

# **NJ United Playoff Plan - Committee Members:**

## **NJSIAA Mediator:**

Colleen Maguire

## **Athletic Directors:**

Rich Carroll – Middletown South

Bud Kowal – Ewing

Ben LaSalla – Colonia

Dennis Nelson – River Dell

Joe Piro – Nutley

Dave Ryden – Marlboro

Rich Shello – Ridge

Dan Vivino – Westwood

Charlie Voorhees – Secaucus

## **NJFCA (New Jersey Football Coaches Association):**

Steve Antonucci – Shore Conference

Chris Beagan – Greater Middlesex Conference

Kevin Carty – NJFCA Executive Committee

John Fiore – NJFCA Executive Committee

Tim Gushue – West Jersey Football League

John Jacob – NJFCA Executive Committee

Cosmo Lorusso – North Jersey Football Super Conference

Ed Sadloch – NJFCA Executive Committee

Rich Tuero – New Jersey Interscholastic Conference

Jim Williams – Mid State 38



## Outlined Overview of the NJ United Playoff Proposal:

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### I. Creation:

- The **NJ United Proposal** was created as a merger of the NJSFC & Coalition proposals. Working closely with the NJFCA (New Jersey Football Coaches Association), the creators of the NJSFC & Coalition plans were able to agree on the key points resulting in a plan that they both support. Furthermore, the plan has been formally endorsed by the NJFCA playoff proposal sub-committee, as they provided extremely valuable input towards the development of the plan. That input was a direct reflection of the sentiment expressed by our state coaches through various modes of communication (i.e. surveys, meetings, emails, etc.)

### II. NJ United Proposal - Calendar based on 2018-19 School Year

- Week 0 - 9/1 (Optional- You do **NOT** have to play week 0)
- Week 1 - 9/7
- Week 2 - 9/14
- Week 3 – 9/21
- Week 4 – 9/28
- Week 5 – 10/5
- Week 6 – 10/12
- Week 7 – 10/19
- Week 8 – 10/26
- Week 9 – 11/2
  - 1<sup>st</sup> round of Public Playoffs
  - NJSIAA Assigned Games for Non-Playoff Qualifiers
  - 1<sup>st</sup> round of Non-Public Playoffs, with up to the Top 6 receiving byes
- Week 10 – 11/9
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> round of Public Playoffs Sectional Semi-Finals
  - Optional Additional Game for teams that did not make the playoffs or have been knocked out (For a 10<sup>th</sup> game the NJSIAA will assign an opponent)(For an 11<sup>th</sup> desired game, the school may seek & schedule an opponent)
  - Non-Public Quarter Finals of Playoffs
- Week 11 – 11/16
  - Public Sectional Championships
  - Non-Public Semi-Finals
- Thanksgiving Week 11/22
- Week 12- 11/30
  - Public “Single A” and “Double A” “Bowl” Games at neutral sites
  - Non-Public Finals at Neutral Sites – i.e. Metlife, etc.

### III. Key Points:

- 20 State Sectional champions remain as is, 5 groups of 4 sections
- Leagues still control scheduling, individual teams can choose if they would like an 8 or 9 game schedule
- The playoffs begin in week 9, sectional finals are week 11, an additional rounds/Bowl championship games will be played the week after Thanksgiving
- Non-public schools will also have an additional round of the playoffs
- Playoff qualification inequities will be reduced, and this plan will promote the ability to create better schedules

### IV. Making the Playoffs:

- All Games up to the cutoff will count
- Seeding: We must ensure to the best of our ability that the most deserving teams are rewarded with the opportunity to enter the NJSIAA Playoffs. The current system does not effectively achieve this initiative. We will seed teams for the NJSIAA Playoffs as follows:
  - We will "cut" the state in half and seed the top 16 United Power Ranked Teams in the Northern half and the top 16 United Power Ranked Teams in the Southern half. The Northern Top 16 will create **North 1** and **North 2**. The Southern Top 16 will create **Central** and **South**. The division line separating the 2 halves of the state for each group will be determined by the NJSIAA Northing Numbers.

### V. Public Playoff Format:

- 5 Groups with 4 sections: North I, North II, Central, & South
- Following the establishment of the top 32 United Power Ranked Teams (16 & 16) within each of the 5 groups, "northing" numbers (current way the state divides sections) will be used to create the 4 sections.
- Each section will then be seeded based upon team's 2018 United Power Rank Number.
- Weeks 9-11 will mimic our current playoff format, sectional finals will be played at neutral sites in week 11 (week prior to Thanksgiving)
- 20 sectional champions will be crowned, and the 4 winners in each of the 5 groups will be paired for Super Sectional Match Ups.

### VI. Non Public Playoff Format:

- Up to 12 teams will qualify in all groups (In 2016 it would have been all 10 in Group 4, all 10 in Group 3 and the top 12 in group 2)
- Groups 3 & 4 week 9: 1-6 receive a bye, 7-10, & 8-9 will play
- Group 2 week 9: 1-4 receive a bye, 5-12, 6-11, 7-10, & 8-9 will play
- Weeks 10-12 are exactly the same as they are now. Group championships are played at neutral sites the week after Thanksgiving.
- Group 3 & 4 automatic playoff bids are no longer an issue.
- Group 2 sees an increase in qualification which will help with regular season scheduling imbalances across the group.

VII. Scheduling:

- **Optional 0 Week and Thanksgiving Games are preserved**
- **How does a team guarantee that they play 10 Games?**
  - **Option 1:** Play straight through from week 0 to week 8 and play a postseason playoff game or NJSIAA assigned game
  - **Option 2:** Play 8 times in weeks 0 through 8, play Thanksgiving, and play postseason-playoff game or NJSIAA assigned game
  - **Option 3:** Play 8 times in weeks 0 through 8, play postseason- playoff game or regional crossover, and play an additional game in week 10 if you do not advance in the postseason as assigned by the NJSIAA (To enlarge the pool of schools available to play on week 10 and help bridge the gap for Thanksgiving Game teams, the maximum number of regular season games will increase from 9 to 10)
- **What if my team is done with the postseason after week 9, but would still like to play, or plays on Thanksgiving?**
  - A Thanksgiving team that finishes their 9 games in week 9 would be allowed to pick up an additional game in week 10 or 11 in order to bridge the gap to their Thanksgiving game. Additionally, a team that is out of the playoffs in week 9 may play an additional game in week 10 or 11, if they choose to do so.

### VIII. Seeding Formula:

As promised, the United Committee has worked collaboratively to analyze several hybrid formulas to appropriately seed teams for the NJSIAA state tournament. After months of research and dialogue we have unanimously concluded that we could not integrate the MaxPreps ranking system in our formula for a multitude of reasons. Those reasons ranged from their lack of transparency to their unwillingness to fully collaborate with our leadership during the process; thus leaving our committee with a long list of concerns which lacked the clarity that was necessary to elicit our trust and confidence.

With that being said we have arrived at model that meets our collective needs. The NJUPR (NJ United Power Rank) model still utilizes our current power point system in conjunction with the BPI (Born Power Index). This formula addresses the most common points of scrutiny we have received regarding the current power point system. The NJUPR will employ a formula that ranks teams based on placing 60% of its value on its BPI Ranking and 40% of its value on its Power Point Ranking.

**The Born Power Index** was created by Bill Born- NJ Native, retired math teacher/coach. It is a power index that has stood the test of time and continues to objectively produce extremely accurate and fair rankings. The most compelling factors that led to the United Committee's confidence in the Born Power Index are as follows:

- We have complete access to the creator and operator of this formula as Bill has met with us personally to discuss the inclusion of the BPI as a component of our ranking format. Bill is extremely passionate and prideful of his work. He also expressed great humility and gratitude with regards to the potential of his life's work becoming an official vehicle of our state ranking system for NJ High School Football.
- Bill has contractually agreed to share his formula with the NJSIAA and work directly with the governing body.

### Key Points to understanding the complete scope of the NJUPR:

- How the traditional Power Point component of the formula will now function:
  - **ALL** games prior to the playoffs will count towards a team's overall ranking. So every game that is played will count.
  - A team's final power point total will be divided by the number of games played to create a Power Point "Power Rank Number" (Example #1- 150 power points for 8 game total prior to playoffs= 18.75 Power Rank Number. Example #2- 175 power points for 9 game total prior to playoffs= 19.44 Power Rank Number)
  - Residual points can only be garnered from your opponent's first 7 games.
  - Final Power Point Rank Numbers will be solidified by midnight\*\* of the Sat. on week 8
- How the BPI component of the formula will work:
  - Every team's BPI is available online on the Born Power Index website. Teams will be ranked weekly.
  - The BPI will be available for to teams to view online beginning week 4.
  - The final BPI rankings will be solidified by midnight\*\* of the Sat. on week 8.

\*\*Every effort will be made to meet this timeframe for the final NJ United Power Rankings on week 8.

However, if there are logistical issues that make this deadline not feasible, the final rankings will then be produced no later than 1 pm the next day (Sunday)

- **How the 2 components will work together to create a team's NJUPR:**
  - All teams will be required to submit the score of their game within **12 hours** of its completion on-line. On **week 8** all teams must submit the score of their game within **2 hours** of its completion. (When the construction of the online platform we will utilize for entries is completed we will share its access information with all member schools)
  - Member schools that fail to enter their scores within the required time frame will be subject to:
    - **1<sup>st</sup> offense:** An official warning will be given to a school the first time it fails to comply with the reporting requirement.
    - **2<sup>nd</sup> offense:** Member school will be issued a \$150.00 fine.
    - **3<sup>rd</sup> offense and beyond:** Member school will be issued a \$150.00 fine and may be subject to further penalties at the discretion of the NJSIAA.
  - Upon the conclusion of the regular season N1 & N2 combined, will be ranked from top to bottom and Central & South combined, will be ranked from top to bottom as well. They will be ranked by both components of the formula. The final rank will be determined by weighting the BPI rank with a value of 60% and the Power Point rank with a value of 40% and then adding them together. This will result in a team's NJUPR.
    - **Example-**
      - **High School A in Central/South Group 4** is ranked **1** according to **BPI** and ranked **2** according to its **Power Point value**.
        - 60% BPI-  $.60 \times 1 = .6$
        - 40% PP-  $.40 \times 2 = .8$
        - $.6 + .8 = 1.4$  (1.4 is High School A NJUPR)
      - **High School B in Central/South Group 4** is ranked **2** according to **BPI** and ranked **1** according to its **Power Point value**.
        - 60% BPI-  $.60 \times 2 = 1.2$
        - 40% PP-  $.40 \times 1 = .4$
        - $1.2 + .4 = 1.6$  (1.6 is High School B NJUPR)
      - **Conclusion of this example:**
        - **High School A** will be ranked **1** and **High School B** will be ranked **2** in Central/South prior to the creation of 2 separate sections according to Northing Numbers.
- **Tie-Breakers:**
  - If there is a tie between teams 16 and 17 in N1/N2 or Central/South the following tie breaking criteria will be applied to determine which team enters the playoffs:
    - Head to Head
    - Common Opponents
    - BPI Power Rank
    - Power Point Power Rank
    - Coin Flip
  - Ties between teams within the top 16 "Super Sections", other than a tie between 16 and 17, need not be addressed until the 16 are split in half by Northing Numbers to create 2 sections of 8 teams.
  - Ties between teams within an established 8 team section will utilize the same criteria listed above to break those ties.

- **Head to Head Rule:**

- If team A, directly below team B, has defeated that team B head-to-head, team A would move ahead of team B within that respective section.
  - Example- Team A is the 3 seed in Central and Team B is the 4 Seed. Team B defeated Team A in the regular season. Team B will now become the 3 seed and Team A will now become the 4 seed.
- Teams can only move ahead of a team they defeated that is directly above them in the bracket.
  - Example- Team A is the 2 seed in North 2 and Team B is the 4 seed. Team B defeated Team A during the regular season. Team B will remain the 4 seed and Team A will remain the 2 seed.
- The head-to-head rule will also be applied to teams #16 and #17 before a “Super Section” is broken into 2 sections by Northing Numbers
  - Example- Team A in Central/South is Ranked #16 with a UPR (United Power Rank) of 15.5. Team B in Central/South is ranked #17 with a UPR (United Power Rank) of 16.2. Team B defeated Team A head to head during the regular season. Team B WILL make the playoffs and Team A will NOT. This application of the Head-to-Head Rule within a “Super Section” can only occur between #16 and #17.

- **Multiplier Point Values:**

- **A – 54 Points for a Win, 36 Points for a loss**
  - St Joseph Montvale
  - Bergen Catholic
  - St. Peters Prep
  - Paramus Catholic
  - Don Bosco Prep
- **B – 48 points for a win, 32 points for a loss**
  - DePaul
  - Pope John
  - Seton Hall Prep
  - Delbarton
- **C – 42 points for a win, 28 points for a loss**
  - St. Joseph of Hammonton
  - St. Augustine
  - Camden Catholic
  - Red Bank Catholic
  - St. John Vianney
  - St. Joes of Metuchen
  - Holy Spirit
  - Mater Dei
- **D – No Multiplier**
  - All remaining non-publics