

Basketball Tournament Bulletin

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – MARCH 15-16, 2024 – UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND - XFINITY CENTER

DATE	EVENT	DATE	REGION TOURNAMENTS	DATE	STATE TOURNAMENTS
November 15	First Practice Date	February 27 (B)	Quarterfinals	March 8 (B)	Quarterfinals
December 5	First Play Date	February 28 (G)	Quarterfinals (or doubleheader on Feb. 27)	March 9 (B & G)	Quarterfinals
February 22	Last Play Date for Tournament Seeding	February 29 (B)	Semifinals	March 12 (B & G)	Semifinals
February 23	Tournament Seeding	March 1 (G)	Semifinals	March 13 (B & G)	Semifinals
February 26	Last Play Date	March 5 (B)	Finals	March 15 (B & G)	Finals
		March 6 (G)	Finals	March 16 (B & G)	Finals

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association is the official governing body for the Basketball tournament. Plans for the tournament were formulated by the State Basketball 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 Basketball Bulletin. Unless specifically stated, all rules and regulations stipulated in the NFHS Basketball rule book will be followed.
- 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. Games postponed during the regular season shall be made up on the first available date and in the order originally scheduled. Subsequent games shall not be moved. Local supervisor(s) of athletics shall be consulted and will make final decisions on postponed games.
- F. The MPSSAA State Basketball Committees have approved the use of S.A.G.A. timing devices during the regular season and region tournaments, provided that both teams agree. These devices will be used at the state semifinals and finals.
- G. The State Basketball Committees are requiring the use of the Spalding TF-1000 Precision basketball during the playoffs AND the state tournament. It is highly recommended that this same ball be used during the regular season as well.
- H. By state adoption, the State Basketball Committees have adopted the following rule regarding the use of running time. Once a 35-point differential exists in the second half, the following changes, and only these changes, will be made regarding rules which determine when the clock will and will not be stopped.
 1. An official's time-out 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.
 5. Free throws are taken.

II. TOURNAMENT ENTRY INFORMATION

A. Tournament Organization

1. Every school is automatically in the 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 for the state semifinals and finals must be filled out online in the password protected member's section of MPSSAA.org by teams winning their region final.
 - (a.) The boys entry must be submitted online no later than 4 p.m. on Thursday, February 29.
 - (b.) The girls entry must be submitted online no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, March 1.

III. REGION AND STATE TOURNAMENTS

A. Tournament Organization

1. Each region will conduct a single elimination tournament with the champion advancing to state play.
2. Schools may not compete in any contest after February 22 that is not part of the state tournament.
3. All references to the official party in this bulletin shall be defined as follows:
 - (a.) The official party is limited to 21 persons and shall consist of authorized coaches, players, and managers of high school age or older.
 - (b.) Only those in the official party are permitted on the bench or in the locker room area.
4. No team may dress more than 15 players.
5. The designated home team will wear the white uniform. The designated visiting team will wear the dark uniform. Bring both colors.
6. The coach is in charge of the bench. The coach's conduct should be exemplary, as it sets a pattern for both spectators and players.

B. Playing rules, except as modified below, shall be in accordance with the current National Federation rules.

1. Boys and girls shall use a 30-second shot clock.
2. Girls will not have a 10-second count to move the ball from back court to front court.

C. General Policies

1. The official party will only be admitted in total and accompanied by its coach.
2. Per NFHS rules, noisemakers and other distractions, (i.e., whistles, sirens, horns, bells, clappers, 'thunder sticks', megaphones, balloons, etc.), are not permitted in the gymnasium at any time.
3. When local jurisdictions allow and can accommodate pep bands, 45 band members will be admitted free. They must be accompanied by a faculty sponsor and adhere to the following guidelines:
 - (a.) Twenty minutes prior to each game, pep bands will be allowed to play for eight minutes each. The home team will play the first eight minutes and the visiting team will play the next eight minutes. The remaining four minutes will be used for player introductions.
 - (b.) Once a game starts, the pep bands will alternate playing only when time is out. Bands will coordinate their playing with the cheerleaders from their school.
 - (c.) Pep bands must remain in their designated areas. Bands ARE NOT permitted on the court.
4. When local jurisdictions allow and can accommodate, cheerleaders from each of the participating schools will be admitted free of charge only if they are in complete uniform and accompanied by a maximum of

two authorized coaches. Local jurisdictions may set their own guidelines at region tournaments on the number of cheerleaders permitted on the floor at any one time.

5. Mascots are restricted to the designated half of the baseline area, except when performing on the court during pregame team introductions or full timeouts. During play, mascots should remain with their teams in the designated cheer area, away from the goal standard. At no time shall a mascot enter the general public seating area or interact with the opposing team's mascot.
6. The State Basketball Committee urges all schools to conduct a school-wide assembly prior to participation in postseason play. School personnel, students, and parents should be aware of their responsibilities as spectators. Information concerning crowd control and spectator behavior will be sent in the Last Minute Bulletin to region champions.
7. Teams are reminded they are guests of the host site and the use of drinks other than for consumption (example: dumping water on coaches) is prohibited.

IV. REGION TOURNAMENT

A. Tournament Organization

1. The region director is responsible for the assignment of officials and the notification of schools as to the tournament bracket, site, and starting times.
2. The seeding of bracket positions will take place on Friday, February 23. Tournament pairings will appear on the MPSSAA web site <mpssaa.org> later that day.
 - (a.) Region directors will verify and submit the official records of all region teams through February 19 to their respective State Committee directors.
 - (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 15 varsity games played will be seeded based on a regular season winning percentage using a divisor of 15 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.
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.
4. If schedule changes are necessary for a. through c. below, each region director, in consultation with the local Supervisor(s) of Athletics, State Tournament Director, and the MPSSAA Executive Director will establish the best schedule, site, and game combination that will expedite the tournament in that particular region.
 - (a.) The starting time for weekday contests when there is a single contest shall be any time after 5 p.m. and the starting time for a Saturday contest will be any time after 12 p.m. Local Supervisors of Athletics shall be consulted and make the final decision when conflicts occur.
 - (b.) Doubleheaders will be played in the first round where boys and girls match-ups exist for both schools. Doubleheaders will also be used to make-up postponed contests. The early game shall begin anytime after 5 p.m., with the late game beginning 20 minutes after the conclusion of the early game. Local school systems shall decide the order of contests for doubleheaders.
 - (c.) Single games shall be scheduled on the chart on the next page:

- (d.) Region tournament directors and local supervisors of athletics shall be consulted and will make final decisions on postponed games.

Event	Boys	Girls
Regional Quarterfinals	Tuesday, February 27	Wednesday, February 28
Region Semifinals	Thursday, February 29	Friday, March 1
Region Finals	Tuesday, March 5	Wednesday, March 6

* NOTE: Region quarterfinal games scheduled for Wednesday, February 28 may be played on Tuesday, February 27. Every effort shall be made to avoid conflicts between the boys and girls games. Local Supervisors of Athletics shall be consulted and will make the final decision when conflicts occur. All other contests must be played on the date listed above.

5. Updated results shall be emailed to the respective State Directors by region directors as the tournament progresses.
 6. For the region quarterfinals and semifinals, the region director shall have assigned a two-person crew and a table official from the officials board local to the designated home team. The table official will supervise the scoring table. Local supervisors of athletics may decide to use three-person crews in the first two regional rounds of the tournament. When a three-person crew is used, a table official may be assigned.
 7. For the region finals, the region director shall have assigned a three-person crew from the officials board local to the designated home team. A table official MAY be assigned.
 8. An experienced timer will be assigned as the clock operator. "Neutral" timers with experience may also be assigned in lieu of the usual clock operator as determined by local Supervisors of Athletics.
 9. Pregame warm-up
 - (a.) At neutral or central sites, the designated home team will sit at the bench to the left of the scorer's table, when facing it, and warm up according to National Federation rules.
 - (b.) At the school site (entire school campus) of any regional playoff games, neither participating team may take part in any individual or team practice utilizing basketballs from 90 minutes prior to the designated tip-off until the 20-minute warm-up period immediately preceding the game.
 10. For the region quarterfinal games, local MPSSAA districts will collect all revenues and pay approved expenses.
 11. For region final games, the MPSSAA will receive all revenues and pay approved expenses.
- B. General Policies
1. Individuals 7 years and older will be charged an admission of \$6 per session, regardless of the number of games played in each session.
 2. The following recommendations are made for admittance of school personnel and issuance of passes for tournament games:
 - (a.) The official party (identified in Section II.A.13) will be admitted free at a designated entrance, after being identified by the coach.
 - (b.) Cheerleaders, a mascot, and their authorized coaches will be admitted free at the door used by the public.
 - (c.) Only the person whose name appears on the state pass will be admitted (See Complimentary Passes on Page 5 of the Winter Bulletin for more information).
 3. Only cheerleaders are permitted to use megaphones. Cheerleaders must follow NFHS Guidelines for cheering in a gymnasium.

4. No signs or banners may be carried in by spectators. Team signs may be posted by designated personnel 20 minutes prior to game time.
5. Local jurisdictions may set their own guidelines on the use of flash photography during game action.

V. 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 under the following terms:
 - (a.) The boys state quarterfinal games shall be played on Friday, March 8 and the girls state quarterfinal games shall be played on Saturday, March 9.
 - (b.) The boys state quarterfinal games scheduled on Friday, March 8 may be moved to Saturday, March 9 for travel considerations.
 - (c.) When setting game times hosting sites must be mindful of other school activities and provide appropriate travel time for any schools with students taking the ACT or SAT Tests.
 - (d.) Local Supervisors of Athletics shall be contacted and make the final decision when conflicts occur.
4. A three-person officiating crew from the association local to the higher seeded team will be assigned to the state quarterfinal contest. A table official may be assigned.
5. Admission to the state quarterfinals will be \$6.00 for ages 7 and over.
6. For state quarterfinal games, the MPSSAA will receive all revenues and pay approved expenses through the district local to the hosting site.
7. The head coach of each state quarterfinal winner must complete the media form (found on the basketball page of MPSSAA.org) and email it to their respective state committee chair.

B. State Semifinals and Finals

1. The winners of the state quarterfinal round shall advance to the state semifinals. The girls and boys will play regional sites on Tuesday, March 12 and Wednesday, March 13.
 - (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 in a state semifinal contest.
 - (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 in a state semifinal contest.
 - (c.) The winners of the two state semifinal contests will meet in the state championship game at the University of Maryland - College Park in the Xfinity Center.
2. When determining state semifinal facility and game time assignments, the MPSSAA will take into consideration:
 - (a.) Facility capacity and the ability to accommodate anticipated crowd size
 - (b.) Parking availability and the ability to transition between games (smaller game before larger game or stand-alone game to avoid transition altogether)
 - (c.) Travel distance for participating schools (impact on teams and loss of instructional time)

- (d.) If the boys and girls teams from the same school qualify, efforts will be made to play the school together at the same site back-to-back.
- (e.) Ability to play both semifinals for one gender/classification at the same site
3. Member schools shall not schedule practice or scrimmage sessions at the sites of the state semifinal (unless you are a host school) and final championship games.
 4. Directions (Please also direct your school's community to "Championship Central" on MPSSAA.org):
UMD-College Park – Please adhere to all campus parking regulations. From I-95/I-495 (Capital Beltway): Exit Rte. 1 South to MD. Rte. 193 (University Blvd.) - West one mile to left on Paint Branch Parkway. Follow signs to Xfinity Center parking.
 5. Individuals 7 years and older will be charged an admission of \$10.00 for the state semifinals and finals. Tickets will be sold exclusively online through www.mpssaa.org.
 6. Officials will be instructed before the game not to tolerate any unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches or players. A public expression of dissent from an official's judgment usually excites the spectators and often results in a technical foul. The coach's conduct, more than any other person, should be exemplary so as to set the pattern for the attitude of spectators.
 7. The Association will not be responsible for lost or stolen articles. It is recommended that players give their valuables to team managers for safekeeping.
 8. The home team will sit on the bench to the left of the scorers' table, when facing it, and will warm up according to National Federation rules.
 9. If a team withdraws or is withdrawn from the tournament, the team last defeated by the withdrawing team shall be asked to replace it, and so on. This does not apply if there is a COVID-19 situation, in which the Health and Safety guidelines on page 6 of this bulletin will apply.
 10. The Spalding TF-1000 Precision basketball will be the official ball for the state semifinals and finals.

Event	Date	Time
State Semifinals	Tuesday, March 12	Game times will be set at 5 p.m. or later.
State Semifinals	Wednesday, March 13	Game times will be set at 5 p.m. or later.
State Finals	Friday, March 15	5 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m.
State Finals	Saturday, March 16	11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m.
* NOTE: Any classifications or teams for the semifinals or finals are TBA.		

Potential State Semifinal Sites

Montgomery Blair High School
 Thomas Johnson High School
 Richard Montgomery High School
 North Point High School
 Paint Branch High School
 Henry A. Wise High School

* NOTE: The MPSSAA reserves the right to add additional sites as deemed necessary.

C. General Policies

1. The official team bench party (limited to 21 persons and consisting of authorized coaches, players, and managers of high school age or older) will only be admitted in total and accompanied by their coach.
 - (a.) Tournament personnel will issue a tournament pass to each member of the party.
 - (b.) The cheerleader party shall consist of cheerleaders, mascot in uniform, and authorized coaches.

- (c.) The basketball party shall consist of a maximum of 21 persons, including coaches.
 - (d.) The entrance to Xfinity Center for the official party will be through the loading dock from Parking Lot 4B.
 - (e.) One photographer from each participating school will be allowed on the floor in addition to official press photographers. Spectators who wish to take photographs must do so from their seats.
2. Games will be played on the basis of shared responsibilities. School staff personnel of the visiting schools must accept their joint responsibilities with the persons in charge.
 - (a.) A MINIMUM of three school staff members must be on the floor to assist with their spectators. A list of names and positions should be emailed to the respective tournament director by the team’s head coach by Monday, March 4th.
 - (b.) The State Basketball Committees strongly urge that an assembly be conducted prior to participation in region and state tournament games. All school personnel, students, and parents should be made aware of their responsibilities as to their conduct as spectators.
 3. Cheerleaders of opposing teams should get together before the game to work out arrangements for each school to cheer, unopposed by the other. The main court may be used during a full time-out, between quarters, and at halftime. Cheerleaders should use their megaphones only for addressing their own student body and never allow spectators to take or use them.
 4. SIGNS ARE NOT PERMITTED FOR DISPLAY AT THE XFINITY CENTER.
 5. HAND-HELD SIGNS may be displayed at the tournaments. Obscene or derogatory signs will be confiscated. Signs may not be carried through the stands as a means of taunting other spectators. Principals and faculty members of participating schools are expected to enforce this regulation.
 6. No outside food or drink is permitted to be carried into the tournament site.
 7. All schools are considered “visitors” when playing in the state tournament. For purposes of crowd control, the principal and school personnel brought to playoff sites should be alert to detect and correct or discipline any unsafe or unruly behavior of their spectators.
 8. The State Basketball Committee will recognize the school which displays the best overall sportsmanship while participating in its respective tournament with a Sportsmanship Award. Each school’s coaches, players, cheerleaders, mascots, bands and spectators will be graded on the level of sportmanship they project. Immediately following the last game, the award will be presented to the principal of the school achieving the highest average score.
- D. Officials
1. A three-person crew will be assigned to State Semifinal and Final games.

STATE BASKETBALL COMMITTEE AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS ARE LISTED ON MPSSAA.ORG

Projected MPSSAA Basketball Championship Dates		
2025 - March 14-15	2026 - March 13-14	2027 - March 12-13

2023-24 Basketball Classification Alignment

Class 4A West			Class 4A North			Class 4A South			Class 4A East		
Region I			Region I			Region I			Region I		
1.	Frederick	Fre	1.	Dundalk	B Co	1.	High Point	PG	1.	Crofton	AA
2.	Thomas Johnson	Fre	2.	Kenwood	B Co	2.	Laurel	PG	2.	Glen Burnie	AA
3.	Urbana	Fre	3.	Parkville	B Co	3.	Northwestern	PG	3.	Meade	AA
4.	Clarksburg	Mtg	4.	Perry Hall	B Co	4.	Northwood	Mtg	4.	North County	AA
5.	Northwest	Mtg	5.	Woodlawn	B Co	5.	Montgomery Blair	Mtg	5.	Old Mill	AA
6.	Seneca Valley	Mtg	6.	Mergenthaler	Balt	6.	Reservoir	How			
			7.	Western (Girls)	Balt						
Region II			Region II			Region II			Region II		
1.	Bethesda-CC	Mtg	1.	Albert Einstein	Mtg	1.	Bladensburg	PG	1.	Annapolis	AA
2.	Quince Orchard	Mtg	2.	John F. Kennedy	Mtg	2.	Charles H. Flowers	PG	2.	Broadneck	AA
3.	Walt Whitman	Mtg	3.	Richard Montgomery	Mtg	3.	Dr. Henry A. Wise	PG	3.	North Point	Cha
4.	Walter Johnson	Mtg	4.	Paint Branch	Mtg	4.	Duval	PG	4.	Bowie	PG
5.	Winston Churchill	Mtg	5.	Springbrook	Mtg	5.	Eleanor Roosevelt	PG	5.	Suitland	PG
6.	Gaithersburg	Mtg	6.	Wheaton	Mtg	6.	Parkdale	PG	6.	Leonardtown	StM

Class 3A West			Class 3A North			Class 3A South			Class 3A East		
Region I			Region I			Region I			Region I		
1.	Manchester Valley	Car	1.	Catonsville	B Co	1.	Chesapeake	AA	1.	Arundel	AA
2.	Westminster	Car	2.	Dulaney	B Co	2.	Northeast	AA	2.	Severna Park	AA
3.	Linganore	Fre	3.	Franklin	B Co	3.	Glenelg	How	3.	South River	AA
4.	Oakdale	Fre	4.	Lansdowne	B Co	4.	Howard	How	4.	James M. Bennett	Wic
5.	Tuscarora	Fre	5.	Milford Mill Academy	B Co	5.	Marriotts Ridge	How	5.	Stephen Decatur	Wor
6.	North Hagerstown	Was	6.	Overlea	B Co	6.	Mount Hebron	How			
7.	South Hagerstown	Was	7.	Towson	B Co						
Region II			Region II			Region II			Region II		
1.	Col. Zadok Magruder	Mtg	1.	Baltimore City College	Balt	1.	Atholton	How	1.	Northern	Cal
2.	Damascus	Mtg	2.	Polytechnic	Balt	2.	Long Reach	How	2.	St. Charles	Cha
3.	James Hubert Blake	Mtg	3.	Digital Harbor	Balt	3.	Oakland Mills	How	3.	Oxon Hill	PG
4.	Rockville	Mtg	4.	Patterson	Balt	4.	River Hill	How	4.	Chopticon	StM
5.	Sherwood	Mtg	5.	Aberdeen	Har	5.	Centennial	How	5.	Great Mills	StM
6.	Thomas S. Wootton	Mtg	6.	Bel Air	Har						
7.	Watkins Mill	Mtg	7.	Edgewood	Har						

Class 2A West			Class 2A North			Class 2A South			Class 2A East		
Region I			Region I			Region I			Region I		
1.	Francis Scott Key	Car	1.	Chesapeake	B Co	1.	Henry E. Lackey	Cha	1.	Elkton	Cec
2.	Winters Mill	Car	2.	Eastern Tech	B Co	2.	Crossland	PG	2.	North East	Cec
3.	Middletown	Fre	3.	Patapsco	B Co	3.	Fairmont Heights	PG	3.	Rising Sun	Cec
4.	Walkersville	Fre	4.	Sparrows Point	B Co	4.	Frederick Douglass	PG	4.	C. Milton Wright	Har
5.	Williamsport	Was	5.	Paul Laurence Dunbar	Balt	5.	Gwynn Park	PG	5.	Fallston	Har
			6.	Southwestern	Balt	6.	Largo	PG	6.	Harford Tech	Har
						7.	Potomac	PG	7.	North Harford	Har
Region II			Region II			Region II			Region II		
1.	Southern	AA	1.	Carver A&T	B Co	1.	Calvert	Cal	1.	North Caroline	Cin
2.	Hammond	How	2.	Hereford	B Co	2.	Huntingtown	Cal	2.	Kent Island	QA
3.	Wilde Lake	How	3.	New Town	B Co	3.	Patuxent	Cal	3.	Queen Anne's	QA
4.	Poolesville	Mtg	4.	Owings Mills	B Co	4.	La Plata	Cha	4.	Easton	Tal
5.	Century	Car	5.	Randallstown	B Co	5.	McDonough	Cha	5.	Parkside	Wic
			6.	Carver Vo-Tech	Balt	6.	Thomas Stone	Cha	6.	Wicomico	Wic
						7.	Westlake	Cha			

Class 1A West			Class 1A North			Class 1A South			Class 1A East		
Region I			Region I			Region I			Region I		
1.	Allegany	All	1.	ACCE	Balt	1.	Chesapeake Science Pt (B)	AA	1.	Bohemia Manor	Cec
2.	Fort Hill	All	2.	Benjamin Franklin	Balt	2.	Loch Raven	B Co	2.	Perryville	Cec
3.	Mountain Ridge	All	3.	Coppin Academy	Balt	3.	Pikesville	B Co	3.	St. Michael's	Tal
4.	Northern	Gar	4.	Edmondson-Westside	Balt	4.	Western Tech	B Co	4.	Kent County	K
5.	Southern	Gar	5.	Forest Park	Balt	5.	SEED School	MD	5.	Colonel Richardson	Cin
6.	Clear Spring	Was	6.	Frederick Douglass	Balt						
7.	Hancock	Was	7.	Green Street Academy	Balt						
Region II			Region II			Region II			Region II		
1.	Liberty	Car	1.	Lake Clifton	Balt	1.	Central	PG	1.	Cambridge-SD	Dor
2.	South Carroll	Car	2.	NAF	Balt	2.	CMIT - North	PG	2.	North Dorchester	Dor
3.	Brunswick	Fre	3.	Reginald Lewis	Balt	3.	CMIT - South	PG	3.	Crisfield	Som
4.	Catoctin	Fre	4.	Havre de Grace	Har	4.	College Park Academy	PG	4.	Washington	Som
5.	Boonsboro	Was	5.	Joppatowne	Har	5.	Friendly	PG	5.	Mardela	Wic
6.	Smithsburg	Was	6.	Patterson Mill	Har	6.	Intern. at Largo	PG	6.	Pocomoke	Wor
						7.	Surrattsville	PG	7.	Snow Hill	Wor