

**Proposed Amendment to the
University Interscholastic League Constitution and Contest Rules**

A. Brief Explanation of Proposed Recommendation

This amendment would change the language for the 6A football home field advantage pilot program. The current language provides for home field advantage based on seed. The change in language would give home field advantage based on district finish. The current pilot language also does not address when opposing teams are tied in their district finish. The recommendation is that the language be adjusted to account for home field advantage based on district finish and account for scenarios with ties in district finish.

B. Factual and Policy Justifications

The current 6A football home field advantage pilot is based on playoff seeding. The higher seed in some scenarios may finish lower in their respective district standings than their opponent. The adjustment in language rewards the team with the highest district finish. The suggested language would also clarify what occurs in the event of a game between two teams with the same district finish.

C. Proposed Recommendation

Section 1250 (i) (3) of the Constitution and Contest Rules would be amended as follows if approved by the Legislative Council and the Commissioner of Education:

Section 1250: FOOTBALL PLAN

(i) SITE AND DAY OF GAME.

(3) *Playoff Games.* Unless mutually agreeable otherwise, the place for playing a playoff game shall be determined on a "home and home" basis for the past two football seasons.

Exception: State championship games. The team that was the visiting team the last time the two teams met on a home field in a post-district playoff game may require the game be played at its home field. In case of disagreement between two teams who have not played a post-district playoff game during the past two football seasons, the game site shall be decided by a coin toss. A school cannot be required to flip for a playoff site that is not large enough to accommodate the fans from both schools. **Exception:** As a pilot study for the 2016 football season in 6A only, for the first round of the playoffs only, ~~the higher seed~~ THE OPPONENT WITH THE HIGHER DISTRICT FINISH will determine whether the game is played on its home field or mutually agree to play the game at a neutral site. IF THE OPPONENTS HAVE THE SAME DISTRICT FINISH, THE TWO TEAMS WILL FLIP A COIN OR AGREE ON A NEUTRAL SITE.

D. Potential Fiscal Impact of the Proposed Rule to Member Schools

This proposal will have limited to no additional fiscal impact to schools.

E. Legislative Council Consideration; Effective Date

If approved by the Legislative Council and the Commissioner of Education, this amendment shall be effective August 1, 2017.