



November 19, 2019

ASAA Board Members:

On Monday November 18, 2019, the following committee members met to review the current FOOTBALL classification system and determine appropriate team placement within both divisions and conferences.

Region 1	Chris Battle, Barrow
Region 2	None
Region 3	Norm Bouchard, Houston High
Region 4	Megan Hatswell, Chugiak High
Region 5	Luke Adams, Juneau Co-op
Region 6	Dave Devaughn, Eielson
ASAA	Brian Hosken

The committee was tasked with the following:

1. Determine if schools are placed properly within the current system.
-If not, then make a proposal as to where changes should be made
2. Determine if a better system for divisional placement should be developed
-If so, determine what additional criteria should be used to allow teams to change divisions
 - i. Access to students vs. straight enrollment numbers
 - ii. Competitive history
 - iii. Geographic Factors
3. Any changes must consider the financial, academic and safety aspects to the schools and students.

The committee reviewed the following statistical records for those schools participating in Football:

- Student enrollment
- Numbers of students participating in the activity
- Historical win/loss record of conference games
- Historical win/loss record of conference + nonconference games

The committee considered the following factors for participating programs:

- Geography
- Travel considerations
- Input from the Alaska Football Coaches Association
- Input from school Athletic Directors and expressed individual coaches' opinions.

The committee reviewed several possibilities that included both a two and three division format.

Two Divisions

The two-division format places teams into a bilevel classification with 12 teams at the lower division and 16 teams at the upper level. Team placement into each division was almost exclusively based on school enrollment. Each division would be comprised of two conferences that were determined based on geography and travel. Schools would play an eight-week regular season schedule.



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Division II

- 5 conference games 3 non-conference games
- Playoffs would consist of the top two place finishers from each conference
- Conferences would cross bracket for playoffs (#1 vs. #2)
- Winners play for the championship

Division I

- 7 conference games 1 non-conference game
- Playoff discussions comprised of format considerations that included:
- 1st place finisher from each conference playing a #4 *At Large Berth*
- 2nd place finisher from each conference playing a #3 *At Large Berth*
- Winners from the #2/#3ALB would play #1/#4ALB
- Winners play for the championship
- Actual formatting would need further clarification.

In summary, the committee felt that a two-division format would ultimately hinder the development of football in Alaska. Many of the smaller schools having difficulties fielding teams very likely would no longer support a program. The Alaska Football Coaches Association expressed their discontent for a two-tiered system.

Three Divisions

A three-division system similarly mirrors what is currently in place. (DI - 10 teams, DII - 8 teams and DIII - 10 teams) A review of statistical data suggested few changes. The discussion centered primarily regarding the success disparity found across divisions and within programs. Based on the historic win/loss percentages, student enrollment and number of participants, it would suggest that in the best interest of football in Alaska, a few programs should reclassify.

Division III

- 4 conference games 4 non-conference games
- Playoffs would consist of the top two place finishers from each conference
- Conferences would cross bracket for playoffs (#1 vs. #2)

Division II

- 3 conference games 5 non-conference game
- Playoffs would consist of the top two place finishers from each conference
- Conferences would cross bracket for playoffs (#1 vs. #2)

Division I

- 4 conference games 4 non-conference games
- 1st place finisher from each conference playing a #4 *At Large Berth*
- 2nd place finisher from each conference playing a #3 *At Large Berth*
- Winners from the #2/#3ALB would play #1/#4ALB
- Winners play for the championship
- Actual formatting would need further clarification.

Barrow High School (Barrow, AK)	2	A
Ben Eielson High School (Eielson AFB, AK)	2	A
MONROE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL (Fairbanks)	2	A
REDINGTON HIGH SCHOOL (Wasilla, AK)	2	A
Valdez High School (Valdez, AK)	2	A
Ketchikan High School (Ketchikan, AK)	2	A
Houston High School (Houston, AK)	2	B
Homer High School (Homer, AK)	2	B
Nikiski High School (Nikiski, AK)	2	B
Seward High School (Seward, AK)	2	B
Kenai Central High School (Kenai, AK)	2	B
Kodiak High School (Kodiak, AK)	2	B

Eagle River High School (Eagle River, AK)	1	C
Wasilla High School (Wasilla, AK)	1	C
Lathrop High School (Fairbanks, AK)	1	C
North Pole High School (North Pole, AK)	1	C
Palmer High School (Palmer, AK)	1	C
West Valley High School (Fairbanks, AK)	1	C
Colony High School (Palmer, AK)	1	C
Soldotna High School (Soldotna, AK)	1	C
Bartlett High School (Anchorage, AK)	1	D
Chugiak High School (Chugiak, AK)	1	D
Juneau-Douglas High School (Juneau, AK)	1	D
Dimond High School (Anchorage, AK)	1	D
East Anchorage High School (Anchorage, AK)	1	D
Service High School (Anchorage, AK)	1	D
South Anchorage High School (Anchorage, AK)	1	D
West Anchorage High School (Anchorage, AK)	1	D

Barrow High School (Barrow, AK)	3	Aurora
Ben Eielson High School (Eielson AFB, AK)	3	Aurora
MONROE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL (Fairbanks)	3	Aurora
REDINGTON HIGH SCHOOL (Wasilla, AK)	3	Aurora
Valdez High School (Valdez, AK)	3	Aurora
Homer High School (Homer, AK)	3	Peninsula
Houston High School (Houston, AK)	3	Peninsula
Ketchikan High School (Ketchikan, AK)	3	Peninsula
Nikiski High School (Nikiski, AK)	3	Peninsula
Seward High School (Seward, AK)	3	Peninsula

Eagle River High School (Eagle River, AK)	2	N. Lights
Kenai Central High School (Kenai, AK)	2	N. Lights
Kodiak High School (Kodiak, AK)	2	N. Lights
Wasilla High School (Wasilla, AK)	2	N. Lights
Lathrop High School (Fairbanks, AK)	2	Railbelt
North Pole High School (North Pole, AK)	2	Railbelt
Palmer High School (Palmer, AK)	2	Railbelt
West Valley High School (Fairbanks, AK)	2	Railbelt

Bartlett High School (Anchorage, AK)	1	Chugach
Chugiak High School (Chugiak, AK)	1	Chugach
Colony High School (Palmer, AK)	1	Chugach
Juneau-Douglas High School (Juneau, AK)	1	Chugach
Soldotna High School (Soldotna, AK)	1	Chugach
Dimond High School (Anchorage, AK)	1	Cook Inlet
East Anchorage High School (Anchorage, AK)	1	Cook Inlet
Service High School (Anchorage, AK)	1	Cook Inlet
South Anchorage High School (Anchorage, AK)	1	Cook Inlet
West Anchorage High School (Anchorage, AK)	1	Cook Inlet



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In summary, the committee felt that a three-division format best meets the needs for football across the state and addresses the appeals from the coach's association. *It is recommended that Soldotna reclassify as a DI program and Wasilla reclassify as DII for the 2021 season.* Following the ASAA Handbook, this will allow transition and further discussion of the recommendation. There were no other recommended changes between divisions. A concern arose that the reclassification targeted specific schools and programs, yet the committee overall felt that the petition and statistics guided the recommendation. A side discussion also considered the implementation of 8/9 man football that was short lived due to its adverse perception and its inherent exclusion of individuals owing to the nature and speed of the game.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Hosken", is positioned below the word "Respectfully,". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Brian D. Hosken