



# CT HS Football Alliance Proposal to CIAC Football Committee

September 16, 2024

## Background

Established in 2017, the Connecticut High School Football Alliance, comprised of six leagues throughout the state, has provided teams with competitive, non-league matchups. Since 2017, the Alliance has scheduled 432 games. In fact, in the last two years, 11 of the 12 state champions have played "Alliance games" during the regular season.

In addition to its scheduling prowess, Alliance members generate important discussions about pertinent issues and changes with the sport of high school football and continues to work collaboratively to address issues and opportunities.

Over these eight-plus years, the Alliance has solicited some productive feedback from its stakeholders (administrators, coaches, and the media).

- It is clear, football programs want to play 10 regular season games, including Thanksgiving Week.
- The state's current playoff structure, comprising six divisions with 8 teams in each, has been well received, and has provided more teams the chance to compete for a playoff spot, especially in the final few weeks of the regular season.
- Most, if not all, conferences, despite not having their own league playoffs, along with "independent" teams still have challenges filling out their schedules with "good" matchups (based on classification), and often need the Alliance to schedule games "within their state classification."
- Typically, the best teams win state titles, but the "ranking of teams for the purposes of playoffs" varies from year-to-year as some teams and leagues' regular-season schedules are not consistent in terms of strength of schedule. For example, the number-one ranked team in Class L in 2023 played only one "Class L/LL" team during the regular season.

## PROPOSAL

**Every football program has to play a minimum of four varsity games\* in its class or above during the regular season in order to qualify for the CIAC postseason; or any two games set forth by the Connecticut High School Football Alliance scheduling committee.**

*\* Any cooperative team will be held of a standard of 50 percent of the games set for playoff participation. For example, co-ops would be required to have to play two games if this proposal passed.*