



## MPSSAA GIRLS SOFTBALL BULLETIN

State Finals - May 26-27, 2023  
University of Maryland, College Park

### 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.

#### 2023 SOFTBALL TIME LINE

	REGION TOURNAMENT	STATE TOURNAMENT
<b>Mar. 21</b> ..First play date		
<b>May 8</b> .....Last play date for seeding consideration	<b>May 11</b> .....Region Quarterfinals (Rain date - May 12)	<b>May 19-20</b> .....Quarterfinals (RD-22)
<b>May 9</b> .....Seeding Meeting bracket positions	<b>May 15</b> .....Region Semifinals (Rain date - May 16)	<b>May 23</b> .....Semifinals (RD-24)
<b>May 10</b> ..Last play date		<b>May 26-27</b> ....Finals (RD-29)
<b>May 18</b> ..Application deadline for tournament qualifiers	<b>May 17</b> .....Region Finals (Rain date - May 18)	<b>June 20</b> .....Reimbursements

## II. REGION AND STATE TOURNAMENTS

### 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 Section 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 3 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 9 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 submit to the State Committee Director by 9 p.m., May 8, 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 plaque 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 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 21 at 3:00 p.m.

##### 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.** Take Francis Scott Key Bridge 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](http://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 an \$10 admission to games at the University of Maryland Softball Complex with all tickets purchased online only through [www.mpssaa.org](http://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. Teams should provide their own marked balls for practice.
3. Photographers at State Tournament sites are prohibited by NFHS rule from being in 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 plaque and 25 individual awards.

#### SEMIFINAL GAMES - Bachman Park

MAY 23		RAIN DATE - May 24	
Class	Game (Teams)	Field	Time
1A.....	#1 (Winner of QF 1v8 vs. Winner of QF 4v5)	#4 .....	4 PM
	#2 (Winner of QF 2v7 vs. Winner of QF 3v6)	#6 .....	4 PM
2A.....	#1 (Winner of QF 1v8 vs. Winner of QF 4v5)	#1 .....	4 PM
	#2 (Winner of QF 2v7 vs. Winner of QF 3v6)	#3 .....	4 PM
3A.....	#1 (Winner of QF 1v8 vs. Winner of QF 4v5)	#4 .....	7 PM
	#2 (Winner of QF 2v7 vs. Winner of QF 3v6)	#6 .....	7 PM
4A.....	#1 (Winner of QF 1v8 vs. Winner of QF 4v5)	#1 .....	7 PM
	#2 (Winner of QF 2v7 vs. Winner of QF 3v6)	#3 .....	7 PM

#### FINAL GAMES - University of Maryland Softball Complex

MAY 26-27 (RAIN DATE - May 29)  
(Schedule to be determined following completion of semifinals.)

#### PROJECTED MPSSAA SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT DATES

2024 - May 24/25      2025 - May 23/24      2026 - May 22/23

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

**We are looking forward to the cooperation of everyone in making our 47th annual Maryland Girls State Softball Tournament a success!**

# 2023 ALIGNMENT FOR SOFTBALL

CLASS 4A-WEST			CLASS 4A-NORTH			CLASS 4A-SOUTH			CLASS 4A-EAST		
REGION I			REGION I			REGION I			REGION I		
1. Bethesda-Chevy Chase	Mtg		1. Catonsville	B Co		1. Bladensburg	PG		1. Glen Burnie	AA	
2. Richard Montgomery	Mtg		2. Dulaney	B Co		2. Duval	PG		2. Meade	AA	
3. Thomas S. Wootton	Mtg		3. Dundalk	B Co		3. High Point	PG		3. North County	AA	
4. Walt Whitman	Mtg		4. Parkville	B Co		4. Laurel	PG		4. Old Mill	AA	
5. Walter Johnson	Mtg		5. Perry Hall	B Co		5. Northwestern (PG)	PG		5. Severna Park	AA	
6. Winston Churchill	Mtg		6. Western	Balt		6. Parkdale	PG				
REGION II			REGION II			REGION II			REGION II		
1. Urbana	Fre		1. Albert Einstein	Mtg		1. Bowie	PG		1. Annapolis	AA	
2. Clarksburg	Mtg		2. James Blake	Mtg		2. C H Flowers	PG		2. Broadneck	AA	
3. Gaithersburg	Mtg		3. Montgomery Blair	Mtg		3. Dr. Henry A Wise Jr	PG		3. South River	AA	
4. Northwest	Mtg		4. Northwood	Mtg		4. Eleanor Roosevelt	PG		4. North Point	Cha	
5. Quince Orchard	Mtg		5. Paint Branch	Mtg		5. Suitland	PG		5. Leonardtown	StM	
6. Seneca Valley	Mtg		6. Sherwood	Mtg							
			7. Wheaton	Mtg							
CLASS 3A-WEST			CLASS 3A-NORTH			CLASS 3A-SOUTH			CLASS 3A-EAST		
REGION I			REGION I			REGION I			REGION I		
1. Frederick	Fre		1. Franklin	B Co		1. Huntingtown	Cal		1. Manchester Valley	Car	
2. Linganore	Fre		2. Woodlawn	B Co		2. Northern (Cal.)	Cal		2. Westminster	Car	
3. Oakdale	Fre		3. City	Balt		3. St. Charles	Cha		3. Centennial	How	
4. Thomas Johnson	Fre		4. Digital Harbor	Balt		4. Chopticon	StM		4. Howard	How	
5. Tuscarora	Fre		5. Mergenthaler	Balt		5. Great Mills	StM		5. Marriotts Ridge	How	
6. North Hagerstown	Was		6. Poly	Balt					6. Mt. Hebron	How	
7. South Hagerstown	Was										
REGION II			REGION II			REGION II			REGION II		
1. Col. Zadok Magruder	Mtg		1. Kenwood	B Co		1. Arundel	AA		1. Atholton	How	
2. Damascus	Mtg		2. Towson	B Co		2. Chesapeake	AA		2. Long Reach	How	
3. John F. Kennedy	Mtg		3. Patapsco	B Co		3. Crofton	AA		3. Reservoir	How	
4. Rockville	Mtg		4. Aberdeen	Hfd		4. Oxon Hill	PG		4. River Hill	How	
5. Springbrook	Mtg		5. Bel Air	Hfd		5. J. M. Bennett	Wic		5. Wilde Lake	How	
6. Watkins Mill	Mtg		6. Edgewood	Hfd		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. Northeast (AA)	AA		1. Carver A&T	B Co		1. Fairmont Heights	PG		1. Elkton	Cec	
2. Southern (AA)	AA		2. Hereford	B Co		2. Frederick Douglass	PG		2. North East (Cecil)	Cec	
3. Century	Car		3. Lansdowne	B Co		3. Friendly	PG		3. Rising Sun	Cec	
4. Winters Mill	Car		4. Milford Mill Academy	B Co		4. Gwynn Park	PG		4. C. Milton Wright	Hfd	
			5. New Town	B Co		5. Potomac	PG		5. Harford Tech	Hfd	
			6. Owings Mills	B Co					6. North Harford	Hfd	
			7. Randallstown	B Co							
REGION II			REGION II			REGION II			REGION II		
1. Middletown	Fre		1. Chesapeake	B Co		1. Calvert	Cal		1. North Carolina	Cin	
2. Walkersville	Fre		2. Eastern Technical	B Co		2. Patuxent	Cal		2. Kent Island	Qa	
3. Glenelg	How		3. Overlea	B Co		3. La Plata	Cha		3. Queen Anne's	Qa	
4. Hammond	How		4. Sparrows Point	B Co		4. Lackey	Cha		4. Easton	Tal	
5. Oakland Mills	How		5. Carver Vo-Tech	Balt		5. McDonough	Cha		5. Parkside	Wic	
6. Poolesville	Mtg		6. Patterson	Balt		6. Thomas Stone	Cha		6. Wicomico	Wic	
						7. Westlake	Cha				
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. Bohemia Manor	Cec		1. Colonel Richardson	Cin	
2. Fort Hill	All		2. Pikesville	B Co		2. Perryville	Cec		2. Cambridge-SD	Dor	
3. Mountain Ridge	All		3. Western STES	B Co		3. Fallston	Hfd		3. North Dorchester	Dor	
4. Northern	G		4. Francis Scott Key	Car		4. Havre de Grace	Hfd		4. Kent County	K	
5. Southern	G		5. Liberty	Car		5. Joppatowne	Hfd		5. St. Michaels	Tal	
			6. South Carroll	Car		6. Patterson Mill	Hfd				
REGION II			REGION II			REGION II			REGION II		
1. Brunswick	Fre		1. Benjamin Franklin	Balt		1. Central	PG		1. Crisfield	Som	
2. Catocin	Fre		2. Dunbar	Balt		2. CMIIT North	PG		2. Washington	Som	
3. Boonsboro	Was		3. Edmondson/Westside	Balt		3. Crossland	PG		3. Mardela	Wic	
4. Clear Spring	Was		4. Frederick Douglass-B	Balt		4. Int. School at Langley Park	PG		4. Pocomoke	Wor	
5. Hancock	Was		5. Lake Clifton	Balt		5. Int. School at Largo	PG		5. Snow Hill	Wor	
6. Smithsburg	Was		6. Reginald Lewis	Balt		6. Largo	PG				
7. Williamsport	Was					7. Surrattsville	PG				