

VIRGINIA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
FOOTBALL RATINGS POINTS AND PLAYOFF SELECTION SYSTEM  
UPDATED SEPTEMBER 2021

**A. BASIC PROCEDURE**

Each VISAA team will be awarded points based on their wins and the division-equivalent or higher-division wins of their defeated opponents, as described below. Each team's total number of points earned will be divided by the total number of VISAA-recognized games played to produce a team's **state rating**. The teams with the top six ratings in each division will be considered **ranked** each week, starting after games played in Week 5 and continuing through Week 11 (the last week of the regular season). Any team playing at least five VISAA-recognized games and **ranked** at the end of the regular season is playoff-eligible. A selection committee will award the four playoff berths and set the seeds in each division, but they may only award playoff berths to teams **ranked** (as defined above) in the final state ratings.

**B. POINTS BASED ON CLASSIFICATION OR ENROLLMENT OF THE OPPONENT ("WIN POINTS")**

For a win over a VISAA Division I team, a VISAA team receives **12 points**.

For a win over an out-of-state private school with 200<sup>1</sup> boys or more in grades 9-12, a VISAA team receives **12 points**.

For a win over a VISAA Division II team, a VISAA team receives **9 points**.

For a win over an out-of-state private school with between 100 and 199<sup>2</sup> boys in grades 9-12, a VISAA team receives **9 points**.

For a win over a VISAA Division III team, a VISAA team receives **6 points**.

For a win over an out-of-state private school with 99<sup>3</sup> boys or fewer in grades 9-12, a VISAA team receives **6 points**.

**C. "WIN POINTS" AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL OPPONENTS**

A public school opponent is considered to have division-equivalent point value to any team in the VISAA affected by that public school. For a win over a public school of any state or enrollment classification, a VISAA team receives **the number of "win points" awarded for a win over a VISAA team in the winning team's own division**.

Sample scenario:

Fork Union Prep (D-I) defeats Powhatan High School; FUMA receives **12 points**.

Blessed Sacrament Huguenot (D-III) defeats Powhatan High School; BSH receives **6 points**.

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<sup>1</sup> These cut-offs are based on the thresholds which separate the VISAA divisions.

<sup>2</sup> See note 1.

<sup>3</sup> See note 1.

#### **D. POINTS FOR THE WINS OF DEFEATED OPPONENTS (“OPPONENT WIN POINTS”)**

Every team receives **one point** for each **win** by a **defeated opponent**, except for wins against any opponent who is a lower classification.

Sample scenario:

Norfolk Academy (D-I) defeats Norfolk Christian (D-II).

Norfolk Christian has wins over one D-I team, six D-II teams, and one D-III team.

Norfolk Academy receives 10 points (9 **win points** and 1 **opponent win point**).

No “opponent win points” are awarded to **NA (D-I)** for NChr’s wins over **sub-Division I** teams.

#### **E. GAMES NOT RECOGNIZED BY THE VISAA**

Games against teams already faced in the same season, games against teams which are not associated with a physical school (e.g. church teams), games against teams which allow non-enrolled students to play on their team (including home-schooled students), and 8-man football games do not count for any kind of points (**win points**, **opponent win points**, or **bonus points**). Such opponents are marked on official schedules and worksheets with **red highlighting**.

Sample scenario:

Potomac beats Sidwell Friends (D.C.) (12 points).

Sidwell beats **Maryland Christian (Md.)**, Model (D.C.), and Hancock HS (Md.).

Potomac receives 14 points (12 **win points** and 2 **opponent win points**).

No “opponent win point” is awarded to Potomac for Sidwell’s win over **Maryland Christian**.

#### **F. FORFEITS**

For the purpose of calculating state ratings, wins by forfeit count as a **win** for the non-forfeiting team and a **loss** for the forfeiting team. This gives the non-forfeiting team **win points** based on the forfeiting team’s classification or enrollment. However, a **forfeiting team** is not a **defeated team**, and so the forfeiting team’s wins **do not** provide “opponent win points” to the team receiving the forfeit win, regardless of division classification.

At the same time, since teams receive **one point** for each **division-equivalent or higher-division win** by a **defeated opponent**, any team that has defeated the non-forfeiting team in a game **does** receive a point for that team’s forfeit win.

In forfeits involving two VISAA schools, the state committee in consultation with the executive director may allow the non-forfeiting team the option of accepting points for the forfeit win as outlined above or counting it as a non-game, depending on which will be more advantageous for the non-forfeiting team. A non-forfeiting team should not be penalized in any way for having a game forfeited to them.

## **G. BONUS POINTS**

Bonus points are awarded to any team who loses to an opponent from a higher division (or an opponent with enrollment that would set that opponent in a higher division), provided that higher-division opponent wins at least seven (7) VISAA-recognized games and plays at least eight (8) VISAA-recognized games. All games considered must be played **by the end of the VISAA regular season**.

Bonus points are not awarded until the final ratings of the year (which decide playoff seeding), regardless of the certainty or guarantee of those points (e.g. a higher-division opponent has finished 8-0 and has no more games that season).

Bonus-point-yielding opponents are marked on schedules and worksheets with **beige highlighting**.

For losing to a higher-division opponent who wins seven (7) games, a VISAA team receives **one (1) point** in the final ratings.

For losing to a higher-division opponent who wins eight (8) games, a VISAA team receives **two (2) points** in the final ratings.

For losing to a higher-division opponent who wins nine (9) games, a VISAA team receives **three (3) points** in the final ratings.

For losing to a higher-division opponent who wins ten (10) games, a VISAA team receives **four (4) points** in the final ratings.

## **H. DEFINITION OF “HIGHER-DIVISION OPPONENT” FOR DIVISION I TEAMS SEEKING BONUS POINTS**

For Division I schools, “higher-division opponent” shall mean (1) a private school with more boys enrolled in grades 9-12 than the largest playoff-eligible Division I school in the VISAA<sup>4</sup> or (2) a public school in:

- (a) Class 4A, 5A, or 6A of the Virginia High School League or similarly structured association
- (b) Class 3A or 4A of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association or similarly structured association
- (c) Class AAA only of any other state association with a three class (A, AA, AAA) classification

## **I. TIES IN FINAL RATINGS**

If there are ties in the final state ratings after all **win points, opponent win points, and bonus points** are awarded, such ties will be broken as follows:

- (1) head-to-head result, if applicable
- (2) average placement in VISAA ratings throughout the season

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<sup>4</sup> For the 2021 season, this is St. Christopher’s School with 372 boys.

## **J. FINAL PLAYOFF SELECTION**

After all Week 11 games are played and the state ratings are complete, a selection committee will choose and seed four teams for the playoffs in each division, choosing only from the top six teams in the final set of state ratings. The committee may use any other information they choose to assist them in making their determinations in addition to the state ratings. However, they may not award a playoff berth to any team ranked lower than sixth in the final state ratings.