

To: North Dakota High School Activities Association Board Members / Staff  
From: Cavalier and LaMoure Public School  
Date: December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

NDHSAA:

At this time we are requesting the NDHSAA re-evaluate the current football plan that is currently in place with the NDHSAA for the following rationale outlined below.

When the current plan was put into place at the start of this year, we interpreted the football plans success points would not begin until this current football year began. Although there was no date specified on the plan when presented, the assumption was made the success factor would begin when the new plan started. Determining and accumulating success points on the past years success when playing in a different division or plan does not appear equitable to accumulate points in a football plan.

Although we see the rationale implemented for success points in some cases for states, we don't believe that is the case for 9B football in the state of North Dakota. If the NDHSAA was utilizing the model of the state of Indiana for success points, we feel this is not a good model and comparison for 9 man schools.

	North Dakota	Indiana
Total Teams	102	314
Divisions	4	6
11 Man Teams	62	314
9 – Man Teams	40	0

The makeup of the number and the amount of divisions in a school does matter for 9-Man schools when implementing a success factor formula. As the current football plan sees the discrepancy in not having the 11B schools move to 11A in terms of success points, we see that same or even a higher degree of disparity in moving from 9B to 11A. Currently two 11B schools have accumulated enough success points to move to 11A next fall, with one of those schools accumulating the majority of the success points while being classified in the "old 11AA" division.

The talent level, enrollment, and number of players cycles and fluctuates in small schools quite frequently in 9 man football schools. Having success with a grade or two of exceptional athletes can earn success up to three or four years in a program. But that talent level is almost impossible to sustain in a 9B school. With the current success plan, newcomers and younger athletes, often with less talent, are then penalized by having to play in a higher division at a level they cannot handle physically or mentally. We feel this would lead to unintended inequities in teams and increase the risk of safety for participants.

Our request is that the NDHSAA to re-evaluate the success factor plan in dealing with 9 Man football in the state of North Dakota. If there are any questions you may have or for more clarity that we may need with the success factor, please feel free to contact us at any time.

  
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Mitch Carlson – LaMoure Public School