



MPSSAA

Spring Bulletin

BASEBALL

LACROSSE

SOFTBALL

TENNIS

TRACK AND FIELD

Tournament Bulletins

Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association

200 West Baltimore Street Baltimore, MD 2201



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Policies for all Tournament Bulletins

This publication contains information pertaining to state tournament competition for the spring 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. SCHEDULING CONFLICTS

- A. Following are some guidelines to be used when scheduling conflicts arise:
 1. Conflicts with region starting times when only two schools are affected may be resolved between the competing schools with tournament committee approval.
 2. Region game dates may be moved with tournament committee approval provided other factors don't render a change unfair to others in the tournament (i.e. baseball pitching limitations).
 3. Graduation takes precedence over a contest involving two schools.
 4. Multi-team events will be contested as scheduled.
 5. Only conflicts with school-sponsored activities will be considered for modification to the schedule. Dinner reservations, hair appointments, limo pickups, photo sessions, after-prom fatigue, etc., are optional activities and not considered official school activities.

V. 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.

VI. 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.

VII. 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.

VIII. 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.

IX. POLICE PROTECTION

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

X. 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

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.

Baseball Tournament Bulletin

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – MAY 22/23, 2026 – TBD

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
February 28	First Practice Date	May 7	Region Quarterfinals
March 20	First Play Date	May 9	Region Semifinals
May 4	Last play date for seeding consideration	May 12	Region Finals
May 5	Tournament seeding date	May 15	State Quarterfinals
May 6	Last Play Date	May 19	State Semifinals
		May 22/23	State Championships

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association is the official governing body for the Baseball tournament. Plans for the tournament were formulated by the State Baseball 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 Baseball Bulletin. Unless specifically stated, all rules and regulations stipulated in the NFHS Baseball Rule Book will be followed.
- C. **Eligibility rules for all participants are defined** in MPSSAA Bylaw .02, found in the current Handbook.
- D. **General regulations for all state tournaments** are contained in MPSSAA Bylaw .07, found in both the current Handbook and in the front section of this publication.
- E. The official state baseball required for use during region AND state tournament games is the Wilson WTA1010BHS1SST. It is highly recommended that this same ball be used during the regular season as well.
- F. Playing rules for regular season, region, and state tournament
 1. National Federation rules will be used.
 2. A regular season regulation game is seven innings (turns at bat) for each team unless shortened as in Rule 4-2-2 or unless extra innings are necessary to break a tie score.
 - (a.) By state adoption, all games that are tied or not considered a complete game will be a suspended game. A suspended game will be continued from the point of interruption unless the game is declared complete by mutual agreement between the two schools.
 - (b.) Any inning started must be completed to be considered a complete game. No innings will be reverted back to the previous inning to be considered a complete game.
 3. All region and state tournament games will be a minimum of seven innings unless the 10-run rule applies.
 4. All games, including doubleheaders, must be scheduled for seven innings.
 5. The National Federation 10-run rule is mandatory for all games.
 6. The MPSSAA will use the National Federation suggested speed-up rules for courtesy runners.
 7. Intentional walks: An intentional walk may be given by the defensive team by having their catcher or coach request such from the umpire. This may be done before pitching to the batter or on any ball-and-strike count.

8. Pitching Limitations (penalty for violation – forfeit game in which illegal pitcher was used):
 - (a.) The pitching limitations rule is in continuous effect between the regular season and playoffs.
 - (b.) All contests, including suspended games, shall use current pitching limitations.
 - (c.) **It is the responsibility of the coach to have all pitchers, with their pitching limitations, listed on the lineup cards presented to the umpire and opposing coach at the beginning of the game.**
 - (d.) The calendar rest begins on the day following the date on which the game began or a resumed game began regardless of the conclusion time of the game.
 - (e.) The pitch count is based on pitches thrown for strikes (including all foul balls); balls; balls in play and outs. If a batter is awarded an intentional walk without throwing a pitch, no pitches shall be recorded by the DPC.
 - (f.) A pitcher at any level who reaches the daily pitch maximum limit in the middle of an at-bat will be allowed to finish that hitter.
 - (g.) Warm-up pitches allowed before each inning, warm up pitches allowed by the umpire in case of injury or game delay, and plays attempted against the batter-runner or any runner at first, second or third base do not count against the limit.
 - (h.) All NFHS Substitution and Pitching Rules must be followed.
 - (i.) The pitch count charts of both teams from prior contests are to be presented to the opposing coach BEFORE the game.
 - (j.) During the game, pitch counts will be recorded by an official Designated Pitch Count Recorder (DPCR) supplied by the home team. The visiting team has the option of providing an additional DPCR to sit with the official DPCR to assist in pitch count recording. Any discrepancy shall be settled by the DPCR and coaches without umpire involvement and that record shall be considered final.
 - (k.) The MPSSAA will supply a neutral DPCR for State Semifinal and State Championship contests.
 - (l.) At game's conclusion, the MPSSAA pitch count form will be signed by both head coaches or designated representatives.
 - (m.) Both schools have the responsibility to maintain every pitching chart form until the school season is complete.
 - (n.) Any discrepancy found during/after the game will be reported to the local school system for review.
 - (o.) A hard copy must be available upon Local School System or MPSSAA request at any point during and following the season.
 - (p.) **Pitchers' pitch count numbers must be submitted for each regular and postseason game when reporting results on Smartsheet. Game results and pitch count numbers shall be reported by noon on the day following each game.**

DAILY LIMITATION

The limit on the number of pitches is based on the level of pitching. Specific rest periods are in place when a pitcher reaches a threshold of pitches delivered in a day. The rest periods required during the regular and postseason are listed in the table that follows.

MPSSAA PITCH COUNT LIMITS AND REST REQUIREMENTS						
Grade	Daily Max (Pitches in Game)	Required Days Rest (Pitches)				
		0 Days	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days
Senior	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+
Junior	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+
Sophomore	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+
Freshman	95	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+

II. REGION TOURNAMENT

A. Tournament Organization

1. Every school is automatically entered into the region tournament unless the MPSSAA office receives written notification to the contrary. Request for withdrawal shall be by letter, signed by the school principal.
2. A TEAM ENTRY FORM utilized for State Semifinals and Finals must be filled out by teams winning their Region Final. The TEAM ENTRY FORM is available on the "Members" page of mpssaa.org.
3. Each region will conduct a single elimination tournament, with the champion advancing to state play.
4. Responsibilities of region director:
 - (a.) Notify schools as to their bracket position, site of upcoming contest, and starting time.
 - (b.) Schedule the local officials board that services the designated home team.
 - (c.) Inform the state committee director and MPSSAA of the schedule established for competition.
5. The tournament seeding will take place Tuesday, May 5 in the MPSSAA office via conference call with the State Committee 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 Committee Director by 9 p.m., May 4, the official records of all teams for regular season games played through that day.
 - (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 14 varsity games played will be seeded based on a regular season winning percentage using a divisor of 14 games.
 - (d.) Ties among teams in a region will be first broken by head-to-head competition to determine the higher seed. This applies if all tied teams meet the criteria. If head-to-head does not break the tie, a coin toss will be used to determine the order of seeding.
 - (e.) The higher-placed team is defined as one who occupies the lower-numbered line position, (the favored position), on the bracket in any given round.
6. Unless a specific alternative plan has been approved, all teams in regional play will abide by the following guidelines.
 - (a.) All region games will be played at the site of the higher seed throughout the tournament.
 - (b.) All region championship games will be held at the home site of the school with the higher regular season winning percentage.

- (c.) If circumstances render a home site unplayable and the game is scheduled at any alternate site, the designated home team will remain unchanged.
- 7. Postponed/suspended region games may be required by the State Baseball Committee to be made up as part of a doubleheader.
- 8. The Head Coach of each region winner must complete the Media Information Form found on the Baseball page of MPSSAA.org and bring 20 copies each to the State Semifinals and Finals.

B. Playing Rules

- 1. All region games will be a minimum of seven innings unless the 10-run rule applies.
- 2. The starting time for weekday contests will be 4 p.m. and the starting time for Saturday contests will be 1 p.m. unless, due to extenuating circumstances, both schools agree to modify the starting time. Schools with lights may start a contest up until 7 p.m. Any changes to the start time must be approved by the region director and sport committee chair.
- 3. Region games must be played on the dates provided in the timeline with inclement weather as the only exception.
- 4. Guidelines for Region Games And Prom Dates
 - (a.) When one team has a prom on a Friday night, the game should be scheduled for no earlier than 2 PM on Saturday.
 - (b.) When the traveling team has a prom on a Saturday night, the game should be scheduled for 10 AM on Saturday. If the home team has the Saturday night prom, the game should be scheduled for no later than 12 Noon, but can be as early as 10 AM.
 - (c.) When one team has a prom on Friday night and the other team on Saturday night, the game should be scheduled for 12 Noon on Saturday.

C. General Policies

- 1. The home team will provide Wilson WTA1010BHS1SST baseballs for their games.
- 2. Individuals 7 years of age and older will be charged an admission of \$6.
- 3. A team certificate and 25 individual certificates will be presented to the region champion.
- 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.
- 5. The use of noisemakers and other distractions that disrupts the orderly progress of the game, (i.e., use of noisemakers coinciding with a pitch being delivered), are prohibited.

D. Officials

- 1. Two MPSSAA-certified officials will be assigned to each game.
- 2. More than two umpires may be assigned if this is consistent with the normal and ordinary practice of the home team during the regular season; however, the MPSSAA will pay for only two officials.

III. 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 on May 15.**
4. Schools hosting a State Quarterfinal game must be mindful of other school activities and provide appropriate travel time for any schools with students taking AP testing. Local Supervisors of Athletics shall be contacted and make the final decision when conflicts occur.
5. A three-person officiating crew from the association local to the higher seeded team will be assigned to the State Quarterfinal contest.
6. Local MPSSAA districts will collect all revenue and pay all expenses. Site directors shall pay officials and required workers. When funds are not available, fees should be referred to the host district.

B. State Semifinals

1. The winners of the State Quarterfinal round shall advance to the State Semifinals.
 - (a.) The winners of the No. 1 versus No. 8 seeded game will play the winners of the No. 4 versus No. 5 seeded game.
 - (b.) The winners of the No. 2 versus No. 7 seeded game will play the winners of the No. 3 versus No. 6 seeded game.
2. Semifinal games will be played on Tuesday, May 19. Schedules and times will be set after teams have advanced out of the State Quarterfinals. The MPSSAA and state baseball committee reserves the right to use alternative sites as deemed necessary for continuous operation of the tournament.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TENTATIVE SITES</u>
May 19	Joe Cannon Stadium
	Freeman Field at OBGC Park
	Harford Community College
	McCurdy Field
	Shirley Povich Field
	Regency Stadium
	University of Maryland – Baltimore County

C. State Championships

1. The winners of the State Semifinal round shall advance to the State Championships.
2. 2026 Finals site: All four state final games will be played at **TBD**.
3. The home team will sit on the third base side.
4. Each team will have a 20-minute warm-up period prior to the game starting time. Each team may use the 20-minute warm-up in any way it may choose following the host stadium's guidelines (example: no live batting practice on field at Prince George's Stadium). The Baseball Committee will determine the order in which each team takes the field for warm-ups.

D. Playing Rules

1. Semifinal and final games must complete a minimum of seven innings unless the 10-run rule applies.

E. General Policies

1. The MPSSAA will provide one dozen baseballs for each game.

2. Individuals 7 years and older will be charged an admission of \$8 to the Semifinals and \$10 to the Finals at **TBD**.
3. Complimentary passes given out by MPSSAA will be honored when presented with proper identification, such as a valid driver's license and will admit the bearer only.
4. Awards will be presented at the conclusion of the tournament. The championship team and finalist team will each be awarded a team plaque and 25 individual awards.
5. The State Baseball Committee will recognize the school which displays the best overall sportsmanship while participating in the baseball state tournament. The Paul Fahrner Sportsmanship Award will be presented to the principal of the school achieving the best overall sportsmanship of coaches, players and spectators at the completion of the tournament.
6. The use of noisemakers and other distractions that disrupts the orderly progress of the game, (i.e., use of noisemakers coinciding with a pitch being delivered), are prohibited.
7. Each coach advances to the State Semifinals and Finals must complete the Media Information Form (found at mpssaa.org's Baseball page) and bring 20 copies to the State Semifinals and Finals.

F. Officials - Three MPSSAA-certified officials will be assigned to each game.

SEMIFINAL GAMES		FINAL GAMES	
DATE: MAY 19 (Rain Date: May 20) 4:00 or 7:00 p.m.		DATE: MAY 22 6:00 p.m. – Class 4A (Rain Date: May 25 at 10 a.m.)	
SITE		DIRECTOR(S)	
TBD	TBD		
TBD	Fred Kreiger, Roger Dawson & Mike DeSimone		
TBD	Sean Davis & Jeff Rabberman		
TBD	Guy Smith		
		DATE: MAY 23 12:00 p.m. – Class 1A 3:30 p.m. – Class 2A 7:00 p.m. – Class 3A (Rain Date: May 25 at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m., 7 p.m.)	

STATE BASEBALL COMMITTEE AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS ARE LISTED ON MPSSAA.ORG

Projected MPSSAA Baseball Championship Dates					
2027	May 28/29	2028	May 26/27	2029	May 25/26

We are counting on the full cooperation of all to make our 51th annual Maryland State Baseball Tournament a most successful one.

2026 Baseball 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. Mergenthaler Vo-Tech	AA				
2. Urbana	Fre	2. Dundalk	B Co	2. Paint Branch	Mtg	2. Glen Burnie	AA				
3. Clarksburg	Mtg	3. Kenwood	B Co	3. Eleanor Roosevelt	PG	3. Meade	AA				
4. Northwest	Mtg	4. Parkville	B Co	4. High Point	PG	4. North County	AA				
5. Seneca Valley	Mtg	5. Perry Hall	B Co	5. Laurel	PG	5. Severn Run	AA				
6. South Hagerstown	Was	6. Woodlawn	B Co	6. Northwestern	PG	6. Severna Park	AA				
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. Balt. City College	Balt				
4. Oakdale	Fre	4. Towson	B Co	4. Oakland Mills	How	4. Balt. Polytechnic	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				
Region II			Region II			Region II			Region II		
1. Col. Zadok Magruder	Mtg	1. Catonsville	B Co	1. Saint Charles	Cha	1. Arundel	AA				
2. Damascus	Mtg	2. Franklin	B Co	2. Largo	PG	2. Old Mill	AA				
3. Northwood	Mtg	3. New Town	B Co	3. Oxon Hill	PG	3. South River	AA				
4. Rockville	Mtg	4. Centennial	How	4. Potomac	PG	4. Northern	Cal				
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. Winters Mill	Car	2. Lansdowne	B Co	2. Fairmont Heights	PG	2. North East	Cec				
3. Middletown	Fre	3. Owings Mills	B Co	3. Frederick Douglass	PG	3. Rising Sun	Cec				
4. Walkersville	Fre	4. Randallstown	B Co	4. Friendly	PG	4. Bel Air	Har				
5. Poolesville	Mtg	5. Carver Vo-Tech	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. La Plata	Cha	3. Queen Anne's	QA				
4. River Hill	How	4. Forest Park	Balt	4. McDonough	Cha	4. Easton	Tal				
5. Wilde Lake	How	5. Paul Laurence Dunbar	Balt	5. Thomas Stone	Cha	5. Parkside	Wic				
6. Glenelg	Mtg	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. Carver A&T	B Co	1. Coppin Academy	Balt	1. Bohemia Manor	Cec				
2. Fort Hill	All	2. Loch Raven	B Co	2. Edmondson-Westside	Balt	2. Perryville	Cec				
3. Mountain Ridge	All	3. Harford Tech	Har	3. Frederick Douglass	Balt	3. Colonel 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. Western Tech	B Co	5. Kent County	K				
6. Hancock	Was	6. Patterson Mill	Har	6. CMIT - North	PG	6. Saint Michael's	Tal				
Region II			Region II			Region II			Region II		
1. Francis Scott Key	Car	1. ACCE	Balt	1. Patuxent	Cal	1. Cambridge-SD	Dor				
2. Brunswick	Fre	2. Lake Clifton	Balt	2. Henry E. Lackey	Cha	2. Crisfield	Som				
3. Catoctin	Fre	3. Reginald Lewis	Balt	3. Central	PG	3. Washington	Som				
4. Boonsboro	Was	4. Nat'l Acad. Found.	Balt	4. CMIT - South	PG	4. Mardela	Wic				
5. Clear Spring	Was	5. Liberty	Car	5. International HS at Langley Park	PG	5. Pocomoke	Wor				
6. Smithsburg	Was	6. South Carroll	Car	6. International HS at Largo	PG	6. Snow Hill	Wor				

Lacrosse Tournament Bulletin

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

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

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association is the official governing body for the Lacrosse tournament. Plans for the tournament were formulated by the state lacrosse committees and approved by the Board of Control.
- B. Schools choosing to enter the tournament have the responsibility for reading and adhering to the rules and regulations stated in the front section of this publication as well as those appearing within this Lacrosse Bulletin. Unless specifically stated, all rules and regulations stipulated in the NFHS Rule Books will be followed.
- C. *Eligibility rules for all participants are defined* in MPSSAA Bylaw .02, found in the current Handbook.
- D. *General regulations for all state tournaments* are contained in MPSSAA Bylaw .07, found in both the current Handbook and in the front section of this publication.
- E. Games postponed during the regular season must be played or made up in order of the regular season schedule on the first available playing date for both schools.

II. REGION AND STATE TOURNAMENTS

- A. Every school is automatically entered into the region tournament *unless* the MPSSAA office receives written notification to the contrary. Request for withdrawal shall be by letter, signed by the school principal.
- B. Each region will conduct a single elimination tournament, with the champion advancing to state play.
- C. All suspended tournament games shall be continued from the point of suspension unless declared complete by a mutual agreement between the two schools involved.

III. REGION TOURNAMENT

- A. A. Tournament Organization
 1. Every school is automatically entered into the region tournament unless the MPSSAA office receives written notification to the contrary. Request for withdrawal shall be by letter, signed by the school principal.
 2. A TEAM ENTRY FORM utilized for state semifinals and finals must be filled out by teams winning their region final. The TEAM ENTRY FORM is available on the “Members” page of mpssaa.org.
 3. Each region will conduct a single elimination tournament, with the champion advancing to state play.
 4. Responsibilities of Region Tournament Director:
 - (a.) Notify schools as to their bracket position, site of upcoming contest, and starting time.
 - (b.) The employment of local officials for regional round. Two- or three-person crews will be used based on the wishes of the local jurisdiction of the designated home team in the regional quarterfinals and semifinals. For region finals, the region director shall employ a three-person crew

from the officials' board local to the designated home team. This may be done in consultation with the local Supervisor of Athletics.

(c.) Inform the state committee director and MPSSAA of the schedule established for competition.

5. The tournament seeding will take place Monday, May 4 in the MPSSAA office via conference call with each respective state tournament chair. Tournament pairings will appear on the MPSSAA web site <mpssaa.org> later that day.

(a.) Region directors will verify and submit the official regular season win-loss records of all region teams to their respective State Committee Director by 10:30 p.m. Saturday, May 2.

(b.) All teams in each region will be seeded as determined by regular season winning percentage, excluding the one additional tournament and any city, county, or conference championship.

(c.) Teams with less than nine varsity games played will be seeded based on a regular season winning percentage using a divisor of nine games.

(d.) Ties among teams in a region will be first broken by head-to-head competition to determine the higher seed. This applies if all tied teams meet the criteria. If head-to-head does not break the tie, a coin toss will be used to determine the order of seeding.

(e.) The higher-placed team is defined as one who occupies the lower-numbered line position, (the favored position), on the bracket in any given round.

6. Unless a specific alternative plan has been approved, all teams in regional play will abide by the following guidelines.

(a.) All region games will be played at the site of the higher seed throughout the tournament.

(b.) If circumstances render a home site unplayable, the region director shall designate another site upon consultation with the local Supervisor(s) of Athletics. The designated home team will remain unchanged.

(c.) When setting game times hosting sites must be mindful of other school activities and provide appropriate travel time for any schools with students taking AP testing. Local Supervisors of Athletics shall be contacted and make the final decision when conflicts occur.

7. Doubleheaders will be played in all rounds when the boys and girls seeding permits.

(a.) The home team's Athletic Director, in consultation with the local Supervisor of Athletics, will decide which team plays the first game.

(b.) EXCEPTION: In the event of rain, on grass fields only, girls will play the first game because of the problems of excessive damage to the crease area.

8. School day games shall not start earlier than 3:45 p.m. Upon the approval of the Executive Director, adjustments in starting times may be made to accommodate doubleheaders.

9. Athletic Directors and Coaches of participating teams must report scores to the Region Director immediately following the game.

10. Region semifinal games scheduled for Friday, May 8th may be played on Thursday, May 7th if both schools agree. Local Supervisors of Athletics shall be consulted and will make the final decision when conflicts occur. If schools cannot agree to play Thursday, May 7th then the following prom guidelines shall be applied.

11. Guidelines for Regional Games & Prom Dates

(a.) One team has prom on Friday night:

i. Game should be scheduled no earlier than 2 PM on Saturday.

(b.) One team has prom on Saturday night:

- i. Game should be scheduled at 10 AM if traveling team is one with prom
- ii. If the home team has prom, schedule no later than 12 Noon but as early as 10 AM.

(c.) When a Friday game is postponed due to weather where one team has prom Friday night and the other team a prom on Saturday night:

- i. Game should be scheduled at 12 Noon on Saturday.

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

B. General Policies

1. Individuals 7 years of age and older will be charged an admission of \$6.
2. A team certificate and 35 individual certificates will be presented to the region champion.
3. Local MPSSAA districts will collect all revenue and pay all expenses. Site directors shall pay officials and required workers. When funds are not available, fees should be referred to the host district.

IV. STATE TOURNAMENT

A. State Quarterfinals

1. The region champions from each classification shall advance to a state quarterfinal round.
2. The eight region champions will be seeded 1-8 based on their regular season winning percentage used to seed each region. Ties among teams in the state quarterfinals will be first broken by head-to-head competition to determine the higher seed. This applies if all tied teams meet the criteria. If head-to-head does not break the tie, a coin toss will be used to determine the order of seeding.
3. Unless a specific alternate plan has been approved, all state quarterfinal games will be played at the site of the higher seed.
4. Schools hosting a state quarterfinal game must be mindful of other school activities and provide appropriate travel time for any schools with students taking AP testing. Local Supervisors of Athletics shall be contacted and make the final decision when conflicts occur.
5. A three-person officiating crew from the association local to the higher seeded team will be assigned to the state quarterfinal contest.
6. Local MPSSAA districts will collect all revenue and pay all expenses. Site directors shall pay officials and required workers. When funds are not available, fees should be referred to the host district.

B. State Semifinals

1. The winners of the state quarterfinal round shall advance to the state semifinals.
 - (a.) The winners of the No. 1 versus No. 8 seeded game will play the winners of the No. 4 versus No. 5 seeded game.
 - (b.) The winners of the No. 2 versus No. 7 seeded game will play the winners of the No. 3 versus No. 6 seeded game.
2. Semifinal games will be played Friday, May 15 and Saturday, May 16. Schedules and times will be set after teams have advanced out of the state quarterfinals. The prom guidelines from regional games will also be followed for the state semifinals (see page 17-18, item #11, letters a. through c.). The MPSSAA and state lacrosse committee reserves the right to use alternative sites as deemed necessary for continuous operation of the tournament. Tentative locations are as follows:

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

C. State Championships

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

D. General Policies

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

E. Officials

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

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

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

2026 Lacrosse Classification Alignment

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

Softball Tournament Bulletin

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – MAY 22/23, 2026 – UNIVERSITY OF MD, COLLEGE PARK SOFTBALL COMPLEX

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
February 28	First Practice Date	May 7	Region Quarterfinals
March 20	First Play Date	May 11	Region Semifinals
May 4	Last play date for seeding consideration	May 13	Region Finals
May 5	Tournament seeding date	May 15/16	State Quarterfinals
May 6	Last Play Date	May 19	State Semifinals
		May 22/23	State Championships

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association is the official governing body for the Softball tournament. Plans for the tournament were formulated by the Girls State Softball 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 Softball Bulletin. Unless specifically stated, all rules and regulations stipulated in the NFHS Softball Rule Book will be followed.
- C. *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.
- D. *Eligibility rules for all participants* are defined in MPSSAA Bylaw .02, found in the current Handbook.
- E. As per NFHS rules, an optic yellow ball is required for all contests. The Girls State Softball Committee IS REQUIRING the use of the **Dudley SB12L Optic Yellow ball with red stitching** during both the region and state tournaments.
- F. All games, including doubleheaders, will be scheduled as seven inning games.
- G. As allowed in NFHS Rule 4-2-3, by state adoption, a game called for any reason, where a winner cannot be determined, will be treated as a suspended game. If the game is to be completed, it will be continued from the point of suspension, with the lineup and batting order of each team exactly the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension, subject to the rules of the game. All region and state tournament games will be a minimum of seven innings unless considered complete under Section II, item B (3.) on the next page.
- H. The Girls State Softball Committee has adopted the rule permitting the courtesy runners and a double first base for play all season long. The double first base will be used in all regional and state tournament games.
- I. The Girls State Softball Committee has established a tiebreaker procedure as authorized by rule NFHS Rule 4-2-6, to determine the winner of a game that remains tied after seven innings of play. This procedure will be used during both the region and state tournaments. Individual school systems are encouraged to adopt this procedure during the regular season for both varsity and junior varsity games.

Beginning with the eighth inning, each half inning will begin with the last completed turn at bat from the previous inning (or her legal substitute or courtesy runner) on second base. [Note: Enforcement of an “automatic out” as described in NFHS Rule 3-3-8b or 4-3-1g shall never be interpreted to create an out before the extra inning is begun.] After the lead off batter has completed her turn at bat, any “automatic out” in the batting order will be an automatic out as prescribed in NFHS Rule 7-4-1.

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.
 - 2. A TEAM ENTRY FORM utilized for State Semifinals and Finals must be filled out by teams winning their Region Final. The TEAM ENTRY FORM is available on the "Members" page of mpssaa.org.
 - 3. Each region will conduct a single elimination tournament, with the champion advancing to state play.
 - 4. Warm-up procedures
 - (a.) Both teams will warm up on the entire field for 15 minutes each.
 - (b.) The visiting team will warm up first unless extenuating circumstances cause a late arrival of the visiting team in which case the home team shall warm up first.
 - 5. In case of inclement weather, athletic directors shall consult with regional directors before finalizing arrangements.
 - 6. For region information, contact your region tournament director.
- B. Playing Rules
 - 1. The tournament will be conducted under National Federation rules.
 - 2. The official tournament game ball will be the optic yellow Dudley SB12L Optic Yellow ball with red stitching.
 - 3. A game will be considered complete anytime after 4-1/2 to 5 innings when a team is 10 runs behind and has completed its term at bat.
 - 4. In the event of a suspended game, refer to item II. (C.) on page 4 in the front of this bulletin.
- C. Officials
 - 1. MPSSAA-certified officials will be assigned for each game. A minimum of two officials will be used for regional games. Three officials will be used for state games.
- D. Game Schedule Conflicts
 - 1. Games are only moved for senior proms and graduations. The following guidelines will be followed when a scheduling conflict occurs due to senior prom.
 - (a.) When one team has a prom on a Friday night, the game should be scheduled for no earlier than 2 PM on Saturday.
 - (b.) When the traveling team has a prom on a Saturday night, the game should be scheduled for 10 AM on Saturday. If the home team has the Saturday night prom, the game should be scheduled for no later than 12 Noon, but can be as early as 10 AM.
 - (c.) When one team has a prom on Friday night and the other team on Saturday night, the game should be scheduled for 12 Noon on Saturday.

III. REGION TOURNAMENT

- A. Tournament Organization
 - 1. Responsibilities of region director
 - (a.) Notify schools as to their bracket position, site of upcoming contest, and starting time.

(b.) Schedule the local officials board that services the designated home team.

(c.) Inform the state committee director and MPSSAA of the schedule established for competition.

2. The tournament seeding will take place Tuesday, May 5 in the MPSSAA office via conference call with the State Committee Director. Tournament pairings will appear on the MPSSAA web site <mpssaa.org> later that day.

(a.) Region directors will verify and confirm to the State Committee Director by 9 p.m., May 4, the official records of all teams for regular season games played through that day.

(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 14 varsity games played will be seeded based on a regular season winning percentage using a divisor of 14 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.) All region championship games will be held at the home site of the school with the higher regular season winning percentage.

(c.) If circumstances render a home site unplayable and the game is scheduled at any alternate site, the designated home team will remain unchanged.

4. Postponed/suspended games may be required by the State Softball Committee to be made up as part of a double header.

5. All games must be played on a regulation softball field. The field must be skinned and cannot be a baseball field or one with a raised mound.

6. Weekday games will be played at 4 p.m. and Saturday games at 1 p.m. unless the region tournament director determines another game time.

7. The home team will provide two optic yellow Dudley SB12L Optic Yellow with red stitching game balls.

B. General Policies

1. Admission and number of spectators are subject to the local hosting jurisdiction.
2. A team certificate and 25 individual certificates will be presented to the region champion.
3. Local MPSSAA districts will collect all revenue and pay all expenses. Site directors shall pay officials and required workers. When funds are not available, fees should be referred to the host district.
4. The use of noisemakers and other distractions that disrupts the orderly progress of the game, (i.e., use of noisemakers coinciding with a pitch being delivered), are prohibited.

IV. STATE TOURNAMENT**A. State Quarterfinals**

1. The region champions from each classification shall advance to a State Quarterfinal round.
2. The eight region champions will be seeded 1-8 based on their regular season winning percentage used to seed each region. Ties among teams in the State Quarterfinals will be first broken by head-to-head competition to determine the higher seed. This applies if all tied teams meet the criteria. If head-to-head does not break the tie, a coin toss will be used to determine the order of seeding.
3. Unless a specific alternate plan has been approved, all State Quarterfinal games will be played at the site of the higher seed.
4. Schools hosting a State Quarterfinal game must be mindful of other school activities and provide appropriate travel time for any schools with students taking AP or IB testing. Local Supervisors of Athletics shall be contacted and make the final decision when conflicts occur.
5. A three-person officiating crew from the association local to the higher seeded team will be assigned to the State Quarterfinal contest.
6. Local MPSSAA districts will collect all revenue and pay all expenses. Site directors shall pay officials and required workers. When funds are not available, fees should be referred to the host district.
7. State Quarterfinal winners will receive state semifinalist plaques.
8. State Quarterfinal winners will receive information directly from Lynn Pitonzo with directions for completing the State Tournament Media Forms. These will need to be returned to Colleen Adams by Sunday, May 17 at 3:00 p.m.
9. If host schools charge admission to the state quarterfinal games, admission will be \$8.00.

B. State Semifinals

1. The winners of the State Quarterfinal round shall advance to the State Semifinals.
 - (a.) The winners of the No. 1 versus No. 8 seeded game will play the winners of the No. 4 versus No. 5 seeded game.
 - (b.) The winners of the No. 2 versus No. 7 seeded game will play the winners of the No. 3 versus No. 6 seeded game.
2. Semifinal site – Bachman Softball Park, Glen Burnie – phone 410-222-0017.
 - (a.) **Directions from I-695 (Baltimore Beltway):** toward Glen Burnie. Take Exit #2 (Route 10 South) to Route 710 (second exit onto East Ordnance Road). Turn right at 3rd light. The Complex is behind the Detention Center and across from Home Depot. (If coming from the South or Eastern Shore, take I-97 to the Baltimore Beltway and follow the above directions.)
 - (b.) **Directions from the Northeast:** I-95 south to I-695 East toward Glen Burnie, then follow directions above.
 - (c.) There are no dressing facilities available at Bachman Park. Teams should come dressed ready to participate. Restroom facilities will be available.
 - (d.) Admission will be \$8.00 for the state semifinals with all tickets purchased online at www.mpssaa.org.

C. State Championships

1. The winners of the State Semifinal round shall advance to the State Championships.

2. Finals site – University of Maryland College Park Softball Complex.
Directions from I-95/I-495 (Capital Beltway): Exit Rte. 1 South to MD. Rte. 193 (University Blvd.) - West one mile, turn left at light onto Paint Branch Parkway. The Softball Complex is located on the right directly behind the XFINITY Center.
3. There are no dressing facilities available at the University of Maryland. Teams should come dressed ready to participate. Restroom facilities will be available.

D. General Policies

1. Individuals seven years and older will be charged \$10.00 admission to the championship games at the University of Maryland Softball Complex with all tickets purchased online only through www.mpssaa.org. **Softball State Championship Central on mpssaa.org contains the latest information.**
2. Dudley SB12L Optic Yellow with red stitching game balls will be provided for semifinal and championship games. Teams should provide their own marked balls for practice.
3. Photographers at State Tournament sites (semifinals and championships) are prohibited by NFHS rule from being in the live-ball area. There will be a designated area for the media in dead ball territory at each site.
4. Awards will be presented at the conclusion of the tournament. The championship team and finalist team will each be awarded a team trophy and 25 individual awards.

SEMIFINAL GAMES		FINAL GAMES
SITE: Bachman Park DATE: MAY 19 (Rain Date: May 20)		SITE: University of Maryland Softball Complex DATE: MAY 22/23 (Rain Date: May 25)
Schedule to be determined following the completion of the quarterfinals.		Schedule to be determined following the completion of the semifinals.
<u>CLASS</u>	<u>GAME (TEAMS)</u>	
1A	#1 (Winner of QF 1v8 vs. Winner of QF 4v5) #2 (Winner of QF 2v7 vs. Winner of QF 3v6)	
2A	#1 (Winner of QF 1v8 vs. Winner of QF 4v5) #2 (Winner of QF 2v7 vs. Winner of QF 3v6)	
3A	#1 (Winner of QF 1v8 vs. Winner of QF 4v5) #2 (Winner of QF 2v7 vs. Winner of QF 3v6)	
4A	#1 (Winner of QF 1v8 vs. Winner of QF 4v5) #2 (Winner of QF 2v7 vs. Winner of QF 3v6)	

STATE SOFTBALL COMMITTEE AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS ARE LISTED ON MPSSAA.ORG

Projected MPSSAA Softball Championship Dates					
2027	May 28/29	2028	May 26/27	2029	May 25/26

We are looking forward to the cooperation of everyone in making our 50th annual Maryland Girls State Softball Tournament a success!

2026 Softball 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. High Point	PG	3. North County	AA				
4. Northwest	Mtg	4. Parkville	B Co	4. Laurel	PG	4. Severn Run	AA				
5. Seneca Valley	Mtg	5. Perry Hall	B Co	5. Northwestern	PG	5. Mergenthaler Vo-Tech	Balt				
6. South Hagerstown	Was	6. Woodlawn	B Co	6. Eleanor Roosevelt	PG	6. Western	Balt				
Region II			Region II			Region II			Region II		
1. Bethesda-CC	Mtg	1. James Hubert Blake	Mtg	1. Bladensburg	PG	1. Annapolis	AA				
2. Winston Churchill	Mtg	2. Albert Einstein	Mtg	2. Duval	PG	2. Broadneck	AA				
3. Gaithersburg	Mtg	3. John F. Kennedy	Mtg	3. Charles H. Flowers	PG	3. Crofton	AA				
4. Walter Johnson	Mtg	4. Richard Montgomery	Mtg	4. Parkdale	PG	4. North Point	Cha				
5. Quince Orchard	Mtg	5. Springbrook	Mtg	5. Suitland	PG	5. Bowie	PG				
6. Walt Whitman	Mtg	6. Wheaton	Mtg	6. Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr.	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. Watkins Mill	Mtg	5. Howard	How	5. Chopticon	StM	5. James M. Bennett	Wic				
6. Thomas S. Wootton	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. Manchester Valley	Car	1. Crossland	PG	1. Elkton	Cec				
2. Middletown	Fre	2. Winters Mill	Car	2. Fairmont Heights	PG	2. North East	Cec				
3. Walkersville	Fre	3. Hereford	B Co	3. Frederick Douglass	PG	3. Rising Sun	Cec				
4. Glenelg	How	4. Lansdowne	B Co	4. Friendly	PG	4. Bel Air	Har				
5. Poolesville	Mtg	5. Randallstown	B Co	5. Gwynn Park	PG	5. North Harford	Har				
6. Williamsport	Was			6. Surratsville	PG	6. C. Milton Wright	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 Technical	B Co	2. Huntingtown	Cal	2. Kent Island	QA				
3. Long Reach	How	3. Sparrows Point	B Co	3. La Plata	Cha	3. Queen Anne's	QA				
4. Mount Hebron	How	4. Carver Vo-Tech	Balt	4. McDonough	Cha	4. Easton	Tal				
5. River Hill	How	5. Paul Laurence Dunbar	Balt	5. Thomas Stone	Cha	5. Parkside	Wic				
6. Wilde Lake	How	6. Forest Park	Balt	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. ACCE	Balt	1. Bohemia Manor	Cec				
2. Fort Hill	All	2. Fallston	Har	2. Coppin Academy	Balt	2. Perryville	Cec				
3. Mountain Ridge	All	3. Harford Tech	Har	3. Edmondson-Westside	Balt	3. Colonel Richardson	Cin				
4. Northern	Gar	4. Havre de Grace	Har	4. Frederick Douglass	Balt	4. North Dorchester	Dor				
5. Southern	Gar	5. Joppatowne	Har	5. Lake Clifton	Balt	5. Kent County	K				
6. Hancock	Was	6. Patterson Mill	Har	6. Southwestern	Balt	6. St. Michael's	Tal				
Region II			Region II			Region II			Region II		
1. Francis Scott Key	Car	1. Carver A&T	B Co	1. Patuxent	Cal	1. Cambridge-SD	Dor				
2. Brunswick	Fre	2. Owings Mills	B Co	2. Henry E. Lackey	Cha	2. Crisfield	Som				
3. Catoctin	Fre	3. Pikesville	B Co	3. Central	PG	3. Washington	Som				
4. Boonsboro	Was	4. Western Tech	B Co	4. CMIT - North	PG	4. Mardela	Wic				
5. Clear Spring	Was	5. Liberty	Car	5. International HS at Largo	PG	5. Pocomoke	Wor				
6. Smithsburg	Was	6. South Carroll	Car			6. Snow Hill	Wor				

Tennis Tournament Bulletin

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – MAY 21-23, 2026 – WILDE LAKE TENNIS CLUB

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
February 28	First Practice Date	May 18	State Seeding Meeting
March 20	First Play Date	May 21/22	Quarterfinals & Semifinals
May 5	Region Seeding Meeting	May 23	Finals
May 8-16	Region Meets		

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association is the official governing body for the Tennis tournament. Plans for the tournament were formulated by the State Tennis 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 Tennis Bulletin. Unless specifically stated, all rules and regulations stipulated in the USTA's "Friend at Court" Rule Book and Code 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 MPSSAA State Tennis Committee has adopted the following policies prior to, during, and after match play in the interest of sportsmanship and safety:
 - 1. Abusive, loud, profane, threatening or obscene language, gestures or taunting during play shall also be considered unsportsmanlike conduct. The first offense will result in a one point penalty and the second offense will result in the disqualification of the offending player.
 - 2. Any tennis ball that is struck in frustration or anger outside of the normal run of play and comes in contact with the court, fencing, net, net post, another player, or leaves the court confines shall be deemed as equipment abuse.
 - 3. Any racket that is swung in frustration or anger that comes in contact with the court, fencing, net, net post, another player, or any racket intentionally propelled out of a player's hand toward the court, skyward, or in any horizontal direction shall be deemed as equipment abuse.
 - 4. The normal escalating penalty scale for Code Violations will be applied unless the equipment abuse causes injury to an opponent where the opponent cannot continue to play, then a default by the equipment abuser will be declared.
 - 5. Any violation of actions found in items #1 through #3 above following the conclusion of play will result in the loss of a team point and possible disqualification upon the determination of the State Tennis Committee. Any disqualification will result in the loss of all team points earned by the disqualified player(s).
- F. Officials and coaches are performing a disservice to the sport and the athletes when they allow unsportsmanlike acts to go uncalled because they do not want to appear to be "too picky". When those athletes do participate in a region or state tournament and the rules are enforced according to the code, players then think that the rules are unfair or that they should have received a warning, since the call was never made during the regular season. Resulting disqualifications are ultimately the responsibility of the

athlete and the coach, however officials and coaches who have tolerated illegal actions during the regular season must also assume some responsibility.

II. REGION AND STATE TOURNAMENTS

A. General Policies

1. Players must wear school-issued or school-approved proper tennis attire or the official tournament T-shirt in all matches. Uniforms must cover a player's midriff when standing. PENALTY: default.
 - (a.) Proper attire includes an unaltered shirt with a school name or logo. Uniform bottoms should be neat and appropriate to the tennis setting. Uniforms must cover a player's midriff when standing.
 - (b.) Dressing facilities will be available at the state tournament site.
2. It is mandatory that contestants are accompanied to the tournament by the official coach or an authorized school representative.
 - (a.) A letter of authorization on official letterhead signed by the principal, athletic director or school system designated representative must be presented.
 - (b.) There shall be a limit of two coaches per school.
 - (c.) Penalty: default.
3. Coaching is permissible during the 90-second changeover period as long as it does not interfere with continuous play (USTA Rule-29 regarding Continuous Play). Coaching is limited to the high school coach. A coach will NOT be permitted on the courts except in case of injury.
4. **The Tennis Committee considers entry on the draw sheet as the start of play. Schools and coaches are reminded that when a student fails to continue participation when eligible to do so, it is a violation of athletic COMAR regulations [COMAR 13A.06.03.07.C(11)]. Participants who withdraw after such entry are subject to penalties.**

B. Playing Rules

1. Play will be by USTA rules, except where noted in this bulletin.
2. Any player **given a code violation** during tournament play will be penalized according to the following point penalty system:
 - (a.) Tardiness penalties (assessed by the Site Director: refer to current "Friend at Court.")
 - i. One game for each five minutes or fraction thereof that contestant(s) is/are late.
 - ii. Forfeit by contestant(s) arriving 15 minutes after the official calling of the match.
 - (b.) Failure to commence play after expiration of established warm-up period:
 - i. 1st offense - Warning
 - ii. 2nd offense - one point
 - (c.) Violation of Rule 29 (continuous play):
 - i. 1st offense - Warning
 - ii. 2nd & subsequent offenses - one point
 - (d.) Unsportsmanlike acts:
 - i. 1st offense - one point
 - ii. 2nd offense - Disqualification

3. If a penalty point has been assessed due to an infraction of 2(d.) in a previous match, a subsequent infraction of 2(d.) will result in disqualification.

NOTE: All penalty points will be assessed by a tournament official including committee members. Warnings and penalty points will be recorded immediately at the scorer's table.

4. USTA guidelines will be employed in case of extreme heat conditions.

III. REGION TOURNAMENT

A. Tournament Organization

1. The 2026 Region and State Tournament will be contested in four classifications (1A, 2A, 3A, 4A).
2. Each school may enter one team consisting of a boys singles, boys doubles, girls singles, girls doubles, and mixed doubles.
 - (a.) Prior to the region tournament starting, a player may replace someone else on the school's active roster who has not otherwise been entered.
 - (b.) Participants are not allowed to compete in more than one event.
 - (c.) Doubles teams must be composed of players from the same school.
 - (d.) After the tournament has begun, if either player on a doubles team is unable to compete, the entry is disqualified.
 - (e.) Schools do not have to enter participants in all five events.
 - (f.) **All team entries shall be submitted by 4 p.m. on Friday, May 1.**
3. Each classification will conduct a single-elimination tournament.
4. Qualification to the State Meet will take place through the course of the region meets.
5. Each region will conduct an **16-line** single elimination tournament.
6. Region Tournaments may begin on Friday, May 8, 2026.
7. The **finalists** of each region will advance to the state quarterfinals.
8. **There will be a 3rd and 4th place match conducted.**
9. The format shall be single elimination (two out of three sets regular scoring with a 10-point match tiebreaker in lieu of a third set). A three-minute break between the second set and the match tie-breaker will be allowed, if requested.
10. Seeding: Based on entries per region, the MPSSAA will conduct a random draw for each Region.
11. **The region tournament seeding meeting will be held at Howard High School on Tuesday, May 5.**
12. All region tournaments shall be completed by May 16, weather permitting.

B. Region tournament points

1. A region championship plaque will be presented to the team with the most total accumulated points from all players at each region tournament. If a tie occurs, teams will be named Region Co-Champions.
2. Points will be awarded as follows:
 - (a.) **4th place (Region) - 1 points**
 - (b.) **3rd place (Region) - 3 points**
 - (c.) **2nd place (Region Finalist) - 5 points**
 - (d.) **1st place (Region Champion) - 7 points**

IV. STATE TOURNAMENT

A. Tournament Organization

1. The state tournament seeding meeting will be held at Howard High School on May 18 at 4:00 p.m.
2. The 2026 tournament will be held on May 21-23 and will be hosted by Wilde Lake Tennis Club.
3. Schedule

(a.) Thursday, May 21 - State Quarterfinals and Semifinals - 15 Courts - **Class 3A (9 a.m.) and 4A (10:30 a.m.)**

(b.) Friday, May 22 - State Quarterfinals and Semifinals - 15 Courts - **Class 1A (9 a.m.) and 2A (10:30 a.m.)**

(c.) Saturday, May 23 - State Championships and Consolations- 15 Courts

i. **Classes 3A and 4A (9 a.m.) will play first followed by Classes 1A and 2A (10:30 a.m.).**

NOTE: Once play begins, no warm-up courts will be available.

4. **If a region finalist cannot compete in the state tournament, the 3rd place finisher shall take their place.**
5. The format shall be single elimination. Participants will compete in a best two out of three sets regular scoring with a 10-point match tie-breaker in lieu of a third set. A three-minute break between the second set and match tie-breaker will be allowed, if requested.
6. Players and coaches are to report together to the tournament desk 30 minutes prior to their scheduled match(es). Adjustments in starting times, order of play, and court assignments can only be made by the tournament committee. Match times may be adjusted to begin prior to **9:00 a.m.** in order to accommodate player graduations and weather issues when possible.
7. Participation is expected in the tournament. Medals will not be awarded and points will not be awarded to teams for forfeits.

B. General Policies

1. USTA-approved Wilson T-1001 tennis balls will be used and provided.
2. Singles sticks will be used in all singles matches.
3. Admission and spectator capacity will be determined by the MPSSAA in consultation with the facility and in compliance with local and state policies.
4. Awards will be presented following the finals for 1st through 4th place in each category.
5. A State Championship Award will be presented to a team in each of the four classifications with the highest accumulated point total for the state tournament. Schools will earn state tournament points as follows:
 - (a.) 4th place (State) - 1 points
 - (b.) 3rd place (State) - 3 points
 - (c.) 2nd place (State Finalist) - 5 points
 - (d.) 1st place (State Champion) - 7 points
6. In the event of a tie, the following criteria will be utilized beginning with (a.).
 - (a.) The team with the fewest number of code violations during the state tournament
 - (b.) The team with the most number of champions

- (c.) The team with the greatest number of second place finishes
- (d.) The team with the greatest number of third place finishes
- (e.) The team with the fewest number of games lost during the state tournament

REGION TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE AND SITES WILL BE LISTED ON MPSSAA.ORG

STATE TENNIS COMMITTEE AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS ARE LISTED ON MPSSAA.ORG

Projected MPSSAA Tennis Championship Dates					
2027	May 27-29	2028	May 25-27	2029	May 24-26

2026 Tennis Classification Alignment

Class 4A West			Class 4A North			Class 4A South			Class 4A East		
1. Bethesda-CC	Mtg	1. Dulaney	B Co	1. Montgomery Blair	Mtg	1. Annapolis	AA				
2. James Hubert Blake	Mtg	2. Dundalk	B Co	2. Albert Einstein	Mtg	2. Broadneck	AA				
3. Winston Churchill	Mtg	3. Kenwood	B Co	3. Paint Branch	Mtg	3. Glen Burnie	AA				
4. Clarksburg	Mtg	4. Parkville	B Co	4. Springbrook	Mtg	4. Meade	AA				
5. Gaithersburg	Mtg	5. Perry Hall	B Co	5. Bladensburg	PG	5. North County	AA				
6. Walter Johnson	Mtg	6. Woodlawn	B Co	6. DuVal	PG	6. North Point	Cha				
7. Richard Montgomery	Mtg	7. Mergenthaler Vo-Tech	Balt	7. High Point	PG	7. Bowie	PG				
8. Northwest	Mtg	8. Western	Balt	8. Laurel	PG	8. Charles H. Flowers	PG				
9. Quince Orchard	Mtg	9. Gov. Thomas Johnson	Fre	9. Northwestern	PG	9. Dr. Henry A. Wise	PG				
10. Seneca Valley	Mtg	10. Urbana	Fre	10. Parkdale	PG	10. Suitland	PG				
11. Wheaton	Mtg	11. South Hagerstown	Was	11. Eleanor Roosevelt	PG	11. Leonardtown	StM				
12. Walt Whitman	Mtg										
Class 3A West			Class 3A North			Class 3A South			Class 3A East		
1. Westminster	Car	1. Catonsville	B Co	1. Damascus	Mtg	1. Arundel	AA				
2. Frederick	Fre	2. Franklin	B Co	2. John F. Kennedy	Mtg	2. Chesapeake	AA				
3. Linganore	Fre	3. Milford Mill Academy	B Co	3. Col. Zadok Magruder	Mtg	3. Crofton	AA				
4. Oakdale	Fre	4. New Town	B Co	4. Northwood	Mtg	4. Old Mill	AA				
5. Tuscarora	Fre	5. Overlea	B Co	5. Rockville	Mtg	5. Severn Run	AA				
6. Atholton	How	6. Patapsco	B Co	6. Sherwood	Mtg	6. Severna Park	AA				
7. Centennial	How	7. Towson	B Co	7. Watkins Mill	Mtg	7. South River	AA				
8. Guilford Park	How	8. Baltimore City College	Balt	8. Thomas S. Wootton	Mtg	8. St. Charles	Cha				
9. Marriotts Ridge	How	9. Baltimore Polytechnic Inst.	Balt	9. Oxon Hill	PG	9. Chopticon	StM				
10. Reservoir	How	10. Patterson	Balt	10. Potomac	PG	10. Great Mills	StM				
11. North Hagerstown	Was	11. Aberdeen	Har			11. James M. Bennett	Wic				
		Edgewood	Har			12. Stephen Decatur	Wor				
Class 2A West			Class 2A North			Class 2A South			Class 2A East		
1. Middletown	Fre	1. Chesapeake	B Co	1. La Plata	Cha	1. Northeast	AA				
2. Walkersville	Fre	2. Eastern Tech	B Co	2. McDonough	Cha	2. Southern	AA				
3. Glenelg	How	3. Hereford	B Co	3. Thomas Stone	Cha	3. Calvert	Cal				
4. Hammond	How	4. Lansdowne	B Co	4. Westlake	Cha	4. Huntingtown	Cal				
5. Howard	How	5. Forest Park	Balt	5. Crossland	PG	5. Northern	Cal				
6. Long Reach	How	6. Paul Laurence Dunbar	Balt	6. Fairmont Heights	PG	6. North Caroline	Cin				
7. Mount Hebron	How	7. Manchester Valley	Car	7. Frederick Douglass	PG	7. Kent Island	QA				
8. Oakland Mills	How	8. Winters Mill	Car	8. Friendly	PG	8. Queen Anne's	QA				
9. River Hill	How	9. North East	Cec	9. Gwynn Park	PG	9. Easton	Tal				
10. Wilde Lake	How	10. Bel Air	Har	10. Largo	PG	10. Parkside	Wic				
11. Poolesville	Mtg	11. C. Milton Wright	Har			11. Wicomico	Wic				
12. Williamsport	Was	12. North Harford	Har								
Class 1A West			Class 1A North			Class 1A South			Class 1A East		
1. Allegany	All	1. Carver A&T	B Co	1. Owings Mills	B Co	1. Bohemia Manor	Cec				
2. Fort Hill	All	2. Loch Raven	B Co	2. Pikesville	B Co	2. Elkton	Cec				
3. Mountain Ridge	All	3. Sparrows Point	B Co	3. Randallstown	B Co	3. Perryville	Cec				
4. Brunswick	Fre	4. Century	Car	4. Western Tech	B Co	4. Rising Sun	Cec				
5. Catoctin	Fre	5. Francis Scott Key	Car	5. Patuxent	Cal	5. Colonel Richardson	Cin				
6. Northern	Gar	6. Liberty	Car	6. Henry E. Lackey	Cha	6. Cambridge-SD	Dor				
7. Southern	Gar	7. South Carroll	Car	7. Central	PG	7. North Dorchester	Dor				
8. Boonsboro	Was	8. Fallston	Har	8. CMIT - North	PG	8. Kent County	K				
9. Clear Spring	Was	9. Harford Tech	Har	9. College Park Academy	PG	9. Washington	Som				
10. Smithsburg	Was	10. Havre de Grace	Har	10. Int. HS at Langley Park	PG	10. St. Michael's	Tal				
		11. Joppatowne	Har	11. Int. HS at Largo	PG	11. Pocomoke	Wor				
		12. Patterson Mill	Har	12. Surrattsville	PG	12. Snow Hill	Wor				

Track and Field Bulletin

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – MAY 21-23, 2026 – PRINCE GEORGE'S SPORTS & LEARNING COMPLEX

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
February 28	First Practice Date	May 12-16	Region Meets
March 20	First Play Date	May 17	Seeding of State Meets
		May 21	State Meets – Classes TBD – Day 1
* View the Region Meet Schedule on the Track and Field webpage for Entry Deadlines.		May 22	State Meets – Classes TBD – Day 1
		May 23	State Meets – All Classes – Day 2

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association is the official governing body for the Track and Field Championships. Plans for the tournament were formulated by the State Track & Field 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 Track and Field Bulletin. Unless specifically stated, all rules and regulations stipulated in the NFHS Track and Field Rule Book will be followed.
- C. **By State adoption, the State Track and Field Committee has adopted the following rule regarding the maximum number of events for an athlete. An athlete may participate in a maximum of six events.**
- D. Eligibility rules for all participants are defined in MPSSAA Bylaw .02, found in the current MPSSAA Handbook.
- E. 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.
- F. National Federation rule books are distributed by the MPSSAA office to every member school. It is the responsibility of each coach to read and know the rules.
- G. Officials do a disservice to the sport and competitors when they set aside rules that apply to illegal uniforms or permit unsportsmanlike acts because they don't want to appear to be "*too picky*" or feel that "*it is not a major meet*". When those athletes participate in a major competition where the rules are enforced according to the code, they think that the rules are unfair or that they should have been warned, etc. because "*no one called me on this all year*". All too often, parents, coaches, and the media argue that the rules are unfair and that officials don't consider how devastating it is to an athlete disqualified in a major meet because of a thrown baton or an illegal uniform. Certainly, it should not happen. Although such disqualifications are ultimately the responsibility of the athlete and coach, meet officials who tolerated the illegal action during the season also must assume some responsibility.
- H. **Students may not compete as a representative of their school in any event that is not part of the state championship series after the date of the first statewide region meet.**
- I. No pole vault event shall be contested unless vaulters are weighed in and poles verified utilizing a scale according to state adoption. (NFHS Rule 7-5, Article 3).
- J. Each school entering a meet agrees to abide by decisions made by that meet's games committee. Protests at any level of competition—dual, triangular, city, county, region, state—shall be settled by an appointed jury of appeals or similar committee at the site of that particular meet.
- K. Order of track events: Located in the chart on the next page.

Dual and Triangular Meets		One-Day Meet	
1) 4x800m Relay	8) 3200m	1) 100m Semifinals	10) 4x200m Relay Final
2) 110m HH (boys)	9) 300m H	2) 110m HH Semifinals	* Optional Break *
3) 110m HH (girls)	10) 200m	3) 100m HH Semifinals	11) 400m Final
4) 100m	11) 800m	4) 200m Semifinals	12) 3200m Final
5) 1600 m	12) 4x100m Relay	5) 4x800m Relay Final	13) 300m H Final
6) 4x200m Relay	13) 4x400m Relay	* Optional Break *	
7) 400m		6) 100m HH Final	14) 200m Final
		7) 110m HH Final	15) 800m Final
		8) 100m Final	16) 4x100m Relay Final
		9) 1600m Final	17) 4x400m Relay Final

L. Order of field events

1. Boys shot put, triple jump, and high jump will start first.
2. Girls discus, pole vault, and long jump will start first.

II. REGION AND STATE MEETS

A. Tournament Organization

1.

Seeding Order	Seeding Method	8-Lane Track	6-Lane Track
From middle lane	Type A	4-5-3-6-2-7-1-8	3-4-2-5-1-6
From Lane 1 out	Type B	Starting in the alleys (outside alley to top seeds)	

2. Specific information for running events

Event	Staggered Start ?	Remain In Lanes ?	Seeding Method
100m, 100m HH, 110m HH	No	Yes	Type A
200m, 300m H, 400m, 4x100m Relay	Yes	Yes	Type A
4x200m Relay **	Yes	Yes **	Type A
4x400m Relay	Yes	1 st Runner Only (3-turn stagger)	Type A
800m, 1600m 3200m, 4x800m Relay	Yes (if possible)	To Break Line (if 1-turn stagger)	Type B

**** SPECIAL NOTE:** The 4x200m Relay will be run entirely in lanes at the state meet, if properly surveyed.

The State Committee recommends that Region meets run this event as it is SURVEYED on the track being used.

3. The high jump and pole vault may be run as "5-alive". Other field events will be run in flights.

B. Playing Rules

1. All rules not modified here shall be in accordance with current National Federation rules.
2. The 6-event limitation applies whether the meet is held on 1 day, consecutive days, or on 2 or more nonconsecutive days. If the participation limitation is exceeded, the athlete in violation shall forfeit all individual and team points earned in any event. *In addition*, that athlete shall be disqualified from state meet participation should the violation occur in the qualifying region meet.
3. Teams checking in at the bullpen for respective relay races must present relay cards with the first and last names of **the four declared athletes listed**.
4. Headwear other than previously approved by State Association and/or the Games Committee is prohibited. Any hair restraint must comply with National Federation rules.

5. Wearing makeup and jewelry by a participant that is distracting or draws undue attention is prohibited, upon the decision of the meet referee.
6. Contestants are to report on the first call. *There will be only two calls.* In case of a conflict with another event, the State Committee has adopted the following rule for being excused from an event: if an athlete checks out with a clerk or the official of a field event, there is no time limit. However, the following guidelines will be followed:
 - (a.) In the high jump and pole vault, the bar will continue to go up and the excused athlete will not be called until the athlete checks back in with the official. *Coaches, be aware that when the last competitor who is present completes his/her jumping, the event is over.*
 - (b.) In other field events, a change of flight will be made, *if requested*, to avoid conflict with another event. This request must be made before the start of the competition in the event you are trying to change. A change of order within a flight and/or jumps or throws taken in succession may be made at any time to allow a contestant to report to another event. When all competitors present have completed their attempts in a particular flight or final, competition in that flight or final is over. *No returning athlete will be given the opportunity to compete after the completion of a flight or final.*
 - (c.) Any participant who must leave to compete in a field event must report to the starting line before the participant's race is called.
7. **All implements approved for the throwing pool will be taken to the appropriate site for warm-up and competition, and shall remain there until the event is over. No other throwing implements will be allowed in the competition area. No implements are to be shared between athletes unless given permission.**

C. General Policies

1. Each school shall supply its own baton for **region relay races only. Batons will be supplied at the State Meet.**
2. Only designated officials and participants in the event shall be permitted in the infield. At region meets, coaches and members of their squads should remain in a section of the stands or at the sidelines, from which point the coach can dispatch contestants to the proper place for participation.
3. All electronic listening devices are barred from the area of competition. The rule applies to spectators as well as participants. The host facility shall only use its sound system for public address once the meet has started.

III. REGION MEET

A. A. Meet Organization

1. The Meet Director or Meet Administrator has the right to challenge any entry that is not consistent with a verifiable performance throughout the current Track and Field Season. The Meet Director or Meet Administrator will notify the coach of the concern and may adjust the entry to the best verifiable performance for the current season.
2. An entry received after the Region Meet Entry Deadline (7 days prior to the start of the first meet in that classification) requires a check payable to "MPSSAA" in the amount of \$100.00 or the entry is invalid. The burden of proof is on the school.
 - (a.) **The MPSSAA Office will collect fees for anyone whose entry applications are incomplete or were not received by the region meet entry deadline.**
 - (b.) Entries received after the region meet entry deadline, but by the penalty deadline, will be seeded last with no time, no distance, and no height.

3. The following online method for entry must be used. Meet entry will require teams to register and provide contact information, including an e-mail address. After a team completes the registration process, the region's meet director will receive a copy of the team's registration. Upon receipt, the region meet director can reply, thus immediately notifying the coach that his/her registration has been received.
4. Any team that makes formal application by the established deadline will be entered into the meet. The following online method for entry must be used. The following online method for entry must be used. 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/1pfmxavxq2-teammanagement>>.
5. You may change your entries until the *Entry Deadline* established for your meet. After the *Entry Deadline*, no athlete may be added. Only scratches and substitutions are allowed until the *Penalty Deadline*.
6. The region meet director and the meet administrator are the only other individuals who will have access to team information (in order to seed the meet on basis of entries received).
7. A scratch or substitution in an individual event is due **by the penalty deadline**.
8. After that deadline, no substitutions can be made. In addition, after that deadline, all entries in individual events count as an event that the athlete has participated in.
9. All regions must use the approved software provided by the MPSSAA.
10. The region meet director will be responsible for organizing the meet, securing certified officials, arranging for First Aid services, scoring, and reporting to the executive director those who qualify for state competition. ALL MEETS shall be organized and structured in a uniform way for seeding, placement in lanes, trials on the basis of best performance, etc.
 - (a.) The only conversions permitted, other than hand-timed converted to FAT, will be for the 1600m (1500m and 1 mile) and 3200m (3000 m and 2 mile). Conversions must be made using the conversion calculator tool on the MPSSAA's Track and Field section.
 - (b.) No athlete will advance in an uncontested event.

(c.) In the event that the pole vault facility is unsafe, the event will be moved to a site which is safe.

11. Order of track events: Located in the chart on the next page.

One-Day Region Meet		Two-Day Region Meet	
		DAY 1	DAY 2
1) 100m Semifinals	10) 4x200m Relay Final	1) 4x800m Relay	1) 100 / 110m HH
2) 110m HH Semifinals	* Optional Break *	2) 100m Semifinals	2) 100m
3) 100m HH Semifinals	11) 400m Final	3) 100 / 110m HH Semifinals	3) 1600m
4) 4x800m Relay Final	12) 3200m Final		
5) 200m Semifinals	13) 300m H Final	* Optional Break *	4) 400m
* Mandatory Break *	14) 200m Final	4) 200m Semifinals	5) 300m H
6) 100m HH Final	15) 800m Final	5) 3200m	6) 200m
7) 110m HH Final	16) 4x100m Relay Final	6) 4x200m Relay	7) 800m
8) 100m Final	17) 4x400m Relay Final		8) 4x100m Relay
9) 1600m Final			9) 4x400m Relay

- (a.) Breaks will be at the discretion of the Meet Director and Games Committee and can last anywhere from 15 to 25 minutes in length.
- (b.) If there are more than 18 competitors on a six-lane track or more than 32 competitors on an eight-lane track in the 100 m, 200 m, or high hurdles, at least two contestants must advance from each trial heat to the semifinals. For meets using FAT, only two rounds of 100 m, 200m, or high hurdles will be run. Heat winners plus next fastest times will advance to finals.
- (c.) In races with semis, twelve runners will qualify for the finals. A two-heat final will be run with four runners in the slow section and eight runners in the fast section. In addition, any athlete that achieves the state automatic qualifying mark in the semis, will advance to the region meet final heat(s). If a track has fewer than eight lanes, there will be six runners in the slow section and six runners in the fast section.

12. Order of field events

- (a.) Boys shot put, triple jump, and high jump will start first.
- (b.) Girls discuss, pole vault, and long jump will start first.
- (c.) The order of field events shall follow the State meet schedule according to classification.

13. A coaches' meeting will begin one hour before the start of the meet, unless otherwise noted.

- (d.) A printed meet time schedule shall be handed out at the coaches' meeting and followed as closely as possible. Any necessary schedule adjustments will be made at this time. Whether present or not, each coach is responsible for all changes made at the meeting.
- (e.) Each coach will verify his school's entries for all events to the region meet director.
- (f.) Scratches in the opening round of the 100, 200, and high hurdles on the day of the meet will result in reseeding only if it affects a seeded runner equal to the number of qualifiers or higher seed. **Example:** If there are races to qualify four, and one of the top four scratch, the race will be reseeded. Otherwise, the race will run as seeded.
- (g.) Entry in a relay becomes official when the team declares **exactly** four runners on the relay card turned into the bullpen. **An improperly submitted relay card will result in disqualification of that relay team.** A team will not be permitted to run without a completed relay card.

14. Region Meet Directors shall submit a back-up copy of the completed meet file electronically to Gerard Filosa (gerardfilosa06@gmail.com) immediately following the conclusion of their meet. Region Meet

Directors shall also bring a hard copy of their meet results and their region meet packet to Beth Shook at the State Meets.

B. General Policies

1. A participant must have represented his/her school in a **minimum of 1 scheduled meet** during the current spring track season, prior to the region meet.
2. Not more than three competitors from a given school shall be allowed to enter or start in any individual event. Only one team per school shall compete in a relay.
3. Each school shall supply its own baton for the relay races and starting blocks unless notified to do otherwise by the region meet director.
4. The State Committee Meet Director will set starting heights for the high jump and pole vault, based on entries.
5. Awards: A plaque will be given to the winning team in each classification. **Certificates** will be awarded to the top 8 finishers in each event.
6. Individuals 7 years of age and older will be charged an admission of \$8.

IV. STATE MEET

A. Meet Organization

1. **Region Meet Directors shall bring their region meet packets to Beth Shook at the State Meets.**
2. The State Meet will be seeded from region results, regardless of school.
 - (a.) Scratches will not count as one of the six events entered, if received prior to 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, May 18.
 - (b.) In races run in sections, region champions will be seeded by time in the fast section. In field events contested in flights, region winners will be placed by performance in the final flight. The remaining contestants will be seeded based on performance, regardless of region.
3. In addition to the top 2 individuals and the top 2 relay teams advancing to the state meet, the next top 8 times or marks from all regions in a classification will advance to state meet. In addition, any individual competitors or relay teams who, **in their region meet final**, achieve the advancement standards, will also advance. Only the field events and those running events contested as a final on time shall be included.
4. Each event at the state meet will have a minimum of 16 participants.
 - (a.) If a scratch is made, prior to the deadline, by one top 2 from the region, the next best finisher from that region will be entered in to the state meet.
 - (b.) If a scratch is made, prior to the deadline, by a participant in the "next best 8", the next highest ranked athlete will be entered in to the state meet.
 - (c.) If a region has less than 2 finishers to advance as part of the "top 2" group, the remaining spot(s) will be filled the next highest ranked athlete(s) from all regions in that classification.
5. If a tie remains in a field event after all tiebreakers have been used, then all individuals tied for 2nd place will advance.
6. The 2026 State Meet information will be posted on MPSSAA.org based on facility availability.
7. The track surface and all field event approaches are synthetic. The throwing circles are concrete.
8. Starting blocks and **batons** will be furnished. **Do not bring your own blocks or batons to the meet.**

B. Playing Rules

1. Spikes **must be pyramid** and may not exceed 1/4 inch in length. Christmas tree spikes are prohibited.
2. The top finisher in each semifinal plus the next fastest times, up to eight total runners, in the 100 meters, 200 meters, and both High Hurdle events shall advance to the finals.
3. **Pole Vault:** There will be a central place for pole certification and athlete weigh-in. Only competitors who have checked in at least one hour before the start of their event will be eligible to compete. Pertinent announcements will be made periodically.
4. Throwing implements for the shot put and discus events must be certified at the weigh-in.
 - (a.) Thursday (3A & 4A) / Friday (1A & 2A) – 2:00 - 3:30 PM and 3:15 - 4:45 PM.
 - (b.) Saturday
 - i. For 3A & 4A: 8:00 - 8:30 AM and 9:15 - 9:45 AM
 - ii. For 1A & 2A: 2:00 - 2:30 PM and 3:15 - 3:45 PM
 - (c.) All implements approved for the throwing pool will be taken to the appropriate site for warm-up and competition, and shall remain there until the event is over. No other throwing implements will be allowed in the competition area. **No implements are to be shared between athletes unless given permission.**
5. Racing Events for Wheelchair Athletes
 - (a.) Races for athletes will be held for members of the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Associations (MPSSAA) track teams who require the use of a wheelchair in order to compete.
 - (b.) To provide competitive opportunities for wheelchair athletes, races will be conducted at the Regional and State track meets in each of the following distances: 100M, 200M, 400M, 800M, 1600M, and 3200M.
 - (c.) Additionally, wheelchair athletes are encouraged to compete in the Shot Put and Discus events. Awards and team scoring rules apply to field events.
 - (d.) A wheelchair athlete must achieve the qualifying standard at a Region track meet in order to qualify for the State Meet. The four-event limitation applies to all athletes.
 - (e.) The head coach must complete the application forms for the wheelchair racing events and submit them to the MPSSAA office. Those forms will be available April 9, 2026.
 - (f.) Region and State track meet wheelchair races will be conducted under the following guidelines:
 - i. Wheelchair races will be conducted in each of the following events: 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1600m, and 3200m.
 - ii. Separate boys and girls wheelchair races will be conducted in a single class in each racing event. Races may be contested in a single heat if the numbers of competitors do not warrant multiple heats.
 - iii. If only one wheelchair athlete qualifies for a specific racing event, the athlete will be permitted to compete in a mixed race along-side runners in the specific race for the class and gender of the athlete. Single wheelchair participants compete against the clock.
 - iv. In mixed wheelchair and runner races conducted solely in lanes, wheelchair athletes will be placed in open lanes following the seeding of the other runners.
 - v. Individual awards for wheelchair race events will be presented for first through eighth place.
 - (g.) Qualifying Standards:
 - i. The following times must be achieved at the Region meet in order for athletes to advance to the State meet:

100m - 30 sec.	400m - 90 sec.	1600m - 5 min.
200 m - 60 sec.	800 m - 2 ½ min.	3200 m - 10 min.

ii. The following distances must be achieved at the Region meet in order for athletes to advance to the State meet:

Boys Discus - 15' 00"	Girls Discus - 8' 00"	Boys Shotput - 6' 00"	Girls Shotput - 4' 00"
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C. Consolidated Team Scoring

1. In addition to traditional track and field team championships scored under NFHS and MPSSAA scoring criteria, the MPSSAA will offer Consolidated Team Scoring to accommodate schools with wheelchair participants. Consolidated Team Scoring combines boys and girls scoring in their assigned classification with the results of wheelchair competition which is conducted in only one classification.
2. Consolidated Team Scoring consists of the total number of team points achieved at the State Track and Field Championships.
3. Consolidated Team Scoring consists of the total number of team points achieved at the State track meet by:
 - (a.) Boys team score in its assigned classification
 - (b.) Girls team score in its assigned classification
 - (c.) Boys wheelchair score (one classification)
 - (d.) Girls wheelchair score (one classification)
4. Schools become eligible for Consolidated Team Scoring when they compete in three of the four categories at the state tournament. Consolidated team scores will be calculated and announced.
5. The Consolidated Team Scoring will be a single classification.

D. General Policies

1. The section of stands nearest the finish line is reserved for coaches. The remainder of the stands are reserved for spectators. Tents are restricted to the designated areas of the stadium.
2. Coaches boxes for field events are reserved for field event school appointed coaches only.
3. Individuals 7 years of age and older will be charged an admission of \$10.
4. Trophies will be presented to the top two boys teams and the top two girls teams in each classification. **Medals will be awarded in individual events for places 1-6; certificates will be awarded for places 7-8.**

STATE TRACK COMMITTEE AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS ARE LISTED ON MPSSAA.ORG

Projected MPSSAA Track and Field Championship Dates					
2027	May 27-29	2028	May 25-27	2029	May 24-26

2025 ADVANCEMENT STANDARDS

** Standards will be updated for 2026 once received.*

GIRLS				
	4A	3A	2A	1A
100m	12.66	12.67	12.91	13.14
200m	25.73	25.84	26.51	27.02
400m	58.54	59.05	59.82	1:02.04
800m	2:20.83	2:24.69	2:24.64	2:28.88
1600m	5:16.57	5:23.25	5:25.73	5:42.21
3200m	11:39.86	11:57.51	12:06.95	12:40.57
HH	15.89	15.93	16.63	17.71
300IH	47.26	47.64	48.36	49.69
4x100m	50.17	50.59	51.36	52.64
4x200m	1:45.10	1:46.00	1:48.21	1:50.96
4x400m	4:04.43	4:08.42	4:12.73	4:20.42
4x800m	9:51.06	10:03.36	10:10.95	10:40.23
HJ	4-11	4-10	4-10	4-08
LJ	16-08	16-03	16-01	15-08
TJ	34-06	34-09	33-10	32-06
SP	34-04	33-00	32-11	30-07
DT	100-01	96-11	94-09	87-11
PV	7-09	8-03	8-04	7-09

BOYS				
	4A	3A	2A	1A
100m	11.28	11.28	11.36	11.59
200m	22.75	22.92	22.76	23.25
400m	50.07	50.46	51.08	51.85
800m	1:59.26	2:00.40	2:01.73	2:04.19
1600m	4:26.98	4:31.24	4:32.53	4:41.31
3200m	9:52.23	9:52.07	10:03.12	10:31.62
HH	15.55	15.72	15.74	16.41
300IH	40.77	41.25	41.75	42.81
4x100m	43.82	43.97	44.55	45.33
4x200m	1:31.05	1:30.97	1:32.51	1:34.83
4x400m	3:25.91	3:28.67	3:31.51	3:36.50
4x800m	8:12.55	8:17.77	8:27.89	8:40.69
HJ	6-00	5-11	5-10	5-09
LJ	20-11	20-10	20-03	19-08
TJ	43-01	42-07	41-09	40-10
SP	45-07	45-05	44-11	42-01
DT	131-06	128-05	127-03	118-01
PV	11-01	10-09	11-03	10-07

2026 Track and Field Classification Alignment

Class 4A West			Class 4A North			Class 4A South			Class 4A East		
1. Bethesda-CC	Mtg		1. Dulaney	B Co		1. Montgomery Blair	Mtg		1. Annapolis	AA	
2. James Hubert Blake	Mtg		2. Dundalk	B Co		2. Albert Einstein	Mtg		2. Broadneck	AA	
3. Clarksburg	Mtg		3. Kenwood	B Co		3. Paint Branch	Mtg		3. Crofton	AA	
4. Gaithersburg	Mtg		4. Parkville	B Co		4. Springbrook	Mtg		4. Glen Burnie	AA	
5. John F. Kennedy	Mtg		5. Perry Hall	B Co		5. Bladensburg	PG		5. Meade	AA	
6. Richard Montgomery	Mtg		6. Woodlawn	B Co		6. Duval	PG		6. North County	AA	
7. Northwest	Mtg		7. Mergenthaler Vo-Tech	Balt		7. High Point	PG		7. Severn Run	AA	
8. Quince Orchard	Mtg		8. Western	Balt		8. Laurel	PG		8. Severna Park	AA	
9. Seneca Valley	Mtg		9. Gov. Thomas Johnson	Fre		9. Northwestern	PG		9. North Point	Cha	
10. Winston Churchill	Mtg		10. Urbana	Fre		10. Parkdale	PG		10. Bowie	PG	
11. Walter Johnson	Mtg		11. South Hagerstown	Was		11. Eleanor Roosevelt	PG		11. Charles H. Flowers	PG	
12. Wheaton	Mtg					12. Suitland	PG		12. Dr. Henry A. Wise	PG	
13. Walt Whitman	Mtg								13. Leonardtown	StM	
Class 3A West			Class 3A North			Class 3A South			Class 3A East		
1. Frederick	Fre		1. Catonsville	B Co		1. Atholton	How		1. Arundel	AA	
2. Linganore	Fre		2. Franklin	B Co		2. Centennial	How		2. Chesapeake	AA	
3. Oakdale	Fre		3. Milford Mill Academy	B Co		3. Guilford Park	How		3. Northeast	AA	
4. Tuscarora	Fre		4. New Town	B Co		4. Howard	How		4. Old Mill	AA	
5. Damascus	Mtg		5. Overlea	B Co		5. Marriotts Ridge	How		5. South River	AA	
6. Col. Zadok Magruder	Mtg		6. Patapsco	B Co		6. Mount Hebron	How		6. Aberdeen	Har	
7. Northwood	Mtg		7. Towson	B Co		7. Oakland Mills	How		7. Bel Air	Har	
8. Rockville	Mtg		8. Baltimore City College	Balt		8. Reservoir	How		8. Edgewood	Har	
9. Sherwood	Mtg		9. Baltimore Polytechnic Inst.	Balt		9. Largo	PG		9. Chopticon	StM	
10. Watkins Mill	Mtg		10. Digital Harbor	Balt		10. Oxon Hill	PG		10. Great Mills	StM	
11. Thomas S. Wootton	Mtg		11. Patterson	Balt		11. Potomac	PG		11. James M. Bennett	Wic	
12. North Hagerstown	Was		12. Westminster	Car		12. Northern	Cal		12. Stephen Decatur	Wor	
						13. St. Charles	Cha				
Class 2A West			Class 2A North			Class 2A South			Class 2A East		
1. Century	Car		1. Southern	AA		1. Calvert	Cal		1. North Caroline	Cin	
2. Liberty	Car		2. Carver A&T	B Co		2. Huntingtown	Cal		2. Elkton	Cec	
3. Manchester Valley	Car		3. Chesapeake	B Co		3. Henry E. Lackey	Cha		3. North East	Cec	
4. Winters Mill	Car		4. Eastern Tech	B Co		4. La Plata	Cha		4. Rising Sun	Cec	
5. Middletown	Fre		5. Hereford	B Co		5. McDonough	Cha		5. C. Milton Wright	Har	
6. Walkersville	Fre		6. Lansdowne	B Co		6. Thomas Stone	Cha		6. Fallston	Har	
7. Glenelg	How		7. Owings Mills	B Co		7. Westlake	Cha		7. North Harford	Har	
8. Hammond	How		8. Randallstown	B Co		8. Crossland	PG		8. Kent Island	QA	
9. Long Reach	How		9. Sparrows Point	B Co		9. Fairmont Heights	PG		9. Queen Anne's	QA	
10. River Hill	How		10. Carver Vo-Tech	Balt		10. Frederick Douglass	PG		10. Easton	Tal	
11. Wilde Lake	How		11. Forest Park	Balt		11. Friendly	PG		11. Parkside	Wic	
12. Poolesville	Mtg		12. Paul Laurence Dunbar	Balt		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. Chesapeake Science Pt.	AA		1. Patuxent	Cal	
2. Fort Hill	All		2. Coppin Academy	Balt		2. Loch Raven	B Co		2. Bohemia Manor	Cec	
3. Mountain Ridge	All		3. Frederick Douglass	Balt		3. Pikesville	B Co		3. Perryville	Cec	
4. Brunswick	Fre		4. Edmondson-Westside	Balt		4. Western Tech	B Co		4. Colonel Richardson	Cin	
5. Catoctin	Fre		5. Benjamin Franklin	Balt		5. Harford Tech	Har		5. Cambridge-SD	Dor	
Monocacy Valley						6. Havre de Grace	Har		6. North Dorchester	Dor	
Charter	Fre		6. Green Street Academy	Balt		7. Joppatowne	Har		7. Kent County	K	
Northern	Gar		7. Lake Clifton	Balt		8. Patterson Mill	Har		8. Crisfield	Som	
Southern	Gar		8. Reginald Lewis	Balt		9. Central	PG		9. Washington	Som	
Boonsboro	Was		9. Nat'l Academy Foundation	Balt		10. CMIT - North	PG		10. Mardela	Wic	
Clear Spring	Was		10. Southwestern	Balt		11. CMIT - South	PG		11. Pocomoke	Wor	
Hancock	Was		11. SEED	Balt		12. Int. HS at Langley Park	PG		12. Snow Hill	Wor	
Smithsburg	Was		12. Francis Scott Key	Car		13. Int. HS at Largo	PG				
			13. South Carroll	Car							