

Date: May 6, 2009  
To: NSCIF Board of Managers  
From: NSCIF Football Playoff Advisory Committee  
Re: Alignment of the NSCIF Football Schedules with the CIF Calendar as it relates to State Football Championships

Board of Managers:

With the inception of the California State Football Championships in 2006, it became apparent to the NSCIF Football Playoff Advisory Committee that the section would eventually need to align its football calendar as closely as possible with rest of the state to give our athletes and programs a legitimate opportunity for success in the CIF Football State Championship series. Initially it was believed by many in the NSCIF that football teams from the Northern Section would never have a realistic chance of playing in the State Championship bowl game. However, in the very first year, two NSCIF teams (Foothill, Sutter) had legitimate chances of representing the section as the northern California participant. Then, in the California State Bowl Games' second season, 2008, Hamilton Union was selected as the northern California representative. Hamilton Union's selection was both an honor and, ultimately, a curse for football in the NSCIF. The dilemma Hamilton Union faced dealt with the number of days they had to wait to first be notified of their selection, then the number of days between their NSCIF Division IV Championship game and the actual State Championship Division III Bowl Game. Hamilton Union waited in flux for 16 days prior to their selection by the CIF then had 4 days to prepare for the game itself. While no one in the NSCIF is unhappy about our representation, it is the difference in our calendar as it lines up with the state that is at issue. The team Hamilton played had no "down time" prior to their State Championship appearance. They won their section championship one week and played in the State Bowl Game the following. Although several days off between championships might be beneficial, 3 weeks is just enough time to "lose the edge" necessary to compete at one's highest level, and just long enough for a team to lose focus on the task at hand...maybe the biggest game in a school program's history...The California State Championship Bowl Game.

While the NSCIF Football Playoff Advisory Committee realizes lining up with the CIF football calendar will have an impact on the season that follows, the committee sees any infringement as relative to the same impact winter sports have on spring sports when it comes to section and state playoffs. In fact, there will never be more than eight of 72 NSCIF schools impacted by lining the NSCIF Football Playoffs up with the rest of the state, while winter sports' NSCIF and CIF Playoffs affect a far greater number of schools. The actual impact will lengthen the current season one week. The decision by the NSCIF Football Playoff Advisory Committee seeking to change the current calendar comes from a recommendation by the CIF Football Playoff Commission. The CIF Football Playoff Commission is currently preparing to institute a "Play-In" game which would be similar to the northern California Championship currently used in the CIF Basketball Playoffs. The winners of the "Play-In" games would represent the northern part of the state in the California State Bowl Games. With the

institution of the "Play-In" game, the CIF Football Playoff Commission has also requested that each section play their championship games the first weekend of December for the purpose of selecting the representatives for the "Play-In" game.

As the CIF Football State Championship series continues to grow, it will become more and more essential for NSCIF teams to have the opportunity to play top teams from outside the section in order to influence their opportunities for selection in the CIF Football State Championship series. Aligning with the rest of the state will open the opportunity for our top teams to play the top teams from other sections during their non-league schedule. As we have seen in past years (2007 – Foothill and Sutter) this issue is essential for our opportunities. The only real respect NSCIF football is going to get will come when we compete with and beat the best teams from throughout the state. That opportunity is currently much more easily afforded other sports because their schedules line up with the rest of the state. The NSCIF Football Playoff Advisory Committee is merely asking for the same consideration.

The NSCIF Football Playoff Advisory Committee has developed a calendar that aligns with the CIF calendar for football. It is attached for consideration. It is our hope, as our Board of Managers, that you will place NSCIF football on a level playing field when it comes to preparing our calendars for competition with California's best football programs, thereby, affording NSCIF football the same opportunities as other sports in our section and as other football teams from around the state.

Respectfully submitted,

NSCIF Football Playoff Advisory Committee

## Proposed 2010 NSCIF Football Calendar:

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Game</b>	<b>Affect</b>
0	9/3	Pre-league	Section wide
1	9/10	Pre-league	Section wide
2	9/17	Pre-league	Section wide
3	9/24	Pre-league	Section wide
4	10/1	Pre-league	Section wide
5	10/8	Pre-league	Section wide
6	10/15	League	Section wide
7	10/22	League	Section wide
8	10/29	League	Section wide
9	11/5	League	Section wide
10	11/12	League	Section wide
11	11/19	Quarter-Final Playoff	28 Schools
12	11/26-27	Semi-Final Playoff	18 Schools
13	12/3-4	NSCIF Finals	8 Schools
14	12/10-11	Nor-Cal "Play-in" Game	3 Schools **
15	12/17-18	State Championship	3 Schools **

\*\* Best Case Scenario.