



MPSSAA

Winter Bulletin

**BASKETBALL
INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD
SWIMMING AND DIVING
WRESTLING**

2025-26 | Updated April 2025

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 winter season. It is divided into two sections. The first section contains information pertinent to all tournaments. The second section contains the particular rules for each sport.

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

I. STATE TOURNAMENT POLICIES

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

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

D. Region Seeding

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

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

4. The policy regarding a "NON-GAME/FORFEIT" on a team schedule is as follows:
 - (a.) In order for a contest to be declared a forfeit, it must satisfy the following criteria:
 - i. There must be a written contract, signed by both Principals, including the time, place, and date of the contest. For teams participating in the same league or conference, the official league or conference schedule shall serve the purpose of a written contract.
 - ii. The head county/league/conference administrator of both schools shall agree that the contest be regarded as a forfeit. In instances where the head administrators do not agree, the MPSSAA Executive Director shall decide. For games against out-of-state teams, the Executive Director (or equivalent) of both states shall agree in order for the contest to be declared a forfeit.
 - iii. The forfeit shall be applied to the season records of both participating teams (a win by forfeit for one team, a loss by forfeit for the other).
 - (b.) A game may be declared a forfeit under the following circumstances:

- i. A team deliberately or inadvertently fails to arrive at the designated site/time (except for extraordinary circumstances or unless mutually agreed upon in advance by the participating schools). Extreme traffic or a bus failing to arrive would be examples of “extraordinary circumstances”. This provision does not include complications arising from rescheduling a game which was previously postponed or cancelled.
 - ii. A team disbands either temporarily or permanently. Under this provision, a team must have played at least one regular season game in order for an opponent(s) to be awarded a forfeit.
 - iii. A team or individual player on a team violates MPSSAA regulations. Under this provision, the MPSSAA Handbook specifies conditions under which a forfeit may be declared.
 - iv. One or both teams are unable to complete a contest according to prevailing MPSSAA or NFHS rules.
5. Once the region seeding is complete and the brackets released, **any corrections due to errors in records or winning percentages will only be made up until 10 AM the following morning**. No changes will be made to the seeding or brackets after that time.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN A TOURNAMENT

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

III. POINT OF EMPHASIS

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

IV. COMPLIMENTARY PASSES

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

V. RADIO AND TELEVISION

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

VI. MEDICAL PERSONNEL

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

VII. THUNDER AND/OR LIGHTNING

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

VIII. POLICE PROTECTION

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

IX. SCHOOL REIMBURSEMENT

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

Health and Safety

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.

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- 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.

Basketball Tournament Bulletin

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – MARCH 13-14, 2026 – UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND - XFINITY CENTER

DATE	EVENT	DATE	REGION TOURNAMENTS	DATE	STATE TOURNAMENTS
November 15	First Practice Date	February 27 (B)	Quarterfinals	March 6 (B)	Quarterfinals
December 5	First Play Date	February 28 (G)	Quarterfinals (or doubleheader on Feb. 27)	March 7 (B & G)	Quarterfinals
February 23	Last Play Date for Tournament Seeding	March 2 (B)	Semifinals	March 10 (B & G)	Semifinals
February 24	Tournament Seeding	March 3 (G)	Semifinals	March 11 (B & G)	Semifinals
February 26	Last Play Date	March 4 (B)	Finals	March 13 (B & G)	Finals
		March 5 (G)	Finals	March 14 (B & G)	Finals

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association is the official governing body for the Basketball tournament. Plans for the tournament were formulated by the State Basketball 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 Basketball Bulletin. Unless specifically stated, all rules and regulations stipulated in the NFHS Basketball rule book will be followed.
- C. Eligibility rules for all participants are defined in MPSSAA Bylaw .02, found in the current MPSSAA Handbook.
- D. General regulations for all state tournaments are contained in MPSSAA Bylaw .07, found in both the current handbook and in the front section of this publication.
- E. Games postponed during the regular season shall be made up on the first available date and in the order originally scheduled. Subsequent games shall not be moved. Local supervisor(s) of athletics shall be consulted and will make final decisions on postponed games.
- F. The MPSSAA State Basketball Committees have approved the use of S.A.G.A. timing devices during the regular season and region tournaments, provided that both teams agree. These devices will be used at the state semifinals and finals.
- G. The State Basketball Committees are requiring the use of the Spalding TF-1000 Precision basketball during the playoffs AND the state tournament. It is highly recommended that this same ball be used during the regular season as well.
- H. By state adoption, the State Basketball Committees have adopted the following rule regarding the use of running time. **During the regular and post season, once a 35-point differential exists, a running clock will begin and remain in effect unless the spread reaches 25 points and below. During the regular season only,** participating schools have the option to start running time in the first half if agreed upon prior to the start of the contest. The following changes, and only these changes, will be made regarding rules which determine when the clock will and will not be stopped.
 1. An official's time-out for an injured participant.
 2. A charged (team) time-out occurs.
 3. A score occurs that reduces the point spread to less than 35 points (in which case regular timing procedures will be used).

4. A period ends.
5. **Free throws are taken, except for the last minute.**

II. TOURNAMENT ENTRY INFORMATION

A. Tournament Organization

1. Every school is automatically in the 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 for the state semifinals and finals must be filled out online in the password protected member's section of MPSSAA.org by teams winning their region final.
 - (a.) The boys entry must be submitted online no later than 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 5.
 - (b.) The girls entry must be submitted online no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, March 6.

III. REGION AND STATE TOURNAMENTS

A. Tournament Organization

1. Each region will conduct a single elimination tournament with the champion advancing to state play.
2. Schools may not compete in any contest after February 27 that is not part of the state tournament.
3. All references to the official party in this bulletin shall be defined as follows:
 - (a.) The official party is limited to 21 persons and shall consist of authorized coaches, players, and managers of high school age or older.
 - (b.) Only those in the official party are permitted on the bench or in the locker room area.
4. No team may dress more than 15 players.
5. The designated home team will wear the white uniform. The designated visiting team will wear the dark uniform. Bring both colors.
6. The coach is in charge of the bench. The coach's conduct should be exemplary, as it sets a pattern for both spectators and players.

B. Playing rules, except as modified below, shall be in accordance with the current National Federation rules.

1. Boys and girls shall use a 30-second shot clock.
2. Girls will not have a 10-second count to move the ball from back court to front court.

C. General Policies

1. The official party will only be admitted in total and accompanied by its coach.
2. Per NFHS rules, noisemakers and other distractions, (i.e., whistles, sirens, horns, bells, clappers, 'thunder sticks', megaphones, balloons, etc.), are not permitted in the gymnasium at any time.
3. When local jurisdictions allow and can accommodate pep bands, 45 band members will be admitted free. They must be accompanied by a faculty sponsor and adhere to the following guidelines:
 - (a.) Twenty minutes prior to each game, pep bands will be allowed to play for eight minutes each. The home team will play the first eight minutes and the visiting team will play the next eight minutes. The remaining four minutes will be used for player introductions.
 - (b.) Once a game starts, the pep bands will alternate playing only when time is out. Bands will coordinate their playing with the cheerleaders from their school.
 - (c.) Pep bands must remain in their designated areas. Bands ARE NOT permitted on the court.

4. When local jurisdictions allow and can accommodate, cheerleaders from each of the participating schools will be admitted free of charge only if they are in complete uniform and accompanied by a maximum of two authorized coaches. Local jurisdictions may set their own guidelines at region tournaments on the number of cheerleaders permitted on the floor at any one time.
5. Mascots are restricted to the designated half of the baseline area, except when performing on the court during pregame team introductions or full timeouts. During play, mascots should remain with their teams in the designated cheer area, away from the goal standard. At no time shall a mascot enter the general public seating area or interact with the opposing team's mascot.
6. The State Basketball Committee urges all schools to conduct a school-wide assembly prior to participation in postseason play. School personnel, students, and parents should be aware of their responsibilities as spectators. Information concerning crowd control and spectator behavior will be sent in the Last Minute Bulletin to region champions.
7. Teams are reminded they are guests of the host site and the use of drinks other than for consumption (example: dumping water on coaches) is prohibited.

IV. REGION TOURNAMENT

A. Tournament Organization

1. The region director is responsible for the assignment of officials and the notification of schools as to the tournament bracket, site, and starting times.
2. The seeding of bracket positions will take place on Tuesday, February 24. Tournament pairings will appear on the MPSSAA web site <mpssaa.org> later that day.
 - (a.) Region directors will verify and submit the official records of all region teams through February 23 to their respective State Committee directors.
 - (b.) All teams in each region will be seeded as determined by regular season winning percentage, excluding the one additional tournament and any city, county, or conference championship.
 - (c.) Teams with fewer than 15 varsity games played will be seeded based on a regular season winning percentage using a divisor of 15 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 region games will be played at the site of the higher seed throughout the tournament.
4. If schedule changes are necessary for a. through c. below, each region director, in consultation with the local Supervisor(s) of Athletics, State Tournament Director, and the MPSSAA Executive Director will establish the best schedule, site, and game combination that will expedite the tournament in that particular region.
 - (a.) The starting time for weekday contests when there is a single contest shall be any time after 5 p.m. and the starting time for a Saturday contest will be any time after 12 p.m. Local Supervisors of Athletics shall be consulted and make the final decision when conflicts occur.
 - (b.) Doubleheaders will be played in the first round where boys and girls match-ups exist for both schools. Doubleheaders will also be used to make-up postponed contests. The early game shall begin anytime after 5 p.m., with the late game beginning 20 minutes after the conclusion of the early game. Local school systems shall decide the order of contests for doubleheaders.

- (c.) Single games shall be scheduled on the chart on the next page:
- (d.) Region tournament directors and local supervisors of athletics shall be consulted and will make final decisions on postponed games.

Event	Boys	Girls
Regional Quarterfinals	Friday, February 27	Saturday, February 28
Region Semifinals	Monday, March 2	Tuesday, March 3
Region Finals	Wednesday, March 4	Thursday, March 5

* NOTE: Region quarterfinal games scheduled for Saturday, February 28 may be played on Friday, February 27. Every effort shall be made to avoid conflicts between the boys and girls games. Local Supervisors of Athletics shall be consulted and will make the final decision when conflicts occur. All other contests must be played on the date listed above.

5. Updated results shall be emailed to the respective State Directors by region directors as the tournament progresses.
 6. For the region quarterfinals and semifinals, the region director shall have assigned a two-person crew and a table official from the officials board local to the designated home team. The table official will supervise the scoring table. Local supervisors of athletics may decide to use three-person crews in the first two regional rounds of the tournament. When a three-person crew is used, a table official may be assigned.
 7. For the region finals, the region director shall have assigned a three-person crew from the officials board local to the designated home team. A table official MAY be assigned.
 8. An experienced timer will be assigned as the clock operator. "Neutral" timers with experience may also be assigned in lieu of the usual clock operator as determined by local Supervisors of Athletics.
 9. Pregame warm-up
 - (a.) At neutral or central sites, the designated home team will sit at the bench to the left of the scorer's table, when facing it, and warm up according to National Federation rules.
 - (b.) At the school site (entire school campus) of any regional playoff games, neither participating team may take part in any individual or team practice utilizing basketballs **in a gym** from 90 minutes prior to the designated tip-off until the 20-minute warm-up period immediately preceding the game.
 10. For the region quarterfinal games, local MPSSAA districts will collect all revenues and pay approved expenses.
 11. For region final games, the MPSSAA will receive all revenues and pay approved expenses.
- B. General Policies**
1. Individuals 7 years and older will be charged an admission of \$6 per session, regardless of the number of games played in each session.
 2. The following recommendations are made for admittance of school personnel and issuance of passes for tournament games:
 - (a.) The official party (identified in Section II.A.13) will be admitted free at a designated entrance, after being identified by the coach.
 - (b.) Cheerleaders, a mascot, and their authorized coaches will be admitted free at the door used by the public.
 - (c.) Only the person whose name appears on the state pass will be admitted (See Complimentary Passes on Page 5 of the Winter Bulletin for more information).

3. Only cheerleaders are permitted to use megaphones. Cheerleaders must follow NFHS Guidelines for cheering in a gymnasium.
4. No signs or banners may be carried in by spectators. Team signs may be posted by designated personnel 20 minutes prior to game time.
5. Local jurisdictions may set their own guidelines on the use of flash photography during game action.

V. 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 under the following terms:
 - (a.) The boys state quarterfinal games shall be played on Friday, March 6 and the girls state quarterfinal games shall be played on Saturday, March 7.
 - (b.) The boys state quarterfinal games scheduled on Friday, March 6 may be moved to Saturday, March 7 for travel considerations.
 - (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 the ACT or SAT Tests.
 - (d.) Local Supervisors of Athletics shall be contacted and make the final decision when conflicts occur.
4. A three-person officiating crew from the association local to the higher seeded team will be assigned to the state quarterfinal contest. A table official may be assigned.
5. Admission to the state quarterfinals will be \$8.00 for ages 7 and over.
6. For state quarterfinal games, the MPSSAA will receive all revenues and pay approved expenses through the district local to the hosting site.
7. The head coach of each state quarterfinal winner must complete the media form (found on the basketball page of MPSSAA.org) and email it to their respective state committee chair.

B. State Semifinals and Finals

1. The winners of the state quarterfinal round shall advance to the state semifinals. The girls and boys will play regional sites on Tuesday, March 10 and Wednesday, March 11.
 - (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 in a state semifinal contest.
 - (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 in a state semifinal contest.
 - (c.) The winners of the two state semifinal contests will meet in the state championship game at the University of Maryland - College Park in the Xfinity Center.
2. When determining state semifinal facility and game time assignments, the MPSSAA will take into consideration:
 - (a.) Facility capacity and the ability to accommodate anticipated crowd size

- (b.) Parking availability and the ability to transition between games (smaller game before larger game or stand-alone game to avoid transition altogether)
 - (c.) Travel distance for participating schools (impact on teams and loss of instructional time)
 - (d.) If the boys and girls teams from the same school qualify, efforts will be made to play the school together at the same site back-to-back.
 - (e.) Ability to play both semifinals for one gender/classification at the same site
3. Member schools shall not schedule practice or scrimmage sessions at the sites of the state semifinal (unless you are a host school) and final championship games.
 4. Directions (Please also direct your school's community to "Championship Central" on MPSSAA.org):
UMD-College Park — Please adhere to all campus parking regulations. From I-95/I-495 (Capital Beltway): Exit Rte. 1 South to MD. Rte. 193 (University Blvd.) - West one mile to left on Paint Branch Parkway. Follow signs to Xfinity Center parking.
 5. Individuals 7 years and older will be charged an admission of \$10.00 for the state semifinals and finals. Tickets will be sold exclusively online through www.mpssaa.org.
 6. Officials will be instructed before the game not to tolerate any unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches or players. A public expression of dissent from an official's judgment usually excites the spectators and often results in a technical foul. The coach's conduct, more than any other person, should be exemplary so as to set the pattern for the attitude of spectators.
 7. The Association will not be responsible for lost or stolen articles. It is recommended that players give their valuables to team managers for safekeeping.
 8. The home team will sit on the bench to the left of the scorers' table, when facing it, and will warm up according to National Federation rules.
 9. If a team withdraws or is withdrawn from the tournament, the team last defeated by the withdrawing team shall be asked to replace it, and so on. This does not apply if there is a COVID-19 situation, in which the Health and Safety guidelines on page 6 of this bulletin will apply.
 10. The Spalding TF-1000 Precision basketball will be the official ball for the state semifinals and finals.

Event	Date	Time
State Semifinals	Tuesday, March 10	Game times will be set at 5 p.m. or later.
State Semifinals	Wednesday, March 11	Game times will be set at 5 p.m. or later.
State Finals	Friday, March 13	2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m.
State Finals	Saturday, March 14	12 p.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m.
* NOTE: Any classifications or teams for the semifinals or finals are TBA.		

Potential State Semifinal Sites

Aberdeen High School
 Bel Air High School
 Montgomery Blair High School
 Edgewood High School
 Thomas Johnson High School
 New Town High School
 North Point High School
 South River High School
 Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School

* NOTE: The MPSSAA reserves the right to add additional sites as deemed necessary. **Schools offering their site to be a host of the state semifinals are eligible to host their own school in this round.**

C. General Policies

1. The official team bench party (limited to 21 persons and consisting of authorized coaches, players, and managers of high school age or older) will only be admitted in total and accompanied by their coach.
 - (a.) Tournament personnel will issue a tournament pass to each member of the party.
 - (b.) The cheerleader party shall consist of cheerleaders, mascot in uniform, and authorized coaches.
 - (c.) The basketball party shall consist of a maximum of 21 persons, including coaches.
 - (d.) The entrance to Xfinity Center for the official party will be through the loading dock from Parking Lot 4B.
 - (e.) One photographer from each participating school will be allowed on the floor in addition to official press photographers. Spectators who wish to take photographs must do so from their seats.
2. Games will be played on the basis of shared responsibilities. School staff personnel of the visiting schools must accept their joint responsibilities with the persons in charge.
 - (a.) A MINIMUM of three school staff members must be on the floor to assist with their spectators. A list of names and positions should be emailed to the respective tournament director by the team's head coach by Monday, March 10th.
 - (b.) The State Basketball Committees strongly urge that an assembly be conducted prior to participation in region and state tournament games. All school personnel, students, and parents should be made aware of their responsibilities as to their conduct as spectators.
3. Cheerleaders of opposing teams should get together before the game to work out arrangements for each school to cheer, unopposed by the other. The main court may be used during a full time-out, between quarters, and at halftime. Cheerleaders should use their megaphones only for addressing their own student body and never allow spectators to take or use them.
4. SIGNS ARE NOT PERMITTED FOR DISPLAY AT THE XFINITY CENTER.
5. HAND-HELD SIGNS may be displayed at the tournaments. Obscene or derogatory signs will be confiscated. Signs may not be carried through the stands as a means of taunting other spectators. Principals and faculty members of participating schools are expected to enforce this regulation.
6. No outside food or drink is permitted to be carried into the tournament site.
7. All schools are considered "visitors" when playing in the state tournament. For purposes of crowd control, the principal and school personnel brought to playoff sites should be alert to detect and correct or discipline any unsafe or unruly behavior of their spectators.
8. The State Basketball Committee will recognize the school which displays the best overall sportsmanship while participating in its respective tournament with a Sportsmanship Award. Each school's coaches, players, cheerleaders, mascots, bands and spectators will be graded on the level of sportsmanship they project. Immediately following the last game, the award will be presented to the principal of the school achieving the highest average score.

D. Officials

1. A three-person crew will be assigned to State Semifinal and Final games.

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

Projected MPSSAA Basketball Championship Dates		
2026 - March 13-14	2027 - March 12-13	2028 - March 10-11

2025-26 Basketball 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.	South Hagerstown	Was	3.	Kenwood	B Co	3.	Eleanor Roosevelt	PG	3.	North County	AA
4.	Clarksburg	Mtg	4.	Parkville	B Co	4.	High Point	PG	4.	Severn Run	AA
5.	Northwest	Mtg	5.	Perry Hall	B Co	5.	Laurel	PG	5.	Severna Park	AA
6.	Seneca Valley	Mtg	6.	Woodlawn	B Co	6.	Northwestern	PG	6.	Mergenthaler Vo-Tech	Balt
									7.	Western (Girls)	Balt
Region II			Region II			Region II			Region II		
1.	Bethesda-CC	Mtg	1.	Albert Einstein	Mtg	1.	Bladensburg	PG	1.	Annapolis	AA
2.	Gaithersburg	Mtg	2.	James Hubert Blake	Mtg	2.	Charles H. Flowers	PG	2.	Broadneck	AA
3.	Quince Orchard	Mtg	3.	John F. Kennedy	Mtg	3.	Dr. Henry A. Wise	PG	3.	Crofton	AA
4.	Walt Whitman	Mtg	4.	Richard Montgomery	Mtg	4.	Duval	PG	4.	North Point	Cha
5.	Walter Johnson	Mtg	5.	Springbrook	Mtg	5.	Parkdale	PG	5.	Bowie	PG
6.	Winston Churchill	Mtg	6.	Wheaton	Mtg	6.	Suitland	PG	6.	Leonardtown	StM
Class 3A West			Class 3A North			Class 3A South			Class 3A East		
Region I			Region I			Region I			Region I		
1.	Westminster	Car	1.	Milford Mill Academy	B Co	1.	Atholton	How	1.	Chesapeake	AA
2.	Frederick	Fre	2.	Overlea	B Co	2.	Guilford Park	How	2.	Northeast	AA
3.	Linganore	Fre	3.	Patapsco	B Co	3.	Mount Hebron	How	3.	Balt. City College	Balt
4.	Oakdale	Fre	4.	Towson	B Co	4.	Oakland Mills	How	4.	Balt. Polytechnic Inst.	Balt
5.	Tuscarora	Fre	5.	Aberdeen	Har	5.	Reservoir	How	5.	Digital Harbor	Balt
6.	North Hagerstown	Was	6.	Bel Air	Har	6.	Sherwood	Mtg	6.	Patterson	Balt
			7.	Edgewood	Har						
Region II			Region II			Region II			Region II		
1.	Col. Zadok Magruder	Mtg	1.	Catonsville	B Co	1.	St. 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.	Liberty	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.	C. Milton Wright	Har
5.	Poolesville	Mtg	5.	Manchester Valley	Car	5.	Gwynn Park	PG	5.	Fallston	Har
6.	Williamsport	Was	6.	Winters Mill	Car	6.	Surrattsville	PG	6.	North Harford	Har
Region II			Region II			Region II			Region II		
1.	Southern	AA	1.	Forest Park	Balt	1.	Calvert	Cal	1.	North Caroline	Cin
2.	Glenelg	How	2.	Paul Laurence Dunbar	Balt	2.	Huntingtown	Cal	2.	Kent Island	QA
3.	Hammond	How	3.	Carver Vo-Tech	Balt	3.	Henry E. Lackey	Cha	3.	Queen Anne's	QA
4.	Long Reach	How	4.	Carver A&T	B Co	4.	La Plata	Cha	4.	Easton	Tal
5.	River Hill	How	5.	Chesapeake	B Co	5.	McDonough	Cha	5.	Parkside	Wic
6.	Wilde Lake	Ho	6.	Eastern Tech	B Co	6.	Thomas Stone	Cha	6.	Wicomico	Wic
			7.	Sparrows Point	B Co	7.	Westlake	Cha			
Class 1A West			Class 1A North			Class 1A South			Class 1A East		
Region I			Region I			Region I			Region I		
1.	Allegany	All	1.	Loch Raven	B Co	1.	Chesapeake Science Pt.	AA	1.	Bohemia Manor	Cec
2.	Fort Hill	All	2.	Pikesville	B Co	2.	Benjamin Franklin	Balt	2.	Perryville	Cec
3.	Mountain Ridge	All	3.	Western STES	B Co	3.	Green Street Academy	Balt	3.	North Dorchester	Dor
4.	Northern	Gar	4.	Harford Tech	Har	4.	Edmondson-Westside	Balt	4.	Colonel Richardson	Cin
5.	Southern	Gar	5.	Havre de Grace	Har	5.	Southwestern	Balt	5.	Kent County	K
6.	Clear Spring	Was	6.	Joppatowne	Har	6.	SEED School	MD	6.	St. Michael's	Tal
7.	Hancock	Was	7.	Patterson Mill	Har						
Region II			Region II			Region II			Region II		
1.	Francis Scott Key	Car	1.	ACCE	Balt	1.	Central	PG	1.	Cambridge-SD	Dor
2.	South Carroll	Car	2.	Coppin Academy	Balt	2.	CMIT - North	PG	2.	Crisfield	Som
3.	Brunswick	Fre	3.	Reginald Lewis	Balt	3.	CMIT - South	PG	3.	Washington	Som
4.	Catoctin	Fre	4.	Frederick Douglass	Balt	4.	College Park Academy	PG	4.	Mardela	Wic
5.	Boonsboro	Was	5.	Lake Clifton	Balt	5.	Intern. at Largo	PG	5.	Pocomoke	Wor
6.	Smithsburg	Was	6.	National Acad. Foundation	Balt	6.	Patuxent	Cal	6.	Snow Hill	Wor

Indoor Track and Field Bulletin

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – FEBRUARY 17/18, 2026 – PRINCE GEORGE'S SPORTS & LEARNING COMPLEX

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
November 15	First Practice Date	February 2-7	Region Meets
December 5	First Play Date	February 15	Seeding of State Meets
		February 17	1A & 4A State Meets
		February 18	2A & 3A State Meets
* View the Region Meet Schedule and Entry and Scratch Deadlines on p. 23 of this bulletin.			

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association is the official governing body for the Indoor Track championships. Plans for the championships were formulated by the State Indoor Track 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 Indoor Track 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. Coaches do a disservice to the sport and to competitors when they fail to scratch an athlete prior to the entry deadline with full knowledge that the athlete will be unable to compete in the entered event. Failure to afford those participation opportunities to other willing competitors may be considered misconduct detrimental to the tournament as outlined in the MPSSAA Handbook.
- G. 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.

II. REGION AND STATE MEETS

A. Meet Organization

1. The team or individual contestants must be accompanied to the meet by the coach or a designated representative.
2. Teams competing at the PG Sportsplex will be admitted through the ground level team entrance at the back of the building.
3. The meet director will make sure starting blocks are provided.
4. Starting blocks WILL BE PERMITTED in the 55m and 55m high hurdle trials.
5. Girls will precede boys in finals of all running events.
6. Slower sections will precede the fast section.
7. **The lane order for seeding the 300m will be 5-6-4-3-2-1.**
8. Time limits for the 1600m races shall be: Girls - 7:00; Boys - 6:00. Time limits in the 3200m shall be: Girls - 14:45; Boys - 12:45. Competitors who do not conclude their event within the allotted time will

be allowed to finish and score. However, competitors who do not conclude their event within the allotted time will not be allowed to advance to states regardless of region placement.

9. Order of field events: Pole Vault (Boys, followed by Girls); High Jump (Girls, followed by Boys); Shot Put (Girls, followed by Boys).

10. **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.**

B. Playing Rules

1. All rules not modified here shall be in accordance with current National Federation rules.
 - (a.) Any team member listed on the school's roster may participate on any of that school's relay teams providing the maximum participation rule is not violated.
 - (b.) Any competitor who exceeds the maximum 6-event participation rule forfeits further participation in any and all events in the 2026 State Indoor Track Meet.
 - (c.) Should the competitor exceed the maximum participation rule while competing on a relay team, the entire relay team is excluded from that event at the 2026 State Indoor Meet.
 - (d.) Teams checking in at the bullpen for respective relay races must present relay cards with all participant names listed and present.
 - (e.) **After the start of the region or state meet, once an athlete scratches or does not start an event, the athlete is then scratched from all remaining events they may have entered in that meet. Athletes who have competed in events prior to the scratched event are still eligible to advance and compete in the next meet in the series.**
2. Shoes with spikes are prohibited in all facilities in Maryland except the Prince George's Sportsplex. Any infraction will result in the disqualification of the competitor from the meet.
3. Only shoes with 1/4" pyramid spikes or less are permitted in the Prince George's Sportsplex. *Shoes with hard plastic spike plates may not be worn without spikes inserted at any facility.*
4. The spraying of shoe soles is prohibited. Any infraction will result in the disqualification of the competitor from the meet.
5. No tape will be permitted on the floor for any running event.
6. Videotape or other electronic recording of appeals will not be accepted.

C. General Policies

1. **All electronic listening devices are only permitted in the stands and upper concourse area.**

III. REGION MEET

A. Meet Organization

1. Any team that makes formal application on athletic.net by the established deadline will be entered into the meet.
2. An application received after the Region Meet Entry Deadline must be accompanied by a check, payable to the MPSSAA, in the amount of \$100.00, or the entry is invalid. The burden of proof is on the school. In no case will a team be entered into a region meet if the Region Meet Director does not have the completed application and \$100 late fee (if applicable) in hand by the Penalty Deadline (five calendar days prior to the start of the meet).
3. Each school may submit three (3) entries per individual event and one (1) team in each relay event.

- (a.) The **top 12** verifiable entries per individual event will have a chance to compete in their respective region meet. Every school in the region may enter a team and compete in the relay events.
 - (b.) A verifiable entry is a regular season high school event during the current indoor track season that has official results for all competitors and teams competing in that event and is posted on athletic.net.
 - (c.) The only conversions permitted, other than hand-timed converted to FAT, will be for the 1600m (1500m and 1 mile) and 3200m (3000m and 2 mile). Conversions must be made using the conversion calculator tool on the MPSSAA's Indoor Track and Field section.
 - (d.) It is the school's responsibility to provide verified marks and any marks that can not be verified through official regular season results, will result in the entry being reseeded to their next best verifiable mark.
 - (e.) In the event of a tie for the **12th best mark**, all tied competitors will have a chance to compete in the regional meet.
4. You may not make any changes (except scratches) to your entries once the entry deadline has passed; no additions or seed time/mark revisions will be permitted after the entry deadline. It is the coach's responsibility to make sure all entries are correct before the entry deadline.
5. A scratch in an individual event is due **THREE** calendar days before the start of the meet to the region director (Scratch Deadline Date).
6. After the Scratch Deadline Date, the meet is seeded and no changes to accepted entries can be made. In addition, after that deadline, all entries in individual events count as an event that the athlete has participated in.
7. The following online method for entry must be used for regional entries. Please follow these directions for submitting entries.
 - (a.) Go to <www.athletic.net>, the site hosting the online entry process.
 - (b.) Log in to your coach account.
 - (c.) Your region meet should appear on your team's season calendar. Select the meet and then click the "Register Athletes" button.
 - (d.) You may choose to complete entries "by event" or "by athlete"
 - (e.) Enter/confirm your contact info and select the gender(s) in which you wish to complete entries for and then click Enter Team.
 - (f.) You are now able to enter athletes in events for the region meet.
 - (g.) After completing entries, print a confirmation copy of your entries by clicking on the print confirmation link at the top of your entry summary. The coach must bring a copy of this entry confirmation to the region meet.
 - (h.) Detailed entry instructions can be found at , <<https://support.athletic.net/article/z11f8f1jja-submitting-entries-for-a-meet>>.
 - (i.) Additional help topics can be found at , <https://support.athletic.net/category/ipfmxavxq2-team-management>>.
8. 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).
9. The Meet Director or Meet Administrator has the right to challenge any entry that does not have a verifiable performance throughout the current Indoor Track season. The Meet Director or Meet

Administrator will notify the coach of the concern and may adjust entry to the best verifiable performance for the current season. If this changes the **top 12**, the next verifiable mark will be entered.

10. Eligible individuals, as found on the school's athletic.net roster, may participate in a region meet provided they have a minimum of three weeks of supervised training and have participated in at least one MPSSAA-sanctioned meets.
11. Meets run outdoors or in school hallways will not be counted as sanctioned meets.
12. Meets shall be organized and structured in a uniform way—entry on the basis of best performance, seeding, placement in lanes, etc.
13. Starting blocks WILL BE PERMITTED in the 55m and 55m high hurdle trials.
14. Region meets will be held at the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex (8003 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD 20785).
15. **For meets at the PG Sportsplex, the following organizational procedures shall be followed:**
 - (a.) Teams are not permitted in the Sportsplex prior to announced times.
 - (b.) Only shoes with 1/4" pyramid spikes or less are permitted in the Prince George's Sportsplex. Shoes with hard plastic spike plates may not be worn without spikes inserted.
 - (c.) All pole vault competitors will weigh in immediately on entering the Sportsplex. Boys will be weighed in first, followed by girls. Boys competition will begin warmups immediately followed by the start of competition.
 - (d.) Blocks are permitted to be used in the 55m dash, 300m, 500m, 4x200mR, 4x400mR, and 55m HH.

B. Playing Rules

1. The team or individual contestants must be accompanied to the meet by the coach or a designated representative.
2. In addition to the **top 2 individuals** and the **top 2 relay teams** advancing to the state meet, the next **top 6 times** or marks from all regions in a classification will advance to the state meet. If a tie occurs for third place, all tied competitors shall advance.
3. In addition to the automatic qualifiers, individual competitors or relay teams who, in their region meet finals, meet the qualifying standard on the previous page may also compete.
4. Order of track events - girls will precede boys in all final running events, except where noted:

1) 55m HH Semifinals B, G	6) 1600m	11) 3200m (B)
2) 55m Semifinals B, G	7) 500m	12) 4x200m Relay
3) 4x800m Relay	8) 55m HH Finals	13) 800m
4) 300m	9) 55m Finals	14) 4x400m Relay
5) BREAK – 15 mins.	10) 3200m (G)	

- (a.) Only two rounds of 55m or 55m HH will be run. Heat winners plus next fastest times will advance to finals. In addition, any athlete that achieves the state automatic qualifying mark in the preliminary heats, will advance to the region meet final heat(s).
- (b.) If a two heat final in the 55m and 55m HH must be run, one section shall contain the maximum number of athletes that the track permits while the other section must contain a minimum of two athletes. Heat winners will be seeded first and the remaining athletes will be seeded on time.
5. The State Committee will set common opening heights for the pole vault and high jump events for each region in a classification.

C. General Policies

1. Individuals 7 years of age and older will be charged an admission of \$10. There will be no on-site ticket sales. Tickets for admission can only be purchased online.
2. A plaque will be awarded to the first place team. The meet will be scored for the **top six** in each event and ribbons will be awarded to the **top six** finishers in each event.
3. The track and the infield are restricted areas and open only to meet officials and competitors in uniform.
 - (a.) Penalty for coaches in violation: disqualification of their athlete(s) from the contested event.
 - (b.) Violators will be asked to leave the facility.

IV. STATE MEET

A. Meet Organization

1. Region meet champions will be placed as the top seeds in each event contested in sections.
2. The following lane order will be used for seeding:
 - (a.) 55m and 55m hurdles **(5-6-4-7-3-8)**. (The lane assignment in the final shall be determined by the following finish order in the semifinals: place, then time.)
 - (b.) 300m, 500m, 4x200mR, 4x400mR **(5-6-4-3-2-1)**
 - (c.) 800m, 1600m, 3200m, 4x800mR (1-2-3-4-5-6)
 - (d.) 800m, 1600m, 3200m, and 4x800mR will be run on a 1-turn stagger, starting in the alleys (outside alley to top seeds).
3. The 2026 Championships will be held February 17 and 18 at the Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex, Landover. Class 1A and Class 4A meets will be held on February 17 beginning at 1 PM. The Class 2A and Class 3A meets will be held February 18, beginning at 1 PM.
 - (a.) Pole vaulters may enter early to begin warm-ups.
 - (b.) All spectators must park in the large lot on Brightseat Road just beyond the light at Sheriff Road.
 - (c.) Team buses should turn right at light onto Sheriff Road. Turn left at light at Harvey Drive into the Sportsplex entrance.
4. **Each event at the state meet will have a minimum of 12 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 6", 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.**

B. Playing Rules

1. Order of running events

1) 55m HH Semifinals - B, G	6) 1600m Finals - G, B	11) 3200m Final - B
2) 55m Semifinals - B, G	7) 500m Finals - G, B	12) 4x200m Relay Finals - G, B
3) 4x800m Relay Finals - G, B	8) 55m HH Finals - G, B	13) 800m Finals - G, B
4) 300m Finals - G, B	9) 55m Finals - G, B	14) 4x400m Relay Final - G, B
5) BREAK - 15 mins.	10) 3200m Final - G	

*** NOTE: A 15 min. break is only observed if the meet is for one classification.**

2. Order of field events

FEBRUARY 17 – CLASS 1A AND CLASS 4A

SHOT PUT	HIGH JUMP	POLE VAULT
1A Girls	4A Girls	1A Boys
4A Girls	1A Girls	4A Boys
1A Boys	4A Boys	1A Girls
4A Boys	1A Boys	4A Girls

FEBRUARY 18 – CLASS 2A AND CLASS 3A

SHOT PUT	HIGH JUMP	POLE VAULT
3A Girls	2A Girls	3A Boys
2A Girls	3A Girls	2A Boys
3A Boys	2A Boys	3A Girls
2A Boys	3A Boys	2A Girls

3. Pole vaulting will begin promptly on each day of the state meet.
 4. **The MPSSAA will supply Batons at the State Meet for relay races.**
 5. Only shoes with 1/4" pyramid spikes or less are permitted in the Prince George's Sportsplex. Shoes with hard plastic spike plates may not be worn without spikes inserted. ***The Prince George's Sportsplex will check all spikes.***
 6. Opening heights in the field events will be determined by the Games Committee based on the entries received.
 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.**
 8. A competitor who is not ready to perform when called by the official will be charged with a trial in the field events and could be disqualified in a running event.
 9. A competitor must notify the official when leaving one event after being called for competition in another event.
 10. **Six places** will be scored in the State meet.
- C. General Policies
1. Individuals 7 years of age and older will be charged an admission of \$10. There will be no on-site ticket sales. Tickets for admission can only be purchased online. No re-entry will be permitted.
 2. Trophies will be awarded to the first and second place teams. **Medals will be awarded to those placing first through sixth in all events.**
 3. The track and the infield are restricted areas and open only to meet officials and competitors in uniform.
 - (a.) Penalty for coaches in violation: disqualification of their athlete(s) from the contested event.
 - (b.) Violators will be asked to leave the facility.

MPSSAA STATE INDOOR TRACK COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE LISTED ON THE MPSSAA WEBSITE AT MPSSAA.ORG.

Projected MPSSAA Indoor Track Championship Dates		
2027 – February 16/17	2028 – February 22/23	2029 – February 20/21

ADVANCEMENT STANDARDS FOR PERFORMANCE IN THE 2026 REGION FINALS

Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex

GIRLS				
	4A	3A	2A	1A
55m	7.44	7.45	7.60	7.80
55HH	9.16	9.09	9.63	9.85
300m	41.79	42.29	43.28	43.80
500m	1:20.69	1:21.24	1:22.98	1:25.58
800m	2:25.90	2:27.56	2:30.63	2:35.49
1600m	5:26.51	5:30.34	5:35.47	5:53.93
3200m	11:48.72	12:06.24	12:23.30	13:00.82
4x200	1:49.11	1:50.06	1:51.80	1:55.31
4x400	4:13.74	4:15.95	4:20.79	4:29.68
4x800	10:11.43	10:17.18	10:35.92	10:59.88
HJ	4-10	4-10	4-08	4-08
SP	33-00	32-07	31-02	29-10
PV	8-00	7-06	8-00	7-06

BOYS				
	4A	3A	2A	1A
55m	6.71	6.74	6.76	6.94
55HH	8.22	8.22	8.40	8.79
300m	36.79	36.70	37.18	37.83
500m	1:08.79	1:09.46	1:10.31	1:11.44
800m	2:03.09	2:04.68	2:06.65	2:09.94
1600m	4:34.99	4:37.96	4:42.80	4:54.39
3200m	10:00.42	10:14.43	10:23.11	10:53.24
4x200	1:34.87	1:35.82	1:36.81	1:39.22
4x400	3:34.83	3:36.64	3:39.95	3:44.54
4x800	8:30.62	8:36.22	8:48.73	9:06.38
HJ	5-10	5-10	5-10	5-08
SP	44-03	43-04	42-08	41-08
PV	10-06	10-06	11-00	10-00

2026 REGION MEET INFORMATION

All meets will be held at the Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex.

E-mail addresses for region directors can be found on the Indoor Track pages of mpssaa.org.

1A West PG Sports and Learning Complex Saturday, January 31 (10:00 a.m.) Entry Deadline: January 24 Penalty Deadline: January 26 Scratch Deadline: January 27 Coaches Meeting: 9:30 a.m. Meet Director: Becky Ward School: Boonsboro	1A Central PG Sports and Learning Complex Wednesday, February 4 (1:00 p.m.) Entry Deadline: January 28 Penalty Deadline: January 30 Scratch Deadline: January 31 Coaches Meeting: 12:30 p.m. Meet Director: TBA School:	1A East PG Sports and Learning Complex Friday, February 6 (1:00 p.m.) Entry Deadline: January 30 Penalty Deadline: February 1 Scratch Deadline: February 2 Coaches Meeting: 12:30 p.m. Meet Director: TBA School:
2A West PG Sports and Learning Complex Tuesday, February 3 (1:00 p.m.) Entry Deadline: January 27 Penalty Deadline: January 29 Scratch Deadline: January 30 Coaches Meeting: 12:30 p.m. Meet Director: Philip Rogers School: Reservoir	2A Central PG Sports and Learning Complex Thursday, February 5 (1:00 p.m.) Entry Deadline: January 29 Penalty Deadline: January 31 Scratch Deadline: February 1 Coaches Meeting: 12:30 p.m. Meet Director: Brad Duvall School: Hereford	2A East PG Sports and Learning Complex Monday, February 2 (1:00 p.m.) Entry Deadline: January 26 Penalty Deadline: January 28 Scratch Deadline: January 29 Coaches Meeting: 12:30 p.m. Meet Director: Kevin Heider School: Thomas Stone
3A West PG Sports and Learning Complex Saturday, January 31 (10:00 a.m.) Entry Deadline: January 24 Penalty Deadline: January 26 Scratch Deadline: January 27 Coaches Meeting: 9:30 a.m. Meet Director: Ronnie Beard School: Oakdale	3A Central PG Sports and Learning Complex Thursday, February 5 (1:00 p.m.) Entry Deadline: January 29 Penalty Deadline: January 31 Scratch Deadline: February 1 Coaches Meeting: 12:30 p.m. Meet Director: Eric Benjamin School: Dulaney	3A East PG Sports and Learning Complex Tuesday, February 3 (1:00 p.m.) Entry Deadline: January 27 Penalty Deadline: January 29 Scratch Deadline: January 30 Coaches Meeting: 12:30 p.m. Meet Director: Philip Rogers School: Reservoir
4A West PG Sports and Learning Complex Monday, February 2 (1:00 p.m.) Entry Deadline: January 26 Penalty Deadline: January 28 Scratch Deadline: January 29 Coaches Meeting: 12:30 p.m. Meet Director: Bryant Adams School: Northwest	4A Central PG Sports and Learning Complex Friday, February 6 (1:00 p.m.) Entry Deadline: January 30 Penalty Deadline: February 1 Scratch Deadline: February 2 Coaches Meeting: 12:30 p.m. Meet Director: TBA School:	4A East PG Sports and Learning Complex Wednesday, February 4 (1:00 p.m.) Entry Deadline: January 28 Penalty Deadline: January 30 Scratch Deadline: January 31 Coaches Meeting: 12:30 p.m. Meet Director: TBA School:

2025-26 Indoor Track and Field Classification Alignment

Class 4A West			Class 4A Central			Class 4A East		
1.	Gov. Thomas Johnson	Fre	1.	Mergenthaler Vo-Tech	Balt	1.	Annapolis	AA
2.	Urbana	Fre	2.	Western	Balt	2.	Broadneck	AA
3.	James Hubert Blake	Mtg	3.	Dulaney	B Co	3.	Crofton	AA
4.	Bethesda-CC	Mtg	4.	Dundalk	B Co	4.	Glen Burnie	AA
5.	Clarksburg	Mtg	5.	Kenwood	B Co	5.	Meade	AA
6.	Gaithersburg	Mtg	6.	Parkville	B Co	6.	North County	AA
7.	John F. Kennedy	Mtg	7.	Perry Hall	B Co	7.	Severn Run	AA
8.	Northwest	Mtg	8.	Woodlawn	B Co	8.	North Point	Cha
9.	Quince Orchard	Mtg	9.	Albert Einstein	Mtg	9.	Bladensburg	PG
10.	Richard Montgomery	Mtg	10.	Montgomery Blair	Mtg	10.	Bowie	PG
11.	Seneca Valley	Mtg	11.	Paint Branch	Mtg	11.	Charles H. Flowers	PG
12.	Walt Whitman	Mtg	12.	Springbrook	Mtg	12.	Dr. Henry A. Wise	PG
13.	Walter Johnson	Mtg	13.	Eleanor Roosevelt	PG	13.	Duval	PG
14.	Wheaton	Mtg	14.	High Point	PG	14.	Parkdale	PG
15.	Winston Churchill	Mtg	15.	Laurel	PG	15.	Suitland	PG
16.	South Hagerstown	Was	16.	Northwestern	PG	16.	Leonardtown	StM
Class 3A West			Class 3A Central			Class 3A East		
1.	Westminster	Car	1.	Balt. City College	Balt	1.	Arundel	AA
2.	Frederick	Fre	2.	Balt. Polytechnic Inst.	Balt	2.	Chesapeake	AA
3.	Linganore	Fre	3.	Digital Harbor	Balt	3.	Northeast	AA
4.	Oakdale	Fre	4.	Patterson	Balt	4.	Old Mill	AA
5.	Tuscarora	Fre	5.	Catonsville	B Co	5.	Severna Park	AA
6.	Atholton	How	6.	Franklin	B Co	6.	South River	AA
7.	Marriotts Ridge	How	7.	Milford Mill Academy	B Co	7.	Northern	Cal
8.	Reservoir	How	8.	New Town	B Co	8.	St. Charles	Cha
9.	Col. Zadok Magruder	Mtg	9.	Overlea	B Co	9.	Aberdeen	Har
10.	Damascus	Mtg	10.	Patapsco	B Co	10.	Edgewood	Har
11.	Northwood	Mtg	11.	Towson	B Co	11.	Largo	PG
12.	Rockville	Mtg	12.	Guilford Park	How	12.	Oxon Hill	PG
13.	Sherwood	Mtg	13.	Centennial	How	13.	Potomac	PG
14.	Thomas S. Wootton	Mtg	14.	Howard	How	14.	Chopticon	StM
15.	Watkins Mill	Mtg	15.	Mount Hebron	How	15.	Great Mills	StM
16.	North Hagerstown	Was	16.	Oakland Mills	How	16.	James M. Bennett	Wic
						17.	Stephen Decatur	Wor
Class 2A West			Class 2A Central			Class 2A East		
1.	Century	Car	1.	Carver Vo-Tech	Balt	1.	Southern	AA
2.	Manchester Valley	Car	2.	Forest Park	Balt	2.	Calvert	Cal
3.	Winters Mill	Car	3.	Paul Laurence Dunbar	Balt	3.	Huntingtown	Cal
4.	Middletown	Fre	4.	Chesapeake	B Co	4.	North Caroline	Cin
5.	Walkersville	Fre	5.	Eastern Tech	B Co	5.	Henry E. Lackey	Cha
6.	Glenelg	How	6.	Hereford	B Co	6.	La Plata	Cha
7.	Hammond	How	7.	Lansdowne	B Co	7.	McDonough	Cha
8.	Long Reach	How	8.	Owings Mills	B Co	8.	Thomas Stone	Cha
9.	River Hill	How	9.	Randallstown	B Co	9.	Westlake	Cha
10.	Wilde Lake	How	10.	Sparrows Point	B Co	10.	Frederick Douglass	PG
11.	Poolesville	Mtg	11.	Elkton	Cec	11.	Gwynn Park	PG
12.	Crossland	PG	12.	North East	Cec	12.	Kent Island	QA
13.	Fairmont Heights	PG	13.	Rising Sun	Cec	13.	Queen Anne's	QA
14.	Friendly	PG	14.	Bel Air	Har	14.	Easton	Tal
15.	Surrattsville	PG	15.	C. Milton Wright	Har	15.	Parkside	Wic
16.	Williamsport	Was	16.	Fallston	Har	16.	Wicomico	Wic
			17.	North Harford	Har			
Class 1A West			Class 1A Central			Class 1A East		
1.	Allegany	All	1.	ACCE	Balt	1.	Chesapeake Science Pt	AA
2.	Fort Hill	All	2.	Benjamin Franklin	Balt	2.	Patuxent	Cal
3.	Mountain Ridge	All	3.	Edmondson-Westside	Balt	3.	Bohemia Manor	Cec
4.	Francis Scott Key	Car	4.	Frederick Douglass	Balt	4.	Perryville	Cec
5.	Liberty	Car	5.	Green Street Academy	Balt	5.	Colonel Richardson	Cin
6.	South Carroll	Car	6.	Lake Clifton	Balt	6.	Cambridge-SD	Dor
7.	Northern	Gar	7.	National Acad. Found.	Balt	7.	North Dorchester	Dor
8.	Southern	Gar	8.	Southwestern	Balt	8.	Kent County	K
9.	Brunswick	Fre	9.	Carver A&T	B Co	9.	Central	PG
10.	Catoctin	Fre	10.	Loch Raven	B Co	10.	CMIT - North	PG
11.	Monocacy Valley Chart.	Fre	11.	Pikesville	B Co	11.	CMIT - South	PG
12.	SEED School	MD	12.	Western Tech	B Co	12.	Int. HS at Langley Park	PG
13.	Boonsboro	Was	13.	Harford Tech	Har	13.	Int. HS at Largo	PG
14.	Clear Spring	Was	14.	Havre de Grace	Har	14.	Crisfield	Som
15.	Hancock	Was	15.	Joppatowne	Har	15.	Washington	Som
16.	Smithsburg	Was	16.	Patterson Mill	Har	16.	Mardela	Wic
						17.	Pocomoke	Wor
						18.	Snow Hill	Wor

Swimming and Diving Bulletin

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – FEBRUARY 20/21, 2026 – UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND - EPPLEY RECREATION CENTER

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
November 15	First Practice Date	February 12-14	Region Meets
December 5	First Play Date	February 17	Seeding of State Meets
February 9	Region Meet Entry Deadline	February 20/21	State Meets
February 10	Region Meet Scratch/Late Entry Deadline		

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) is the official governing body for the Swimming Championships. Plans for the tournament will be formulated by the State Swimming 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 Swimming and Diving Bulletin. Unless specifically stated, all rules and regulations stipulated in the NFHS Swimming and Diving Rule Book will be followed.
- C. Eligibility rules for all participants are defined in MPSSAA Bylaw .02 found in the current MPSSAA Handbook.
- D. General regulations for all state tournaments are contained in MPSSAA Bylaw .07, found in both the current Handbook, in the front section of this publication, and in the National Federation of State High School Swimming rules for administration of Championship/Large Meets. (Located on the Swimming and Diving page of NFHS.org)
- E. National Federation rulebooks are distributed by the MPSSAA office to every member school offering swimming. It is the responsibility of each coach to read and know the rules.
- F. Officials do a disservice to the sport and student athlete competitors when they set aside rules that apply to illegal uniforms or permit unsportsmanlike acts because they do not want to appear "too picky" or feel that "it is not a major meet." When those student 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 do not consider how devastating it is to a student athlete disqualified in a major meet because of an illegal uniform or meet conduct violation such as arriving late to the starting blocks. Certainly, this should not happen. However, such disqualifications are ultimately the responsibility of the student athlete and coach. Meet officials who tolerate illegal actions during the season must also assume some responsibility.
- G. Points of Emphasis
 1. Shaving - No on-site shaving before, during, or after a meet (NFHS Rule 3).
 2. Excessive celebration - For safety reasons, excessive celebration is prohibited on the pool deck. Example: Throwing a coach in the pool.
 3. A Declared False Start (DFS) counts as an event. A scratch removes the swimmer from the entire meet.
 4. Video and other image-producing devices will not be accepted as a basis for an appeal.
- H. Each school entering a meet agrees to abide by decisions made by that meet's swim committee. The referee shall resolve protests at dual, triple dual, or tri meets. Protests at the City, County, Conference, or District championships based upon classification or State Meets shall normally be resolved by the Referee. However, if deemed serious enough by the Referee and/or Meet Manager, an Appeals Committee will be convened promptly, to consist of the Meet Manager, Administrative Referee, and Referee, at the site of the

meet, to render a decision. The State Rules Interpreter will be a member of the Appeals Committee at the state meet.

- I. The State Swimming Committee has approved the use of Hy-Tek Team and Meet Manager during the regular season. This software will be used during the regional and state meets. All jurisdictions must use the Windows version of HY-Tek Team Manager software to submit entries to the Region managers.
- J. There is a four event limit per competitor with no more than two of which may be individual events as per National Federation Rules.

II. REGION AND STATE MEETS

A. Meet Organization

1.

Seeding Order	8-Lane Pool	6-Lane Pool
From middle lane	4-5-3-6-2-7-1-8	3-4-2-5-1-6

2. Specific information for order of swimming events is listed below. (NFHS Rule 5)
3. Meet Directors will be responsible for organizing the meets, securing 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, etc.
 - (a.) Hand timed (HT) races shall be recorded to one one-hundredth (1/100) of a second. Fully automatic timed races (AT) shall be recorded to one one-hundredth (1/100) of a second.
 - (b.) All key, paid officials will be registered with the MPSSAA. It is preferred that these officials have no conflict of interest with any participants in the meet. All teams will be expected to provide the names of two adult timers for region meets and state meets who will stay for the duration of the meet if selected.
4. A coaches' meeting will be held prior to the start of their appropriate meet, unless otherwise noted.
 - (a.) A printed meet 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.
 - (b.) Entry in a relay becomes official when the team declares its four swimmers at the coaches' meeting prior to the meet. The lead swimmer and three others (in no order) will be designated for each relay. All swimmers, by stroke, will be designated for the medley relays. A form will be provided. Any changes to relays after the coaches' meeting must be put in writing listing the event, swimmer(s) added, and swimmer(s) replaced. It should be given to and approved by the Admin Referee (**Swimmers must be one of the eight already declared in the Team Manager entry file.**)
 - (c.) There will also be the opportunity for deck scratches, before or immediately after the coaches' meeting, using the form provided. A scratch at any time, including missing (failing to swim in) a scheduled event, disqualifies that swimmer or the designated lead swimmer of the relay team from the rest of their scheduled meet events. Teams at the coaches' meeting may scratch relays without penalty prior to the conclusion of the meeting.
 - (d.) Declared False Starts (DFS) can be stated at the coaches' meeting to all in attendance, including the REFEREE. A DFS made during the meet must be given to the Referee, who will let the field know before the start of the appropriate event and heat. A DFS will count as an event for that swimmer.
5. There will be a break of at least 15 minutes, including at least 10 minutes warm-up in the water just before the 100-yard butterfly. If there is no warm-up/warm-down pool, there will be a five-minute break following the 500 free to allow relay swimmers to get wet.

6. Region Meet Directors shall email final meet results to State Meet Entry Coordinator Michael Kokoski (mpssaaswimdive@gmail.com) immediately following the completion of their meet(s) for posting on MPSSAA.org and County Sports Zone.

ORDER OF SWIMMING & DIVING EVENTS		
<u>BOYS</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>GIRLS</u>
1	200-yard Medley Relay	2
3	200-yard Freestyle	4
5	200-yard Individual Medley	6
7	50-yard Freestyle	8
9	Break/Diving TBD	10
11	100-yard Butterfly	12
13	100-yard Freestyle	14
15	500-yard Freestyle	16
17	200-yard Freestyle Relay	18
19	100-yard Backstroke	20
21	100-yard Breaststroke	22
23	400-yard Freestyle Relay	24

B. Playing Rules

1. All rules not modified here shall be in accordance with the current National Federation rules.
2. Eligible individuals may participate in a region meet provided they have a minimum of three weeks of supervised training and have participated in at least two MPSSAA-sanctioned meets.
3. There is a 8-minute cut-off time for boys entries and 8-minute, 30-second cut-off for girls entries in the 500 freestyle events.
4. Competitors must compete in school approved team uniforms. Suits and caps must meet NFHS guidelines. Team caps must be identical. Failure to comply shall result in a warning for the first offense and an event disqualification for any subsequent offense.
5. Contestants are to report on the first call to the staging area.
6. Team points will be scored to 16th place according to NFHS Championship Meet Scoring Rules.

C. General Policies

1. Each school shall supply its own lap counters and operators for the 500 freestyle events **if requested by the Meet Director**. All teams must bring stop watches for their timers.
2. Only designated officials and participants shall be permitted on deck. Coaches and members of their teams shall remain in their designated areas, from which point the coach can dispatch contestants to the proper location for participation.
3. Electronic audio devices are barred from use at pools during meets, especially around the starting blocks. The rule applies to spectators as well as participants. Any other devices emitting excessive noise will also be silenced.
4. Photography is PROHIBITED from behind the starting blocks (this includes cell phones).

III. REGION MEETS

A. Meet Organization

1. Any swim team that makes formal application (submits Team Manager entry files) by the established deadline (6 PM on February 9th) will be entered in the meet. Files must be emailed to the appropriate

- region meet managers. The Hy-tek entry report with times must be signed by coach, athletic director and principal, and emailed or faxed to the meet director by 6 PM on February 9th.
2. Late entries, in the correct format, will be accepted up to 24 hours after the deadline, (Late entry deadline: 6 PM on February 10th). A late entry fee of \$100 must accompany the entries. NO entries will be accepted without this fee or in an incorrect format.
 3. Team Manager files received after the late meet entry deadline (6 PM on February 10th) will not be accepted. The burden of proof is on the school.
 4. The Region Meet Directors are responsible for contacting those schools whose Team Manager files are incomplete or were not received by the deadline.
 5. Coaches are responsible for verifying their entries before the file is submitted.
 6. Coaches are responsible for emailing or faxing to the Region Meet Director, a team administrative roster of coaches, manager names, and two adult timers. This form must be submitted with the Hy-tek entry by the entry deadline date (6 PM on February 9th).
 7. This will be a timed finals meet.
 8. Entry Guidelines
 - (a.) A diving entry does not count towards the entry limits.
 - (b.) No more than two competitors from a given school shall be allowed to enter in any individual event with documented times from a regularly scheduled swim meet in 2025-2026 (i.e., based upon a minimum of two "watch times" averaged or electronic timing). Each team will also submit their one automatic relay entry with up to eight swimmers per relay event and the documented seed time. (See II. A. 4. c. for entry in relays.) "No time" entries will not be accepted.
 - (c.) Competitors that are entered into, compete in, and qualify from their region meet are expected to participate in their State Championship Meet or be subject to "misconduct detrimental to the tournament" and its' penalties as found in the MPSSAA Handbook.
 - (d.) Schools are reminded they must be in compliance of COMAR 13A.06.03.02G related to participation on high school and outside teams.
 - (e.) **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)]. Coaches do a disservice to the sport and challenge the integrity of the championships when they mask participant attendance (i.e. attendance at an outside/club event championship) at the state meet in relay events with NFHS relay substitution rules.**
 9. The Meet Director or Meet Administrator has the right to challenge any entry that is not consistent with a verifiable performance throughout the current Swimming Season. The Meet Director or Meet Administrator will notify the coach of the concern.
 10. Directions for Entry
 - (a.) Go to the MPSSAA Swimming page and click on the link "MPSSAA Swimming Championships Entry Page."
 - (b.) If Team Manager is not used during the regular season, download TM Lite and the Team Manager startup database for your region.
 - (c.) Create a team roster file in this database. This file must include the following information:
 - i. Swimmer's last name, first name, middle initial (**Do NOT include date of birth.**)
 - ii. Gender
 - iii. Three-letter MPSSAA team code only; **No LSC Code (MPSSAA Handbook pages 48-49)**

iv. Current school year (Example: Fr/So/Jr/Sr)

- (d.) Create an entry file. Entry limitations (See II. B. 2.) will be enforced.
- (e.) Export the roster file (An example of the team roster file name being exported and emailed is: LAC - Roster 001.) and the entry file (An example of the meet entry file being exported and e-mailed is: LAC-Entries 001.) from Team Manager.
- (f.) Print out a meet entry report from Hy-Tek, which includes proof of times. This report shall be signed by the school's Principal, Athletic Director and Swim Coach, and sent to the meet manager. A back up copy brought to the meet is strongly encouraged.
- (g.) Export a meet attendance report from Hy-Tek. This report is found under Reports > Meet Reports > Number of Meets Attended. Set the date filter for 12/5/2025.
- (h.) E-mail these four files (team roster file (zip), entry file (zip), meet entry report (pdf), meet attendance report (pdf)) to the Region Meet Manager/Hy-Tek Operator in your region.

**More specific instructions are available on the Entry Page.
- (i.) A return e-mail will be sent from the Region Meet Manager to confirm receipt of the files (This email does not confirm the validity of the entries, only the receipt of the files.).

11. Diving

- (a.) State and Region competition will consist of 11 dives per National Federation Rule 9.
- (b.) Diving shall be administered by a diving referee. There will be five, seven, or nine dive judges. An announcer shall announce the dives, competitors, describe the dives, and the awards given by each judge (NFHS Rule 9).
- (c.) Official entry card/score sheet with divers' first and last name, and school will be sent to the appropriate Meet Managers through the jurisdictional representative at the same time the swim entries are submitted.
- (d.) Divers will be limited to four boys and four girls per school.
- (e.) The top four scores in each region will advance to the State Finals.
- (f.) If a region does not fill the top four spots or state qualifier must withdraw, the next highest non-qualifier (from any region) shall be invited to the State Meet in order to guarantee a full complement of finalists.

12. **All entries are final at 6 p.m., February 10, 2026. NO events will be reseeded. If a swimmer needs to be scratched from the meet (complete removal from the meet) they may be replaced, in individual events only, by another swimmer on the previously submitted electronic roster who has not exhausted their compliment of events. Scratches must be completed by the end of the coaches meeting.**

- 13. There will be a meeting prior to the region meet for Region Meet Directors/Hy-Tek Operators who are unfamiliar with or who have not worked with the computer software.
- 14. Each District Representative/Meet Director shall email their region Meet Manager backup files to State Meet Entry Coordinator Michael Kokoski (mpssaaswimdive@gmail.com) immediately following the completion of their meet(s) for the seeding of the State Meets.

B. General Policies

- 1. Awards: Trophies will be given to the winning boys and girls team in each classification. Ribbons will be awarded to the top eight finishers in each event.
- 2. Individuals 7 years of age and older will be charged an admission of \$8.

IV. STATE MEETS

A. Meet Organization

1. The State meet will be seeded from region results, based on time.
2. Swimming Championships
 - (a.) In addition to the top three individuals and top three relay teams advancing from their region to the state meet, the individual competitors or relay teams who, in their region meet final, are among the top 12 statewide times will qualify for the state meet. (Excluding automatic qualifiers). In the event a tie for 24th, both individuals will be included.
 - (b.) If a tie exists for third place in a region, both individuals or relay teams will qualify for states and an at-large position will be lost in that event.
 - (c.) For individual events, the next two **fastest** non-qualifiers (alternates) shall be invited to the state meet in order to guarantee a full complement of finalists. If both alternates have the same time, then their position as first or second alternate will be assigned randomly. An alternate may elect to not swim if doing so would create a situation in which they would exceed the allowable number of swims. Heats will not be reseeded.
3. Diving Championships
 - (a.) The top four male and female individual divers advancing from their region will compete at the state meet. If needed the next highest nonqualifier will advance in order to guarantee a full complement of finalists. **Divers will be seeded (regardless of region) based on regional scores.**
4. The 2026 Championships will be held February 20/21 at the University of Maryland, College Park, Eppley Recreation Center. Information on mpssaa.org.
 - (a.) Competition for diving will take place Friday, February 20th beginning at 4:00 PM.
 - (b.) Competition for the 4A/3A meet will take place Saturday, February 21st at 9:00 AM.
 - (c.) Competition for the 3A/2A/1A meet will take place Saturday, February 21st at 3:30 PM.

B. General Policies

1. Awards: Trophies will be given to the top boys and girls team in each classification. Medals will be awarded to the top three finishers and ribbons will be awarded to the fourth through eighth place finishers in each individual and relay event.
2. Individuals 7 years of age and older will be charged an admission of \$10.

Projected MPSSAA Swimming and Diving Championship Dates					
2027	February 19/20	2028	February 25/26	2029	February 23/24

SWIMMING AND DIVING STATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE LISTED ON MPSSAA.ORG

REGION DIVING MEET SCHEDULE

4A-3A West Walkersville High School February 13 (3:00 p.m.)	4A-3A North Walkersville High School February 12 (3:00 p.m.)	3A-2A-1A West Walkersville High School February 13 (3:00 p.m.)
** Diving warm-up times shall begin one hour prior to the start of each region meet. **		
Entry Deadline: February 9 Meet Director: Michael Good Phone: 301-471-2571		

REGION SWIMMING MEET SCHEDULE

4A-3A West Martin Luther King Swim Ctr. February 14 (2:00 p.m.) 1:00 p.m. Warm-Up	4A-3A North Martin Luther King Swim Ctr. February 14 (8:00 a.m.) 7:00 a.m. Warm-Up	4A-3A South Fairland Aquatic Center February 14 (9:00 a.m.) 8:00 a.m. Warm-Up	4A-3A East Arundel Swim Center February 14 (9:00 a.m.) 7:30 a.m. Warm-Up
Entry Deadline: February 9 Meet Director: Akshay Gandhi Phone: 240-678-8287	Entry Deadline: February 9 Meet Director: Jason Blanken Phone: 240-286-4699	Entry Deadline: February 9 Meet Director: John Venit Phone: 301-725-7711	Entry Deadline: February 9 Meet Director: John Adey Phone: 443-995-5072
3A-2A-1A West Fairland Aquatic Center February 14 (3:00 p.m.) 2:00 p.m. Warm-Up	3A-2A-1A North Magnolia Middle School February 14 (9:30 a.m.) 8:00 a.m. Warm-Up	3A-2A-1A South Edward T. Hall Aquatic Ctr. February 14 (3:00 p.m.) 1:45 p.m. Warm-Up	3A-2A-1A East Arundel Swim Center February 14 (3:00 p.m.) 1:30 p.m. Warm-Up
Entry Deadline: February 9 Meet Director: John Venit Phone: 301-725-7711	Entry Deadline: February 9 Meet Director: Chris Bley Phone: 301-752-1538	Entry Deadline: February 9 Meet Director: Alex Marley Phone: 410-610-3404	Entry Deadline: February 9 Meet Director: John Adey Phone: 443-995-5072

STATE MEET SCHEDULE

DIVING CHAMPIONSHIP (All Classes)	4A-3A SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP	3A-2A-1A SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP
University of Maryland Eppley Recreation Center February 20 (4:00 p.m.)	University of Maryland Eppley Recreation Center February 21 (9:00 a.m.)	University of Maryland Eppley Recreation Center February 21 (3:30 p.m.)
Meet Director: Michael Good Phone: 301-471-2571	Meet Director: Chris Bley Phone: 301-752-1538	Meet Director: Chris Bley Phone: 301-752-1538

E-mail addresses for all site directors can be found on the Swimming & Diving page of mpssaa.org.

2025-26 Swimming Classification Alignment

Class 4A-3A West			Class 4A-3A North			Class 4A-3A South			Class 4A-3A East		
1.	Frederick	Fre	1.	Albert Einstein	Mtg	1.	North Point	Cha	1.	Annapolis	AA
2.	Gov. Thomas Johnson	Fre	2.	Bethesda-CC	Mtg	2.	Bladensburg	PG	2.	Arundel	AA
3.	Linganore	Fre	3.	James Hubert Blake	Mtg	3.	Bowie	PG	3.	Broadneck	AA
4.	Oakdale	Fre	4.	John F. Kennedy	Mtg	4.	Charles H. Flowers	PG	4.	Crofton	AA
5.	Tuscarora	Fre	5.	Montgomery Blair	Mtg	5.	Dr. Henry A. Wise	PG	5.	Glen Burnie	AA
6.	Urbana	Fre	6.	Northwood	Mtg	6.	Duval	PG	6.	Meade	AA
7.	Clarksburg	Mtg	7.	Paint Branch	Mtg	7.	Eleanor Roosevelt	PG	7.	North County	AA
8.	Gaithersburg	Mtg	8.	Col. Zadok Magruder	Mtg	8.	High Point	PG	8.	Old Mill	AA
9.	Northwest	Mtg	9.	Sherwood	Mtg	9.	Laurel	PG	9.	Severn Run	AA
10.	Quince Orchard	Mtg	10.	Springbrook	Mtg	10.	Northwestern	PG	10.	Severna Park	AA
11.	Seneca Valley	Mtg	11.	Walt Whitman	Mtg	11.	Oxon Hill	PG	11.	South River	AA
12.	Watkins Mill	Mtg	12.	Walter Johnson	Mtg	12.	Parkdale	PG	12.	Baltimore Poly.	Balt
13.	Thomas S. Wootton	Mtg	13.	Wheaton	Mtg	13.	Potomac	PG	13.	Digital Harbor	Balt
14.	Richard Montgomery	Mtg	14.	Winston Churchill	Mtg	14.	Suitland	PG	14.	Mergenthaler	Balt
						15.	Great Mills	StM	15.	Western	Balt
						16.	Leonardtown	StM			

Class 3A-2A-1A West			Class 3A-2A-1A North			Class 3A-2A-1A South			Class 3A-2A-1A East		
1.	Brunswick	Fre	1.	Bohemia Manor	Cec	1.	Calvert	Cal	1.	Chesapeake	AA
2.	Catoctin	Fre	2.	Elkton	Cec	2.	Huntingtown	Cal	2.	Northeast	AA
3.	Middletown	Fre	3.	North East	Cec	3.	Northern	Cal	3.	Southern	AA
4.	Monocacy Valley Charter	Fre	4.	Perryville	Cec	4.	Patuxent	Cal	4.	Balt. City College	Balt
5.	Walkersville	Fre	5.	Rising Sun	Cec	5.	Henry E. Lackey	Cha	5.	Carver Vo-Tech	Balt
6.	Northern	Gar	6.	Aberdeen	Har	6.	La Plata	Cha	6.	Forest Park	Balt
7.	Southern	Gar	7.	Bel Air	Har	7.	McDonough	Cha	7.	Frederick Douglass	Balt
8.	Damascus	Mtg	8.	C. Milton Wright	Har	8.	St. Charles	Cha	8.	Patterson	Balt
9.	Poolesville	Mtg	9.	Edgewood	Har	9.	Thomas Stone	Cha	9.	Paul Laurence Dunbar	Balt
10.	Rockville	Mtg	10.	Fallston	Har	10.	Westlake	Cha	10.	Southwestern	Balt
11.	Central	PG	11.	Harford Tech	Har	11.	Frederick Douglass	PG	11.	Kent County	K
12.	Crossland	PG	12.	Havre de Grace	Har	12.	Gwynn Park	PG	12.	Cambridge-SD	Dor
13.	Fairmont Heights	PG	13.	Joppatowne	Har	13.	Kent Island	QA	13.	Easton	Tal
14.	Friendly	PG	14.	North Harford	Har	14.	Queen Anne's	QA	14.	Pocomoke	Wor
15.	Int. HS at Largo	PG	15.	Patterson Mill	Har	15.	Chopticon	StM	15.	Stephen Decatur	Wor
16.	Largo	PG									
17.	Surrattsville	PG									

2025-26 Diving Classification Alignment

Class 4A-3A West			Class 4A-3A North			Class 3A-2A-1A West		
1.	Frederick	Fre	1.	Albert Einstein	Mtg	1.	Brunswick	Fre
2.	Gov. Thomas Johnson	Fre	2.	Bethesda-CC	Mtg	2.	Catoctin	Fre
3.	Linganore	Fre	3.	James Hubert Blake	Mtg	3.	Middletown	Fre
4.	Oakdale	Fre	4.	John F. Kennedy	Mtg	4.	Walkersville	Fre
5.	Tuscarora	Fre	5.	Montgomery Blair	Mtg	5.	Damascus	Mtg
6.	Urbana	Fre	6.	Northwood	Mtg	6.	Poolesville	Mtg
7.	Clarksburg	Mtg	7.	Paint Branch	Mtg	7.	Rockville	Mtg
8.	Gaithersburg	Mtg	8.	Col. Zadok Magruder	Mtg			
9.	Northwest	Mtg	9.	Sherwood	Mtg			
10.	Quince Orchard	Mtg	10.	Springbrook	Mtg			
11.	Seneca Valley	Mtg	11.	Walt Whitman	Mtg			
12.	Watkins Mill	Mtg	12.	Walter Johnson	Mtg			
13.	Thomas S. Wootton	Mtg	13.	Wheaton	Mtg			
14.	Richard Montgomery	Mtg	14.	Winston Churchill	Mtg			

Wrestling Bulletin

DUAL MEET STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – FEBRUARY 14, 2026 – NORTH POINT HIGH SCHOOL

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
November 15	First Practice Date	February 10	Region First Round & Quarterfinals
December 5	First Play Date	February 12	Region Semifinals & Finals
February 7	Last Play Date for Seeding	February 14	State Semifinals & Finals
February 9	Tournament Seeding		

STATE TOURNAMENT – MARCH 5-7, 2026 – THE SHOW PLACE ARENA

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
November 15	First Practice Date	February 27/28	Region Finals
December 5	First Play Date	March 1	State Tournament Meeting
February 21	Last Play Date	March 5-7	State Finals

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association is the official governing body for the State Wrestling tournaments. Plans for the tournaments were formulated by the State Wrestling Committee and approved by the Board of Control.
- B. Schools choosing to enter the tournaments 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 Wrestling Bulletin. Unless specifically stated, all rules and regulations stipulated in the NFHS Wrestling Rules Book will be followed.
- C. Eligibility rules for all participants are defined in MPSSAA Bylaw .02, found in the current MPSSAA Handbook.
- D. General regulations for all state tournaments are contained in MPSSAA Bylaw .07, found in both the current Handbook and in the front section of this publication.
- E. All wrestlers must have their minimum weight class certified by a physician prior to their first competition. A hydration test and body fat analysis must be completed for all participants prior to certification, indicating a weight that corresponds to a 7% level of body fat for each wrestler (12% for females). Coaches should refer to the MPSSAA Weight Certification/Management Program regarding specific guidelines and regulations.
- F. A two-pound weight allowance will be added to each weight class on **December 22**.
- G. The MPSSAA will use the 14 weight classes approved by NFHS. The following weights will be utilized:

CO-ED	106 lb	138 lb	175 lb
	113 lb	144 lb	190 lb
	120 lb	150 lb	215 lb
	126 lb	157 lb	285 lb
	132 lb	165 lb	

GIRLS	100 lb	125 lb	155 lb
	105 lb	130 lb	170 lb
	110 lb	135 lb	190 lb
	115 lb	140 lb	235 lb
	120 lb	145 lb	

II. REGION INFORMATION FOR DUAL MEET CHAMPIONSHIPS

A. Tournament Organization

- Each region will conduct a single elimination 16-line tournament with the champion advancing to state competition. Region Bouts will begin no earlier than 4:30 p.m. with the second round bouts to follow.
- The weigh-in will begin one hour before the posted start time. A team may weigh-in a maximum of 20 wrestlers.
- Teams will be seeded based on their regular season winning percentage in dual meet competition. Schools will use their entire dual- and tri-meet schedule. Dual meet tournaments and meets conducted in quadrangular events do not apply. The minimum divisor of 11 will be used to calculate winning percentage. If more than 11 meets, the winning percentage will be calculated by dividing the number of wins by the total number of matches.
- 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. Please refer to Page 4 in the General Section.
- All teams are automatically entered in the dual meet tournament unless:
 - a team is unable to fill seven weight classes.
 - a letter, signed by the principal, is received by the MPSSAA Executive Director by February 7th.

B. General Policies

- The cost of admission is \$6 for any person 7 years of age or older.
- A plaque will be awarded to the region championship teams. Individual certificates will be awarded to each member of a region championship team.

MPSSAA Dual Wrestling Region Directors				
Region	Director	School	Office	Other
4A West	Eric Britton	Gaithersburg		240-285-5671
4A North	Will Richter	Kenwood		443-846-9271
4A South	Marcus Jackson	Laurel		240-505-7874
4A East	Odister Felder	Charles H. Flowers	301-636-8000	304-452-1678
3A West	Ben Arneson	Linganore		301-401-0501
3A North	Gary Burkhardt	Parkville		410-924-5965
3A South	Andrew McIntyre	Reservoir		410-888-8853
3A East	John Klessinger	South River		443-223-8625
2A West	Zach Blessing	Century		443-789-8775
2A North	Mike Whisner	Sparrows Point		410-916-5982
2A South	Johnathon Pankhurst	La Plata	301-934-1100	-----
2A East	Tim Frey	North Caroline		410-200-1873
1A West	Richard Reeder	Catoctin		301.788.5196
1A North	John Fitzpatrick	ACCE		443-904-3965
1A South	John Lush	Henry E. Lackey		484-695-8559
1A East	Dion Johnson	Mardela		410-251-0420
E-mail addresses for regional directors can be found on the Wrestling page of mpssaa.org.				

III. STATE INFORMATION FOR DUAL MEET STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

A. Tournament Organization

1. The 2026 single-elimination Dual Meet State Tournament will be conducted at North Point High School on Saturday, February 14th.
2. Weigh-in
 - (a.) Class 2A & Class 1A – 10:30 a.m.
 - (b.) Class 4A & Class 3A – 12:30 p.m.
3. Schedule
 - (a.) State Semifinals
 - i. Class 2A & Class 1A – 12 p.m. (four mats)
 - ii. Class 4A & Class 3A – 2 p.m. (four mats)
 - (b.) State Finals
 - i. Class 2A & Class 1A – 4 p.m. (two mats)
 - ii. Class 4A & Class 3A – 6:30 p.m. (two mats)
- B. General Policies
 1. The cost of admission is \$12 all day for any person 7 years of age or older. Admission for just the finals will be \$10.
 2. A plaque will be awarded to the championship team and the finalist team. Individual awards will be presented to members of the championship team and the finalist team.

IV. REGION AND STATE INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENTS

- A. Tournament Organization
 1. The city/county/conference tournament is considered the beginning of the state tournament series and will be governed by state tournament policies.
 2. A team may enter a maximum of one wrestler per weight class in the coed city/county/conference tournament.
 3. A wrestler must be entered in the coed city/county/conference tournament in order to compete in the region tournament. A wrestler may not change weight classifications after the coed city/county/conference tournament.
 4. The city/county/conference tournament is NOT a precursor for girls entered into the region tournament.
 5. Teams may only participate in sanctioned tournaments.
 6. All weight certification criteria or other entry criteria must be satisfied prior to the city/county/conference tournament.
 7. The four regional champions will be seeded on the state tournament bracket. When there is a tie, the following tie-breaking criteria will be utilized:
 - (a.) Wins
 - (b.) Winning Percentage
 - (c.) Coin Flip
 8. If two state champions from the previous season both win region championships, the State Wrestling Committee will adjust the state tournament seeding format so that the two state champions are in separate halves of the state championship bracket.

B. Playing Rules

1. Wrestlers entered in the region and state tournaments must be eligible in their local school systems at the time of seeding.
2. A contestant who is disqualified for flagrant misconduct at the city/county/conference or region tournament will be eliminated from further tournament competition.
3. Weight Rules
 - (a.) Each contestant must comply with weight control regulations found in the current MPSSAA Handbook and as described in the MPSSAA Weight Certification/Management program.
 - (b.) The region tournament director will verify the certified weights of all wrestlers entered.

V. REGION INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENT

A. Tournament Organization

1. Each region will conduct an eight-line tournament, double elimination beginning with the quarterfinals. The top four wrestlers in each weight class will advance to the state tournament.
2. **All Trackwrestling entry registration for the regional tournament, Co-Ed and Girls, must be completed by 4pm on Thursday, February 19. A wrestler may be changed after this time period if they follow guidelines set forth by each tournament.**
3. Region directors are responsible for scheduling a seeding meeting to occur within 48 hours of the conclusion of the last city/county/conference championship in their respective regions and to notify representatives of participating schools.
4. Two-day region tournaments will begin at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, weigh-ins will begin at 3:00 p.m.
5. One-day region tournaments will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, weigh-ins will begin at 8:00 a.m.
6. All mats/wrestling will be in one gymnasium. The layout of mats must conform to NFHS standards.
7. Individual Wrestling Region Tournaments (Tournament directors' contact info is on MPSSAA.org.)

REGION	SITE	DATE(S)	START TIME	TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR
4A/3A West	TBD	TBD	TBD	Rob Wolf
4A/3A North	TBD	TBD	TBD	Gary Burkhardt, Parkville
4A/3A South	TBD	TBD	TBD	Marcus Jackson
4A/3A East	TBD	TBD	TBD	Chris Dyke
2A/1A West	TBD	TBD	TBD	
2A/1A North	TBD	TBD	TBD	
2A/1A South	TBD	TBD	TBD	Johnathon Pankhurst
2A/1A East	TBD	TBD	TBD	David Stricker

B. Seeding and Qualifying

1. The eight wrestlers in each weight class who have achieved the highest point totals will qualify and will be seeded 1 through 8, respectively.
2. The Point System Criteria shall be used to determine point totals (page 40). All schools must electronically complete the region seeding form found on MPSSAA.org and bring a copy to the seeding meeting. This will be the only form accepted for determining wrestler point totals.

3. Wrestlers who have not otherwise qualified according to the Point System Criteria will automatically qualify for the region tournament if they place in their city/county/conference tournament as described below (Placement Criteria). A wrestler who so qualifies will wrestle the No. 8 seed in order to advance to the quarterfinal round unless seeded to a higher position in the bracket (See "Point System Criteria For MPSSAA Region Tournament Seeding", Item 6.).

PLACEMENT CRITERIA

5 Teams or fewer	1st and 2nd Place Wrestlers Qualify
6-10 Teams	1st through 3rd Place Wrestlers Qualify
11-15 Teams	1st through 4th Place Wrestlers Qualify
16-20 Teams	1st through 5th Place Wrestlers Qualify
21-25 Teams	1st through 6th Place Wrestlers Qualify

4. The number of teams in a city, county, or conference tournament will be defined as the number of teams that participate in the tournament.
5. If qualifiers are withdrawn, substitutes/alternates may be inserted up to the conclusion of weigh-ins, with the bracket reseeded accordingly. A substitute/alternate may not be added unless the total number of wrestlers in a particular weight is less than eight, including wrestlers who qualify according to the placement criteria.

C. Girls Division

1. There will be a girls division at each of the eight region meets.
2. All varsity coed and girls' matches will count toward each wrestler's record. In order to receive a forfeit win in a dual meet, each team must be able to fill seven weight classes.
3. Each region will conduct an eight-line tournament, double elimination beginning with the quarterfinals.
4. The girls' region tournament will be seeded based upon the following criteria:
 - (a.) Wins
 - (b.) Winning Percentage
 - (c.) Coin Flip
5. Female wrestlers may choose to enter the girls division or their respective classification division for any gender. Entry registration into the Female division must be completed by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19th.
6. The **top three** wrestlers in each weight class of the eight regions will advance to a single classification **24-line** bracket at the state tournament.

D. General Policies

1. Certificates will be presented to the state qualifiers for each weight class.
2. Persons age 7 years and older will be charged admission. The cost of admission is \$12 for any round of the tournament.

VI. STATE INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENT

A. Tournament Organization

1. The format of the tournament shall be double elimination.
 - (a.) The seeding meeting will take place at Mt. Hebron High School on Sunday, March 1st at 9:30 AM.
 - (b.) To ensure a full complement of wrestlers in each bracket, alternates from the same region as a withdrawn qualifier may be inserted up to the conclusion of weigh-ins, with the bracket reseeded

accordingly. If an alternate from the same region is not available, the entry will be replaced by the alternate present with the next highest regional points, regardless of region.

- (c.) In the girls division, to determine an alternate from a different region, the criteria that will be utilized will be wins and then winning percentage.

2. The 2026 tournament: March 5-7 at The Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro, MD

Directions From Washington, DC: Use I-495 and take Exit 11A, for Route 4/Pennsylvania Avenue South/East. Follow Route 4 South for seven miles to the Upper Marlboro exit. At the stop sign at the end of the exit ramp, turn right and enter The Show Place Arena property.

Directions From Baltimore: From I-695 take Exit 4 for I-97 South for Annapolis/Bay Bridge. Continue on I-97 to Exit 7, MD Route 3 South. At Bowie, Route 3 will become Route 301 South. Continue on Route 301 South to the exit for Route 4 North/West, towards Washington, D.C. From Route 4, take the first exit for Upper Marlboro. At the stop sign, turn left and enter the Arena property.

3. Team packets may be picked up by the Head Coach after 2 p.m. on Thursday, March 5 and 11 a.m. on Friday, March 6 in the **tunnel area**. At that time, the head coach will receive identification bands and the student manager(s) will have their hand(s) stamped.

4. Although space will be available to shower and change clothes, lockers will not be available.

5. Required meetings

- (a.) **Coaches of all competing wrestlers will meet at 1:45 p.m. on Thursday, March 5 and 10:15 a.m. on Friday, March 6.**

- (b.) **Coaches of wrestlers remaining in the tournament after Thursday and Friday sessions will meet at 10:15 a.m. on Saturday, March 7.**

6. Official school party (issuance of identification bands)

- (a.) Identification bracelets will be issued to coaches who qualify as part of the official school party, limited to and identified as follows:
- When one wrestler represents a school: two wrestling coaches or one coach and one manager.
 - When two or more wrestlers are representing a school: two wrestling coaches and one other non-contestant (i.e., student manager or assistant coach).
- (b.) Identification bracelets must be worn for authorized entry into all areas that are off-limits to non-participants.
- (c.) **Wrestlers will be stamped at team check-in. Wrestlers who are eliminated from competition do not have to pay admission for the second day, however, they must enter with their team during the normal check-in process.**

B. General Policies

- Medals will be presented to the top six finishers for each weight class.
- Persons age 7 years and older will be charged admission. Tickets will be sold online at mpssaa.org or at the tournament site and are for general admission. Ticketing prices and information can be found at www.mpssaa.org.
- To be admitted free, cheerleaders must be in uniform, be accompanied by a school sponsor, and enter through the Pass Gate. The wrestling coach will not be considered a sponsor.
- No materials may be distributed unless approved by the MPSSAA State Tournament Wrestling Committee Director.
- Filming and photography will be permitted from the stands.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(Bout time frames will not be finalized until 2025.)

Thursday, March 5			Friday, March 6		
Weigh-In 12:30 p.m.			Weigh-In 9:30 a.m.		
BOU TS			BOU TS		
Girls' 1 st Round	2:30 – 3:45 p.m.	9 mats	4A/3A Quarterfinals	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	3 mats
4A/3A Preliminaries	3:45 – 7:30 p.m.	3 mats	2A/1A Quarterfinals	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	3 mats
2A/1A Preliminaries	3:45 – 7:30 p.m.	3 mats	Girls' Quarterfinals	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	3 mats
Girls' Preliminaries	3:45 – 7:30 p.m.	3 mats	4A/3A Consolation Preliminaries	1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	3 mats
Girls' Consolation Preliminaries	7:30 – 8:45 p.m.	9 mats	2A/1A Consolation Preliminaries	1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	3 mats
			Girls' Consolation 2 nd Round	1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	3 mats
			4A/3A Consolation 2 nd Round	3:00 – 5:00 p.m.	3 mats
			2A/1A Consolation 2 nd Round	3:00 – 5:00 p.m.	3 mats
			Girls' Consolation 3 rd round	3:00 – 5:00 p.m.	3 mats
			4A/3A Semifinals	5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	2 mats
			2A/1A Semifinals	5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	2 mats
			Girls' Semifinals	5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	2 mats
4A/3A Consolation Qtrfinals	7:00 – 8:00 p.m.	3 mats			
2A/1A Consolation Qtrfinals	7:00 – 8:00 p.m.	3 mats			
Girls' Consolation Qtrfinals	7:00 – 8:00 p.m.	3 mats			
Saturday, March 7					
Weigh-In 9:30 a.m.					
BOU TS					
4A/3A Consolation Semifinals	11:00 – 12:45 p.m.	2 mats			
2A/1A Consolation Semifinals	11:00 – 12:45 p.m.	2 mats			
Girls' Consolation Semifinals	11:00 – 12:45 p.m.	2 mats			
CONSOLATION FINALS 3 rd & 4 th place 5 th & 6 th place	12:45 – 2:30 p.m.	6 mats			
CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS	3:30 – 6:30 p.m.	3 mats			
BOU T ORDER FOR CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS					
Class 4A/3A – 106# to 285#		Class 2A/1A – 285# to 106#		Girls Division – 235# to 100#	
ALL PLACE WINNERS MUST BE IN SCHOOL-ISSUED UNIFORMS FOR PHOTOS AND AWARDS					

MPSSAA Wrestling Committee Members are listed on the MPSSAA Website at www.mpssaa.org.

Projected MPSSAA Dual Meet Championship Dates		Projected MPSSAA Wrestling Championship Dates	
2027 – February 13	2028 – February 12	2027 – March 4-6	2028 – March 2-4

POINT SYSTEM CRITERIA FOR MPSSAA REGION INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENT SEEDING

1. Points are not awarded for "Byes" whether it is no name on a bracketed tournament or no name in pool play.
2. Points are not awarded for scheduled contests not wrestled.
3. Individual placement points are not awarded in a dual meet tournament.
4. While each wrestler is allowed to enter a maximum of three tournaments prior to the state tournament series, only the points earned in two of these tournaments will apply towards regional seeding. The two tournaments in which the wrestler accumulates the greatest number of points shall apply for regional seeding.
5. Points are earned as follows:
 - a. Each dual meet or tri-meet win – 4 points
 - b. Each dual meet tournament win – 2 points
 - c. Each non-dual meet tournament win – 1 point
 - d. The maximum number of points that can be earned by a wrestler in a tournament is 20.

** Note: A wrestler may receive a maximum of one point per win in any tournament (this includes "hybrid" tournaments) that includes placement points for individual wrestlers.*

16-TEAM TOURNAMENT

(14 or more teams participating)

- 1st – 16
- 2nd – 12
- 3rd – 9
- 4th – 6
- 5th – 3
- 6th – 2

Bouts must be
wrestled.

12-TEAM TOURNAMENT

(10-13 teams participating)

- 1st – 12
- 2nd – 9
- 3rd – 6
- 4th – 4

8-TEAM TOURNAMENT

(7-9 teams participating)

- 1st – 9
- 2nd – 7
- 3rd – 5
- 4th – 3

6-TEAM TOURNAMENT

(5-6 teams participating)

- 1st – 7
- 2nd – 5
- 3rd – 3
- 4th – 0

DUAL MEET TOURNAMENT

(4 or more teams)

2 points awarded for each win

e. POINTS FOR TOURNAMENT PLACERS THE PREVIOUS YEAR

STATE TOURNAMENT

- 1st – 16
- 2nd – 12
- 3rd – 9
- 4th – 6
- 5th – 4
- 6th – 2

REGION TOURNAMENT

- 1st – 9
- 2nd – 7
- 3rd – 5
- 4th – 3

(Placers from other States must have written verification from State or local school system.)

f. TIE-BREAKERS (Includes results of all matches):

- i. Winner of most head-to-head matches this season
- ii. Most wins in current season
- iii. Overall win percentage in current season (3 or more matches)
- iv. Most falls in current season (a forfeit is not a fall)
- v. Most technical falls and major decisions in current season
- vi. Discussion
- vii. Coin toss

** Note: If two wrestlers are tied for eighth and ninth place after criteria 1 through 7 are applied, both advance into a pigtail.*

6. Once wrestlers have qualified for the tournament according to the Point System Criteria and/or the "Placement Criteria", the order of seeds may be adjusted. In order for a seeding adjustment to be brought to the floor for discussion, 50% of the voting coaches must agree to having the discussion. If the adjustment is to occur, two-thirds of the voting coaches must vote in favor of the adjustment.

2025-26 Alignment for Dual Meet & Individual Wrestling

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

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

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

Class 1A West			Class 1A North			Class 1A South			Class 1A East		
1.	Allegany	All	1.	Carver A&T	B Co	1.	Patuxent	Cal	1.	Bohemia Manor	Cec
2.	Fort Hill	All	2.	Loch Raven	B Co	2.	Henry E. Lackey	Cha	2.	Elkton	Cec
3.	Mountain Ridge	All	3.	Owings Mills	B Co	3.	Fallston	Har	3.	Perryville	Cec
4.	Francis Scott Key	Car	4.	Pikesville	B Co	4.	Harford Tech	Har	4.	Rising Sun	Cec
5.	Liberty	Car	5.	Randallstown	B Co	5.	Havre de Grace	Har	5.	Colonel Richardson	Cin
6.	South Carroll	Car	6.	Western Tech	B Co	6.	Joppatowne	Har	6.	Cambridge-SD	Dor
7.	Brunswick	Fre	7.	ACCE	Balt	7.	Patterson Mill	Har	7.	North Dorchester	Dor
8.	Catoctin	Fre	8.	Benjamin Franklin	Balt	8.	Central	PG	8.	Kent County	K
9.	Northern	Gar	9.	Edmondson-Westside	Balt	9.	Int. HS at Langley Park	PG	9.	St. Michael's	Tal
10.	Southern	Gar	10.	Frederick Douglass	Balt	10.	Int. HS at Largo	PG	10.	Mardela	Wic
11.	Boonsboro	Was	11.	Lake Clifton	Balt	11.	Surrattsville	PG	11.	Snow Hill	Wor
12.	Smithsburg	Was									

