



DIAA Football Tournament Manual 2023

TO: Member School Administrators and Athletic Directors; Football and Unified Flag Football Coaches and Officials; and Members of the Media

Colleagues:

The 2023 Football State Tournament Manual is intended to provide you with detailed information concerning the organization and administration of the DIAA Football and Unified Flag Football State Tournament Games.

A thorough review of the general information pertinent to all of the tournaments and the specific information for each sport should familiarize you with these events.

The rules and procedures contained in this manual are applicable only to the 2023 DIAA Football and Unified Flag Football State Championships and are not intended to govern subsequent championships or to be binding on future committees.

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The Committees sincerely hope that the 2023 DIAA Football and Unified Flag Football State Championships will be a tremendous success in all respects.

For the most up to date tournament information, please visit the DIAA website, www.education.delaware.gov/diaa

Thank you,

Football Committee

Unified Sports Committee

This version last edited 10/4/2023



General Information

The following items are applicable to each of the 2023 DIAA Fall Sport State Tournaments. Items specific to the organization and administration of the Football and Unified Flag Football Championships are located in separate sections of this manual.

Item 1. Authorization

- A. The Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association authorized state tournament competition in boys' soccer (May 28, 1970), football (May 27, 1971), field hockey (May 24, 1973), girls' volleyball (May 22, 1975), and unified flag football (November 10, 2016) by voting for approval on the dates indicated.

Item 2. Management

- A. The tournaments will be managed by special committees appointed by the DIAA Chairperson and the Executive Director.
- B. The committees are authorized to resolve any situation not covered by the regulations in the General Information or specific information sections of this manual.
- C. Changes in tournament format or the criteria and procedures for selecting and seeding the participating teams/individuals are subject to the approval of the DIAA Board of Directors.

Item 3. Sponsorship

- A. DIAA will organize, conduct, and underwrite the costs of the tournaments and will receive all proceeds.
- B. All expenditures must be approved by the DIAA Executive Director.
 1. No vouchers will be approved unless an itemized statement of cost accompanies the request for payment.
 - a. Vouchers will not be processed until the financial ticket reconciliation information has been submitted and verified to the DIAA.
 2. No vouchers received after the end of the fiscal year (June 15, 2023) will be paid.

Item 4. Eligibility

- A. Eligibility rules as stipulated in the current version of the DIAA Official Handbook will be strictly enforced.

Item 5. Contest Rules

- A. DIAA is affiliated with the National Federation of State High School Associations. The playing rules promulgated by the NFHS for field hockey, soccer, football, girls' volleyball and cross country, except as modified by the DIAA Board of Directors, will be in effect for all tournament contests.

Item 6. Classification

- A. The Football Tournament crowns Class 1A, 2A, and 3A Champions. Member schools were placed in three classifications consisting of districts. Districts were determined by geographic location. The member school classifications can be found in the Football Tournament Manual under Item 4. Tournament Field. Unified Flag Football is classified into a north and south division which crowns one state champion.

Item 7. Sportsmanship and Spectator Conduct

- A. Member schools are required to conduct all of their athletic affairs in a spirit of good sportsmanship.
- B. The administrators, athletic directors, and coaches of the participating schools are expected to: actively promote good sportsmanship and appropriate crowd behavior, stress the importance of demonstrating respect for the contest officials and the opposing team, and emphasize the need for proper conduct by spectators at all venues. School administrators are expected to be proactive in preventing unsportsmanlike behavior and to deal with it promptly and decisively if it occurs at the contest.
- C. The coaches and athletes of the participating schools are expected to observe the highest standards of sportsmanship and ethical behavior.
- D. Spectator Guidelines and Conduct:
 1. Drones, banners, flags, and **signs** are prohibited outdoors at all tournament contests. Other decorations that do not block spectator, press or team sightlines may be used with permission of and at the discretion of the Committee.
 2. Streamers, confetti, and other paper debris are also prohibited.

3. Sirens, horns, bells, buzzers, whistles or any other artificial or mechanical noise-making devices are strictly forbidden at all **indoor** events.
4. The use of any noise making device that simulates game controls devices (whistles, air horns etc.) is strictly forbidden at **all** contests.
5. All cheers should stress the spirit of good sportsmanship. Use only positive cheers that encourage your team. Profane, derogatory or obscene chants and taunting will not be tolerated.
6. Behavior such as fans reading newspapers or turning their backs during player introductions, booing or heckling the contest officials, and being disrespectful to the opposing cheerleaders is unsportsmanlike behavior and is not to be tolerated at DIAA athletic events.
7. Face paint is permitted, but body paint is not. A shirt, top, etc. must be worn at all times.
8. Spectators must remain in the assigned seating section. Spectators are not permitted on the playing surface at any time.

Item 8. Soliciting, Promotional Activities, and Merchandising

- A. Soliciting and promotional activities; e.g., public address announcements, signs, banners, display or sign-up tables, and the distribution of printed materials are prohibited at all tournament playing sites without the consent of DIAA Executive Director.
- B. Only vendors authorized by DIAA Executive Director will be permitted to sell merchandise at tournament playing sites.

Item 9. Raffles and 50/50 Drawings

- A. Raffles, 50/50 drawings, and other games of chance are prohibited at all tournament playing sites without the consent of DIAA Executive Director.

Item 10. Bench and Sideline Personnel

- A. DIAA requires that all school personnel on the sidelines or in the team bench area be in the sixth grade or older and approved as members of the official team party. This includes anyone acting as a ball-runner or team manager.

Item 11. Media Policy for State Tournament Events

- A. Media Email List: Media personnel wishing to receive press releases and information regarding DIAA events must submit their name, media outlet, phone number and email address to DIAA at diaa@doe.k12.de.us
- B. Tournament Media Credentials
 1. Media personnel wishing to cover DIAA events must request working credentials from the DIAA Office. DIAA credentials may also be valid for regular season events at the host school's discretion.
 2. DIAA will provide credentials to representatives of an accredited media organization recognized by DIAA for the sole purpose of providing access to cover a DIAA Tournament Event. Because of demand, credentials will be issued on a priority system. Facility size is a determining factor. All requests may not be honored. To request credentials, complete the form on the DIAA website (https://education.delaware.gov/diaa/diaa_for/media/). Accredited media organizations should have a tax ID number and submit this requested information by completing the media credentials request form.
 3. DIAA credentialing is for use solely in connection to news and editorial coverage of the event. Any non-editorial, commercial or other unauthorized use of any transmission, picture, film, videotape, audiotape, writing, drawing or other depiction of any game, game action, game information, player interview or other stadium activity, and any non-editorial or commercial use of the DIAA mark or logo is prohibited without prior specific approval of the DIAA Executive Director.
 4. The DIAA may deny or revoke credentials for noncompliance with DIAA policies; and for conduct for which there are reasonable grounds to believe violate state or federal law, or constitute a breach of professional ethics.
- C. Broadcasting/Photographing
 1. DIAA retains exclusive rights to the permission to broadcast and photograph all tournament games and no party may do so without the consent of the DIAA Executive Director. The DIAA must be contacted, in writing or by e-mail, for permission to cablecast, telecast, web cast (video stream) live or on a delayed basis, or photograph a State Tournament Event or any part of a State Tournament Event.
 2. Broadcast agreements are available upon request and will be awarded to those companies that meet DIAA State Tournament broadcast criteria. Questions or concerns can be directed to the DIAA Executive Director 302-857-3365.
 3. All broadcasting/photography must be in accordance with current NFHS Rules for that sport. All access to the field, course, and court area for the purposes of videotaping or photography will be conducted according to the current NFHS rules for that sport. Persons photographing or videotaping a State Tournament Event, and stations cable casting, telecasting, or web casting (video streaming) a State Tournament Event must remain in the areas that have been designated for spectators, sports photographers, schools, cable/television stations, or Internet video broadcasters. If that area is not known to them, they must seek out a DIAA Tournament Committee member to be shown the designated area.
 4. Persons cable casting, telecasting, photographing, videotaping, or web casting (video streaming) a State Tournament Event shall not stand on any unsafe or potentially hazardous physical object or facility.

5. Persons cable casting, telecasting, photographing, videotaping, or web casting (video streaming) a State Tournament Event shall not interfere with the visibility and comfort of spectators, shall not present a safety hazard to spectators, and shall not disrupt, disturb, or interfere with the competition or with an individual competitor
- D. Photograph Reproduction
1. Credentialed media personnel may not sell photos and/or video from state tournaments, except by bona fide newspaper offices (or the official website of the newspapers).
 2. Spectators are permitted to photograph and/or video contests for personal use only. No image of any contest may be reproduced without the written consent of the student-athlete being photographed. Photographs and/or videos taken by spectators may not be sold.
 3. School personnel may photograph and/or video contests for school use only in publications such as yearbooks, school websites, school newsletters, etc. provided they have received permission from the DIAA Executive Director and school principal.
 4. Freelance photographers who are not affiliated with a bona fide media outlet will not be credentialed for state tournament contests.
 5. All other photography of DIAA tournament games is strictly for the purpose of news and editorial coverage of the event. No other photographs or any other visual material taken at a DIAA event may be sold without express written consent of the DIAA.
- E. Media Entrance: Members of the media must display current DIAA Media credentials to gain access to all State Tournament Events. Bags and equipment may be inspected for security purposes.
- F. Press Area: A designated press area will be made available for members of the media to view and report on State Tournament Events when available or possible. Members of the media should contact the site coordinator prior to an event for access to phone lines, Ethernet or wireless access. The DIAA will do its best to provide this when available.

Item 12. Video by Spectators

- A. Spectators are permitted to video contest for personal use only. The reproduction, distribution and sale of spectator video is prohibited without the consent of DIAA Executive Director
- B. Videos may be used in accordance with current NFHS Rules for that sport.
- C. Spectators will be allowed to video a game in their seat provided they use hand held camcorders and do not block the view of other spectators or interfere with the game. Tripods are only permitted in the top row of the bleachers.
- D. Neither DIAA nor the host site will be liable for theft or damage to spectator videotaping equipment or injury due to the use of such equipment.
- E. The host site is not obligated to provide power for spectator videotaping equipment.

Item 13. Prohibiting the Use of Drones (Unmanned Aircraft Systems or UAS's)

- A. Unless granted special permission by the DIAA Executive Director, the use of drones (UAS), for any purpose, is not permitted at any DIAA State Tournament Event. This prohibition applies to all fields of play, courts, arena, mats, gym floor or pool, and covers a ban on the entire facility being used as part of the DIAA event, including the spectator stands and parking areas.

Item 14. Transportation Reimbursement, Parking and Spectator Buses

- A. Each participating school may be reimbursed at a rate of 75¢ per mile for one bus. Reimbursements will be made only for actual mileage traveled; no reimbursement will be made for band and spectator buses or for team meals and lodging. The school must submit a voucher to DIAA to be reimbursed for transportation. DIAA will not process any vouchers DIAA receives after the end of the fiscal year (June 15, 2023).

Item 15. Comments and Recommendations

- A. The committees are genuinely interested in the comments and/or recommendations of member schools concerning all aspects of the tournaments. Please submit any comments and/or suggestions in writing to the appropriate committee chairperson.

DIAA Football Committee Members

Andrew Bero	DIAA State Football Rules Interpreter
Jeff Braxton	Coach, First State Military Academy
Matt Carre...	Coach, Delaware Military Academy
Dave Collins...	Athletic Director/Coach, Hodgson Vo-Tech High School
Dean Culver	Official, Delmarva Football Official Association
Blair Newman...	Principal, First State Military Academy
John Patterson	Official, Northern Delaware Football Officials Association
Mark Quillin	Athletic Director, Sussex Tech High School
Daniel Ritter, Vice Chair	Athletic Director/Coach, Howard High School
Jody Russell...	Coach, Newark High School
Kevin Smith, Secretary	Athletic Director, Cape Henlopen High School
Eric Torbert, Chair	Public Member, Kent County
John Wilson	Coach, St. Georges Vo-Tech High School and Delaware Interscholastic Football Coaches Association
Dr. David Robinson	<i>Honorary Lifetime Member</i>

DIAA Football Tournament Manual

Specific Information

Item 1. Tournament Dates

- A. The 2023 DIAA Football State Tournament will be held for each Division on the following dates:

ROUND	CLASS 1A	CLASS 2A	CLASS 3A
Quarterfinals	Nov. 17 and 18		
Semi-Finals	Nov. 24 and 25		
Finals	Dec. 2		Dec. 1

- B. The Committee reserves the right to make changes due to weather or other circumstances that would prevent playing the games as originally scheduled. If University of Delaware cannot host the DIAA Football State Championship on December 2 due to a scheduling conflict, the DIAA Football State Championship games will be played on December 3.
- C. The Committee reserves the right to make any scheduling adjustments it deems appropriate
- D. The Committee will not accept requests for alternate dates due to a conflict with the SAT. It is incumbent on all schools to inform their players that registering to take the SAT on the weekend of the Championship Games will conflict with their participation in the championship game.

Item 2. Game Sites

- A. The game sites will be determined by the committee.
- B. Operations will be based on the host site facility plan.

- C. The Committee will select the site for the Championship game in each classification.
- D. The Committee reserves the right to select the site and determine the starting time for all tournament games.

Item 3. Starting Times

- A. The starting times for all rounds of the tournament will be determined by the committee and announced no later than the Monday preceding the games unless there are extreme extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the committee.
- B. The committee will not accept requests for alternate starting times due to a conflict with the SAT. It is incumbent on all schools to inform their players that registering to take the SAT on the weekend of the Championship Games will conflict with their participation in the championship game.

Item 4. Tournament Field

- A. The 2023 DIAA Football State Championships will consist of a Class 1A, Class 2A, and Class 3A tournament.
- B. Win percentage will be used for inter-district rankings.
- C. If a team plays an inter district team twice, only the first game played will be used in the win percentage calculations.
- D. Inter-district tie-breaking for playoff berth:
 - a. If there is a district tie for a **playoff berth**, the tie-breaking criteria listed below will be used.
 - b. Ties for final standings in all Districts will be settled using the following procedure. *Note: When breaking a 3-way or multiple tie, follow the procedure until one tie is broken and return to top and begin the procedure again with the remaining teams.*
 1. Head-to-head record
 2. Fewest points per game allowed in district games (Points allowed divided by number of games played)
 3. Opponents highest win percentage (Includes cross-district and cross-class opponents. Ties count as one-half of a win.)
 4. Highest tournament seeding index
 5. Coin toss
- E. The Class 1A tournament field will be composed of 8 teams with each District being represented by the top two (2) teams, based on in-district win percentage. The additional four (4) at-large teams will be selected by the best seeding index among the remaining twelve (12) teams. District winners will be seeded #1 and #2 based on their seeding index (see Item 5.) and the remaining six (6) teams will be seeded #3 through #8 based on their seeding index.

Class 1A – District 1	Class 1A – District 2
Christiana	Brandywine
Dickinson	Conrad
Glasgow	Early College
McKean	First State Military Academy
St. Andrews	Indian River
St. Elizabeth	Polytech
Tatnall	Seaford
Wilmington Charter	St. Andrews

- F. The Class 2A tournament field will be composed of 8 teams with each District being represented by the top team from each district based on in-district win percentage. The additional five (5) at-large teams will be selected by the best seeding index among the remaining fourteen (14) teams. District winners will be seeded #1, #2, and #3, based on their seeding index (see Item 5.) and the remaining five (5) teams will be seeded #4 through #8 based on their seeding index.

Class 2A – District 1	Class 2A – District 2	Class 2A – District 3
Caravel	Archmere	Delmar
Concord	Howard	Lake Forest
Delaware Military Academy	Mt. Pleasant	Laurel
Delcastle	Odessa	Milford
Newark	Tower Hill	Sussex Tech
Red Lion Christian Academy	Wilmington Friends	Woodbridge

- G. The Class 3A tournament field will be composed of 8 teams with each district being represented by the top two (2) teams, based on in-district win percentage, The additional four (4) at-large teams will be selected by the best seeding index among the remaining eight (8) teams. District winners will be seeded #1 and #2 based on their seeding index (see Item 5.) and the remaining six (6) teams will be seeded #3 through #8 based on their seeding index.

Class 3A – District 1	Class 3A – District 2
Appoquinimink	Caesar Rodney
Hodgson Vo-Tech	Cape Henlopen
Middletown	Dover
Salesianum	Smyrna
St. Marks	St. Georges
William Penn	Sussex Central

H. Eligible Teams

- All teams must meet the criteria established by DIAA Regulation 1006.2.4 to be eligible for Tournament consideration.
- A team must play a minimum of 70% of games possible at the varsity level to be considered for the tournament. Forfeits will count toward satisfying this requirement.
- Any school which does not wish to be considered for the tournament must notify the Football Committee Chair by November 3rd, 2023 so as not to be considered for seeding. Once the committee seeds the tournament, any team that withdraws may be subject to DIAA disciplinary action and that tournament berth will not be filled.
- For the DIAA state football tournament, the regular season is defined as a school’s first ten (10) regular season varsity football games and they must be completed by Saturday, November 12, 2023. Competition against in-state and out-of-state school teams must be completed by Saturday, November 12, 2023.
- Teams are expected to meet the eligibility requirements as outlined in this fall tournament manual for consideration of selection to the DIAA football tournament field. DIAA strongly encourages all interscholastic participants to diligently adhere to the risk mitigation strategies as advised to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.**
- Any contest that was on a team’s schedule on the first date of competition and experienced a COVID-19 related schedule disruption that is not able to be rescheduled, will be counted as a no-contest. Member schools should exercise good faith to do their best to reschedule any contests impacted by COVID-19 in an effort to promote opportunities for participation in interscholastic athletics.**

Item 5. Tournament Seeding

- The football committee recognizes the newness of the realignment of the football classes. The committee supports DIAA’s decision to realign football this year as an opportunity for DIAA student-athletes to compete in more competitive games. The committee reserves the right to meet and revise the seeding procedure if conditions in Delaware make seeding the tournament(s) unfair and not representative of the best teams in each class. Approval for any of these changes would need DIAA board approval.
- Team Report
 - The last date of competition for football is Saturday, November 12, 2023. It is the school’s responsibility to verify that all results listed on their team’s website4sports page are accurate and complete by midnight on the last date of competition, Saturday, November 12, 2023, or the team may not be considered for the tournament.
- Index Calculation
 - A school’s seeding point index is determined by adding together the total number of points accumulated and then dividing by the number of games played.
 - Points are awarded for wins, ties, and losses as follows:

Seeding Criteria Points System	
Win v. Opponent in any Class or Out of State	4 Points
Tie	2 points
Loss v. Opponent in any Class or Out of State	0 Points

Strength of Schedule Bonus Points for playing teams with final records as listed to the right <i>(Teams must be tournament eligible to generate bonus points for indexes)</i>	Final Record of team
One (1) Strength of Schedule Bonus Point	.500 - .699
Two (2) Strength of Schedule Bonus Point	.700 - .899
Three (3) Strength of Schedule Bonus Point	.900 – 1.000

Playing up 1 Class & Out of State Competition	
Playing up a Class IN STATE ONLY	2 Points Regardless of Win or Loss
<p><i>*Any Out of State Games will not generate any type Automatic Points for playing a Class Higher because they are classified differently</i></p> <p><i>* Out of State Opponents win/loss record will be used for calculating Strength of Schedule Bonus Points based on the criteria above</i></p> <p><i>*For out-of-state opponents, the first 10 games that they play in the 2023 season will constitute their 10 game schedule for the purposes of their final record. This may include playoff or tournament games completed by midnight on the last date of competition, Saturday, November 12, 2023</i></p>	

D. Tie Breaking for Index Seeding Procedures

1. If two or more teams are tied for any seed, the following tie-breaking criteria will be used in the order listed. For ties involving three or more teams, once a team is removed from the tie, the tie-breaker criteria will be reapplied sequentially to the teams that are still tied.
 - i. Head-to-Head competition among tied teams.
 - ii. A win percentage of all opponents (**cross-classification games included**).
 - iii. The team who had the fewest points allowed per game (NOTE: games won by forfeit are NOT included in the fewest points allowed per game calculation).
 - iv. If a tie still exists, the committee will choose by a coin toss.

E. Qualifying teams will be seeded according to their calculated index, index points earned/number of games played, and placed into a bracket accordingly. If a team withdraws from the tournament after the field is selected, that team will not be replaced and its scheduled opponent will receive a forfeit win into the next round of play. Such a withdrawal/forfeit may be subject to disciplinary action by the DIAA Board of Directors.

F. A member of the Committee will be responsible for contacting the out-of-state opponents of each school in contention for a tournament berth. Schools that play out-of-state opponents need to send the out of state school’s contact information to the Football Chairperson, Jim Comegys, by November 1, 2023. (james.comegys@colonial.k12.de.us)

Item 6. Official Program

- A. At the discretion of the DIAA Executive Director, if DIAA prepares an official tournament program which contains team pictures, team rosters, tournament pairings and other related information, it may be sold at all tournament playing sites.
- B. Team Photograph, Roster and Program Information - Team information for the tournament program must be on the school’s website4sports site by October 18, 2023. The team photo must be a digital print of no less than 300 DPI in a jpeg or tfi format. Electronic submission is required; hard copies will not be accepted.
 1. Schools should assume that their team is going to make the tournament and submit a roster and team photo by the date listed in Item 6, B. Program information as outlined in Item 6 must be submitted by October 18, 2023 for consideration of any complimentary coaches tickets.

Item 7. Admission Policies

A. Paid Admission

1. All tickets will be purchased through GoFan, DIAA’s official ticketing partner, unless otherwise noted.
2. Tickets for DIAA state tournament events can be found by visiting <https://gofan.co/app/school/DIAA>
3. Fans MUST have a smartphone, tablet, or mobile device to show and redeem purchased tickets for entry into DIAA Championship events. Tickets printed onto paper will not be accepted.
4. Comprehensive DIAA Championship ticketing policies are included in General Information, Item 6, page 2.
5. Ticket Prices
 - a. Student (grades K-12) and adult admission will be \$5 for 1st round, 2nd round, and quarterfinal games;

- b. \$10 for semifinal and final games.
- 6. These ticket prices do not include any additional fees.
- 7. Children four (4) years and younger will be admitted without charge to all games.
- 8. Ticket prices and fees are subject to change per approval by the DIAA Board of Directors.
- 9. Tickets purchased but unused will not be refunded.
- A. Complimentary Admission
 - 1. Participating schools will receive complimentary admission for all those members of the Official School Party listed on the official roster as submitted to the DIAA Executive Director prior to the tournament. The official school party is defined as players, coaches, managers, scorers/statisticians, and athletic trainer(s). All of these individuals should assemble together outside of the venue entrance and be admitted together as one group.
 - a. A maximum of 60 players in uniform are permitted as part of the official school party.
 - b. All other school personnel must pay the regular admission fee if they wish to enter the contest. Spouses of administrators and coaches are similarly obligated. No complimentary tickets will be issued to schools.
 - 2. One (1) bus driver will be admitted free of charge upon presentation of identification as the team's driver. A maximum of 23 cheerleaders in uniform and one adult sponsor will receive complimentary admission. Additional cheerleaders and/or adults must purchase a ticket or make arrangements in advance to have their school billed for any admission in excess of 23 cheerleaders and one adult.
 - a. No mini-trampolines or basket tosses will be permitted. Stunts will be allowed if performed in accordance with the 2023 NFHS Spirit Rules Book.
- B. The schools who qualify for the State Tournament may arrange for up to two (2) members of their coaching staff as listed on their official school roster to scout potential opponents. The Athletic Director of each school must request from DIAA by email [diaa@doe.k12.de.us] for arrangements for complimentary admission for these coaches. Once the request is received and approved by the DIAA Executive Director, the requested coaches will be placed on the comp list at the entrance ticket gate for admission to the event.
- C. Media representatives who are covering the tournament will be admitted upon presentation of current and official DIAA credentials. See General Item #11.

Item 8. Game Manager

- A. A member of the Football Committee will be appointed to serve as the Game Manager. They will serve as a liaison between the Committee, the host school and the participating schools. The Game Manager is responsible for ensuring compliance with the policies and procedures established by the DIAA Football Committee. The Game Manager will have the specific responsibilities listed below:
 - 1. Provide the official game balls
 - 2. Collect the game balls after the game has been completed.
 - 3. In the event of a serious accident or injury to a coach, athlete, official, spectator, or game worker, notify the injured party's athletic director and the Executive Director as soon as possible.
 - 4. In the event of a serious sportsmanship related incident, contact the Executive Director as soon as possible.

Item 9. Responsibilities of Host School

- A. Member schools agree to host events for the Tournament.
- B. Each host school designates and supervises the individuals who serve as the Site Director and support personnel. The number of support and police personnel MUST be approved by DIAA's Executive Director prior to the start of the event.
Support personnel may include:
 - a. Ticket seller(s);
 - b. Program seller(s);
 - c. Ticket taker(s);
 - d. scorekeeper(s);
 - e. Security (an individual who monitors the crowd but is not a law enforcement officer);
 - f. School Police;
 - g. Scoreboard Operator/Announcer; and
 - h. NATA-certified trainer or school nurse unless both participating schools will be accompanied by a trainer.
- C. The Site Director's responsibilities include:
 - 1. Set up the field and bench areas according to current NFHS specifications.
 - a. The field should be lined according to current NFHS specifications.
 - 2. If possible, provide dressing room and bathroom facilities for the participating schools.
 - 3. Provide safe and secure passage for the officials to and from the playing area.
 - 4. Provide parking facilities for buses and spectators.
 - 5. If possible, provide seating arrangements for spectators.
 - 6. Contact the Game Manager three hours prior to game time if the field is not in playable condition.

7. Be in attendance and work closely with the Game Manager.
 8. Clear with the Game Manager matters of policy or procedure.
 9. Provide a scoreboard operator unless assigned by the Football Committee and supplied by the Officials' Association.
 10. Ensure that the complimentary admission policy for all schools is followed (Item 7).
 11. Charge admission until the start of the fourth quarter.
 12. Establish a procedure for assisting disabled spectators and review the procedure with the appropriate personnel.
 13. Review the emergency action plan with the appropriate personnel.
 14. Any additional responsibilities as determined by the host school and DIAA office.
- D. The host school must consult with the DIAA office concerning security and police personnel.
1. Any expenses concerning security and police personnel must be pre-approved by DIAA's Executive Director.
 2. Police will be paid the game fee or hourly rate customarily paid at the game locale. The bill should be sent to DIAA.
- E. The host school is responsible for complying with the DIAA's ticketing administration and financial reconciliation procedures. Host schools are responsible for reporting ticket and program sales to the DIAA Office by the next business day after the event concludes.
- F. Public Address System
1. The host school will make every effort to provide a public address system and designate and supervise a responsible adult to serve as an announcer. Every effort should be made to have an announcer familiar with football.
 2. The public address system, if used, will be operated by a responsible/ adult representative of the host school.
 - a. Any announcements not directly related to the game/tournament or not of an emergency nature must be approved by the Game Manager or the Executive Director.
 - b. The public address announcer must be a responsible individual who will remain impartial at all times. He/she must never question or criticize the coaches or officials during the game.
 - c. Introduce the players and coaches on each team beginning with the non-starters of the away team, then starters and coaches, and then the home team.
- G. Concessions
1. With the exception of games at non-school venues, all food and drink concessions will be operated by the host school and all proceeds will be retained by that school. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 health pandemic, concession operations will be at the discretion of the host school and should follow the most current safety guidance by the Delaware Division of Public Health.

Item 10. Responsibilities of Participating Schools

- A. Each team's School/Athletic Administration is responsible for assisting DIAA in safeguarding the playing field before, during and especially after all tournament games. A member of the School/Athletic Administration must report to the Game Manger so as to coordinate game ending security procedures. Failure to comply with this provision may result in referral to the DIAA Sportsmanship Committee and further disciplinary actions that are not limited to but may include future prohibition from Tournament eligibility, forfeiture of future contests, fines and probation.

Item 11. Officials

- A. The Delmarva Football Officials Association (DFOA) and the Northern Delaware Football Officials' Association (NDFOA) will provide officials for all rounds of each class's tournament.
- B. Assignments to the championship games will be done on a rotating basis. The NDFOA and DFOA will work together to cover DIAA football tournament games. The officiating assignments for the tournament games will be determined at the football seeding meeting.
- C. The Football Committee will assign all officials for all rounds of the tournament.
- D. When possible, a seven (7) person on-field crew and a three (3) person chain crew will be used for all tournament games. If the scoreboard clock is official, the officials' association will also provide a qualified Electronic Clock Operator.
- E. Officials' Fees: Officials assigned to the 2023 State Tournament will be paid according to DIAA Regulation 1009 8.4 Fees for Officiating Contests and Competitions.

Item 12. Uniforms and Bench Assignments

- A. Players from each team will wear the legal jersey designated by NFHS Football Rule 1-5-1 [2023 NFHS Football Rule Book]
- B. If a game is played at a neutral site, the higher seeded team will be designated as the home team on the scoreboard, and will occupy the bench area assigned to them by the Football Committee. The lower seeded team will be designated as the visiting team on the scoreboard and occupy the bench area designated to them by the Football Committee.
- C. For the Championship Game, the team that is the highest seed will be designated as the home team and wear their dark jerseys. Bench assignments for the Championship Game are at the discretion of the committee.

Item 13. Dressing Rooms and Facilities

- A. Facility operations will be based on the host site facility plan and will comply with all State and Delaware Division of Public Health guidelines during the ongoing COVID-19 health pandemic.

- B. If available, a dressing room for Officials' will be provided at the host site's discretion. Officials should be prepared to arrive to the field dressed.

Item 14. Contest Procedures, Equipment, Special Events

- A. Official Game Ball
 - 1. The committee will provide a minimum of three **Wilson GTS [WTF1003]** DIAA logo footballs for each game. These footballs and only these footballs will be the official game balls.
- B. Tournament Game Schedule
 - 1. Teams are not to arrive at the tournament game site more than two (2) hours before the scheduled kick-off time.
 - 2. On field pre-game practice will begin one hour and forty-five minutes before kickoff and teams are limited to seventy-five minutes practice time on the field. All team personnel must be off of the playing field 30 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time unless otherwise notified by the Game Manager.
 - 3. Teams may not practice at the Championship site at any time other than on the time designated by the committee on the day of the Championship Game.
- C. Halftime Intermission
 - 1. The halftime intermission will be 20 minutes in length unless shortened by mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the Game Manager. Following the halftime intermission, there will be a mandatory three-minute warm up prior to the second-half kickoff.
- D. Overtime
 - 1. No tournament game will be permitted to end in a tie. The ten-yard line overtime procedure described in the 2023 NFHS Football Rules Book [pages 85-86] will be used to determine the winner of any tournament game which is tied at the end of regulation play.
- E. Bands
 - 1. Musical entertainment will be provided by high school bands only. Band members must be in their school uniforms and accompanied by the school band director. The band will be limited to the number of students who ordinarily performed at games during the regular season.
 - 2. The Committee Chairperson and DIAA Executive Director must be notified, at minimum, five (5) business days advance of the game if a participating school band desires to perform.
 - 3. For all tournament rounds except the championship game:
 - a. The designated visiting team band will take the field 20 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the game. They will be allowed 15 minutes to perform and should be in position to play the national anthem five minutes prior to the opening kick-off., unless other arrangements are made by the two bands and the Football Committee. The designated home team band will be given 15 minutes to perform at halftime.
 - 4. Band procedures for the Championship Game will be set by the Football Committee.
 - 5. The field clock will be used to determine the start and finish of the band performances.
 - 6. The Committee will assign seating areas to the participating school bands. Whenever possible, the bands will be seated in the permanent stands.
 - a. It is the responsibility of the band sponsors to arrive at the game site in sufficient time to prevent spectators from sitting in the seats reserved for the band.
 - b. Parents assisting with band equipment must wear appropriate identification in order to receive free admission. The number of band volunteers receiving free admission will be limited to the number of individuals who ordinarily performed such duties at games during the regular season.

Item 15. Awards

- A. The following awards will be presented:
 - 1. Team: A trophy and game ball will be awarded to each Championship team. A trophy and game ball will be awarded to each runner-up team.
 - 2. Individual: Gold medals (46) will be presented to the champions. Silver medals (46) will be presented to the runners-up.
 - 3. Participation certificates will be forwarded to the players, managers, and statisticians listed on the roster of each participating team at the conclusion of the tournament.
 - 3. No awards other than those authorized by the Committee will be presented at any time during the tournament.

Item 16. Sideline Personnel and Player Bench Occupants

- A. Only members of the official school party will be permitted on the sideline.
 - 1. The official school party is defined as players, coaches (approved by the local board or governing body), managers, scorers/statisticians, team medical personnel, and school administrators.
 - 2. All occupants of the sideline/team bench area must be in the sixth grade or older.
- B. For the Championship Game, each team will be issued 18 sideline passes. All team personnel on the sideline during the Championship Game must be wearing the sideline pass. Committee members are authorized to spot-check any and all sideline personnel for compliance. If a team is found in violation, the individuals will be removed from the sideline and possibly the

stadium.

1. Unauthorized duplication or counterfeiting of DIAA sidelines passes will be deemed a major infraction of the sportsmanship code and the school will be referred to the DIAA sportsmanship committee for disciplinary action.

Item 17. Press Box

- A. When space is available press box space, seating, and occupants will prioritize the official statisticians and then if space is available, media representatives. The top of the press box, if possible, will be prioritized for video operators and may be available for team spotters.

Item 18. Publicity

- A. All notices and releases to the media will be the responsibility of the DIAA Executive Director

Item 19. Radio and Television

- A. Broadcast privileges will be awarded according to the following criteria and procedures:
 1. The local (same county as participating school) radio station that regularly broadcasts the games of a potential playoff team may receive exclusive privileges to broadcast that team's first and second round games by submitting a written [email note is acceptable] request and a \$100.00 fee.
 2. If no local radio station regularly broadcasts the games of a potential playoff team but a local station broadcasts a "game of the week", that station may receive rights to broadcast the aforementioned team's first and/or second round game by submitting a written [email note is acceptable] request and a \$100.00 fee. If two local stations broadcast a "game of the week", both stations may broadcast the aforementioned team's first and/or quarterfinal game provided the host school's press box can accommodate both broadcast crews. If the host school's press box cannot accommodate both crews, the DIAA Football Committee will determine which radio station will receive broadcast privileges.
 3. If no local radio station regularly broadcasts the games of a potential playoff team and no local station broadcasts a "game of the week", the station in closest proximity to the aforementioned school may receive the broadcast privileges by submitting a written [email note is acceptable] request and a \$100.00 fee.
 4. The written [email note is acceptable] request and \$100.00 fee must be received in the DIAA office by Monday, November 15, 2023 for first round games and Monday, November 22, 2023 for the quarterfinal and semi-final round(s). The \$100.00 fee will be refunded if the team whose game the local radio station has expressed an interest in broadcasting does not qualify for the playoffs. If a local station that broadcasts a "game of the week" submits a written [email note is acceptable] request and \$200.00 in fees to broadcast the first and/or semi round games of two potential playoff teams, \$100.00 will be refunded if those teams play each other.
Submit request to: Executive Director, DIAA
35 Commerce Way, Suite 1, Dover, DE 19904
Fax: 302-739-1769
Email: diaa@doe.k12.de.us
 5. The same criteria and procedures that were used as stated above in Item 19 will be used for the championship games. However, the written [email note is acceptable] request must be received by 12:00 noon on Monday, December 6, 2023 and the broadcast fee, which may be submitted separately from the written request, will be \$250.00.
- B. Live telecasts or web streaming of playoff games will not be permitted. All games must be telecast on a minimum 48-hour delayed basis. The telecast fees will be \$100 for a first, quarterfinal, and semifinal round games and \$250 for a championship game.
- C. All radio and television stations must indicate in their written requests that no commercials associated with the use of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products will be aired and that ample time for DIAA advertisements and public-service announcements will be allotted.

Item 20. Cheerleading

- A. Only cheerleaders in uniform and a mascot in costume will be permitted on the sideline. The cheerleading squad will be limited to those cheerleaders who ordinarily performed at varsity games during the regular season.
- B. No mini-trampolines or basket tosses will be permitted. Stunts will be allowed if performed in accordance with the 2023 NFHS Spirit Rules Book.

Item 21. Mercy Rule

- A. The following "mercy rule" was approved by the DIAA Board of Directors and will be in effect for all tournament games:
 1. If, at any time during the second half, one team is leading its opponent by 35 or more points, the timing procedures will be modified as listed below.
 - a. The clock will be stopped only in the following situations:
 - i. A charged time-out.
 - ii. An officials' time-out for safety reasons, i.e. player appears to be injured, unusual heat or humidity creates health risk for players, player needs equipment repair, non-participant enters playing field, or other situations deemed to be safety related.
 - iii. An official's time-out to administer a penalty.

- iv. A one-minute intermission between the third and fourth periods.
- b. If the differential is reduced to fewer than 35 points, regular timing procedures will again be used.

Item 22. Site Selection

A. Field Condition

- 1. The field should be in good condition with grass covering the entire playing surface.
- 2. The field shall be lined in accordance with the regulations set forth in the 2023 NFHS Football Rules Book.

B. Facilities

- 1. The football field should be separated from the bleachers by a fence and the entire stadium complex should be surrounded by a fence to facilitate game management and crowd control.
- 2. Adequate locker room facilities should be available for both teams and separate facilities should be available for the game officials.
- 3. Seating capacity should be sufficient to accommodate the anticipated crowd.
- 4. Adequate restroom facilities should be available to accommodate the anticipated crowd.
- 5. Having adequate parking facilities for the anticipated crowd will be taken into consideration.
- 6. Concession stand capabilities may be a consideration.

2023 DIAA Football State Tournament Bracket Class 1A, 2A, and 3A

***NOTE: Brackets are at the discretion of the DIAA Football Committee and will be finalized at the seeding meeting.
Time and location of all games are TBA.***

Quarter-Finals
Nov. 17 & 18

Semi-Finals
Nov. 24 & 25

Championships
Dec. 1 & 2





UNIFIED FLAG FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Unified Sports Committee Members

Jon Buzby, Chair.....Special Olympics Delaware
 Kylie Frazer Special Olympics Delaware
 Gary Cimaglia..... Special Olympics North America
 Kevin Charles.....Public Member, DIAA Executive Director, Retired
 Layne Drexel..... Official, IAABO 11, DIAA State Unified Basketball Rules Interpreter
 Jerry Kobasa..... Athletic Director, Retired
 Pete Celiberti.....Official, DFOA, DIAA State Unified Flag Football Rules Interpreter
 Bob Beron Athletic Director, Caesar Rodney High School
 Dr. Matt Voltz..... Medical Professional, Delaware Orthopaedics Specialists
 Brian Mattix Principal, McKean High School
 Chris Muscara Athletic Director, Appoquinimink High School
 Theresa Repole..... Coach, Newark Charter High School
 Nate Threatts Special Olympics Delaware
 Thomas MacLeish..... Official, DFOA, Retired
 Andrew Layton Coach, Woodbridge High School

Specific Information

Item 1. Governing Rules

- A. The rules as stipulated in the 2023 Unified Flag Football DIAA Rules and DIAA regulations.

Item 2. Tournament Dates

- A. The 2023 SODE/DIAA Unified Flag Football State Tournament will be on the following dates:

Round	Dates
Quarterfinals	November 16
Semifinals	November 28
Championship	December 1

- B. The Committee along with the participating schools reserve the right to make changes due to weather or other circumstances that would prevent playing the games as originally scheduled.
- C. The Committee reserves the right to make any scheduling adjustments it deems appropriate.
- D. The Committee will not accept requests for alternate dates due to a conflict with the SAT. It is incumbent on all schools to inform their players that registering to take the SAT on the weekend of the Championship Games will conflict with their participation in the championship game.

Item 3. Game Sites

- A. The quarterfinal and semifinal round games will be played on the home field of the highest seeded teams in each division. (lowest number seed) If the field and/or facilities of the higher seeded team are deemed unsuitable for tournament competition, the Committee will select an appropriate game site which could be the home field of the lower seeded team.
- B. The Unified Sports Committee reserves the right to select the site and determine the starting time for all tournament games.

Item 4. Starting Times

- A. The starting times for all rounds of the tournament will be determined by the Committee along with the participating schools and announced no later than the Friday preceding the games unless there are extreme extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the Committee.
- B. The Committee will not accept requests for alternate starting times due to a conflict with the SAT. It is incumbent on all schools to inform their players that registering to take the SAT on the weekend of the Championship Games will conflict with their participation in the championship game.

Item 5. Tournament Field

- A. The 2023 SODE/DIAA Unified Flag Football State Championship will be an open tournament. This may change if any team(s) do not meet requirements for eligibility.
- B. Eligible Teams:
 - 1. All teams must meet the criteria established by DIAA Regulation 1006.2.4 to be eligible for Tournament consideration.
 - 2. The following schools make up the 2023 SODE/DIAA Unified Flag Football participants:

NORTH SECTION

Newark Charter HS
Appoquinimink HS
McKean HS
William Penn HS
Mt. Pleasant HS
Delcastle HS
Middletown HS

SOUTH SECTION

Caesar Rodney HS
Dover HS
Seaford HS
Cape Henlopen HS
Woodbridge HS
Smyrna HS

- 1. The SODE/DIAA Unified Flag Football regular season consists at minimum, five (5) games and teams may play a maximum of six (6) regular season games. The last date of competition by which all regular season games must be played is Thursday, November 18, 2023. A team must play at least five (5) regular season contests in order to be considered eligible for the tournament.
- 2. Any school which does not wish to be considered for the tournament must notify the Unified Sports Committee Chair by November 3, 2023, so as not to be considered for seeding. Once the Committee seeds the tournament, any team that withdraws from the tournament may be subject to DIAA disciplinary action and that tournament berth will not be filled.
- 3. Any school which does not wish to be considered for the tournament must notify the Football Committee Chair by November 3rd, 2023, so as not to be considered for seeding. Once the committee seeds the tournament, any team that withdraws may be subject to DIAA disciplinary action and that tournament berth will not be filled.
- 4. For the DIAA State Unified Flag Football tournament, the regular season is defined as a school's first ten (10) regular season varsity football games and they must be completed by Thursday, November 9, 2023. Competition against in-state and out-of-state school teams must be completed by Thursday, November 9, 2023.
- 5. A team must play a minimum of 5 games at the varsity level to be considered for the tournament. Forfeits will count toward satisfying this requirement.

Item 6. Tournament Seeding

- A. Team Report: The last competition date for flag football is November 9, 2023. It is the school's responsibility to verify that all results listed on their team's website4sports page are accurate and complete by the last date of competition November 9, 2023.
- B. Index Calculation
 - 1. A school's seeding point index is determined by adding together the total number of points accumulated and then dividing them by the number of games played.
 - 2. Points are awarded for wins, ties, and losses as follows:
 - a. (2) points for a win
 - b. (1) points for a tie
 - c. (0) points for a loss
 - d. Bonus Points
 - i. (2) points for playing a team with .701 or higher winning percentage
 - ii. (1) points for playing a team with .501 - .700 winning percentage
- C. Tie Breaking for Index Seeding Procedures
 - 1. If two or more teams are tied for any seed, the following tie-breaking criteria will be used in the order listed. Once a team is removed from the tie, the tie-breaker criteria will be reapplied sequentially to the teams that are still tied.
 - i. Overall Record
 - ii. Head-to-Head Competition
 - iii. Record Against Common Opponents
 - iv. If a tie still exists, the Committee will select the order by vote.

Item 7. Official Program

- A. DIAA will prepare an official Football Tournament Program which will contain team pictures, team rosters, tournament pairings and other related information. Schools will not receive complimentary programs at the conclusion of the tournament.
- B. Team Photograph, Roster and Program Information. Team information for the tournament program must be on the school's website4sports site by October 16, 2023. The team photo must be a digital print of no less than 300 DPI in a jpeg or tfi format. Electronic submission is required; hard copies will not be accepted.
 - 1. Schools should assume that their team is going to make the tournament and submit a roster and team photo. Program information MUST be submitted for Coaches to receive a complimentary Tournament Pass. (See Item 7. A. 3)

Item 8. Admission Policies

- A. Admission is only charged at the Championship game. Student (grades K-12) and adult admission is \$10 for the championship game. Preschool children will be admitted without charge to all games.
 - 1. Tickets purchased but unused will not be refunded.
 - 2. Any games played at Abessinio Stadium, the University of Delaware, Delaware State University or any other high-cost facility may increase the ticket price by one dollar for that round of play.
- B. Complimentary Admission
 - 1. Participating schools will receive complimentary admission for all those members of the Official School Party listed on the official roster found in the 2023 DIAA State Tournament Program. The official school party is defined as players, coaches, managers, scorers/statisticians, trainer, and administrators. All of these individuals should assemble together outside of the venue entrance and be admitted together as one group.
 - a. A maximum of 15 players in uniform are permitted as part of the official school party.
 - b. All other school personnel must pay the regular admission fee if they wish to enter the contest. Spouses of administrators and coaches are similarly obligated. No complimentary tickets will be issued to schools.
 - c. One (1) bus driver will be admitted free of charge upon presentation of identification as the team's driver.
 - 2. A maximum of 23 cheerleaders in uniform and one adult sponsor who must have attended the 2023 DIAA Spirit Rules Clinic will receive complimentary admission. Additional cheerleaders and/or adults must purchase a ticket or make arrangements in advance to have their school billed for any admission in excess of 23 cheerleaders and one adult.
 - a. No mini-trampolines or basket tosses will be permitted. Stunts will be allowed if performed in accordance with the 2023 NFHS Spirit Rules Book.
- C. School coaching staffs may receive three complimentary Coaches' passes by contacting the DIAA office. The request must include the names of the coaches who will be using the passes. Coaches' passes are not transferable and must be turned in at the championship game. Coaches who do not submit required items in Item 6 above by October 16, 2023, will not receive passes. The deadline to request these passes is October 16, 2023.
- D. Media representatives who are covering the tournament will be admitted upon presentation of proper credentials. See General Item #11.

Item 9. Game Manager

- A. A member of the Committee will be appointed to serve as the Game Manager. He/she will serve as a liaison between the Committee, the host school and the participating schools. The Game Manager is responsible for ensuring compliance with the policies and procedures established by the Unified Sports Committee. The Game Manager will have the specific responsibilities listed below.
 - 1. Provide the following items:
 - a. Game balls.
 - 2. Collect the game ball from the winning team after the game has been completed.
 - 3. In the event of a serious accident or injury to a coach, athlete, official, spectator, or game worker, notify the injured party's athletic director and the Executive Director as soon as possible.
 - 4. In the event of a serious sportsmanship related incident, contact the Executive Director as soon as possible.

Item 10. Responsibilities of Host School

- A. Member schools agree to host events for the Tournament.
- B. Each host school designates and supervises the individuals who serve as the Site Director and support personnel. The number of support and police personnel MUST be approved by DIAA's Executive Director prior to the start of the event.
- C. The Site Director's responsibilities include:
 - 1. Set up the field and bench areas according to current Unified Flag Football specifications.
 - a. The field should be lined according to current Unified Flag Football specifications.
 - 2. If possible, provide dressing room and bathroom facilities for the participating schools.
 - 3. Provide parking facilities for buses and spectators.
 - 4. Provide safe passage for the officials to and from the playing area
 - 5. If possible, provide seating arrangements for spectators.
 - 6. Contact the Game Manager three hours prior to game time if the field is not in playable condition.
 - 7. Be in attendance and work closely with the Game Manager.
 - 8. Clear with the Game Manager matters of policy or procedure.
 - 9. Provide a scoreboard operator unless assigned by the Committee and supplied by the Officials' Association.
 - 10. Ensure that the complimentary admission policy for all schools is followed (Item 8).
 - 11. Establish a procedure for assisting disabled spectators and review the procedure with the appropriate personnel.
 - 12. Review the emergency action plan with the appropriate personnel.
 - 13. Any additional responsibilities as determined by the host school.
- D. The host school must consult with the DIAA office concerning security and police personnel.
 - 1. Any expenses concerning security and police personnel must be pre-approved by DIAA's Executive Director.

2. Police will be paid the game fee or hourly rate customarily paid at the game locale. The bill should be sent to DIAA.
- E. Public Address System
1. The host school will make every effort to provide a public address system and designate and supervise a responsible adult to serve as an announcer. Every effort should be made to have an announcer familiar with football.
 2. The public address system, if used, will be operated by a responsible/ adult representative of the host school.
 - a. Any announcements not directly related to the game/tournament or not of an emergency nature must be approved by the Game Manager or the Executive Director.
 - b. The public address announcer must be a responsible individual who will remain impartial at all times. He/she must never question or criticize the coaches or officials during the game.
 - c. Introduce the players and coaches on each team beginning with the non-starters of the away team, then starters and coaches, and then the home team.
- F. Concessions
1. With the exception of games at Abessinio Stadium, Alumni Stadium, or Raymond Stadium, all food and drink concessions will be operated by the host school and all proceeds will be retained by that school.

Item 11. Responsibilities of Participating Schools

- A. Each team’s School/Athletic Administration is responsible for assisting DIAA in safeguarding the playing field before, during and especially after all tournament games. A member of the School/Athletic Administration must report to the Game Manger so as to coordinate game ending security procedures. Failure to comply with this provision may result in referral to the DIAA Sportsmanship Committee and further disciplinary actions that are not limited to but may include future prohibition from Tournament eligibility, forfeiture of future contests, fines and probation.

Item 12. Officials

- A. The Delmarva Football Officials Association (DFOA) and the Northern Delaware Football Officials’ Association (NDFOA) will provide officials for all rounds of the tournament.
- B. Assignments will be:
1. For playoff rounds up to the Championship
 - a. The DFOA will work the Kent and Sussex County in 2023.
 - b. The NDFOA will work the New Castle in 2023.
 2. Assignments to the Championship Game will be done on a rotating basis. The Unified Sports Committee, NDFOA and DFOA will work together to cover DIAA football tournament games.
- C. A crew of 3 to 4 persons on-field and a 1 person down marker will be used for all tournament games. The down marker will be the responsibility of the home team except for the State Championship game. If the scoreboard clock is official, the host school/committee will also provide a qualified Electronic Clock Operator.
- D. All officials will be paid according to the rates set by the SODE/DIAA Partnership with the Officials’ Association as determined by the Unified Sports Committee.

Item 13. Uniforms and Bench Assignments

- A. Players from each team will wear the legal uniform approved by the Unified Sports Committee (Review 2023 Unified Flag Football DIAA Rules).
- B. If a game is played at a neutral site, the higher seeded team will be designated as the home team on the scoreboard and will occupy the bench area assigned to them by the Committee. The lower seeded team will be designated as the visiting team on the scoreboard and occupy the bench area designated to them by the Committee.
- C. For the Championship Game, the team that is the highest seed (lowest seed number) will be designated as the home team and wear their dark jerseys. Bench assignments for the Championship Game are at the discretion of the Committee.

Item 14. Contest Procedures, Equipment, Special Events

- A. Official Game Ball
1. A game ball will be provided at the start of the allotted warm-up time to each school. Schools should also bring their own balls to use during warmups.
- B. Tournament Game Schedule
1. Teams are not to arrive at the tournament game site more than two (2) hours before the scheduled kick-off time.
 2. For the State Championship game: On field pre-game practice will begin after the conclusion of the DIAA State Championship game preceding the Unified Flag Football State Championship Game.
 3. Teams may not practice at the Championship site at any time other than on the time designated by the Committee on the day of the Championship Game.
- C. Halftime Intermission

1. The halftime intermission will be 5 minutes in length unless changed by mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the Game Manager. Following the halftime intermission, there will be a three-minute warm up prior to the second half beginning.
- D. Overtime
1. No tournament game will be permitted to end in a tie. Unified Flag Football Rules on overtime will govern all overtime situations.
- E. Bands
1. Musical entertainment will be provided by high school bands only. Band members must be in their school uniforms and accompanied by the school band director. The band will be limited to the number of students who ordinarily performed at games during the regular season.
 2. Band procedures for the Championship Game will be set by the Committee.
 3. The Committee will assign seating areas to the participating school bands. Whenever possible, the bands will be seated in the permanent stands.
 - a. It is the responsibility of the band sponsors to arrive at the game site in sufficient time to prevent spectators from sitting in the seats reserved for the band.
 - b. Parents assisting with band equipment must wear appropriate identification in order to receive free admission. The number of band volunteers receiving free admission will be limited to the number of individuals who ordinarily performed such duties at games during the regular season.

Item 15. Awards

- A. The following awards will be presented:
1. Team: A trophy, game ball and autograph ball will be awarded to each Championship team. A trophy and game ball will be awarded to each runner-up team.
 2. Individual: Gold medals will be presented to the champions. Silver medals will be presented to the runners-up.
 3. No awards other than those authorized by the Committee will be presented at any time during the tournament.

Item 16. Sideline Personnel and Player Bench Occupants

- A. Only members of the official school party will be permitted on the sideline.
1. The official school party is defined as players, coaches (approved by the local board or governing body), managers, scorers/statisticians, team medical personnel, and school administrators.
 2. All occupants of the sideline/team bench area must be in the sixth grade or older.
- B. For the Championship Game, each team will be issued 5 sideline passes. All team personnel on the sideline during the Championship Game must be wearing the sideline pass. Committee members are authorized to spot-check any and all sideline personnel for compliance. If a team is found in violation, the individuals will be removed from the sideline and possibly the stadium.
1. Unauthorized duplication or counterfeiting of DIAA sidelines passes will be deemed a major infraction of the sportsmanship code and the school will be referred to the DIAA sportsmanship committee for disciplinary action.

Item 17. Press Box

- A. Press box occupants should include media representatives and the official statisticians. The top of the press box, if possible, will be available for team spotters and video operators.

Item 18. Publicity

- A. All notices and releases to the media will be the responsibility of the DIAA Executive Director and Special Olympics Delaware.

Item 19. Cheerleading

- A. Cheerleading squads will only be permitted to be in attendance on the sidelines if the Head Coach has completed the 2023 DIAA Spirit Rules Clinic.
- B. Only cheerleaders in uniform and a mascot in costume will be permitted on the sideline. The cheerleading squad will be limited to those cheerleaders who ordinarily performed at varsity games during the regular season.
- C. No mini-trampolines or basket tosses will be permitted. Stunts will be allowed if performed in accordance with the 2023 NFHS Spirit Rules Book.

Item 20. Site Selection

- A. Field Condition
1. The field should be in good condition with grass covering the entire playing surface.
 2. The field shall be lined in accordance with the regulations set forth in the 2023 Unified Flag Football Rules Book.
- B. Facilities
1. The football field should be separated from the bleachers by a fence and the entire stadium complex should be surrounded by a fence to facilitate game management and crowd control.
 2. Adequate locker room facilities should be available for both teams and separate facilities should be available for the game officials (where applicable).

3. Seating capacity on both sides of the field should be sufficient to accommodate the anticipated crowd.
4. Adequate restroom facilities should be available to accommodate the anticipated crowd.
5. Having adequate parking facilities for the anticipated crowd will be taken into consideration.



2023 SODE/ DIAA Unified Flag Football State Tournament

Thursday, November 16
Quarterfinals

Tuesday, November 28
Semifinals

Friday, December 1
Championship

