether an action rises to the level of a foul, game officials should allow for brief, spontaneous, emotional reactions at the end of a play. However, game officials should penalize acts that are prolonged, choreographed, and directed at an opponent.

The following actions are unsportsmanlike conduct that should be penalized without warning: demonstrations of violence such as brandishing guns and throat slashes, rehearsed poses, gestures with sexual connotation, dunking the ball over the crossbar, removal of helmet to celebrate or protest, dancing, somersaults or flips, and spiking or spinning the ball. Any act that is clearly intended to taunt, demean or show disrespect to an opponent or the game should be penalized. 3 The actions noted above are unsporting and contrary to the values of education-based athletics. The focus must remain on student-athletes, the values of team success, celebrating victory with class, and enduring loss with dignity.

### **DEFENSELESS PLAYER/TARGETING**

A defenseless player is a player who, because of physical position and focus of concentration, is especially vulnerable to injury. The player remains defenseless until the player's physical position and focus of concentration allows the player to have a chance to protect themselves or brace, at least partially, for contact.

The most common types of defenseless players include passers, receivers, sliding runners, runners whose forward progress is stopped, players out of the play and players who are illegally blocked from the blindside. For added defenseless player clarifications, please refer to 2.32.16 COMMENT and CHART in the 2025 NFHS Football Case Book.

A player is defenseless based on the player's own position and concentration. It is not determined by another player's actions. When the wrap-up tackle was added to the definition of defenseless player as it relates to contact on a defenseless receiver, it created confusion because this highlighted action by another player. Thus, the forceful contact against a defenseless receiver portion of Rule 2 (definitions) has been relocated to Rule 9 (conduct of players/penalty). By moving the wrap-up tackle portion of the defenseless player guidelines to Rule 9, it clearly limits the contact to a defenseless offensive or defensive receiver, to incidental contact that is a result of making a play on the ball, contact initiated with open hands, or an attempt to tackle by wrapping arm(s) around the receiver.

A major focus of the NFHS Football Rules Committee is to promote uniform enforcement of illegal contact on defenseless players across the country. We urge all coaches and game officials to study the rules, watch and share video, and have discussions with one another about what constitutes legal and illegal contact. Furthermore, a review of targeting provisions is crucial for minimizing risk for all players.

It is imperative that players clearly comprehend what contact is acceptable and be able to recognize when an opponent is considered defenseless. Players must realize that the responsibility for making legal contact resides with the person initiating the contact.

Game officials must demonstrate a broad awareness of what contact is necessary to make a legal block or tackle and contact considered excessive and, in some cases, flagrant. Forceful contact that is avoidable should not be tolerated by coaches or game officials. When in doubt, game officials should throw a flag for illegal personal contact and should be supported in doing so.

The long-term success of high school football is linked to risk minimization. Coaches, game officials, players and administrators share the responsibility to eliminate targeting and illegal contact against defenseless players from our great game.

**2025 NFHS RULES INTERPRETATIONS****2025 JERSEY & PANT RULES**

Requests for rule interpretations or explanations should be directed to the OSAA. The NFHS will assist in answering rules questions from the state associations whenever called upon.

**OSAA ADOPTED FOOTBALL RULES AND INTERPRETATIONS**

*The 2025 NFHS Football Rules Book will be used with the following clarifications:*

**1. TIE GAMES – REGULAR SEASON**

- A. The procedure on page 86-88 of the 2025 NFHS Football Rules Book shall be used to decide all ties in varsity games played in Oregon with the exception that the first and second overtime series shall begin on the 25-yard line; any subsequent overtime series shall begin on the 10-yard line.
- B. **NOTE:** It is the option of each athletic district as to whether the tie-breaking method will be utilized below the varsity level. This option should be communicated to the local officials' Association.

**2. OVERTIME PROCEDURES – Rule 3-1-1 Note**

**Note 1:** *Resolving Tied Games Procedures (2025 NFHS Football Rules Book pages 87-90) will be used with the following modifications:*

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Overtime:</b>	<i>Each team shall have one series beginning w/1st and 10 on the 25-yard line</i>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Overtime:</b>	<i>Each team shall have one series beginning w/1st and 10 on the 25-yard line</i>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Overtime:</b>	<i>Each team shall have one series beginning w/1st and goal on the 10-yard line</i>
<b>Subsequent Overtimes:</b>	<i>Each team shall have one series beginning w/1st and goal on the 10-yard line</i>

**Note 2:** *Starting with the 3<sup>rd</sup> overtime, it shall always be the goal to go to include when the offense is awarded a 1st down.*

**Note 3:** *OT for tie games below the varsity level remains conference option.*

**3. SCORE DIFFERENTIAL – FOOTBALL (35-Point Rule – Running Clock Procedures)**

**NFHS Football Rules 1-7-10 and 3-1-2 allow individual states to establish guidelines to use a running clock when an established point differential is reached. The following procedures shall apply for all classifications:**

***When a margin of 35-points is achieved at halftime or thereafter, the following timing modifications shall take effect; NFHS timing rules (3-4-1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) shall be replaced with the following: The game clock shall start with the ready-for-play signal for the ensuing kickoff and shall continue to run until one of the following occurs:***

- a) *For measurement of a possible first down*
- b) *For a player who appears to be injured*
- c) *For unusual heat or humidity which may create a health risk to players*
- d) *For a coach-referee conference concerning the misapplication of a rule*
- e) *When a TV/radio time-out is granted*
- f) *For a one-minute intermission between the third and fourth periods and following a try\*\*, successful field goal, or a safety*
- g) *A team time-out is granted*
- h) *When a team attempts to conserve or consume time*
- i) *Any unusual circumstances (dog on field, etc.)*

***Following any of the above listed clock stoppages, the game clock shall start on the next ready-for-play signal.***

- *Once the 35-point rule is invoked, it shall not be rescinded for any reason including when the 35-point margin is reduced.*
  - *For clarification purposes, when a team scores a touchdown causing the point margin to exceed 35, the 35-point rule is immediately invoked, and the game clock shall continue to run until the completion of the try. At the completion of the try, the game clock shall be stopped. The game clock will then restart on the ready-for play for the ensuing kickoff. If the game clock operator erroneously stops the game clock the Referee shall promptly restart it.*
  - *For clarification purposes, after the 35-point rule has been invoked and either team scores a touchdown, the game clock shall continue to run until the completion of the try. At the completion of the try, the game clock shall be stopped. The game clock will then restart on the ready-for play for the ensuing kickoff.*
  - *For all other scoring plays the game clock shall stop with the score and restart on the ready-for-play for the ensuing kickoff.*
4. **FOOTBALL – CLEATS:** In addition to the unsportsmanlike conduct penalty (15 yards) specified by the National Federation Rules Book, a student who is wearing illegal cleats in excess of 1/2" in length shall be ejected from the contest, whether or not the student has participated.
  5. **FOOTBALL – LEAGUE PLAYOFF PROHIBITION:** Leagues shall not use on-the-field procedures such as the "Kansas Plan" to break ties in league football standings at the end of the regular season. Each league shall develop its own standard operating procedure for resolving league ties off the field.
  6. **FOOTBALL – VIDEO EXCHANGE:** Each school participating in the Football State Championships, excluding schools assigned to the 1A classification, shall be required to exchange at least two videos with their next opponent *using HUDL*. The opposing coaches choose which videos to receive, and the exchange must be completed by noon on Sunday preceding the game in which the two schools meet.
  7. **25/40 SECOND PLAY CLOCK:** *If a visible play clock is not in use the BJ shall raise his/her hand with 5 seconds remaining in the 25 or 40 second count and there shall be no visible countdown of the last 5 seconds. In contests officiated with less than 5 officials, no signal is given.*  
*Visible play clocks shall be turned off when a running game clock is invoked.*
  8. **TEAM BOX:** The team box will remain between the 25-yard lines and will NOT be extended.
  9. **ONE VOICE from the BENCH POLICY:** *NFHS Rules 9-8-1a-d are supplemented by the following:*
    - A. *Only the Head Coach (or their designee) may communicate with the game officials*
    - B. *Inappropriate communication by assistant coaches, non-players, or other team members with the game officials:*
      - 1) *The first offense by an assistant coach is a UNS charged to that assistant coach and a warning to the Head Coach*
      - 2) *The first offense by a different assistant coach is a UNS charged to that assistant coach and a UNS to the Head Coach. Only one 15yd penalty is enforced.*
      - 3) *The second offense by an assistant coach is a second UNS and disqualification of that coach. In addition, the Head Coach is charged with a second UNS and is therefore also disqualified. Only one 15yd penalty is enforced.*
  10. **Coin Flip Mechanic:** The pre-game coin flip will be conducted 3-min prior to scheduled game time. A recommended timeline is listed below: *(Adjust as necessary for various start times)*. Failure by a team to have captains present and ready for the coin flip 3-min prior to scheduled kickoff will result in an Unsportsmanlike penalty charged to the Head Coach.
 

5:30pm -	Field open for pre-game warm-up
6:25pm -	<b>Officials, head coaches, and medical staff should meet to go over the Pre-Event Safety Timeout and the Emergency Action Plan.</b>
6:30pm -	Officials should meet the head coaches to cover any issues before the game, provide a list of the officials for the game, cover any unusual plays, ensure all players are legally equipped, discuss halftime length, etc. The game clock should be set at 30 minutes.
6:50pm -	National Anthem and teams should be introduced
6:57 pm-	With 3-min on the game clock the field must be cleared, and no more than four team members in uniform meet with officials for the coin toss and sportsmanship message.
7:00 pm-	Kickoff

**11. Try after TD on the Last Play of the Game:** *Regarding NFHS Rule 3-3-3d, Oregon does not use points scored in any manner to determine league champions or qualifying for post-season play. Therefore, if a TD is scored on the last play of the fourth period, the try is only attempted if it could affect the outcome of the game.*

**12. Enforcement of Required Equipment Rules:**

*NFHS Football Rules 1-5-1 (mandatory equipment) and 1-5-2 (auxiliary equipment) are modified as follows:*

*For violations of 1-5-1 and 1-5-2, the offending player is removed for one play and the offending team is charged with a delay of game foul under Oregon strengthened Rule 3-6-2e.*

*Examples include, but are not limited to:*

- *Knee pads not completely covering the knee*
- *Pants not completely covering the knee pads*
- *Jerseys shall reach the top of the pants, and shall be tucked in if longer*
- *T-shirts shall be tucked in and shall not be exposed prior to the snap*
  - o *Players not numbered 50 thru 79 – Zero tolerance*
  - o *Players numbered 50 thru 79 and some defensive lineman – Some tolerance is needed, please work with them.*
  - o *Effective with the 2027 season, any T-Shirts or under garments shall be the same color as the pants*
- *More than one mouthpiece, no mouthpiece at all, or any attachments which do not serve a purpose in protecting the teeth*
- *Shoulder pads not fully covered by the jersey*

*NFHS Football Rules 1-5-3 (illegal equipment) is modified as follows:*

*For violations of 1-5-3*

- *First event - The offending player is removed for one play and the Head Coach is issued their one and only warning.*
- *Subsequent events -The offending player is removed for one play and the Head Coach of the offending team is charged with Unsportsmanlike Conduct under Rule 9-8-1h.*

*Examples shall always be included, but shall not be limited to:*

- *Eye shade more than a single stroke (stickers are OK but must have no writing or symbols)*
- *Eye shields that are not completely clear without the presence of any tint*
- *Wrist bands (sweat bands) worn anywhere other than on the wrist*
- *Bandanas when exposed from under the helmet*
- *Balaclavas, ski masks, hoodies and any other head covering when exposed from under the helmet*
- *Play cards not worn on the wrist or arm*
- *Rib pads or back pads not fully covered by the jersey*
- *Towels that don't meet the size requirements*
- *Jewelry (Medic Alert and Religious Medals are not considered jewelry and must be taped to the body if worn)*

*Additionally, (Oregon only) violations of 1-5-3c(2) audio or video electronic communication (e.g. headsets or microphones used to communicate with players) or audio or video recording devices (worn by players), functional or not, SHALL result in the immediate disqualification of BOTH the offending player and the offending players' Head Coach for a Flagrant Unsportsmanlike Conduct violation of Rule 9-8-1e. Under the NFHS 2025 Rules changes, electronic signage on the sideline may be used to communicate plays or other information to players.*

- a. Officials choosing not to enforce the following interpretation are subject to individual and/or association sanctions including reduction or elimination of playoff games.
- b. Coaches shall consider this a directive from the OSAA office and therefore are requested to work with the officials in accomplishing these tasks. Cooperation makes life better for all involved.

The OSAA is working pro-actively with coaches, athletic directors and officials to prevent and resolve illegal equipment issues before they surface. By rule, each player shall wear mandatory equipment prior to participating. A full description of mandatory equipment can be found in NFHS Rule 1-5. Coaches are required to verify their players are properly equipped and in accordance with the rules in the pre-game meeting. While football officials will observe players in their pre-game warm-ups and verbally notify the Head Coach of equipment violations, the onus for ensuring that players are properly equipped has always belonged to the coaching staff. The provisions of NFHS Rule 1-5 were written with the safety of the players as an indisputable goal. Knowing and practicing the provisions of NFHS Rule 1-5 will help us all achieve the OSAA's goal of preventing and resolving any issues before they surface.

**13. Sub-Varsity Kicking Game Modifications**

- a. Mutual agreement to use the following NFHS kicking rules deviations at the sub-varsity level is required of the participating schools prior to the coin flip. Failure to have mutual agreement prior to the coin flip results in the game being played with the Kicking Game modifications below.

If modifications are being used, the kicking game modifications outlined below apply to both kickoffs and scrimmage kicks (punts.) Teams cannot agree to modify one and not the other.

Once an option is selected it can't be modified during the game for any reason.

It is recommended that these modifications be discussed and agreed upon by Athletic Directors and coaches well before game time, preferably in the week leading up to the game.

b. **Kickoff Modifications**

Options for the team that wins the coin toss will be to defer choices OR choose to go on either offense or defense OR choose the goal that team will defend. The team on offense will start 1st and 10 at their 35-yard line anywhere between the hash marks. The game clock will start on the snap.

- Following a score, the non-scoring team will put the ball in play 1st and 10 at their 35-yard line after their opponents PAT. The ball will be placed on the 35-yard line anywhere between the hash marks. The game clock will start on the snap.
- Following a safety, the ball will be placed on the Team B 45-yard line, 35 yards from the Team A 20-yard line, anywhere between the hash marks. The game clock will start on the snap.
- Following a touchback, the ball will be placed on the Team B 20-yard line anywhere between the hash marks. The game clock will start on the snap.

c. **Scrimmage Kick (Punt) Modifications**

The receiving team will put the ball in play 1st and 10 at the succeeding spot 25- yards from the previous spot anywhere between the hash marks. If the previous spot is on or inside the Team B 45-yard line, the ball will be placed at the Team B 20-yard line. The game clock will start on the snap. This does not eliminate Team A's option of "going for" a first down on 4th down.

NOTE: Field goal attempts and PAT's by placekick will be conducted under NFHS Football Rules. These are considered scoring plays; rushing by the defense is allowed and blocked or errant field goal attempts may be advanced by either team.

NOTE: Team A may "quick-kick" the ball at any time during their offensive series. However, the defense may not advance the ball. The ball becomes dead where the defense catches or recovers the ball or the ball otherwise becomes dead by rule.

d. **Field Goal / Kick Try Modifications**

***NOTE: Field goal attempts and PAT's by placekick will be conducted under normal NFHS Football Rules. These are always considered scoring plays; rushing by the defense and normal play is allowed. Blocked or errant Field Goal attempts are live balls.***

## **OSAA FOOTBALL POLICIES**

### **Effective outside Association Year.**

1. **SUMMER POLICY**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy "SUMMER POLICY" in the OSAA Handbook, revised Fall 2017.

### **Effective during Association Year, outside the designated OSAA sport season.**

2. **PRACTICE LIMITATION RULE (6A, 5A, 4A)**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy "PRACTICE LIMITATION RULE (6A, 5A, 4A)" in the OSAA Handbook, revised July 2022.

3. **PRACTICE LIMITATION RULE (3A, 2A, 1A)**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “PRACTICE LIMITATION RULE (3A, 2A, 1A)” in the OSAA Handbook, revised July 2022.

### **Effective First Practice Date through End of HS Season.**

1. **PRACTICE MODEL**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “PRACTICE MODEL” in the OSAA Handbook, revised July 2021.

2. **PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS” in the OSAA Handbook, revised December 2020.

3. **OFFICIALS – CERTIFIED REQUIREMENT**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “OFFICIALS – CERTIFIED REQUIREMENTS” in the OSAA Handbook, revised Summer 2023.

4. **INTERRUPTED CONTESTS**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “INTERRUPTED CONTESTS” in the OSAA Handbook, revised Fall 2015.

5. **SCORE DIFFERENTIAL PROCEDURES**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “SCORE DIFFERENTIAL PROCEDURES” in the OSAA Handbook, revised Summer 2020.

2. **FOOTBALL – PLACEMENT IN A DIFFERENT CLASSIFICATION**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “SCORE DIFFERENTIAL PROCEDURES” in the OSAA Handbook, revised September 2023.

**(Placement in a Different Classification – Football Only)**

## **STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS INFORMATION**

1. **STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS POSTING TIMELINES:** <https://www.osaa.org/activities/fbl>

- A. **Athletic Directors, Coaches and Spectators:** Detailed information regarding the Football State Championships will be posted on the OSAA website on Friday, **October 24**. It is essential that participating teams and individuals access this information prior to the state championships. Included will be information regarding ticket prices, parking, maps, how to submit souvenir program information, souvenir merchandise, etc.
- B. **Event Management Information (EMI):** Beginning Friday, **October 24**, schools that host state championship games must download Event Management Information from the OSAA website. Included will be information regarding expenses, admission policies, game management & ticket report, ticket booth signs, PA script, etc.

2. **STATE CHAMPIONSHIP LOCATIONS AND TIMES**

- A. **First Round – Quarterfinals:**
  - 1) Refer to brackets for locations and home team designation.
  - 2) Games are to be played Friday, 7pm/7:30pm, or Saturday, 1pm for all rounds prior to the semifinals. Game times are by mutual agreement of both schools participating. Games are to be played at the times indicated unless both schools involved agree otherwise and approval is granted from the OSAA office. If schools cannot mutually agree, the OSAA will make the final decision.
- B. **Semifinals:** Neutral field (preferably artificial turf) as determined by the OSAA. OSAA will determine days and times for all semifinals.
- C. **Finals:** OSAA will determine days and times for all finals.

3. **PLAYOFF QUALIFICATIONS**

A. **6A – 16-team 6A Championship bracket and 8-team 6A Columbia Cup bracket**

- 1) **Automatic Qualifiers** – *Twelve* teams automatically qualify for the OSAA’s **24 qualifying spots (Two brackets: 16-team 6A Championship bracket and 8-team 6A Columbia Cup bracket)** based on regular season and/or special district tournament play on or before **Friday, October 31**. Each league / special district determines how they will select their allotted playoff spot.

***PIL – 2; Metro – 2; Pacific – 2; Mt. Hood – 2; Three Rivers – 2; Special District 1 - 2***

- 2) **Rankings Freeze Date** – The rankings will freeze at **the conclusion of all contests** on **Friday, October 31**.



- 3) **At-Large Qualifiers** – *Twelve* additional teams will qualify for the OSAA's **24** qualifying spots (**Two brackets: 16-team 6A Championship bracket and 8-team 6A Columbia Cup bracket**) based on the OSAA rankings. Once the rankings are frozen, the *twelve* next highest ranked teams not already an automatic special district qualifier will qualify as At-Large teams.
- 4) **Rankings** – Once the **24** qualifying teams are determined, they will be placed on the OSAA brackets according to OSAA Executive Board Policy "[State Championships – Rankings.](#)"
  - a) **OSAA 16-team 6A Championship Bracket.** The six (6) league champions along with the next *ten* highest ranked teams from the 24 qualifying teams will make up the 16-team 6A Championship bracket.
  - b) **OSAA 8-team 6A Columbia Cup Bracket.** The remaining 8 qualifying teams will be placed on the 8-team 6A Columbia Cup bracket.

**B. 5A – 16-Team OSAA Bracket**

- 1) **Automatic Qualifiers** – *Ten* teams automatically qualify for the OSAA's 16-team bracket based on regular season and/or special district tournament play on or before **Friday, October 31**. Each league / special district determines how they will select their allotted playoff spots.  
Intermountain – 2; Special District 1 – 2; Special District 2 – 2; Special District 3 – 2; Special District 4 – 2
- 2) **Rankings Freeze Date** – The rankings will freeze at **the conclusion of all contests** on Friday, October 31.
- 3) **At-Large Qualifiers** – *Six* additional teams will qualify for the OSAA's 16-team bracket based on the OSAA rankings. Once the rankings are frozen, the *six* highest ranked teams not already an automatic special district qualifier will qualify as At-Large teams.
- 4) **Rankings** – Once the 16 qualifying teams are determined, they will be placed on the OSAA bracket according to OSAA Executive Board Policy "[State Championships – Rankings.](#)"

**C. 4A – 16-Team OSAA Bracket**

- 1) **Automatic Qualifiers** – 15 teams automatically qualify for the OSAA's 16-team bracket based on regular season and/or special district tournament play on or before **Saturday, November 1**. Each special district determines how they will select their allotted playoff spots.  
Special District 1 – 3; Special District 2 – 3; Special District 3 – 3; Special District 4 – 3; Special District 5 – 3
- 2) **Rankings Freeze Date** – The rankings will freeze at **the conclusion of all contests** on Saturday, November 1.
- 3) **At-Large Qualifier** – One additional team will qualify for the OSAA's 16-team bracket based on the OSAA rankings. Once the rankings are frozen, the highest ranked fourth place team from Special District 1, 3, or 4 will qualify as the At-Large team.
- 4) **Rankings** – Once the 16 qualifying teams are determined, they will be placed on the OSAA bracket according to OSAA Executive Board Policy "[State Championships – Rankings.](#)"

**D. 3A – 16-Team OSAA Bracket**

- 1) **Automatic Qualifiers** – Twelve teams automatically qualify for the OSAA's 16-team bracket based on regular season and/or special district tournament play on or before **Saturday, November 1**. Each special district determines how they will select their allotted playoff spots.  
Special District 1 – 2; Special District 2 – 2; Special District 3 – 2; Special District 4 – 2; Special District 5 – 2;  
Special District 6 – 2
- 2) **Rankings Freeze Date** – The rankings will freeze at **the conclusion of all contests** on Saturday, November 1.
- 3) **At-Large Qualifiers** – Four additional teams will qualify for the OSAA's 16-team bracket based on the OSAA rankings. Once the rankings are frozen, the four highest ranked teams not already an automatic special district qualifier, will qualify as At-Large teams.
- 4) **Rankings** – Once the 16 qualifying teams are determined, they will be placed on the OSAA bracket according to OSAA Executive Board Policy "[State Championships – Rankings.](#)"

**E. 2A (9) – 16-Team OSAA Bracket**

- 1) **Automatic Qualifiers** – Twelve teams automatically qualify for the OSAA's 16-team bracket based on regular season and/or special district tournament play on or before **Saturday, November 1**. Each league / special district determines how they will select their allotted playoff spots.

Special District 1 – 2; Special District 2 – 2; Special District 3 – 2; Special District 4 – 2; Special District 5 – 2; Special District 6 – 2

- 2) **Rankings Freeze Date** – The rankings will freeze at **the conclusion of all contests** on Saturday, November 1.
- 3) **At-Large Qualifiers** – Four additional teams will qualify for the OSAA's 16-team bracket based on the OSAA rankings. Once the rankings are frozen, the four highest ranked teams not already an automatic special district qualifier will qualify as At-Large teams.
- 4) **Rankings** – Once the 16 qualifying teams are determined, they will be placed on the OSAA bracket according to OSAA Executive Board Policy "[State Championships – Rankings](#)."

**F. 1A (8) – 12-Team OSAA Bracket**

- 1) **Automatic Qualifiers** – **Eight** teams automatically qualify for the OSAA's 12-team bracket based on regular season and/or special district tournament play on or before **Friday, October 31**. Each special district determines how they will select their allotted playoff spots.

Special District 1 – 2; Special District 2 – 2; Special District 3 – 2; Special District 4 – 2

- 2) **Rankings Freeze Date** – The rankings will freeze at the conclusion of all contests on **Friday, October 31**.
- 3) **At-Large Qualifiers** – **Four** additional teams will qualify for the OSAA's 12-team bracket based on the OSAA rankings. Once the rankings are frozen, the three highest ranked teams not already an automatic special district qualifier will qualify as the At-Large teams.
- 4) **Rankings** – Once the twelve qualifying teams are determined, they will be placed on the OSAA bracket according to OSAA Executive Board Policy "[State Championships – Rankings](#)."

**G. 1A (6) – 12-Team OSAA Bracket**

- 1) **Automatic Qualifiers** – **Seven** teams automatically qualify for the OSAA's 12-team bracket based on regular season and/or special district tournament play on or before **Saturday, November 1**. Each special district determines how they will select their allotted playoff spots.

Special District 1 – 3; Special District 2 – 2; Special District 3 – 2

- 2) **Rankings Freeze Date** – The rankings will freeze at **the conclusion of all contests** on Saturday, November 1.
- 3) **At-Large Qualifier** – **Five** additional teams will qualify for the OSAA's 12-team bracket based on the OSAA rankings. Once the rankings are frozen, the **five** highest ranked teams not already an automatic qualifier will qualify as the At-Large teams.
- 4) **Rankings** – Once the twelve qualifying teams are determined, they will be placed on the OSAA bracket according to OSAA Executive Board Policy "[State Championships – Rankings](#)."

**4. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS - HOME TEAM DESIGNATION (OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies) (Revised Fall 2018)**

During all rounds of each OSAA State Championship bracket, the team with the better Adjusted Playoff Ranking (APR) shall be the designated home team.

**5. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – TEAM SIZE (OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies) (Revised Fall 2023)**

- A. The following limitations shall apply to replacement players and maximum team sizes for team sport State Championship events, first round through championship final. **NOTE:** Only players in uniform are allowed to participate in pre-game warm-ups.
- B. **Penalties for excessive team size:** Suiing up, warming up, or playing too many players shall be considered a gross act of unsportsmanlike conduct and may be punishable by fines, forfeiture and/or other penalties as determined by the OSAA Executive Board.
- 3) **Football.** Team: Replacement of players applies to each game. A player replaced on the roster may be reinstated to the roster in subsequent games. Maximum in uniform: 6A-60, 5A-50; 4A-40; 3A-33, 2A-33; 1A(8)-24; 1A(6)-18.

**6. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – ADOPTED BALL** (OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies)

(Fall 2010)

The OSAA shall require that the officially adopted ball for that sport be used in all state championship contests, first round through final sites.

**A. State Championship Contests at Home Sites.****2) Football.**

- a) Procedure. Officials shall confirm that both teams use the officially adopted ball. If either team uses balls that are not the officially adopted balls, the contest shall be played, and officials shall report the school or schools in violation to the OSAA.
- b) Penalty. A school, which is found to have used a non-adopted ball in an OSAA state championship contest, shall be subject to fines, forfeiture and/or other penalties as determined by the OSAA Executive Board.

**B. State Championship Contests Administered by OSAA Staff.** Officially adopted balls (***Wilson footballs***) shall be provided by OSAA staff administering the contests.**OSAA GENERAL POLICIES****RULES****Rule 3 – Contests – Sportsmanship – Crowd Control**

See RULES - Athletic, Cheerleading and Dance/Drill “Rule 3-Contests-Sportsmanship-Crowd Control” in the OSAA Handbook.

**Rule 7 – Out-of-Season and Non-School Activities**

See RULES - Athletic, Cheerleading and Dance/Drill “Rule 7-Out of Season and Non-School Activities” in the OSAA Handbook.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD POLICIES****1. ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS / AREA-WIDE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS/AREA-WIDE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES” in the OSAA Handbook, revised May 2020.

**2. AIR QUALITY GUIDELINES**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “AIR QUALITY GUIDELINES” in the OSAA Handbook, revised February 2024.

**3. ATTACHED AND UNATTACHED COMPETITION / EXHIBITION**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “ATTACHED AND UNATTACHED COMPETITION/EXHIBITION” in the OSAA Handbook, revised August 2012.

**4. CERTIFICATION – ATHLETIC DIRECTORS AND COACHES**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “CERTIFICATION-ATHLETIC DIRECTORS AND COACHES” in the OSAA Handbook, **revised May 2024.**

**5. CHARITABLE CAUSES**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “CHARITABLE CAUSES” in the OSAA Handbook, revised Fall 2012.

**6. CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT” in the OSAA Handbook, revised Summer 2020.

[\(Medical Release – Return to Participation Following a Concussion\)](#)

[\(Medical Release – Return to Learn Following a Concussion\)](#)

**7. EJECTION POLICIES – EJECTED PLAYER OR COACH**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “EJECTION POLICIES – EJECTED PLAYER OR COACH” in the OSAA Handbook, revised Summer 2024.

[\(Ejection Report\)](#)

**8. EJECTION POLICIES – FINES**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “EJECTION POLICIES -- FINES” in the OSAA Handbook, revised Summer 2024.

**9. EJECTION POLICIES – MULTIPLE EJECTIONS OF INDIVIDUAL**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “EJECTION POLICIES – MULTIPLE EJECTIONS OF INDIVIDUAL” in the OSAA Handbook, revised Fall 2012.

**10. [HAIR DEVICE / ADORNMENT](#)**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy "HAIR DEVICE/ADORNMENT" in the OSAA Handbook, revised Summer 2022.

**11. [HEAT INDEX](#)**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy "HEAT INDEX" in the OSAA Handbook, revised Fall 2014.

[\(Heat Index Calculator\)](#) [\(Heat Index Record\)](#)

**12. [LIGHTNING SAFETY GUIDELINES](#)**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy "LIGHTNING SAFETY GUIDELINES" in the OSAA Handbook, revised Fall 2018.

[NFHS Position Statements & Guidelines](#)

**13. [MORATORIUM WEEK](#)**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy "MORATORIUM WEEK" in the OSAA Handbook, revised May 2014.

**14. [NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY](#)**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy "NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY" in the OSAA Handbook, revised July 2019.

[\(Complaint Form\)](#)

**15. [OFFICIALS – HOST SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES](#)**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy "OFFICIALS – HOST SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES" in the OSAA Handbook, revised Winter 2014.

**16. [REPORTING SCHEDULES, ROSTERS AND RESULTS](#)**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy "REPORTING SCHEDULES, ROSTERS AND RESULTS" in the OSAA Handbook, revised Summer 2024.

**17. [SHARED FACILITIES](#)**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy "SHARED FACILITIES" in the OSAA Handbook, revised Fall 2015.

[\(Shared Facility Request\)](#)

**18. [STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – RANKINGS](#)**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy "STATE CHAMPIONSHIP -- RANKINGS" in the OSAA Handbook, revised Summer 2024.

**19. [WITHDRAWAL DURING A COMPETITION](#)**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy "WITHDRAWAL DURING A COMPETITION" in the OSAA Handbook.