

# Baseball Tournament Bulletin

## STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – MAY 22/23, 2026 – TBD

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
February 28	First Practice Date	May 7	Region Quarterfinals
March 20	First Play Date	May 9	Region Semifinals
May 4	Last play date for seeding consideration	May 12	Region Finals
May 5	Tournament seeding date	May 15	State Quarterfinals
May 6	Last Play Date	May 19	State Semifinals
		May 22/23	State Championships

### I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association is the official governing body for the Baseball tournament. Plans for the tournament were formulated by the State Baseball 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 Baseball Bulletin. Unless specifically stated, all rules and regulations stipulated in the NFHS Baseball Rule Book will be followed.
- 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. The official state baseball required for use during region AND state tournament games is the Wilson WTA1010BHS1SST. It is highly recommended that this same ball be used during the regular season as well.
- F. Playing rules for regular season, region, and state tournament
  1. National Federation rules will be used.
  2. A regular season regulation game is seven innings (turns at bat) for each team unless shortened as in Rule 4-2-2 or unless extra innings are necessary to break a tie score.
    - (a.) By state adoption, all games that are tied or not considered a complete game will be a suspended game. A suspended game will be continued from the point of interruption unless the game is declared complete by mutual agreement between the two schools.
    - (b.) Any inning started must be completed to be considered a complete game. No innings will be reverted back to the previous inning to be considered a complete game.
  3. All region and state tournament games will be a minimum of seven innings unless the 10-run rule applies.
  4. All games, including doubleheaders, must be scheduled for seven innings.
  5. The National Federation 10-run rule is mandatory for all games.
  6. The MPSSAA will use the National Federation suggested speed-up rules for courtesy runners.
  7. Intentional walks: An intentional walk may be given by the defensive team by having their catcher or coach request such from the umpire. This may be done before pitching to the batter or on any ball-and-strike count.

8. Pitching Limitations (penalty for violation – forfeit game in which illegal pitcher was used):
- (a.) The pitching limitations rule is in continuous effect between the regular season and playoffs.
  - (b.) All contests, including suspended games, shall use current pitching limitations.
  - (c.) **It is the responsibility of the coach to have all pitchers, with their pitching limitations, listed on the lineup cards presented to the umpire and opposing coach at the beginning of the game.**
  - (d.) The calendar rest begins on the day following the date on which the game began or a resumed game began regardless of the conclusion time of the game.
  - (e.) The pitch count is based on pitches thrown for strikes (including all foul balls); balls; balls in play and outs. If a batter is awarded an intentional walk without throwing a pitch, no pitches shall be recorded by the DPC.
  - (f.) A pitcher at any level who reaches the daily pitch maximum limit in the middle of an at-bat will be allowed to finish that hitter.
  - (g.) Warm-up pitches allowed before each inning, warm up pitches allowed by the umpire in case of injury or game delay, and plays attempted against the batter-runner or any runner at first, second or third base do not count against the limit.
  - (h.) All NFHS Substitution and Pitching Rules must be followed.
  - (i.) The pitch count charts of both teams from prior contests are to be presented to the opposing coach BEFORE the game.
  - (j.) During the game, pitch counts will be recorded by an official Designated Pitch Count Recorder (DPCR) supplied by the home team. The visiting team has the option of providing an additional DPCR to sit with the official DPCR to assist in pitch count recording. Any discrepancy shall be settled by the DPCR and coaches without umpire involvement and that record shall be considered final.
  - (k.) The MPSSAA will supply a neutral DPCR for State Semifinal and State Championship contests.
  - (l.) At game's conclusion, the MPSSAA pitch count form will be signed by both head coaches or designated representatives.
  - (m.) Both schools have the responsibility to maintain every pitching chart form until the school season is complete.
  - (n.) Any discrepancy found during/after the game will be reported to the local school system for review.
  - (o.) A hard copy must be available upon Local School System or MPSSAA request at any point during and following the season.
  - (p.) **Pitchers' pitch count numbers must be submitted for each regular and postseason game when reporting results on Smartsheet. Game results and pitch count numbers shall be reported by noon on the day following each game.**

#### DAILY LIMITATION

The limit on the number of pitches is based on the level of pitching. Specific rest periods are in place when a pitcher reaches a threshold of pitches delivered in a day. The rest periods required during the regular and postseason are listed in the table that follows.

<b>MPSSAA PITCH COUNT LIMITS AND REST REQUIREMENTS</b>						
<b>Grade</b>	<b>Daily Max (Pitches in Game)</b>	<b>Required Days Rest (Pitches)</b>				
		<b>0 Days</b>	<b>1 Day</b>	<b>2 Days</b>	<b>3 Days</b>	<b>4 Days</b>
<b>Senior</b>	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+
<b>Junior</b>	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+
<b>Sophomore</b>	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+
<b>Freshman</b>	95	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+

## II. REGION TOURNAMENT

### 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. A TEAM ENTRY FORM utilized for State Semifinals and Finals must be filled out by teams winning their Region Final. The TEAM ENTRY FORM is available on the "Members" page of mpssaa.org.
3. Each region will conduct a single elimination tournament, with the champion advancing to state play.
4. 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.
5. The tournament seeding will take place Tuesday, May 5 in the MPSSAA office via conference call with the State Committee Director. Tournament pairings will appear on the MPSSAA web site <mpssaa.org> later that day.
  - (a.) Region directors will verify and submit to the State Committee Director by 9 p.m., May 4, the official records of all teams for regular season games played through that day.
  - (b.) All teams in each region will be seeded as determined by regular season winning percentage, excluding the one additional tournament and any city, county, or conference championship.
  - (c.) Teams with less than 14 varsity games played will be seeded based on a regular season winning percentage using a divisor of 14 games.
  - (d.) Ties among 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 to determine the order of seeding.
  - (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.
6. Unless a specific alternative plan has been approved, all teams in regional play will abide by the following guidelines.
  - (a.) All region games will be played at the site of the higher seed throughout the tournament.
  - (b.) All region championship games will be held at the home site of the school with the higher regular season winning percentage.

- (c.) If circumstances render a home site unplayable and the game is scheduled at any alternate site, the designated home team will remain unchanged.
  - 7. Postponed/suspended region games may be required by the State Baseball Committee to be made up as part of a doubleheader.
  - 8. The Head Coach of each region winner must complete the Media Information Form found on the Baseball page of MPSSAA.org and bring 20 copies each to the State Semifinals and Finals.
- B. Playing Rules
- 1. All region games will be a minimum of seven innings unless the 10-run rule applies.
  - 2. The starting time for weekday contests will be 4 p.m. and the starting time for Saturday contests will be 1 p.m. unless, due to extenuating circumstances, both schools agree to modify the starting time. Schools with lights may start a contest up until 7 p.m. Any changes to the start time must be approved by the region director and sport committee chair.
  - 3. Region games must be played on the dates provided in the timeline with inclement weather as the only exception.
  - 4. Guidelines for Region Games And Prom Dates
    - (a.) When one team has a prom on a Friday night, the game should be scheduled for no earlier than 2 PM on Saturday.
    - (b.) When the traveling team has a prom on a Saturday night, the game should be scheduled for 10 AM on Saturday. If the home team has the Saturday night prom, the game should be scheduled for no later than 12 Noon, but can be as early as 10 AM.
    - (c.) When one team has a prom on Friday night and the other team on Saturday night, the game should be scheduled for 12 Noon on Saturday.
- C. General Policies
- 1. The home team will provide Wilson WTA1010BHS1SST baseballs for their games.
  - 2. Individuals 7 years of age and older will be charged an admission of \$6.
  - 3. A team certificate and 25 individual certificates will be presented to the region champion.
  - 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.
  - 5. The use of noisemakers and other distractions that disrupts the orderly progress of the game, (i.e., use of noisemakers coinciding with a pitch being delivered), are prohibited.
- D. Officials
- 1. Two MPSSAA-certified officials will be assigned to each game.
  - 2. More than two umpires may be assigned if this is consistent with the normal and ordinary practice of the home team during the regular season; however, the MPSSAA will pay for only two officials.

### III. STATE TOURNAMENT

#### A. State Quarterfinals

- 1. The region champions from each classification shall advance to a State Quarterfinal round.
- 2. The eight region champions will be seeded 1-8 based on their regular season winning percentage used to seed each region. Ties among teams in the State Quarterfinals 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 to determine the order of seeding.

3. **Unless a specific alternate plan has been approved, all State Quarterfinal games will be played at the site of the higher seed on May 15.**
  4. Schools hosting a State Quarterfinal game must be mindful of other school activities and provide appropriate travel time for any schools with students taking AP testing. Local Supervisors of Athletics shall be contacted and make the final decision when conflicts occur.
  5. A three-person officiating crew from the association local to the higher seeded team will be assigned to the State Quarterfinal contest.
  6. 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.
- B. State Semifinals
1. The winners of the State Quarterfinal round shall advance to the State Semifinals.
    - (a.) The winners of the No. 1 versus No. 8 seeded game will play the winners of the No. 4 versus No. 5 seeded game.
    - (b.) The winners of the No. 2 versus No. 7 seeded game will play the winners of the No. 3 versus No. 6 seeded game.
  2. Semifinal games will be played on Tuesday, May 19. Schedules and times will be set after teams have advanced out of the State Quarterfinals. The MPSSAA and state baseball committee reserves the right to use alternative sites as deemed necessary for continuous operation of the tournament.

<u>DATE</u> May 19	<u>TENTATIVE SITES</u> Joe Cannon Stadium Freeman Field at OBG Park Harford Community College McCurdy Field Shirley Povich Field Regency Stadium University of Maryland – Baltimore County
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- C. State Championships
1. The winners of the State Semifinal round shall advance to the State Championships.
  2. 2026 Finals site: All four state final games will be played at **TBD**.
  3. The home team will sit on the third base side.
  4. Each team will have a 20-minute warm-up period prior to the game starting time. Each team may use the 20-minute warm-up in any way it may choose following the host stadium's guidelines (example: no live batting practice on field at Prince George's Stadium). The Baseball Committee will determine the order in which each team takes the field for warm-ups.
- D. Playing Rules
1. Semifinal and final games must complete a minimum of seven innings unless the 10-run rule applies.
- E. General Policies
1. The MPSSAA will provide one dozen baseballs for each game.

2. Individuals 7 years and older will be charged an admission of \$8 to the Semifinals and \$10 to the Finals at **TBD**.
  3. Complimentary passes given out by MPSSAA will be honored when presented with proper identification, such as a valid driver’s license and will admit the bearer only.
  4. 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.
  5. The State Baseball Committee will recognize the school which displays the best overall sportsmanship while participating in the baseball state tournament. The Paul Fahrner Sportsmanship Award will be presented to the principal of the school achieving the best overall sportsmanship of coaches, players and spectators at the completion of the tournament.
  6. The use of noisemakers and other distractions that disrupts the orderly progress of the game, (i.e., use of noisemakers coinciding with a pitch being delivered), are prohibited.
  7. Each coach advances to the State Semifinals and Finals must complete the Media Information Form (found at mpssaa.org’s Baseball page) and bring 20 copies to the State Semifinals and Finals.
- F. Officials - Three MPSSAA-certified officials will be assigned to each game.

<b>SEMIFINAL GAMES</b>		<b>FINAL GAMES</b>  <b>DATE: MAY 22</b> <b>6:00 p.m. – Class 4A</b> (Rain Date: May 25 at 10 a.m.)  <b>DATE: MAY 23</b> <b>12:00 p.m. – Class 1A</b> <b>3:30 p.m. – Class 2A</b> <b>7:00 p.m. – Class 3A</b> (Rain Date: May 25 at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m., 7 p.m.)
<b>DATE: MAY 19</b> (Rain Date: May 20) 4:00 or 7:00 p.m.		
<b>SITE</b>	<b>DIRECTOR(S)</b>	
TBD	TBD	
TBD	Fred Kreiger, Roger Dawson & Mike DeSimone	
TBD	Sean Davis & Jeff Rabberman	
TBD	Guy Smith	

**STATE BASEBALL COMMITTEE AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS ARE LISTED ON MPSSAA.ORG**

Projected MPSSAA Baseball Championship Dates					
2027	May 28/29	2028	May 26/27	2029	May 25/26

**We are counting on the full cooperation of all to make our 51<sup>th</sup> annual Maryland State Baseball Tournament a most successful one.**

# 2026 Baseball Classification Alignment

Class 4A West			Class 4A North			Class 4A South			Class 4A East		
Region I			Region I			Region I			Region I		
1.	Gov. Thomas Johnson	Fre	1.	Dulaney	B Co	1.	Montgomery Blair	Mtg	1.	Mergenthaler Vo-Tech	AA
2.	Urbana	Fre	2.	Dundalk	B Co	2.	Paint Branch	Mtg	2.	Glen Burnie	AA
3.	Clarksburg	Mtg	3.	Kenwood	B Co	3.	Eleanor Roosevelt	PG	3.	Meade	AA
4.	Northwest	Mtg	4.	Parkville	B Co	4.	High Point	PG	4.	North County	AA
5.	Seneca Valley	Mtg	5.	Perry Hall	B Co	5.	Laurel	PG	5.	Severn Run	AA
6.	South Hagerstown	Was	6.	Woodlawn	B Co	6.	Northwestern	PG	6.	Severna Park	AA
Region II			Region II			Region II			Region II		
1.	Bethesda-CC	Mtg	1.	Albert Einstein	Mtg	1.	Bladensburg	PG	1.	Annapolis	AA
2.	Gaithersburg	Mtg	2.	James Hubert Blake	Mtg	2.	Charles H. Flowers	PG	2.	Broadneck	AA
3.	Quince Orchard	Mtg	3.	John F. Kennedy	Mtg	3.	Dr. Henry A. Wise	PG	3.	Crofton	AA
4.	Walt Whitman	Mtg	4.	Richard Montgomery	Mtg	4.	Duval	PG	4.	North Point	Cha
5.	Walter Johnson	Mtg	5.	Springbrook	Mtg	5.	Parkdale	PG	5.	Bowie	PG
6.	Winston Churchill	Mtg	6.	Wheaton	Mtg	6.	Suitland	PG	6.	Leonardtwn	StM

Class 3A West			Class 3A North			Class 3A South			Class 3A East		
Region I			Region I			Region I			Region I		
1.	Westminster	Car	1.	Milford Mill Academy	B Co	1.	Atholton	How	1.	Chesapeake	AA
2.	Frederick	Fre	2.	Overlea	B Co	2.	Guilford Park	How	2.	Northeast	AA
3.	Linganore	Fre	3.	Patapsco	B Co	3.	Mount Hebron	How	3.	Balt. City College	Balt
4.	Oakdale	Fre	4.	Towson	B Co	4.	Oakland Mills	How	4.	Balt. Polytechnic	Balt
5.	Tuscarora	Fre	5.	Aberdeen	Har	5.	Reservoir	How	5.	Digital Harbor	Balt
6.	North Hagerstown	Was	6.	Edgewood	Har	6.	Sherwood	Mtg	6.	Patterson	Balt
Region II			Region II			Region II			Region II		
1.	Col. Zadok Magruder	Mtg	1.	Catonsville	B Co	1.	Saint Charles	Cha	1.	Arundel	AA
2.	Damascus	Mtg	2.	Franklin	B Co	2.	Largo	PG	2.	Old Mill	AA
3.	Northwood	Mtg	3.	New Town	B Co	3.	Oxon Hill	PG	3.	South River	AA
4.	Rockville	Mtg	4.	Centennial	How	4.	Potomac	PG	4.	Northern	Cal
5.	Thomas S. Wootton	Mtg	5.	Howard	How	5.	Chopticon	StM	5.	James M. Bennett	Wic
6.	Watkins Mill	Mtg	6.	Marriotts Ridge	How	6.	Great Mills	StM	6.	Stephen Decatur	Wor

Class 2A West			Class 2A North			Class 2A South			Class 2A East		
Region I			Region I			Region I			Region I		
1.	Century	Car	1.	Hereford	B Co	1.	Crossland	PG	1.	Elkton	Cec
2.	Winters Mill	Car	2.	Lansdowne	B Co	2.	Fairmont Heights	PG	2.	North East	Cec
3.	Middletown	Fre	3.	Owings Mills	B Co	3.	Frederick Douglass	PG	3.	Rising Sun	Cec
4.	Walkersville	Fre	4.	Randallstown	B Co	4.	Friendly	PG	4.	Bel Air	Har
5.	Poolesville	Mtg	5.	Carver Vo-Tech	Balt	5.	Gwynn Park	PG	5.	C. Milton Wright	Har
6.	Williamsport	Was	6.	Manchester Valley	Car	6.	Surrattsville	PG	6.	North Harford	Har
Region II			Region II			Region II			Region II		
1.	Southern	AA	1.	Chesapeake	B Co	1.	Calvert	Cal	1.	North Caroline	Cin
2.	Hammond	How	2.	Eastern Tech	B Co	2.	Huntingtown	Cal	2.	Kent Island	QA
3.	Long Reach	How	3.	Sparrows Point	B Co	3.	La Plata	Cha	3.	Queen Anne's	QA
4.	River Hill	How	4.	Forest Park	Balt	4.	McDonough	Cha	4.	Easton	Tal
5.	Wilde Lake	How	5.	Paul Laurence Dunbar	Balt	5.	Thomas Stone	Cha	5.	Parkside	Wic
6.	Glenelg	Mtg	6.	Fallston	Har	6.	Westlake	Cha	6.	Wicomico	Wic

Class 1A West			Class 1A North			Class 1A South			Class 1A East		
Region I			Region I			Region I			Region I		
1.	Allegany	All	1.	Carver A&T	B Co	1.	Coppin Academy	Balt	1.	Bohemia Manor	Cec
2.	Fort Hill	All	2.	Loch Raven	B Co	2.	Edmondson-Westside	Balt	2.	Perryville	Cec
3.	Mountain Ridge	All	3.	Harford Tech	Har	3.	Frederick Douglass	Balt	3.	Colonel Richardson	Cin
4.	Northern	Gar	4.	Havre de Grace	Har	4.	Pikesville	B Co	4.	North Dorchester	Dor
5.	Southern	Gar	5.	Joppatowne	Har	5.	Western Tech	B Co	5.	Kent County	K
6.	Hancock	Was	6.	Patterson Mill	Har	6.	CMIT - North	PG	6.	Saint Michael's	Tal
Region II			Region II			Region II			Region II		
1.	Francis Scott Key	Car	1.	ACCE	Balt	1.	Patuxent	Cal	1.	Cambridge-SD	Dor
2.	Brunswick	Fre	2.	Lake Clifton	Balt	2.	Henry E. Lackey	Cha	2.	Crisfield	Som
3.	Catoctin	Fre	3.	Reginald Lewis	Balt	3.	Central	PG	3.	Washington	Som
4.	Boonsboro	Was	4.	Nat'l Acad. Found.	Balt	4.	CMIT - South	PG	4.	Mardela	Wic
5.	Clear Spring	Was	5.	Liberty	Car	5.	International HS at Langley Park	PG	5.	Pocomoke	Wor
6.	Smithsburg	Was	6.	South Carroll	Car	6.	International HS at Largo	PG	6.	Snow Hill	Wor