



# MPSSAA

# Fall Bulletin

CROSS COUNTRY  
GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY  
FOOTBALL  
GOLF  
SOCCER  
GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

2025-26 | Updated April 2025

# Tournament Bulletins

Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association  
200 West Baltimore Street Baltimore, MD 2201



## Table of Contents

---

Policies for all Tournament Bulletins..... 2

Health and Safety..... 6

Cross Country Tournament Bulletin ..... 9

2025 Cross Country Classification Alignment ..... 13

Girls Field Hockey Tournament Bulletin ..... 14

2025 Girls Field Hockey Classification Alignment ..... 20

Football Tournament Bulletin..... 21

2025 Football Classification Alignment..... 28

Golf Tournament Bulletin ..... 29

2025 Golf Classification Alignment..... 35

Soccer Tournament Bulletin ..... 36

2025 Soccer Classification Alignment ..... 43

Girls Volleyball Tournament Bulletin ..... 44

2025 Girls Volleyball Classification Alignment ..... 49

# Policies for all Tournament Bulletins

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This publication contains information pertaining to state tournament competition for the fall season. It is divided into two sections. The first section contains information pertinent to all tournaments. The second section contains the particular rules for each sport.

The bulletins are available on the MPSSAA website and copies may be made by local school systems and member schools to provide a copy to the principal, athletic director, and each head coach for the fall season. It is the school's responsibility to read and follow the guidelines provided in this publication.

## I. STATE TOURNAMENT POLICIES

- A. The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association games or tournament committees, each representing all of the nine districts shall administer and supervise tournaments in the various sports at the district, region, and state level.
- B. All participating schools shall abide by the rules established by the tournament committee.
- C. Although certain aspects of a tournament may vary from year to year, the following basic policies shall be observed by all tournament committees:
  1. A tournament may not interfere with local school policy.
  2. A school or school system has the privilege and right to decide whether or not it will participate in a tournament.
  3. A school shall compete in its classification when a tournament is so structured.
  4. Student-athletes may only participate in MPSSAA post-season events when their regular season coincides with the season in which the state championship is held.
  5. Certified and approved officials organizations shall be assigned games in a fair, equitable, and nondiscriminatory manner.
  6. All awards and recognition shall conform to MPSSAA Bylaw .08.
  7. A tournament committee shall make every effort to establish game sites that minimize extensive travel for participating teams.
  8. All policy and procedure changes for a state tournament shall be subject to the approval of the MPSSAA Executive Council with the Association's tournament committee serving in an advisory capacity. Emergency decisions on tournament policies and procedures may be made by the MPSSAA Executive Director.
  9. When a contestant is found ineligible during the progress of a tournament, the contest last played shall be forfeited, and the team that was defeated shall take its place.
  10. All-star teams or best individual athlete awards MAY NOT be selected from an approved tournament.
  11. Sports at the state tournament level shall be governed by approved game rules.
  12. If a team or any student participating in state tournament play leaves the field of play before the completion of a contest, or fails to continue play when eligible to do so, or is guilty of "misconduct detrimental to the tournament", then the team, coach, contestant or contestants may be suspended from further participation in the current tournament and from the same tournament in the succeeding year, upon the determination of the tournament committee and the Executive Director. In addition, refer to section labeled "Misconduct Detrimental to a Tournament" (page 37 in the current MPSSAA Handbook).
  13. The rules of the Association do not provide authority to order games replayed. Protests arising from decisions and interpretations by officials during the game will not be considered. Officials decisions and interpretations are final.

14. All suspended games will be continued from the point at which they were interrupted.
15. Expansion of any sport to the state level shall be recommended by the MPSSAA's Board of Control and approved by the state superintendent of schools after consultation with local superintendents of schools.
16. Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drones): In the interest of public safety and competitive equity, the use of unmanned aircraft systems (drones) is prohibited during MPSSAA district, region, and state tournament competition. Unmanned aircraft systems may not operate in airspace over host school grounds or facilities conducting MPSSAA events.

#### D. Region Seeding

1. Unless otherwise stated in this bulletin in a particular sport section, teams are seeded in the region tournament according to the best regular season winning percentage. If two teams are tied, the first tie-breaker is head-to-head results. If teams are still tied, a coin toss determines the higher seed.
2. When applying tie-breaking procedures in instances where three or more teams are tied for a particular seed, the criteria must affect all three (or more) teams equally or proceed to the next tie-breaker criteria. For instance, if team A beat team B, and team B beat team C, but team A and team C did not play, this criteria does not affect all teams equally – proceed to the next criteria. Also, in instances where three or more teams are tied, and a particular criteria applies to all three equally, the criteria may only distinguish the one team among the group that earns the higher seed. The remaining two (or more) teams are then re-evaluated beginning with the first criteria.
3. When calculating winning percentage, the total number of regular season wins (1 point each) and ties (1/2 point each) are added and then divided by the total number of games completed (divisor). In the following sports, if a team has not completed the minimum number of games specified, the divisor becomes the number indicated below (instead of the total number of games).  
(i.e. If a soccer team is 7-1-1, its winning percentage is  $7.5/9 = 83.3\%$ . If a soccer team has a record of 7-0-1 with only 8 complete games, its winning percentage is  $7/9 = 77.7\%$ .)

Sport	Maximum	Minimum	Sport	Maximum	Minimum
Baseball	18	14	Lacrosse	12	9
Basketball	20	15	Soccer	12	9
Field Hockey	12	9	Softball	18	14
Football	10	8	Volleyball	15	12

4. The policy regarding a "NON-GAME/FORFEIT" on a team schedule is as follows:
  - (a.) In order for a contest to be declared a forfeit, it must satisfy the following criteria:
    - i. There must be a written contract, signed by both Principals, including the time, place, and date of the contest. For teams participating in the same league or conference, the official league or conference schedule shall serve the purpose of a written contract.
    - ii. The head county/league/conference administrator of both schools shall agree that the contest be regarded as a forfeit. In instances where the head administrators do not agree, the MPSSAA Executive Director shall decide. For games against out-of-state teams, the Executive Director (or equivalent) of both states shall agree in order for the contest to be declared a forfeit.
    - iii. The forfeit shall be applied to the season records of both participating teams (a win by forfeit for one team, a loss by forfeit for the other).
  - (b.) A game may be declared a forfeit under the following circumstances:
    - i. A team deliberately or inadvertently fails to arrive at the designated site/time (except for extraordinary circumstances or unless mutually agreed upon in advance by the participating schools). Extreme traffic or a bus failing to arrive would be examples of "extraordinary circumstances". This provision does not include complications arising from rescheduling a game which was previously postponed or cancelled.

- ii. A team disbands either temporarily or permanently. Under this provision, a team must have played at least one regular season game in order for an opponent(s) to be awarded a forfeit.
  - iii. A team or individual player on a team violates MPSSAA regulations. Under this provision, the MPSSAA Handbook specifies conditions under which a forfeit may be declared.
  - iv. One or both teams are unable to complete a contest according to prevailing MPSSAA or NFHS rules.
5. Once the region seeding is complete and the brackets released, **any corrections due to errors in records or winning percentages will only be made up until 10 AM the following morning.** No changes will be made to the seeding or brackets after that time.

## II. RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN A TOURNAMENT

- A. It is the responsibility of schools to work with region directors to accurately report schedules, results and records for the purpose of tournament seeding. Failure to do so in a timely and accurate manner significantly hinders the smooth operation of the state tournament and may be considered “misconduct detrimental to the tournament” as outlined in the MPSSAA Handbook.
- B. Postponed contests shall be rescheduled on the next available (nonscheduled) playing date. Any disagreements shall be referred to the appropriate local supervisor(s) for resolution.
- C. All schools entering a tournament must agree to arrangements made by its tournament committee. This includes the time and place of each game and the selection of officials. All games will be played under the rules of the MPSSAA. In cases not covered by written regulations, the tournament committee in charge is empowered to make decisions.
  - 1. A school may not request a postponement of any tournament game because of illness, injury, or unavailability of some of its players.
  - 2. A school is responsible for seeing that all its players are protected by insurance in the event of injury.
- D. Games will be played on a basis of shared responsibilities. Personnel from the visiting schools must accept their joint responsibilities with the persons in charge for the supervision and maintenance of good behavior on the part of the students, spectators, and participants. Good sportsmanship, exemplary behavior, and protection of property are of primary importance before, during and after each contest. It is recommended that faculty representatives of the competing teams anticipate and study problems that could arise from such contests and plan cooperatively to deal with these problems.
- E. Schools hosting region tournament games are responsible to provide a qualified game manager other than the participating coach.
- F. The MPSSAA provides a hard copy of the NFHS rulebooks and electronic copies of the MPSSAA Bulletins to all member schools each season. Schools are expected to maintain access to those publications and require teams to have them available at all playoff contests. It is highly recommended that these materials are presented to officials and reviewed at pre-game meetings to verify their availability as a reference during the contest. For instance, unique overtime procedures outlined in a sport-specific bulletin should be reviewed.
- G. The possession or use of any alcoholic beverage or nonalcoholic substitute (i.e. nonalcoholic champagne) is considered to be “conduct detrimental to a tournament”. An individual or team using such products in any form of consumption or celebration will be subject to disciplinary action.

### **III. POINT OF EMPHASIS**

The MPSSAA would like to make a point of emphasis for coaches. Coaches are reminded that you set the tone for your team and are the foremost influential figures representing your school. Your coaching attire and actions should reflect a professional approach that signifies a respect for the game, respect for your school and respect for yourself.

### **IV. COMPLIMENTARY PASSES**

- A. Complimentary passes are provided for coaches and administrators only.
  - 1. Passes are distributed through local supervisors.
  - 2. Each pass should have the bearer's name printed on the pass prior to distribution.
  - 3. A valid driver's license is required to be displayed with each pass.
  - 4. Admission to Regular Season Events is subject to Local School System Rules.
- B. Additional special passes will be distributed for some tournaments. Those passes will admit the bearer only.
- C. All other individuals age 7 years or older will be charged admission to any MPSSAA event.

### **V. RADIO AND TELEVISION**

Radio and television coverage of the playoffs and championship games will be allowed by any station that is awarded a contract by the MPSSAA. Radio and television contracts must be awarded through the Executive Director. Schools will be notified by the Executive Director of approved broadcasters.

### **VI. MEDICAL PERSONNEL**

The MPSSAA has budgeted for qualified medical personnel to be employed at each semifinal and final game. Host schools should employ those medical personnel from local sources. Medical personnel will be paid at the local rate. Schools entering the tournament agree to accept the recommendation of the medical professional assigned by the MPSSAA to cover the event.

### **VII. THUNDER AND/OR LIGHTNING**

If thunder and/or lightning can be heard or seen, participants, spectators, and staff are in danger. Contests must be stopped, and protective shelter sought immediately. In the event that either situation should occur, 30 minutes will be allowed to pass after the last sound of thunder and/or lightning strike before resuming play.

### **VIII. POLICE PROTECTION**

The game director at each site will employ adequate police protection to supervise parking lots and assist with crowd control.

### **IX. SCHOOL REIMBURSEMENT**

The MPSSAA Finance Committee has authorized set funding to be distributed to MPSSAA Districts for the purpose of assisting with some of the travel expenses incurred by schools participating in regional and state tournaments. Each local district shall determine their local process for distribution of reimbursement funds based on participation in MPSSAA regional and state competitions.

# Health and Safety

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## I. GENERAL HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- A. All participants, coaches, officials, administrators, spectators, and any other individual present at any interscholastic athletic practice or competition must adhere to the local educational agency policies pertaining to health and safety policies.
- B. Multi-Jurisdictional Competition - During any multi-jurisdictional competition, the policies and procedures of the hosting site's jurisdiction shall be followed. When conflicts arise in which representatives, including but not limited to coaches, participants, and spectators, are not following the policies and procedures of the local school system, the site director in collaboration with school administration shall have the authority to:
  - 1. Initially provide a warning to those not in compliance to adhere to the local school system policies.
  - 2. Suspend the competition and refer the conflict to Supervisors of Athletics for resolution.
  - 3. Unresolved matters shall be referred to the the MPSSAA Executive Director.
- C. Shared Responsibility - Games and Events will be contested on the basis of shared responsibilities. Personnel from the visiting schools must accept their joint responsibilities with the persons in charge for the supervision and maintenance of behavior on the part of students, spectators, and participants. This includes health and safety policies and procedures, good sportsmanship, exemplary behavior, and protection of property before, during and after each contest.
- D. Tournament Considerations - If a school/team must withdraw from the state tournament due to health related matters, the team scheduled to play next will receive a bye/forfeit and advance to the subsequent round. A school may not request a postponement of any tournament game because of illness, injury, or unavailability of some of its players or coaches.

## II. HEAT ACCLIMATIZATION, EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS, AND AED REQUIREMENTS

- A. All member schools and school systems are required to be in compliance with Maryland House Bill 836 (2022 General Session) effective July 1, 2022.
  - 1. Each High School shall develop a venue-specific emergency action plan:
    - (a.) for the operation and use of automated external defibrillators that meets the requirements of Education Article 7-450;
    - (b.) for heat acclimatization that meets the requirements of Education Article 7-450;
    - (c.) for coordination of care for other emergent injuries, including cervical spinal injury, concussion and closed head injury, major orthopedic injuries, and severe weather for outdoor facilities;
    - (d.) that is posted at each athletic facility at the school;
    - (e.) that is available on the school's website;
    - (f.) that is distributed to the member school coaching staff; and
    - (g.) that is rehearsed in person and interactively by all of the coaching staff of each sport before each of their respective seasons.
  - 2. Local school systems shall adopt preseason-practice heat acclimatization guidelines consistent with the model policy found on page 7 of this document and listed on the MPSSAA health and safety page. These guidelines include ensuring each school is properly prepared and equipped to initiate cold water immersion for the treatment of exertional heat stroke.
  - 3. Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is provided on-site and located within a brief walk from an athletic practice or event. An AED must be freely accessible during all school functions.

- B. All members of the coaching staff are to be trained in the operation and use of an automated external defibrillator, all members are trained in cold water immersion, and a trained member of the coaching staff is present at all athletic practices and events on school property.

### III. PRESEASON HEAT ACCLIMITIZATION GUIDELINES

#### A. General Guidelines

1. On single-practice days, one walk-through is permitted.
2. Double practice days (beginning no earlier than practice day 6) must be followed by a single-practice day or rest day. When a double-practice day is followed by a rest day, another double-practice day is permitted after the rest day.
3. All practices and walk-through sessions must be separated by three hours of continuous rest.
4. If a practice is interrupted by inclement weather or heat restrictions, the practice should recommence once conditions are deemed safe, but total practice time should not exceed its limitations.

#### B. Equipment Restrictions

1. Football
  - (a.) Practice days 1 and 2 – helmets only, and shorts/t-shirts
  - (b.) Practice days 3 through 5 – helmets and shoulder pads only. Contact with blocking sleds and tackling dummies may be initiated.
  - (c.) Beginning practice day 6 – full protective equipment and full contact may begin.
2. Field Hockey
  - (a.) Practice days 1 and 2 – Goalies in helmet and goalie kickers, athletes may wear shin guards, goggles and mouth pieces.
  - (b.) Practice days 3 through 5 – Goalies in helmet, chest protection and goalie kickers.
  - (c.) Beginning practice day 6 – full protective equipment may be worn.
3. Soccer – Shin guards and goalie gloves can be worn beginning day 1
4. Volleyball- Knee pads may be worn beginning day 1

#### C. Timeframe

1. The heat-acclimatization period is designed for students on an individual basis. Days in which athletes do not practice due to a scheduled rest day, injury, illness or other reasons do not count towards the heat-acclimatization period.
2. Practice Days 1-5
  - (a.) School teams shall conduct all practices within the general guidelines above as well as the following guidelines for practice days 1-5.
  - (b.) School teams are limited to one practice per day not to exceed three hours in length.
  - (c.) One walk-through session is permitted per day no longer than 1 hour in duration.
3. Practice Days 6-14
  - (a.) School teams shall conduct all practices within the general guidelines above as well as the following guidelines for practice days 6-14.
  - (b.) Total practice and walk-through time per day should be limited to five hours with no single session longer than three hours in duration.



(c.) School teams may participate in full contact practices with all protective equipment worn.

# Cross Country Bulletin

## STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – NOVEMBER 8, 2025 – HEREFORD HIGH SCHOOL

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
August 13	First Practice Date	October 30	Region Meets
September 5	First Play Date	November 2	State Meet Organizational Meeting
October 20	Deadline for Region Meet Entry	November 8	State Championship Meets
October 27	Deadline for Final Region Meet Qualifiers		

### I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association is the official governing body for the Cross Country championships. Plans for the meet were formulated by the State Cross Country Committee and approved by the Board of Control.
- B. Schools choosing to enter the championship meet 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 Cross Country Bulletin. Unless specifically stated, all rules and regulations stipulated in the NFHS Cross Country 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. All participants, coaches, officials, administrators, spectators, and any other individual present at any interscholastic athletic practice or competition must adhere to the local educational agency policies pertaining to health and safety policies.

### II. REGION AND STATE MEETS

- A. Meet Organization
  1. A CONTESTANT, in order to qualify, must be on the active Cross Country roster of the school team by October 20, 2025.
  2. A maximum of seven athletes from a school will be permitted to represent that school in the race in which that school is scheduled to compete. An athlete may run in only one race.
  3. A school may run fewer than five athletes, but a school must finish at least five athletes to set back, to score, or to be entitled to team awards. Any MALE runner to score must finish within 30 minutes of the start of the race and any FEMALE runner to score must finish within 33 minutes of the start of the race.
  4. The maximum team roster is twelve. The twelve athletes as of the entry deadline (10 a.m. on 10/27) shall be the twelve athletes available to run in the region and state meets. Substitutions are NOT permitted.
- B. Playing Rules
  1. National Federation rules will apply.
  2. All contestants will run a course between three miles and 5,000 meters.

### III. REGION MEET

- A. Meet Organization
  1. All MPSSAA member schools are eligible to enter into their respective regional meet. Formal application of schools entering must be made by submitting an online entry prior to Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. Any initial entries submitted after the deadline will incur a \$100 late fee made payable to the MPSSAA or the entry will be invalid. In no case will a team be entered into the region meet if an online entry form is not filled out by 10 a.m. on Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup>.

2. Schools will have until Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. to submit final rosters. Schools may change their initial submitted form as many times as they want up until the 10 a.m. deadline on October 27<sup>th</sup>. The entry system will close at 10 a.m. on October 27<sup>th</sup> and region meets will be set.
3. The following online method for entry must be used for regional entries. Please follow these directions for submitting entries.
  - (a.) Go to <www.athletic.net>, the site hosting the online entry process.
  - (b.) Log in to your coach account.
  - (c.) Your region meet should appear on your team's season calendar. Select the meet and then click the "Register Athletes" button.
  - (d.) You may choose to complete entries "by event" or "by athlete"
  - (e.) Enter/confirm your contact info and select the gender(s) in which you wish to complete entries for and then click Enter Team.
  - (f.) You are now able to enter athletes in events for the region meet.
  - (g.) After completing entries, print a confirmation copy of your entries by clicking on the print confirmation link at the top of your entry summary. The coach must bring a copy of this entry confirmation to the region meet.
  - (h.) If you enter a time other than what is in the Athletic.net database, you must provide the name and date of the meet in the entry comments.
  - (i.) Detailed entry instructions can be found at <<https://support.athletic.net/article/z11f8f1jja-submitting-entries-for-a-meet>>.
  - (j.) Additional help topics can be found at <https://support.athletic.net/category/ipfmxavxq2-team-management>>.
4. The state organizational meeting for district representatives and region meet directors will be Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, at Catonsville Community College starting at 9:00 a.m. Meet directors are to bring Region Meet results in HyTek format to the meeting.
5. Competitors that are entered into, compete in, and qualify from their region meet are expected to participate in their State Championship Meet or be subject to "misconduct detrimental to the tournament" and its' penalties as found in the MPSSAA Handbook.
6. Advancement to the state meet
  - (a.) The number of teams advancing to the state meet from each region shall be based on the total number of teams that start the race with a minimum of five runners.

Region Meet Teams	Teams Advancing	Region Meet Teams	Teams Advancing
1	1	8	4
2	2	9	5
3	3	10	5
4	3	11	6
5	3	12	6
6	4	13	7
7	4	14	7

- i. Complete teams will consist of a minimum of five runners and a maximum of seven runners who are on the active roster of the school team as of October 20<sup>th</sup>.
- ii. Official entry application must be submitted by the established deadline.
- iii. Boys and girls will be counted separately.

- iv. First year schools may compete.
  - v. If five individual runners qualify in the region meet from a given school, these five shall be considered a team in the state meet.
- (b.) Formula used to determine individual qualifiers: A minimum of 15 runners or 25 percent (rounded up to the nearest whole number) of the total number of competitors who start the race.
- (c.) Four races for both boys and girls (4A, 3A, 2A, and 1A) will be held as part of the state meet. Participating teams must have had 20 days of practice prior to the region meet. The race will include runners from schools that elected to field a separate girls team or who have individual girls who desire to participate in the meet. Girls may elect to run on the boys team when an equal opportunity is not provided for a school-sponsored girls team. They may decide at the region meet and qualify for either the boys race or the girls race.
7. Team and individual awards will be presented.

#### IV. STATE MEET

##### A. Meet Entries

- The State Entry will come from the region meet director. For schools that qualify as a team those runners who competed and finished will be entered into the State Meet. If coaches intend to run one of their alternates or if one or more runners did not finish, they are reminded to make sure the regional meet director forwards the name and grade level of those athletes to the State Committee.
- Entries will be posted on mpssaa.org on the Monday following the Region Meet. Each coach should verify his/her own entries. Please contact your region meet director with corrections.

##### B. Meet Organization

- The 2025 meet will be held at Hereford High School, Parkton. Directions from I-83 North: Exit 27; right on Mt. Carmel Rd.; left on York Rd. for 1/2 mile to school on right.
- The Games Committee, comprised of members of the State Cross Country Committee present at the meet, will rule on any questions and protests that arise. Meet officials will be provided to handle the finish chute/corral, see that the athletes start and finish properly, and see that the meet is run according to National Federation rules.
- On arrival at the course, the coach or school representative should go to the registration desk for the team's packet, which contains numbers and final instructions.

TIME	EVENT	TIME	EVENT
8:30 a.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> walk of course	12:30 p.m.	2 <sup>nd</sup> walk of course
8:35 a.m.	Coaches' Meeting (Class 3A & 4A)	12:45 p.m.	Coaches' Meeting (Class 1A & 2A)
9:00 a.m.	Meeting for Officials	1:30 p.m.	Class 1A Boys
10:00 a.m.	Class 3A Boys	2:00 p.m.	Class 2A Boys
10:30 a.m.	Class 4A Boys	2:30 p.m.	Class 1A Girls
11:00 a.m.	Class 3A Girls	3:05 p.m.	Class 2A Girls
11:35 p.m.	Class 4A Girls	3:35 p.m.	Class 1A & 2A Awards
12:05 p.m.	Classes 3A & 4A Awards		

##### C. Playing Rules

- WHITE LINES on the course path are official markings and take precedence over any other meet contested at that site. It is the coach's responsibility to instruct the competitors concerning the official markings.
- Athletes are responsible for walking the course.

3. Starting line positions will be assigned a box start drawn at the state organization meeting.
4. Any MALE runner will have a maximum of 30 minutes to complete the race and any FEMALE runner will have a maximum of 33 minutes to complete the race to score.
5. Only participants and credentialed attendants are allowed in the Starting line area.
6. Upon the start of the race, coaches MAY NOT move closer to the Finish line. The Finish line is a restricted area for race participants and officials only.

#### D. General Policies

1. Scoring ties shall be resolved by comparing sixth-place finishers from the tied teams. The team with the best sixth-place finisher shall prevail. If one team does not have a sixth-place finisher, the team with the sixth-place finisher shall prevail. If only five competitors finish, the tie shall be resolved by totaling the scores of the first four finishers.
2. Within each classification, the top two teams will receive a team plaque and 14 individual medals. The first 25 individual runners will receive medals.
3. Undesirable behavior on the part of the school participants or nonparticipants shall be grounds for disqualification, at the determination of the State Cross Country Committee. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action.

Class	Date and Time	Region Meet Site	Regional Meet Director
Class 4A West	October 30 (2:30 p.m.)	Lakelands Park	Seann Pelkey
Class 4A North	October 30 (2:30 p.m.)	Baltimore Co. Agricultural Center	Eric Benjamin
Class 4A South	October 30 (2:30 p.m.)	Fort Washington	Kenneth Washington
Class 4A East	October 30 (2:30 p.m.)	Oakridge Park	Jimmy Ball
Class 3A West	October 30 (2:30 p.m.)	Magruder Ag Park	AJ Trulock
Class 3A North	October 30 (2:30 p.m.)	Baltimore Co. Agricultural Center	Gil Stange
Class 3A South	October 30 (2:30 p.m.)	River Hill HS	Kevin McCoy, Centennial HS
Class 3A East	October 30 (2:30 p.m.)	Chesapeake-AA HS	Kristi Starr
Class 2A West	October 30 (2:30 p.m.)	River Hill HS	Chad Boothe, River Hill HS
Class 2A North	October 30 (2:30 p.m.)	Randallstown HS	Adam Hittner
Class 2A South	October 30 (2:30 p.m.)	Oak Ridge Park	Pam Thorton-Miller
Class 2A East	October 30 (2:30 p.m.)	Cambridge-South Dorchester	Dr. Lois Narr
Class 1A West	October 30 (2:30 p.m.)	TBD	Jaime Mason-Lego
Class 1A North	October 30 (2:30 p.m.)	Herring Run Park	Joseph Edwards
Class 1A South	October 30 (2:30 p.m.)	TBD	TBD
Class 1A East	October 30 (2:30 p.m.)	TBD	TBD

Additional information can be found on the Cross Country State Championship Central page at [www.mpssaa.org](http://www.mpssaa.org)

Projected MPSSAA Cross Country Championship Dates					
2026	November 14	2027	November 13	2028	November 11

**STATE CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE AND REGIONAL MEET DIRECTORS ARE LISTED ON MPSSAA.ORG**

# 2025 Cross Country Classification Alignment

Class 4A West			Class 4A North			Class 4A South			Class 4A East		
1.	Bethesda-CC	Mtg	1.	Mergenthaler	Balt	1.	Albert Einstein	Mtg	1.	Annapolis	AA
2.	Clarksburg	Mtg	2.	Western	Balt	2.	Montgomery Blair	Mtg	2.	Broadneck	AA
3.	Gaithersburg	Mtg	3.	Dulaney	B Co	3.	Paint Branch	Mtg	3.	Crofton	AA
4.	James Hubert Blake	Mtg	4.	Dundalk	B Co	4.	Springbrook	Mtg	4.	Glen Burnie	AA
5.	John F. Kennedy	Mtg	5.	Kenwood	B Co	5.	Bladensburg	PG	5.	Meade	AA
6.	Northwest	Mtg	6.	Parkville	B Co	6.	Duval	PG	6.	North County	AA
7.	Quince Orchard	Mtg	7.	Perry Hall	B Co	7.	Eleanor Roosevelt	PG	7.	Severn Run	AA
8.	Richard Montgomery	Mtg	8.	Woodlawn	B Co	8.	High Point	PG	8.	North Point	Cha
9.	Seneca Valley	Mtg	9.	Gov. T. Johnson	Fre	9.	Laurel	PG	9.	Bowie	PG
10.	Walt Whitman	Mtg	10.	Urbana	Fre	10.	Northwestern	PG	10.	Charles H. Flowers	PG
11.	Walter Johnson	Mtg	11.	South Hagerstown	Was	11.	Parkdale	PG	11.	Dr. Henry A. Wise	PG
12.	Wheaton	Mtg				12.	Suitland	PG	12.	Leonardtown	StM
13.	Winston Churchill	Mtg									

Class 3A West			Class 3A North			Class 3A South			Class 3A East		
1.	Frederick	Fre	1.	Baltimore City College	Balt	1.	Aberdeen	Har	1.	Arundel	AA
2.	Linganore	Fre	2.	Baltimore Poly. Inst.	Balt	2.	Edgewood	Har	2.	Chesapeake	AA
3.	Oakdale	Fre	3.	Digital Harbor	Balt	3.	Atholton	How	3.	Northeast	AA
4.	Tuscarora	Fre	4.	Patterson	Balt	4.	Centennial	How	4.	Old Mill	AA
5.	Col. Zadok Magruder	Mtg	5.	Catonsville	B Co	5.	Guilford Park	How	5.	Severna Park	AA
6.	Damascus	Mtg	6.	Franklin	B Co	6.	Howard	How	6.	South River	AA
7.	Northwood	Mtg	7.	Milford Mill Academy	B Co	7.	Marriotts Ridge	How	7.	Northern	Cal
8.	Rockville	Mtg	8.	New Town	B Co	8.	Oakland Mills	How	8.	St. Charles	Cha
9.	Sherwood	Mtg	9.	Overlea	B Co	9.	Reservoir	How	9.	Chopticon	StM
10.	Thomas S. Wootton	Mtg	10.	Patapsco	B Co	10.	Largo	PG	10.	Great Mills	StM
11.	Watkins Mill	Mtg	11.	Towson	B Co	11.	Oxon Hill	PG	11.	James M. Bennett	Wic
12.	North Hagerstown	Was	12.	Westminster	Car	12.	Potomac	PG	12.	Stephen Decatur	Wor

Class 2A West			Class 2A North			Class 2A South			Class 2A East		
1.	Century	Car	1.	Carver Vo-Tech	Balt	1.	Southern	AA	1.	Elkton	Cec
2.	Manchester Valley	Car	2.	Forest Park	Balt	2.	Calvert	Cal	2.	North East	Cec
3.	Winters Mill	Car	3.	Paul Laurence Dunbar	Balt	3.	Huntingtown	Cal	3.	Rising Sun	Cec
4.	Middletown	Fre	4.	Chesapeake	B Co	4.	La Plata	Cha	4.	North Caroline	Cin
5.	Walkersville	Fre	5.	Eastern Tech	B Co	5.	McDonough	Cha	5.	Bel Air	Har
6.	Glenelg	How	6.	Hereford	B Co	6.	Thomas Stone	Cha	6.	C. Milton Wright	Har
7.	Hammond	How	7.	Lansdowne	B Co	7.	Westlake	Cha	7.	North Harford	Har
8.	Long Reach	How	8.	Owings Mills	B Co	8.	Crossland	PG	8.	Kent Island	QA
9.	Mount Hebron	How	9.	Randallstown	B Co	9.	Fairmont Heights	PG	9.	Queen Anne's	QA
10.	River Hill	How	10.	Sparrows Point	B Co	10.	Frederick Douglass	PG	10.	Easton	Tal
11.	Wilde Lake	How				11.	Friendly	PG	11.	Parkside	Wic
12.	Poolesville	Mtg				12.	Gwynn Park	PG	12.	Wicomico	Wic
13.	Williamsport	Was				13.	Surrattsville	PG			

Class 1A West			Class 1A North			Class 1A South			Class 1A East		
1.	Allegany	All	1.	ACCE	Balt	1.	Carver A&T	B Co	1.	Colonel Richardson	Cin
2.	Fort Hill	All	2.	Benjamin Franklin	Balt	2.	Loch Raven	B Co	2.	Cambridge-SD	Dor
3.	Mountain Ridge	All	3.	Coppin Academy	Balt	3.	Pikesville	B Co	3.	North Dorchester	Dor
4.	Brunswick	Fre	4.	Edmondson-Westside	Balt	4.	Western Tech	B Co	4.	Kent County	K
5.	Catoctin	Fre	5.	Frederick Douglass	Balt	5.	Patuxent	Cal	5.	Central	PG
6.	Monocacy Valley	Fre	6.	Lake Clifton	Balt	6.	Bohemia Manor	Cec	6.	College Park Acad.	PG
7.	Northern	Gar	7.	National Academy Foundation	Balt	7.	Perryville	Cec	7.	Int. HS Langley Park	PG
8.	Southern	Gar	8.	Southwestern	Balt	8.	Henry E. Lackey	Cha	8.	Int. HS Largo	PG
9.	Boonsboro	Was	9.	Francis Scott Key	Car	9.	Fallston	Har	9.	Crisfield	Som
10.	Clear Spring	Was	10.	Liberty	Car	10.	Harford Tech	Har	10.	Washington	Som
11.	Smithsburg	Was	11.	South Carroll	Car	11.	Havre de Grace	Har	11.	Mardela	Wic
			12.	SEED School	MD	12.	Joppatowne	Har	12.	Pocomoke	Wor
						13.	Patterson Mill	Har	13.	Snow Hill	Wor

# 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> – CENTRAL SITES**

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	October 30	Team Tournament Roster Forms
October 21	Tournament seeding date	Oct. 31/Nov. 1	State Quarterfinals
October 22	Last Play Date	November 5/6	State Semifinals
		November 8	State Championships

## 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

# Football Tournament Bulletin

## STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – DECEMBER 4-6, 2025 – NAVY-MARINE CORPS MEMORIAL STADIUM

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
August 13	First Practice Date	November 6-8	Tournament First Round
September 5	First Play Date	November 13-15	Tournament Second Round
November 1	Last play date for seeding consideration	November 17	Team Tournament Roster Forms
November 3	Tournament seeding date	November 21/22	State Quarterfinals
November 8	Last Play Date	November 28/29	State Semifinals
		December 4-6	State Championships

### I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association is the official governing body for the Football tournament. Plans for the tournament were formulated by the State Football 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 on page 1 (Section I) of this publication as well as those appearing within this Football Bulletin. Unless specifically stated, all rules and regulations stipulated in the NFHS Football 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. By State adoption, Maryland has adopted the following rule regarding the use of running time. After the first half, any time the score differential reaches 35 points or more, the following changes, and only these changes, will be made regarding rules determining when the clock will and will not be stopped.
  1. Once a 35-point differential exists in the second half, the clock will only be stopped when:
    - (a.) An official's timeout for an injured participant.
    - (b.) A charged (team) time-out occurs.
    - (c.) A score occurs that reduces the point spread to less than 35 points (in which case regular timing procedures will be used).
    - (d.) A period ends.
  2. The use of this rule does not preclude the use of Rule 3-1-3 which reads, "A period or periods may be shortened in any emergency by agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee. By mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee, any remaining period may be shortened at any time or the game terminated."
- F. By State adoption, Maryland has adopted the following rule regarding the use of the coaches box. The coaches box is extended, for coaches only, to the 10-yard line.

### II. REGION AND STATE TOURNAMENT QUALIFYING

- A. Point System Criteria
  1. In each of the six classifications, the eight teams in each region according to the MPSSAA point system will compete in two regional rounds, with two region participants advancing to state play.
  2. Point system for tournament selection
    - (a.) Classification Win Points
      - i. For defeating a Class 4A and 4A/3A schools = 8.0 points

- ii. For defeating a Class 3A and 2A schools = 7.0 points
  - iii. For defeating a Class 2A/1A and 1A schools = 6.0 points
- (b.) Nonmember schools will be placed in the proper classification according to member school enrollments based on the enrollments of grades 9, 10, and 11, comparable to MPSSAA classifications. An all-boys or all-girls school enrollment will be multiplied by two.
- (c.) Policy concerning unplayed games
  - i. Disbandment or failure to start the season on time will result in a non-game and shall automatically reduce the divisor of the disbanded team's opponent by one game.
  - ii. Disbandment after any part of the schedule has been played will be recorded as a win for the disbanded team's opponents.
- (d.) Winning team bonus points will be determined as follows:
  - i. A team playing a 9-game schedule shall receive 1.00 points for each game won by a defeated opponent who also plays a 9-game schedule.
  - ii. A team playing a 9-game schedule shall receive 1.125 points for each game won by a defeated opponent who plays an 8-game schedule.
  - iii. A team playing an 8-game schedule shall receive .889 of a point for each game won by a defeated opponent who plays a 9-game schedule.
  - iv. A team playing an 8-game schedule shall receive 1.00 points for each game won by a defeated opponent who also plays an 8-game schedule.
  - v. For each game tied by a defeated opponent, a team shall receive 50 percent of awarded points.
  - vi. For each game tied by a tied opponent, a team shall receive 25 percent of awarded points.
  - vii. For each game won by a tied opponent, a team will receive 50 percent of awarded points.
- (e.) When an MPSSAA member school plays a nonmember opponent who will not play the tiebreaker, the MPSSAA school shall receive points as follows:
  - i. 4A and 4A/3A—4.0 points
  - ii. 3A and 2A —3.5 points
  - iii. 2A/1A and 1A —3.0 points
- (f.) MPSSAA member schools whose opponents play more than a 9-game schedule will:
  - i. determine points from results of first 9 games if member school appears on the opponent's schedule from the first to and including the 9<sup>th</sup> game.
  - ii. determine points by counting back 9 games from and including the game in which member school appears on opponent's schedule.
- (g.) The total accumulated points will be divided by 8 or 9, depending on the number of games played. Nine is the maximum divisor and eight is the minimum divisor to qualify for state participation. A team must count all regular season games when using the point system criteria to determine representation.
- (h.) When a MPSSAA team plays the same opponent twice during the regular season, only the first game should count to determine team record and points. No points (bonus or win points) for any teams will be awarded based on the second game.
- (i.) If the point system results in a tie, the following procedures will be used in sequence to break the tie.

- i. If either team has defeated the other in regular season play, the winner shall be rated above the loser in the standings. If three or more teams are tied and not equally affected by this procedure, criteria two through six are to be utilized.
  - ii. The team with the most bonus points accumulated.
  - iii. The team with the smallest score difference in losses among common opponents.
  - iv. The team with the fewest average points allowed for its entire schedule.
  - v. The team whose defeated opponents have the highest point average.
  - vi. If the above procedures do not break the tie, it shall be broken by the flip of a coin.
- (j.) Should a team discontinue play during the course of the season, all opponents shall receive points as would have been awarded for a victory over the team. A school shall not receive points for a team scheduled in place of the withdrawing team after the season has begun.

**B. Seeding Information**

1. The tournament will be officially seeded on Monday, November 3 by the State Football Committee. After the first two rounds of regional play, the tournament will be reseeded into State Quarterfinals based on the MPSSAA point system in regular-season play to seed the remaining teams.
2. It is critical that all teams complete their schedules by November 1 because the point system affects both playoff and non-playoff teams.
3. Regular-season forfeits by non-tournament team(s) that would affect the point standing of eligible team(s) must be officially confirmed in writing before the completion of the seeding meeting.
4. Prior to Monday, November 3 at 2 p.m., a region contestant will be replaced by the team from said region with the next highest point average, and the region re-seeded, under the following conditions:
  - (a.) A team that elects to withdraw or is disqualified.
  - (b.) A correction of an error which causes a recalculation of points.
5. The deadline for changes in the order of seeding shall be Monday, November 3 at 2 p.m. Any withdrawal or disqualification after will result in a forfeit.

**III. REGION AND STATE TOURNAMENT**

**A. Tournament Organization**

1. The MPSSAA State Football Championship Tournament will consist of five rounds following the conclusion of a 9-game regular season. The first two rounds will consist of regional contests, evolving into eight State Quarterfinalists.
2. In subsequent rounds, if a team withdraws or is withdrawn from the tournament for any reason, the team last defeated shall replace the withdrawing team.
3. All games that end in a tie shall use the National Federation tiebreaker to determine the winner.
4. Criteria for game sites: All region and state contests, except the state finals, shall be played on the home field of the higher-seeded team provided it meets the criteria below. When a school cannot meet the criteria for a game site, the State Football Committee may designate another site in that region.
  - (a.) Adequate seating and rest room facilities.
  - (b.) A safe and playable turf.
  - (c.) A working scoreboard.
  - (d.) Host schools shall contact visitors and officials regarding accommodations for sufficient, accessible and shower-equipped dressing rooms.



5. The HOME TEAM (higher seed) will wear the DARK JERSEY. The AWAY TEAM will wear the WHITE JERSEY.
  6. Upon arrival for a game, each team will be assigned a team dressing room. Assigned personnel will be on duty in the dressing room at all times.
  7. Game sites that limit seating to one side of the stadium must assign the home team to that side of the field.
  8. Should a game be postponed for extreme weather conditions, it will be rescheduled. Thursday games will be moved to Friday; Friday games will be moved to Saturday. When a schedule/or site change is necessary, the region tournament director, in consultation with both schools, will establish the best schedule, site, and game combination to expedite the tournament in that particular region. When conflicts occur, the Supervisors of Athletics for the competing schools will make the final decision.
  9. The athletic director, facility manager, or other administratively-appointed member of the host school will serve as Game Director. The responsibilities for all the region games and the State Quarterfinal and Semifinal games are as follows:
    - (a.) Clear with the Game Manager on matters of policy and/or interpretation.
    - (b.) Hire and supervise all personnel necessary for game administration.
    - (c.) Establish a team gate separate from the spectator gate.
    - (d.) Introduce the official medical personnel to both coaching staffs (Refer to Page 5, Section VI).
    - (e.) Issue press box passes by the space available. Occupants could be team spotters, announcers, photographers, and representatives of the press and radio stations.
  10. The official ball of the MPSSAA State Tournament is the Wilson WTF 1003 GST. A game ball will go to each team participating in the State Quarterfinals, Semifinals and Finals. The State Football Committee is requiring the use of a Wilson Ball with the NFHS authenticating mark during all state tournament contests (QF, SF, Finals).
- B. General Policies
1. Admission to contests
    - (a.) Admission will be by paid admission, MPSSAA complimentary tickets, and MPSSAA complimentary passes. There are no refunds on purchased tickets.
      - i. Individuals 7 years of age and older will be charged admission.
      - ii. Complimentary tickets will be issued by the game manager to representatives of the working media assigned to the contest.
      - iii. Complimentary passes will be issued to school coaches, administrators, Supervisors of athletics, and Superintendents of schools. The pass will admit the bearer only and is not transferable. A valid driver's license must be displayed with the pass for proper identification.
    - (b.) Sideline passes will be issued to coaches, medical personnel, and managers. Only those persons with sideline passes will be permitted on the sideline.
    - (c.) 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.
  2. The public address system will be staffed by and under the direction of the host school.
  3. Public address comments must be in good taste according to broadcast protocol. Comments not in good taste, nonprofessional, favor one team, or inflammatory, are not permitted.
  4. Raffles, 50/50 drawings, or any other games of chance may not be conducted in connection with any MPSSAA playoff contest.

## 5. Bands

- (a.) A participating school's band may provide musical entertainment. The game director must be notified 48 hours in advance of the scheduled game if a participating school band to provide a band for the game. The band must be in full uniform, accompanied by the band director, and prepared to perform.
  - (b.) The designated band will take the field five minutes prior to the start of the game to play the National Anthem only.
  - (c.) During a 20-minute halftime intermission, the visiting team's band shall take the field for seven minutes, followed by the home team's band, which shall also be limited to seven minutes. Both bands should clear the field five minutes prior to the second-half kickoff. Should only one band or no bands participate, the halftime shall be 15 minutes. In any case, the field will be cleared five minutes prior to the second-half kickoff.
6. Only fixed signs and banners of a positive nature will be allowed at playoff games.
  7. Game concessions for region games and state semifinals shall be awarded to the host school. In return, the host school shall be responsible for postgame cleanup.

## IV. REGION TOURNAMENT

### A. Tournament organization

1. The first round of the regions will be structured as follows:
  - (a.) No. 1 vs. No. 8 Seed      No. 2 vs. No. 7 Seed
  - (b.) No. 4 vs. No. 5 Seed      No. 3 vs. No. 6 Seed
2. The winners of the first round shall advance to the second round as follows:
  - (a.) The winner in each classification and region 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 and region of the No. 2 versus No. 7 seeded game will play the winner of the No. 3 versus No. 6 seeded game.
  - (c.) A re-seed for the State Quarterfinals will occur once the first two region rounds have been determined.
3. Regional Round Game Times:
  - (a.) Regional Round 1 & 2 - The school system of the hosting school shall set the game times on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday.
  - (b.) Games on Thursday or Friday shall be scheduled no earlier than 5 p.m. Saturday games will begin at 12 p.m. or later. The MPSSAA reserves the right to authorize a local educational agency to schedule games earlier than 5 p.m. for legitimate facility or official shortage issues.
  - (c.) All game times and dates will be locked by Monday at 2 p.m.
4. Responsibilities of the region football director (listed on the MPSSAA website):
  - (a.) Contact the athletic directors of the eight schools participating in the region tournament to confirm date, site, and time of the contests and clarify arrangements for inclement weather.
  - (b.) Verify all sites in their region have officials assigned to work the contest.
5. A TEAM ENTRY FORM utilized for State Semifinals and Finals must be filled out by teams winning their regional second round game. Instructions on filling out the TEAM ENTRY FORM is available on mpssaa.org.
6. Individuals 7 years of age or older will be charged an admission of \$6.

## V. STATE TOURNAMENT

### A. State Quarterfinals

1. The eight remaining teams (two from each region) from each classification shall advance to a State Quarterfinal round.
2. The eight regional teams will be seeded 1-8 based on their regular season point average used to seed each region. Ties among teams in the State Quarterfinals will be broken utilizing the criteria found in Section II. A. 2. i. found on page 23.
3. Unless a specific alternate plan has been approved, all State Quarterfinal games will be played at the site of the higher seed.
4. State Quarterfinal games shall be scheduled no earlier than 6:30 p.m. on Friday. Saturday games will begin at 12 p.m. or later.
5. A six-man crew, a three-man chain crew, and a timekeeper from the association local to the higher seeded team will be assigned to the State Quarterfinal contest.
6. A plaque and certificates will be awarded to each of the winning State Quarterfinalist teams.

### B. 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. Unless a specific alternate plan has been approved, all State Semifinal games will be played at the site of the higher seed.
3. State Semifinal games shall be scheduled no earlier than 1 p.m. on Friday. Saturday games will begin at 12 p.m. or later.
4. A six-man crew, a three-man chain crew, and a timekeeper will be assigned by the MPSSAA office to the State Semifinal contests.

### C. State Championships

1. The winners of the State Semifinal round shall advance to the State Championships.
2. The State Finals are scheduled for December 4-6, 2025, in Annapolis at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. Directions and fan information are posted on the MPSSAA web site <mpssaa.org> in "Football State Championship Central".
3. A six-man crew, a three-man chain crew, and a timekeeper will be assigned by the MPSSAA office to the State Final contests.

### D. General Policies

1. The State Football Committee will determine the schedule for all contests.
2. Persons 7 years of age and older will be charged admission as follows:
  - (a.) Quarterfinals - \$6.00
  - (b.) Semifinals — \$8.00
  - (c.) Finals — \$10.00

3. The MPSSAA will provide two leather balls for each of the quarterfinal, semifinal and final games. A game ball will go to each of the participating teams.
4. Officials will be assigned through the MPSSAA office.
5. A room will be provided for the officials assigned to each state game which will serve as a dressing room and waiting room.
6. A trophy will be presented to each team at the end of the championship game. Individual awards will be given to the coach following each final game and should be presented to team members at an appropriate school function.
7. The MPSSAA will receive all revenues and pay all expenses.

Projected MPSSAA Football Championship Dates					
2026	December 3-5	2027	December 2-4	2028	Nov. 30- Dec. 2

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

# 2025 Football Classification Alignment

Class 4A West			Class 4A North			Class 4A South			Class 4A East		
1.	Clarksburg	Mtg	1.	Bethesda-CC	Mtg	1.	Bladensburg	PG	1.	Annapolis	AA
2.	Gaithersburg	Mtg	2.	James Hubert Blake	Mtg	2.	Charles H. Flowers	PG	2.	Broadneck	AA
3.	Northwest	Mtg	3.	Montgomery Blair	Mtg	3.	Dr. Henry A. Wise	PG	3.	Glen Burnie	AA
4.	Quince Orchard	Mtg	4.	Paint Branch	Mtg	4.	Duval	PG	4.	Meade	AA
5.	Richard Montgomery	Mtg	5.	Wheaton	Mtg	5.	Eleanor Roosevelt	PG	5.	North County	AA
6.	Seneca Valley	Mtg	6.	High Point	PG	6.	Parkdale	PG	6.	Dundalk	B Co
7.	Walter Johnson	Mtg	7.	Laurel	PG	7.	Suitland	PG	7.	Bowie	PG
8.	Winston Churchill	Mtg	8.	Northwestern	PG						

Class 4A/3A West			Class 4A/3A North			Class 4A/3A South			Class 4A/3A East		
1.	Frederick	Fre	1.	Digital Harbor	Balt	1.	Albert Einstein	Mtg	1.	Arundel	AA
2.	Gov. Thomas Johnson	Fre	2.	Mergenthaler	Balt	2.	John F. Kennedy	Mtg	2.	Crofton	AA
3.	Tuscarora	Fre	3.	Dulaney	B Co	3.	Sherwood	Mtg	3.	Old Mill	AA
4.	Urbana	Fre	4.	Kenwood	B Co	4.	Springbrook	Mtg	4.	Severn Run	AA
5.	Marriotts Ridge	How	5.	Parkville	B Co	5.	Walt Whitman	Mtg	5.	Severna Park	AA
6.	Col. Zadok Magruder	Mtg	6.	Perry Hall	B Co	6.	Oxon Hill	PG	6.	North Point	Cha
7.	Thomas S. Wootton	Mtg	7.	Woodlawn	B Co	7.	Potomac	PG	7.	Great Mills	StM
8.	South Hagerstown	Was							8.	Leonardtown	StM

Class 3A West			Class 3A North			Class 3A South			Class 3A East		
1.	Linganore	Fre	1.	Catonsville	B Co	1.	Chesapeake	AA	1.	Baltimore City College	Balt
2.	Oakdale	Fre	2.	Franklin	B Co	2.	South River	AA	2.	Baltimore Polytechnic Inst.	Balt
3.	Damascus	Mtg	3.	Milford Mill Academy	B Co	3.	St. Charles	Cha	3.	Patterson	Balt
4.	Northwood	Mtg	4.	New Town	B Co	4.	Guilford Park	How	4.	Overlea	B Co
5.	Rockville	Mtg	5.	Westminster	Car	5.	Reservoir	How	5.	Patapsco	B Co
6.	Watkins Mill	Mtg	6.	Atholton	How	6.	Chopticon	StM	6.	Towson	B Co
7.	North Hagerstown	Was	7.	Centennial	How	7.	James M. Bennett	Wic	7.	Aberdeen	Har
						8.	Stephen Decatur	Wor	8.	Edgewood	Har

Class 2A West			Class 2A North			Class 2A South			Class 2A East		
1.	Glenelg	How	1.	Eastern Tech	B Co	1.	Northeast	AA	1.	North Carolina	Cin
2.	Howard	How	2.	Lansdowne	B Co	2.	Huntingtown	Cal	2.	Crossland	PG
3.	Long Reach	How	3.	Carver Vocational-Technical	Balt	3.	Northern	Cal	3.	Fairmont Heights	PG
4.	Mount Hebron	How	4.	Manchester Valley	Car	4.	La Plata	Cha	4.	Frederick Douglass	PG
5.	Oakland Mills	How	5.	Winters Mill	Car	5.	McDonough	Cha	5.	Gwynn Park	PG
6.	River Hill	How	6.	Bel Air	Har	6.	Thomas Stone	Cha	6.	Largo	PG
7.	Wilde Lake	How	7.	C. Milton Wright	Har	7.	Westlake	Cha	7.	Parkside	Wic
8.	Poolesville	Mtg	8.	North Harford	Har				8.	Wicomico	Wic

Class 2A /1A West			Class 2A/1A North			Class 2A/1A South			Class 2A/1A East		
1.	Owings Mills	B Co	1.	Hereford	B Co	1.	Edmondson-Westside	Balt	1.	Southern	AA
2.	Randallstown	B Co	2.	Elkton	Cec	2.	Forest Park	Balt	2.	Calvert	Cal
3.	Century	Car	3.	North East	Cec	3.	Paul Laurence Dunbar	Balt	3.	Henry E. Lackey	Cha
4.	Liberty	Car	4.	Rising Sun	Cec	4.	Chesapeake	B Co	4.	Hammond	How
5.	South Carroll	Car	5.	Fallston	Har	5.	Sparrows Point	B Co	5.	Kent Island	QA
6.	Middletown	Fre	6.	Harford Tech	Har	6.	Central	PG	6.	Queen Anne's	QA
7.	Walkersville	Fre	7.	Joppatowne	Har	7.	Friendly	PG	7.	Easton	Tal
8.	Williamsport	Was				8.	Surrattsville	PG			

Class 1A West			Class 1A North			Class 1A South			Class 1A East		
1.	Allegany	All	1.	Pikesville	B Co	1.	Benjamin Franklin	Balt	1.	Patuxent	Cal
2.	Fort Hill	All	2.	Western Tech	B Co	2.	Frederick Douglass	Balt	2.	Bohemia Manor	Cec
3.	Mountain Ridge	All	3.	Loch Raven	B Co	3.	Green Street Academy	Balt	3.	Perryville	Cec
4.	Northern	Gar	4.	Francis Scott Key	Car	4.	Lake Clifton	Balt	4.	Colonel Richardson	Cin
5.	Southern	Gar	5.	Brunswick	Fre	5.	Reginald Lewis	Balt	5.	Cambride-SD	Dor
6.	Clear Spring	Was	6.	Catoctin	Fre	6.	Havre de Grace	Har	6.	Kent County	K
7.	Hancock	Was	7.	Boonsboro	Was	7.	Patterson Mill	Har	7.	Washington	Som
8.	Smithsburg	Was	8.	SEED School	MD				8.	Snow Hill	Wor

# Golf Tournament Bulletin

## STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – OCTOBER 27-29, 2025 – UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GOLF COURSE

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
August 13	First Practice and Play Date	October 27	Class 3A/4A Day 1 Championships
October 21	District Tournament Completion Date	October 28	Class 2A/1A Day 1 Championships
October 22	Organizational Seeding Meeting	October 29	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 the designated tees in district and state play.
- 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 designated 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		Black Rock GC – 328	70.6/94	69.3/81
2		Laytonsville GC (Girls Only)	71.3/95	N/A
		Crossvines GC - 336	70.3/94	71.0/83
3		Enterprise GC – 332	69.5/93	69.8/82
4		Breton Bay GC – 332	65.9/90	69.8/82
5		Fairway Hills GC – 312	66.2/90	65.5/77
6		Fox Hollow GC – 320	69.0/93	66.8/79
7		Geneva Farm GC – 328	70.7/94	69.6/81
8		Prospect Bay CC – 336	70.3/94	71.5/83

- (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

- 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.
- 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 2025 State Tournament will be held at the University of Maryland golf course. State Semifinal rounds will take place Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. Qualifiers from the Semifinal rounds will compete in the Finals on Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>.
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 27<sup>th</sup>, the Class 4A/3A qualifying teams will compete.
    - ii. On Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 29<sup>th</sup>, 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 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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 29<sup>th</sup>, 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 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 29<sup>th</sup>. 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, vape, or nicotine 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. **Slope function must be turned off.**
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					
2026	October 26/27/28	2027	October 25/26/27	2028	October 23/24/25

**STATE GOLF COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE LISTED ON MPSSAA.ORG**

# 2025 Golf Classification Alignment

## CLASS 4A-3A

DISTRICT 1			15.	Rockville	Mtg	DISTRICT 4			18.	Reservoir	How
1.	Westminster	Car	16.	Seneca Valley	Mtg	1.	Northern	Cal		<b>DISTRICT 6</b>	
2.	Frederick	Fre	17.	Sherwood	Mtg	2.	North Point	Cha	1.	Catonsville	B Co
3.	Gov. Thomas Johnson	Fre	18.	Springbrook	Mtg	3.	St. Charles	Cha	2.	Dulaney	B Co
4.	Linganore	Fre	19.	Thomas S. Wootton	Mtg	4.	Chopticon	StM	3.	Dundalk	B Co
5.	Oakdale	Fre	20.	Walt Whitman	Mtg	5.	Great Mills	StM	4.	Franklin	B Co
6.	Tuscarora	Fre	21.	Walter Johnson	Mtg	6.	Leonardtwn	StM	5.	Kenwood	B Co
7.	Urbana	Fre	22.	Watkins Mill	Mtg	DISTRICT 5			6.	Milford Mill	B Co
8.	North Hagerstown	Was	23.	Wheaton	Mtg	1.	Annapolis	AA	7.	New Town	B Co
9.	South Hagerstown	Was	24.	Winston Churchill	Mtg	2.	Arundel	AA	8.	Overlea	B Co
DISTRICT 2			DISTRICT 3			3.	Broadneck	AA	9.	Parkville	B Co
1.	Albert Einstein	Mtg	1.	Bladensburg	PG	4.	Chesapeake	AA	10.	Patapsco	B Co
2.	Bethesda-CC	Mtg	2.	Bowie	PG	5.	Crofton	AA	11.	Perry Hall	B Co
3.	Clarksburg	Mtg	3.	Charles H. Flowers	PG	6.	Glen Burnie	AA	12.	Towson	B Co
4.	Col. Zadok Magruder	Mtg	4.	Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr.	PG	7.	Meade	AA	13.	Woodlawn	B Co
5.	Damascus	Mtg	5.	DuVal	PG	8.	North County	AA	DISTRICT 7		
6.	Gaithersburg	Mtg	6.	Eleanor Roosevelt	PG	9.	Old Mill	AA	1.	Aberdeen	Har
7.	James Hubert Blake	Mtg	7.	High Point	PG	10.	Severn Run	AA	2.	Edgewood	Har
8.	John F. Kennedy	Mtg	8.	Largo	PG	11.	Severna Park	AA	DISTRICT 8		
9.	Montgomery Blair	Mtg	9.	Laurel	PG	12.	South River	AA	1.	James M. Bennett	Wic
10.	Northwest	Mtg	10.	Northwestern	PG	13.	Atholton	How	2.	Stephen Decatur	Wor
11.	Northwood	Mtg	11.	Oxon Hill	PG	14.	Centennial	How			
12.	Paint Branch	Mtg	12.	Parkdale	PG	15.	Guilford Park	How			
13.	Quince Orchard	Mtg	13.	Potomac	PG	16.	Marriotts Ridge	How			
14.	Richard Montgomery	Mtg	14.	Suitland	PG	17.	Oakland Mills	How			

## CLASS 2A-1A

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

# Soccer Tournament Bulletin

## STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – NOVEMBER 13-15, 2025 – LOYOLA UNIVERSITY – RIDLEY ATHLETIC COMPLEX

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
August 13	First Practice Date	October 22	Region Quarterfinals
September 5	First Play Date	October 24/25	Region Semifinals
October 18	Last play date for seeding consideration	October 30	Region Finals
October 20	Tournament seeding date	Oct. 31/Nov. 1	State Quarterfinals
October 21	Last Play Date	November 7/8	State Semifinals
October 29	Team Roster Forms Due	November 13-15	State Championships

### I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association is the official governing body for the Soccer tournament. Plans for the tournament were formulated by the State Soccer 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 Soccer Bulletin. Unless specifically stated, all rules and regulations stipulated in the NFHS Soccer 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. During the regular season, a player disqualified under National Federation (NF) Rule 12-8-2 can be permitted to play in the next game, depending on the ejection policies of the local school system or conference. Starting with the first region contest and continuing throughout the tournament, a player who is disqualified under NFHS Rule 12-8 (Article 2, 3) shall be barred from participating in the team's next game. For interpretation refer to Misconduct Detrimental to a Tournament, see Rule .07C(11) in the MPSSAA Handbook.
- F. All region games must be played on the designated date shown above unless there is a facility conflict.
- G. 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.
- H. Ties and suspended games (regular season)
  1. A game ending in a tie shall be resolved by two (if necessary) sudden-victory overtime periods of 10 minutes each. The game shall end with the first overtime goal. If two overtime periods are played without a goal being scored, the game shall be declared a tie. A coin shall be flipped prior to the first overtime period. The coin flip procedure is the same as used to start a game. The interval between the second half and the first overtime period shall be five minutes. The interval between the first overtime period and a second overtime period (if necessary) shall be two minutes.
  2. A game suspended prior to the completion of the first half shall be continued from the point of suspension (see NFHS Rule 7-1-3).
  3. A game suspended after the completion of the first half shall be considered an official game unless the local supervisor(s) gives permission to complete the game from the point of suspension.
- I. By State adoption, the State Soccer Committees have adopted the following rule regarding the termination of a game. A game will be considered complete in the second half after 20 minutes have been played and there is an 8+ goal differential.

## II. REGION AND STATE TOURNAMENTS

### A. Tournament Organization

1. Every team is automatically entered into the region tournament unless the MPSSAA office receives written notification to the contrary prior to the seeding meeting. 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. Instructions on filling out the TEAM ENTRY FORM are available on mpssaa.org.
3. Each region will conduct a single elimination tournament, with the champion advancing to state play.
4. Doubleheaders will be played where boys and girls matchups exist for both schools, unless the draw or facility prohibits it. For the 2025 tournament, the boys game will be the early game. Each subsequent year, the order will be reversed.
5. A suspended tournament game shall be continued from the point of suspension unless the game is declared complete by mutual agreement between the two schools.

### B. Playing Rules

1. The State Soccer Committee has adopted the National Federation recommendation that a player or coach disqualified from a region or state tournament game under NFHS Rule 12-8 (Articles 2, 3) shall be barred from participating in the team's next game. For interpretation, refer to "Misconduct Detrimental to a Tournament", Rule .07C(11) in the MPSSAA Handbook.
2. Any team personnel (e.g., coach, player, manager) on the sideline or bench who receives a red card due to egregious actions may not participate in the awards ceremony.
3. The overtime procedure for tournament progression is the same as used during the regular season (refer to the preceding section I.H.1). In the event the match remains tied after two sudden victory overtime periods, there will be a penalty kick tiebreaker to determine a winner. The following Penalty Kick Procedure shall be used.
  - (a.) This procedure will be used for all region 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.
4. 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 procedures shall apply:
    - i. 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.
    - ii. 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.
- 5. 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. Remaining players, coaches, and team attendants shall be completely off the field of play and in their team bench areas.
- 6. 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 player disqualified 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.
- 7. 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.

### 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 is responsible for the employment of local officials for region games plus qualified adults as scorers and timers. Two- or three-person crews will be used based upon the wishes of the local jurisdiction of the designated home team.
  - (b.) The region director shall inform the State Committee Director and the MPSSAA Office of the schedule established for competition.
2. The seeding meeting for bracket positions (including the breaking of ties) will take place Monday, October 20 in the MPSSAA office via conference call with the state tournament chair. Tournament pairings will appear on the MPSSAA web site <mpssaa.org> the same day.
  - (a.) Region directors will verify and submit the official records of all teams through October 18 to the respective state director by noon on October 19.
  - (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 fewer 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 region games will be played at the site of the higher seed throughout the tournament.
  - (b.) 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 or ACT Tests. Local Supervisors of Athletics shall be contacted and make the final decision when conflicts occur.
  - (c.) If circumstances render a home site unplayable and the game is scheduled at any alternate site, the designated home team will remain unchanged.
  - (d.) A site suitable for a regular season game may be unsuitable for a playoff game. Region directors should work with local supervisors to assure that region sites meet field and safety criteria.



4. Uniforms shall comply with current NFHS rules. The designated home team will wear the dark jersey and dark socks. The designated visiting team will wear solid white jersey and solid white socks.
5. The Soccer Committee will approve for use only those sites that meet the following field criteria:
  - (a.) The field shall be a minimum size of 110 yds. x 55 yds.
  - (b.) The field of play shall conform to current NF Rule 1-2, (Articles 1-11).
  - (c.) It is the responsibility of the host school to provide and enforce crowd control measures.
  - (d.) There must be a qualified game manager other than the participating coach.
6. When a school cannot meet the game site criteria above, the region director shall designate an alternative site, after consultation with the local supervisor(s) of athletics.
7. When a school cannot meet the NFHS uniform specifications, the region director in consultation with local supervisor(s) of athletics may assign the designation of home team (including site of contest) to the opposing school without change of tournament seeding.
8. 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. Region champions will receive a team plaque and 25 individual certificates.

**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 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 or ACT Tests. 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. When all four Boys and the Girls semifinals are played on a Saturday, the games shall be played at 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, and 7:30 p.m. When two games are played on Friday and two on Saturday, game times on Friday shall be at 5:00 and 7:30 p.m., and two games on Saturday shall be scheduled between 12 7:30 p.m. with 2.5 hours between any two games. Schedules and times are tentative and a definitive schedule will be set after teams have advanced out of the State Quarterfinals. Locations for each boys and girls classification are as follows:

#### Hosting Sites

**Bel Air HS, Fairmont Heights HS, Glen Burnie HS, Kent Island HS, Laurel HS, North County HS, Oxon Hill HS, Eleanor Roosevelt HS, and Tuscarora HS.** The MPSSAA will set the schedule with sites and game times as teams advance throughout the tournament. The MPSSAA will, as best as possible, factor in travel and school conflicts with other tournaments when setting the state semifinal schedule.

3. A three-person officiating crew will be assigned by the MPSSAA Office.
  4. The Soccer Committee shall appoint a Game Manager for each Semifinal game. The Game Manager is responsible for the field preparation, finances, the safe conduct of the game, and should be in contact with both teams as to time, uniforms, and game procedures. The manager is responsible for tickets received, monies collected, monies paid out, and shall submit a financial report to the Association following the games.
- 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 Loyola University's Ridley Athletic Complex on November 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, with times and pairings to be determined. Check MPSSAA.org for "Soccer State Championship Central" with details on directions and parking information.
  3. For the Finals, two games will be played on Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 and 7:30 p.m. and two games will be played on Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 and 7:30 p.m. Four games will be played on Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, and 7:30 p.m.
  4. Member schools shall not schedule practice or scrimmage sessions at the site of the final championship games.
  5. A three-person officiating crew will be assigned by the MPSSAA Office.
  6. If a final game is tied at the end of the overtime periods, the penalty kick procedure will be used to determine a State Champion.
- D. General Policies
1. Individuals 7 years of age and older will be charged the following admission:
    - (a.) State Quarterfinals - \$6.
    - (b.) State Semifinals - \$8.
    - (c.) State Finals - \$10.
  2. State Quarterfinal winners will complete the Media Information Form (found on the Soccer 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. The team champion in each classification will receive a plaque, 25 individual awards, and the game ball. The finalist team will receive a plaque, 25 individual awards, and a game ball.

Projected MPSSAA Soccer Championship Dates					
2026	November 19-21	2027	November 18-20	2028	November 16-18

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

# 2025 Soccer 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.	Dulaney	B Co	1.	Paint Branch	Mtg	1.	Glen Burnie	AA
2.	Urbana	Fre	2.	Dundalk	B Co	2.	Montgomery Blair	Mtg	2.	Meade	AA
3.	Clarksburg	Mtg	3.	Kenwood	B Co	3.	Eleanor Roosevelt	PG	3.	North County	AA
4.	Northwest	Mtg	4.	Parkville	B Co	4.	High Point	PG	4.	Severn Run	AA
5.	Seneca Valley	Mtg	5.	Perry Hall	B Co	5.	Laurel	PG	5.	Mergenthaler Vo-Tech	Balt
6.	South Hagerstown	Was	6.	Woodlawn	B Co	6.	Northwestern	PG	6.	Western	Balt
REGION II			REGION II			REGION II			REGION II		
1.	Bethesda-CC	Mtg	1.	Albert Einstein	Mtg	1.	Bladensburg	PG	1.	Annapolis	AA
2.	Gaithersburg	Mtg	2.	James Hubert Blake	Mtg	2.	Charles H. Flowers	PG	2.	Broadneck	AA
3.	Quince Orchard	Mtg	3.	John F. Kennedy	Mtg	3.	Dr. Henry A. Wise	PG	3.	Crofton	AA
4.	Walt Whitman	Mtg	4.	Richard Montgomery	Mtg	4.	Duval	PG	4.	Bowie	PG
5.	Walter Johnson	Mtg	5.	Springbrook	Mtg	5.	Parkdale	PG	5.	North Point	Cha
6.	Winston Churchill	Mtg	6.	Wheaton	Mtg	6.	Suitland	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.	Westminster	Car	1.	Milford Mill Academy	B Co	1.	Atholton	How	1.	Chesapeake	AA
2.	Frederick	Fre	2.	Overlea	B Co	2.	Guilford Park	How	2.	Northeast	AA
3.	Linganore	Fre	3.	Patapsco	B Co	3.	Oakland Mills	How	3.	Baltimore City College	Balt
4.	Oakdale	Fre	4.	Towson	B Co	4.	Reservoir	How	4.	Baltimore Polytechnic Institute	Balt
5.	Tuscarora	Fre	5.	Aberdeen	Har	5.	Sherwood	Mtg	5.	Digital Harbor	Balt
6.	North Hagerstown	Was	6.	Edgewood	Har	6.	Largo	PG	6.	Patterson	Balt
REGION II			REGION II			REGION II			REGION II		
1.	Col. Zadok Magruder	Mtg	1.	Catonsville	B Co	1.	Northern	Cal	1.	Arundel	AA
2.	Damascus	Mtg	2.	Franklin	B Co	2.	St. Charles	Cha	2.	Old Mill	AA
3.	Northwood	Mtg	3.	New Town	B Co	3.	Oxon Hill	PG	3.	Severna Park	AA
4.	Rockville	Mtg	4.	Centennial	How	4.	Potomac	PG	4.	South River	AA
5.	Thomas S. Wootton	Mtg	5.	Howard	How	5.	Chopticon	StM	5.	James M. Bennett	Wic
6.	Watkins Mill	Mtg	6.	Marriotts Ridge	How	6.	Great Mills	StM	6.	Stephen Decatur	Wor
Class 2A West			Class 2A North			Class 2A South			Class 2A East		
REGION I			REGION I			REGION I			REGION I		
1.	Century	Car	1.	Hereford	B Co	1.	Crossland	PG	1.	Elkton	Cec
2.	Middletown	Fre	2.	Lansdowne	B Co	2.	Fairmont Heights	PG	2.	North East	Cec
3.	Walkersville	Fre	3.	Owings Mills	B Co	3.	Frederick Douglass	PG	3.	Rising Sun	Cec
4.	Glenelg	How	4.	Randallstown	B Co	4.	Friendly	PG	4.	Bel Air	Har
5.	Poolesville	Mtg	5.	Manchester Valley	Car	5.	Gwynn Park	PG	5.	C. Milton Wright	Har
6.	Williamsport	Was	6.	Winters Mill	Car	6.	Surrattsville	PG	6.	North Harford	Har
REGION II			REGION II			REGION II			REGION II		
1.	Southern	AA	1.	Forest Park	Balt	1.	Calvert	Cal	1.	North Caroline	Cin
2.	Hammond	How	2.	Paul Laurence Dunbar	Balt	2.	Huntingtown	Cal	2.	Kent Island	QA
3.	Long Reach	How	3.	Chesapeake	B Co	3.	La Plata	Cha	3.	Queen Anne's	QA
4.	River Hill	How	4.	Eastern Tech	B Co	4.	McDonough	Cha	4.	Easton	Tal
5.	Wilde Lake	How	5.	Sparrows Point	B Co	5.	Thomas Stone	Cha	5.	Parkside	Wic
6.	Mount Hebron	How	6.	Fallston	Har	6.	Westlake	Cha	6.	Wicomico	Wic
Class 1A West			Class 1A North			Class 1A South			Class 1A East		
REGION I			REGION I			REGION I			REGION I		
1.	Allegany	All	1.	Loch Raven	B Co	1.	Chesapeake Science Pt.	AA	1.	Bohemia Manor	Cec
2.	Fort Hill	All	2.	Reginald Lewis	Balt	2.	Western Tech	B Co	2.	Perryville	Cec
3.	Mountain Ridge	All	3.	Harford Tech	Har	3.	Carver A&T	B Co	3.	Col. Richardson	Cin
4.	Northern	Gar	4.	Havre de Grace	Har	4.	Pikesville	B Co	4.	North Dorchester	Dor
5.	Southern	Gar	5.	Joppatowne	Har	5.	CMIT - North	PG	5.	Kent County	K
6.	Clear Spring	Was	6.	Patterson Mill	Har	6.	College Park Acad.	PG	6.	St. Michael's	Tal
REGION II			REGION II			REGION II			REGION II		
1.	Francis Scott Key	Car	1.	Benjamin Franklin	Balt	1.	Patuxent	Cal	1.	Cambridge-SD	Dor
2.	South Carroll	Car	2.	Edmondson-Westside	Balt	2.	Henry E. Lackey	Cha	2.	Crisfield	Som
3.	Brunswick	Fre	3.	ACCE	Balt	3.	Central	PG	3.	Washington	Som
4.	Catoctin	Fre	4.	Frederick Douglass	Balt	4.	CMIT - South	PG	4.	Mardela	Wic
5.	Boonsboro	Was	5.	National Acad. Foundation	Balt	5.	Int. HS at Langley Park	PG	5.	Pocomoke	Wor
6.	Smithsburg	Was	6.	Liberty	Car	6.	Int. HS at Largo	PG	6.	Snow Hill	Wor

# Girls Volleyball Tournament Bulletin

**STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – NOVEMBER 15, 2025 – APG FEDERAL CREDIT UNION ARENA,  
HARFORD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
August 13	First Practice Date	October 29	Region Quarterfinals
September 5	First Play Date	Oct. 31/Nov. 1	Region Semifinals
October 25	Last play date for seeding consideration	November 5	Region Finals
October 27	Tournament seeding date	November 7/8	State Quarterfinals
October 28	Last Play Date	November 11	State Semifinals
November 7	Team Roster Forms Due	November 15	State Championships

## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association is the official governing body for the Volleyball tournament. Plans for the tournament were formulated by the State Volleyball 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 Volleyball Bulletin. Unless specifically stated, all rules and regulations stipulated in the NFHS Volleyball 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. As allowed in National Federation rule 1-7-1, note 1, by state adoption, schools may play a five-game match in which a team is considered the winner of the match when it wins three games.
- F. 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.
- G. The Girls State Volleyball Committee is requiring the use of the Molten IV58L Super Touch leather ball during the region and state tournament. It is highly recommended the Molten IV58L Super Touch leather ball be used during the regular season.
- H. Per NFHS Rule 1-6-1, the home team selects its team bench. By state association adoption in accordance with NFHS Rule 9-1 and 9-2-2, all teams will remain on the same benches and side of court during all regular and postseason matches.

## II. REGION AND STATE TOURNAMENTS

- 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. It is the responsibility of schools to work with region directors to accurately report schedules, results and records. (Refer to page 4, Section II, A of this Bulletin)
  2. A TEAM ENTRY FORM utilized for State Semifinals and Finals must be filled out by teams winning their Region Final. Instructions on filling out the TEAM ENTRY FORM are available on mpssaa.org.

**B. Playing Rules**

1. All games will be played under the current National Federation rules, with the addition of the official game ball being the Molten IV58L Super Touch leather ball.
2. Ball handling is permitted prior to the official warm-up. Use of 1/2 court only is permitted with no over-the-net play when both teams are present.
3. Official warm-ups at High School sites shall consist of:
  - (a.) Only the official team party's uniformed members, managers, and coaches shall assist with warm-ups in any manner, including tossing, feeding, and retrieving volleyballs.
  - (b.) 15 minutes of shared-court time (use of 1/2 court only, no over-the-net play).
  - (c.) The use of the game net shall be six minutes for the Home Team first, followed by six minutes for the Visiting Team. Teams may use their six minutes in any way they want, including serving.

**C. General Policies**

1. The official representatives of a school team, as listed on the online team entry form (20 total - players, managers, and coaches), shall be admitted free at a designated entrance door. Each team will also be responsible for supplying two ball retrievers of high school age, who will be admitted free of charge and not included in the school's allotted 20 representatives.
2. Each school should feel a responsibility for its athletes and team followers to exhibit good sportsmanship. For purposes of crowd control, the principal and school personnel should be alert to detect and correct or discipline any unsafe or unruly behavior. (Refer to page 4, Section II.D, in the front section of this publication.)
  - (a.) Upon arrival, each school should identify its security person (administrator).
  - (b.) Noisemakers and other distractions, i.e., sirens, whistles, horns, bells, etc., are prohibited.
  - (c.) Balloons, large hats, mascots, etc. must not visually obstruct teams, officials, or spectators.
  - (d.) Signs are permitted which display a positive support of the school. Derogatory or obscene 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.
3. When local jurisdictions allow and can accommodate pep bands, 15 band members, accompanied by a faculty sponsor, will be admitted free. Pep bands will alternate playing time and, once a contest begins, will play only when time is out. Bands will coordinate their playing with the cheerleaders from their school.
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. Cheerleaders should get together before the contest to work out arrangements for each school to cheer, unopposed by the other. Cheerleaders should use their megaphones only for addressing their own student body.

**III. REGION TOURNAMENT****A. Tournament Organization**

1. The region director (found on mpssaa.org) 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 who service the designated home team, plus qualified individuals as scorers and linesmen.
  - (b.) The region director shall inform the state committee director and the MPSSAA of the schedule established for competition.

2. The tournament seeding meeting will take place Monday, October 27 in the MPSSAA Office via conference call with the state tournament chair. 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 by 9 a.m., October 26, the official records of all teams for regular season games played through October 25.
  - (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 12 varsity games played will be seeded based on a regular season winning percentage using a divisor of 12 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 position (the favored position), on the bracket in any given round.
3. Unless a specific alternative plan has been approved, all teams region 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.) The Region Quarterfinals will be played on Wednesday, October 29.
  - (c.) The Region Semifinals may be played on Friday, October 31 or Saturday, November 1. The higher-placed team will determine the date of the contest in consultation with the opposing school. Every effort should be made to avoid conflicts and local supervisors of athletics shall be consulted and make the final decision when conflicts occur.
  - (d.) If circumstances render a home site unplayable and the game is scheduled at any alternate site, the designated home team will remain unchanged.
  - (e.) Region contests will begin no earlier than 5 p.m. unless agreed upon by the two schools involved. Region directors MUST be notified of all starting times.
4. 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. Teams will provide their own balls for warm-ups.
3. The host school will provide the official Molten IV58L Super Touch leather ball.
4. Team champions will receive a region plaque plus individual certificates.

### 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 may schedule the contest on Friday, November 7 or Saturday, November 8. When setting game times hosting sites must be mindful of other school activities, SAT and ACT Tests, and provide appropriate travel time for any schools. Local Supervisors of Athletics shall be contacted and make the final decision when conflicts occur.
  5. Officiating crews (R1, R2, and Line Judges) from the association local to the higher seeded team will be assigned to the State Quarterfinal contest.
  6. An experienced Scorer and Libero Tracker shall also be assigned to the State Quarterfinal contest. In lieu of an experienced Scorer and Libero Tracker, the host school may request officials to serve in these roles.
  7. 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.
  8. Admission charge for State Quarterfinals will be \$6.00 for individuals 7 years of age and older.
- B. State Semifinals and Finals**
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 winners 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 winners of the No. 3 versus No. 6 seeded game.
  2. The State Semifinals will be held on Tuesday, November 11, 2025 at high school sites with games starting no earlier than 5 p.m. Schedules and times are tentative and a definitive schedule will be set as teams have advanced out of the State Quarterfinals. Potential sites that have been confirmed are as follows. Other sites will be included as confirmations are received.

**DATE ..... TENTATIVE SITES**

November 11.....Arundel High School

November 11.....Bel Air High School

November 11.....Reservoir High School

November 11.....River Hill High School

November 11.....Gov. Thomas Johnson High School

**\* Note: Schools offering their site to be a host of the state semifinals are eligible to host their own school in this round.**

3. The State Championships are scheduled to be played at APG Federal Credit Union Arena on the campus of Harford Community College on November 15, 2025. Schedule and Championships information will be released when plans are finalized.
4. The official representatives of a school (20 total - players, managers, and coaches) shall be admitted free at a designated entrance door after being identified by the coach. Each team will be responsible for supplying two ball retrievers of high school age, who will be admitted free of charge.
5. Directions to APG Federal Credit Union Arena – Harford Community College - The arena is located on the campus of Harford Community College at 401 Thomas Run Road, Bel Air, Maryland 21015
6. There will be an admission charge of \$10 for individuals 7 years of age and older.
7. For additional information, consult “Volleyball State Championship Central” on the MPSSAA website <mpssaa.org>.



C. General Policies

- 1. Official game balls, practice balls and water for team benches will be provided by the MPSSAA.
- 2. State Quarterfinal winners will complete the Media Information Form (found on the Volleyball 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 match.
- 3. The team champion in each classification shall receive a trophy, 20 individual awards, and a game ball. The finalist team shall receive a trophy and 20 individual awards.
- 4. The State Volleyball Committee will recognize the school which displays the best overall sportsmanship while participating in the tournament with the Lesley W. Cooke Sportsmanship Award. Appointed judges will observe each school’s coaches, players, spectators, cheerleaders, and pep bands, rating them on a scale of 1-10. The award will be presented to the school achieving the highest average score.

Projected MPSSAA Girls Volleyball Championship Dates					
2026	November 21	2027	November 20	2028	November 19

STATE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS ARE LISTED ON MPSSAA.ORG

# 2025 Girls Volleyball 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.	Dulaney	B Co	1.	Montgomery Blair	Mtg	1.	Glen Burnie	AA
2.	Urbana	Fre	2.	Dundalk	B Co	2.	Paint Branch	Mtg	2.	Meade	AA
3.	Clarksburg	Mtg	3.	Kenwood	B Co	3.	Eleanor Roosevelt	PG	3.	North County	AA
4.	Northwest	Mtg	4.	Parkville	B Co	4.	High Point	PG	4.	Severn Run	AA
5.	Seneca Valley	Mtg	5.	Perry Hall	B Co	5.	Laurel	PG	5.	Mergenthaler Vo-Tech	Balt
6.	South Hagerstown	Was	6.	Woodlawn	B Co	6.	Northwestern	PG	6.	Western	Balt
REGION II			REGION II			REGION II			REGION II		
1.	Bethesda-CC	Mtg	1.	Albert Einstein	Mtg	1.	Bladensburg	PG	1.	Annapolis	AA
2.	Gaithersburg	Mtg	2.	James Hubert Blake	Mtg	2.	Charles H. Flowers	PG	2.	Broadneck	AA
3.	Quince Orchard	Mtg	3.	John F. Kennedy	Mtg	3.	Dr. Henry A. Wise	PG	3.	Crofton	AA
4.	Walt Whitman	Mtg	4.	Richard Montgomery	Mtg	4.	Duval	PG	4.	North Point	Cha
5.	Walter Johnson	Mtg	5.	Springbrook	Mtg	5.	Parkdale	PG	5.	Bowie	PG
6.	Winston Churchill	Mtg	6.	Wheaton	Mtg	6.	Suitland	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.	Westminster	Car	1.	Milford Mill Academy	B Co	1.	Atholton	How	1.	Chesapeake	AA
2.	Frederick	Fre	2.	Overlea	B Co	2.	Guilford Park	How	2.	Northeast	AA
3.	Linganore	Fre	3.	Patapsco	B Co	3.	Mount Hebron	How	3.	Baltimore City College	Balt
4.	Oakdale	Fre	4.	Towson	B Co	4.	Oakland Mills	How	4.	Baltimore Polytechnic Institute	Balt
5.	Tuscarora	Fre	5.	Aberdeen	Har	5.	Reservoir	How	5.	Digital Harbor	Balt
6.	North Hagerstown	Was	6.	Edgewood	Har	6.	Sherwood	Mtg	6.	Patterson	Balt
						7.	Largo	PG			
REGION II			REGION II			REGION II			REGION II		
1.	Col. Zadok Magruder	Mtg	1.	Catonsville	B Co	1.	Northern	Cal	1.	Arundel	AA
2.	Damascus	Mtg	2.	Franklin	B Co	2.	St. Charles	Cha	2.	Old Mill	AA
3.	Northwood	Mtg	3.	New Town	B Co	3.	Oxon Hill	PG	3.	Severna Park	AA
4.	Rockville	Mtg	4.	Centennial	How	4.	Potomac	PG	4.	South River	AA
5.	Thomas S. Wootton	Mtg	5.	Howard	How	5.	Chopticon	StM	5.	James M. Bennett	Wic
6.	Watkins Mill	Mtg	6.	Marriotts Ridge	How	6.	Great Mills	StM		Stephen Decatur	Wor
Class 2A West			Class 2A North			Class 2A South			Class 2A East		
REGION I			REGION I			REGION I			REGION I		
1.	Century	Car	1.	Hereford	B Co	1.	Crossland	PG	1.	Elkton	Cec
2.	Winters Mill	Car	2.	Lansdowne	B Co	2.	Fairmont Heights	PG	2.	North East	Cec
3.	Poolesville	Mtg	3.	Owings Mills	B Co	3.	Frederick Douglass	PG	3.	Rising Sun	Cec
4.	Middletown	Fre	4.	Randallstown	B Co	4.	Friendly	PG	4.	Bel Air	Har
5.	Walkersville	Fre	5.	Carver Vocational-Technical	Balt	5.	Gwynn Park	PG	5.	C. Milton Wright	Har
6.	Williamsport	Was	6.	Manchester Valley	Car	6.	Surrattsville	PG	6.	North Harford	Har
REGION II			REGION II			REGION II			REGION II		
1.	Southern	AA	1.	Chesapeake	B Co	1.	Calvert	Cal	1.	North Caroline	Cin
2.	Hammond	How	2.	Eastern Tech	B Co	2.	Huntingtown	Cal	2.	Kent Island	QA
3.	Long Reach	How	3.	Sparrows Point	B Co	3.	Henry E. Lackey	Cha	3.	Queen Anne's	QA
4.	River Hill	How	4.	Forest Park	Balt	4.	La Plata	Cha	4.	Easton	Tal
5.	Wilde Lake	How	5.	Paul Laurence Dunbar	Balt	5.	McDonough	Cha	5.	Parkside	Wic
6.	Glenelg	How	6.	Fallston	Har	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.	Harford Tech	Har	1.	Chesapeake Science Point	AA	1.	Benjamin Franklin	Balt
2.	Fort Hill	All	2.	Havre de Grace	Har	2.	Western Tech	B Co	2.	Green Street Acad.	Balt
3.	Mountain Ridge	All	3.	Joppatowne	Har	3.	Carver A&T	B Co	3.	ACCE	Balt
4.	Northern	Gar	4.	Patterson Mill	Har	4.	Loch Raven	B Co	4.	Lake Clifton	Balt
5.	Southern	Gar	5.	Bohemia Manor	Cec	5.	Pikesville	B Co	5.	National Acad. Foundation	Balt
6.	Clear Spring	Was	6.	Perryville	Cec	6.	CMIT - North	PG	6.	Reginald Lewis	Balt
7.	Hancock	Was									
REGION II			REGION II			REGION II			REGION II		
1.	Francis Scott Key	Car	1.	SEED School	MD	1.	Patuxent	Cal	1.	Colonel Richardson	Cin
2.	South Carroll	Car	2.	Coppin Academy	Balt	2.	Central	PG	2.	North Dorchester	Dor
3.	Brunswick	Fre	3.	Edmondson-Westside	Balt	3.	CMIT - South	PG	3.	Kent County	K
4.	Catoctin	Fre	4.	Frederick Douglass	Balt	4.	College Park Academy	PG	4.	Mardela	Wic
5.	Boonsboro	Was	5.	Southwestern	Balt	5.	Int. HS at Langley Park	PG	5.	Pocomoke	Wor
6.	Smithsburg	Was	6.	Liberty	Car	6.	Int. HS at Largo	PG	6.	Snow Hill	Wor

