

NDHSAA

Football Plan Guidelines

The following guidelines are being considered by the NDHSAA Football Committee for the administration of the current football plan and the development of subsequent two – year football plans

1. Football plans shall be established for two years.
2. Football seasons for plan purposes will be 2019 and 2020.
3. There will be 4 divisions of football. (AAA, AA, A, 9M)
4. Enrollments for plan development purposes will be determined by:
 - Step 1: Fall 2017 male enrollments for grades 7 – 10 as provided by the Department of Public Instruction.
 - Step 2: The enrollment reported in Step 1 is multiplied by the percentage of the student body that qualified for free and reduced meals during the 2016-17 school year according to Department of Public Instruction data. That number will be multiplied by 50%.
 - Step 3: The number derived in Step 2 is subtracted from the total 7 – 10 grade enrollment reported in Step 1. The remainder number will represent the total school enrollment for classification purposes during the 2019 and 2020 football plan.
5. Schools may request to move up to a higher division if the next smaller enrollment school in that division is willing to move down and so on.
 - a. All such requests for division assignments as of September 18, 2018 are final.
 - b. Schools that have previously opted to move up shall be given first consideration.
6. Schools may request to field an independent or 6-man team by officially notifying the NDHSAA Office on or before September 18, 2018.
7. The maximum number of teams in the top three divisions will be: AAA = 16, AA = 12, A = 32 with the remainder of the teams in 9-man.
 - a. If a school chooses to play an independent schedule or discontinues football during the two - year plan, the number of teams in that division will not be changed.
 - b. During the 2019 and 2020 seasons, any varsity team that chooses to play a team that declares independent status after the September 18, 2018 deadline will be ineligible for the playoffs.
 - c. If a co-op is approved, realignment in any of the top three divisions may be allowed with consideration given to the geographic location of schools involved in the change.
8. BY – LAW REMINDER: Football coops must be submitted by September 15th of the previous year during both years of the two-year football plan.

9. A North Dakota school may apply for an emergency coop for the second season of a current football plan only, if the following criteria are met:
 - a. An approved coop for the following two-year football plan must be in place prior to being eligible for an emergency coop
 - b. Emergency coop applications will only be considered if the requesting school has provided proof that student-athletes have no opportunity to compete at the varsity level for the second year of the existing plan
 - c. If the emergency coop is approved:
 - i. The host school shall be that school with the largest enrollment. The host school's current schedule and division placement will be used for the second year of the existing plan
 - ii. Only seniors from the applying school would be eligible for varsity competition for a \$1000 non-compliance fee per player
 - iii. Sub-varsity players from the applying school could compete for a \$200 non-compliance fee per player

10. The NDHSAA Board of Directors shall have final say in the administration of these guidelines.

NDHSAA Board of Directors Approved: January 18, 2018
NDHSAA Board of Directors Amended: September 27, 2018