

Soccer Tournament Bulletin

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – NOVEMBER 13-15, 2025 – LOYOLA UNIVERSITY – RIDLEY ATHLETIC COMPLEX

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
August 13	First Practice Date	October 22	Region Quarterfinals
September 5	First Play Date	October 24/25	Region Semifinals
October 18	Last play date for seeding consideration	October 28	Region Finals
October 20	Tournament seeding date	Oct. 31/Nov. 1	State Quarterfinals
October 21	Last Play Date	November 7/8	State Semifinals
October 29	Team Tournament Roster Forms Due	November 13-15	State Championships

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association is the official governing body for the Soccer tournament. Plans for the tournament were formulated by the State Soccer 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 Soccer Bulletin. Unless specifically stated, all rules and regulations stipulated in the NFHS Soccer 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. During the regular season, a player disqualified under National Federation (NF) Rule 12-8-2 can be permitted to play in the next game, depending on the ejection policies of the local school system or conference. Starting with the first region contest and continuing throughout the tournament, a player who is disqualified under NFHS Rule 12-8 (Article 2, 3) shall be barred from participating in the team's next game. For interpretation refer to Misconduct Detrimental to a Tournament, see Rule .07C(11) in the MPSSAA Handbook.
- F. All region games must be played on the designated date shown above unless there is a facility conflict.
- G. 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.
- H. Ties and suspended games (regular season)
 1. A game ending in a tie shall be resolved by two (if necessary) sudden-victory overtime periods of 10 minutes each. The game shall end with the first overtime goal. If two overtime periods are played without a goal being scored, the game shall be declared a tie. A coin shall be flipped prior to the first overtime period. The coin flip procedure is the same as used to start a game. The interval between the second half and the first overtime period shall be five minutes. The interval between the first overtime period and a second overtime period (if necessary) shall be two minutes.
 2. A game suspended prior to the completion of the first half shall be continued from the point of suspension (see NFHS Rule 7-1-3).
 3. A game suspended after the completion of the first half shall be considered an official game unless the local supervisor(s) gives permission to complete the game from the point of suspension.
- I. By State adoption, the State Soccer Committees have adopted the following 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.

II. REGION AND STATE TOURNAMENTS

A. Tournament Organization

1. Every team is automatically entered into the region tournament unless the MPSSAA office receives written notification to the contrary prior to the seeding meeting. Request for withdrawal shall be by letter, signed by the school principal.
2. A TEAM ENTRY FORM utilized for State Semifinals and Finals must be filled out by teams winning their Region Final. Instructions on filling out the TEAM ENTRY FORM are available on mpssaa.org.
3. Each region will conduct a single elimination tournament, with the champion advancing to state play.
4. Doubleheaders will be played where boys and girls matchups exist for both schools, unless the draw or facility prohibits it. For the 2025 tournament, the boys game will be the early game. Each subsequent year, the order will be reversed.
5. A suspended tournament game shall be continued from the point of suspension unless the game is declared complete by mutual agreement between the two schools.

B. Playing Rules

1. The State Soccer Committee has adopted the National Federation recommendation that a player or coach disqualified from a region or state tournament game under NFHS Rule 12-8 (Articles 2, 3) shall be barred from participating in the team's next game. For interpretation, refer to "Misconduct Detrimental to a Tournament", Rule .07C(11) in the MPSSAA Handbook.
2. Any team personnel (e.g., coach, player, manager) on the sideline or bench who receives a red card due to egregious actions may not participate in the awards ceremony.
3. The overtime procedure for tournament progression is the same as used during the regular season (refer to the preceding section I.H.1). In the event the match remains tied after two sudden victory overtime periods, there will be a penalty kick tiebreaker to determine a winner. The following Penalty Kick Procedure shall be used.
 - (a.) This procedure will be used for all region and state tournament contests.
 - (b.) Organization mechanics: The designated home team or tournament committee, (if the game is being managed by the committee), shall:
 - i. supply sufficient ball persons to enable the procedure to operate efficiently.
 - ii. be responsible for providing sufficient security for the penalty kick procedure so that it may be conducted without interference to those involved.
4. The officials will:
 - (a.) gather all eligible field players in the center circle who completed the second overtime period.
 - (b.) designate the goal at which the penalty kicks will be taken.
 - (c.) choose three game balls for use.
 - (d.) begin the penalty kick procedure after a three-minute intermission period. The following procedures shall apply:
 - i. A coin toss shall occur, with the visiting team calling the toss. The winner of the toss will have the choice of shooting first or defending first.
 - ii. The penalty kick tiebreaker will initially be based on the performance of five kickers designated by the coach from each team. Coaches should identify one kicker at a time. Attempts shall be made in alternating order until one team has an insurmountable advantage.

- a.) If the score is tied after the five designated players have taken their shots, then a sudden-victory round begins which includes the remaining eligible players for each team who were not part of the initial penalty kicking phase.
 - b.) If the score remains tied after the completion of (a) above, then the sudden-victory round continues with all eligible players from each team becoming eligible for a second shot. A coach may change the order from the initial round. No player can take a third shot until all eligible players from both teams have taken their second shot, and so on.
- 5. Coaches' responsibilities:
 - (a.) Each coach shall be solely responsible for utilizing only eligible players as the team's participants. Participation by an ineligible player will result in forfeiture of the game by the offending team. Ineligible participation would include, but not be limited to: a field player who was not in the game at the end of the second overtime or a shooter taking a second attempt in a cycle before all of the shooter's eligible teammates have taken their first attempts in the same cycle.
 - (b.) Only the head coach and one assistant will be permitted to join the players in the center circle. Remaining players, coaches, and team attendants shall be completely off the field of play and in their team bench areas.
- 6. Kicking Procedure
 - (a.) Participants
 - i. Only those players on the field at the end of the second 10-minute sudden-victory overtime period, including the goalkeeper, are eligible for the penalty kick tiebreaker.
 - ii. If the goalkeeper is injured during the penalty kicks and must be removed, the goalkeeper may be replaced by a substitute. This substitute may be selected from any players on the team. However, a goalkeeper, once substituted for, may NOT be reinstated. The substitute for the goalkeeper will take part in the penalty kicks. If a player already on the field replaces the goalkeeper, an additional kicker may be brought in from the bench, but cannot kick until all of the players from that team have kicked. This substitute must be the team's final kicker in each cycle.
 - (b.) The eligible shooters for each team shall take scoring attempts in any sequence the head coach desires. The head coach shall direct each shooter to report to the official at the penalty kick stripe immediately after the completion of the previous shooter's attempt. A shooter may not be changed after reporting to the official. The shooting order need not be the same in the subsequent cycle.
 - (c.) The official shall record the player's name, number, the order in the team's cycle in which the attempt was made, and the result of the kick.
 - (d.) A goalkeeper who is to defend against the next penalty kick attempt shall be stationed outside the field of play at the intersection of the goal line and the penalty area boundary to the side designated by the officials.
 - (e.) If a player who is participating in the tiebreaker is issued a caution during the administration of penalty kicks, then that player becomes the last player to kick in their next eligible round of kicks. For instance if a player has not kicked in the round of kicks in which the player is cautioned, then that player must be the last kicker in that round. If a cautioned player has already kicked in the round of kicks in which the player is cautioned, then the player may not kick again until the end of their next eligible round of 11 kicks.
 - (f.) If a goalkeeper is cautioned, then rule II.B.5.e. above applies. In addition the cautioned goalkeeper may not defend the next opponent's kick but may return to goal on the subsequent kick. The player replacing the goalkeeper in this situation must be from the players already participating in the tiebreaker.

- (g.) Any player, including the goalkeeper, who is disqualified may not participate any further and may not be replaced. Any player disqualified who has not kicked in the cycle of 11 becomes the last kicker and the kick is considered a miss. The same applies to subsequent cycles of 11.
7. The game shall end and the team declared the winner which has:
- (a.) attained an insurmountable lead over its opponent before the initial phase of five penalty kickers is completed; or
 - (b.) scored more goals than its opponent upon completion of the initial phase of five penalty kickers; or
 - (c.) scored one more goal than its opponent at any point after each has taken an equal number of shots during the “sudden victory” phase of the penalty kick tiebreaker.

III. 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.
 - (a.) The region director is responsible for the employment of local officials for region games plus qualified adults as scorers and timers. Two- or three-person crews will be used based upon the wishes of the local jurisdiction of the designated home team.
 - (b.) The region director shall inform the State Committee Director and the MPSSAA Office of the schedule established for competition.
2. The seeding meeting for bracket positions (including the breaking of ties) will take place Monday, October 20 in the MPSSAA office via conference call with the state tournament chair. Tournament pairings will appear on the MPSSAA web site <mpssaa.org> the same day.
 - (a.) Region directors will verify and submit the official records of all teams through October 18 to the respective state director by noon on October 19.
 - (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 nine varsity games played will be seeded based on a regular season winning percentage using a divisor of nine games.
 - (d.) Ties among teams in a region will be first broken by head-to-head competition to determine the higher seed. This applies if all tied teams meet the criteria. If head-to-head does not break the tie, a coin toss will be used to determine the order of seeding.
 - (e.) The higher-placed team is defined as one who occupies the lower-numbered line position (the favored position), on the bracket in any given round.
3. Unless a specific alternative plan has been approved, all teams in regional play will abide by the following guidelines.
 - (a.) All region games will be played at the site of the higher seed throughout the tournament.
 - (b.) 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 SAT or ACT Tests. Local Supervisors of Athletics shall be contacted and make the final decision when conflicts occur.
 - (c.) If circumstances render a home site unplayable and the game is scheduled at any alternate site, the designated home team will remain unchanged.
 - (d.) A site suitable for a regular season game may be unsuitable for a playoff game. Region directors should work with local supervisors to assure that region sites meet field and safety criteria.

4. Uniforms shall comply with current NFHS rules. The designated home team will wear the dark jersey and dark socks. The designated visiting team will wear solid white jersey and solid white socks.
5. The Soccer Committee will approve for use only those sites that meet the following field criteria:
 - (a.) The field shall be a minimum size of 110 yds. x 55 yds.
 - (b.) The field of play shall conform to current NF Rule 1-2, (Articles 1-11).
 - (c.) It is the responsibility of the host school to provide and enforce crowd control measures.
 - (d.) There must be a qualified game manager other than the participating coach.
6. When a school cannot meet the game site criteria above, the region director shall designate an alternative site, after consultation with the local supervisor(s) of athletics.
7. When a school cannot meet the NFHS uniform specifications, the region director in consultation with local supervisor(s) of athletics may assign the designation of home team (including site of contest) to the opposing school without change of tournament seeding.
8. Local MPSSAA districts will collect all revenue and pay all expenses. Site directors shall pay officials and required workers. When funds are not available, fees should be referred to the host district.

B. General Policies

1. Individuals 7 years of age and older will be charged an admission of \$6.
2. Region champions will receive a team plaque and 25 individual certificates.

IV. STATE TOURNAMENT

A. State Quarterfinals

1. The region champions from each classification shall advance to a State Quarterfinal round.
2. The eight region champions will be seeded 1-8 based on their regular season winning percentage used to seed each region. Ties among teams in the State Quarterfinals will be first broken by head-to-head competition to determine the higher seed. This applies if all tied teams meet the criteria. If head-to-head does not break the tie, a coin toss will be used to determine the order of seeding.
3. Unless a specific alternate plan has been approved, all State Quarterfinal games will be played at the site of the higher seed.
4. Schools hosting a State Quarterfinal game may schedule the contest on Friday, October 31 or Saturday, November 1. 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 SAT or ACT Tests. Local Supervisors of Athletics shall be contacted and make the final decision when conflicts occur.
5. A three-person officiating crew from the association local to the higher seeded team will be assigned to the State Quarterfinal contest.
6. Local MPSSAA districts will collect all revenue and pay all expenses. Site directors shall pay officials and required workers. When funds are not available, fees should be referred to the host district.

B. State Semifinals

1. The winners of the State Quarterfinal round shall advance to the State Semifinals.
 - (a.) The winners of the No. 1 versus No. 8 seeded game will play the winners of the No. 4 versus No. 5 seeded game.
 - (b.) The winners of the No. 2 versus No. 7 seeded game will play the winners of the No. 3 versus No. 6 seeded game.

2. When all four Boys and the Girls semifinals are played on a Saturday, the games shall be played at 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, and 7:30 p.m. When two games are played on Friday and two on Saturday, game times on Friday shall be at 5:00 and 7:30 p.m., and two games on Saturday shall be scheduled between 12 7:30 p.m. with 2.5 hours between any two games. Schedules and times are tentative and a definitive schedule will be set after teams have advanced out of the State Quarterfinals. Locations for each boys and girls classification are as follows:

Hosting Sites

Bel Air HS, Fairmont Heights HS, Glen Burnie HS, Kent Island HS, Laurel HS, North County HS, Oxon Hill HS, Eleanor Roosevelt HS, and Tuscarora HS. The MPSSAA will set the schedule with sites and game times as teams advance throughout the tournament. The MPSSAA will, as best as possible, factor in travel and school conflicts with other tournaments when setting the state semifinal schedule. *** Note: Schools offering their site to be a host of the state semifinals are eligible to host their own school in this round.**

3. A three-person officiating crew will be assigned by the MPSSAA Office.
 4. The Soccer Committee shall appoint a Game Manager for each Semifinal game. The Game Manager is responsible for the field preparation, finances, the safe conduct of the game, and should be in contact with both teams as to time, uniforms, and game procedures. The manager is responsible for tickets received, monies collected, monies paid out, and shall submit a financial report to the Association following the games.
- C. State Championships
1. The winners of the State Semifinal round shall advance to the State Championships.
 2. Both the Boys and the Girls Tournament Finals will be held at Loyola University's Ridley Athletic Complex on November 13th – 15th, with times and pairings to be determined. Check MPSSAA.org for "Soccer State Championship Central" with details on directions and parking information.
 3. For the Finals, two games will be played on Thursday, November 13th at 5:00 and 7:30 p.m. and two games will be played on Friday, November 14th at 5:00 and 7:30 p.m. Four games will be played on Saturday, November 15th at 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, and 7:30 p.m.
 4. Member schools shall not schedule practice or scrimmage sessions at the site of the final championship games.
 5. A three-person officiating crew will be assigned by the MPSSAA Office.
 6. If a final game is tied at the end of the overtime periods, the penalty kick procedure will be used to determine a State Champion.
- D. General Policies
1. Individuals 7 years of age and older will be charged the following admission:
 - (a.) State Quarterfinals - \$6.
 - (b.) State Semifinals - \$8.
 - (c.) State Finals - \$10.
 2. State Quarterfinal winners will complete the Media Information Form (found on the Soccer page of mpssaa.org) and bring the requested copies to the State Semifinals. This form shall be revised following the State Semifinals and new requested copies brought to the State Final game.
 3. The team champion in each classification will receive a plaque, 25 individual awards, and the game ball. The finalist team will receive a plaque, 25 individual awards, and a game ball.

Projected MPSSAA Soccer Championship Dates					
2026	November 19-21	2027	November 18-20	2028	November 16-18

STATE SOCCER COMMITTEE AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS ARE LISTED ON [MPSSAA.ORG](https://www.mpssaa.org)

2025 Soccer 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.	Paint Branch	Mtg	1.	Glen Burnie	AA
2.	Urbana	Fre	2.	Dundalk	B Co	2.	Montgomery Blair	Mtg	2.	Meade	AA
3.	Clarksburg	Mtg	3.	Kenwood	B Co	3.	Eleanor Roosevelt	PG	3.	North County	AA
4.	Northwest	Mtg	4.	Parkville	B Co	4.	High Point	PG	4.	Severn Run	AA
5.	Seneca Valley	Mtg	5.	Perry Hall	B Co	5.	Laurel	PG	5.	Mergenthaler Vo-Tech	Balt
6.	South Hagerstown	Was	6.	Woodlawn	B Co	6.	Northwestern	PG	6.	Western	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.	Bowie	PG
5.	Walter Johnson	Mtg	5.	Springbrook	Mtg	5.	Parkdale	PG	5.	North Point	Cha
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.	Oakland Mills	How	3.	Baltimore City College	Balt
4.	Oakdale	Fre	4.	Towson	B Co	4.	Reservoir	How	4.	Baltimore Polytechnic Institute	Balt
5.	Tuscarora	Fre	5.	Aberdeen	Har	5.	Sherwood	Mtg	5.	Digital Harbor	Balt
6.	North Hagerstown	Was	6.	Edgewood	Har	6.	Largo	PG	6.	Patterson	Balt
REGION II			REGION II			REGION II			REGION II		
1.	Col. Zadok Magruder	Mtg	1.	Catonsville	B Co	1.	Northern	Cal	1.	Arundel	AA
2.	Damascus	Mtg	2.	Franklin	B Co	2.	St. Charles	Cha	2.	Old Mill	AA
3.	Northwood	Mtg	3.	New Town	B Co	3.	Oxon Hill	PG	3.	Severna Park	AA
4.	Rockville	Mtg	4.	Centennial	How	4.	Potomac	PG	4.	South River	AA
5.	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.	Middletown	Fre	2.	Lansdowne	B Co	2.	Fairmont Heights	PG	2.	North East	Cec
3.	Walkersville	Fre	3.	Owings Mills	B Co	3.	Frederick Douglass	PG	3.	Rising Sun	Cec
4.	Glenelg	How	4.	Randallstown	B Co	4.	Friendly	PG	4.	Bel Air	Har
5.	Poolesville	Mtg	5.	Manchester Valley	Car	5.	Gwynn Park	PG	5.	C. Milton Wright	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.	Hammond	How	2.	Paul Laurence Dunbar	Balt	2.	Huntingtown	Cal	2.	Kent Island	QA
3.	Long Reach	How	3.	Chesapeake	B Co	3.	La Plata	Cha	3.	Queen Anne's	QA
4.	River Hill	How	4.	Eastern Tech	B Co	4.	McDonough	Cha	4.	Easton	Tal
5.	Wilde Lake	How	5.	Sparrows Point	B Co	5.	Thomas Stone	Cha	5.	Parkside	Wic
6.	Mount Hebron	How	6.	Fallston	Har	6.	Westlake	Cha	6.	Wicomico	Wic

Class 1A West			Class 1A North			Class 1A South			Class 1A East		
REGION I			REGION I			REGION I			REGION I		
1.	Allegany	All	1.	Loch Raven	B Co	1.	Chesapeake Science Pt.	AA	1.	Bohemia Manor	Cec
2.	Fort Hill	All	2.	Reginald Lewis	Balt	2.	Western Tech	B Co	2.	Perryville	Cec
3.	Mountain Ridge	All	3.	Harford Tech	Har	3.	Carver A&T	B Co	3.	Col. Richardson	Cin
4.	Northern	Gar	4.	Havre de Grace	Har	4.	Pikesville	B Co	4.	North Dorchester	Dor
5.	Southern	Gar	5.	Joppatowne	Har	5.	CMIT - North	PG	5.	Kent County	K
6.	Clear Spring	Was	6.	Patterson Mill	Har	6.	College Park Acad.	PG	6.	St. Michael's	Tal
REGION II			REGION II			REGION II			REGION II		
1.	Francis Scott Key	Car	1.	Benjamin Franklin	Balt	1.	Patuxent	Cal	1.	Cambridge-SD	Dor
2.	South Carroll	Car	2.	Edmondson-Westside	Balt	2.	Henry E. Lackey	Cha	2.	Crisfield	Som
3.	Brunswick	Fre	3.	ACCE	Balt	3.	Central	PG	3.	Washington	Som
4.	Catoctin	Fre	4.	Frederick Douglass	Balt	4.	CMIT - South	PG	4.	Mardela	Wic
5.	Boonsboro	Was	5.	National Acad. Foundation	Balt	5.	Int. HS at Langley Park	PG	5.	Pocomoke	Wor
6.	Smithsburg	Was	6.	Liberty	Car	6.	Int. HS at Largo	PG	6.	Snow Hill	Wor