



2009 FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

2009-2010 FOOTBALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Barry Cahill, Principal, Ipswich High School – Committee Chair

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	Gary Molea Athletic Director, Lynn English		Dan Cariety Athletic Director, Hoosac
Dist. B.	Daniel Keefe Assistant Principal, Malden	Dist. H.	James O'Leary Athletic Director, St. John's Prep.(D)
	Ed Gillis Athletic Director, Burlington		Charles Stevenson Athletic Director, Xaverian
Dist. C.	George Usevich Principal, Norwood		<u>SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE</u> Mr. Shawn McDonald
	William Fallon Athletic Director, Pembroke		<u>SUPERINTENDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE</u> Dr. Jim Rice – North Attleboro
Dist. D.	Paul O'Boy Athletic Director, Bishop Feehan		<u>FOOTBALL COACHES' REPRESENTATIVE</u> Dana Almedia – Falmouth
	Ronald McCarthy Principal, Bourne		<u>FOOTBALL OFFICIALS' REPRESENTATIVE</u> Dennis Donovan
Dist. E.	James Pignataro Principal, Grafton		<u>DIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVE</u> David White - Odyssey
	Ray Cosenza Athletic Director, Fitchburg		<u>CONSULTANTS</u> Edward Schluntz
	Tom Lauder Principal, Leicester		<u>TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS</u> Joseph Doyle, (WMASS) Jim Bergenholtz (CMASS) Jim O'Connor (EMASS)
	Jay Costa Athletic Director, Shrewsbury		<u>MIAA Staff Liaison</u> William N. Gaine, Jr. Deputy Director
Dist. F.	Kent Strong Principal, Athol		
	Dave King Athletic Director, Athol		

MIAA FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Time and Date of Games

Time and date of games are determined by the MIAA Football Committee and are designated on the following pages.

Contingency Plans for Thanksgiving Day Weather Postponement

The changes below will be administered by and subject to the discretion of the Tournament Director, Tournament Chair and Football Executive

1. If Thanksgiving games were to be re-scheduled to Friday due to inclement weather, then:
 - Nothing changes in the Playoff system schedule
2. If Thanksgiving games were to be re-scheduled to Saturday due to inclement weather, then:
 - Semi-Final Games would move from Tuesday to Wednesday at 5:15pm and 7:45pm
 - Finals would move from Saturday/Sunday to Sunday/Monday
 - If Thanksgiving games were to be re-scheduled to Sunday due to inclement weather, the Football Committee would determine a revised schedule. No games will be permitted beyond December 13th, 2009.

SAT's-College Board Exams

MIAA Football Superbowls will be played December 5, 2009. This is also the College Board exam date. All prospective playoff teams should advise participants to schedule their college boards on an alternate date.

Site of Games

The sites have been determined by the MIAA Football Committee; if a team refuses to play at a given site, the next eligible team in that league will be selected.

In all sectors of the State, Playoff & Superbowl Games are intended to be played at neutral sites, however when a site has been established and the member school is a participant it will be played at their home site. To be clear, examples of established sites that have been utilized in past football playoffs include, Lowell High School, Arlington High School, Wachusett High School, Auburn High School, Reading High School, etc. In these cases when the playoff sites are established and that school qualifies, a home site is honored.

Tie Games in Semi-finals and Finals

The MIAA tiebreaker system below will be used in Divisional Playoffs as well as all Superbowl Finals.

Immediately following the conclusion of the 4th quarter, the teams will go to their team area for two minutes.

The officials will escort the captains to the middle of the field for the coin toss. The winner of the toss will choose one of the following options: (1) offense or defense; or (2) which end of the field shall be used in all series of the overtime period (10-yard line).

Each series shall begin at the ten-yard line unless a penalty overrides. First down chains will not be used. It is always goal-to-go. If penalty enforcement calls for an automatic first down, it will be first and goal.

For the first and subsequent tie breaking periods, any team that scores a touchdown must attempt a two point conversion by run or pass from scrimmage.

If there is a change of team possession during the last play of an overtime period (second series), live ball fouls by opponents of the team last gaining possession, that occur after the change of possession, gives the team in possession the option of putting the ball in play, where the penalty leaves the ball, for one down free of penalty or penalize as a dead ball foul at the succeeding spot in the subsequent overtime period. This option is exercised only if the team last gaining possession is free of foul during the down.

Example: Second Series - Team B intercepts Team A's pass and, during Team B's run back, Team A commits a personal foul.

Ruling: Team B has the option of extending the overtime period for one down free of penalty, with Team B putting the ball in play where the penalty leaves the ball, provided Team B has not fouled during the down. Or Team B may choose to penalize as a dead ball foul at the succeeding spot in the subsequent overtime period. (NCAA Rules: Section 3-1-3-d, 3-1-3-e, 3-1-3-f 3-1-3-g-1)

Practice on Playing Site

*Practice opportunities may be available at the Divisional Final game site. Qualifying teams are invited to communicate with the Site Administrator subsequent to site assignment. **Gillette Stadium will not be available as a practice site.***

Number of Players Allowed

The number of uniformed team members eligible for playoffs and/or superbowls may vary based upon the following requirements: All athletes have been declared eligible by their High School Principal. Only athletes who dress regularly as a member of the varsity team may be on the post season squad and only uniform players will be allowed on the sidelines.

Contingency Plans for Playoff/Superbowl Postponements:

The last playable date for Semi-Final playoffs will be Saturday, December 12, 2009. In the event we exceed the semi-final deadline date, we will revert back to a single round format.

The final date to play any MIAA Superbowl game will be Sunday, December 13, 2009. **Tie Breaking Process – Seeding**

If there are league co-champions or multi-champions, the selected league representative shall be determined in the following manner: (1) the league will determine their representative by using their league tie-breaking rule; or (2) if the league does not have a tie breaking process, the following procedure will determine the league representative; follow the order below, eliminate all the teams you can at each step of the criteria, after eliminating all possible teams at that criteria level, revert back to step one and continue the same process until you are only left with one team.

1. Head to head competition
2. Fewest League losses
3. Most League wins
4. Eliminate last two (2) calendar year Super Bowl participants
5. Coin flip

Please note: In every case a school to be considered for tournament participation must be eligible by all MIAA rules and regulations.

Intent to Enter

The Intent to Enter Form for football has been eliminated. Each league notifies the MIAA of the team that will represent them in the Superbowl by 3:00 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day. Upon notification the eligible team will be required to certify eligibility of their team.

Film Exchange

Schools may make available to their opponent's films or tapes of any two of their games that the opposing coach desires. If one of the teams does not take game films or tapes, there will be no exchange.

Site Administration

Jersey colors, selection of benches, etc., will be determined by the MIAA Football Committee.

Official Ball

The MIAA and Spaulding Sports Company have agreed that *any model* from the Spaulding J5V football will be the official ball of the football play-off series and will be used at all Super Bowl sites. Only the J5V will be used. Our thanks to Spaulding for its support of the MIAA, as represented by this agreement.

Game Length

Playoffs and Superbowls will be 10 minutes per period. It is also REQUIRED by the Football Committee that teams in contention for playoff births be limited to play 10 minute periods in their Thanksgiving game.

Medical Coverage

A game will not start unless an MIAA assigned physician, licensed athletic trainer or certified EMT is present. In the event of an accident or injury to a player, that medical person will make the final judgment as to whether a student athlete may continue. In playoffs, the Home team is responsible to provide a Licensed Trainer, Doctor, EMT and the visiting team is welcome to bring their Trainer, Doctor or EMT. In MIAA Superbowls, the MIAA will provide Medical Coverage.

Sports Medical Committee Requirements:

1. All playoff and superbowl games must be played on artificial turf
2. An equipment review must take place for safety compliance prior to post season play
3. There be allowed a maximum of eleven (11) regular season games - No team seeking post season play may schedule the Saturday before Thanksgiving.
4. Each team qualifying for post season play will be required to follow the "established" Sports Medicine Committee practice schedule which will be made available upon qualification.

Postponements:

In the event of postponements for December 5, 2009, Sunday, December 6th must be reserved on school calendars for postponed games to be played. Conflicts with student activities will not be honored.

EMASS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Eligibility: In every case a school to be considered for Tournament participation must be eligible by all MIAA rules. Schools without league affiliation are not eligible for playoffs. Each league is responsible to forward their league champion to the MIAA for divisional playoff participation. Only MIAA division games as determined below may be used to determine league champion. Should a tie result, the MIAA Tiebreaking Procedure, criteria 1,2,3,4 and 5 will be used to resolve a league championship tie unless the league has their own tiebreaker which will supersede the MIAA tiebreaker.

Each of eight (8) divisions will include four (4) leagues (with the exception of Division IV). Leagues in each division are designated as A, B, C, and D (ref. below). The divisional playoff games will be for determining the Finalists for the Divisional Championship to be played the following Saturday, December 5th, postponed date is December 6th.

EMASS FOOTBALL DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS ~ NORTH/SOUTH ALIGNMENT

Division I

- A) MVC Large
- B) GBL
- C) Big 3
- D) Catholic Conference

Division II

- A) MVC Small
- B) Middlesex
- C) Bay State Herget
- D) Hockomock

Division III

- A) Patriot Fisher
- B) NE Small
- C) EAC
- D) South Coast

*** Division IV**

- A) Boston North
- B) Commonwealth Large
- C) Mayflower Large

Division IA

- A) NE Large
- B) Dual County Large
- C) BS Carey
- D) Old Colony

Division IIA

- A) Cape Ann Large
- B) Dual County Small
- C) Atlantic Coast
- D) Patriot Kennan

Division IIIA

- A) Catholic Central Large
- B) Cape Ann Small
- C) So. Shore
- D) Tri-Valley

Division IVA

- A) Commonwealth Small
- B) Catholic Central Small
- C) Boston South
- D) Mayflower Small

EMASS DIVISIONAL SEMI-FINAL ROUND MATCHUPS TO BE PLAYED TUES., DEC. 1st, 2009 in doubleheader format at 5:15pm & 7:45pm and sites will be announced Nov. 27th and be played on artificial turf under the lights
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League listed first will be the home team designee

Division I, IA, II, IIA, III, IIIA, IVA

NORTH A Vs. B

SOUTH C Vs. D

* Division IV - The determination of the league which will receive a bye for the Tuesday, December 1st playoff game will be based upon: Head to head competition, fewest losses, best overall winning percentage and a three way coin flip will occur and the team winning the flip will get the bye.

EMASS SUPERBOWLS- DECEMBER 5th, POSTPONED DATE DECEMBER. 6th. VICTORS IN THE NORTH AND SOUTH SEMI-FINALS WILL BE PAIRED FOR SUPERBOWLS IN EACH DIVISION
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2009 – SIX (6) DIVISIONS WILL BE PLAYED AT GILLETTE STADIUM – DIVISIONS TBA 2009 - TWO (2) DIVISIONS WILL BE PLAYED AT A LOCAL COLLEGE – DIVISIONS TBA

Pre-game Organizational/Celebratory Meetings:

~ Playoff Meeting: For all participating member school Athletic Directors, November 30th, 10:00am at the MIAA Office in Franklin.

~ Superbowl Meeting: For all participating member school Principals, Athletic Directors, Coaches, Captains and Media, December 3rd and 4th (date time and location to be determined).

CMASS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Eligibility: In every case a school to be considered for Tournament participation must be eligible by all MIAA rules.

CMASS FOOTBALL DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS – TUESDAY DECEMBER 1ST

CMASS FOOTBALL SUPERBOWLS – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

DIVISION 1

A CONFERENCE

St. Johns
Wachusett
Leominster
Shrewsbury
Algonquin
Fitchburg

B CONFERENCE

Milford
N. Middlesex
Westborough
Marlborough
Gardner
Nashoba

C CONFERENCE

South
Doherty
Burncoat
North
SPM
Holy Name

DIVISION 3

A CONFERENCE

Hudson
Groton-Dunstable
Oakmont
Lunenburg
Clinton
St. Bernard's

B CONFERENCE

WB & Tah
Narragansett
Murdock
Ayer
Maynard
Littleton

C CONFERENCE

Monty Tech
Worcester Tech
Bay Path
BVT
Assabet
Keefe Tech
Nashoba VT

Division 1 & 3 Playoff and Superbowl Structure: Each conference champion would qualify for the playoffs and the next 5 teams based on power ratings would also qualify. All 8 teams would then be ranked according to power ratings.

Division 1 & Division 3 Playoffs:

#1 v. #8
#2 v. #7
#3 v. #6
#4 v. #5

Superbowl Games:

#1 v. #8 Victor v. #4 v. #5 Victor
#2 v. #7 Victor v. #3 v. #6 Victor

DIVISION 2

A CONFERENCE

Tantasqua
Shepherd Hill
Bartlett/Douglas
Quabbin
Nipmuc
Northbridge
Auburn

B CONFERENCE

Oxford/Sutton
Grafton
Millbury
David Prouty
Leicester
Uxbridge
Southbridge
Quaboag

Division 2: The winner of each conference would qualify for the playoffs and the next 6 teams based on power ratings would also qualify. All 8 teams would then be ranked according to power ratings.

Division 2 Playoffs:

#1 v. #8
#2 v. #7
#3 v. #6
#4 v. #5

Superbowl Games:

#1 v. #8 Victor v. #4 v. #5 Victor
#2 v. #7 Victor v. #3 v. #6 Victor

Total of two Super Bowl games per division and an overall total of 6 Super Bowl games

CMASS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT (Cont'd)

Site of Games

The sites have been determined by the MIAA Football Committee; if a team refuses to play at a given site, the next eligible team in that conference will be selected.

In all sectors of the State, Playoff & Superbowl Games are intended to be played at neutral sites, however when a site has been established and the member school is a participant it will be played at their home site. In all sectors of the State, Playoff & Superbowl Games are intended to be played at neutral sites, however when a site has been established and the member school is a participant it will be played at their home site. To be clear, examples of established sites that have been utilized in past football playoffs include, Lowell High School, Arlington High School, Wachusett High School, Auburn High School, Reading High School, etc. In cases when the playoff sites are established and that school qualifies, a home site is honored.

If two competing teams were the established playoff site and scheduled to oppose each other, a coin flip will determine location of game.

POWER RATING SYSTEM

- 10 points for playing a team within your division within District E or in another district
- 12 points for playing a team in a higher division within District E
- 8 points for playing a team in a lower division within District E
- 2 points would be earned for each of your opponent's wins (A team that you have defeated)
- 1 point would be earned for each of your opponent's wins (A team that has defeated your team)
- The final determination is the total number of points divided by the total number of games.

TIE BREAKER FOR CONFERENCE CHAMPION AND PLAYOFF SEED

There are eight leagues (1A, 1B, 1C, 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B, 3C) and three divisions – Division 1, Division 2, Division 3

Head to Head Competition

A head to head competition

Ex. Two-team tie: Team A beats Team B, Team A wins championship

Ex. Three-team tie: Team A beats Team B, Team B beats Team C, Team C beats Team A (go to step 2)

Ex. Four-team tie: Team A is 2-1, Team B is 2-1, Team C is 1-2 and Team D is 1-2. Teams C & D are eliminated, Teams A & B move on to step 2

Ex. In a situation with 5 or more teams tied, teams will be eliminated based on head to head records with all teams involved in the tie.

The remaining teams will move on to step 2.

To determine the Runner-Up in Division 1 from the remaining tied teams of the above scenario, the CMFC will use step 2 (Power Ratings-Overall Schedule)

Pre-game Organizational/Celebratory Meetings:

~ Playoff Meeting: For all participating member school Athletic Directors, November 30th, 12:00pm (location TBD)

~ Superbowl Meeting: For all participating member school Principals, Athletic Directors, Coaches, Captains and Media, December 3rd (location and time TBD)

WMASS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Eligibility: In every case a school to be considered for Tournament participation must be eligible by all MIAA rules.

WMASS FOOTBALL DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1ST
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WMASS FOOTBALL DIVISIONAL SUPERBOWLS – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

TOURNAMENT FORMAT FOR 2009-2010

Tournament Structure: Four teams per division qualify for playoffs

Qualification Process: All league champions automatically qualify; the remaining teams are selected through the power ranking process. If there is a tie for league championship; the school with the higher power ranking would receive the automatic bid.

Seeding Procedure: All four teams seeded based on power ranking.

DIVISION 1	DIVISION 2	DIVISION 3	DIVISION 4
Agawam	Amherst	Athol	Dean Tech
Central	Commerce	Belchertown	Easthampton
Chicopee	East Longmeadow	Cathedral	Franklin Tech
Chicopee Comp	Hoosac	Drury	McCann Tech
Holyoke	Ludlow	Frontier	Mohawk
Longmeadow	Pittsfield	Greenfield	Palmer
Minnechaug	Putnam	Lee	Pathfinder
Northampton	Sci Tech	Mahar	Pioneer Valley
West Springfield	South Hadley	Monument	Turners Falls
Westfield	Taconic	Mt. Greylock	Ware
	Wahconah	St. Joes	

Format for all divisions: #1 v. #4 & #2 v. #3 – The winner of each would play in their respective Divisional WMass Superbowl.

POWER RATING SYSTEM

- Own team point value – points received for wins vs. following opponents
- All ties receive a half point value, i.e. if a win equals 10 points, a tie would equal 5 points
- ALL LEAGUE / MANDATORY CROSSOVER GAMES EQUAL 10 POINTS VALUE

Independent games are awarded points based on the following point system:

Own Div.	Up 1 Div.	Up 2 Div.	Up 3 Div.	Outside State	Down 1 Div.	Down 2 Div.	Down 3 Div.
10 points	12 points	14 points	16 points	10 points	8 points	6 points	4 points

* CMass Division 3 – Conference C will equal WMass Division 4 in point value.

Opponent Point Values – If you beat your opponent you receive the following value for each of their wins.

- If you beat your opponent you receive 2 points for every win your opponents had throughout the season.
- If you tie your opponent you receive 1 point for every win your opponent had throughout the season.
- Power Ranking will be divided by total # of teams played by your respective school.
- Tie Breaker – 1. Head to Head; 2. Record against common opponents; 3. Coin flip.

Pre-game Organizational/Celebratory Meetings:

~ Playoff Meeting: For all participating member school Athletic Directors, November 30th, 10:00pm – Westfield State College

~ Superbowl Meetings: For all participating member school Principals, Athletic Directors, Coaches, Captains and Media, ~ 9:30am Westfield State College (date TBD)

PLAYOFF AND SUPERBOWL SELECTION OF OFFICIALS

Five field officials will be assigned as per the following process:

EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

Eastern Massachusetts Football Commissioners shall nominate three (3) complete five man crews (R, U, H, L and B) for post-season assignments. The Commissioner shall assign a rank of 1, 2, or 3 to each of the three nominated crews based upon the Commissioner's opinion of the crew's overall skill and ability. Nominations must be delivered to the Director of Officiating by November 6, 2009. The crew ranked No. 1 by the Commissioner shall only be considered for an assignment to work a super bowl game. The remaining two crews shall be considered for an assignment to work a playoff game. All playoff and super bowl games will be officiated by neutral crews.

The following conditions must be adhered to:

1. Officials who worked a Superbowl game last year are not eligible to work a game this year. Officials will be eligible every other year to work the Superbowl.
2. Only officials who are registered with the MIAA will be assigned play-off games.
3. All Officials must have at least 5 years varsity experience and officiated at least 40 games in that period.
4. All Officials must have worked at least 7 varsity high school games during the Fall Season.
5. Officials are to be assigned positions that they usually work.
6. Officials cannot work a semi final round and final round of the Playoffs in the same year.
7. No Official may work two years in succession in the Playoffs. If an official works the playoffs he may work the Superbowl the following year if selected.
8. No Official shall be eligible to work a playoff or super bowl game if during the regular season the Official worked a game involving one of the teams participating in a particular playoff or super bowl game. Clock operators are exempt from this criteria.

CENTRAL MASS

1. All Central boards of officials will nominate officials that would be able to work playoff games and super bowls officials must be registered with the MIAA. All nominated official lists must be sent to CMass Directors by October 5th.
 - a. Nominations must be by position where officials work the minimum of their high school games.
 - b. Selection committee has the right to place officials in other positions when necessary.
2. Selection committee meeting will be in late October.
3. Officials for Super Bowls will be: Referee, Umpire, Linesman (Central), Back Judge, Field Judge
4. Chain crew will be supplied by home field school.

WESTERN MASS

1. All West boards of officials will nominate officials that would be able to work playoff games and super bowls officials must be registered with the MIAA. All nominated official lists must be sent to WMass Directors by October 5th.
 - a. Nominations must be by position where officials work the minimum of their high school games.
 - b. Selection committee has the right to place officials in other positions when necessary.
2. Selection committee meeting will be in late October.
3. Officials for Super Bowls will be: Referee, Umpire, Linesman (W. Mass Board & Berkshire Boards), Back Judge, Field Judge
4. Chain crew will be supplied by home school or host site.

