



MPSSAA GIRLS SOFTBALL BULLETIN

State Finals - May 25-26, 2012
University of Maryland, College Park

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association is the official governing body for the Softball tournament. Plans for the tournament were formulated by the Girls State Softball 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 in the front section of this publication as well as those appearing within this Softball Bulletin.
- C. **Eligibility rules for all participants** are defined in MPSSAA Bylaw .02, found in the current 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. **As per NFHS rules, an optic yellow ball is required for all contests. The Girls State Softball Committee IS REQUIRING the use of the Dudley SB12LND-FP Optic Yellow ball during both the region and state tournaments.**
- F. All games, including doubleheaders, will be scheduled as seven inning games.
- G. As allowed in NFHS Rule 4-2-3, by state adoption, a game called for any reason, where a winner cannot be determined, or any game called at any time for mechanical failure (artificial lights, water systems, etc.) will be treated as a suspended game. If the game is to be completed, it will be continued from the point of suspension, with the lineup and batting order of each team exactly the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension, subject to the rules of the game.
- H. The Girls State Softball Committee has adopted the rule permitting the courtesy runners and a double first base for play all season long. The double first base will not be used in regional or state tournament games.
- I. The Girls State Softball Committee has adopted rule 4-2-6, which establishes a tiebreaker procedure designed to help expedite the determination of a winner once a game has gone beyond the required number of innings and is tied. The rule will be used during both the region and state tournaments. Individual school systems are encouraged to adopt the rule all season long.
- J. **The MPSSAA no longer modifies Rule 3-2-11 regarding the use of metal cleats.**

SOFTBALL

2012 SOFTBALL TIME LINE		
	REGION TOURNAMENT	STATE TOURNAMENT
Mar 21First play date		
May 8Draw for tournament bracket positions	May 10First Round (Rain date - May 11)	May 22Semifinals (RD-23)
May 9Last play date	May 14Quarterfinals (RD-15)	May 25-26.....Finals (RD-28)
May 15....Application deadline for tournament qualifiers	May 16Semifinals (RD-17)	
	May 18Finals (RD-19)	Jun 20Reimbursement request due

II. REGION AND STATE TOURNAMENTS

A. Tournament Organization

1. Every school is automatically entered into the region tournament unless the MPSSAA office receives written notification to the contrary. Request for withdrawal shall be by letter, signed by the school principal.
2. NO ENTRIES ARE TO BE SENT UNTIL THE QUARTERFINALS ARE OVER.
 - a. ONLY TEAMS THAT WIN REGION QUARTERFINALS ARE TO SUBMIT ONLINE ENTRIES. Entries must be received in the MPSSAA office by 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 15 (day following the quarterfinals).
 - b. The mailed photo must be postmarked no later than May 15.
3. 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.
4. Each region will conduct a 16-line single elimination tournament, with the champion advancing to state play.
5. Warm-up procedures
 - a. Both teams will warm up on the entire field for 15 minutes each.
 - b. The visiting team will warm up first unless extenuating circumstances cause a late arrival of the visiting team in which case the home team shall warm up first.
6. In case of inclement weather, athletic directors shall consult with regional directors before finalizing arrangements.
7. For region information, contact your region tournament director.

B. Playing Rules

1. The tournament will be conducted under National Federation rules.
2. The official tournament game ball will be the optic yellow Dudley SB12LND-FP.
3. A game will be considered complete anytime after 4-1/2 to 5 innings when a team is 10 runs behind and has completed its term at bat.
4. In the event of a suspended game, refer to Section I, C on page 4 of this bulletin.

C. Officials

MPSSAA-certified officials will be assigned for each game. Two officials will be used for region games and three officials will be used for state games.

III. REGION TOURNAMENT

A. Tournament Organization

1. Responsibilities of region director
 - a. Notify schools as to their bracket position, site of upcoming contest, and starting time.
 - b. Schedule the local officials board that services the designated home team.

- c. Inform the state committee director and MPSSAA of the schedule established for competition.
2. A draw for bracket positions will take place Tuesday, May 8, in the MPSSAA office via conference call with the tournament chair. Tournament pairings will be posted on the MPSSAA web site <mpssaa.org> the same evening.
 - a. A team must have played a minimum of 14 games by Monday, May 7 to be seeded for the draw on Tuesday, May 8.
 - b. Region directors will verify and submit the official win-loss records of all teams to the state committee no later than 8 p.m. on Monday, May 7.
 - c. The top four teams in each region will be seeded 1-4 as determined by regular season winning percentage, excluding the one additional holiday tournament and any city, county, or conference championship. Ties among the top four teams in a region will be first broken by head-to-head competition to determine the higher seed. This applies if all tied teams meet the criteria. If head-to-head does not break the tie, a coin toss will be used.
 - d. The remaining teams in each region will be placed on the bracket by a blind draw.
 - e. The higher-placed team is defined as one who occupies the lower-numbered line position (the favored position) on the bracket in any given round.
 3. Unless a specific alternative plan has been approved, ALL REGION GAMES WILL BE PLAYED AT THE SITE OF THE HIGHER SEED throughout the tournament. The option to conduct region contests at neutral or central sites remain.
 - a. If circumstances render a home site unplayable and the game is scheduled at any alternate site, the designated home team will remain unchanged.
 - b. The MPSSAA executive director may grant permission for region games to be scheduled at a site other than that of the higher-placed team. This may be done upon the written request of the region director, with the approval by a two-thirds representative vote of the athletic supervisors of schools in that region. Each athletic supervisor's vote will be weighed proportionally to the number of schools he or she represents in that region. This request must be received prior to APRIL 10.
 4. Postponed/suspended games may be required by the State Softball Committee to be made up as part of a double header.
 5. All games must be played on a regulation softball field. The field must be skinned and cannot be a baseball field or one with a raised mound.
 6. Weekday games will be played at 4 p.m. and Saturday games at 1 p.m. unless the region tournament director determines another game time.
 7. The home team will provide two optic yellow Dudley SB12LND-FP game balls.
- B. General Policies
1. Individuals 7 years of age and older will be charged an admission of \$5.
 2. A plaque and 25 individual certificates will be presented to the region champion.
 3. Region champions must complete the media information form online and submit it by 3 p.m. Sunday, May 20, by e-mailing Pat Gochnauer at **patgochnauer@verizon.net**.
 4. Local MPSSAA districts will collect all revenue and pay all expenses. Site directors shall pay officials and required workers. When funds are not available, fees should be referred to the host district.

IV. STATE TOURNAMENT

A. Tournament Organization

1. The MPSSAA will sponsor, conduct, and underwrite the tournament and will be responsible for expenses involving transportation, officials, and awards.
2. 2012 semifinal pairings: West (#1) vs. North (#4) and East (#2) vs. South (#3).
3. Dudley SB12LND-FP optic yellow game balls will be provided. Teams should provide their own marked balls for practice.
4. Photographers
 - a. Bachman Park: Authorized press photographers will be permitted ONLY on the field up against the fence, beyond the dugouts. Press photographers MUST use monopods and/or hand-held equipment only. Tripods are not allowed on the field.
 - b. University of Maryland regulations do not permit press photographers on the field.
5. **Semifinal site – Bachman Softball Park, Glen Burnie – phone 410-222-0017.**
 - a. **Directions from I-695 (Baltimore Beltway):** toward Glen Burnie. Take Exit #2 (Route 10 South) to Route 710 (second exit onto East Ordnance Road). Turn right at 3rd light. The Complex is behind the Detention Center and across from Home Depot. (If coming from the South or Eastern Shore, take I-97 to the Baltimore Beltway and follow the above directions.)
 - b. **Directions from the Northeast: I-95 south to I-695 East.** Take Francis Scott Key Bridge toward Glen Burnie, then follow directions above.
 - c. Individuals 7 years and older will be charged a \$6 admission to games at Bachman Park.
 - d. There are no dressing facilities available at either Bachman Park or the University of Maryland. Teams should come dressed ready to participate. Restroom facilities will be available.
6. **Finals site – University of Maryland College Park–Softball Complex.**

Directions from I-95/I-495 (Capital Beltway): Exit Rte. 1 South to MD. Rte. 193 (University Blvd.) - West one mile, turn left at light onto Paint Branch Parkway. The Softball Complex is located on the right directly behind the Comcast Center.
7. Individuals seven years and older will be charged an \$8 admission to games at the University of Maryland Softball Complex. **The Softball Fan Focus on mpssaa.org contains the latest information.**

B. General Policies

1. Awards will be presented at the conclusion of the tournament. The championship team and finalist team will each be awarded a team plaque and 25 individual awards.
2. Refreshments will be available for purchase at the sites.

We are looking forward to the cooperation of everyone in making our 37th annual Maryland Girls State Softball Tournament a success!

PROJECTED MPSSAA SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT DATES	
2013 - May 24/25	2014 - May 23/24
2015 - May 22/23	

2012 MPSSAA Softball Region Directors

Region	Director	School	Office	Home
4A West	Louis Hoelman	Montgomery Blair	301-649-2841	301-588-3724
4A North	Brian Radcliffe	Perry Hall	410-887-5108	410-592-6529
4A South	Luanne Smith	Central-PG	301-499-7080X301	301-583-7948
4A East	Debbie Shacklock	Ft. Smallwood Elementary	410-222-6450	410-760-7525
3A West	Jody Tyler	Watkins Mill	301-840-3977	240-888-4115
3A North	Dave Scrivener	Eastern Technical	410-887-0201	443-271-4527
3A South	Michael Johnson	Huntingtown	410-414-7036	410-586-1414
3A East	Jeannie Prevosto	Mt. Hebron	410-313-2885	410-960-5195
2A West	Steve Nibbs	Thomas Johnson	240-236-8233	301-371-5570
2A North	Jamie Izdebski	Lansdowne	410-887-1424	410-538-6014
2A South	Maureen Shacreaw	Atholton	410-313-7065	410-707-6497
2A East	Marianne Shultz	North County	410-222-6970	443-386-5876
1A West	Martha Mauzy	Mountain Ridge	301-687-8023	301-264-4660
1A North	Kathleen Donaldson	Bel Air	410-638-4600	410-335-6335
1A South	Lisa Martin	Digital Harbor	410-396-8372	410-375-4954
1A East	Kory Shiles	Mardela	410-677-5142	410-742-0744

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

SEMIFINAL GAMES - Bachman Park

MAY 22 Class	Game	Region	Field	RAIN DATE - May 23 Time
1A	#1 (H) vs. #4 (V)	W vs. N	#4	4 PM
	#2 (H) vs. #3 (V)	E vs. S	#6	4 PM
2A	#1 (H) vs. #4 (V)	W vs. N	#1	4 PM
	#2 (H) vs. #3 (V)	E vs. S	#3	4 PM
3A	#1 (H) vs. #4 (V)	W vs. N	#4	7 PM
	#2 (H) vs. #3 (V)	E vs. S	#6	7 PM
4A	#1 (H) vs. #4 (V)	W vs. N	#1	7 PM
	#2 (H) vs. #3 (V)	E vs. S	#3	7 PM

FINAL GAMES - University of Maryland Softball Complex

MAY 25-26 (RAIN DATE - May 28)
(Schedule to be determined following completion of semifinals.)

2012 STATE SOFTBALL COMMITTEE

	Office	Home
DIRECTOR	Lynn PitonzoNorth County410-222-6970	410-437-3811
DISTRICT 1	Steve Nibbs.....Thomas Johnson240-236-8233	301-371-5570
DISTRICT 2	Jody TylerWatkins Mill301-840-3977	240-888-4115
DISTRICT 3	Luanne SmithCentral-PG.....301-499-7080X301	301-583-7948
DISTRICT 4	Michael JohnsonHuntingtown410-414-7036	410-586-1414
DISTRICT 5	Maureen ShacreawAtholton.....410-313-7065	410-707-6497
	Marianne Shultz.....North County410-222-6970	443-386-5876
DISTRICT 6	Dave ScrivenerEastern Tech.....410-887-0201	443-271-4527
DISTRICT 7	Kathleen DonaldsonBel Air410-638-4600	410-335-6335
DISTRICT 8	Kory ShilesMardela.....410-677-5142	410-742-0744
DISTRICT 9	Lisa MartinDigital Harbor410-396-8372	410-375-4954

RULES INTERPRETER

Al Palmer301-924-2464

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

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