

Cross Country State Committee Report – Spring 2025

- Mr. Phil Lang announced that he will be returning to coaching, and Zach Dickerson will be taking over the Howard County XC commissioner job and will be replacing Mr. Lang as the District 6 rep on the state committee.
- Mr. Matt Clever has stepped down as District 6 representative. I will be naming a new District 6 rep soon.
- Awards Presentation will happen after both classifications are run.
- An email was sent to all supervisors and district reps regarding XC Championships being held at Hereford HS. Proposals for alternative sites are being accepted and due to Michael Sye by June 30 to be discussed at our fall state cross country committee meeting.
- Sportsmanship awards will continue to be done through the MPSSAA QR code.



Field Hockey State Committee Board of Control Report

Friday, April 25, 2025

Director – Regina Grubb, Regina_R_Grubb@mcpsmd.org

2025 Dates

- 10/23 and 10/24 Regional Semifinals (added an extra play day)
- 10/28 Regional Finals
- 10/31 and 11/1 State Quarterfinals
- 10/5 and 10/6 State Semifinals
- 10/8 State Finals



2025 State Sites

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

2025 Changes

- Home teams will wear Dark Jersey and socks
- Away teams will wear White Jersey and socks
- Need horn at the scorers table if scoreboard doesn't have one
- After a goal is scored the defense will get the ball and take it to center field. The person scored is asked to raise their hand as they run back to their position.



Football Tournament Report 2024

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, and James from the MPSSAA Office; Mike Chavez and his crew for their management of the ticket booth and entry gates; Phil Rhodes and his crew for their on-field management of all our teams; 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. It was particularly special this year to be at the Naval Academy on Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

Results:

- 4A Quince Orchard defeated Dr. Henry A. Wise 24-13 (Undefeated & 3rd Title in last four years)
- 4A/3A North Point defeated Mergenthaler Vo-Tech 21-20 (2nd title in last 3 years)
- 3A Arundel defeated Linganore 35-7 (1st Title since 1975)
- 2A Stephen Decatur defeated Huntingtown 13-12 (Undefeated season; 2nd year in a row)
- 2A/1A Patuxent defeated Dunbar 8-6 (Undefeated season, 2nd Title in School History)
- 1A Fort Hill Defeated Northern Garrett 35-0 (4th year in a row, 9th since 2013)

Sportsmanship Award: Northern Garrett Huskies

Attendance Report:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| ➤ Round 2 | 27,136 (-13%) |
| ➤ State Quarterfinals | 10,817 (-42%) |
| ➤ State Semifinals | 11,124 (-29%) |
| ➤ State Finals | 11,864 (-36%) |
| ➤ Total | 60,941 (-27%) |

Committee Meeting – March 19, 2025

- Recruitment of officials
- Rule changes (see reverse side)
- Sportsmanship initiatives and education
- Playoff matchups and increase in opt outs
- Issues facing the game
- NFHS National Survey & Electronic Communications



Football Rules Changes – 2025

Committee Clarifies and Restricts Attachments on Tooth and Mouth Protectors Effective with the 2026

Season [1-5-1d(5)a - 4, 5 (NEW)] – Items that are attached to the tooth and mouth protector that do not serve a purpose and function in protecting the teeth or mouth will not be allowed. Items that are a part of the tooth and mouth protector that are a health or risk issue to the player and can pose a danger to themselves or other players, will not be allowed.

Arm Sleeve Specifications Developed to Guide Manufacturers, Players and Coaches Effective with the 2027

Season [1-5-2d (NEW), 1-5-3c(6)] – The Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA), in working with the football arm sleeve manufacturers and the NFHS, has developed new football arm sleeve performance specifications to be effective with the 2027 playing season. These new specifications closely align with the current rules for football gloves.

Electronic Equipment Approved to Permit Non-Audio and Still Images to Assist with Relaying Plays from the

Sideline to Players [1-5-3c(2)] – This change allows for the use of some additional equipment, but continues to preclude in-helmet communication. This would allow for fixed electronic signs with play signals as well as non-audio methods but still would not permit the players between the numbers to watch video.

Rules Additions Further Prohibit the Use of Video and Audio Devices by Players [1-5-3c(3) (NEW)] – No player participating in the game will be allowed to wear any type of audio or video device in order to record or transmit audio or video.

Forward Fumbles Out of Bounds to be Returned to the Spot of the Fumble [3-4-2d (NEW), 3-4-3a, 4-3-1

EXCEPTION (NEW), 8-5-2a EXCEPTION] – A situation potentially giving an unfair advantage to a fumbling team was revised. When a forward fumble goes out of bounds or is ruled out of bounds between the goal lines, the ball shall be returned to the spot of the fumble.

Further Clarifications Made to Rule 10-4 in Specific Situations [9-6 PENALTY, 10-4-4b (DELETED)] – The

committee continues its revisions and clarifications within the penalty enforcement rules to ensure consistency, particularly among illegal participation fouls.

Rules for 6-Player Football Revised to Permit Advancement of a Fumbled Snap (Six-Player – Rule 2 and 7,

Six-Player – Rule 7) – The committee clarified that as long as there is a change of possession from the snap receiver to another player on offense, the ball can be advanced beyond the line of scrimmage.

2025 EDITORIAL CHANGES

1-5-1b(2)b(1); 1-5-1b(3)b(1); 2-32-16d; 2-33-1a, 2; 2-41-9b; 2-41-9c; 6-1-9; 7-2-5b EXCEPTION 2; 9-4-3p (NEW); 9-4 PENALTY; 9-5-1g; 9-8-1g; 9-8-1j; 10-3-1, 2; 10-3-3c; 10-4-2b; 10-4-2d; 10-4-4a; 10-5-3; NINE-, EIGHT-, AND SIX-PLAYER RULES DIFFERENCES; PENALTY SUMMARY, INDEX. 2025

POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Illegal and Improperly Worn Player Equipment
2. Sportsmanship
3. Defenseless Player/Targeting



MPSSAA BOARD OF CONTROL GOLF COMMITTEE REPORT
Friday, April 25, 2025

The Golf Committee met on March 25, 2025.

2025 MPSSAA Tournament

- No changes in qualifying or playing rules for the state tournament.
- Only minor language changes to the bulletin.
- Important Dates
 - June 01District Tournament Information due
 - Aug. 13First Play Date
 - Oct. 21District Tournament completion date
 - Oct. 21 State Golf Tournament entry form due
 - Oct. 22Organizational Meeting for State Tournament
 - Oct. 27-29State Tournament at the University of Maryland

MPSSAA STATE SOCCER COMMITTEE

April 25 2025

AGENDA

Tournament recap - Fall 2024

- Girls Soccer State Champions
 - 1A - Liberty High School
 - 2A - Queen Anne's High School
 - 3A - Severna Park High School
 - 4A - Walt Whitman High School
 - Sportsmanship Award - Queen Anne's High School

- Boy Soccer State Champions
 - 1A - Liberty High School
 - 2A - C. Milton Wright High School
 - 3A - River Hill High School
 - 4A - Montgomery Blair High School
 - Sportsmanship Award - Montgomery Blair High School

2025 Playoff Dates

- Draw October 20, 2025
- Region Finals will be October 28, 2025
- State Quarterfinals will be Oct. 31/Nov. 1, 2025
- State Semifinals will be November 7/8, 2025
 - State Semi Final Sites for 2025
 - Bel Air, Tuscarora, Glen Burnie, Kent Island, Laurel, North County, Linganore
- State Finals will be November 13-15, 2025 at Loyola University.

Rules

- Mercy Rule- went well this year. Will continue to evaluate the outcomes.
- Overtime procedures will stay the same. Will collect statistics and reevaluate next spring.
- Reviewed Overtime Penalty Kick Procedures (attached). We will continue following the procedures outlined in the Soccer Bulletin. Please remind coaches to be familiar with the procedures.

MPSSAA SOCCER 2025 OVERTIME State Tournament PROCEDURES

The overtime procedure for tournament progression is the same as used during the regular season. In the event the match remains tied after two sudden victory overtime periods, there will be a penalty kick tiebreaker to determine a winner.

1. The following Penalty Kick Procedure shall be used.

(a.) This procedure will be used for all regional and state tournament contests.

(b.) Organization mechanics: The designated home team or tournament committee, (if the game is being managed by the committee), shall:

- i. supply sufficient ball persons to enable the procedure to operate efficiently.
- ii. be responsible for providing sufficient security for the penalty kick procedure so that it may be conducted without interference to those involved.

The officials will:

- (a.) gather all eligible field players in the center circle who completed the second overtime period.
- (b.) designate the goal at which the penalty kicks will be taken.
- (c.) choose three game balls for use.
- (d.) begin the penalty kick procedure after a three-minute intermission period. The following procedure shall apply.

A coin toss shall occur, with the visiting team calling the toss. The winner of the toss will have the choice of shooting first or defending first.

2. The penalty kick tiebreaker will initially be based on the performance of five kickers designated by the coach from each team. Coaches should identify one kicker at a time. Attempts shall be made in alternating order until one team has an insurmountable advantage.

- a.) If the score is tied after the five designated players have taken their shots, then a sudden victory round begins which includes the remaining eligible players for each team who were not part of the initial penalty kicking phase.
- b.) If the score remains tied after the completion of (a) above, then the sudden victory round continues with all eligible players from each team becoming eligible for a second shot. A coach may change the order from the initial round. No player can take a third shot until all eligible players from both teams have taken their second shot, and so on.

3. Coaches' responsibilities:

- a. Each coach shall be solely responsible for utilizing only eligible players as the team's participants. Participation by an ineligible player will result in forfeiture of the game by the offending team. Ineligible participation would include but not be limited to a field player who was not in the game at the end of the second overtime or a shooter taking a second attempt in a cycle before all of the shooter's eligible teammates have taken their first attempts in the same cycle.
- b. Only the head coach and one assistant will be permitted to join the players in the center circle. The remaining players, coaches, and team attendants shall be completely off the field of play and in their team bench areas.

4. Kicking Procedure

a. Participants

- i. Only those players on the field at the end of the second 10-minute sudden-victory overtime period, including the goalkeeper, are eligible for the penalty kick tiebreaker. ii. If the goalkeeper is injured during the penalty kicks and must be removed, the goalkeeper may be replaced by a substitute. This substitute may be selected from any players on the team. However, a goalkeeper, once substituted for, may NOT be reinstated. The substitute for the goalkeeper will take part in the penalty kicks. If a player already on the field replaces the goalkeeper, an additional kicker may be brought in from the bench but cannot kick until all of the players from that team have kicked. This substitute must be the team's final kicker in each cycle.
- b. The eligible shooters for each team shall take scoring attempts in any sequence the head coach desires. The head coach shall direct each shooter to report to the official at the penalty kick stripe immediately after the completion of the previous shooter's attempt. A shooter may not be changed after reporting to the official. The shooting order need not be the same in the subsequent cycle.
- c. The official shall record the player's name, number, the order in the team's cycle in which the attempt was made, and the result of the kick.
- d. A goalkeeper who is to defend against the next penalty kick attempt shall be stationed outside the field of play at the intersection of the goal line and the penalty area boundary to the side designated by the officials.
- e. If a player who is participating in the tiebreaker is issued a caution during the administration of penalty kicks, then that player becomes the last player to kick in their next eligible round of kicks. For instance, if a player has not kicked in the round of kicks in which the player is cautioned, then that player must be the last kicker in that round. If a cautioned player has already kicked in the round of kicks in which the player is cautioned, then the player may not kick again until the end of their next eligible round of 11 kicks.
- f. If a goalkeeper is cautioned, then rule II.B.5.e. above applies. In addition, the cautioned goalkeeper may not defend the next opponent's kick but may return to goal on the subsequent kick. The player replacing the goalkeeper in this situation must be from the players already participating in the tiebreaker.
- g. Any player, including the goalkeeper, who is disqualified may not participate any further and may not be replaced. Any disqualified player who has not kicked in the cycle of 11 becomes the last kicker and the kick is considered a miss. The same applies to subsequent cycles of 11.

5. The game shall end, and the team declared the winner which has:

- a. attained an insurmountable lead over its opponent before the initial phase of five penalty kickers is completed: or
- b. scored more goals than its opponent upon completion of the initial phase of five penalty kickers: or
- c. scored one more goal than its opponent at any point after each has taken an equal number of shots during the "sudden victory" phase of the penalty kick tiebreaker.

MPSSAA VOLLEYBALL REPORT

Board of Control Meeting, 04/25/2025

Ocean City, Md.

The State Volleyball Committee met on March 20, 2025 for our annual post-season meeting.

Meeting Discussion Items:

❖ REGION TOURNAMENT:

- **CONTACT WITH TEAMS IS STILL OFTEN A STRUGGLE. PLEASE REMIND COACHES/ADS TO EXPECT CONTACT FROM THEIR REGION DIRECTORS AND TO PLEASE RESPOND TO THEIR REQUESTS.**
- **COMPLETION OF THEIR MATCH RECORDS: JUST A REMINDER— IF THE COACH IS NOT ENTERING MATCH INFO THEN IT FALLS ON THE AD TO EITHER ENTER THE INFO OR MAKE SURE THE COACH IS ENTERING IT.**
- **OFFICIALS— WE HAD SOME TROUBLE WITH OUR ASSIGNERS AND OUR REGION MATCHES. IT IS ULTIMATELY ON OUR REGION DIRECTORS TO MAKE SURE THAT OFFICIALS ARE SECURE. LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE SURE THIS IS WORKING WELL BECAUSE EVERYTHING WE DO IS FOR THE STUDENT/ATHLETES.**

❖ STATE TOURNAMENT:

- **SEMIFINALS STILL SEEM TO BE A TOPIC OF CONVERSATION WITH MANY REGION DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANTING TO KNOW MORE ABOUT WHAT REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET TO HOST A MATCH. WE ARE ASKING FOR MORE CLARIFICATION FROM THE MPSSAA ON THIS MATTER.**
- **ALWAYS LOOKING FOR SCHOOLS TO STEP UP AND OFFER TO BE A HOST SITE.**
- **THE STATE FINALS WILL ONCE AGAIN BE HELD AT THE APGFCU ARENA ON THE CAMPUS OF HARFORD COMMUNITY COLLEGE. THE DATE FOR THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS IS Nov 15, 2025**

❖ 2025 VOLLEYBALL TIMELINE

8/13:	FIRST PRACTICE DATE
9/5:	FIRST PLAY DATE
10/25:	LAST PLAY DATE FOR SEEDING CONSIDERATION
10/27:	TOURNAMENT SEEDING DATE
10/28:	LAST PLAY DATE
10/29:	REGION QUARTERFINALS
10/31–11/1:	REGION SEMIFINALS
11/05:	REGION FINALS
11/07:	TEAM ROOSTER FORMS DUE
11/07–08	STATE QUARTERFINALS
11/11:	STATE SEMIFINALS
11/15:	STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- ❖ **REMINDER:** MOLTEN IV58L SUPER TOUCH LEATHER BALL IS THE STATE VOLLEYBALL AND SHOULD BE USED IN REGULAR SEASON COMPETITIONS.
- ❖ **NFHS RULE CHANGES FOR 2025 SEASON:** SEE BELOW—PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR DISTRICT COACHES.

Thank you to the MPSSAA office for all of their hard work and dedication.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
SYBIL KESSINGER**

VOLLEYBALL RULES CHANGES – 2025–26

◆ By NFHS on January 31, 2025

3-2-1 NOTE (NEW): Beginning with the 2026-27 school year, state associations may adopt the use of a non-smooth or textured volleyball.

Rationale: Allows either boys or girls to adopt a textured volleyball with no restrictions on color or shape of panels to be inclusive of all current textured volleyballs on the market.

4-2-1h(3), 4-2-1i(2): Team members may wear black, white or gray undergarments in addition to undergarments that match the predominant color of the uniform top/bottom under the uniform top and/or bottom. All team members, other than the libero, wearing an undergarment must wear the same color.

Rationale: Aligns with other NFHS rules codes allowing athletes to wear more commonly found colors of undergarments.

4-2-4d, f: Beginning July 1, 2029, the number on the front of the uniform must be centered on the upper half of the uniform top eliminating the measurement requirements from the shoulder seam and neckline.

Rationale: Removes officials from the position of measuring uniforms to verify the legal distance of the number from the shoulder or neckline, creates consistency in number placement, and allows for number placement variances due to player body types.

5-3-2b, 5-5-3b(9): Eliminates the requirement for the second referee to carry and use a lineup card to check the starting lineups.

Rationale: Allows veteran officials to use each coach's submitted lineup sheet to check the starting lineup while allowing the use of the lineup card as a training tool for newer officials to assist with tracking rotations during the match.

9-4-8c (NEW): Eliminates the judgment call of a multiple contact fault in a single attempt to play the ball on the second team hit if the ball is next contacted by a teammate.

Rationale: Allows for play to continue when multiple contacts on the second contact does not create an advantage for the offending team.

10-4 PENALTIES 1: Changes the penalty administration for an illegal libero replacement to an unnecessary delay if identified before contact of serve and an illegal alignment if identified after contact for serve.

Rationale: Aligns the penalty for an illegal libero replacement with the definition of illegal alignment which occurs on contact of serve.

2025-26 Volleyball Editorial Changes

4-1 & 4-2 PENALTIES; 4-2-4c; 7-2a; 7-4; 7-1-4 PENALTIES 1 & 2; Signal 1

2025-26 Volleyball Points of Emphasis

- 1. Lineup Card**
- 2. Ball Handling**
- 3. First Referee Assigning Line Judges**
- 4. Uniforms - Contrasting Colors**