

14.1 IMPORTANT DATES

2017-2018 DATES	CALENDAR WEEK	ACTIVITY
Monday, July 31, 2017	5 th	1 st Practice for schools that opted out of spring practice during the previous school year
<u>Thursday, August 3, 2017</u>	<u>5th</u>	<u>1st Practice in full gear for schools that opted out of spring practice during the previous school year (Current medical, history/exam, athletic participation/Parental permission, and substance misuse forms must be on file.)</u>
Monday, August 7, 2017 – Sunday, August 20, 2017	6 th – 8 th	On-Site Rules Clinic - Locations to be Announced (Mandatory for all Head Coaches)
Monday, August 7, 2017	6 th	1 st Practice (Current medical, history/exam, athletic participation/Parental permission, and substance misuse forms must be on file.)
Thursday, August 10, 2017	6 th	1 st Practice in full gear
Thursday, August 10, 2017	6 th	Deadline for submitting Application for Jamboree approval
Monday, August 14, 2017	7 th	Earliest Scrimmage Allowed
Tuesday, August 15, 2017	7 th	Deadline to submit all-star nominations
Sunday, August 20, 2017	8 th	All-Star Selection Committee Meeting
Thursday August 24, 2017 – Saturday, August 26, 2017	8 th	Jamborees (Eligibility must be submitted online.)
Thursday, August 31, 2017	9 th	1 st Contest (If jamboree not played, eligibility must be submitted online.)
Monday, October 9, 2017	15 th	Deadline for submitting GPAs online for seniors for All Academic
Saturday, October 21, 2017	16 th	Last date to add a game for power rating purposes.
Saturday, November 4, 2017	18 th	End of Regular Season/District Representatives Named (All Classes)
Sunday, November 5, 2017	19 th	Playoff Pairings Announced
Thursday, November 9, 2017 – Saturday, November 11, 2017	19 th	<u>Bi-District (Classes) & Regional (Divisions)</u>
Thursday, November 16, 2017 – Saturday, November 18, 2017	20 th	<u>Regional (Classes) & Quarterfinals (Divisions)</u>
Thursday, November 23, 2017 – Saturday, November 25, 2017	21 st	<u>Quarterfinals (Classes) & Semifinals (Divisions)</u>
Thursday, November 30, 2017 – Saturday, December 1, 2017	22 nd	<u>Semifinals (Classes) & Bye Week (Divisions)</u>
Saturday, December 2, 2017	22 nd	Superdome Qualifiers' Meeting (Mandatory for All Classes & Div.)

Thursday, December 7, 2017 - Saturday, December 9, 2017	23rd	State Championship Finals - Mercedes-Benz Superdome
Wednesday, January 3, 2018	27th	Deadline to Declare Spring Football Practice Session
Monday, January 8, 2018 - Saturday, February 3, 2018	28th - 31st	Winter Practice - Spring Session
End of Schools' Season - End of School	TBD	Weight training/conditioning permitted. No practice/contests allowed.
Monday, April 23, 2018 - End of School	43rd - End of School	Spring Practice - Spring Session
Monday, April 30, 2018	44th	Deadline for submitting schedules online
Sunday, May 13, 2018	46th	Summer Rules Begin

14.2 CONTEST LIMITS

14.2.1 Pre-Season:

1. A team shall be limited to one (1) fall pre-season scrimmage.
2. A team shall be limited to one (1) jamboree.

14.2.2 Season: A team shall be limited to the following:

1. Ten regular season contests
2. One bowl game per season

14.2.3 Calendar Week: A team shall be limited to one contest per week. (Sunday-Saturday)

14.3 GENERAL

14.3.1 Schools shall compete in Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, and 1A and shall compete in districts as adopted by the LHSAA Executive Committee. The schools in each district shall consist of both select and non-select admission schools. Football schools shall be sub-divided into select admission and non-select admission schools for playoff competition.

14.3.2 A non-select admission school shall be a public school that has a designated attendance zone and a charter school whose charter mandates that the school have an open admission policy and does not include admission requirements for the selection and retention of its students. For playoff competition, schools that are classified as non-select schools shall compete in Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, and 1A.

14.3.3 A select admission school shall be a public or non-public school that has an admission policy to select the students who attend the school. Select admission schools shall include:

1. All non-public schools
2. All university laboratory schools
3. All magnet schools
4. Dual-curriculum schools that include at least 25% of their enrollment as select admission students who do not live in the designated attendance zone
5. Charter schools whose charters include admission requirements for the selection and retention of its students

- 14.3.4** For playoff competition, schools that are classified as select schools shall compete in four divisions. Schools in Class 5A shall compete in Division I; schools in Classes 4A and 3A shall be combined and compete in Division II; schools in Class 2A shall compete in Division III; and, schools in Class 1A shall be compete in Division IV.
- 14.3.5** In varsity competition, a visiting team shall furnish the home team with a list of players' full names, jersey numbers, positions, and classifications at least ten days prior to the contest.
- 14.3.6** A home team shall wear dark jerseys and a visiting team shall wear white (according to NFHS rules) jerseys.
- 14.3.7** All tied games, district, non-district, and playoff games, shall be played until a winner is decided by applying the 10-yard overtime procedure as outlined in the NFHS Football Rules Book. Exception: Beginning with the third extra period, teams scoring a touchdown must attempt a two-point try. A one-point try by Team A (although not illegal) will not score a point.
- 14.3.8** By mutual agreement of the opposing schools' principals, a half time may be extended a maximum of five minutes. The home schools' principal shall inform the referee of this extension.
- 14.3.9** During the months of August and September, there shall be a mandatory heat time-out at the six minute mark of every quarter. These time-outs shall be official time-outs and will allow the players to rest briefly and hydrate their bodies.
- 14.3.10** If anyone connected with a school or acting at the instructions or request of anyone connected with one school is detected using any type of radio scanning device or other scanning device to intercept radio and/or wire transmissions from coaches of the opposing school during a game, the offending school shall be ruled ineligible for district and state championship honors for the season and fined \$5,000 along with other penalties that may be assessed under the wholesome competition rule located in Section 5.
- 14.4** **ADDING THE SPORT OF FOOTBALL**
- 14.4.1** In a classification year a school which was non-football the preceding year but desires to participate in varsity football the coming season shall notify the LHSAA Executive Director in writing by October 15, which shall be prior to the classification committee's first meeting.
- 14.4.2** A school officially declaring in writing to field a varsity football team for the first time shall be required to post a \$10,000 bond in the name of the LHSAA or deposit \$10,000 with the LHSAA to be held in trust for two years prior to being classified a football school. The bond shall remain in effect for the first two years that the school fields a varsity football team that is placed in a district and competing for championship honors. The bond shall be distributed to schools with signed contracts, should the school cancel the scheduled varsity game(s) for any reason. The Executive Director will determine how the bond money will be distributed to the school(s) affected by the cancellation of a scheduled game.
- 14.4.3** A non-football school shall be allowed to compete in sub-varsity football no more than two years or in varsity football no more than one year without being required to commit to a football school classification. Thereafter, the school shall be required to compete in football at the varsity level and be classified as a football school or discontinue competing in football at all levels of play for the next football season.
- 14.5** **DISCONTINUING FOOTBALL**: A school voluntarily discontinuing varsity football shall not resume the sport at the varsity level for two years from the date of discontinuance. The school may resume football at the sub-varsity level only after one calendar year from the date it was discontinued. The forfeit of two or more scheduled games shall be considered discontinuing the sport. When a school discontinues varsity football, its scheduled games shall be null and void, and no game shall count for or against any team for championship honors.

- 14.6** **PRE-SEASON PRACTICE** - Beginning with the first official practice day, teams shall practice a minimum three days in shorts for conditioning purposes. Helmets and shoulder pads may be worn during the three-day conditioning period. Practice in full gear may begin after the three-day conditioning period. Interschool scrimmages may begin with the 7th week of the NFHS calendar and after the minimum three days practice in shorts and minimum three days in full pads.
- 14.7** **SUSPENDED AND CANCELED CONTESTS**
- 14.7.1** The host school principal or designated representative and the head official (referee) shall have mutual authority to delay the start of a game any time weather conditions are considered hazardous to life or limb. The referee, once a game has started, shall have the authority, by rule, to suspend a game any time weather conditions are hazardous to life or limb. If severe weather develops while a game is in progress and the administration feels safety is questionable but the game officials have not acted, the host principal or designated representative shall intervene by informing the referee who shall cause the contest to be suspended.
- 14.7.2** Once the game has been suspended, it shall only be resumed when the principals of both schools or their designated representatives and the referee agree it is safe to do so.
1. If after a delay of a maximum of 45 minutes the hazardous weather has not subsided, the decision to suspend shall be made by the principals of both schools and their designated representatives after consultation with the referee.
 2. If there are extenuating circumstances such as extreme travel distances or a rescheduling problem, the principals of both schools and their designated representatives may ask for an additional 30 minutes of waiting time.
 3. If the principals of both schools or their designated representatives and the referee cannot mutually agree that weather conditions are safe, the game shall be suspended.
- 14.7.3** If opposing schools' principals and coaches do not agree to call a game a "complete game," the game shall be completed from the point of suspension as if it were never suspended. A Thursday or Friday night suspended game shall be completed the following day or by mutual agreement on any day before midnight Monday of the following week. A suspended Saturday game may be completed on Sunday by mutual agreement but shall be completed no later than midnight Monday of the following week.
- 14.7.4** If, by mutual agreement, a district game is canceled, the game shall be disregarded for district honors. If, by mutual agreement, a non-district game is canceled, it shall be disregarded in determining power rating of the teams involved in the cancellation.
- 14.8** **DISTRICT PLAY**
- 14.8.1** Each district shall determine its own method for determining its first place playoff representative. In the case of a tie, Rule 14.8.5 shall be applied. The district shall set the number of district games a school shall play to be eligible for district honors. If a district consists of five or fewer teams, each member school shall play a minimum of five district games or play a round-robin schedule to be eligible for district honors. If two schools do not play the required number of district games and do not play each other, they shall be ineligible for championship honors. However, a school which agrees in writing to play shall not be penalized by this rule.
- 14.8.2** If a school lacks sufficient district games and another school in the district refuses to play it, the school may present a letter to the LHSAA by September 1 explaining the deficiency. However, if that school is offered a district game on any playing date other than the one on which a district game is already scheduled, it shall be accepted within one year.

- 14.8.3 District first-place representatives shall be named by district committees and reported to the LHSAA by the district chairperson no later than 8:00 p.m. on the Saturday of the 10th playing date. District chairperson(s) are asked to certify automatic qualifiers in the district by 10:00 p.m., Friday, of the 10th playing week.
- 14.8.4 A regular season football game played on the Saturday of the 10th playing date shall not begin after 5:00 p.m.
- 14.8.5 A playoff game shall not be played to break a district tie. If a district championship is tied, all teams shall represent the district in the playoffs. If a division or class has a 16-team bracket and there is a first place tie between three or more teams that played each other during the season, the district constitution shall determine which of the teams shall be the first-place playoff representative. If there is not a tie-breaking rule in the district constitution, then the representative shall be determined by the team with the highest power ranking. The district chairperson shall report these results to the LHSAA by the established deadline.
- 14.8.6 A district with 11 or more teams may subdivide and the games they play in sub-district shall count as district games. Teams in one sub-district may schedule games against the other sub-district's teams, but the games shall not count as district games. The game between the sub-district winners shall decide the first-place team on the tenth playing date and shall count as a district game.

14.9 WILDCARD PROGRAM

CLASS	QUALIFIERS
5A	32
4A	32
3A	32
2A	32
1A	32

DIVISION	QUALIFIERS
I	16
II	16
III	16
IV	16

- 14.10 **WILDCARD SELECTION COMMITTEE:** After the established deadline for reporting teams for playoff competition, schools shall have three hours to review, appeal, or dispute a school's won-loss record and/or power ranking which shall be posted on the LHSAA website. An appeal request to correct a school's won-loss record and/or dispute the power ranking of an individual school must be submitted in writing by the principal by the established deadline. After the established deadline, when all timely filed requests, appeals, and disputes have been addressed, the official brackets shall be announced and posted. Once the brackets are announced and posted to the LHSAA website, the playoff plan becomes final and no changes shall be made.
- 14.11 **CRITERIA FOR WILDCARD SELECTION:** Only the team that is certified as the first place representative from the district or all teams that finish in a tie for first-place in the district shall automatically qualify for the state playoffs from that district. In completing the playoff bracket, all other teams qualifying for the state playoffs shall be selected on the basis of the established power rating scheme. Each district shall use Rule 14.8.5, to certify its first place team when ties exist. The remainder of the byes on the bracket will be filled with wildcard teams (teams that did not automatically qualify) using the highest power rating in descending order to fill the bracket.

14.12 SEEDING THE BRACKET

14.12.1 All non-select teams shall be seeded (1-32) according to their power rating. All select teams shall be seeded (1-16) according to their power rating.

14.12.2 When two teams have an identical power rating, the following criteria shall be used for seeding purposes:

1. If the two schools played each other during the season, the winning school shall be seeded higher.
2. If the two schools did not play each other during the season, the tie shall be broken by determining each schools strength factor as stated in Rule 14.13.1. The school with the higher strength factor will be the higher seed.
3. If a tie exists after applying the above rules, the tie shall be broken by using the following criteria in this order:
 - A. The team(s) with the best won-lost percentage record(s) against all teams, including district and non-district games, in the school's same classification shall be selected for the playoffs.
 - B. The team(s) with the best won-lost percentage record(s) in district play shall be selected for the playoffs.
 - C. The team(s) with the best won-lost percentage record against all teams played shall be selected for the playoffs.

14.12.3 When three or more teams have an identical power rating, the following criteria shall be used for seeding purposes:

1. The tie shall be broken by determining each schools strength factor as stated in Rule 14.13.1.
2. If two teams are tied in the strength factor rating and played each other during the season, the team that defeated the other team shall be awarded the higher seeded position.
3. If a tie still exists after applying the above rules, the tie shall be broken by using the following criteria in this order:
 - A. The team(s) with the best won-lost percentage record(s) against all teams, including district and non-district games, in the school's same classification shall be selected for the playoffs.
 - B. The team(s) with the best won-lost percentage record(s) in district play shall be selected for the playoffs.
 - C. The team(s) with the best won-lost percentage record against all teams played shall be selected for the playoffs.

14.13 DETERMINING POWER RATING

14.13.1 The power rating for each school shall be determined as follows:

RESULT OF CONTEST	ADD	ADD
Win (10 points)	Same Class	N/A
	Higher Class	Add 2 points for each class up
	Lower Class	N/A
Loss (0 points)	Same Class	N/A
	Higher Class	Add 2 points for each class up
	Lower Class	N/A
Double Forfeit	Add 1 point to team that defeated both teams forfeiting	Opponent's Wins/Opponent's Games Played x 10
Tie (5 points)	Out of State	Add ½ point if opponents has a tie
		Opponent's Wins/Opponent's Games Played x 10

- 14.13.2** A team's power rating shall be the result of the contest plus any additional points for playing a larger classification plus opponent's wins divided by the opponent's games played multiplied by 10 to get the total power points of games which is divided by the number of total games played during the regular season. Refer to the LHSAA website for an example of how the power rating is determined.
- 14.13.3** When a team's opponent is an out-of-state team, the classification of the out-of-state team shall be determined by verifying the latest enrollment of the team through its state association and applying its enrollment to the enrollment numbers used in classifying LHSAA schools at the last classification meeting.
1. When a school plays an out-of-state school that has a game remaining on its schedule after the LHSAA's tenth playing date, that game shall not be used in determining the school's power rating.
 2. When a school plays an out-of-state school all contests played that count on their regular season record shall be used to calculate a school's power rating.
 3. If an out-of-state opponent plays more than 10 regular season games by the time of the LHSAA's 10th playing date, only the results of the first 10 games it played shall be applied in the LHSAA's Wild-Card Program.
- 14.13.4** When a team's opponent is a junior varsity or "B" team, the result of that game shall not be used in determining the team's power rating or the strength factor.
- 14.14** **DETERMINING STRENGTH FACTOR:** The opponent's strength factor shall be determined by adding the sum of the opponent's class to the sum of the opponent's wins and dividing the result by the total number of games played.
Refer to the LHSAA website for an example of how the strength factor is determined.
- 14.15** **FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS**
- 14.15.1** Playoff games include all games played for state championship honors after the tenth playing date.
- 14.15.2** In all rounds of playoff games, the Officials' Association will be assigned by the LHSAA's Director of Officials.
- 14.15.3** Ticket prices shall be set by mutual agreement of participating teams. If an agreement cannot be reached, a coin flip shall be conducted to decide the ticket price.
- 14.15.4** Game time shall be set by mutual agreement. If an agreement cannot be reached, the starting time shall be 7:30 p.m.
- 14.15.5** If a stadium conflict exists and/or a game time cannot be mutually agreed upon, then the home team shall set the starting time. The starting time shall not be before 5:00 p.m. and no later than 8:00 p.m. This rule applies only to metropolitan areas when the home team's stadium is involved. If this matter cannot be resolved by applying this rule, the Executive Director shall possess full authority to resolve the conflict.
- 14.15.6** Unless participating teams mutually agree to play a Thursday night or Saturday night, playoff games shall be played Friday nights. Participating teams shall mutually agree to play a Thursday or Saturday night if stadium conflicts exist Friday night. If a stadium conflict exists Friday night and teams cannot mutually agree to play Thursday or Saturday night, a coin flip shall be conducted to determine if the game shall be played Thursday or Saturday.
- 14.15.7** Schools shall be required to distribute and sell numbered tickets from the first round through the semi-final round for all state football playoff games. Both teams shall possess the right to be directly involved in the collection and accounting for and selling of all tickets. A school shall not be allowed to use season tickets as admission to any playoff game.

14.15.8 Through the semi-final round, the home team may use its regularly-used home field as its playoff game site. If the home team chooses to use a field other than its regularly-used home field, opposing schools shall agree to the change.

14.16 **FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

14.16.1 The traveling team shall receive \$4 per mile, one way, map mileage in all classes.

14.16.2 With the exception of contest officials, the home team shall furnish the stadium, ticket sellers, gatekeepers, guards, janitors, advertising, printed tickets, and other items incidental to the game. The cost of these obligations shall not be charged against game receipts. The home team shall maintain concession rights.

14.16.3 Gross ticket receipts, including pre-game sales, shall be divided as follows: Teams shall share 50-50 after the following deductions: 10 percent of gross ticket receipts, including pre-game sales, shall be paid to the LHSAA before paying for contest officials' travel and fees and visiting team's travel.

14.16.4 If gate receipts do not cover the cited expenses, the visiting team shall receive the balance of the receipts after payments to the LHSAA and contest officials. The home team shall not be liable for any traveling team's expenses not covered by gate receipts.

14.16.5 When both playoff teams are from the same metropolitan area and play in a municipal stadium (one that is not located at either school's facility, but instead is contracted, scheduled, and rented, and neither school has concession rights) the following shall apply:

1. The LHSAA shall receive 10 percent of gross receipts, including pre-game sales, before paying contest officials.
2. Both teams shall share other necessary expenses.
3. No travel allowance shall be applied.
4. Net receipts shall be split 50-50.

14.17 **SUPERDOME CLASSIC**

14.17.1 The LHSAA shall conduct the state championship finals in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome.

14.17.2 The participating schools' principals or their designee and the head coaches shall meet at a designated time at the LHSAA office on the Saturday following the semi-final games to review plans for the Classic and pick up pre-game tickets. Schools failing to attend, shall not be issued a practice time nor receive pre-game tickets.

14.17.3 The state championship finals shall be played on the dates listed in Rule 14.1, Important Dates, in this section.

14.17.4 Subject to approval of the Executive Committee, the playing time schedule shall be determined by the Executive Director.

14.17.5 If the LHSAA realizes financial loss after the following expenses have been paid, the loss shall be deducted on a pro-rata basis from the ten participating teams' guarantees.

1. Superdome rental charges
2. Superdome staffing and game administration charges
3. Superdome ticket-servicing charges
4. Press room charges
5. Ten percent of gross ticket sales to the LHSAA
6. Team expenses

14.17.6 If possible, team guarantee checks shall be mailed to each participating school within 30 days following the Classic:

CLASS/DIVISION	2017 GUARANTEE PER TEAM	2017 TOTAL GUARANTEE
Class 5A/Division I	\$11,500	\$23,000
Class 4A/Division II	\$10,000	\$20,000
Class 3A	\$8,500	\$17,000
Class 2A/Division III	\$7,000	\$14,000
Class 1A/Division IV	\$5,500	\$11,000

Each participating school shall receive \$5.00 per mile, one way, map mileage in all classes.

14.18 SPRING PRACTICE

14.18.1 Spring practice shall be limited to 10 days with or without pads and shall be conducted either Weeks 28 through 31 or beginning Week 43 of the NFHS calendar. Every school shall declare to the LHSAA whether it will participate in spring practice Weeks 28 through 31 or after Week 43, or will not participate in spring at all. A school can participate in either one but not both and cannot split the ten days between the two time periods. Any school choosing not to participate in spring at all, may start their fall practice on Monday of Week five of the NFHS calendar and start in full gear on Thursday of Week five.

14.18.2 Students in grade 8 may participate in spring practice at a member school if the following guidelines are met:

1. The student shall live in the attendance zone of the member school.
2. If the student attends a traditional middle/junior high school located outside of his/her home attendance zone for the entire 8th grade year that is located in the attendance zone of the member school.
3. The student must be pre-enrolled at the member school and once pre-enrolled and attends one practice, the student shall have established eligibility at that member school.
4. The member school shall have on file a written statement signed by one or both parents/guardians explaining to them that once the student participates in practice with that school, that school shall become the student's school of eligibility and a subsequent transfer to another LHSAA member school without a corresponding bona-fide move shall cause the student to become ineligible for a period of one calendar year from the date of his/her enrollment.
5. The student shall be registered with the LHSAA prior to participating in a practice.
6. The student shall meet all other LHSAA rules and regulation.
7. The student shall have on file a medical examination, medical history, parental permission, and substance abuse/misuse form on file prior to participating in a practice.

14.18.2 One interschool scrimmage shall be allowed during the ten days of spring practice for Weeks 28-31 or Weeks 43 to end of school.

14.19 SUMMER ACTIVITIES

- 14.19.1** During the summer months before regular practice, players may meet with coaches for chalk talks and supervised participation in a weight program, calisthenics, conditioning drills, and other drills without pads. Helmets and shoes shall be permitted.
- 14.19.2** Players may attend summer football camps and clinics but may not participate in any activity while wearing pads.
- 14.20** Student-athletes shall be allowed to wear protective football pads (shoulder pads, hip pads, thigh pads) only during the football sports season in the fall and during the allowable spring practice period. A student-athlete may wear a helmet at any time during the year. Any student-athlete found in violation of this rule may be declared ineligible for interscholastic athletic participation in the sport of football for at least one contest and/or may be declared ineligible for interscholastic athletic participation in the sport of football not to exceed one calendar year.