

# Lacrosse Tournament Bulletin

## STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – MAY 19-21, 2026 – STEVENSON UNIVERSITY – MUSTANG STADIUM

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
February 28	First Practice Date	May 6	Region Quarterfinals
March 20	First Play Date	May 8	Region Semifinals
May 2	Last Play Date for Seeding Consideration	May 11	Region Finals
May 4	Tournament Seeding Date	May 13	State Quarterfinals
May 5	Last Play Date	May 15/16	State Semifinals
		May 19-21	State Championships

### I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association is the official governing body for the Lacrosse tournament. Plans for the tournament were formulated by the state lacrosse committees 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 Lacrosse Bulletin. Unless specifically stated, all rules and regulations stipulated in the NFHS Rule Books 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. Games postponed during the regular season must be played or made up in order of the regular season schedule on the first available playing date for both schools.

### II. REGION AND STATE TOURNAMENTS

- A. 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.
- B. Each region will conduct a single elimination tournament, with the champion advancing to state play.
- C. All suspended tournament games shall be continued from the point of suspension unless declared complete by a mutual agreement between the two schools involved.

### III. REGION TOURNAMENT

- A. 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 Tournament Director:
    - (a.) Notify schools as to their bracket position, site of upcoming contest, and starting time.
    - (b.) The employment of local officials for regional round. Two- or three-person crews will be used based on the wishes of the local jurisdiction of the designated home team in the regional quarterfinals and semifinals. For region finals, the region director shall employ a three-person crew

- from the officials' board local to the designated home team. This may be done in consultation with the local Supervisor of Athletics.
- (c.) Inform the state committee director and MPSSAA of the schedule established for competition.
5. The tournament seeding will take place Monday, May 4 in the MPSSAA office via conference call with each respective state tournament chair. Tournament pairings will appear on the MPSSAA web site <mpssaa.org> later that day.
- (a.) Region directors will verify and submit the official regular season win-loss records of all region teams to their respective State Committee Director by 10:30 p.m. Saturday, May 2.
- (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.
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.) If circumstances render a home site unplayable, the region director shall designate another site upon consultation with the local Supervisor(s) of Athletics. The designated home team will remain unchanged.
- (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 AP testing. Local Supervisors of Athletics shall be contacted and make the final decision when conflicts occur.
7. Doubleheaders will be played in all rounds when the boys and girls seeding permits.
- (a.) The home team's Athletic Director, in consultation with the local Supervisor of Athletics, will decide which team plays the first game.
- (b.) EXCEPTION: In the event of rain, on grass fields only, girls will play the first game because of the problems of excessive damage to the crease area.
8. School day games shall not start earlier than 3:45 p.m. Upon the approval of the Executive Director, adjustments in starting times may be made to accommodate doubleheaders.
9. Athletic Directors and Coaches of participating teams must report scores to the Region Director immediately following the game.
10. Region semifinal games scheduled for Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> may be played on Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> if both schools agree. Local Supervisors of Athletics shall be consulted and will make the final decision when conflicts occur. If schools cannot agree to play Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> then the following prom guidelines shall be applied.
11. Guidelines for Regional Games & Prom Dates
- (a.) One team has prom on Friday night:
- i. Game should be scheduled no earlier than 2 PM on Saturday.

- (b.) One team has prom on Saturday night:
  - i. Game should be scheduled at 10 AM if traveling team is one with prom
  - ii. If the home team has prom, schedule no later than 12 Noon but as early as 10 AM.
- (c.) When a Friday game is postponed due to weather where one team has prom Friday night and the other team a prom on Saturday night:
  - i. Game should be scheduled at 12 Noon on Saturday.

12. The region alignment for Boys and Girls Lacrosse appears on page 20.

#### B. General Policies

1. Individuals 7 years of age and older will be charged an admission of \$6.
2. A team certificate and 35 individual certificates will be presented to the region champion.
3. 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.

### IV. 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.
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 Friday, May 15 and Saturday, May 16. Schedules and times will be set after teams have advanced out of the state quarterfinals. The prom guidelines from regional games will also be followed for the state semifinals (see page 17-18, item #11, letters a. through c.). The MPSSAA and state lacrosse committee reserves the right to use alternative sites as deemed necessary for continuous operation of the tournament. Tentative locations are as follows:

<u>DATES</u>	<u>TENTATIVE SITES</u>
May 15/16	Gaithersburg HS Glen Burnie HS Paint Branch HS Severn Run HS Severna Park HS Wheaton HS

C. State Championships

1. The winners of the state semifinal round shall advance to the state championships.
2. Both the boys and the girls tournament finals will be held at Stevenson University’s Mustang Stadium on May 19-21, with times and pairings to be determined. Check MPSSAA.org for details on directions and parking information.
3. Member schools shall not schedule practice, scrimmage sessions, or games at the site of the final championship games.

D. General Policies

1. Admission and spectator capacity will be determined by the MPSSAA in consultation with the facility and in compliance with local and state policies.
2. Awards will be presented at the conclusion of the tournament. The championship team and the finalist team will each be awarded a team trophy and individual medals (maximum 35 per team). All team members are expected to participate in the awards presentation.
3. The use of noisemakers and other distractions which disrupt the orderly progress of the game, i.e. whistles and air horns similar to those used by the officials and timer, are prohibited.
4. The State Lacrosse Committee will recognize the school of one boys team and the one girls team which displays the best overall sportsmanship while participating in its respective tournament. Judges throughout the stadium will observe and rate the sportsmanship of the players on the field, bench personnel, coaches, and spectators. Immediately following the last game of the respective tournament, the award will be presented to the principal and head coach of the school achieving the highest average score.

E. Officials

1. The MPSSAA will arrange for three certified officials to be assigned to each state tournament contest.

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

Projected MPSSAA Lacrosse Championship Dates					
2027	May 25-27	2028	May 23-25	2029	May 22-24

# 2026 Lacrosse 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.	Dundalk	B Co	1.	Montgomery Blair	Mtg	1.	Annapolis	AA
2.	Urbana	Fre	2.	Kenwood	B Co	2.	Paint Branch	Mtg	2.	Broadneck	AA
3.	Clarksburg	Mtg	3.	Perry Hall	B Co	3.	High Point	PG	3.	Glen Burnie	AA
4.	Northwest	Mtg	4.	Woodlawn	B Co	4.	Laurel	PG	4.	Meade	AA
5.	Seneca Valley	Mtg	5.	Mergenthaler Vo-Tech	Balt	5.	Northwestern	PG	5.	North County	AA
			6.	Western (Girls)	Balt						
REGION II			REGION II			REGION II			REGION II		
1.	Bethesda-CC	Mtg	1.	Albert Einstein	Mtg	1.	Bladensburg	PG	1.	North Point	Cha
2.	Gaithersburg	Mtg	2.	James H. Blake	Mtg	2.	Duval	PG	2.	Bowie	PG
3.	Quince Orchard	Mtg	3.	Richard Montgomery	Mtg	3.	Parkdale	PG	3.	Charles H. Flowers	PG
4.	Walt Whitman	Mtg	4.	Springbrook	Mtg	4.	Eleanor Roosevelt	PG	4.	Suitland	PG
5.	Walter Johnson	Mtg	5.	Wheaton	Mtg	5.	Dr. Henry A. Wise	PG	5.	Leonardtown	StM
6.	Winston Churchill	Mtg									

Class 3A West			Class 3A North			Class 3A South			Class 3A East		
REGION I			REGION I			REGION I			REGION I		
1.	Frederick	Fre	1.	Overlea	B Co	1.	Atholton	How	1.	Chesapeake	AA
2.	Linganore	Fre	2.	Parkville	B Co	2.	Guilford Park	How	2.	Old Mill	AA
3.	Oakdale	Fre	3.	Towson	B Co	3.	Mariotts Ridge	How	3.	Severn Run	AA
4.	Tuscarora	Fre	4.	Aberdeen	Har	4.	Reservoir	How	4.	Baltimore City College	Balt
5.	North Hagerstown	Was	5.	Edgewood	Har	5.	Sherwood	Mtg	5.	Baltimore Polytechnic Institute	Balt
6.	South Hagerstown	Was							6.	Digital Harbor	Balt
REGION II			REGION II			REGION II			REGION II		
1.	John F. Kennedy	Mtg	1.	Catonsville	B Co	1.	St. Charles	Cha	1.	Arundel	AA
2.	Col. Zadok Magruder	Mtg	2.	Dulaney	B Co	2.	Oxon Hill	PG	2.	Crofton	AA
3.	Northwood	Mtg	3.	Franklin	B Co	3.	Potomac	PG	3.	Severna Park	AA
4.	Rockville	Mtg	4.	Milford Mill Academy	B Co	4.	Chopticon	StM	4.	South River	AA
5.	Watkins Mill	Mtg	5.	Westminster	Car	5.	Great Mills	StM	5.	James M. Bennett	Wic
6.	Thomas S. Wootton	Mtg									

Class 2A West			Class 2A North			Class 2A South			Class 2A East		
REGION I			REGION I			REGION I			REGION I		
1.	Walkersville	Fre	1.	Hereford	B Co	1.	Northern	Cal	1.	Northeast	AA
2.	Glenelg	How	2.	Lansdowne	B Co	2.	Crossland	PG	2.	Paul Laurence Dunbar	Balt
3.	Mount Hebron	How	3.	New Town	B Co	3.	Frederick Douglass	PG	3.	Patterson	Balt
4.	Damascus	Mtg	4.	Manchester Valley	Car	4.	Fairmont Heights	PG	4.	Kent Island	QA
5.	Poolesville	Mtg	5.	Winters Mill	Car	5.	Gwynn Park	PG	5.	Queen Anne's	QA
						6.	Largo	PG			
REGION II			REGION II			REGION II			REGION II		
1.	Centennial	How	1.	Bel Air	Har	1.	Calvert	Cal	1.	North Caroline	Cin
2.	Howard	How	2.	C. Milton Wright	Har	2.	Huntingtown	Cal	2.	Easton	Tal
3.	Long Reach	How	3.	North Harford	Har	3.	La Plata	Cha	3.	Parkside	Wic
4.	Oakland Mills	How	4.	Eastern Tech	B Co	4.	McDonough	Cha	4.	Wicomico	Wic
5.	River Hill	How	5.	Patapsco	B Co	5.	Thomas Stone	Cha	5.	Stephen Decatur	Wor
6.	Wilde Lake	How				6.	Westlake	Cha			

Class 1A West			Class 1A North			Class 1A South			Class 1A East		
REGION I			REGION I			REGION I			REGION I		
1.	Brunswick	Fre	1.	Chesapeake	B Co	1.	Southern	AA	1.	North East	Cec
2.	Catocin	Fre	2.	Loch Raven	B Co	2.	Edmondson-Westside	Balt	2.	Perryville	Cec
3.	Middletown	Fre	3.	Sparrows Point	B Co	3.	National Academy Foundation	Balt	3.	Rising Sun	Cec
4.	Boonsboro	Was	4.	Fallston	Har	4.	Hammond	How	4.	Harford Tech	Har
5.	Smithsburg	Was	5.	Joppatowne	Har	5.	CMIT - North	PG	5.	Havre de Grace	Har
			6.	Patterson Mill	Har						
REGION II			REGION II			REGION II			REGION II		
1.	Owings Mills	B Co	1.	Carver A&T	B Co	1.	Patuxent	Cal	1.	Bohemia Manor	Cec
2.	Randallstown	B Co	2.	Pikesville	B Co	2.	Henry E. Lackey	Cha	2.	Elkton	Cec
3.	Century	Car	3.	Western Tech	B Co	3.	Central	PG	3.	Cambridge-SD	Dor
4.	Francis Scott Key	Car	4.	ACCE	Balt	4.	Freindly	PG	4.	North Dorchester	Dor
5.	Liberty	Car	5.	Forest Park	Balt	5.	Surrattsville	PG	5.	Kent County	K
6.	South Carroll	Car	6.	Lake Clifton	Balt						