

Swimming and Diving Bulletin

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – FEBRUARY 20/21, 2026 – UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND - EPPLEY RECREATION CENTER

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
November 15	First Practice Date	February 12-14	Region Meets
December 5	First Play Date	February 17	Seeding of State Meets
February 9	Region Meet Entry Deadline	February 20/21	State Meets
February 10	Region Meet Scratch/Late Entry Deadline		

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) is the official governing body for the Swimming Championships. Plans for the tournament will be formulated by the State Swimming 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 Swimming and Diving Bulletin. Unless specifically stated, all rules and regulations stipulated in the NFHS Swimming and Diving 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, in the front section of this publication, and in the National Federation of State High School Swimming rules for administration of Championship/Large Meets. (Located on the Swimming and Diving page of NFHS.org)
- E. National Federation rulebooks are distributed by the MPSSAA office to every member school offering swimming. It is the responsibility of each coach to read and know the rules.
- F. Officials do a disservice to the sport and student athlete competitors when they set aside rules that apply to illegal uniforms or permit unsportsmanlike acts because they do not want to appear "too picky" or feel that "it is not a major meet." When those student athletes participate in a major competition, where the rules are enforced according to the code, they think that the rules are unfair or that they should have been warned, etc., because "no one called me on this all year." All too often, parents, coaches, and the media argue that the rules are unfair and that officials do not consider how devastating it is to a student athlete disqualified in a major meet because of an illegal uniform or meet conduct violation such as arriving late to the starting blocks. Certainly, this should not happen. However, such disqualifications are ultimately the responsibility of the student athlete and coach. Meet officials who tolerate illegal actions during the season must also assume some responsibility.
- G. Points of Emphasis
 1. Shaving - No on-site shaving before, during, or after a meet (NFHS Rule 3).
 2. Excessive celebration - For safety reasons, excessive celebration is prohibited on the pool deck. Example: Throwing a coach in the pool.
 3. A Declared False Start (DFS) counts as an event. A scratch removes the swimmer from the entire meet.
 4. Video and other image-producing devices will not be accepted as a basis for an appeal.
- H. Each school entering a meet agrees to abide by decisions made by that meet's swim committee. The referee shall resolve protests at dual, triple dual, or tri meets. Protests at the City, County, Conference, or District championships based upon classification or State Meets shall normally be resolved by the Referee. However, if deemed serious enough by the Referee and/or Meet Manager, an Appeals Committee will be convened promptly, to consist of the Meet Manager, Administrative Referee, and Referee, at the site of the

meet, to render a decision. The State Rules Interpreter will be a member of the Appeals Committee at the state meet.

- I. The State Swimming Committee has approved the use of Hy-Tek Team and Meet Manager during the regular season. This software will be used during the regional and state meets. All jurisdictions must use the Windows version of HY-Tek Team Manager software to submit entries to the Region managers.
- J. There is a four event limit per competitor with no more than two of which may be individual events as per National Federation Rules.

II. REGION AND STATE MEETS

A. Meet Organization

1.

Seeding Order	8-Lane Pool	6-Lane Pool
From middle lane	4-5-3-6-2-7-1-8	3-4-2-5-1-6

2. Specific information for order of swimming events is listed below. (NFHS Rule 5)
3. Meet Directors will be responsible for organizing the meets, securing officials, arranging for First Aid services, scoring, and reporting to the Executive Director those who qualify for state competition. ALL MEETS shall be organized and structured in a uniform way for seeding, placement in lanes, etc.
 - (a.) Hand timed (HT) races shall be recorded to one one-hundredth (1/100) of a second. Fully automatic timed races (AT) shall be recorded to one one-hundredth (1/100) of a second.
 - (b.) All key, paid officials will be registered with the MPSSAA. It is preferred that these officials have no conflict of interest with any participants in the meet. All teams will be expected to provide the names of two adult timers for region meets and state meets who will stay for the duration of the meet if selected.
4. A coaches' meeting will be held prior to the start of their appropriate meet, unless otherwise noted.
 - (a.) A printed meet schedule shall be handed out at the coaches' meeting and followed as closely as possible. Any necessary schedule adjustments will be made at this time. Whether present or not, each coach is responsible for all changes made at the meeting.
 - (b.) Entry in a relay becomes official when the team declares its four swimmers at the coaches' meeting prior to the meet. The lead swimmer and three others (in no order) will be designated for each relay. All swimmers, by stroke, will be designated for the medley relays. A form will be provided. Any changes to relays after the coaches' meeting must be put in writing listing the event, swimmer(s) added, and swimmer(s) replaced. It should be given to and approved by the Admin Referee (**Swimmers must be one of the eight already declared in the Team Manager entry file.**)
 - (c.) There will also be the opportunity for deck scratches, before or immediately after the coaches' meeting, using the form provided. A scratch at any time, including missing (failing to swim in) a scheduled event, disqualifies that swimmer or the designated lead swimmer of the relay team from the rest of their scheduled meet events. Teams at the coaches' meeting may scratch relays without penalty prior to the conclusion of the meeting.
 - (d.) Declared False Starts (DFS) can be stated at the coaches' meeting to all in attendance, including the REFEREE. A DFS made during the meet must be given to the Referee, who will let the field know before the start of the appropriate event and heat. A DFS will count as an event for that swimmer.
5. There will be a break of at least 15 minutes, including at least 10 minutes warm-up in the water just before the 100-yard butterfly. If there is no warm-up/warm-down pool, there will be a five-minute break following the 500 free to allow relay swimmers to get wet.

6. Region Meet Directors shall email final meet results to State Meet Entry Coordinator Michael Kokoski (mpssaaswimdive@gmail.com) immediately following the completion of their meet(s) for posting on MPSSAA.org and County Sports Zone.

ORDER OF SWIMMING & DIVING EVENTS		
<u>BOYS</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>GIRLS</u>
1	200-yard Medley Relay	2
3	200-yard Freestyle	4
5	200-yard Individual Medley	6
7	50-yard Freestyle	8
9	Break/Diving TBD	10
11	100-yard Butterfly	12
13	100-yard Freestyle	14
15	500-yard Freestyle	16
17	200-yard Freestyle Relay	18
19	100-yard Backstroke	20
21	100-yard Breaststroke	22
23	400-yard Freestyle Relay	24

B. Playing Rules

1. All rules not modified here shall be in accordance with the current National Federation rules.
2. Eligible individuals may participate in a region meet provided they have a minimum of three weeks of supervised training and have participated in at least two MPSSAA-sanctioned meets.
3. There is a 8-minute cut-off time for boys entries and 8-minute, 30-second cut-off for girls entries in the 500 freestyle events.
4. Competitors must compete in school approved team uniforms. Suits and caps must meet NFHS guidelines. Team caps must be identical. Failure to comply shall result in a warning for the first offense and an event disqualification for any subsequent offense.
5. Contestants are to report on the first call to the staging area.
6. Team points will be scored to 16th place according to NFHS Championship Meet Scoring Rules.

C. General Policies

1. Each school shall supply its own lap counters and operators for the 500 freestyle events **if requested by the Meet Director**. All teams must bring stop watches for their timers.
2. Only designated officials and participants shall be permitted on deck. Coaches and members of their teams shall remain in their designated areas, from which point the coach can dispatch contestants to the proper location for participation.
3. Electronic audio devices are barred from use at pools during meets, especially around the starting blocks. The rule applies to spectators as well as participants. Any other devices emitting excessive noise will also be silenced.
4. Photography is PROHIBITED from behind the starting blocks (this includes cell phones).

III. REGION MEETS

A. Meet Organization

1. Any swim team that makes formal application (submits Team Manager entry files) by the established deadline (6 PM on February 9th) will be entered in the meet. Files must be emailed to the appropriate

- region meet managers. The Hy-tek entry report with times must be signed by coach, athletic director and principal, and emailed or faxed to the meet director by 6 PM on February 9th.
2. Late entries, in the correct format, will be accepted up to 24 hours after the deadline, (Late entry deadline: 6 PM on February 10th). A late entry fee of \$100 must accompany the entries. NO entries will be accepted without this fee or in an incorrect format.
 3. Team Manager files received after the late meet entry deadline (6 PM on February 10th) will not be accepted. The burden of proof is on the school.
 4. The Region Meet Directors are responsible for contacting those schools whose Team Manager files are incomplete or were not received by the deadline.
 5. Coaches are responsible for verifying their entries before the file is submitted.
 6. Coaches are responsible for emailing or faxing to the Region Meet Director, a team administrative roster of coaches, manager names, and two adult timers. This form must be submitted with the Hy-tek entry by the entry deadline date (6 PM on February 9th).
 7. This will be a timed finals meet.
 8. Entry Guidelines
 - (a.) A diving entry does not count towards the entry limits.
 - (b.) No more than two competitors from a given school shall be allowed to enter in any individual event with documented times from a regularly scheduled swim meet in 2025-2026 (i.e., based upon a minimum of two "watch times" averaged or electronic timing). Each team will also submit their one automatic relay entry with up to eight swimmers per relay event and the documented seed time. (See II. A. 4. c. for entry in relays.) "No time" entries will not be accepted.
 - (c.) Competitors that are entered into, compete in, and qualify from their region meet are expected to participate in their State Championship Meet or be subject to "misconduct detrimental to the tournament" and its' penalties as found in the MPSSAA Handbook.
 - (d.) Schools are reminded they must be in compliance of COMAR 13A.06.03.02G related to participation on high school and outside teams.
 - (e.) **Schools and coaches are reminded that when a student fails to continue participation when eligible to do so, it is a violation of athletic COMAR regulations [COMAR 13A.06.03.07.C(11)]. Coaches do a disservice to the sport and challenge 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.**
 9. The Meet Director or Meet Administrator has the right to challenge any entry that is not consistent with a verifiable performance throughout the current Swimming Season. The Meet Director or Meet Administrator will notify the coach of the concern.
 10. Directions for Entry
 - (a.) Go to the MPSSAA Swimming page and click on the link "MPSSAA Swimming Championships Entry Page."
 - (b.) If Team Manager is not used during the regular season, download TM Lite and the Team Manager startup database for your region.
 - (c.) Create a team roster file in this database. This file must include the following information:
 - i. Swimmer's last name, first name, middle initial (**Do NOT include date of birth.**)
 - ii. Gender
 - iii. Three-letter MPSSAA team code only; **No LSC Code (MPSSAA Handbook pages 48-49)**

iv. Current school year (Example: Fr/So/Jr/Sr)

- (d.) Create an entry file. Entry limitations (See II. B. 2.) will be enforced.
- (e.) Export the roster file (An example of the team roster file name being exported and emailed is: LAC - Roster 001.) and the entry file (An example of the meet entry file being exported and e-mailed is: LAC-Entries 001.) from Team Manager.
- (f.) Print out a meet entry report from Hy-Tek, which includes proof of times. This report shall be signed by the school's Principal, Athletic Director and Swim Coach, and sent to the meet manager. A back up copy brought to the meet is strongly encouraged.
- (g.) Export a meet attendance report from Hy-Tek. This report is found under Reports > Meet Reports > Number of Meets Attended. Set the date filter for 12/5/2025.
- (h.) E-mail these four files (team roster file (zip), entry file (zip), meet entry report (pdf), meet attendance report (pdf)) to the Region Meet Manager/Hy-Tek Operator in your region.

**More specific instructions are available on the Entry Page.
- (i.) A return e-mail will be sent from the Region Meet Manager to confirm receipt of the files (This email does not confirm the validity of the entries, only the receipt of the files.).

11. Diving

- (a.) State and Region competition will consist of 11 dives per National Federation Rule 9.
- (b.) Diving shall be administered by a diving referee. There will be five, seven, or nine dive judges. An announcer shall announce the dives, competitors, describe the dives, and the awards given by each judge (NFHS Rule 9).
- (c.) Official entry card/score sheet with divers' first and last name, and school will be sent to the appropriate Meet Managers through the jurisdictional representative at the same time the swim entries are submitted.
- (d.) Divers will be limited to four boys and four girls per school.
- (e.) The top four scores in each region will advance to the State Finals.
- (f.) If a region does not fill the top four spots or state qualifier must withdraw, the next highest non-qualifier (from any region) shall be invited to the State Meet in order to guarantee a full complement of finalists.

12. **All entries are final at 6 p.m., February 10, 2026. NO events will be reseeded. If a swimmer needs to be scratched from the meet (complete removal from the meet) they may be replaced, in individual events only, by another swimmer on the previously submitted electronic roster who has not exhausted their compliment of events. Scratches must be completed by the end of the coaches meeting.**

- 13. There will be a meeting prior to the region meet for Region Meet Directors/Hy-Tek Operators who are unfamiliar with or who have not worked with the computer software.
- 14. Each District Representative/Meet Director shall email their region Meet Manager backup files to State Meet Entry Coordinator Michael Kokoski (mpssaaswimdive@gmail.com) immediately following the completion of their meet(s) for the seeding of the State Meets.

B. General Policies

- 1. Awards: Trophies will be given to the winning boys and girls team in each classification. Ribbons will be awarded to the top eight finishers in each event.
- 2. Individuals 7 years of age and older will be charged an admission of \$8.

IV. STATE MEETS

A. Meet Organization

1. The State meet will be seeded from region results, based on time.
2. Swimming Championships
 - (a.) In addition to the top three individuals and top three relay teams advancing from their region to the state meet, the individual competitors or relay teams who, in their region meet final, are among the top 12 statewide times will qualify for the state meet. (Excluding automatic qualifiers). In the event a tie for 24th, both individuals will be included.
 - (b.) If a tie exists for third place in a region, both individuals or relay teams will qualify for states and an at-large position will be lost in that event.
 - (c.) For individual events, the next two **fastest** non-qualifiers (alternates) shall be invited to the state meet in order to guarantee a full complement of finalists. If both alternates have the same time, then their position as first or second alternate will be assigned randomly. An alternate may elect to not swim if doing so would create a situation in which they would exceed the allowable number of swims. Heats will not be reseeded.
3. Diving Championships
 - (a.) The top four male and female individual divers advancing from their region will compete at the state meet. If needed the next highest nonqualifier will advance in order to guarantee a full complement of finalists. **Divers will be seeded (regardless of region) based on regional scores.**
4. The 2026 Championships will be held February 20/21 at the University of Maryland, College Park, Eppley Recreation Center. Information on mpssaa.org.
 - (a.) Competition for diving will take place Friday, February 20th beginning at 4:00 PM.
 - (b.) Competition for the 4A/3A meet will take place Saturday, February 21st at 9:00 AM.
 - (c.) Competition for the 3A/2A/1A meet will take place Saturday, February 21st at 3:30 PM.

B. General Policies

1. Awards: Trophies will be given to the top boys and girls team in each classification. Medals will be awarded to the top three finishers and ribbons will be awarded to the fourth through eighth place finishers in each individual and relay event.
2. Individuals 7 years of age and older will be charged an admission of \$10.

Projected MPSSAA Swimming and Diving Championship Dates					
2027	February 19/20	2028	February 25/26	2029	February 23/24

SWIMMING AND DIVING STATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE LISTED ON MPSSAA.ORG

REGION DIVING MEET SCHEDULE

4A-3A West Walkersville High School February 13 (3:00 p.m.)	4A-3A North Walkersville High School February 12 (3:00 p.m.)	3A-2A-1A West Walkersville High School February 13 (3:00 p.m.)
** Diving warm-up times shall begin one hour prior to the start of each region meet. **		
Entry Deadline: February 9 Meet Director: Michael Good Phone: 301-471-2571		

REGION SWIMMING MEET SCHEDULE

4A-3A West Martin Luther King Swim Ctr. February 14 (2:00 p.m.) 1:00 p.m. Warm-Up	4A-3A North Martin Luther King Swim Ctr. February 14 (8:00 a.m.) 7:00 a.m. Warm-Up	4A-3A South Fairland Aquatic Center February 14 (9:00 a.m.) 8:00 a.m. Warm-Up	4A-3A East Arundel Swim Center February 14 (9:00 a.m.) 7:30 a.m. Warm-Up
Entry Deadline: February 9 Meet Director: Akshay Gandhi Phone: 240-678-8287	Entry Deadline: February 9 Meet Director: Jason Blanken Phone: 240-286-4699	Entry Deadline: February 9 Meet Director: John Venit Phone: 301-725-7711	Entry Deadline: February 9 Meet Director: John Adey Phone: 443-995-5072
3A-2A-1A West Fairland Aquatic Center February 14 (3:00 p.m.) 2:00 p.m. Warm-Up	3A-2A-1A North Magnolia Middle School February 14 (9:30 a.m.) 8:00 a.m. Warm-Up	3A-2A-1A South Edward T. Hall Aquatic Ctr. February 14 (3:00 p.m.) 1:45 p.m. Warm-Up	3A-2A-1A East Arundel Swim Center February 14 (3:00 p.m.) 1:30 p.m. Warm-Up
Entry Deadline: February 9 Meet Director: John Venit Phone: 301-725-7711	Entry Deadline: February 9 Meet Director: Chris Bley Phone: 301-752-1538	Entry Deadline: February 9 Meet Director: Alex Marley Phone: 410-610-3404	Entry Deadline: February 9 Meet Director: John Adey Phone: 443-995-5072

STATE MEET SCHEDULE

DIVING CHAMPIONSHIP (All Classes)	4A-3A SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP	3A-2A-1A SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP
University of Maryland Eppley Recreation Center February 20 (4:00 p.m.)	University of Maryland Eppley Recreation Center February 21 (9:00 a.m.)	University of Maryland Eppley Recreation Center February 21 (3:30 p.m.)
Meet Director: Michael Good Phone: 301-471-2571	Meet Director: Chris Bley Phone: 301-752-1538	Meet Director: Chris Bley Phone: 301-752-1538

E-mail addresses for all site directors can be found on the Swimming & Diving page of mpssaa.org.

2025-26 Swimming Classification Alignment

Class 4A-3A West			Class 4A-3A North			Class 4A-3A South			Class 4A-3A East		
1.	Frederick	Fre	1.	Albert Einstein	Mtg	1.	North Point	Cha	1.	Annapolis	AA
2.	Gov. Thomas Johnson	Fre	2.	Bethesda-CC	Mtg	2.	Bladensburg	PG	2.	Arundel	AA
3.	Linganore	Fre	3.	James Hubert Blake	Mtg	3.	Bowie	PG	3.	Broadneck	AA
4.	Oakdale	Fre	4.	John F. Kennedy	Mtg	4.	Charles H. Flowers	PG	4.	Crofton	AA
5.	Tuscarora	Fre	5.	Montgomery Blair	Mtg	5.	Dr. Henry A. Wise	PG	5.	Glen Burnie	AA
6.	Urbana	Fre	6.	Northwood	Mtg	6.	Duval	PG	6.	Meade	AA
7.	Clarksburg	Mtg	7.	Paint Branch	Mtg	7.	Eleanor Roosevelt	PG	7.	North County	AA
8.	Gaithersburg	Mtg	8.	Col. Zadok Magruder	Mtg	8.	High Point	PG	8.	Old Mill	AA
9.	Northwest	Mtg	9.	Sherwood	Mtg	9.	Laurel	PG	9.	Severn Run	AA
10.	Quince Orchard	Mtg	10.	Springbrook	Mtg	10.	Northwestern	PG	10.	Severna Park	AA
11.	Seneca Valley	Mtg	11.	Walt Whitman	Mtg	11.	Oxon Hill	PG	11.	South River	AA
12.	Watkins Mill	Mtg	12.	Walter Johnson	Mtg	12.	Parkdale	PG	12.	Baltimore Poly.	Balt
13.	Thomas S. Wootton	Mtg	13.	Wheaton	Mtg	13.	Potomac	PG	13.	Digital Harbor	Balt
14.	Richard Montgomery	Mtg	14.	Winston Churchill	Mtg	14.	Suitland	PG	14.	Mergenthaler	Balt
						15.	Great Mills	StM	15.	Western	Balt
						16.	Leonardtwn	StM			

Class 3A-2A-1A West			Class 3A-2A-1A North			Class 3A-2A-1A South			Class 3A-2A-1A East		
1.	Brunswick	Fre	1.	Bohemia Manor	Cec	1.	Calvert	Cal	1.	Chesapeake	AA
2.	Catoctin	Fre	2.	Elkton	Cec	2.	Huntingtown	Cal	2.	Northeast	AA
3.	Middletown	Fre	3.	North East	Cec	3.	Northern	Cal	3.	Southern	AA
4.	Monocacy Valley Charter	Fre	4.	Perryville	Cec	4.	Patuxent	Cal	4.	Balt. City College	Balt
5.	Walkersville	Fre	5.	Rising Sun	Cec	5.	Henry E. Lackey	Cha	5.	Carver Vo-Tech	Balt
6.	Northern	Gar	6.	Aberdeen	Har	6.	La Plata	Cha	6.	Forest Park	Balt
7.	Southern	Gar	7.	Bel Air	Har	7.	McDonough	Cha	7.	Frederick Douglass	Balt
8.	Damascus	Mtg	8.	C. Milton Wright	Har	8.	St. Charles	Cha	8.	Patterson	Balt
9.	Poolesville	Mtg	9.	Edgewood	Har	9.	Thomas Stone	Cha	9.	Paul Laurence Dunbar	Balt
10.	Rockville	Mtg	10.	Fallston	Har	10.	Westlake	Cha	10.	Southwestern	Balt
11.	Central	PG	11.	Harford Tech	Har	11.	Frederick Douglass	PG	11.	Kent County	K
12.	Crossland	PG	12.	Havre de Grace	Har	12.	Gwynn Park	PG	12.	Cambridge-SD	Dor
13.	Fairmont Heights	PG	13.	Joppatowne	Har	13.	Kent Island	QA	13.	Easton	Tal
14.	Friendly	PG	14.	North Harford	Har	14.	Queen Anne's	QA	14.	Pocomoke	Wor
15.	Int. HS at Largo	PG	15.	Patterson Mill	Har	15.	Chopticon	StM	15.	Stephen Decatur	Wor
16.	Largo	PG									
17.	Surrattsville	PG									

2025-26 Diving Classification Alignment

Class 4A-3A West			Class 4A-3A North			Class 3A-2A-1A West		
1.	Frederick	Fre	1.	Albert Einstein	Mtg	1.	Brunswick	Fre
2.	Gov. Thomas Johnson	Fre	2.	Bethesda-CC	Mtg	2.	Catoctin	Fre
3.	Linganore	Fre	3.	James Hubert Blake	Mtg	3.	Middletown	Fre
4.	Oakdale	Fre	4.	John F. Kennedy	Mtg	4.	Walkersville	Fre
5.	Tuscarora	Fre	5.	Montgomery Blair	Mtg	5.	Damascus	Mtg
6.	Urbana	Fre	6.	Northwood	Mtg	6.	Poolesville	Mtg
7.	Clarksburg	Mtg	7.	Paint Branch	Mtg	7.	Rockville	Mtg
8.	Gaithersburg	Mtg	8.	Col. Zadok Magruder	Mtg			
9.	Northwest	Mtg	9.	Sherwood	Mtg			
10.	Quince Orchard	Mtg	10.	Springbrook	Mtg			
11.	Seneca Valley	Mtg	11.	Walt Whitman	Mtg			
12.	Watkins Mill	Mtg	12.	Walter Johnson	Mtg			
13.	Thomas S. Wootton	Mtg	13.	Wheaton	Mtg			
14.	Richard Montgomery	Mtg	14.	Winston Churchill	Mtg			