

Softball Tournament Bulletin

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – MAY 22/23, 2026 – UNIVERSITY OF MD, COLLEGE PARK SOFTBALL COMPLEX

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
February 28	First Practice Date	May 7	Region Quarterfinals
March 20	First Play Date	May 11	Region Semifinals
May 4	Last play date for seeding consideration	May 13	Region Finals
May 5	Tournament seeding date	May 15/16	State Quarterfinals
May 6	Last Play Date	May 19	State Semifinals
		May 22/23	State Championships

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association is the official governing body for the Softball tournament. Plans for the tournament were formulated by the Girls State Softball 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 Softball Bulletin. Unless specifically stated, all rules and regulations stipulated in the NFHS Softball Rule Book will be followed.
- C. *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.
- D. *Eligibility rules for all participants* are defined in MPSSAA Bylaw .02, found in the current Handbook.
- E. As per NFHS rules, an optic yellow ball is required for all contests. The Girls State Softball Committee IS REQUIRING the use of the **Dudley SB12L Optic Yellow ball with red stitching** during both the region and state tournaments.
- F. All games, including doubleheaders, will be scheduled as seven inning games.
- G. As allowed in NFHS Rule 4-2-3, by state adoption, a game called for any reason, where a winner cannot be determined, will be treated as a suspended game. If the game is to be completed, it will be continued from the point of suspension, with the lineup and batting order of each team exactly the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension, subject to the rules of the game. All region and state tournament games will be a minimum of seven innings unless considered complete under Section II, item B (3.) on the next page.
- H. The Girls State Softball Committee has adopted the rule permitting the courtesy runners and a double first base for play all season long. The double first base will be used in all regional and state tournament games.
- I. The Girls State Softball Committee has established a tiebreaker procedure as authorized by rule NFHS Rule 4-2-6, to determine the winner of a game that remains tied after seven innings of play. This procedure will be used during both the region and state tournaments. Individual school systems are encouraged to adopt this procedure during the regular season for both varsity and junior varsity games.

Beginning with the eighth inning, each half inning will begin with the last completed turn at bat from the previous inning (or her legal substitute or courtesy runner) on second base. [Note: Enforcement of an “automatic out” as described in NFHS Rule 3-3-8b or 4-3-1g shall never be interpreted to create an out before the extra inning is begun.] After the lead off batter has completed her turn at bat, any “automatic out” in the batting order will be an automatic out as prescribed in NFHS Rule 7-4-1.

II. REGION AND STATE TOURNAMENTS

A. A. Tournament Organization

1. Every school is automatically entered into the region 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 utilized for State Semifinals and Finals must be filled out by teams winning their Region Final. The TEAM ENTRY FORM is available on the "Members" page of mpssaa.org.
3. Each region will conduct a single elimination tournament, with the champion advancing to state play.
4. Warm-up procedures
 - (a.) Both teams will warm up on the entire field for 15 minutes each.
 - (b.) The visiting team will warm up first unless extenuating circumstances cause a late arrival of the visiting team in which case the home team shall warm up first.
5. In case of inclement weather, athletic directors shall consult with regional directors before finalizing arrangements.
6. For region information, contact your region tournament director.

B. Playing Rules

1. The tournament will be conducted under National Federation rules.
2. The official tournament game ball will be the optic yellow Dudley SB12L Optic Yellow ball with red stitching.
3. A game will be considered complete anytime after 4-1/2 to 5 innings when a team is 10 runs behind and has completed its term at bat.
4. In the event of a suspended game, refer to item II. (C.) on page 4 in the front of this bulletin.

C. Officials

1. MPSSAA-certified officials will be assigned for each game. A minimum of two officials will be used for regional games. Three officials will be used for state games.

D. Game Schedule Conflicts

1. Games are only moved for senior proms and graduations. The following guidelines will be followed when a scheduling conflict occurs due to senior prom.
 - (a.) When one team has a prom on a Friday night, the game should be scheduled for no earlier than 2 PM on Saturday.
 - (b.) When the traveling team has a prom on a Saturday night, the game should be scheduled for 10 AM on Saturday. If the home team has the Saturday night prom, the game should be scheduled for no later than 12 Noon, but can be as early as 10 AM.
 - (c.) When one team has a prom on Friday night and the other team on Saturday night, the game should be scheduled for 12 Noon on Saturday.

III. REGION TOURNAMENT

A. Tournament Organization

1. Responsibilities of region director
 - (a.) Notify schools as to their bracket position, site of upcoming contest, and starting time.

- (b.) Schedule the local officials board that services the designated home team.
 - (c.) Inform the state committee director and MPSSAA of the schedule established for competition.
 2. The tournament seeding will take place Tuesday, May 5 in the MPSSAA office via conference call with the State Committee Director. Tournament pairings will appear on the MPSSAA web site <mpssaa.org> later that day.
 - (a.) Region directors will verify and confirm to the State Committee Director by 9 p.m., May 4, the official records of all teams for regular season games played through that day.
 - (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 less than 14 varsity games played will be seeded based on a regular season winning percentage using a divisor of 14 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.) All region championship games will be held at the home site of the school with the higher regular season winning percentage.
 - (c.) If circumstances render a home site unplayable and the game is scheduled at any alternate site, the designated home team will remain unchanged.
 4. Postponed/suspended games may be required by the State Softball Committee to be made up as part of a double header.
 5. All games must be played on a regulation softball field. The field must be skinned and cannot be a baseball field or one with a raised mound.
 6. Weekday games will be played at 4 p.m. and Saturday games at 1 p.m. unless the region tournament director determines another game time.
 7. The home team will provide two optic yellow Dudley SB12L Optic Yellow with red stitching game balls.
- B. General Policies
 1. Admission and number of spectators are subject to the local hosting jurisdiction.
 2. A team certificate and 25 individual certificates will be presented to the region champion.
 3. 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.
 4. The use of noisemakers and other distractions that disrupts the orderly progress of the game, (i.e., use of noisemakers coinciding with a pitch being delivered), are prohibited.

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 must be mindful of other school activities and provide appropriate travel time for any schools with students taking AP or IB testing. 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.
7. State Quarterfinal winners will receive state semifinalist plaques.
8. State Quarterfinal winners will receive information directly from Lynn Pitonzo with directions for completing the State Tournament Media Forms. These will need to be returned to Colleen Adams by Sunday, May 17 at 3:00 p.m.
9. If host schools charge admission to the state quarterfinal games, admission will be \$8.00.

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. Semifinal site – Bachman Softball Park, Glen Burnie – phone 410-222-0017.
 - (a.) **Directions from I-695 (Baltimore Beltway):** toward Glen Burnie. Take Exit #2 (Route 10 South) to Route 710 (second exit onto East Ordnance Road). Turn right at 3rd light. The Complex is behind the Detention Center and across from Home Depot. (If coming from the South or Eastern Shore, take I-97 to the Baltimore Beltway and follow the above directions.)
 - (b.) **Directions from the Northeast:** I-95 south to I-695 East toward Glen Burnie, then follow directions above.
 - (c.) There are no dressing facilities available at Bachman Park. Teams should come dressed ready to participate. Restroom facilities will be available.
 - (d.) Admission will be \$8.00 for the state semifinals with all tickets purchased online at www.mpssaa.org.

C. State Championships

1. The winners of the State Semifinal round shall advance to the State Championships.

2. Finals site – University of Maryland College Park Softball Complex.

Directions from I-95/I-495 (Capital Beltway): Exit Rte. 1 South to MD. Rte. 193 (University Blvd.) - West one mile, turn left at light onto Paint Branch Parkway. The Softball Complex is located on the right directly behind the XFINITY Center.

3. There are no dressing facilities available at the University of Maryland. Teams should come dressed ready to participate. Restroom facilities will be available.

D. General Policies

1. Individuals seven years and older will be charged \$10.00 admission to the championship games at the University of Maryland Softball Complex with all tickets purchased online only through www.mpssaa.org. **Softball State Championship Central on mpssaa.org contains the latest information.**
2. Dudley SB12L Optic Yellow with red stitching game balls will be provided for semifinal and championship games. Teams should provide their own marked balls for practice.
3. Photographers at State Tournament sites (semifinals and championships) are prohibited by NFHS rule from being in the live-ball area. There will be a designated area for the media in dead ball territory at each site.
4. Awards will be presented at the conclusion of the tournament. The championship team and finalist team will each be awarded a team trophy and 25 individual awards.

SEMIFINAL GAMES		FINAL GAMES	
SITE: Bachman Park DATE: MAY 19 (Rain Date: May 20)		SITE: University of Maryland Softball Complex DATE: MAY 22/23 (Rain Date: May 25)	
Schedule to be determined following the completion of the quarterfinals.		Schedule to be determined following the completion of the semifinals.	
CLASS	GAME (TEAMS)		
1A	#1 (Winner of QF 1v8 vs. Winner of QF 4v5) #2 (Winner of QF 2v7 vs. Winner of QF 3v6)		
2A	#1 (Winner of QF 1v8 vs. Winner of QF 4v5) #2 (Winner of QF 2v7 vs. Winner of QF 3v6)		
3A	#1 (Winner of QF 1v8 vs. Winner of QF 4v5) #2 (Winner of QF 2v7 vs. Winner of QF 3v6)		
4A	#1 (Winner of QF 1v8 vs. Winner of QF 4v5) #2 (Winner of QF 2v7 vs. Winner of QF 3v6)		

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

Projected MPSSAA Softball Championship Dates					
2027	May 28/29	2028	May 26/27	2029	May 25/26

We are looking forward to the cooperation of everyone in making our 50th annual Maryland Girls State Softball Tournament a success!

2026 Softball 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.	Clarksburg	Mtg	3.	Kenwood	B Co	3.	High Point	PG	3.	North County	AA
4.	Northwest	Mtg	4.	Parkville	B Co	4.	Laurel	PG	4.	Severn Run	AA
5.	Seneca Valley	Mtg	5.	Perry Hall	B Co	5.	Northwestern	PG	5.	Mergenthaler Vo-Tech	Balt
6.	South Hagerstown	Was	6.	Woodlawn	B Co	6.	Eleanor Roosevelt	PG	6.	Western	Balt
Region II			Region II			Region II			Region II		
1.	Bethesda-CC	Mtg	1.	James Hubert Blake	Mtg	1.	Bladensburg	PG	1.	Annapolis	AA
2.	Winston Churchill	Mtg	2.	Albert Einstein	Mtg	2.	Duval	PG	2.	Broadneck	AA
3.	Gaithersburg	Mtg	3.	John F. Kennedy	Mtg	3.	Charles H. Flowers	PG	3.	Crofton	AA
4.	Walter Johnson	Mtg	4.	Richard Montgomery	Mtg	4.	Parkdale	PG	4.	North Point	Ch
5.	Quince Orchard	Mtg	5.	Springbrook	Mtg	5.	Suitland	PG	5.	Bowie	PG
6.	Walt Whitman	Mtg	6.	Wheaton	Mtg	6.	Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr.	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.	Watkins Mill	Mtg	5.	Howard	How	5.	Chopticon	StM	5.	James M. Bennett	Wic
6.	Thomas S. Wootton	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.	Manchester Valley	Car	1.	Crossland	PG	1.	Elkton	Cec
2.	Middletown	Fre	2.	Winters Mill	Car	2.	Fairmont Heights	PG	2.	North East	Cec
3.	Walkersville	Fre	3.	Hereford	B Co	3.	Frederick Douglass	PG	3.	Rising Sun	Cec
4.	Glenelg	How	4.	Lansdowne	B Co	4.	Friendly	PG	4.	Bel Air	Har
5.	Poolesville	Mtg	5.	Randallstown	B Co	5.	Gwynn Park	PG	5.	North Harford	Har
6.	Williamsport	Was				6.	Surrattsville	PG	6.	C. Milton Wright	Har
Region II			Region II			Region II			Region II		
1.	Southern	AA	1.	Chesapeake	B Co	1.	Calvert	Cal	1.	North Caroline	Cin
2.	Hammond	How	2.	Eastern Technical	B Co	2.	Huntingtown	Cal	2.	Kent Island	QA
3.	Long Reach	How	3.	Sparrows Point	B Co	3.	La Plata	Cha	3.	Queen Anne's	QA
4.	Mount Hebron	How	4.	Carver Vo-Tech	Balt	4.	McDonough	Cha	4.	Easton	Tal
5.	River Hill	How	5.	Paul Laurence Dunbar	Balt	5.	Thomas Stone	Cha	5.	Parkside	Wic
6.	Wilde Lake	How	6.	Forest Park	Balt	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.	ACCE	Balt	1.	Bohemia Manor	Cec
2.	Fort Hill	All	2.	Fallston	Har	2.	Coppin Academy	Balt	2.	Perryville	Cec
3.	Mountain Ridge	All	3.	Harford Tech	Har	3.	Edmondson-Westside	Balt	3.	Colonel Richardson	Cin
4.	Northern	Gar	4.	Havre de Grace	Har	4.	Frederick Douglass	Balt	4.	North Dorchester	Dor
5.	Southern	Gar	5.	Joppatowne	Har	5.	Lake Clifton	Balt	5.	Kent County	K
6.	Hancock	Was	6.	Patterson Mill	Har	6.	Southwestern	Balt	6.	St. Michael's	Tal
Region II			Region II			Region II			Region II		
1.	Francis Scott Key	Car	1.	Carver A&T	B Co	1.	Patuxent	Cal	1.	Cambridge-SD	Dor
2.	Brunswick	Fre	2.	Owings Mills	B Co	2.	Henry E. Lackey	Cha	2.	Crisfield	Som
3.	Catoctin	Fre	3.	Pikesville	B Co	3.	Central	PG	3.	Washington	Som
4.	Boonsboro	Was	4.	Western Tech	B Co	4.	CMIT - North	PG	4.	Mardela	Wic
5.	Clear Spring	Was	5.	Liberty	Car	5.	International HS at Largo	PG	5.	Pocomoke	Wor
6.	Smithsburg	Was	6.	South Carroll	Car				6.	Snow Hill	Wor