

SCOUT

MPSSAA News and Notes

New 2011-12 Meeting Site

The 2011-12 sport committees will meet at the BWI Courtyard Marriott Hotel in Linthicum, MD. Members of sport committees should receive letters via email reminding them of the meeting. For a full list of meeting dates check out the calendar in the MPSSAA Handbook or the final page of the scout for the Sept. and Oct. meeting dates.

Check Out The Coaches' Store

The MPSSAA is pleased to announce the opening of the Coach's store for all your apparel needs. Please take the opportunity to visit and let anyone else know who might be interested. The coach's store can be easily accessed by going to <http://www.nightmaregraphics.com/mpssaacoach.html>.

Getting Involved

Maryland public high school athletic participation continued to grow topping the 114,000 mark for the first time ever. Participation grew by 948 participants to an all-time high of 114,217 student-athletes.

The following is the sport participation breakdown:

| Sports | Number of Boy Participants | Number of Girl Participants |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Badminton | 209 | 470 |
| Baseball | 5517 | 6 |
| Basketball | 5568 | 4674 |
| Bowling | 33 | 16 |
| Cross Country | 3777 | 2667 |
| Field Hockey | 0 | 4072 |
| Football | 15464 | 13 |
| Golf | 1388 | 259 |
| Gymnastics | 11 | 182 |
| Indoor Track | 5050 | 4396 |
| Lacrosse | 6828 | 5264 |
| Soccer | 6273 | 5863 |
| Softball | 0 | 4865 |
| Swimming | 1770 | 2040 |
| Tennis | 2362 | 2363 |
| Track & Field | 6593 | 5772 |
| Volleyball | 631 | 4948 |
| Wrestling | 4788 | 85 |
| Total | 66,262 | 47,797 |
| TOTAL COMBINED | 114,217 | |

Cross Country Online Team Entry

All cross country entries for this fall's region meets MUST be completed utilizing the online process available via the MPSSAA website.

The entry forms are located on the "Coaches/Athletic Directors" portion of our webpage, which is password protected. Each coach must get the username and password from their Athletic Director. Please do NOT wait until the last minute to do so! Note that the deadline for completing the initial online application will be Monday, October 24th at 4 PM. For more information and directions go to mpssaa.org or check out the Fall Bulletin.

Get Your Champ Passes

The MPSSAA continues its tradition of providing a special ticket for schools to use at state semifinals and finals. Known as the Champ Pass, member schools may purchase them to distribute as they see fit.

The Champ Pass provides a school the unique opportunity to say "Thanks" or perhaps reward deserving people at a time of great interest in high school athletics. It provides a school the opportunity to make a magnanimous gesture to individuals such as Booster Club members, volunteers, community leaders, PTA officers, etc. It helps avoid the uneasiness and other awkward situations that arise over requests for tickets as a school's team heads to M&T Bank Stadium, UMBC, College Park or any other championship venue.

Order forms have been sent to principals and athletic directors. Ticket booklets will be mailed to schools starting in mid October.

Health and Safety Page

The MPSSAA Health and Safety Page is designed to provide a resource to coaches, athletes and parents on the inherent risks, preventative safety measures and the most recent information regarding interscholastic athletic participation. Please take the time to review these resources and check back as this page will continue to be updated with the most recent information on health and safety.

EXECUTIVE'S CORNER

Edward "Ned" Sparks

Executive Director, MPSSAA

Anyone who has participated, coached, had children participate or simply observed youth sports will no doubt relate to the rapid pace of change that has transpired in recent years. The emergence of clubs, AAU, personal trainers etc. has taken sports from a compartmentalized season by season activity to a year round pursuit of specialization. Sprinkle in the apparel companies, ESPN, street agents, inflated adult egos and a paradox becomes strikingly clear. More and more the youth sports model is becoming incompatible with education based athletics.

Over 100 years ago school leaders recognized the educational value in interscholastic athletic programs. In addition to the healthy exercise component educators realized that lessons such as loyalty, hard work, discipline, brotherhood and teamwork were invariably taught through participation. In addition a sense of community, spirit and pride became byproducts of school programs. Sport for sport's sake was good but it is the lasting values that have sustained these programs in our schools.

Unfairly, school administrators are sometimes criticized for holding to these values. Often, those most critical have the loudest voice and yet are the most ignorant of these philosophical underpinnings.

Non school athletic programs provide countless opportunities for school age participants. In many instances those opportunities, on the surface, are far more glamorous than anything the school can offer. Trips to desirable destinations, gifts, VIP treatment, and schmoozing in unrealistic environments can inflate anyone's sense of importance and create an entitlement mentality.

Not long ago it was unthinkable for a player to abandon his or her team during the playoffs to play on a club team. Unfortunately, today it is a reality. Perhaps the rational provided is even more sobering. There will be the assertion that they are only trying to better themselves and given the opportunity, anyone would make the same choice. Or better yet, they might say "A once in a lifetime experience." Unfortunately many non school programs do not have a defined set of core values.

Put in simple terms, school based athletic programs provide a foundation for the formation of productive citizens. In ten years today's 15 year old will be emerged in the adult world with 50 to 60 years left to be productive. Let us hope that the lasting values of high school athletics will guide their journey.

Official MPSSAA Balls

Below is a list of official MPSSAA balls for the 2011-12 school year. Each of these official balls will be used for the state championships in their respective sports.

Field Hockey

Sponsor: Longstreth

Official Ball: Chingford Multi-Turf or
Longstreth Multi-Turf TK

Soccer

Sponsor: Brine

Official Ball: Brine Championship Soccer Ball

Football

Sponsor: Wilson

Official Ball: Wilson F1003GST

Volleyball

Sponsor: Molten

Official Ball: Molten IV58L Super Touch

Basketball

Sponsor: Spalding

Official Ball: Spalding TF-1000 Legacy

Baseball

Sponsor: Wilson

Official Ball: Wilson A1010BPROSST

Softball

Sponsor: Dudley

Official Ball: OPTIC YELLOW version of Dudley
SB12LND-FP

Lacrosse

Sponsor: Harrow

Official Ball: Harrow Ball 38000 (White)
Harrow Ball 38001 (Yellow)

Tennis

Sponsor: Wilson

Official Ball: Wilson T1001

SCOUT is published by the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association for the staff and fans of Maryland high school athletics.

Dr. William Beattie, President
Edward F. Sparks, Executive Director

Fall Coaches: What You Need To Know Come Region and State Tournament Time

As schools conclude the regular season and begin Region and State Tournament play, a number of items will be required by schools as they progress through the tournament to ensure a smooth operation of the state tournament. The following is a general chronological checklist for coaches and athletic administrators to use as they advance through the tournament.

Regular Season

- Review Tournament Bulletin:** Make sure you have reviewed your state tournament bulletin. If for some reason you do not have a bulletin you may find a copy on the MPSSAA website on your sport specific page. Most frequently asked questions can be answered in the bulletin.
- Contact Regional Director:** Make sure you are in contact with your regional director prior to the end of the regular season. It is the responsibility of the school to work with regional directors to accurately report schedules, results and records for the purpose of tournament seeding. Regional directors can be found in the tournament bulletin and on each sport page of mpssaa.org.
- Submit Final Regular Season Record:** At the conclusion of your final game prior to the draw date, contact your regional director with your record. Region directors must verify and submit to the state committee by the the draw the official records of each of their region's teams.

Regional Tournament

- Draw Day:** The MPSSAA will conduct all draws for the spring sports season via conference call with the each sport committee director. After the draw is complete it will be posted on the MPSSAA website. Schools should identify their respective matchup and plan accordingly to setup all necessary logistics for the regional games.

Fall 2011 Draw Dates

Girl's Field Hockey - October 20
Boy's and Girl's Soccer - October 24
Girl's Volleyball - October 31

- Reporting Scores:** At the conclusion of each regional game, coaches should call in scores to regional directors who will in turn report all regional scores to the MPSSAA. This will allow the MPSSAA to update brackets accordingly. Failure to report scores significantly hinders the ability of the MPSSAA to update brackets and provide athletic administrators the necessary time to schedule the logistics for the next round of contests.
- Regional Quarterfinal Round Champions Team Entry Form:** Schools that advance past the Regional Quarterfinals have an obligation to submit a **team photo** and **team entry form** to the MPSSAA. The deadline for these submissions is 4 p.m. the day following their quarterfinal win. Team entry forms and photos allow the MPSSAA to have all necessary information for the state tournament. Accuracy is extremely important as this information will be duplicated in the state playoff book and the state finals t-shirts.

Fall 2011 Team Entry Form Dates

Girl's Field Hockey - October 28
Boy's and Girl's Soccer - November 2
Girl's Volleyball - November 8
Football - November 14

- Regional Final Champion:** Regional champions will be awarded a team plaque and individual certificates to members of the team. At the conclusion of the regional final game, schools should contact their regional director and submit the score of the regional final game and their season record, including all tournament games.

State Tournament

- Media Forms:** Schools competing at the state semifinals need to fill out and bring copies of the media form to the their state semifinal contest. Media forms are found on the respective sport pages of mpssaa.org. These forms are important to highlight school programs as media outlets who may not typically cover you during the season will be writing articles on your success. These forms will be provided to media at the state semifinals and finals.
- Playoff Magazine:** The MPSSAA official state playoff program magazine will be given to all state semifinal participants. Team photo, roster and school information for each state semifinal participating team will be highlighted in the book. All information is based upon the team entry form so accuracy and spelling is important.
- State Tournament:** Schools advancing to the state semifinals and finals should refer to the MPSSAA bulletin for state finals information. Each school will have an opportunity to compete for the state championship in their classification. Based on your seed (West-1, East-2, South-3 and North-4) and your opponent's seed will determine whether you are the designated home or away team for both your semifinal and final matchup. Be safe and bring both sets of uniforms. Schools should encourage their fan base to check the MPSSAA Fan Focus for event information and direct them to purchase state final tickets online to avoid lines at the gate the day of the event.

Positive Momentum Is Result of Leadership Conference

A highly motivated and energetic group of student-athletes from across the state left Tuesday's 2nd annual MPSSAA Student-Athlete Leadership Conference at New Town High School with renewed focus and positive momentum to become leaders in their schools and communities.

The MPSSAA wishes to thank the Allstate Foundation for the funding provided to make the Leadership Conference a reality. Allstate's support of this endeavor is paramount to its' success and we appreciate their interest in partnering with us to make a difference in the lives of our students and programs.



Sports psychologist Greg Dale from Duke University kick-started the day by providing a blueprint of skills and strategies for each student-athlete to attain and maintain the proper mindset in order to enhance their abilities on and off of the playing field. Small group breakout sessions followed with "Team Building", a "Captain's Course", and a "Good Decisions and Perspective" workshop session facilitated by athletic directors and coaches from across the state. Magician Stephen Bargatze returned this year to conduct several sessions where he combines his tricks and comedy to help deliver a more serious message about acceptance of others, respecting yourself and others, and the negative impact of using drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. Another integral breakout session of utmost importance was the Allstate Insurance "Teen Safe Driving" which included an opportunity for each student-athlete to make a pledge not to text while driving. Greg Dale also conducted several breakout sessions where students had to debate various statements which tested their core values and beliefs as well as their personal definitions of leadership.

The day ended with students participating in an Action Planning session by school system or district in order to brainstorm ideas and begin to outline a plan for creation, implementation, and evaluation at the school, school system, or district level. Many thanks to our hosts at New Town HS and the many volunteers who assisted with the multitude of tasks which made for a smooth running and orderly event. We look forward to next year's conference and hope to "set the bar" even higher!

Important Dates To Remember

First Day of Fall Practice: August 13, 2011
 First Play Date of Fall Season: September 2, 2011
 First Day of Winter Practice: November 15, 2011

First Play Date of Winter Season: December 5, 2011
 First Day of Spring Practice (2012): March 1, 2012
 First Play Date of Spring Season (2012): March 21, 2012

September 2011

SEP 2First Play Date
 SEP 7Executive Council – BWI Courtyard Marriott9:30 a.m.
 SEP 12Cross Country Committee – BWI Courtyard Marriott9:30 a.m.
 SEP 14Wrestling Committee – BWI Courtyard Marriott9:30 a.m.
 SEP 15Basketball Committees – BWI Courtyard Marriott9:30 a.m.
 SEP 19Field Hockey Committee – BWI Courtyard Marriott9:30 a.m.
 SEP 20Football Committee – BWI Courtyard Marriott9:30 a.m.
 SEP 21Indoor Track Committee – BWI Courtyard Marriott9:30 a.m.
 SEP 23Baseball and Softball Committees – BWI Courtyard Marriott9:30 a.m.

October 2011

OCT 3Soccer Committees – BWI Courtyard Marriott9:30 a.m.
 OCT 4Lacrosse Committees – BWI Courtyard Marriott9:30 a.m.
 OCT 5Scholar Athlete Committee – BWI Courtyard Marriott9:30 a.m.
 OCT 6Swimming Committee – BWI Courtyard Marriott9:30 a.m.
 OCT 11Volleyball Committee – BWI Courtyard Marriott9:30 a.m.
 OCT 13Track and Field Committee – BWI Courtyard Marriott9:30 a.m.
 OCT 18Golf District Tournament Completion Date
 OCT 19Golf Committee—University of Maryland Golf Course9:30 a.m.
OCT 20FIELD HOCKEY DRAW - MPSSAA OfficeTBA
 OCT 21Last day to submit Bylaw changes for 2010–2011
OCT 24CROSS COUNTRY TEAM ENTRY FORMS DUE
OCT 24BOYS AND GIRLS SOCCER DRAWS - MPSSAA OfficeTBA
OCT 24-26STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT - U. OF MARYLAND GOLF COURSE10:00 a.m.
 OCT 25Field Hockey First Round
 OCT 27Nominating Committee – BWI Courtyard Marriott9:30 a.m.
 OCT 27Field Hockey Region QF
 OCT 28Boys and Girls Soccer First Round
OCT 28FIELD HOCKEY TEAM ENTRY FORMS DUE4:00 p.m. deadline
OCT 31VOLLEYBALL DRAW - MPSSAA OfficeTBA
 OCT 31Field Hockey Region SF

MPSSAA Winter Rules Interpretation Clinics

Attendance at a rules interpretation clinic is a certification requirement for officials assigned to MPSSAA contests—both regular and post-season play. COACHES ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND! Please continue to check the officials page on MPSSAA.org for the latest information on all clinic dates. You may also email Bill Burroughs at bburroug@msde.state.md.us.

Basketball- Bill Burroughs, Interpreter

Sep. 27. 6:30 pm..Frederick/Washington CoBrunswick HS
 Oct. 4....6:30 pm..Baltimore Co/NortheasternJoppatowne HS
 Oct. 10..7:00 pm ..Southern Maryland/SMACWestlake HS
 Oct. 11..7:00 pm ..Baltimore/Carroll CoFranklin HS
 Oct. 12 7:00 pm ..Baltimore CityPoly HS
 Oct. 19..6:30 pm..Southern Maryland/PGC H Flowers HS
 Oct. 20 7:00 pm ..Eastern Shore.....Cambridge-SD HS (RM E124)
 Nov. 5 ..9:00 am ..Montgomery Co.....Springbrook HS

Swimming - David Stark, Interpreter

Oct. 12 7:00 pm ..Baltimore CityMcDonough School
 Oct. 19..7:00 pm ..Prince George's CountyC.H. Flowers HS
 Oct. 20 6:00 pm..Harford CountyPatterson Mill HS
 Oct. 24..7:00 pm ..Frederick CountyFrederick HS
 Oct. 27..7:00 pm ..Montgomery CountyMont. Co.
 Bd. of Ed. Office - cafeteria
 Oct. 31..6:00 pm..Southern MarylandGreat Mills HS
 Nov. 2 ..6:00 pm..Anne Arundel CountyAA Co. Board of Ed.
 Nov. 3 ..6:00 pm..Eastern ShoreTalbot Co. Board of Ed.

Wrestling - Bruce Malinowski, Interpreter

Oct. 4....7:00 pm ..Potomac Valley/Washington CoSouth
 Hagerstown HS
 Oct. 5....7:00 pm ..Eastern ShoreParkside HS
 Oct. 19..7:00 pm ..WMWOASpringbrook HS
 Nov. 2 ..6:00 pm..Anne Arundel CoAA Co. Board of Ed Office
 Nov. 7 ..7:00 pm ..BaltimorePoly HS (RM 115)

