

TOURNAMENT BULLETINS

Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association
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MPSSAA BULLETINS

Spring 2019

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

Schools will be provided with enough copies of the booklet for the principal, athletic director, and each head coach for the spring 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. **Beginning with the 2018-19 school year, 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 34 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. Sections with two or less teams competing in the tournament will be combined with the other section in their specific region for tournament play.

3. 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 reevaluated beginning with the first criteria.
4. 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

5. 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:
 1. 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.

2. 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.
 3. 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:
1. 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.
 2. 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.
 3. 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.
 4. One or both teams are unable to complete a contest according to prevailing MPSSAA or NFHS rules.
6. 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 the protection of property are of primary importance before, during, and following each game. 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 MPSSAA Bulletins to all member schools each season. Schools are expected to maintain those hard copies 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. Additionally, it is noted that all contracted officials' associations are given laminated cards that highlight points of emphasis from the respective MPSSAA Bulletins. It is expected that these cards are also accessible to officials during all playoff games.
- G. The possession or use of any alcoholic beverage or nonalcoholic substitute (i.e. nonalcoholic champagne) is considered to be conduct detrimental to a tournament. An individual or team using such products in any form of consumption or celebration will be subject to disciplinary action.

III. POINT OF EMPHASIS

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

IV. SCHEDULING CONFLICTS

Following are some guidelines to be used when scheduling conflicts arise:

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

V. COMPLIMENTARY PASSES

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

VI. RADIO AND TELEVISION

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

VII. MEDICAL PERSONNEL

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

VIII. THUNDER AND/OR LIGHTNING

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

IX. POLICE PROTECTION

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

REIMBURSEMENT SCHEDULE - Submit to Districts

The MPSSAA Finance Committee has established a reimbursement schedule to assist with some of the travel expenses incurred by schools participating in regional and state tournaments. Schools participating in the following events may be eligible for reimbursement through their respective districts. Specific forms and process shall be established by the district.

**REGION BASEBALL / REGION LACROSSE / REGION SOFTBALL /
REGION TENNIS / REGION TRACK & FIELD**

Maximum Official Parties -

- Baseball/Softball - 25
- Lacrosse - 35 + authorized coaches & managers
- Tennis - 4 Boys & 4 Girls
- Track - District Option

Travel (round trip distance)

District Option

Distribution of Receipts

To the host district

Meals

District Option

REIMBURSEMENT SCHEDULE - Submit to MPSSAA

The MPSSAA Finance Committee has established a reimbursement schedule to assist with some of the travel expenses incurred by schools participating in regional and state tournaments. Schools participating in the following events may submit reimbursement to the MPSSAA. In order to obtain reimbursement, schools must submit applications online through the "Members" section of the MPSSAA website (www.mpssaa.org).

STATE BASEBALL AND STATE SOFTBALL

Maximum Official Party - 25

Meals

Over 75 miles one way @ \$15/person.

Lodging

None

Distribution of Receipts

100% to MPSSAA

Travel (round trip distance)

1. 0-150 miles @ 2.00 per mile - minimum \$100 or actual cost.
2. 151-225 miles @ \$2.25 per mile - not to exceed actual cost.
3. Over 225 miles @ \$2.50 per mile - not to exceed actual cost

Reimbursement Deadline

June 20

REIMBURSEMENT SCHEDULE - Submit to MPSSAA

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STATE LACROSSE

Maximum Official Party -

35 + authorized coaches and managers

Meals

Over 75 miles one way @ \$15/person.

Lodging

None

Distribution of Receipts

100% to MPSSAA

Travel (round trip distance)

1. 0-150 miles @ 2.00 per mile - minimum \$100 or actual cost.
2. 151-225 miles @ \$2.25 per mile - not to exceed actual cost.
3. Over 225 miles @ \$2.50 per mile - not to exceed actual cost

Reimbursement Deadline

June 20

STATE TENNIS

Maximum Official Party -

Qualifiers and Authorized Coach

Distribution of Receipts

100% to MPSSAA

Reimbursement Deadline

June 20

Travel Allotment - Round Trip Distance

- | | |
|------------------|-------|
| 1. 0-50 miles | \$85 |
| 2. 51-100 miles | \$110 |
| 3. 101-150 miles | \$135 |
| 4. 151-200 miles | \$160 |
| 5. 201-250 miles | \$185 |
| 6. 251-300 miles | \$210 |
| 7. 301-350 miles | \$235 |
| 8. 351-400 miles | \$260 |
| 9. 401-450 miles | \$285 |

STATE TRACK & FIELD

Maximum Official Party -

Qualifiers and Authorized Coaches

Meals

Must be approved by the MPSSAA
Executive Director

Distribution of Receipts

100% to MPSSAA

Reimbursement Deadline

June 20

Travel Allotment - Round Trip Distance

- | | |
|------------------|-------|
| 1. 0-50 miles | \$85 |
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