# FOOTBALL

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## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT TEAM AWARD

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Football - 1

Revised 7/2016
## FOOTBALL

### IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

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<th>2017-18</th>
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<td>9-Man/11B – Aug. 6 Others – Aug. 9</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<table>
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<td>November 3</td>
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<td>November 2</td>
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<td>Week/Day</td>
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<td>Friday, Week 18 (2017)</td>
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<table>
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<td>Thurs-Sat, Week 19</td>
<td>November 10-12</td>
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<td>November 9-11</td>
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### 2016 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS TIME/DATE SCHEDULE:

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Class 11AA</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class 11A</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Session Six – Saturday Evening:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class 11AAA</td>
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Participation in school activities teaches that it is a privilege and an honor to represent one’s school. Interscholastic activities constitute a part of the right kind of “growing up” experiences for students. Participants learn to accept success and failures, gain poise and confidence, achieve tolerance and understanding of others and gain the self-satisfaction of accomplishing goals. Under a well-administered school program, students and spectators become better citizens through participation and observation of activities conducted under established rules. Please refer to the Sportsmanship Section of the SDHSAA Athletic Handbook.
RULE ON SEASON DATES:
Practice may begin on Thursday of Week 6 (August 11, 2016) for all teams. There is no restriction on the first date of a “padded” practice; each school will decide when pads can be worn. No member school shall play another school in a football game unless it has had two full weeks (defined as ten days, including Saturdays) of practice. This rule has been interpreted to mean that a game may be played on the Thursday of NFHS Week 8 (August 25, 2016). Schools may participate in jamborees sponsored by the SDHSAA that occur prior to this date; jamborees are conducted as a training ground for football officials.
It is permissible for teams to issue equipment at any time, including prior to the first allowable practice date.

GAME LIMITATIONS:
The length of the regular season for all classes of football in South Dakota shall be nine weeks with eight or nine scheduled games. This nine-game limitation applies to all levels of competition, including but not limited to: Varsity, Junior Varsity, Sophomore and/or Freshman squads. (Updated, 2014 Season)

CLASSIFICATION AND ALIGNMENT
Member schools participating in football are divided into four 11-Man classifications and three 9-Man classifications. Classifications for the 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years have been based on the Average Daily Membership totals from December 2014. Classifications are defined in the “Athletic Alignment” section of the SDHSAA Handbook.
If the number of nine-man teams is not divisible by three (not including teams ineligible for the playoffs), the odd number will go to the lower classes. If the number of 9-man teams falls below 64 for two consecutive alignment periods, the number of 9-man classes will drop from three to two. The number of teams will then be equally divided into two classes.

CLASSIFICATION/ALIGNMENT SPECIAL NOTES:
• PETITION PROCESS FOR ALL CLASSES: The Board of Directors will grant permission to any school to participate in a higher classification than their ADM (9-11) places them. If a school requests and is granted permission, they will remain in the higher classification for a two-year alignment period. At the end of the two years, they could exercise their option again if they so desire. If a school requests to move up in one activity they must move up one classification in all other activities that use the same classification formula. The SDHSAA must be notified by July 1.

• Schools with Average Daily Memberships below the 11-man threshold may elect to play 11-man football. Any 9-man school/coop whose enrollment jumps from below the threshold to above the threshold has two years to make the transition from 9-man to 11-man. The transition period applies to a team composed of players from one school and also to existing cooperatives. There is no transition period allowed for a new football cooperative insofar as classification is concerned. Any new cooperative that has an initial combined ADM higher than the nine-man threshold may only be eligible for eleven-man football playoff competition.
NEW 2016: Schools provided this two-year transition period must demonstrate, using SD DOE published figures, that their enrollment will return to nine-man figures for the following cycle in order for the grace period to be granted.

• For football classification purposes, If two (2) or more schools enter into a cooperative agreement, the larger school will be considered the base school and the smaller school(s) will be considered the satellite school(s). The entire ADM (9-11) of the base school will be counted. The number of student participants from the satellite school(s) will be determined from the active participants listed on the roster submitted on the SDHSAA website as of the final regular season contest date. For each active, rostered participant grades nine through eleven from the satellite school(s), 10% of that school’s ADM will be counted. It will be necessary for the satellite school to identify students from their school listed on the roster.

• UPDATED, 2016: All football cooperatives must remain intact for four years. Disbanding or creating any football cooperative must be granted approval by the Board of Directors prior to the establishment of a new master schedule for the next alignment period. The very latest for approving applications for creating or disbanding a football cooperative will be the January meeting of the Board of Directors preceding the establishment of the schedules for the next alignment period. This regulation applies only in those situations where an effect on scheduling will take place.

• Schools/teams whose ADM figure designates them as an 11-man program are only able to appeal to participate in the highest classification or 9-man football if that school/team so desires to file an ADM appeal.
RULE REVISIONS FOR THE 2016 SEASON
National Federation Rule Changes

1-5-1d(5)a Completely clear or completely white tooth and mouth protectors are no longer prohibited.

1-5 NOTE; 1-5-2b Football gloves are now required to meet either the new SFIA specification or the existing NOCSAE test standard at the time of manufacture.

2-17; 9-3-6; 9-3 PENALTY Clipping in the free-blocking zone is now illegal.

2016 NFHS EDITORIAL CHANGES

Diagram NOTE; 1-5-1b(1); 1-5-1b(2)a, (3)a; 1-5-3a(1)a; 2-38; 4-3-2; 5-1-1b; 7-5 PENALTY; 9-3-5; 9-4-3h; 9-5-1a; 9-8-1a; 10-2-5; 10-5-1a; PENALTY SUMMARY.

2016 NFHS/SDHSAA POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Risk Minimization
2. Legal and Illegal Blocks
3. Legal Jerseys, Pants and Pads
4. Unfair Acts

South Dakota Changes

1) Classifications/Grace Period: Rules that allow a nine-man team to apply for a two-year grace period remain in place. However, a requirement shall be added that requires any team applying for a two-year grace period to demonstrate, using published SD Department of Education figures, that their enrollment will return to nine-man figures for the following cycle in order for the grace period to be granted. Without this published proof, no two-year grace period will be granted.

2) Co-operative Agreements: Specific to the sport of football: “All co-operative agreements in the sport of football must remain intact for a period of four years. If a co-op is broken by either school before four years have passed, neither school will be eligible for post-season play unless a hardship is granted by the SDHSAA Board of Directors.”

3) Halftimes for all 11-man varsity competitions shall be 15 minutes, with the mandatory plus-three warm-up. Halftimes may be extended to 20-plus-3 only if both teams are provided 24 hours of advance notice.

4) 11A Semi-Finals: All Class 11A Semi-Finals shall all be played on the Friday prior to the State Championship.

GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Athletic Contest Contracts
   According to Article VIII, Section 2 of the SDHSAA Constitution, all contests must be sanctioned by the Principal, Superintendent or Athletic/Activities Director of the schools involved. It is recommended that athletic contest contracts be used for all levels of competition.

B. Licensed Officials Mandatory
   Only licensed officials may be used for interscholastic varsity football contests. The official must be licensed with the SDHSAA and have completed all requirements. The SDHSAA office publishes a list of all “registered” and “certified” football officials. Officiating crews requesting SDHSAA Varsity Football Contracts are responsible for providing a licensed crew for varsity contests to schools. Beginning in 2013, the SDHSAA Office is responsible for all officials’ assignments for varsity contests during the regular season. Prior to each season, the SDHSAA will provide crew assignments for all regular season games to both crews and schools. Beginning in 2015, the rate that all schools must pay officials is $100 per man. Crews should also receive mileage for travel to the game.

C. Team Roster and School Information
   • Coaches are required to enter their team roster on the SDHSAA website. (WEB FORM – Football Roster) A $50.00 fine will be assessed to any school not meeting the following deadline for entering their roster: September 1.
• The roster should be edited as the season progresses. This will enable all schools to access the roster for program purposes during the season. This roster shall be updated on-line one week prior to the First Round Playoff Games. Additional information may be required.
• A coach may include as many players on the list or roster as he wishes. The actual players making up the team may change from game to game, day to day, etc.
• All information on this form (school info, coaches, cheerleaders, student managers, etc) will be used for playoff programs including State Championship contests. Each school is responsible for updates to this form.
• If a school needs to draw upon a substitute during the playoffs whose name was not on the Team Roster and School Information Form, they may do so as long as the substitute is eligible per the SDHSAA Constitution and Bylaws.

D. Schedules Due
All schedule information is due to be submitted to the SDHSAA website utilizing the school zone by June 1. A $50 late fee will be assessed to the member schools who fail to meet this deadline. The deadline for schools to make changes in their schedules is September 1. Should a school discontinue their football program after the deadline then the opponents of said school will be permitted to schedule other opponents in lieu thereof.

E. Player Equipment
The National Federation football rules require all players (Grade 9-12) be equipped with a helmet and face mask with the NOCSAE seal of approval along with having a visible exterior warning label which indicates the players have been instructed and understand the risks involved in the game of football. The helmet shall be secured by a properly fastened chin strap with at least four snaps. No helmet older than ten years may be reconditioned and/or certified.
It is also required for a player to wear an intraoral mouth and tooth protector, soft knee pads worn over the knees and under the pants; pants which cover the knees and knee pads; hip pads with tailbone protector; shoulder pads fully covered by the jersey; thigh guards; shoes; and a jersey with numerals on the front and back. Required equipment may not be altered from the manufacturer’s original design/production. Prior to the start of the game, the head coach shall be responsible for verifying to the referee that all of his players are equipped in compliance with these rules.
Players of the visiting team shall wear primarily white in color, while players of the home team shall wear jerseys that are non-white. Specific information on numbering, etc., can be found in the NFHS Football Rules Book.

F. Field Markings
Rule 1-2 of the NFHS Football Rules Book lists the requirements of a regulation football field. Of note:
• Five yard lines are to be marked along with the ten yard lines.
• Hash Marks, 100 Yard Field – NFHS Rules require hash marks to be placed 53’ 4” from either sideline, dividing the field into perfect thirds. However, college fields require a 60’ width from sideline to hash, hash to hash and hash to sideline. It should be noted that either set-up is deemed acceptable for SDHSAA play. State Championship contests will be played utilizing the 60’ width.
• Hash Marks, 80 Yard Field – NFHS Rules require hash marks to be placed 48’ 4” from the sideline and 23’ 4” apart.
• Eleven-man Football must be played on a traditional 100-yard field. Nine-man Football may be played on either an 80-yard or 100-yard field.
• Nine-Yard Marks (numbers) should be designated by a bisecting mark on each five-yard line, nine yards inside of the field from either sideline

G. Restraining Line
A four-inch wide, broken restraining line shall be placed around the outside of the field, at least two yards from the sidelines and end lines, as an extension of the line limiting the team box area, except in stadiums where the total playing enclosure does not permit. It is recommended that the restraining line be marked by placing 12-inch lines, separated at 24-inch intervals.

H. Team Boxes
Team boxes shall be marked on each side of the field outside the coaches’ area between the 25-yard lines for use of coaches, substitutes, athletic trainers, etc., affiliated with the team. The coaches’ area is a minimum of a 2-yard belt between the front of the team box and the sideline, and becomes a restricted area when the ball is live.
NOTE: It is permissible for both team boxes to be on the same side of the field, provided each team box is marked between respective 20- and 45-yard lines.

I. Goal Posts
1. The NFHS Rule Book calls for goal posts to be constructed in each end zone with a cross bar 10’ above the ground level, and 23’ 4” between uprights. It is permissible to use college or professional-style goal posts with uprights set at widths less than the 23’ 4” NFHS minimum.
2. The goal posts shall be padded with a resilient, shock absorbing material to a height of at least six feet above the ground. If such padding is not in place, the game shall not be played until padding is secured. Any instance where this occurs should be reported by game officials to the SDHSAA office.
J. Authorized Conferences between Coaches and Players

There are two types of authorized team conferences:

1. Outside Nine-Yard Mark (Numbers) Conference: One or more team members and one or more coaches directly in front of the team box within nine yards of the sideline, or

2. Between Nine-Yard Mark (Numbers) Conference: One coach on the field to confer with no more than 11 players at this team’s huddle between the hash marks

NOTE: It is permissible for players, non-players and coaches to use headphones or other electronic devices during authorized conferences conducted in front of their team box and within nine yards of the sidelines. A coach who utilizes the conference with no more than 11 players between the inbounds marks may use headphones during the conference, but players may not.

K. SDHSAA Headphone Policy

Schools are not required to provide communication (headphone) service for both teams. Each school is to be considered ‘on their own.’ However, the host school is responsible for providing a suitable, equitable place for coaches to observe the contest from (press box).

L. Player Numbering Requirements

1. Eleven-Man: At least seven offensive players, five of whom must be numbered 50-79, shall be on their line at the snap. EXCEPTIONS: On first, second or third down, when A sets or shifts into a scrimmage-kick formation as in 2-14-2a, the snapper may be a player numbered 1 to 49 or 80 to 99. If team A has the snapper in the game under this exception, Team A shall have at least four players wearing numbers 50-79 on its line of scrimmage. The snapper in the game under this exception must be between the ends and is an ineligible forward pass receiver during the down unless the pass is touched by B. On fourth down or during a kick try, when A sets or shifts into a scrimmage-kick formation, any player numbered 1 to 49 or 80 to 99 may take a position of any A player numbered 50 to 79. A player in the game under this exception must assume an initial position on his line of scrimmage between the ends and he remains an ineligible forward pass receiver during that down unless the pass is touched by B.

2. Nine-Man: Teams are exempt from player number requirement(s) as stated in the NFHS Football Rule Book.

M. Tie-Breaking Procedure to be Followed

The “Ten Yard line Overtime Procedure” spelled out in detail in the FOOTBALL RULE BOOK will be used for breaking all ties during the regular season as well as during the play-offs. This pertains to games played against all out-of-state opponents, regardless of where the contest is played.

N. Mercy Rule for 11-A, 11-B and 9-Man Football

In 11-A, 11-B and 9-man football, when a team secures a 35 point lead in the second half, the clock will continue to run except for timeouts (team or official) or after a score. If a team secures a 35 point lead in the second half and the score subsequently falls below the 35 point mark, the clock will continue to run as outlined.

If a team secures a 50 point or greater lead at the end of the first half, or if they secure such a lead during the second half, the game is ended immediately.

Regulation timing is followed in the first half regardless of the score.

These regulations shall be followed for all regular-season contests, as well as all first-round, quarterfinal and semifinal playoff contests. Only the 35-point running clock rule shall be in effect for State Championship contests (50 point rule will not take effect in a State Final contest).

O. Head Coaches Must Complete Rules Meetings and Pass Open Book Test

All SDHSAA Member School Head Football Coaches must view an online rules meeting, as well as pass an open book rules exam. A fine of $50.00 will be assessed against any member school whose head coach fails to complete the rules meeting or pass the open book test. If the head coach fails to complete both requirements, the fine will be $75.00.

Notification of testing dates and procedures will be sent to the athletic directors of each school, as well as posted to the SDHSAA website.

P. Extra Time-Out Due To Heat

Football contest officials have the authority to call an extra, officials’ timeout during contests in the event of extreme heat and/or humidity. This timeout is not charged to either team, and should be taken at a time when it will not provide a significant advantage/disadvantage to either team (preferably after a change of possession or score near the mid-point of each quarter). Decisions on whether or not to utilize heat timeouts should be made prior to the beginning of the contest and made primarily in the best interest of the health and safety of participating athletes.

Q. Disruption of Games Due to Weather (Lightning, Etc.)

Officials and school personnel should always rule on the side of safety and postpone or delay any outside activity when threatening weather exists. The SDHSAA Expects Home Site Management and Officials to follow NFHS Policy for suspension and resumption of play, which can be found in the rule book of each “outdoor” sport and is as follows:

- When thunder is heard, or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play and take shelter immediately.
• Thirty-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.
• Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30-minute count, reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.

For more detailed information, refer to the "Guidelines for Lightning Safety" contained in the NFHS Sports Medicine Handbook.

In the event that a contest cannot be resumed after a delay, based upon mutual agreement of both schools (not the officials), one of the following options may be selected:
1. Resume play from the point of interruption at a later date.
2. Declare a winner and loser based upon the score at the time of interruption.
3. (NEW 2015): If no mutual decision can be reached for the conclusion of a contest delayed by adverse weather, the SDHSAA will make the determination on whether or not to resume, and if so, will set a time/date for resumption of play.

R. Medical Coverage
For all games and practices, the SDHSAA recommends the following emergency procedures be in place:
1. Have a physician or other medical personnel (P.A., EMT, etc.) available by phone or on location.
2. Phone location and phone numbers available for contacting physician and/or ambulance service.

S. Injured Participant
The NFHS Football Rules Book states: “Any player who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the game and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional.”

T. Communicable Disease Procedures (Presence of Blood)
Please refer to the Physical Exams/Health Issues Section for the SDHSAA policy regarding presence of blood during interscholastic contests or practices.

U. Six- and Eight-Man Football
Member schools may schedule and play 6-man football if they so desire. However, there will be no championship playoff games conducted insofar as 6-man football is concerned, until the Board of Directors decides otherwise. It should be emphasized that there will be no team points or bonus points awarded to a 9-man football team who opts to play one of their allotted eight regular season games against a 6-man opponent. 9-Man teams may play 8-man teams from another state and the game will be handled as any other regular season contest in terms of seed points, etc.

V. Halftime Length
NEW – 2016: Halftimes for all 11-man competitions shall be 15 minutes, followed by the mandatory plus-three warm-up. Halftimes may only be extended to 20-plus-three if both teams have been provided 24 hours of advance notice.

SOUTH DAKOTA FOOTBALL PLAY-OFFS

A. General Information
1. Participation in the play-offs is optional for all schools. Schools playing football are considered a participant in the play-offs unless the school has informed the SDHSAA Office to the contrary. No longer is there a need for School Board action each year to provide this information.
2. An ADM cap has been established as the cut-off between nine-man and eleven-man football. Schools above this cap are only eligible for the eleven-man playoffs with the exceptions of transition periods and the 10% rule as noted at the beginning of this section.
3. There will be four regions in 11B and Nine-Man classifications. The region boundaries will not be the same for all classes. Region assignments are determined by the Board of Directors, and primarily look to secure a balanced number of schools in each region.

B. Selection Method
1. 11AAA, 11AA and 11A – The top eight teams based on seed point average will qualify for the first round of the playoffs. Teams will be seeded one through eight based upon seed point average, with the top four seeds hosting first-round contests.
   In 11B and 9-man, the top three teams from each region based on highest seed point average will automatically qualify for the first round of the playoffs. The next four highest seeded teams, regardless of region, will be selected as at-large qualifiers. An at-large team that finishes fourth in their region will remain in their region. Any other at-large qualifier will be moved to a new region with the highest seed point average rated team traveling the least for their first round game. After placing at-large teams, each region shall be seeded 1-4, with top seeds hosting first-round games; however, no at-large teams will be allowed to host a first-round game.
2. Only games between schools recognized by the South Dakota High School Activities Association as having varsity football teams will count when calculating the point totals. Games involving a non-varsity team or games against a 6-man opponent shall not count toward a team’s total points, nor will it meet the requirements as listed in item 5 below.
3. Only the results of regularly scheduled games will be used in calculating the point totals. If two teams play each other twice as part of their regular season schedule, then points may be earned for both games played and each game shall count as one of the team’s scheduled games during the regular season.

4. The points accrued for the determination of play-off entries in all classes shall terminate at the end of Week Eight of the Football Schedule (Saturday, October 22, 2016). Teams who have an out-of-state opponent with a game after this date will have their seed point reward based upon games through the end of Week Eight of the SDHSAA Football Schedule.

5. A team must play a minimum of six games with varsity football teams recognized by the SDHSAA or a neighboring state association.

6. If a 9-man team plays a combination of eleven-man and/or nine-man and/or eight-man during the course of a season in order to fill their schedule, it is understood that if 50% of the regular season games played are eleven-man games, the school will be classified as an eleven-man school for football play-off purposes. If more than 50% (five or more) of the regular season games played are nine-man and/or eight-man, then the school will be classified as a nine-man school for football play-off purposes.

7. If an eleven-man team, whose school enrollment exceeds the ADM cap for eleven-man plays more than one-half of their scheduled games against nine-man and/or eight-man teams, they shall be classified as an eleven-man school. It is expected that any eleven-man school that exceeds this cap make a strong effort to not schedule any nine-man and/or eight-man schools in the future.

8. If a South Dakota nine-man team plays an eight-man team from another state, the South Dakota team will receive points based upon the formula.

9. Classification of Out-of-State schools will be based on actual enrollment, grades 9-11, with the appropriate points awarded accordingly.

10. If it is mutually agreed to cancel a game, no points will be figured; however, if a forfeiture takes place, it will be treated as a win and a loss with a score of 1-0 recorded.

C. SDHSAA Football Seed Point System (NEW 2015)

1. The following system currently in use for basketball and volleyball for seed point determination for post-season seeding will be used as follows:

   Seed points will be awarded based upon opponent’s win percentage as shown in the chart below.
   *Win percentage = number of varsity wins divided by the number of varsity contests played.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opponent’s Winning Percentage</th>
<th>Points for Win</th>
<th>Points for Loss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>.750 and above</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.500 - .749</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.250 - .499</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.249 and below</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   a. No points are deducted for playing teams which are classified below your classification.
   b. No additional points are awarded for playing teams which are classified above your classification.
   c. No contests against non-varsity opponents will count toward seed points. However, such games must be counted as one of the allowable games that have been established for each team.

2. A team’s seed point average will be determined by dividing the total number of seed points earned by the total number of contests played against varsity opponents, regardless of the opponent’s classification.

3. One additional seed point will be awarded to a team’s average at the end of the regular season who finishes undefeated.

Point average for the season is computed to the nearest .000. The SDHSAA will computerize each team’s total points along with regional standings. Point totals will be tabulated on a weekly basis. They are available on the SDHSAA website (www.sdhsaa.com).

E. Seed Point Average Tie-Breaking Procedure

If teams should tie for a qualifying spot because of identical point averages, then the tie will be broken by applying the following criteria in the order listed. In the event of a multiple-team tie-break situation, teams shall be evaluated together until one is separated by the criteria in order. After one team is removed, the process shall start over with the remaining teams.

1. Head-to-Head result(s)
2. If a tied team has an undefeated record while the other(s) do(es) not
3. Team playing the most games
4. Team with the most victories
5. Team with the least losses
6. Common opponent – evaluated individually and in order of common opponent’s seed point average
   a. If team(s) played multiple common opponents, results of contest(s) against the common opponent with the best regular season seed point average will be evaluated as a first tie-breaker, followed by the next best, and so on
7. The average of the tying teams opponents’ seed points
8. SDHSAA to conduct a drawing by lot of the team(s) involved to take place in the presence of a Notary Public.

F. Procedure to be Followed in Notifying Qualifying Schools
1. SDHSAA staff will contact schools hosting a first-round contest, informing that school of their opponent and the names of the officials assigned to work the game.
2. Host Schools will then be responsible to contact their opponents’ school and also to contact the assigned officials.
3. Host Schools should also work with Visiting Schools to set a game time as per “Section M: Game Procedure” of this Handbook.
4. Host Schools should follow up with SDHSAA staff to confirm all parties (opponents and officials) have been notified, as well as designated game time/location.

G. Pairings
1. Class 11AAA, 11AA & 11A
   a. The eight teams with the highest seed point averages shall qualify for the first round of playoffs
      i. Any ties within seed point averages shall be broken using the tie-breaking procedure as listed in “Section E: Seed Point Average Tie-Breaking Procedure” for all rounds of play
   b. First-Round Pairings will be a traditional Eight-Team bracket (1v8, 2v7, etc). This bracket will not be re-seeded after any round.
   c. Teams with the higher seed point average shall be designated as the “home team” for each round of post-season play, including the State Championship contest(s)
2. Class 11B, 9AA, 9A and 9B
   a. Sixteen teams per class shall qualify for the first round of playoffs
   b. The three teams from each region with the highest seed point averages shall qualify for the first round of playoffs
   c. The next four teams with the highest seed point average, regardless of region, shall also qualify for the first round of playoffs as “at large” qualifiers. These teams will be placed in regions as described in “Section B: Selection Method”
   d. First-Round pairings for each region will be as follows: First Place vs Fourth Place Second Place vs Third Place
   e. The remaining rounds of playoffs will be conducted in a traditional Eight-Team bracket (1v8, 2v7, etc). This bracket will not be re-seeded after any round.
   f. Teams with the higher seed point average shall be designated as the “home team” for each round of post-season play (excluding at-large berths in the first round), including games through the State Championship contests

H. Determination of Sites
1. The determination of site for all sub-state football games will be as follows:
   a. The highest seeded team will always host the playoff game. This includes all first round, quarter-final, and semi-final games.
      NOTE: An at-large team may not host a first round game.
   b. In the event the school designated to host the game does not have access to a lighted field the game can be played in the afternoon at the designated host site. Schools may mutually agree to move the game to a neutral site and play the game at night. When moving a game to a neutral site, the shortest route mileage will always be based on the state highway system.
      NOTE: If one school in a coop has a lighted field and the other school in the co-op does not have a lighted field and the school with no lights has been designated to host the playoff game, mutual agreement must be granted from the visiting school to play an afternoon game. If mutual agreement cannot be reached, the game will be moved to the lighted field within the co-op and the game will be played at night.
   c. If a first round, quarter-final or semi-final playoff game is to be played on a field that is not the normal home field for the team scheduled to host the game, and if both teams agree to play at the neutral field at no additional mileage or team expense reimbursement, then said game could be played at the neutral field subject to final approval by the SDHSAA. The cost of renting the field shall be responsibility of the schools requesting permission to take their game to the neutral site. Rental of the neutral site is not an allowable itemized expense. This includes games moved to the Dakota Dome.
2. Sharing/Rental of Fields.
   a. Rental Fields: In the event a member school rents their playing field for regular season games and said field is not available, then the play-off game will be played according to one of the following mutually agreed upon options:
      1) Reverse the site to the opponent’s field. In such cases, the team that traveled would be considered a traveling team.
      2) Play at a neutral site so long as mileage is not increased. In such cases, the host school is considered as playing at home. Mileage reimbursement shall be based on the shortest route via the state highway system.
3) Play in the afternoon or the following day at the rental field.

b. In cases where there is more than one high school in the same city and more than one school share the same field, the following would apply:
   1) Starting time for the first game to be mutually agreed upon by the four teams.
   2) The host school that has control of the field will serve as host for the double header and shall have the right to choose the first or second game.
   3) In cases where two schools from the same city play each other, both teams will be considered as playing at home.
   4) Sharing of profits/losses for double-headers will be as per the formula with the SDHSAA receiving 30% (First round and Quarter-final) 40% (semi-final) of the gross ticket sales and each of the four participating schools to receive 25% of the profits after expenses have been paid. In the event a loss occurs the SDHSAA will reimburse the host school for the loss. The maximum amount of the reimbursement will be 50% of the mileage paid to the traveling teams or 50% of the total loss, whichever is less. Ticket prices for a double-header will be $5 for students and $7 for adults.

3. Should the two teams have the same seed point averages, the tie-breaker as described in “Section E: Seed-Point Tie Break Procedure” will be utilized.

4. Moving sub-state games to opponent’s field, neutral site or Dakota Dome: Permission from the executive staff will be contingent on the following:
   a. Severe weather conditions, severe weather forecast or unplayable field conditions at the designated site. Any of the following options are available to the participating schools:
      1) Move the game to the opponents field provided field and weather conditions are more favorable. In such cases the team that traveled will be considered as a traveling team and entitled to mileage.
      2) Move the game to a neutral site provided travel distance is not increased. In such cases, the host school is considered as playing at home. Mileage reimbursement for both schools shall be the shortest route via the state highway system. Both teams shall be entitled to mileage as per the formula.
      3) Move the game to the afternoon or the following day.
      4) Move the game into the Dakota Dome based upon the following:
         a) Availability of the Dakota Dome to the high schools.
         b) Movement of any game into the Dakota Dome is subject to the mutual agreement of both schools and the executive staff.
         c) The cost of renting the Dakota Dome shall be borne by the schools requesting permission to take their game inside. Rental of the Dakota Dome is not an allowable itemized expense.

5. The site for the “finals” in all classifications shall be the Dakota Dome located on the campus of the University of South Dakota in Vermillion.

I. Football Jersey Color Designation
The home (host) team will wear dark jerseys and the visiting team will wear white jerseys. For the Finals at the Dakota Dome, designation of the school to wear the dark jersey will be by the team with the highest point average.

J. Game Administration
The Board of Directors will designate the host school as well as the tournament manager for all sub-state games. The host school for the finals played in the Dakota Dome will be the University of South Dakota and the tournament manager will be a representative from said school. The tournament manager at each site and each level of competition will administer the game according to the regulations established by the Board of Directors.
   1. Provide participating schools with any necessary information not included in this manual.
   2. Arrange for a competent timer, scoreboard operator, announcer, two ball boys, and chain crew.
   3. Arrange for a competent statistician for all final games played in the Dakota Dome.
   4. Make arrangements for management of concessions.
   5. Arrange to have a physician present if at all possible at the game site. If this is not possible, it is strongly recommended that medical personnel (P.A., EMT, etc.) in some capacity be present.
   6. Arrangement should be made to have an ambulance available for an emergency.
   7. Secure ticket sellers, ticket takers, and ushers if needed.
   8. Host school to furnish roll tickets for both students and adults, and furnish appropriate ticket manifest and reconciliation forms for all play-off games. In addition, the host school shall make a financial report to the SDHSAA Executive Director no later than one (1) week after the game. Report forms will be distributed online through the School Zone section of the SDHSAA website.
   9. Complimentary passes to qualifying schools for the sub-state games may be provided for the schools’ administration (Superintendent, High School Principal(s), Athletic Director) and the spouses of the Administration and Coaches (Varsity Football). For the Final Play-off Games at the Dome, eight reserved-seat tickets will be mailed to the qualifying schools (coops) for the session that involves their team. The High School Press Pass Request and Adult Floor Pass Request forms are located in the School Zone under the Fine Arts Section on the SDHSAA website.
10. Assign dressing rooms to the teams and game officials.
11. Designate cheering sections for each participating school. Cheerleaders are expected to adhere to the “Cheerleader Safety Guidelines” published in the cheerleading section of the SDHSAA Handbook.
12. Arrange for adequate police protection as deemed necessary. Assign at least one policeman to the officials for half-time and the conclusion of the games.
13. Assist teams in making any housing arrangements. (Each school will be responsible for its own housing arrangements and meals, but may need assistance from the tournament manager.)
14. Make necessary arrangements for marking the field in accordance with the official rule book.
15. Secure the appropriate yard-to-gain chain. The length of this chain will be 10-yards for all levels of play.
16. Each participating school shall furnish three game footballs of their choosing that meet NFHS specifications. The SDHSAA will furnish footballs (Baden D1F7000L Perfection) for the finals played in the Dakota Dome. However, should a team prefer to use a legal football of their choosing to free kick or to start a new series of downs, they may do so provided they furnish three footballs, all of which are to be approved by the referee and the supervisor of officials. Non-approval will dictate the use of the Baden football. All game balls must have the official authenticating mark of the NFHS stamped on the ball. Information on the National Federation Authenticating Marks and SDHSAA Official Tournament Balls can be found in the General Section of the Athletic Handbook.
17. Only varsity cheerleaders in uniform shall be admitted free to sub-state games. Cheerleader passes will not be issued at any level of sub-state play-off competition. Cheerleader passes for those schools in the final games at the Dakota Dome will be issued from Tournament Headquarters in Vermillion.
18. Teams should be prepared to furnish their own towels for all play-off games, including the finals in the Dakota Dome.
19. Tournament managers are to make sure the flag is presented or displayed and the Star Spangled Banner is played by either a band or recording. Appropriate flag etiquette by athletes, coaches, cheerleaders is expected. It is suggested each coach advise his athletes and cheerleaders to stand at attention, face the flag and place their right hand over their heart during the National Anthem.
20. Band(s) volunteering to play in any play-off game will be admitted free of charge provided they are in uniform. Band chaperones and band bus driver(s) are to be admitted free when identified by the director of said band. No band will receive any remuneration for its appearance at any sub-state play-off game(s).
21. The displaying of signs, banners, flags or placards at all first-round, quarter-final, semi-final and final games is prohibited. Tournament manager will not permit these devices to be displayed. Banners and/or signs displayed by the SDHSAA, Bands of the Day, Radio Stations, Television Stations, and management signs are approved.
22. Prior to the start of the game or the second half, fans are not to make a human tunnel or the cheerleaders are not to have a hoop which the players can run through; fans are to remain off the field. This applies to all play-off games. NOTE: When awards are presented (championship games) fans are to remain off the field until after the awards have been presented and the official team picture has been taken.
23. All mechanical noise-making devices, including band instruments, are prohibited in the cheering sections for all first-round, quarter-final, semi-final and final games.
24. Laser pointers are prohibited.
25. All fans must wear shirts. This includes both adults and students.
26. The host school must provide a suitable place for coaching staffs to observe from (Press Box).
27. Programs for all sub-state games are to be the responsibility of the host school and tournament manager.
28. Programs for the finals in the Dakota Dome shall be the responsibility of the University of South Dakota. They shall have authority to sell advertisements in accordance with SDHSAA policy and are entitled to all profits from the sale of programs.

In order to be assured of having the necessary program information that is needed to produce a program for the finals, all schools that qualify for second-round games must verify that their program information is correct on the SDHSAA website. It is the tournament manager’s responsibility to print these rosters off of the SDHSAA website. This roster/information will be used for the finals held in the Dakota Dome. Also, a squad picture with each individual identified will be needed.
29. Radio Broadcasts. Because of limited facilities at some sites, it may be difficult to provide space for all radio stations wishing to broadcast the game. Positive effort should be made to provide space for stations wishing to broadcast the game. Requests to broadcast any play-off game should be in writing to the tournament manager and/or via the telephone.
30. Television crews may shoot footage for news telecasts. Television rights to broadcast the game(s) live or on a delayed basis are to be determined by the Board of Directors.
32. Press pass guidelines: Media members may use their SDHSAA issued press passes for all sub-state games and the Finals at the Dakota Dome.

33. The DakotaDome utilizes a field-turf surface and teams should be prepared to follow rules and guidelines of such a surface. The SDHSAA will not provide shoes, etc., to assist schools in that effort.

K. Percentage of Receipts to SDHSAA

Thirty percent (30%) of the gross receipts of all first round and quarter-final round games and forty percent (40%) of all semi-final games shall be paid to the SDHSAA for deposit in the general treasury of the Association. Receipts and disbursements are to be run through a regular school account or a school activity account.

L. Profit/Loss

The finances of each sub-state game will be kept separate. The host schools for all sub-state games are to pay all expenses out of the gate receipts, including the percentage to the SDHSAA and the fee and mileage for the game officials. The participating schools will each receive 50% of the profit. In the event a loss occurs the SDHSAA will reimburse the host school for the loss. The maximum amount of the reimbursement will be either 50% of the mileage paid to the traveling team or 50% of the total loss, whichever is less.

M. State Championship & Sub-State Game Procedure Notes

1. There shall be no practice on the official playing field during the week of the game. If the game is being played at the site of one of the participating schools, that particular school can practice on the field. Teams traveling to Vermillion for the final games in the Dakota Dome may use Vermillion Schools outdoor practice facilities. An exception may be made by the Executive Staff to move practice into the Dome if inclement weather conditions so dictate.

2. During the championship games in the Dakota Dome, no team will be allowed to begin structured warm-ups or any football activity on the game field earlier than one hour before kick-off time. For first-round, quarter-final and semi-final round games, teams may enter the field of play per mutual agreement between the two teams playing the game.

3. The official, recommended start time for all first-round and quarter-final games is 7:00 PM local time. Under favorable conditions, all first-round and quarter-final games are to be played at night and may start as early as 5:30 PM local time, subject to the approval of both teams. If two schools are unable to reach an agreement on contest time for any round of playoff contest, the recommended start time of 7:00 PM local time will be used. All semi-final round games may be played in the afternoon or evening subject to the approval of both teams. All First-Round and Second/Quarterfinal Round games should be played at night, with the following exceptions:
   a. In the event the school designated to host a first-round or quarter-final game does not have a lighted field the game can be played in the afternoon at the designated host site. Schools may mutually agree to move the game to a neutral site and play the game at night.
   b. If one school in a coop has a lighted field and the other school in the coop does not have a lighted field and the school with no lights has been designated to host the playoff game, mutual agreement must be granted from the visiting school to play an afternoon game. If mutual agreement cannot be reached, the game will be moved to the lighted field within the coop and the game will be played at night.
   c. Under severe weather conditions, severe weather forecast or severe driving conditions, the executive staff shall serve as the ultimate authority pursuant to a postponement or movement of the games to an earlier start time when the two schools cannot reach agreement. In such cases, preference will be given to the traveling team. The earlier start time, due to severe weather and/or road conditions to be finalized by the executive staff.

4. The length of the half-time for all play-off games shall be fifteen minutes plus three minutes for warm-ups.

5. Only players, coaches, trainers, and managers are allowed on the playing field during warm-ups.

6. Only official squads (players, coaches, trainers, managers, statisticians) and members of the press will be permitted on the sidelines during the game.

7. Squad Size: There is no limit to squad size for football; however, reimbursement for the championship games for Classes 9AA, 9A and 9B will be for a maximum of twenty-seven players plus five additional people and reimbursement for Classes 11B, 11A, 11AA and 11AAA will be for a maximum of thirty-three players plus seven additional people.

8. Following the coin flip, the starting offensive players and head coach of the team receiving the ball will be introduced, followed by the starting defensive players and head coach of the team kicking off.

9. Following player introductions, game officials will be introduced by name and position and they will report to midfield as they are introduced.

N. Official’s Selection Process

1. A crew of certified football officials will be assigned to each play-off game by the SDHSAA. Teams involved in the playoff games will be notified by the SDHSAA of the name of the crew chief for the crew assigned. Each official will be paid $100 dollars for each sub-state game. Each official will be paid $125 dollars for the final games played in the Dakota Dome. Mileage will be paid both ways at the state rate per mile for one car. Officials’ assignments are considered final and non-negotiable.
NOTE: Football officials scheduled to work a volleyball game but selected to work a football play-off game are to be released from their volleyball contract without penalty.

2. Only certified officials are eligible to officiate sub-state and state athletic games and tournaments, including any certified official with an out-of-state address/residency, provided the registration is exclusive to the SDHSAA. Students from out-of-state attending a South Dakota college or university, are eligible to officiate sub-state and state athletic games and tournaments, provided they are a certified official licensed with the SDHSAA. Officials licensed with sister state associations, who have paid reciprocity fee to the SDHSAA, are not eligible for sub-state and state games and tournaments.

3. The SDHSAA will assign crews for the first round and quarter-final round games based upon availability of crews and geographic location of the games. Recommendation lists from the coaches may be used in determining crew’s assignments.

4. (Updated 2015) Each head coach will have the opportunity to vote for football crews for playoff selection via the SDHSAA School Zone section of the SDHSAA website through an online ballot. A single ballot will be developed with all crews requesting playoff assignments being listed for coaches to vote their recommendations on. Playoff applications from officials will be due on or around September 15 and ballots from coaches will be due on or around October 15. Each head coach may vote for up to four crews they feel deserving to work a semi-final or championship game.

5. Votes will be tabulated by the SDHSAA and used as a recommendation list for assignments to the semi-final and championship games. Any officiating crew not receiving at least one recommendation from the coaches will not be considered for a semi-final or final game. Vote totals will not be disseminated to the officials or coaches.

6. The following officials’ regions must be represented in the championship games by at least one crew each year:
   a. Regions 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7
   b. Region 3 and 4
   c. Regions 8, 9, 10 & 11

7. At least one new crew must be selected to work a championship game each year. A new crew is defined as a crew (majority members of the crew) that has never worked a championship game or has not worked a championship game in the last 5 years.

8. Crews assigned to playoff contests must have worked a minimum of one game during the regular season at the level they are assigned (9-man, 11A/B, 11AA/AAA).

9. The SDHSAA Office and the State Football Officials’ Coordinator will review the coaches’ recommendation list and select the crews to work the semi-final and championship games. Geographic location of games may also be used in determining semi-final assignments.

10. A crew may not work a championship game two years in a row.

O. Awards

1. Sub-State. Medals or trophies are not awarded for any sub-state round games by the SDHSAA.

2. Finals. Trophies and medals are awarded to all teams that participate in the finals. A maximum of forty-one medals for nine-man and fifty-one medals for eleven-man teams will be furnished by the SDHSAA. At the finals, all awards will be presented immediately following the completion of each game. Teams scheduled to play the second game of a two-game session must remain in the locker room until all awards for the previous game have been presented. In this instance, the two teams will be entitled to thirty minutes for warm-up drills.

P. Ticket Information

1. Sub-State Ticket prices
   a. Students - $5.00
   b. Adults - $7.00
   c. Failure to charge the correct prices will result in the participating schools making up the financial shortage.

2. Finals at the Dakota Dome - Tickets are for sale by session.
   a. Each qualifying school will receive an allotment of reserved seat and student general admission tickets to sell to the members of their communities as they see fit upon qualifying for the State Finals. These tickets will be for only the session in which their championship game will be played. All other advance tickets will be made available for sale online as reserved seats for members of the public to purchase through the USD ticketing website. NEW 2015: No advance sales are available through the SDHSAA Office.
   b. Ticket Prices are to be:
      i. Student General Admission (grades 1-12): $8.00 per session
      ii. Reserved Seating: $13.00 per session
   c. No general admission tickets for adults will be sold for any of the games. All adult tickets are reserved seat tickets.
d. “Student General Admission Tickets” are specifically for students grades 1 through 12 to sit in the west bleachers and do not entitle the holder to a reserved seat on the east side. All student tickets must be purchased in person either through the qualifying member school allotment or on the day of the game at USD.

e. Students may purchase reserved seat tickets if they so choose, however they will pay the reserved seat price. Parents wishing children in grades 1-12 to sit in the reserved seating area must purchase a reserved seat ticket. Kids in kindergarten or younger are admitted free but are considered a “lap child” for seating in the reserved section.

f. There is no limit to the number of tickets that may be ordered for any one or all of the sessions.

g. There will be **no refunds** for any tickets sold.

h. Eight complimentary reserved seat tickets are given to the qualifying schools for the session that involves their team.

### Q. Videotaping Policy

Refer to the General Section of this book for the SDHSAA video-taping policy.

### R. Appeal and Grievance Procedure

Refer to the General Section of this Handbook for the SDHSAA appeal and grievance procedure. Any appeals in the sport of football arising out of a situation that took place during a sub-state football game go directly to the Executive Staff whose decision will be final.

### ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT TEAM AWARD

In an attempt to recognize the academic excellence of the athletic teams and fine arts groups in each school, the SDHSAA created the “Academic Achievement Team Award”. The “Academic Achievement Team Award” is designed to recognize “varsity” level “teams” that achieve a combined GPA of 3.0 or higher.

For additional information about the “Academic Achievement Team Award”, refer to the “Academic Achievement Team Award” section of either the ATHLETIC or FINE ARTS HANDBOOK.