



State Football Playoffs Fourth Round Survey

TO: All Participating Schools in Football

FR: Julian Tackett, Assistant Commissioner

THIS INFORMATIONAL SURVEY HAS BEEN REQUESTED BY THE BOARD OF CONTROL AS IT CONSIDERS A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FOOTBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE. YOUR RESPONSE BY FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2005 IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!

At its regular meeting in November, the Football Advisory Committee, made up of fourteen individuals from across classes and across the state, discussed recommendations regarding changes in the state semifinal playoff round. The committee discussed both the site selection for the fourth round and the opponent bracketing. After that meeting, the committee recommended a change in the opponent bracketing for the fourth round while the site selection issues remain in the committee for further review.

The recommendation from the Advisory Committee followed a discussion of the fact that many of the semifinal pairings repeated annually, and there was a desire to change the opponents being played as a means of adding variety and perhaps, additional publicity to the games. This round has been, and for the foreseeable future, will continue to be, played on Thanksgiving weekend, so travel concerns are not as paramount as they might be in earlier rounds. The committee's recommendation was that the pairings be done by random draw, similar to the basketball draw (Option 2 below). When the recommendation was forwarded to the Board of Control, they also considered another staff alternative from past committee discussions, that being a pre-bracketed six year plan for rotating the opponents.

Following all of the discussion, it was the request of the Board of Control that the football schools be surveyed for input. It is important that administrators weigh in on this issue, hence the need for the principal signature, due to the fact that a change would likely increase travel costs.

Please check one of the following options as the preference from your school.

— OPTION 1 - The semifinal round should remain as it is now. Region 1 plays Region 2, Region 3 plays Region 4. Host sites alternate each year between odd and even regions. *ADVANTAGES – Travel is minimized, some semifinal rivalries have become traditional games, some planning can be done in advance, revenue is maximized as travel is minimized. DISADVANTAGES – Can lead to same opponents playing many consecutive years depending upon success.*

— OPTION 2 - The semifinal round should be by blind draw (as in basketball). Regions 1, 2, 3 and 4 would be placed in a random draw and a blind draw made for semifinal pairings (first three rounds would remain the same). *ADVANTAGES - A made for TV/publicity draw show could be held to showcase the playoffs. This draw could be done early in the season, or late in the season, and would add excitement to the potential pairings. Football could be showcased and given additional publicity, improvement over current plan in eliminating repeat pairings. DISADVANTAGES – Could impact opponent scouting due to travel, game could pit teams from far across state even though holiday weekend negates some of the impact. Travel could be impacted, and due to random nature, could be impacted in consecutive years.*

— OPTION 3 - The semifinal rounds should be by a pre-planned six year rotation (as in baseball). In year 1, Region 1 would host 2, 3 would host 4, and that would be reversed in year 4. In year 2, Region 4 would host 1, 2 would host 3 and that would be reversed in year 5. In year 3, 1 would host 3, 4 would host 2 and that would be reversed in year 6. *ADVANTAGES – Planning, scouting would be able to be planned, travel needs would be known, improvement over current plan in eliminating repeat pairings. DISADVANTAGES – Lose publicity opportunity for draw, travel is undoubtedly impact as far apart regions would have to play every third year, could result in same repeat pairing problems as current.*

School: _____ Coach Signature _____

Principal Signature _____