

Golf Tournament Bulletin

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – OCTOBER 23-25, 2023 – UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GOLF COURSE

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
August 9	First Practice and Play Date	October 23	Class 3A and 4A Day 1 Championships
October 17	District Tournament Completion Date	October 24	Class 2A and 1A Day 1 Championships
October 18	Organizational Seeding Meeting	October 25	All Classes Day 2 Championships

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association is the official governing body for the Golf tournament. Plans for the tournament were formulated by the State Golf 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 Golf Bulletin. Unless specifically stated, all rules and regulations stipulated in the USGA 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. The State Golf Committee has approved the use of non-motorized pushcarts by players to carry their golf bags at all levels of play within the State.

II. DISTRICT AND STATE TOURNAMENTS

- A. Tournament Organization
 1. Schools may enter one team into district play that is comprised of five individuals (male or female).
 2. Schools without teams may enter individuals in district play as individual participants.
 3. Schools with a team may enter additional female participants in district play.
 4. Girls are subject to the same rules as boys, with the exception of playing from women's tees in district and state play.
 5. The entry for district and state competition must be signed by the coach, athletic director, and the school principal or the entry will be denied.
- B. Playing Rules
 1. The state tournament will be divided into two classifications: 4A/3A and 2A/1A.
 2. Teams for the district tournament may consist of five players.
 - (a) Districts will count the LOW FOUR towards the team score. The LOW FOUR will constitute the team at the state tournament.
 - (b) If the fifth player (the individual with the highest score) qualifies, he/she may participate in the state tournament on an individual basis only.
 3. Each entrant will play 18 holes of stroke play.
 - (a) All district tournaments shall be played at the distances shown on their course scorecards.
 - (b) Course rating for boys is from the middle or white tees.
 - (c) Course rating for girls is from the red or women's tees.

4. Ties for the last individual qualifying place in the district tournament will be determined with a playoff starting from the course designated hole and playing complete holes until the tie is broken. If extenuating circumstances prevent the culmination of said playoff, the USGA recommended tie-breakers will be used starting with 9, 6, 3, 1.
- C. Determining district championships and qualifying for the state tournament.
1. Individual advancement to the state tournament (all criteria below must be met for advancement).
 - (a.) Individuals must shoot a qualifying score determined by using the formula, “Course rating +X strokes = qualifying score for that course”

District	Date of Event	Course and Team Qualifying Score	Female Course Rating/Qualifying Score	Male Course Rating/Qualifying Score
1	10/2	Black Rock GC - 328	70.6/96	69.3/81
2	10/3	Poolesville - 328	70.3/96	70.0/81
	9/27	Laytonsville (Girls Only)	71.3/97	
3	10/12	Enterprise GC - 328	69.5/95	69.8/81
4	10/16	Breton Bay GC - 328	65.9/91	69.8/81
5	10/10	Crofton CC - 332	70.8/96	70.5/82
6	10/3	Fox Hollow GC - 316	69.0/94	66.8/78
7	9/19	Geneva Farm GC - 328	70.7/96	69.6/81
8	10/9	River Marsh GC - 336	68.1/94	71.3/83

- (b.) All districts’ course ratings will be used in the equation. The adjustment factor, “X”, will be determined by the state committee and distributed to all district representatives. The state committee determines the “X” factor based on the USGA course ratings of all district courses to provide equity for advancement based on the district course.
 - (c.) Individuals who shoot the qualifying score are not guaranteed advancement to the state tournament. Individuals must also be in the top one-eighth (1/8) of the remaining players after subtracting participants who advanced with their teams. (Refer to page 34 of this bulletin for further details.)
 - (d.) District chairpersons may submit six additional qualifying alternates in numerical order.
2. Team advancement to the state tournament.
 - (a.) **The state championship cut score for teams advancing from district tournaments to the state tournament shall be an aggregate score of 350 or less.**
 - (b.) The four-player team in the 4A/3A and 2A/1A with the lowest aggregate score for 72 holes shall be the district champion. **District champions aggregate score for 72 holes may not exceed the state cut score of 350 or less in order to advance to the state finals.**
 - (c.) In addition to the top 4A/3A and 2A/1A team finishers, any team shooting a qualifying score at their district course as determined by an aggregate score of four times the “X” factor plus four strokes will advance to the state tournament. When a female is included in the low four scores, the female “X” factor will be used to determine the aggregate score for team advancement. **The aggregate qualifying score for 72 holes may not exceed the state cut score of 350 or less in order to advance to the state finals.**

D. General Policies

1. District tournament directors will be responsible for the assignment of duties. It is highly recommended that the representatives from schools at the district tournament be assigned as scorers or marshals.
2. In order to accommodate all players, the State Committee may adjust the district alignment when the committee determines an overcrowding of district participants.

III. STATE TOURNAMENT

A. Tournament Organization

1. The 2023 State Tournament will be held at the University of Maryland golf course. State Semifinal rounds will take place Monday, October 23rd and Tuesday, October 24th. Qualifiers from the Semifinal rounds will compete in the Finals on Wednesday, October 25th.
2. The competition will be held over 36-holes, weather permitting.
 - (a) TEAMS: Teams qualifying will compete in a one-day 18-hole semifinal round.
 - i. On Monday, October 23rd, the Class 4A/3A qualifying teams will compete.
 - ii. On Tuesday, October 24th, the Class 2A/1A qualifying teams will compete.
 - (b) INDIVIDUALS: Individuals qualifying will compete in a one-day 18-hole Semifinal round. In order to manage the size of the field and the pace of play for each day of the Semifinals, the State Committee may assign individuals to either day of Semifinals.
 - i. Individuals, whose school has qualified as a team, will compete on the same day their school team competes.
 - ii. The committee will attempt to schedule as many individuals as possible on the same day their school's classification competes.
 - (c) Teams and individuals qualifying from the Semifinal rounds will return on Wednesday, October 25th, for State Final play. Overall results will be based on cumulative scores from the Semifinals and Finals.
3. There will be a meeting of the State Golf Committee on Wednesday, October 18th, at 10 a.m. at the University of Maryland Golf Course. District chairpersons should complete the electronic form provided by the State Committee Director.
4. Directions for State Tournament

From Route 495 (Capital Beltway): Exit Route 1 South to Md. Route 193 (University Blvd). Proceed West for two miles to golf course entrance on right.
5. Each district shall provide the following personnel who will be assigned by the State Golf Committee as scorers or marshals.
 - (a) Coaches or an approved school representative in lieu of the coach will assist in tournament management.
 - (b) On Wednesday, October 25th, all coaches or the approved school representatives in lieu of a coach with remaining athletes will assist in tournament management.
6. The Tournament Director will assign competitors on the basis of schools represented and scores reported on the entry blank. Players from the same school will not play together.
7. Tournament play will begin with a 'shotgun' start at 9:00 a.m. each day.
 - (a) Coaches or school-designated representatives (representatives must present on school letterhead a document stating their designation as the school representative and it must be signed by the athletic director or school principal) are responsible for signing in all participants at least 30 minutes before starting time.
 - (b) Coaches or school-designated representatives must remain onsite the duration of the tournament for general supervision and in the event of student-athlete injury or emergency.

- (c.) Time should be allowed for traffic, etc. Players and coaches/school representatives who fail to report before the starting time will be scratched.
- (d.) The head coach must be onsite and help with general supervision or tournament management as directed. If the head coach is not onsite, an assistant coach or school designated representative must be available. Redesignating or refusing to complete assigned duties without prior approval of the State Golf Committee is subject to “misconduct detrimental to the tournament” and its’ penalties as found in the MPSSAA Handbook.
- (e.) Time Frame: * Please account for traffic in your travel plans.*

State Championship Timeline	
Daybreak	Driving Range Opens
8:00 a.m.	Coaches Sign In
8:15 a.m.	Coaches Meeting
8:25 a.m.	Driving Range Closes
8:30 a.m.	Players Meeting
9:00 a.m.	‘Shotgun’ Start

- 8. Method used to determine champions
 - (a.) The four-member team in each classification (4A/3A and 2A/1A) with the lowest aggregate score for 144 holes shall be declared the state team champions.
 - (b.) The individual boys and girls in each classification (4A/3A and 2A/1A) with the lowest aggregate score for 36 holes shall be declared the state individual champions.
- 9. Designated alternates are eligible to participate in team competition if a team withdraws any of their team competitors from the tournament and the substitute played as the fifth team-member in the district tournament.

B. General Policies

- 1. Advancement standards for qualifying from semifinals to finals:
 - (a.) TEAMS: The top forty percent of teams (up to 40%) from each semifinal will advance to the finals with at least three teams guaranteed to advance. All teams who tie the cutoff score will advance.
 - (b.) INDIVIDUALS: The top forty percent of individual male and female competitors will advance to the finals. All individuals who tie the cutoff score will advance to the finals. There will be one male cut score and one female cut score announced at the conclusion of each semifinal round for all individuals. **At least five total males and five total females are guaranteed to advance.**
- 2. Within each classification (4A/3A and 2A/1A), each of the top two teams will receive a plaque. Awards will be presented to the top individual male and female finishers in each classification.
 - (a.) Ties for first place will be resolved by playoff, starting on the course designated hole and continuing until the tie is broken. All other individual ties will stand.
 - (b.) In case of a tie for first team honors, the teams involved start from the course designated hole and continue on until the tie is broken.
- 3. The number of individual awards may be reduced in the proportion to the number of participants in district and state play.
- 4. All equipment, including golf balls, shall be furnished by the competing teams or individuals.

C. Playing Rules

- 1. The regular green fee is expected for all practice rounds. No free practice rounds will be permitted on the course prior to the tournament.
 - (a.) Only a limited number are available on the weekend prior to the tournament.

- (b.) Coaches are reminded of MPSSAA regulations prohibiting Sunday practice and may not accompany players to Sunday practice rounds.
2. Coaches are responsible for reviewing the rules of stroke play with their players.
3. An official scorer will accompany each foursome to assist in play and carry the official score card.
 - (a.) Golfers are expected to keep their own score and should verify it as a whole group with the scorer after each hole.
 - (b.) Official scorers and golfers must enter the designated "Scoring Area" to verify and sign their official scorecards after each round. All questions regarding the round shall be addressed PRIOR to the golfers leaving the designated scoring area. Official scorers shall also deliver the signed scorecards to the Match Director in the designated "Scoring Area" and sign-out that it was delivered. Failure of a player to verify, sign, and submit a scorecard shall be considered "conduct detrimental to the tournament".
 - (c.) Any unsportsmanlike action directed at these officials, such as abusive language, may result in disqualification from tournament play.
4. Local rules of the host club shall be observed implicitly. An official school representative from each competing school shall be responsible for such compliance by members of his/her group. The tournament director may delegate the responsibility to rule on technical questions arising from play to some other person; however, should there be any reservations on a ruling that was made some time after a questionable problem or development, the situation may only be resolved through action of the tournament committee as designated by the tournament director.
5. Closing of the course due to inclement weather
 - (a.) In the event a Semifinal on Monday OR Tuesday is postponed, the postponed Semifinal will be contested on October 25th. Based on the availability of the University of Maryland golf course, a possible second 18-hole final could be completed on a date to be determined.
 - (b.) In case both Monday AND Tuesday Semifinals are postponed, an alternate plan will be developed by the State Golf Committee.
6. The MPSSAA State Golf Committee has adopted the following policies prior to, during, and after each day of the state tournament in the interest of the integrity of the game, sportsmanship, and safety.
 - (a.) Participating players are prohibited from using tobacco products during the tournament.
 - (b.) All players must wear appropriate nonmetal cleated shoes and may not play barefooted.
 - (c.) All players must wear appropriate golf attire.
 - (d.) The use of a caddie or motorized golf cart is not permitted. Non-motorized pushcarts will NOT be available to rent at the state tournament.
 - (e.) Spectators are restricted to the cart path and must remain off all fairways and greens.
 - (f.) Coaches, parents, students, and/or spectators are prohibited from providing direct or indirect advice to players, scorers, and tournament officials throughout the tournament. Failure to comply may result in player disqualification and/or restricting the offending spectator to the clubhouse.
 - (g.) Pace of Play - The MPSSAA State Golf Committee reserves the right to time a group whenever the Committee deems the group to be out of position. Players should also be aware that under USGA Rule 5.6, the Committee may assess a penalty to a player in a group which is out of position if that player makes no effort to help the player's group get back into position, e.g., such as when a player unduly delays play between shots.

(h.) Distance measuring devices, including portable electronic devices, are allowed and permitted to be shared with other competitors.

7. Any violation of aforementioned actions by participants, coaches, and spectators may result in warnings, penalties, and/or disqualification upon determination of the tournament committee as designated by the tournament director.

IV. MPSSAA STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT QUALIFYING CHART

The Chart below is used to determine the number that will qualify from individuals who are officially entered and participate in the District Tournament. Figures are Based on the number of participants remaining after subtracting participants who advanced with their teams.

Participants	Qualifiers	Participants	Qualifiers	Participants	Qualifiers	Participants	Qualifiers
1	1	33	4	65	8	97	12
2	1	34	4	66	8	98	12
3	1	35	5	67	8	99	12
4	1	36	5	68	9	100	13
5	1	37	5	69	9	101	13
6	1	38	5	70	9	102	13
7	1	39	5	71	9	103	13
8	1	40	5	72	9	104	13
9	1	41	5	73	9	105	13
10	1	42	5	74	9	106	13
11	1	43	5	75	9	107	13
12	2	44	6	76	10	108	14
13	2	45	6	77	10	109	14
14	2	46	6	78	10	110	14
15	2	47	6	79	10	111	14
16	2	48	6	80	10	112	14
17	2	49	6	81	10	113	14
18	2	50	6	82	10	114	14
19	2	51	6	83	10	115	14
20	3	52	7	84	11	116	15
21	3	53	7	85	11	117	15
22	3	54	7	86	11	118	15
23	3	55	7	87	11	119	15
24	3	56	7	88	11	120	15
25	3	57	7	89	11	121	15
26	3	58	7	90	11	122	15
27	3	59	7	91	11	123	15
28	4	60	8	92	12	124	16
29	4	61	8	93	12	125	16
30	4	62	8	94	12	126	16
31	4	63	8	95	12	127	16
32	4	64	8	96	12	128	16
						129	16

* Individuals who shoot the qualifying score does not guarantee advancement to the state tournament. Individuals must also be in the top one-eighth (1/8) of the remaining players after subtracting participants who advanced with their teams. (Refer to page 33 of this bulletin for further details.)

Projected MPSSAA Golf Championship Dates					
2024	October 28/29, 30	2025	October 27/28, 29	2026	October 26/27, 28

STATE GOLF COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE LISTED ON MPSSAA.ORG

2023 Golf Classification Alignment

CLASS 4A-3A

DISTRICT 1						DISTRICT 4					
1.	Manchester Valley	Car	13.	Walt Whitman	Mtg	1.	Northern	Cal	18.	Oakland Mills	How
2.	Westminster	Car	14.	Walter Johnson	Mtg	2.	North Point	Cha	19.	Reservoir	How
3.	Frederick	Fre	15.	Wheaton	Mtg	3.	St. Charles	Cha	20.	River Hill	How
4.	Linganore	Fre	16.	Winston Churchill	Mtg	4.	Chopticon	StM	DISTRICT 6		
5.	Oakdale	Fre	17.	Col. Zadok Magruder	Mtg	5.	Great Mills	Stm	1.	Dundalk	B Co
6.	Thomas Johnson	Fre	18.	James Hubert Blake	Mtg	6.	Leonardtowntown	Stm	2.	Kenwood	B Co
7.	Tuscarora	Fre	19.	John F. Kennedy	Mtg	DISTRICT 5			3.	Parkville	B Co
8.	Urbana	Fre	20.	Rockville	Mtg	1.	Annapolis	AA	4.	Perry Hall	B Co
9.	North Hagerstown	Was	21.	Sherwood	Mtg	2.	Broadneck	AA	5.	Woodlawn	B Co
10.	South Hagerstown	Was	22.	Thomas S. Wootton	Mtg	3.	Glen Burnie	AA	6.	Catonsville	B Co
DISTRICT 2			23.	Watkins Mill	Mtg	4.	Meade	AA	7.	Dulaney	B Co
1.	Albert Einstein	Mtg	DISTRICT 3			5.	North County	AA	8.	Franklin	B Co
2.	Bethesda-CC	Mtg	1.	Bladensburg	PG	6.	Old Mill	AA	9.	Lansdowne	B Co
3.	Clarksburg	Mtg	2.	Bowie	PG	7.	Arundel	AA	10.	Overlea	B Co
4.	Gaithersburg	Mtg	3.	Charles H. Flowers	PG	8.	Chesapeake	AA	11.	Towson	B Co
5.	Montgomery Blair	Mtg	4.	Dr. Henry A. Wise	PG	9.	Crofton	AA	DISTRICT 7		
6.	Northwest	Mtg	5.	Duval	PG	10.	Northeast	AA	1.	Aberdeen	Har
7.	Northwood	Mtg	6.	Eleanor Roosevelt	PG	11.	Severna Park	AA	2.	Bel Air	Har
8.	Paint Branch	Mtg	7.	High Point	PG	12.	South River	AA	3.	Edgewood	Har
9.	Quince Orchard	Mtg	8.	Laurel	PG	13.	Atholton	How			
10.	Richard Montgomery	Mtg	9.	Northwestern	PG	14.	Howard	How			
11.	Seneca Valley	Mtg	10.	Parkdale	PG	15.	Long Reach	How			
12.	Springbrook	Mtg	11.	Suitland	PG	16.	Marriotts Ridge	How			
			12.	Oxon Hill	PG	17.	Mount Hebron	How			

CLASS 2A-1A

DISTRICT 1			DISTRICT 3			DISTRICT 6			DISTRICT 8		
1.	Allegany	All	1.	Central	PG	1.	Carver A&T	BCo	1.	Colonel Richardson	Cin
2.	Fort Hill	All	2.	Crossland	PG	2.	Chesapeake	BCo	2.	North Caroline	Cin
3.	Mountain Ridge	All	3.	Fairmont Heights	PG	3.	Eastern Tech	BCo	3.	Cambridge-SD	Dor
4.	Century	Car	4.	Frederick Douglass	PG	4.	Hereford	BCo	4.	North Dorchester	Dor
5.	Francis Scott Key	Car	5.	Friendly	PG	5.	Loch Raven	BCo	5.	Kent County	K
6.	Liberty	Car	6.	Gwynn Park	PG	6.	Milford Mill	BCo	6.	Kent Island	QA
7.	South Carroll	Car	7.	Largo	PG	7.	New Town	BCo	7.	Queen Anne's	QA
8.	Winters Mill	Car	8.	Potomac	PG	8.	Owings Mills	BCo	8.	Washington	Som
9.	Brunswick	Fre	9.	Surrattsville	PG	9.	Patapsco	BCo	9.	Easton	Tal
10.	Catoctin	Fre	DISTRICT 4			10.	Pikesville	BCo	10.	St. Michael's	Tal
11.	Monocacy Valley	Fre	1.	Calvert	Cal	11.	Randallstown	BCo	11.	James M. Bennett	Wic
12.	Middletown	Fre	2.	Huntingtown	Cal	12.	Sparrows Point	BCo	12.	Mardela	Wic
13.	Walkersville	Fre	3.	Patuxent	Cal	13.	Western Tech	BCo	13.	Parkside	Wic
14.	Northern	Gar	4.	Henry E. Lackey	Cha	DISTRICT 7			14.	Wicomico	Wic
15.	Southern	Gar	5.	La Plata	Cha	1.	Bohemia Manor	Cec	15.	Pocomoke	Wor
16.	Boonsboro	Was	6.	McDonough	Cha	2.	Elkton	Cec	16.	Snow Hill	Wor
17.	Clear Spring	Was	7.	Thomas Stone	Cha	3.	North East	Cec	17.	Stephen Decatur	Wor
18.	Smithsburg	Was	8.	Westlake	Cha	4.	Perryville	Cec			
19.	Williamsport	Was				5.	Rising Sun	Cec			
			DISTRICT 5			6.	C. Milton Wright	Har			
			1.	Chesapeake Sci. Pt.	AA	7.	Fallston	Har			
DISTRICT 2			2.	Southern	AA	8.	Harford Tech	Har			
1.	Damascus	Mtg	3.	Centennial	How	9.	Havre de Grace	Har			
2.	Poolesville	Mtg	4.	Glenelg	How	10.	Joppatowne	Har			
			5.	Guilford Park	How	11.	North Harford	Har			
			6.	Hammond	How	12.	Patterson Mill	Har			
			7.	Wilde Lake	How						