



Field Hockey State Committee Board of Control Report

Friday, April 24, 2026

Director – Regina Grubb, Regina_R_Grubb@mcpsmd.org

2026 Dates

- 10/29 and 10/30 Regional Semifinals
- 11/3 Regional Finals
- 11/6 and 11/7 State Quarterfinals
- 11/11 and 11/12 State Semifinals
- 11/14 State Finals



2026 State Sites

- State Semifinals - Glen Burnie and Crofton
- State Finals - Stevenson University

2026 Changes

- None

Football Tournament Report 2026



Special Thanks to all of those who helped make this year's Football Championships a success. We would like to acknowledge: Andy, Jason, Ken, Melissa, Melissa, and James from the MPSSAA Office; Mike Chavez and his crew for their management of the ticket booth and entry gates; Billy Gross and his crew for their on-field management of all our teams; Logan Shippee for all of his coordination of the supporting programs, and the press box crew of Bill Witte (clock), Ben Spector and Ryan Myers (announcers), Tim Murphy (scoreboard), and Greg Goings (stats). We are very fortunate to be able to hold our Championship games at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, a National Memorial dedicated to those who have, and will serve in the Navy and Marine Corps.

Results:

- 4A Quince Orchard defeated Dr. Henry A. Wise 26-21 (Undefeated & 4th Title in last five years)
- 4A/3A Mergenthaler Vo-Tech defeated Sherwood 40-20 (3rd Title in last 5 years)
 - *New record for most points in a final by; winning team, losing team & 2 teams*
- 3A Linganore defeated Oakdale 56-17 (Undefeated & 6th Title in school history)
 - *New record for most points by winning team in the finals*
- 2A Huntingtown defeated Northern 24-21 (1st in school history)
- 2A/1A Dunbar defeated Henry E. Lackey 50-26 (14 Titles – all time State record)
 - *New record for most points in a final; winning team, losing team & 2 teams*
 - *New record for most points in post-season; Dunbar - 278*
- 1A Patuxent defeated Fort Hill 35-28 (2nd Title in school history)

John H Cox Sportsmanship Award: Sherwood High School

Attendance Report:

➤ Round 2	31,788 (+17%)	5yr Average: 31,903
➤ State Quarterfinals	18,194 (+68%)	5yr Average: 17,027
➤ State Semifinals	12,586 (+13%)	5yr Average: 13,925
➤ State Finals	11,689 (-1%)	5yr Average: 15,603
➤ Total	74,257 (+22%)	5yr Average: 78,458

Committee Meeting – March 18, 2026

- Voted unanimously to approve new language for the Bulletin
 - Pg 22 B. Any team that is required to forfeit 5 or more games during the season is ineligible for post-season play.
- Discussed the impact recruiting is having at the High School level and the need for stronger enforcement.
- Talked about new playoff formats for the next cycle of classification and District Reps are to gather feedback from the coaches in their district this year.

Football Rules Changes - 2026

1-5-3c(9) – The committee has approved the wearing of play cards on both the forearm/wrist and belt areas of the body.

9-4-7 – The committee approved new rules language that no player may use the hand(s) to slap the opponent's head.

Rules Reminders:

1-5-1d(5)a - 4, 5 (NEW) — Committee clarifies and restricts attachments on tooth and mouth protectors, effective with the 2026 season.

1-5-2d (NEW), 1-5-3c(6) — Arm sleeve specifications developed to guide manufacturers, players and coaches effective with the 2027 season.

2026 Football Editorial Changes

1-1-8; 1-5-1d(5)a - 4, 5; 1-5-3a(2); 2-15-1; 2-32-6; 3-5-7g; 4-1-3; 5-3-1; 8-2-2; 8-2-3; 8-2-4; 8-2-5; 9-4-3p; 9-8 PENALTY; 10-4-2; 10-4-2b; 10-4-4a; 10-5-3; SIX-PLAYER RULES DIFFERENCES; NFHS OFFICIAL FOOTBALL SIGNALS.

2026 Football Points of Emphasis

1. Flagrant and Unsportsmanlike Fouls
2. Helping the Runner
3. Sideline Management and Control
4. Identification of the NFHS Authenticating Mark on Game Balls

If you have items you would like the committee to discuss, please send your feedback to me at Richard.hines@fcps.org or your District Representative. [Football Committee](#)



MPSSAA BOARD OF CONTROL GOLF COMMITTEE REPORT

Friday, April 24, 2026

I. 2026 Golf Season Key Dates

- **First Play Date:** August 12, 2026
- **District Tournament Completion Date:** October 20, 2026
- **State Championship:** October 26–28, 2026
 - Location: University of Maryland Golf Course, College Park, MD

II. 2026 Bulletin

- There are no significant changes to the 2026 Golf Bulletin.

III. Committee Reminders and Responsibilities

- Golf Committee members are reminded to submit the following by **June 1, 2026**:
 - District tournament course location(s)
 - Tournament dates
 - Male and female course ratings
- District representatives are responsible for reviewing “**Misconduct Detrimental to the Tournament**” with all coaches and student-athletes **prior to district tournament play**.

IV. Additional Information

- The **Fall Seeding Meeting** is scheduled for **October 21, 2026**.

MPSSAA STATE SOCCER BOC

April 24, 2026

Tournament recap - Fall 2025

- Girls Soccer State Champions
 - 1A - South Carroll High School
 - 2A - Mt. Hebron High School
 - 3A - Severna Park High School
 - 4A - Perry Hall High School
 - Sportsmanship Award - Century High School

- Boy Soccer State Champions
 - 1A - Liberty High School
 - 2A - Glenelg High School
 - 3A - Stephen Decatur High School
 - 4A - Leonardtown High School
 - Sportsmanship Award - Centennial High School

General Information for 2026 Bulletins

- Fall Start date is August 12, 2026
- First Play date is September 4, 2026
- Last play date for Tournament Seeding October 24, 2026
- Draw October 26, 2026
- Last play date October 27, 2026
- Entry date November 2, 2026
- Region Finals will be November 3, 2026
- State Quarterfinals will be November 6/7, 2026
- State Semifinals will be November 13/14, 2026
 - State Semi Final Sites for 2026
 - Bel Air, Tuscarora, Glen Burnie, Kent Island, Laurel, North County, Linganore, Fairmont Heights
- State Finals will be November 19-21, 2026, at UMBC.

- Friendly Reminders
 - Reporting of scores promptly
 - Facilities appropriate field size (page 39)
 - OT procedures will stay the same for playoffs (page 36)
 - Playoffs will have 3 officials and a table official for a total of 4 officials for the State Tournament (page 40)

- NFHS rule emphasis for 2026 will be posted on MPSSAA site when approved by NFHS.

MPSSAA VOLLEYBALL REPORT
Board of Control Meeting, 4/24/2026



The State Volleyball Committee met on March 19th, 2026 at the BWI Courtyard Marriott for our annual post-season meeting.

Discussion Items from our spring meeting:

- **The committee would like to recognize and thank Jim Dorsch and Linda Henson Hubb, for their many, many years of outstanding contributions to MPSSAA volleyball.** We would also like to thank Dennis Lopez and Carole Ferrante for working with us for the last couple of years. We are welcoming Andria Bynum, Ashley Yuscavage and Mary Wizbidski as new region directors. A big THANK YOU to Dan Cunningham for taking on a second region until we are able to secure another region director.
- **Ball Proposals:**
The committee discussed the option to move to textured balls for the upcoming season. After review of samples from different companies, the committee selected to stay with non-textured balls for the 2026 season. Each district rep was asked to speak to the coaches in their district and come back in the fall with their coach's thoughts. We believe that we can switch balls during the contract period so this discussion will continue but for the 2026 season, we will stay with the smooth ball.
- **Bulletin Changes:**
There were a few changes in the bulletin that should be noted. There has been an issue over the last few years with region directors and ADs and the contact made or not made the official assignors for region/state quarter and finals matches. We have changed the wording that the region director will confirm with the host school AD, that officials have been secured.

A reminder that matches should not start before 5pm unless BOTH teams agree to this time. No agreement, then match must start at 5pm or later.

Volleyball will pilot utilizing a district host site for the state semifinal matches. Mr. Warner will be making sure that the site is suitable to host the semifinal matches with an adequate ceiling height and court requirements.

- **NFHS Rules Changes for the 2026 season are attached.**

One of the most consequential changes is that each team may designate up to 2 liberos for each game. Only one will be allowed to play at a time, however if one becomes injured, this will allow for a back up specialist to substitute.

- **Upcoming fall season:**

8/12	First Practice Date	11/6-7	Region Semifinals
9/4	First Play Date	11/11	Region Finals
10/31	Last play date for seeding	11/12	Team Tourn. Roster forms due
11/2	Tournament seeding date	11/13-14	State Quarterfinals
11/3	Last Play Date	11/17	State Semifinals
11/4	Region Quarterfinals	11/21	State Championships

Respectfully submitted,

Sybil Kessinger



2026-27 VOLLEYBALL RULES CHANGES

4-2-1a, 4-2-1i(3) (NEW), 4-2-2: Libero uniform bottoms may be any color and no longer must match the team uniform bottoms. **Rationale:** Allows more flexibility in the libero uniform bottoms while ensuring that the libero uniform top continues to contrast with their teammates.

5-5-3b(21): The second referee will provide a double whistle warning between sets at two minutes, 30 seconds (4:30 when intermission is used) instead of 2 minutes, 45 seconds. **Rationale:** Improves pace of play between sets by notifying teams earlier to make their way onto the court for the officials to administer lineup checks before the final audio signal and resumption of play.

6-4-2, 10-4-3a, 10-4-3d: A team may designate up to two liberos, but only one libero can be in the game at a time. When a team designates two liberos and one is injured/ill, a new libero may be re-designated. When a team designates two liberos and one is disqualified; the team must continue with one libero. **Rationale:** Allows more student-athletes to participate by creating an additional opportunity for coaches without having to utilize a substitution.

6-4 PENALTIES 1c (NEW), 12-2-8b NOTE (NEW): If non-playing teammate(s) (bench players) enter the court during play it is illegal alignment. It remains a conduct violation if a coach or team attendant (anyone not in uniform) enters the court while the ball is in play. **Rationale:** More appropriately assesses illegal alignment (loss of rally/point awarded to the opponent) to non-playing teammates who enter the court while the ball is in play. A player who enters the court during play may still receive a conduct violation if they engage in disconcerting acts, disrespectful language, etc. This penalty realignment allows officials to appropriately penalize teams based on participant actions.

6-5-1: Players on the serving team are not permitted to raise their hands above their heads during service until the ball has passed beyond the net. February 5, 2026 Page No. 2 **Rationale:** Discourages player positioning during the serve that prevents the receiving team from viewing service contact and/or the flight of the ball and assists officials when evaluating the existence of screening. This change aligns with all other volleyball rules codes.

9-2-1 NOTE 1 (NEW): Players shall not wear any audio or video devices during the match. **Rationale:** Clarifies the prohibition of electronic communication with and by players during the match and aligns with other NFHS rules codes.

12-2-8m (NEW): It is an unsporting conduct violation if coaches, non-playing teammates or team attendants use props on the bench during celebrations. **Rationale:** Clarifies appropriate bench conduct for consistent enforcement by eliminating the use of props in bench celebrations while promoting sportsmanship and preventing disruption and potential safety concerns.

2026-27 Volleyball Editorial Changes

1-5-1, 5-2-1b, 5-4-3c(1), 5-4-4a, 7-1-1a, 7-1-1 PENALTIES 3, 7-1-2a, 7-1-4 PENALTIES 1, 9-9-1h

2026-27 Volleyball Points of Emphasis

1. Host Management Best Practices 2. Electronic Devices 3. Bench Personnel – Non-Playing Teammates 4. NFHS Authenticating Mark