

2024/2025 & 2025/2026 WPIAL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

June 4, 2024 (updated)

First Date of Heat Acclimatization – August 5, 2024 / August 4, 2025 **Maximum Contests – 10 Games**

First Practice Date – August 12, 2024 / August 11, 2025 **Maximum Scrimmages – 2**

First Scrimmage Date – August 17, 2024 / August 16, 2025

Scrimmage OR "Week 0" Game – August 23, 2024 / August 22, 2025

The 2024 & 2025 WPIAL Football schedules denote Fridays as the scheduled contest date, but schools can adjust that contest to be Thursday, Friday or Saturday of that calendar week. Dates and starting times of home games are to be decided by the home team with the consent of the visitor. Any problems arising during the schedule should be reported to the League Office at (412) 921-7181.

Coaches are advised that the PIAA By-Laws Article XIV, Section 3 requires that the head coach attend a minimum of one PIAA mandatory rules interpretation prior to each season. Mandatory rules meeting dates and times are available on the PIAA website. www.piaa.org

WPIAL assigned section games interrupted must be continued from the point of interruption and completed. NFHS tie-breaker rules must be applied to all games tied at the end of regulation.

Championship play will begin **on November 1 & 2 2024.**

6A – 7 Teams – 1 Section – 4 Qualifiers

5A – 19 Teams – 3 Sections – 12 Qualifiers (Top 3 in each section plus 3 at large wildcards determined by football committee)

4A – 18 Teams – 3 Sections – 8 Qualifiers (Top 2 in each section plus 2 at large wildcards determined by football committee)

3A – 20 Teams – 3 Sections – 12 Qualifiers (Top 3 in each section plus 3 at large wildcards determined by football committee)

2A – 22 Teams – 3 Sections – 13 Qualifiers (Top 3 in each section plus 4 at large wildcards determined by football committee)

1A – 30 Teams – 4 Sections – 16 Qualifiers (Top 3 in each section plus 4 at large wildcards determined by football committee)

WPIAL Championship dates will vary by classification based on entry into the PIAA Tournament. WPIAL Championships will be held the weekends of **November 15-16, 2024 (4A & 6A) & November 22-23, 2024 (1A, 2A, 3A & 5A).**

In accordance with Article XII ATHLETIC RELATIONS, Section 5.A. of the PIAA By-Laws, **any school forfeiting a League-scheduled contest without written approval from the WPIAL Office will result in the loss of Championship Rights** under Article XIII PENALTIES, Section 5, with reference to Section 2.A. This includes the awarding of a Section Championship plaque.

Section Champions will be determined by the best overall section record. If teams tie in section record for the section championship, the first tie-breaking criteria will be head-to-head record between the tied teams. If head-to-head cannot break the tie, all teams will be declared section co-champions and each team will receive a section plaque.

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The **WPIAL Playoff System** will be used to determine automatic qualifiers. All ties for SECTION PLACEMENT are determined by the WPIAL Tie-Breaker System:

1. Head-to-Head Competition
2. Garner Points System
3. WPIAL Point-Differential System (10 points + or -)
4. Determined by the Football Committee

PLEASE REMEMBER, THE TIE-BREAKING SYSTEM REVERTS BACK TO HEAD-TO-HEAD COMPETITION WHENEVER POSSIBLE THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS.

CLASS 6A PLAYOFF SYSTEM

- The top 4 teams in the Section will qualify for the playoffs.
- The Section Champion will host the 4th place team in the Semi-Finals
- The 2nd place team will host the 3rd place teams in the Semi-Finals
- The WPIAL will determine the WPIAL Championship date and site.

CLASS 5A PLAYOFF SYSTEM & CLASS 3A PLAYOFF SYSTEM

- There are 12 playoff spots.
- Based on team records using section games, the top three teams in each section qualify for a playoff spot plus 3 at large bids determined by the football committee.
- The top four seeded teams in the tournament will receive a “bye” in the first round.
- The Section Champion in each section will host their opponent in their opening round of the playoffs. In all other opening games, the higher seeded team will host their opponent.
- The WPIAL will determine playoff sites for all subsequent rounds.

CLASS 4A PLAYOFF SYSTEM

- There are 8 playoff spots.
- Based on team records using section games, the top two teams in each section will qualify for a playoff spot plus 2 at large bids determined by the football committee.
- The Section Champion in each section will host their opponent in their opening round of the playoffs. In all other opening games, the higher seeded teams will host their opponent.
- The WPIAL will determine playoff sites for all subsequent rounds.

CLASS 2A PLAYOFF SYSTEM

- There are 13 playoff spots.
- Based on team records using section games, the top three teams in section will qualify for a playoff spot plus 4 at large bids determined by the football committee.
- The top three seeded teams in the tournament will receive a “bye” in the first round.
- The Section Champion in each section will host their opponent in their opening round of the playoffs. In all other opening games, the higher seeded teams will host their opponent.
- The WPIAL will determine playoff sites for all subsequent rounds.

CLASS 1A PLAYOFF SYSTEM

- There are 16 playoff spots.
- Based on team records using section games, the top three teams in each section qualify for a playoff spot plus 4 at large bids determined by the football committee.
- The Section Champion in each section will host their opponent in their opening round of the playoffs. In all other opening games, the higher seeded team will host their opponent.
- The WPIAL will determine playoff sites for all other rounds.

HEAD-TO-HEAD COMPETITION

- If teams A, B and C are tied for second place, and team A has a 2-0 record in head-to-head competition, then team A gets second. The system then reverts to head-to-head competition to determine third and fourth place. If team B beat team C, team B would be third and team C fourth.
- If teams D, E and F are tied for third place and all three are 1-1 in head-to-head competition, the system goes to Gardner Points. If they tie in Gardner Points, the system goes to the WPIAL Point-Differential System. In this case, let's say that team D has more points in the "Point-Differential System," and thus finishes third. The system then reverts to head-to-head for teams E and F. Team E beats team F; Team E gets the fourth-place spot.
- If four teams are tied for second place in a section: In head-to-head competition among these teams, team A and team B are both 2-1, while team C and team D are 1-2. In this case, team A and team B then revert to head-to-head. Team A beats team B, so team A is second and team B is third. Then, to break the tie between C and D for fourth place, again revert to head-to-head. Team C beat team C, team C is fourth.

GARDNER POINTS SYSTEM

If head-to-head competition does not break ties among three or more teams, the Gardner Points System is used. Here is how the Gardner Points System works:

- Only section games are used.
- Teams are awarded 100 points for each win.
- The winning team gets 10 points for each of the defeated team's victories. For example, team A beats team B. Team B has a 3-3 section record, so team A gets 30 points.
- Add up the Gardner Points for all teams that are tied for a playoff spot in a section. The team with more Gardner Points gets the spot. If there is a tie in Gardner Points, the WPIAL Point-Differential System is then applied.

WPIAL POINT-DIFFERENTIAL SYSTEM

If neither head-to-head competition, nor Gardner Points breaks the tie among three or more teams, then the WPIAL "Point Differential System" is used. Here is how the system works:

- Only section games are used.
- A maximum of 10 points is earned in a victory and a maximum of 10 points is lost in a defeat. Any team receiving a forfeit win will receive +10 for that contest. If forfeit is approved by WPIAL Office, team with the forfeit loss will receive -10 for that contest.
- Points are based on comparative scores.
- For example, a 14-7 victory is worth 7 points for the winner, and a minus 7 points for the loser. A 20-10 victory is worth 10 points for the winner and a minus 10 points for the loser. A 35-7 victory results in only 10 points for the winner, and a maximum minus 10 points for the loser.

- Add up the points in the "Point Differential System" and the team with more points breaks the deadlock among tied teams.
- If there is still a tie among three or more teams after head-to-head, Gardner Points and the Point-Differential System, determined by the Football Committee.

Determined by the Football Committee

If head-to-head competition, Gardner Points, and the WPIAL Point-Differential System does not break a tie among three or more teams, the Football Committee will determine the at large bids.

- Beginning with week 1 and ending with week 9, the football committee will evaluate the games played to determine the At-Large bids.