

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

FOOTBALL 2020



In my first Message from the Commissioner for this school year, I mentioned we would be using the 2019 Football season as a test run to see if we would be able to include current regular season results into our Football Power Rankings in 2020. The biggest question we had was whether we could count on our schools to enter every score of every game into the CIFSSHome system. I am happy to report that question was answered as out of our 378 schools playing 11-Man Football, 376 reported their scores by the end of the 2019 regular season. Therefore, we are working with the Football Coaches Advisory Committee on a proposal to the Southern Section Council for first reading next month that will include current regular season results into our power rankings and divisional placements next year. Here is the concept that will be submitted for consideration...

Step 1 – All member schools will be required to enter every score, from every game played, into CIFSS-Home after each week of the regular season. That data will be shared with CalPreps, who will develop power rankings for every 11-Man Football school in our section. Those power rankings will be updated weekly but will not include divisional placements until after the final week of the regular season.

Step 2 – At the end of the regular season, final power rankings will be released utilizing only current regular season results. These current regular season results will include out of section and out of state teams, which our past power rankings did not include. The final power rankings will include divisional placements and will serve as the basis for creating the 2020 Football Playoff Brackets.

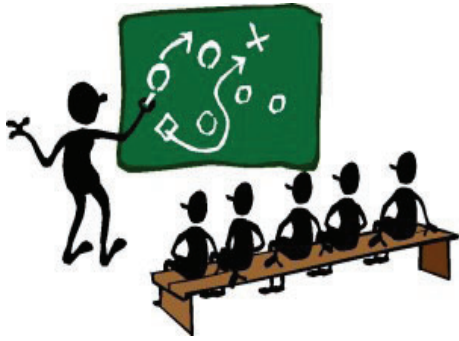
Step 3 – Divisions and brackets will be created around automatic qualifiers. We currently have 178 automatic qualifiers from leagues across our 14 divisions. This year, Division 1 had 7 automatic qualifiers, which leaves 171 automatic qualifiers remaining. These 171 qualifiers would be distributed evenly across the other 13 divisions, which means there would be an average of 13 automatic qualifiers in each one. We would identify automatic qualifiers from the power rankings, starting at the top and then working down, and build the divisions accordingly. For example, in each division you begin with the power rankings identifying the first automatic qualifier until you reach the thirteenth automatic qualifier. That process might include a total of 20 schools to arrive at the 13 qualifiers. Then, you identify the three highest ranked teams in that division of 20 schools who are not automatic qualifiers from their leagues and those three teams would be selected as at-large teams to complete the 16-team bracket.



Step 4 – Seeding of all playoff brackets in each division will follow the final power rankings in that division, regardless of league affiliation or league finish. For example, in the First Round, the #1 seed, determined by the final power rankings for that division, will play #16, the #2 seed will play #15, etc. The higher seeded team, regardless of league placement, will host the First Round contest and then CIF Southern Section Bylaw 3304, Host Team After the First Round, will be followed for all subsequent contests.

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Some other aspects of this concept to be considered...

1) In helping explain this concept further, included in the proposal to the CIF Southern Section Council in January will be 2019 playoff brackets in each division illustrating what last season's playoff brackets would have looked like if this new system was implemented.

2) Another thing to keep in mind is every automatic qualifier from every league would be guaranteed entry into the playoffs, while still providing at-large opportunities for deserving teams in each division. In the past, that has not been the case, in regard to guaranteeing every automatic qualifier from every league gaining entry into the playoffs.

3) This new format will require a major cultural change on our membership's part because schools would not know their divisional placements until the regular season is over.

4) With divisions not being formed until after the current regular season, there would no longer be weekly Top Ten Polls tracking each division throughout the regular season.

I hope this information will be useful to you in preparing for what you will see in January. As always, the decision on whether this new format will be implemented or not will be up to our member schools through their league's representation to the CIF Southern Section Council. I look forward to the discussions that are to come in our continuing effort to make progress with competitive equity playoffs.

Thank you very much for your continued help and support, it is truly appreciated.

All the best to you and yours for a joyous Holiday Season,

Rob Weigal



 **Happy Holidays**