

# Important Bulletin Changes and Notes

## FALL SPORTS

- Cross Country – No significant changes.
- Field Hockey
  - The committee decided that the state championship games shall remain on the same date at a member school site should the finals site, Stevenson University, become unavailable due to collegiate postseason hosting duties. (p. 18)
- Football
  - The game times for regional round games on Thursday or Friday shall now be scheduled no earlier than 5:00 p.m. Saturday games will still begin at 12:00 p.m. or later. The MPSSAA reserves the right to authorize a local educational agency to schedule games earlier than 5:00 p.m. for legitimate facility or official shortage issues. (p. 25)
- Golf – No significant changes.
- Soccer
  - The committees have adopted a rule regarding the termination of a game. A game will be considered complete in the second half after 20 minutes have been played and there is an 8+ goal differential. (p. 37)
  - The committees have also clarified participation in the awards ceremony. Any team personnel on the sideline or bench who receives a red card due to egregious actions may not participate in the awards ceremony. This includes coaches, players, managers, etc. (p. 37)
- Volleyball
  - The Region Quarterfinals will be played on one date (Wednesday) and the Region Semifinals may be played on Thursday or Friday with the higher-placed team determining the date in consultation with the opponent. (p.46)
  - The state semifinal games can start no earlier than 5:00 p.m. The bulletin now includes a note to clarify that any schools that offer to be a host site of the state semifinals are eligible to host their own school in this round. (p. 47)

## WINTER SPORTS

- Basketball
  - The committee decided to modify the option to start running time in the first half, instead of waiting until the second half, if agreed upon prior to the start of the contest. This option is only during the regular season. (p. 8)
  - The eight championship games will be played in the format of four games each day across the two days. Friday times are 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., and 8 p.m. Saturday times are 12 p.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m., and 6 p.m. (p. 13)
  
- Indoor Track
  - The committee voted in favor of raising the number of maximum events that an athlete can compete in during a meet from four to six. (p. 16)
  - The number of entries per individual event at region meets was increased from 16 to 18. (p. 17)
  - It was also voted that in order to participate in a region meet, an athlete must compete in one MPSSAA-sanctioned meet instead of two. This is already in addition to having a minimum of three weeks of supervised training. (p. 18)
  
- Swimming and Diving
  - The committee has included clarification on the integrity of the championships reminding coaches that when a student fails to continue participation when eligible to do so, it is a violation of COMAR regulations. It is a disservice to the sport and challenges 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. (p. 28)
  - In order to accommodate the talent level in region meet diving, the limit of male and female divers per school has been increased from two to four per gender. (p. 29)
  
- Wrestling
  - Region bouts will now begin no earlier than 4:30 p.m. The weigh-in will begin one hour before the posted start time. (p. 34)
  - Forfeit language has been added for the Girls Division of the region meets stating that each team must be able to fill seven weight classes in a dual meet before a forfeit win can be rewarded. (p. 37)
  - Seeding criteria has also been added for the Girls Division to specify that seeding will be based upon the following:
    - (a) Wins
    - (b) Winning Percentage
    - (c) Coin Flip(p. 37)