

Commissioner Julian Tackett

**Topic**

Sports Report

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**Sport**

Fall Football

**Positive Developments and Highlights**

Participation continues to increase as documented by the NFHS survey. The regular season, while not without incident, saw nearly all scheduled games played except for a couple in a storm-laden first two weekends.

RPI was discussed throughout the year, with most observed commentary being from people who don't understand (or refuse to understand) that it is a "body of work" metric, not a single game metric. In the end, the matchups were determined for round 3 without any ties. Most of the discussion has come from one school fan base that during the realignment process, requested placement in regions 5 to 8 and now are concerned with their matchup within those groups.

In addition however, the Board should be guarded against changes to benefit isolated situations. There will always be "edge cases" and coaches that attempt to schedule feeling it will help the situation but then lost key contests that reverse the impact. Bottom line is that the rankings are a body of work measurement, and combine a team's success with their success against teams with strong schedules to produce the final product, and single games do not have a strong impact on any final product.

**Issues of Concern (legal, playing Rules, fiscal management, etc.)**

Still continued concern about the parity between teams, even within classes. Throughout the year, the separation of successful and non-successful teams, even within the same class seems to be wider than it has been. However that has been noted in most other states as well and many feel the 2020 and 2021 altered seasons will continue to have an impact for several seasons.

**Championship Update/Review**

All proceeding relatively without significant issues.

Championship information has been distributed to members of the Board of Control

Tickets will be available for sale later this week and will be essentially the same price as last year, with the only change being the fees lumped into the ticket price instead of outside the price.

In addition, the process for the purchase of band tickets has been refined to allow for a discounted band ticket to be purchased.

**Officials Update/Review**

The shortage is real, and yes, we are seeing occasional degradation of performance simply due to inexperience. But that is to be expected in every sport.

For the future, in the first round, any game played on Friday

night will only have five officials, and the schools that want 7 officials may do so by playing on Thursday or Saturday.