

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association is the official governing body for the Football tournament. Plans for the tournament were formulated by the State Football Committee and approved by the Board of Control.
- B. Schools choosing to enter the tournament have the responsibility for reading and adhering to the rules and regulations stated on page 1 (Section I) of this publication as well as those appearing within this Football Bulletin.
- C. Eligibility rules for all participants are defined in MPSSAA Bylaw .02, found in the current MPSSAA Handbook.
- D. General regulations for all state tournaments are contained in MPSSAA Bylaw .07, found in both the current Handbook and in the front section of this publication.

II. REGION AND STATE TOURNAMENTS

- A. Tournament Organization
 - 1. In each of the four classifications, the top four teams in each region according to the MPSSAA point system will compete in a single elimination tournament, with the region winner advancing to state play.
 - 2. Point system for tournament selection

For defeating a Class 4A school = 8.0 points	For defeating a Class 2A school = 6.0 points
For defeating a Class 3A school = 7.0 points	For defeating a Class 1A school = 5.0 points

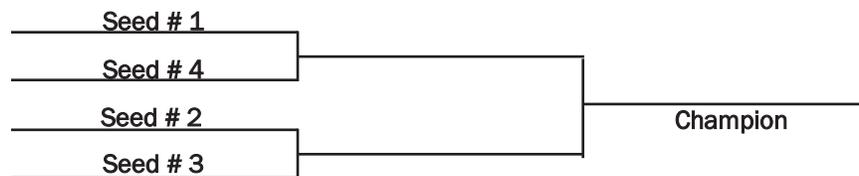
 - a. Nonmember schools will be placed in the proper classification according to member school enrollments based on the enrollments of grades 9, 10, and 11, comparable to MPSSAA classifications. An all-boys or all-girls school enrollment will be multiplied by two.
 - b. Policy concerning unplayed games
 - (1) Disbandment or failure to start the season on time will result in a non-game and shall automatically reduce the divisor of the disbanded team's opponent by one game.
 - (2) Disbandment after any part of the schedule has been played will be recorded as a win for the disbanded team's opponents.

FOOTBALL

2017 FOOTBALL TIME LINE		
	REGION TOURNAMENT	STATE TOURNAMENT
Aug. 9First practice date		
Sep. 1First play date	Nov. 10/11Semifinals	Nov. 24/25Semifinals
Nov. 4Last play date	Nov. 17/18Finals	Nov. 30 - Dec. 2 ..Finals
Nov. 5Organization meeting for state tournament		Dec. 15Reimbursement request due
Nov. 13 ..Application deadline for region semifinal winners		

- c. Winning team bonus points will be determined as follows:
- (1) A team playing a 10-game schedule shall receive 1.00 points for each game won by a defeated opponent who also plays a 10-game schedule.
 - (2) A team playing a 10-game schedule shall receive 1.11 points for each game won by a defeated opponent who plays a 9-game schedule.
 - (3) A team playing a 9-game schedule shall receive .90 of a point for each game won by a defeated opponent who plays a 10-game schedule.
 - (4) A team playing a 9-game schedule shall receive 1.00 points for each game won by a defeated opponent who also plays a 9-game schedule.
 - (5) For each game tied by a defeated opponent, a team shall receive **50 percent of awarded points**.
 - (6) For each game tied by a tied opponent, a team shall receive **25 percent of awarded points**.
 - (7) For each game won by a tied opponent, a team will receive **50 percent of awarded points**.
- d. When an MPSSAA member school plays a nonmember opponent who will not play the tiebreaker, the MPSSAA school shall receive points as follows:
- 4A—4.0 points, 3A—3.5 points; 2A—3.0 points; 1A—2.5 points.
- e. MPSSAA member schools whose opponents play more than a 10-game schedule will:
- (1) determine points from results of first 10 games if member school appears on the opponent's schedule from the first to and including the 10th game.
 - (2) determine points by counting back 10 games from and including the game in which member school appears on opponent's schedule.
- f. The total accumulated points will be divided by 9 or 10, depending on the number of games played. Ten is the maximum divisor and nine is the minimum divisor to qualify for state participation. A team must count all regular season games when using the point system criteria to determine representation.
- g. When a **MPSSAA** team plays the same opponent twice during the regular season, only the first game should count to determine team record and points. No points (bonus or win points) for any teams will be awarded based on the second game.
- h. If the point system results in a tie, the following procedures will be used in sequence to break the tie.
- (1) If either team has defeated the other in regular season play, the winner shall be rated above the loser in the standings. If three or more teams are tied and not equally affected by this procedure, criteria two through six are to be utilized.
 - (2) The team with the most bonus points accumulated.
 - (3) The team with the smallest score difference in losses among common opponents.
 - (4) The team with the fewest average points allowed for its entire schedule.
 - (5) The team whose defeated opponents have the highest point average.
 - (6) If the above procedures do not break the tie, it shall be broken by the flip of a coin.

- i. Should a team discontinue play during the course of the season, all opponents shall receive points as would have been awarded for a victory over the team. A school shall not receive points for a team scheduled in place of the withdrawing team after the season has begun.
- 3. The tournament will be officially seeded on Sunday, November 5 by the State Football Committee.
- 4. Teams will be seeded twice in the tournament, *both seedings based on the MPSSAA point system in regular-season play.*
 - a. The first seeding will take place for the region tournament.
 - b. A re-seed for the state semifinals will occur once region champions have been determined.
- 5. The following bracket structure shall be used:



- 6. Regular-season forfeits by non-tournament team(s) that would affect the point standing of eligible team(s) must be officially confirmed in writing before the completion of the seeding meeting.
- 7. Prior to Noon Monday, November 6, a region contestant will be replaced by the team from said region with the next highest point average, and the region re-seeded, under the following conditions:
 - a. A team that elects to withdraw or is disqualified.
 - b. A correction of an error which causes a recalculation of points.
- 8. The deadline for changes in the order of seeding shall be noon, Monday, November 6. Any withdrawal or disqualification after noon will result in a forfeit.
- 9. In subsequent rounds, if a team withdraws or is withdrawn from the tournament for any reason, the team last defeated shall replace the withdrawing team.
- 10. All games that end in a tie shall use the National Federation tiebreaker to determine the winner.
- 11. Criteria for game sites: All region games and the state semifinal game shall be played on the home field of the higher-seeded team provided it meets the criteria below. When a school cannot meet the criteria for a game site, the State Football Committee may designate another site in that region.
 - a. Adequate seating and rest room facilities.
 - b. A safe and playable turf.
 - c. A working scoreboard.
 - d. Host schools shall contact visitors and officials regarding accommodations for sufficient, accessible and shower-equipped dressing rooms.
- 12. The HOME TEAM (higher seed) will wear the DARK JERSEY. The AWAY TEAM will wear the WHITE JERSEY.
- 13. Upon arrival for a game, each team will be assigned a team dressing room. Assigned personnel will be on duty in the dressing room at all times.
- 14. Friday games will begin at 7 p.m. Saturday games will begin at either 1 p.m. or 7 p.m.

15. Should a game be postponed for extreme weather conditions, it will be rescheduled. Friday games will be moved to Saturday; Saturday games will be moved to Monday.
16. The athletic director, faculty manager, or other administratively-appointed member of the host school will serve as Game Director. The responsibilities for all the region games and the state semi-final game are as follows:
 - a. Clear with the Game Manager on matters of policy and/or interpretation.
 - b. Hire and supervise all personnel necessary for game administration.
 - c. Establish a team gate separate from the spectator gate.
 - d. Introduce the official medical personnel to both coaching staffs (Refer to Page 4, Section V).
 - e. Issue press box passes by the space available. Occupants could be team spotters, announcers, photographers, and representatives of the press and radio stations.
17. The official ball of the MPSSAA State Tournament is the Wilson WTF 1003 GST. A game ball will go to each team participating in the region finals as well as the state semifinals and finals. The State Football Committee is requiring the use of a Wilson Ball with the NFHS authenticating mark during the region finals and state tournament.

B. Playing Rules

By State adoption, Maryland has adopted the following rule regarding the use of running time. After the first half, any time the score differential reaches 35 points or more, the following changes, and only these changes, will be made regarding rules determining when the clock will and will not be stopped.

- a. Once a 35-point differential exists in the second half, the clock will only be stopped when:
 - (1) An official's timeout for an injured participant.
 - (2) A charged (team) time-out occurs.
 - (3) A score occurs that reduces the point spread to less than 35 points (in which case regular timing procedures will be used).
 - (4) A period ends.
- b. The use of this rule does not preclude the use of Rule 3-1-3 which reads, "A period or periods may be shortened in any emergency by agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee. By mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee, any remaining period may be shortened at any time or the game terminated."

C. General Policies

1. Admission to contests

- a. Admission will be by paid admission, MPSSAA complimentary tickets, and MPSSAA complimentary passes. There are no refunds on purchased tickets.
 - (1) Individuals 7 years of age and older will be charged admission.
 - (2) Complimentary tickets will be issued by the game manger to representatives of the working media assigned to the contest.

- (3) Complimentary passes will be issued to school coaches, administrators, Supervisors of athletics, and Superintendents of schools. The pass will admit the bearer only and is not transferable. A valid driver's license must be displayed with the pass for proper identification.
 - b. Sideline passes will be issued to coaches, medical personnel, and managers. Only those persons with sideline passes will be permitted on the sideline.
 - c. A maximum of 20 cheerleaders from each of the participating schools will be admitted free of charge only if they are in complete uniform and *accompanied by a coach*.
 2. MPSSAA will provide souvenir roster cards for the state semifinals and finals. *Home teams may provide programs for the region games.*
 3. The public address system will be staffed by and under the direction of the host school.
 4. Public address comments must be in good taste according to broadcast protocol. Comments not in good taste, nonprofessional, favor one team, or inflammatory, are not permitted.
 5. Raffles, 50/50 drawings, or any other games of chance may not be conducted in connection with any MPSSAA playoff contest.
 6. Bands
 - a. A participating school's band may provide musical entertainment. The game director must be notified 48 hours in advance of the scheduled game if a participating school band to provide a band for the game. The band must be in full uniform, accompanied by the band director, and prepared to perform.
 - b. The designated band will take the field five minutes prior to the start of the game to play the National Anthem only.
 - c. During a 20-minute halftime intermission, the visiting team's band shall take the field for seven minutes, followed by the home team's band, which shall also be limited to seven minutes. Both bands should clear the field five minutes prior to the second-half kickoff. Should only one band or no bands participate, the halftime shall be 15 minutes. *In any case, the field will be cleared five minutes prior to the second-half kickoff.*
 7. Only fixed signs and banners of a positive nature will be allowed at playoff games.
 8. Game concessions for region games and state semifinals shall be awarded to the host school. In return, the host school shall be responsible for postgame cleanup.
 9. The MPSSAA will receive all revenues and pay all expenses.
 10. Tickets for all the region and the state semifinal games will be provided to region directors by MPSSAA.
- D. Officials
1. The officials association assigned to a game will provide a **six**-man crew, a three-man chain crew, and a timekeeper.
 2. A room will be provided for the officials assigned to a game which will serve as a dressing room and waiting room.

III. REGION TOURNAMENT

A. Tournament organization

1. Each region will conduct a four-line single elimination tournament. It is critical that all teams complete their schedules by Nov. 4 because the point system affects both playoff and non-playoff teams.
2. Responsibilities of the region football director (listing found on page 30 of this bulletin):
 - a. Contact the athletic directors of the four schools participating in the tournament to confirm date, site, and time of the contests and clarify arrangements for inclement weather.
 - b. Call the commissioner of the local football officials' board to arrange for **six** field officials, three chain crew officials, and one clock operator.
 - c. Distribute and collect tickets, paperwork, and monies (in check form) for region semifinals and finals.
 - d. Make arrangements for awards to be distributed at the region final game and remind coach of region winner to complete and fax media form found on the football page of mpssaa.org.
 - e. Report all results and pairings for the region finals to the state football committee director.
3. A TEAM ENTRY FORM utilized for State Semifinals and Finals must be filled out by teams winning their Regional Semifinal. Instructions on filling out the TEAM ENTRY FORM is available on mpssaa.org.
4. The MPSSAA will provide two leather game balls for the region finals. A game ball will go to each of the participating teams.

B. General Policies

1. Individuals 7 years of age or older will be charged an admission of \$6.
2. Each team winning a region championship will be awarded a team plaque. Individual certificates will be awarded to team members.
3. Each team winning a region championship will complete the Media Form (found on the Football page of mpssaa.org) and fax or scan and email it to the MPSSAA office by noon, Monday, November 20, for the football press luncheon to be held on Tuesday, November 21.

C. Officials

The region director will secure local officials which serve the designated home team.

IV. STATE TOURNAMENT

A. Tournament Organization

1. The head coach of each region winner is invited to participate in a walk-through of the stadium facility tentatively set for Tuesday, November 21 at 10:30 a.m. A luncheon and press conference will follow at 11:30 a.m.
2. After the region winners are determined and re-seeded by regular-season point average by the State Football Committee, the teams with the higher seeds will host the semifinal contests.
3. The State Football Committee will determine the schedule for all contests.

4. A member of the State Football Committee, or the member’s designee, will serve as the Game Manager for the semifinal game. The responsibilities are as follows:
 - a. Serve as liaison between the State Football Committee, the host school, and the participating visiting school.
 - b. Enforce the policies and regulations of the State Football Committee.
 - c. Coordinate the halftime activities with the teams and officials.
5. The state finals are scheduled for November 30 - December 2, 2017 in Annapolis at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. Directions and fan information are posted on the MPSSAA web site <mpssaa.org> in the State Tournament “Fan Focus”.
6. Persons 7 years of age and older will be charged admission as follows:
 - a. Semifinals – \$8
 - b. Finals – \$10
7. Officials will be assigned through the MPSSAA office.

B. General Policies

1. The MPSSAA will provide two leather balls for each of the semifinal and final games. A game ball will go to each of the participating teams.
2. A plaque will be presented to each team at the end of the championship game. Individual plaques will be given to the coach following each final game and should be presented to team members at an appropriate school function.

Class 4A teams – 55 plaques

Class 2A teams – 50 plaques

Class 3A teams – 50 plaques

Class 1A teams – 50 plaques

PROJECTED MPSSAA FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT DATES	
2018 - Nov. 29-Dec. 1	2019 - December 5-7
2020 - December 3-5	

2017 REGION TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

Region	Director	School	Office	Other
4A West	Walter Hardy	Sherwood	301-924-3230	301-502-7965
4A North	Rich Hambor	Catonsville	410-887-0808	443-632-5525
4A South	Thomas Green	Eleanor Roosevelt	301-513-5400	301-802-2250
4A East	Chuck Markiewicz	Arundel	410-672-4910	443-710-6007
3A West	Ryan Hines	Urbana	240-236-7600	301-606-3603
3A North	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
3A South	Reggie Spears	Watkins Mill	301-840-3979	240-882-1511
3A East	Brian Van Deusen	River Hill	410-313-7114	410-530-8340
2A West	Joe Doody	Damascus	301-253-7050	301-471-9482
2A North	Reggie Brooks	New Town	410-887-1668	410-517-3273
2A South	Dominic Zaccarelli	Westlake	301-753-1758	301-751-0768
2A East	James McCormick	North Caroline	410-479-2332	410-479-4322
1A West	Clayton Anders	Boonsboro	301-766-8022	304-725-6294
1A North	Todd Hawkins	Lansdowne	410-887-1424	410-382-0323
1A South	Damon Bomar	Patterson	410-396-9274	443-827-0571
1A East	Todd Shives	Bohemia Manor	410-885-2075	302-540-3148

Email addresses for regional directors can be found on the Football page of mpssaa.org.

2017-18 FOOTBALL STATE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

	Office	Other
DIRECTOR Mike Calhoun	Allegany 301-777-8110	301-697-1278
DISTRICT 1 Ryan Hines	Urbana 240-236-7711	301-606-3603
DISTRICT 2 Kreg Kephart	Gaithersburg 301-284-4500	301-807-9332
DISTRICT 3 Julius Pinkney	Frederick Douglass 301-952-2400	202-409-3266
DISTRICT 4 Dominic Zaccarelli	Westlake 301-753-1758	301-751-0768
DISTRICT 5 Chuck Markiewicz	Arundel 410-672-4910	443-710-6007
	Brian Van Deusen River Hill 410-313-7120	410-530-8340
DISTRICT 6 Keith Robinson	Perry Hall 410-887-5113	410-493-0147
DISTRICT 7 Todd Shives	Bohemia Manor 410-885-2075	302-540-3148
DISTRICT 8 James McCormick	North Caroline 410-479-2332	410-714-1835
DISTRICT 9 Alan Holmes	Digital Harbor 410-396-8372	443-880-0625

RULES INTERPRETER

Bill Witte.....240-567-1932.....301-989-1432

Email addresses for committee members can be found on the Football page of mpssaa.org.

2017 ALIGNMENT FOR FOOTBALL

CLASS 4A-WEST		CLASS 4A-NORTH		CLASS 4A-SOUTH		CLASS 4A-EAST	
1. Bethesda-CC	Mtg	1. Catonsville	B Co	1. Bladensburg	PG	1. Annapolis	AA
2. Churchill	Mtg	2. Dulaney	B Co	2. Bowie	PG	2. Arundel	AA
3. Clarksburg	Mtg	3. Perry Hall	B Co	3. Charles H. Flowers	PG	3. Broadneck	AA
4. Einstein	Mtg	4. Mergenthaler	Balt	4. Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr.	PG	4. Glen Burnie	AA
5. Gaithersburg	Mtg	5. Urbana	Fre	5. DuVal	PG	5. Meade	AA
6. Kennedy	Mtg	6. Howard	How	6. Eleanor Roosevelt	PG	6. North County	AA
7. Northwest	Mtg	7. Montgomery Blair	Mtg	7. High Point	PG	7. Old Mill	AA
8. Quince Orchard	Mtg	8. Northwood	Mtg	8. Laurel	PG	8. Severna Park	AA
9. Richard Montgomery	Mtg	9. Paint Branch	Mtg	9. Northwestern	PG	9. South River	AA
10. Walt Whitman	Mtg	10. Sherwood	Mtg	10. Parkdale	PG	10. North Point	Cha
11. Walter Johnson	Mtg	11. Springbrook	Mtg	11. Suitland	PG	11. Leonardtown	StM
12. Wheaton	Mtg						
13. Wootton	Mtg						
CLASS 3A-WEST		CLASS 3A-NORTH		CLASS 3A-SOUTH		CLASS 3A-EAST	
1. Manchester Valley	Car	1. Dundalk	B Co	1. City College	Balt	1. Chesapeake	AA
2. Westminster	Car	2. Franklin	B Co	2. Digital Harbor	Balt	2. Northeast	AA
3. Frederick	Fre	3. Kenwood	B Co	3. Baltimore Polytechnic	Balt	3. Atholton	How
4. Linganore	Fre	4. Lansdowne	B Co	4. Southwestern	Balt	4. Centennial	How
5. Gov. Thomas Johnson	Fre	5. Milford Mill Academy	B Co	5. Huntingtown	Cal	5. Long Reach	How
6. Tuscarora	Fre	6. Parkville	B Co	6. Northern	Cal	6. Mt. Hebron	How
7. Blake	Mtg	7. Patapsco	B Co	7. St. Charles	Cha	7. Reservoir	How
8. Magruder	Mtg	8. Towson	B Co	8. Oxon Hill	PG	8. James M. Bennett	Wic
9. Rockville	Mtg	9. Woodlawn	B Co	9. Potomac	PG	9. Stephen Decatur	Wor
10. Watkins Mill	Mtg	10. Aberdeen	Hfd	10. Chopticon	StM		
11. North Hagerstown	Was	11. Bel Air	Hfd	11. Great Mills	StM		
12. South Hagerstown	Was	12. C. Milton Wright	Hfd				
		13. Edgewood	Hfd				
CLASS 2A-WEST		CLASS 2A-NORTH		CLASS 2A-SOUTH		CLASS 2A-EAST	
1. Century	Car	1. Eastern Technical	B Co	1. Southern	AA	1. Elkton	Cec
2. Liberty	Car	2. Hereford	B Co	2. Calvert	Cal	2. North East	Cec
3. South Carroll	Car	3. New Town	B Co	3. Patuxent	Cal	3. Rising Sun	Cec
4. Winters Mill	Car	4. Owings Mills	B Co	4. La Plata	Cha	4. North Caroline	Cin
5. Middletown	Fre	5. Carver Vo-Tech	Balt	5. Thomas Stone	Cha	5. Fallston	Hfd
6. Oakdale	Fre	6. Edmondson/Westside	Balt	6. Westlake	Cha	6. Harford Technical	Hfd
7. Walkersville	Fre	7. Lake Clifton	Balt	7. Glenelg	How	7. North Harford	Hfd
8. Damascus	Mtg	8. Northwestern	Balt	8. Hammond	How	8. Kent Island	QA
9. Poolesville	Mtg	9. Patterson	Balt	9. Marriotts Ridge	How	9. Queen Anne's	QA
10. Seneca Valley	Mtg	10. Central	PG	10. Oakland Mills	How	10. Easton	Tal
11. Williamsport	Was	11. Crossland	PG	11. River Hill	How	11. Parkside	Wic
		12. Gwynn Park	PG	12. Wilde Lake	How	12. Wicomico	Wic
CLASS 1A-WEST		CLASS 1A-NORTH		CLASS 1A-SOUTH		CLASS 1A-EAST	
1. Allegany	All	1. Chesapeake	B Co	1. Lackey	Cha	1. Bohemia Manor	Cec
2. Fort Hill	All	2. Loch Raven	B Co	2. McDonough	Cha	2. Perryville	Cec
3. Mountain Ridge	All	3. Overlea	B Co	3. Fairmont Heights	PG	3. Havre de Grace	Hfd
4. Francis Scott Key	Car	4. Pikesville	B Co	4. Frederick Douglass	PG	4. Joppatowne	Hfd
5. Brunswick	Fre	5. Randallstown	B Co	5. Friendly	PG	5. Patterson Mill	Hfd
6. Catocin	Fre	6. Sparrows Point	B Co	6. Largo	PG	6. Colonel Richardson	Cln
7. Northern	G	7. Western STES	B Co	7. Surrattsville	PG	7. Cambridge-SD	Dor
8. Southern	G	8. Benjamin Franklin	Balt			8. Kent County	K
9. Boonsboro	Was	9. Bluford Drew Jemison	Balt			9. Washington	Som
10. Clear Spring	Was	10. Dunbar	Balt			10. Snow Hill	Wor
11. Hancock	Was	11. FAET	Balt				
12. Smithsburg	Was	12. Frederick Douglass	Balt				
		13. Natl. Academy Found.	Balt				
		14. New Era Academy	Balt				
		15. Reginald Lewis	Balt				
		16. The SEED School of MD	MD				