

WVSSAC files for intervention as football playoffs remain halted

The Martinsburg Bulldogs face the Huntington Highlanders at Cobourn Field for a regular season game on Sept. 6.

Journal photo by Elle Colbert

PARKERSBURG — The West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission (WVSSAC) football postseason is still on hold with no clear date of commencement in sight due to multiple litigations ongoing across the state. However, the WVSSAC has filed a petition to the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals seeking a writ of prohibition and request for expedited relief.

A response to the writ of prohibition and request for expedited relief are

due today, November 18.

The WVSSAC is specifically seeking intervention regarding an injunction issued in Wood County on November 9, which argues that the commission's postseason seeding and classification processes are unjust. On the other hand, the WVSSAC argues that their guidelines for the processes were ratified by member schools earlier in the year.

Additionally, the WVSSAC argues that the Wood County injunction was delivered so late in the season that it has created irreparable harm, highlighting the burden it has caused across the state. When the postseason was officially halted on November 12, just three days before it was set to start, many teams had already arranged transportation and accommodations.

Despite the WVSSAC's arguments, Wood County's injunction was granted and the commission remade their playoff brackets based on a previous point system which they had originally abolished in December of 2023.

The remake of the brackets knocked out four teams, one from each class, from the postseason. At the same time, four new teams punched their tickets in.

In Class AAAA, Point Pleasant was replaced by St. Albans. In Class AAA, Hampshire was replaced with Capital. In Class AA, Westside was replaced with Lincoln and in Class A, Tolsia was replaced with St. Marys.

Unhappy with being knocked out, Point Pleasant then filed an injunction on November 11 proposing that they play St. Albans to determine who would advance to the Class AAA postseason.

Hampshire and Capital also got in on the action, proposing to do the same for a spot in the Class AAA postseason. One day later, Tolsia and Westside filed injunctions for win-or-go-home games as well.

The injunctions were granted and win-or-go-home games were scheduled at neutral sites across the state for November 16, but Hampshire filed for another injunction two days prior requesting that the WVSSAC abolishes the high stakes games in question so that they could retain their newly granted playoff spot under the remade brackets.

Realizing the monster the Wood County injunction had created, the WVSSAC then filed their writ of prohibition and request for expedited relief.

With Hampshire's injunction up in the air, the win-or-go-home games for Class A, AA and AAA were called off.

If the WVSSAC's writ of prohibition is approved, postseason playoff spots for all four classes will be granted by the same point system that this year's brackets were originally based on.