

# Girls Field Hockey Tournament Bulletin

**STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – NOVEMBER 8, 2025 – STEVENSON UNIVERSITY (MUSTANG STADIUM)**

**STATE SEMIFINALS – NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> AND 6<sup>TH</sup> – TENTATIVE SITES (CROFTON HS & GLEN BURNIE HS)**

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
August 13	First Practice Date	October 23/24	Region Semifinals
September 5	First Play Date	October 28	Region Finals
October 20	Last play date for seeding consideration	Oct. 31/Nov. 1	State Quarterfinals
October 21	Tournament seeding date	November 5/6	State Semifinals
October 22	Last Play Date	November 8	State Championships
October 29	Team Tournament Roster Forms Due		

## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association is the official governing body for the Field Hockey tournament. Plans for the tournament were formulated by the State Field Hockey 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 Section I of this publication as well as those appearing within this Field Hockey Bulletin. Unless specifically stated, all rules and regulations stipulated in the NFHS Field Hockey 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 Section I of this publication.
- E. Regular season policies and procedures
  1. 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.
  2. By State Association adoption, the clock will continue to run after goals when one team is ahead by five goals.
  3. In order to break regular season ties, follow the National Federation Rulebook tie-breaker procedures with the following modification:
 

Play two 10-minute Reduced Player “sudden-victory” overtime periods, if necessary. Seven players start in the overtime including the goalkeeper, unless a team was playing short in regulation due to a card, then they shall play short in the overtime until the card time is served.
  4. If the game is still tied at the end of the second Reduced Player overtime, one set of five one-on-one’s will be used. Each coach shall present a list of five eligible players in shooting order to the official. On an alternating basis, an attacker on the 25-yard line will have 10 seconds against the other team’s goalkeeper who begins on the goal line, to move the ball into the circle, take a shot, and any follow-up shots as time permits. A foul or violation by the attacker ends the procedure. The procedure also ends when: (1) the 10 seconds has elapsed; (2) a goal is scored; (3) the ball goes out of play over the end line or sideline. An unintentional foul by the goalkeeper shall result in the one-on-one being retaken. For an intentional foul by the goalkeeper, a penalty stroke shall be awarded (Any eligible player on the roster may take the penalty stroke. Players currently serving GC/YC/RC penalties not eligible).

If the game is still tied after using one set of one-on-one’s, the game will remain a tie.

5. Timer and Scorer: If there is a visible working scoreboard, it shall be used as the official clock. At the end of each quarter, the timer shall sound an audible device to indicate that time has expired. The umpire's whistle will then signal the official end of the quarter. The timer or scorer must have a stop watch or clock available to keep penalty time on the sideline.
6. During the regular season, the home team shall supply a minimum of five game balls for each contest. It is highly recommended the home team supply two ball retrievers. If no ball retrievers are available, schools shall place two balls behind each goal.
7. It is considered the defense's ball after a goal is scored, so the defense will return the ball for the ensuing center pass.

## II. REGION AND STATE TOURNAMENTS

### A. Tournament Organization

1. Every school is automatically entered in 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 the State Semifinals, and Finals must be filled out by teams winning their Region Final. Instructions on filling out the TEAM ENTRY FORM will be available on mpssaa.org.
3. Each region will conduct a single elimination tournament, with the champion advancing to state play.

### B. Playing Rules

1. All rules not modified here shall be in accordance with the current National Federation rules.
2. Methods of tie-breaking will be the same as for the regular season. However, if a tie still stands after two "sudden-victory" Reduced Player periods and one set of five one-on-one's with follow-up shots, then "sudden victory" one-on-one's with follow-up shots will follow to determine a winner during all region and State Tournament games.
  - (a.) Coaches present a list of any five eligible players from the roster to the official for the "sudden victory" one-on-one's with follow-up shots. Players and/or the order of players may be changed.
  - (b.) The team not having the ball first in the previous set of one-on-one's shall start the set of "sudden victory" one-on-one's.
  - (c.) The "sudden victory" one-on-one's with follow-up shots will be taken on an alternating basis until one team is ahead after an equal number of one-on-one's have been taken and the tie is broken.

## III. 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.
  - (a.) The region director shall employ local officials to the game site, plus qualified adults as scorers and timers.
  - (b.) The region director shall inform the State Committee Director and the MPSSAA of the schedule established for competition.
2. The seeding meeting for bracket positions will take place Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> in the MPSSAA office via conference call with the State Tournament 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 tournament chair the official records of all teams for regular season games played through October 20.

- (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 nine varsity games played will be seeded based on a regular season winning percentage using a divisor of nine 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 teams in regional play will abide by the following guidelines.
- (a.) All regional games will be played at the site of the higher seed throughout the tournament.
  - (b.) If circumstances render a home site unplayable and the game is scheduled at any alternate site, the designated home team will remain unchanged.
  - (c.) The home team will wear a dark-colored uniform top and colored socks to showcase the primary school colors and the away team will white tops and solid white socks.
  - (d.) During regional tournament games, the designated home team shall supply four ball retrievers.
4. The home school will determine the game time.
- (a.) During Daylight Savings Time, day games will begin no later than 3:30 p.m.
  - (b.) During Eastern Standard Time, day games will be played no later than 3:00 p.m.
  - (c.) Night games will begin no later than 7:00 p.m.
5. Traveling teams should contact the director of the region where the game is to be played for information regarding field conditions, etc. which pertain to their game status.
6. Rained-out contests must be played on the dates indicated in the Time Line on page 14.
7. The Field Hockey Committee will approve for use only those sites that meet the criteria that follows. When a school cannot meet the game site criteria, the region director shall designate an alternate site after consultation with the local Supervisor(s) of Athletics.
- (a.) Play must be on a regulation field, sized and marked as specified by NFHS Rules including marks for a team line. A crowned field is NOT recommended (the ball should be visible).
  - (b.) The playing surface should be of grass and cut to the appropriate height (ball visible) and/or a turf field.
  - (c.) There shall be a clearly defined spectator area. Spectators may not stand behind team benches.
  - (d.) Provisions should be made for adequate supervision and crowd control.
  - (e.) There should be the capability to control the gate.
  - (f.) A scorer's table with four chairs and two penalty chairs should be provided.
  - (g.) Team benches should be provided.
  - (h.) For Region Finals, the use of a public address system is recommended.
  - (i.) If at a neutral site, the school must be willing to host.
8. The designated home team will provide a minimum of five game balls, clock, and stopwatch.
9. 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. General Policies**

1. Individuals 7 years of age and older will be charged an admission of \$6.
2. Multi-turf balls are recommended for use.
3. Game scores should be called in to the region director immediately following the contest. Region directors should report the results to the state director.
4. Region champions will receive a team plaque and individual certificates.
5. The use of noisemakers and other distractions that disrupts the orderly progress of the game, (i.e., use of whistles or horns that are similar to those used by officials and the scoring table), are prohibited.

**IV. STATE TOURNAMENTS****C. 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.
4. Schools hosting a State Quarterfinal game may schedule the contest on Friday, October 31 or Saturday, November 1. 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 SAT on Saturday, November 1. Local Supervisors of Athletics shall be contacted and make the final decision when conflicts occur.
5. A two-person officiating crew and table official 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.

**D. State Semifinals**

1. The winners of the State Quarterfinal round shall advance to the State Semifinals.
  - (a.) The winner in each classification of the No. 1 versus No. 8 seeded game will play the winner of the No. 4 versus No. 5 seeded game.
  - (b.) The winner in each classification of the No. 2 versus No. 7 seeded game will play the winner of the No. 3 versus No. 6 seeded game.
2. The State Semifinal games will be played at 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the following sites:

DATE	CLASS	TENTATIVE SITE
Wednesday, November 5	3A	Glen Burnie
Wednesday, November 5	4A	Crofton
Thursday, November 6	1A	Crofton
Thursday, November 6	2A	Glen Burnie

3. Postponements for the State Semifinal games will be played on the first available day.
4. Each school participating in the State Semifinals shall supply two ball retrievers.
5. Teams shall arrive at the game site dressed for participation.
6. The home team will sit on the left bench, when facing the scorer's table.

7. A two-person officiating crew and table official will be assigned to the State Semifinal contest.

E. State Finals

1. The winners of the State Semifinal round shall advance to the State Finals.
2. The Finals will be played at Stevenson University's Mustang Stadium.

Directions to Stevenson University: Take Exit 4 off of I-795, Owings Mills Boulevard - North, toward MD 140 - Reisterstown Road. Continue on Owings Mills Boulevard for about a mile. Make a right on Campus Circle Drive into the Stevenson University, Owings Mills Campus. The stadium is immediately on your left.

3. Game times for the Finals at Stevenson University on Saturday, November 8, are as follows:

Class 1A .....11:00 a.m.

Class 2A .....1:00 p.m.

Class 3A .....3:00 p.m.

Class 4A .....5:00 p.m.

4. In the event Stevenson University becomes a NCAA hosting site for collegiate contests, the state championship games will be played on Saturday, November 8 at a member school site. Classification times will be determined based on participating teams.
5. Two officials and a bench official will be assigned for each game.
6. Each team will provide a scorer and timer to assist the state scorekeeper.
7. Teams shall arrive at the game site dressed for participation. Locker rooms will be provided.
8. Schools advancing to the Finals may not practice on the Stevenson University field at any time prior to the game.
9. There will be a formal introduction of teams prior to the start of each game. Check with the tournament director upon arrival to determine the procedure. Teams will also line up following the game. Coaches should keep their teams together and make their spectators aware of the ceremony. Spectators should remain off the field where the ceremony will take place.
10. Teams should bring their own practice balls.

F. General Policies

1. Individuals 7 years of age and older will be charged admission.
  - (a.) State Quarterfinals - \$6.
  - (b.) State Semifinals (central sites — \$8)
  - (c.) State Finals (Stevenson University — \$10)
2. State Quarterfinal winners will complete the Media Information Form (found on the Field Hockey page of mpssaa.org) and bring the requested copies to the State Semifinals. This form shall be revised following the State Semifinals and new requested copies brought to the State Final game.
3. A total of 30 members of the official field hockey party will be admitted free.
4. A maximum of 20 cheerleaders from each of the participating schools will be admitted free of charge only if they are in complete uniform and accompanied by a coach.
5. Should the final championship game be tied after two sudden-victory overtime periods, one-on-one's will be used to determine a champion.
6. The championship team and the finalist team will each be presented with a team plaque and 25 individual awards.

7. The use of noisemakers and other distractions that disrupts the orderly progress of the game, (i.e., use of whistles or horns that are similar to those used by officials and the scoring table), are prohibited.
8. Signs will be permitted for display on the sidelines only. Those signs must be stationary, self-supporting and should display a positive support of the school. Signs may not be carried through the spectator area as a means of taunting others. Faculty members of participating schools are expected to enforce this regulation. Derogatory or obscene signs will be confiscated.
9. Coaches must remind their teams, parents, and spectators that no alcoholic beverages (or nonalcoholic substitute) are permitted on the college property.

Projected MPSSAA Girls Field Hockey Championship Dates					
2026	November 14	2027	November 13	2028	November 11

**STATE GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY COMMITTEE AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS ARE LISTED ON [MPSSAA.ORG](https://www.mpssaa.org)**

# 2025 Girls Field Hockey 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.	Glen Burnie	AA	1.	Bethesda-CC	Mtg	1.	Crofton	AA
2.	Urbana	Fre	2.	North County	AA	2.	Walt Whitman	Mtg	2.	Meade	AA
3.	Clarksburg	Mtg	3.	Dulaney	B Co	3.	Walter Johnson	Mtg	3.	Severn Run	AA
			4.	Perry Hall	B Co	4.	Winston Churchill	Mtg	4.	Severna Park	AA
REGION II			REGION II			REGION II			REGION II		
1.	Gaithersburg	Mtg	1.	James Hubert Blake	Mtg	1.	Albert Einstein	Mtg	1.	Annapolis	AA
2.	Northwest	Mtg	2.	John F. Kennedy	Mtg	2.	Montgomery Blair	Mtg	2.	Broadneck	AA
3.	Quince Orchard	Mtg	3.	Richard Montgomery	Mtg	3.	Paint Branch	Mtg	3.	North Point	Cha
4.	Seneca Valley	Mtg	4.	Wheaton	Mtg	4.	Springbrook	Mtg	4.	Leonardtown	StM

Class 3A West			Class 3A North			Class 3A South			Class 3A East		
REGION I			REGION I			REGION I			REGION I		
1.	Frederick	Fre	1.	Baltimore City College	Balt	1.	Atholton	How	1.	Chesapeake	AA
2.	Linganore	Fre	2.	Catonsville	B Co	2.	Guilford Park	How	2.	Old Mill	AA
3.	Oakdale	Fre	3.	Franklin	B Co	3.	Marriotts Ridge	How	3.	Aberdeen	Har
4.	Tuscarora	Fre	4.	Towson	B Co	4.	Reservoir	How	4.	Edgewood	Har
REGION II			REGION II			REGION II			REGION II		
1.	Col. Zadok Magruder	Mtg	1.	Westminster	Car	1.	St. Charles	Cha	1.	Arundel	AA
2.	Northwood	Mtg	2.	Damascus	Mtg	2.	Chopticon	StM	2.	South River	AA
3.	Rockville	Mtg	3.	Sherwood	Mtg	3.	Great Mills	StM	3.	James M. Bennett	Wic
4.	Thomas S. Wootton	Mtg	4.	Watkins Mill	Mtg				4.	Stephen Decatur	Wor

Class 2A West			Class 2A North			Class 2A South			Class 2A East		
REGION I			REGION I			REGION I			REGION I		
1.	Manchester Valley	Car	1.	Northeast	AA	1.	Howard	How	1.	Calvert	Cal
2.	Winters Mill	Car	2.	Eastern Tech	B Co	2.	Long Reach	How	2.	Huntingtown	Cal
3.	Walkersville	Fre	3.	Hereford	B Co	3.	Oakland Mills	How	3.	Northern	Cal
4.	Poolesville	Mtg	4.	Patapasco	B Co	4.	Wilde Lake	How	4.	Kent Island	QA
REGION II			REGION II			REGION II			REGION II		
1.	Centennial	How	1.	Bel Air	Har	1.	La Plata	Cha	1.	North Caroline	Cin
2.	Glenelg	How	2.	C. Milton Wright	Har	2.	McDonough	Cha	2.	Queen Anne's	QA
3.	Mount Hebron	How	3.	North Harford	Har	3.	Thomas Stone	Cha	3.	Easton	Tal
4.	River Hill	How				4.	Westlake	Cha	4.	Parkside	Wic

Class 1A West			Class 1A North			Class 1A South			Class 1A East		
REGION I			REGION I			REGION I			REGION I		
1.	Century	Car	1.	Carver A&T	B Co	1.	Bohemia Manor	Cec	1.	Southern	AA
2.	Francis Scott Key	Car	2.	Loch Raven	B Co	2.	Elkton	Cec	2.	Patuxent	Cal
3.	Liberty	Car	3.	Pikesville	B Co	3.	North East	Cec	3.	Henry E. Lackey	Cha
4.	South Carroll	Car	4.	Sparrows Point	B Co	4.	Kent County	K			
REGION II			REGION II			REGION II			REGION II		
1.	Brunswick	Fre	1.	Fallston	Har	1.	Perryville	Cec	1.	Crisfield	Som
2.	Catoctin	Fre	2.	Harford Tech	Har	2.	Rising Sun	Cec	2.	Washington	Som
3.	Middletown	Fre	3.	Joppatowne	Har	3.	Havre de Grace	Har	3.	St. Michael's	Tal
4.	Hammond	How	4.	Patterson Mill	Har				4.	Pocomoke	Wor