



MPSSAA FOOTBALL BULLETIN

State Finals - December 4-6, 2008
M & T Bank Stadium, Baltimore

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.
- E. The Football Committee recognizes the need to acclimatize players to summer weather conditions. In that regard, each local school system is encouraged to establish local guidelines to assure the safety of each player.

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.

FOOTBALL

2008 FOOTBALL TIME LINE		
Aug 16 ....First practice date	REGION TOURNAMENT	STATE TOURNAMENT
Sep 5 .....First play date	Nov 14/15.....Semifinals	Nov 28/29 ....Semifinals
Nov 8 .....Last play date	Nov 21/22 .....Quarterfinals	Dec 4/5/6.....Finals
Nov 9 .....Organization meeting for state tournament		Dec 15.....Reimbursement request due
Nov 17 ....Application deadline for region semifinal winners		

- b. Policy concerning unplayed games
 - (1) Disbandment of a team prior to the first scheduled game/contest 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.
- 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 of a point.
 - (6) For each game tied by a tied opponent, a team shall receive .25 of a point.
 - (7) For each game won by a tied opponent, a team will receive .50 of a point.
- 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 determine representation. *However, when a team plays the same opponent twice during the regular season, only the first game should count to determine team record and points.*
- g. 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 whose defeated opponents have won the most bonus points.
 - (3) The team whose MPSSAA opponents have earned the highest point average against defeated Association member schools as mentioned above.
 - (4) The team with the smallest score difference in losses among common opponents.**

(5) **The team with the fewest average points allowed for its entire schedule.**

(6) If the above procedures do not break the tie, it shall be broken by the flip of a coin.

h. 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.

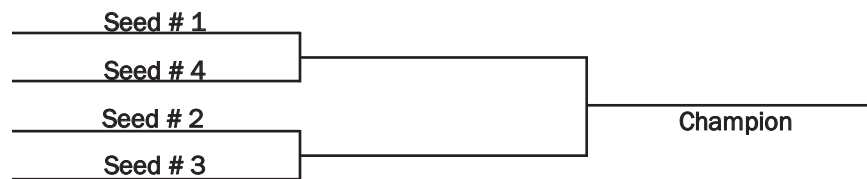
3. The tournament will be officially seeded on Sunday, Nov. 9 by the State Football Committee.

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, Nov. 10, 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, Nov. 10. 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. Sufficient, accessible, shower-equipped dressing rooms, which are available for both teams and the officials.

12. The HOME TEAM (higher seed) will wear the DARK 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 5, 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. A game ball will go to each team participating in the region finals as well as the state semifinals and finals.

B. Playing Rules

By State adoption, the following rule regarding the use of running time will be used: "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. (If the score is reduced to less than 35 points, regular timing procedures will be used.)

- a. If a 35-point differential exists in the second half, the clock will not be stopped when:
 - (1) Ball goes out of bounds.
 - (2) Forward pass is incomplete.
 - (3) Score or touchback occurs (unless it reduces point spread to less than 35 points).
 - (4) Fair catch is made or awarded.
- b. The clock will continue to be stopped on all other situations as specified by Rule 3-4-4. NOTE: The use of this rule does not preclude the use of Rule 1-3-3 which reads 'A period or periods may be shortened in any emergency by agreement of opposing coaches and the referee.' By mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee, any remaining periods may be shortened at any time or the game may be 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) Complementary 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, county supervisors of athletics, and county 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 tournament programs 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 five-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. 8 because the point system affects both playoff and non-playoff teams.
2. The 1A classification is adjusted as follows in order to address regional balance because some schools do not field football teams.

SPECIAL FOOTBALL ALIGNMENT FOR CLASS 1A

WEST	NORTH	SOUTH	EAST
1. Allegany—All	1. Chesapeake—B Co	1. Carver A&T—Balt	1. Col Richardson—Cln
2. Fort Hill—All	2. New Town—B Co	2. Digital Harbor—Balt	2. Bohemia Manor—Cec
3. Mountain Ridge—All	3. Owings Mills—B Co	3. DuBois—Balt	3. Perryville—Cec
4. Northern—G	4. Pikesville—B Co	4. Dunbar—Balt	4. Cambridge—SD—Dor
5. Southern—G	5. Sparrows Point—B Co	5. Forest Park—Balt	5. Harford Tech—Hfd
6. Boonsboro—Was	6. Western STES—B Co	6. Reginald Lewis—Balt	6. Havre de Grace—Hfd
7. Clear Spring—Was	7. Brunswick—Fre	7. Southside—Balt	7. Joppatowne—Hfd
8. Hancock—Was	8. Catocin—Fre	8. Forestville—PG	8. Patterson Mill—Hfd
9. Smithsburg—Was	9. South Carroll—Car	9. Surrattsville—PG	9. Kent County—K
10. Williamsport—Was		10. Glenelg—How	10. Washington—Som
11. Poolesville—Mtg			11. Snow Hill—Wor

3. Responsibilities of the region football director:

- 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 five 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 on page 39 in the Football Tournament Bulletin.
- e. report all results and pairings for the region finals to the state football committee director.

4. NO ENTRIES ARE TO BE SENT UNTIL THE REGION SEMIFINALS ARE OVER.

- a. ONLY TEAMS THAT WIN THE REGION SEMIFINALS ARE TO SUBMIT ONLINE ENTRIES. These entries must be received in the MPSSAA office by 4 p.m., Monday, Nov. 17.
- b. The mailed photo must be postmarked no later than Nov. 1.
- c. THE ONLINE ENTRY METHOD MUST BE USED. The complete directions for submitting rosters and photos will be found on pages 6-7 in Section I of this publication.

5. 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 \$5.

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 it to the MPSSAA office by noon, Monday, Nov. 24, for the football press luncheon to be held on Tuesday, Nov. 25.

C. Officials

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

2008 REGION TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

Region	Director	School	Office
4A West	.....Dave Mencarini	.....Quince Orchard	.....301-840-4586
4A North	....Tony Ruocco	.....Kenwood	.....410-887-0144
4A South	....Michael Mayo	.....C. H. Flowers	.....301-636-8000 x285
4A East	.....Chuck Markiewicz	.....Arundel	.....410-674-6500
3A West	.....John Zehner	.....Bethesda-CC	.....301-497-6300
3A North	....Wayne Jackson	.....Carver-B	.....410-396-0564
3A South	....Dominic Zaccarelli	.....Westlake	.....301-753-1758
3A East	.....Pete Hughes	.....Long Reach	.....410-313-7117
2A West	.....Tim Ambrose	.....Middletown	.....240-236-7422
2A North	....Todd Hawkins	.....Landsdowne	.....410-887-1424
2A South	....John Davis	.....Glenelg	.....410-313-5528
2A East	.....James McCormick	.....North Caroline	.....410-479-2332
1A West	.....Clayton Anders	.....Boonsboro	.....301-766-8022
1A North	....Reggie Brooks	.....New Town	.....410-887-1668
1A South	....Obie Barnes	.....Forest Park	.....410-396-0456
1A East	.....Todd Shives	.....Bohemia Manor	.....410-885-2075

IV. STATE TOURNAMENT

A. Tournament Organization

1. The head coach of each region winner is invited to participate in a walk-through of the M&T Bank Stadium facility Tuesday, Nov. 25 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 will be held at M&T Bank Stadium on December 4-6, 2008. Directions to the site and fan information will be posted on the MPSSAA web site <mpssaa.org>.

6. Persons 7 years of age and older will be charged admission as follows:

a. Semifinals – \$6

b. Finals – \$8

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
2009 - December 4-5 2010 - December 3-4
2011 - December 2-3

2008-2009 FOOTBALL STATE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

Office

DIRECTOR	Lynn Carr.....Frederick County	301-644-5262
DISTRICT 1	Tim Ambrose.....Middletown	240-236-7422
DISTRICT 2	Dave Mencarini	Quince Orchard .....301-840-4586
DISTRICT 3	Michael Mayo	C.H. Flowers .....301-636-8000x285
DISTRICT 4	Dominic Zaccarelli	Westlake .....301-753-1758
DISTRICT 5	Chuck Markiewicz	Arundel .....410-674-6500
	Pete Hughes	Long Reach.....410-313-7117
DISTRICT 6	Tony Ruocco	Kenwood .....410-887-0144
DISTRICT 7	Todd Shives	Bohemia Manor .....410-885-2075
DISTRICT 8	James McCormick	North Caroline .....410-479-2332
DISTRICT 9	George Petrides	City College .....410-545-6739

RULES INTERPRETER

Joe Warren301-918-8100