

PIAA DISTRICT XI FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS
presented by St. Luke's University Health Network
2020

DATES, LOCATIONS, TIMES OF FOOTBALL DISTRICT PLAYOFFS:

Friday, November 6, 2020	2A, 4A, & 6A Quarterfinals 1A, 3A, & 5A Semifinals
Saturday, November 7, 2020	May be used for 11/6/2020 games due to field & referee availability.
Friday, November 13, 2020	2A, 4A, & 6A Semifinals 1A, 3A, & 5A Championship Finals
Saturday, November 14, 2020	May be used for 11/13/2020 games due to field & referee availability.
Friday, November 20, 2020	2A, 4A, & 6A Championship Finals
Saturday, November 21, 2020	May be used for 11/20/2020 games due to field & referee availability.

Game times will be determined by the District XI Football Chairperson. Any potential school related conflict with game dates or times must be communicated to the District XI Football Chairman by **Monday, October 12, 2020**.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE PERSON IN CHARGE OF CHAMPIONSHIP:

Jason Zimmerman

610-972-6322 – Cell

zimmermanj2@nwlehighsd.org

ELIGIBILITY FOR DISTRICT XI FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

- A. Only games scheduled **prior** to the beginning of the football season will be considered. Due to COVID related circumstances, the District XI Football Chairman in consultation with the District XI Committee Chairman may approve “replacement” games on a case by case basis. Participating schools should seek approval from the District XI Football Chairman in these instances.
- B. It is expected that all schools that qualify for the playoffs will participate. Schools who do not wish to participate will be expected to notify, in writing, the District XI Football Chairperson by **Saturday, October 31, 2020**.
- C. Entry of a team into the Football Playoffs/Championships signifies that the member schools accept the conditions and provisions that are described below. Furthermore, a member school accepts the fact that the PIAA District XI Committee reserves the right to make changes in the management, schedule, location of game sites, and operation of the District XI Football Playoffs if, in their judgment, it becomes necessary to do so.
- D. 2A, 4A, & 6A Tournament
 - a. 8 District XI Teams Qualify
 - b. Tournament play will be a standard 8 team bracket with 1v8, 2v7, 3v6, 4v5 seeding.
- E. 1A, 3A, & 5A Tournament
 - a. 4 District XI teams qualify in each class
 - b. Tournament play will be a standard 4 team bracket with 1v4, 2v3
- F. If a COVID related team suspension is realized or currently being served by a District XI Football Tournament Qualifier after the following will occur:
 - a. If the date of the game can be postponed no more than 3 days so that the game can be played on the field, the game will be postponed. (i.e. game can be rescheduled for Saturday, Sunday, or Monday ONLY)
 - b. If a postponement of the game is not possible, the team in suspension will forfeit and their opponent will advance in the bracket.

- c. If notification of the suspension occurs prior the District XI Committee Meeting on Monday, November 2, 2020 at 2:00 PM, an invitation will be made to the next highest ranked team NOT already qualified for the tournament only.
 - i. If accepted, the entire bracket will be reseeded based on District XI Power Rankings.
 - ii. If declined, the suspended team's opponent would advance in the bracket to the next round.

METHOD OF SEEDING: The District XI Power Rating System will be used to seed teams in ALL Classifications. Tournament Brackets and times will be posted by NOON on **Sunday, November 1, 2020** on the District XI website.

- A. All classes (A, AA, AAA, AAAA, AAAAA, & AAAAAA) will utilize the PIAA District XI Power Rating System detailed in the District XI Power Rating section of the website.
- B. Current standings and results will be available season-long on the District XI website under the Football links.

GAME LOCATIONS: All Quarterfinal & Semifinal Games will be played on the home field of the higher-seeded team. The only exception would be if a host site is unable to accommodate visiting spectators, a neutral site or the lower seeded team site may be selected to host the quarterfinal and semifinal round contests. Host sites must permit a minimum of two (2) spectators per visiting team player in order to host. When sites cannot allow for the visiting spectator minimum requirement, the contest will be played at either a neutral site or at the site of the lower seeded team. All Championship Final Games will be held at a neutral site, whenever possible, to be determined by PIAA District XI. The HIGHER seeded team will be the HOME Team and should wear their DARK jersey throughout the tournament. The LOWER seeded team will be the VISITING Team and should wear their WHITE jerseys throughout the tournament. The higher seeded team will be the home team, regardless of their position in the bracket. District XI reserves the ability to move contest sites based on spectator policies, return to sport competition policies, etc.

FINANCES: Reimbursement and expenses will be paid in accordance with District XI COVID Financial Reimbursement Policy.

ASSIGNMENT OF OFFICIALS: Officials will be assigned by the respective PIAA District XI Official's Representative after consultation with all league assignors. Officials will be paid by the PIAA District XI Treasurer at the conclusion of the tournament using the Arbiter System.

SPORTSMANSHIP STATEMENT: PIAA requires all registered sports' officials to enforce the sportsmanship rules for coaches and contestants. Actions meant to demean opposing contestants, teams, spectators and officials are not in the highest ideals of interscholastic education and will not be tolerated. Let all contests reflect mutual respect. Coaches will certify prior to the contest that teams are legally equipped according to the rules of that contest.

TOURNAMENT MANAGERS: As determined by District XI Football Chairperson.

TICKET PRICES (if spectator admission is permitted):

All ticket sales will be ONLINE for the 2020 District XI Football Tournament. No tickets will be sold at the gate the day/night event.

Players, coaches, trainers, equipment managers, cheerleaders, band members, etc. will be admitted without a ticket.

Individuals with a PIAA District XI Principals or Athletic Directors Pass **will NOT be accepted for the Fall 2020 season.** Host schools, in conjunction with the participating teams, will be responsible for securing and maintaining a complimentary admission list. Each participating school will be permitted no more than 10 individuals to be placed on the complimentary admission list. **League Passes, Officials' Passes, Season Passes, and Faculty Passes will NOT be honored.**

ALL TICKETS = \$7.00

AWARDS PRESENTED FOR EACH SPORT:

Medals will be presented to both the champion and runner-up teams in each class. A team trophy will be presented to the champions in each class.

Fifty (50) medals will be available for each championship team and each runner-up in each classification. Medals will no longer be presented to each player at the conclusion of the game. Medals will be provided to the AD/Head Coach for distribution at a time of their choosing. The championship trophy will be presented by the District XI Contest Manager at the conclusion of the game.

SPORTS MEDICINE: Each school is responsible to provide for their own trainer and team doctor. Minimally, the host site **MUST** provide an Athletic Trainer, a Team Doctor, and Ambulance for the event.

GAME REGULATIONS

- A. All PIAA Football Return to Competition Guidelines must be adhered to. The guidelines can be found at http://www.piaa.org/assets/web/documents/Return_to_Competition.pdf.
 - a. All teams and referees will need to complete the PIAA District XI COVID Screening Form prior to arrival at the stadium. These will be collected by the host site athletic trainer.
- B. The postponement and/or rescheduling of play-off contests will be at the discretion of the District XI Football Chairperson in conjunction with the host site manager and athletic directors whose schools are involved in the contest(s).
- C. Each competing team is expected to email their complete roster to the Host Site Manager no later than 48 hours prior to the contest. The Host Site Manager will provide copies for the media and press box.
- D. **PRE-GAME MEETING:** Thirty (30) minutes prior to the game; the District XI Game Manager, the Referee, Principals or Athletic Directors from the competing schools, Head Coaches from the competing schools, and one (1) Captains from the competing schools will meet to review the PIAA Sportsmanship Message and conduct all necessary pre-game business. All individuals **MUST** be socially distanced during this meeting and should be wearing a face covering.
- E. **SUSPENDED CONTEST:** Any PIAA District XI Football playoff contest interrupted due to events beyond the control of the PIAA District XI Game Manager will be resumed at the point of suspension later that same day or the next playable day unless deemed an official contest by NFHS rule.
- F. **OFFICIAL GAME BALL**
 - a. The official game ball of the PIAA District XI Football Playoffs is the Wilson GST1003. Each participating school will be required to use the PIAA-provided Wilson GST1003 Football and/or the participating school-provided Wilson GST1003 Footballs or the Wilson GST Prime for the duration of the PIAA District XI playoffs.
 - b. Each qualifying team will receive one game ball at the beginning of the playoffs.
- G. **Bands**
 - a. Bands attending contests will be determined based on capacity of facility hosting the contest in conjunction with the Site Manager and District XI Football Chairman. Options include: zero bands, home team band only, or both bands.
 - b. Home Team Band plays Pregame and Visiting Team Band plays at halftime.
 - i. If only one Band is present, they may play pregame, halftime, or both.
 - ii. Adjustment to these procedures for pre and half-time activities may be agreed upon by the participating schools with the approval of the District XI Game Manager.
 - c. School bands are prohibited from performing at PIAA District and Inter-District Championship contests whenever the opposing schools football team is in a scrimmage or scrimmage kick formation.
 - d. Principals / Athletic Directors are requested to inform the Band Director of their school's band concerning the procedures and policies described above.

H. Ball Holders

- a. Each team will be responsible for providing two (2) ball holders (twelve (12) years of age or older) with a sufficient supply of drying towels and sanitizer for use by the crew of Officials working the contest, for all rounds. They must be directly under the supervision of an adult team representative.

I. Exchange of Contest Film

- a. The Principal, Athletic Director, or Head Coach of each school participating in each round of the District XI Football championships should arrange to exchange with their opponent school, recordings of at least the two (2) most recent football contests played by that school.
- b. If disputes or disagreements occur, the Principal can request that the District XI Chairman, or the District XI Chairman's designee, review the matter provided that the Principal contacts the District XI Chairman, or the District XI Chairman's designee, a minimum of four (4) days prior to the date of the contest.

J. Responsibility of Principals and Athletic Directors for Teams and Crowd Control

- a. **THE PRINCIPAL AND THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF EACH PARTICIPATING SCHOOL, ALONG WITH THE DISTRICT XI APPOINTED CONTEST MANAGER, THE SITE MANAGER, AND THE SITE SECURITY, ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR SCHOOL AND SPECTATORS FROM THEIR SCHOOL COMMUNITY**

GAME SITE REQUIREMENTS: All quarterfinal and semifinal round games will be played at the site of the higher seeded team unless the District XI Football Committee deems the facility unsafe, inadequate, or unable to host a championship football contest.

The following criteria are used by PIAA District XI in assessing the suitability of sites to host PIAA District XI and / or Inter District Championship contests:

- Quality of the contest site and competition surface
- Contest Site Emergency Response Plan (ERP) and COVID Return to Sport Competition Plan.
- Contest site handicapped parking areas and handicapped accessibility to facility, spectator seating and rest rooms
- Contest site parking areas
- Contest site security
- Contest site spectator seating
- Contest site rest room facilities
- Contest site locker room and athletic training facilities (showers , etc)
 - Locker room use is strongly discouraged for the Fall 2020 Season.
- WiFi available to the broadcasting and / or print media
- Ability to properly display the American Flag and the ability to play the National anthem, prior to the start of each contest.
- Seating Capacity and Spectator Policy as a result of COVID-19.

If a site proposing to host a contest, or being asked to host a contest, is aware of a deficiency in any of the above criteria, such deficiency shall be disclosed to the District XI Football Chairman by **Friday, October 23, 2020**.

The selected site will provide the following personnel and equipment: (All Quarterfinal and Semifinal Site Expenses will be paid by the home team. All Championship Final Site Expenses will be paid by PIAA District XI. Questions – see Distribution of Receipts):

Site Managers

Security/Police

Ticket Sellers and Ticket Takers

Program Seller

P.A. System and Announcer

Field Markers and Chains

Chain Crew

Lockers and Dressing Rooms

Scoreboard Operator and Play Clock Operator

Other Required Facilities and Equipment

Medical Services (Ambulance, Physician, EMS

Crew, certified Athletic Trainer)

BANNERS & NOISEMAKERS: For outdoor events, both the presence and use of balloons, sirens, air horns, whistles, portable listening devices (without earphones) or any device that may impeded the playing of the contest are prohibited. Stationary (fixed to the fence or railings) signs and banners displaying sportsmanlike messages are permitted. The Principals and Athletic Directors of the competing schools are responsible for the oversight of this rule during the contest.

GAME PROGRAMS: Will NOT be printed / distributed this for the Fall 2020 Playoffs.

MEDIA: All media personnel with proper credentials will be admitted free. It will be the media's responsibility to contact the host site manager to make any further arrangements.

All radio stations, television stations, or webcast media must email the PIAA District XI Football Chairman, Jason Zimmerman at zimmermanj2@nwlehighsd.org notifying him of your intent to broadcast a contest or contest(s).

DISTRIBUTION OF RECEIPTS:

AS DETERMINED BY THE PIAA DISTRICT XI COVID-19 FINANCIAL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY