

Tennis Tournament Bulletin

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – MAY 23-25, 2024 – WILDE LAKE TENNIS CLUB

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
March 1	First Practice Date	May 20	State Seeding Meeting
March 21	First Play Date	May 23/24	Quarterfinals & Semifinals
May 10-18	Region Meets	May 25	Finals

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association is the official governing body for the Tennis tournament. Plans for the tournament were formulated by the State Tennis 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 Tennis Bulletin. Unless specifically stated, all rules and regulations stipulated in the USTA's "Friend at Court" Rule Book and Code 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. The MPSSAA State Tennis Committee has adopted the following policies prior to, during, and after match play in the interest of sportsmanship and safety:
 1. Abusive, loud, profane, threatening or obscene language, gestures or taunting during play shall also be considered unsportsmanlike conduct. The first offense will result in a one point penalty and the second offense will result in the disqualification of the offending player.
 2. Any tennis ball that is struck in frustration or anger outside of the normal run of play and comes in contact with the court, fencing, net, net post, another player, or leaves the court confines shall be deemed as equipment abuse.
 3. Any racket that is swung in frustration or anger that comes in contact with the court, fencing, net, net post, another player, or any racket intentionally propelled out of a player's hand toward the court, skyward, or in any horizontal direction shall be deemed as equipment abuse.
 4. The normal escalating penalty scale for Code Violations will be applied unless the equipment abuse causes injury to an opponent where the opponent cannot continue to play, then a default by the equipment abuser will be declared.
 5. Any violation of actions found in items #1 through #3 above following the conclusion of play will result in the loss of a team point and possible disqualification upon the determination of the State Tennis Committee. Any disqualification will result in the loss of all team points earned by the disqualified player(s).
- F. Officials and coaches are performing a disservice to the sport and the athletes when they allow unsportsmanlike acts to go uncalled because they do not want to appear to be "too picky". When those athletes do participate in a region or state tournament and the rules are enforced according to the code, players then think that the rules are unfair or that they should have received a warning, since the call was never made during the regular season. Resulting disqualifications are ultimately

the responsibility of the athlete and the coach, however officials and coaches who have tolerated illegal actions during the regular season must also assume some responsibility.

II. REGION AND STATE TOURNAMENTS

A. General Policies

1. Players must wear school-issued or school-approved proper tennis attire or the official tournament T-shirt in all matches. Uniforms must cover a player's midriff when standing. PENALTY: default.
 - (a.) Proper attire includes an unaltered shirt with a school name or logo. Uniform bottoms should be neat and appropriate to the tennis setting. Uniforms must cover a player's midriff when standing.
 - (b.) Dressing facilities will be available at the state tournament site.
2. It is mandatory that contestants are accompanied to the tournament by the official coach or an authorized school representative.
 - (a.) A letter of authorization on official letterhead signed by the principal, athletic director or school system designated representative must be presented.
 - (b.) There shall be a limit of two coaches per school.
 - (c.) Penalty: default.
3. Coaching is permissible during the 90-second changeover period as long as it does not interfere with continuous play (USTA Rule-29 regarding Continuous Play). Coaching is limited to the high school coach. A coach will NOT be permitted on the courts except in case of injury.
4. The Tennis Committee considers entry on the draw sheet as the start of play. Participants who withdraw after such entry are subject to penalties under MPSSAA Bylaw .07C(11).

B. Playing Rules

1. Play will be by USTA rules, except where noted in this bulletin.
2. Any player **given a code violation** during tournament play will be penalized according to the following point penalty system:
 - (a.) Tardiness penalties (assessed by the Site Director: refer to current "Friend at Court.")
 - i. One game for each five minutes or fraction thereof that contestant(s) is/are late.
 - ii. Forfeit by contestant(s) arriving 15 minutes after the official calling of the match.
 - (b.) Failure to commence play after expiration of established warm-up period:
 - i. 1st offense - Warning
 - ii. 2nd offense - one point
 - (c.) Violation of Rule 29 (continuous play):
 - i. 1st offense - Warning
 - ii. 2nd & subsequent offenses - one point
 - (d.) Unsportsmanlike acts:
 - i. 1st offense - one point
 - ii. 2nd offense - Disqualification
3. If a penalty point has been assessed due to an infraction of 2(d.) in a previous match, a subsequent infraction of 2(d.) will result in disqualification.

NOTE: All penalty points will be assessed by a tournament official including committee members. Warnings and penalty points will be recorded immediately at the scorer's table.

4. USTA guidelines will be employed in case of extreme heat conditions.

III. REGION TOURNAMENT

A. Tournament Organization

1. The 2024 Region and State Tournament will be contested in four classifications (1A, 2A, 3A, 4A).
2. Each school may enter one team consisting of a boys singles, boys doubles, girls singles, girls doubles, and mixed doubles.
 - (a.) Prior to the region tournament starting, a player may replace someone else on the school's active roster who has not otherwise been entered.
 - (b.) Participants are not allowed to compete in more than one event.
 - (c.) Doubles teams must be composed of players from the same school.
 - (d.) After the tournament has begun, if either player on a doubles team is unable to compete, the entry is disqualified.
 - (e.) Schools do not have to enter participants in all five events.
 - (f.) All team entries shall be submitted by 4 p.m. on Monday, May 6.
3. Each classification will conduct a single-elimination tournament.
4. Qualification to the State Meet will take place through the course of the region meets.
5. Each region will conduct an 8-line single elimination tournament.
6. Region Tournaments may begin on Friday, May 10, 2024.
7. The winner of each region will advance to the state quarterfinals.
8. The format shall be single elimination (two out of three sets regular scoring with a 10-point match tiebreaker in lieu of a third set). A three-minute break between the second set and the match tie-breaker will be allowed, if requested.
9. Seeding: Based on entries per region, the MPSSAA will conduct a random draw for each Region.
10. All region tournaments shall be completed by May 18, weather permitting.

B. Region tournament points

1. A region championship trophy will be presented to the team with the most total accumulated points from all players at each region tournament. If a tie occurs, teams will be named Region Co-Champions.
2. Points will be awarded as follows:
 - (a.) Region Finalist earns 1 points.
 - (b.) Region Champion earns 3 points.

IV. STATE TOURNAMENT

A. Tournament Organization

1. The state tournament seeding meeting will be held at Howard High School on May 20 at 4:00 p.m.
2. The 2024 tournament will be held on May 23-25 and will be hosted by Wilde Lake Tennis Club.
3. Schedule
 - (a.) Thursday, May 23 - 9 a.m. - State Quarterfinals and Semifinals - 15 Courts - Class 3A and 4A.

- (b.) Friday, May 24 - 9 a.m. - State Quarterfinals and Semifinals - 15 Courts - Class 1A and 2A.
- (c.) Saturday, May 25 - 9 a.m. - State Championships and Consolations- 15 Courts - Class 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A.
- 4. If the region team champion can no longer compete in the state tournament, the second-place finisher shall take their place.
- 5. The format shall be single elimination. Participants will compete in a best two out of three sets regular scoring with a 10-point match tie-breaker in lieu of a third set. A three-minute break between the second set and match tie-breaker will be allowed, if requested.
- 6. Players and coaches are to report together to the tournament desk 30 minutes prior to their scheduled match(es). Adjustments in starting times, order of play, and court assignments can only be made by the tournament committee. Match times may be adjusted to begin prior to 10 a.m. in order to accommodate player graduations and weather issues when possible.
- 7. Participation is expected in the tournament, unless there are extenuating circumstances. Medals will not be awarded and points will not be awarded to teams for forfeits.

B. General Policies

- 1. USTA-approved Wilson T-1001 tennis balls will be used and provided.
- 2. Singles sticks will be used in all singles matches.
- 3. Admission and spectator capacity will be determined by the MPSSAA in consultation with the facility and in compliance with local and state policies.
- 4. Awards will be presented following the finals for 1st through 4th place in each category.
- 5. A State Championship Award will be presented to a team in each of the four classifications with the highest accumulated point total for the state tournament. Schools will earn state tournament points as follows:
 - (a.) 4th place (State) - 1 points
 - (b.) 3rd place (State) - 3 points
 - (c.) 2nd place (State Finalist) - 5 points
 - (d.) 1st place (State Champion) - 7 points
- 6. In the event of a tie, the following criteria will be utilized beginning with (a.).
 - (a.) Team with the fewest number of code violations during the state tournament
 - (b.) Team with the most number of champions
 - (c.) Team with the most number of games won across all matches that team members competed in during the state tournament
- 7. The State Tennis Committee will recognize the school which displays the best overall sportsmanship while participating in the tennis state tournament. The Tennis Sportsmanship Award will be presented to the athletic director and head coach of the school achieving the best overall sportsmanship of coaches, players, and spectators at the completion of the tournament.

REGION TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE AND SITES WILL BE LISTED ON MPSSAA.ORG

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

Projected MPSSAA Tennis Championship Dates					
2025	May 22-24	2026	May 21-23	2027	May 27-29

2024 Tennis Classification Alignment

Class 4A West			Class 4A North			Class 4A South			Class 4A East		
Region I			Region I			Region I			Region I		
1.	Frederick	Fre	1.	Dundalk	B Co	1.	Northwestern	PG	1.	North County	AA
2.	Thomas Johnson	Fre	2.	Kenwood	B Co	2.	High Point	PG	2.	Old Mill	AA
3.	Urbana	Fre	3.	Parkville	B Co	3.	Laurel	PG	3.	Glen Burnie	AA
4.	Clarksburg	Mtg	4.	Perry Hall	B Co	4.	Albert Einstein	Mtg	4.	Meade	AA
5.	Northwest	Mtg	5.	Woodlawn	B Co	5.	Montgomery Blair	Mtg	5.	Mergenthaler	Balt
6.	Seneca Valley	Mtg							6.	Western	Balt
Region II			Region II			Region II			Region II		
1.	Gaithersburg	Mtg	1.	Wheaton	Mtg	1.	Bladensburg	PG	1.	Annapolis	AA
2.	Quince Orchard	Mtg	2.	Northwood	Mtg	2.	Eleanor Roosevelt	PG	2.	Broadneck	AA
3.	Walt Whitman	Mtg	3.	Paint Branch	Mtg	3.	Dr. Henry A. Wise	PG	3.	Leonardtown	StM
4.	Walter Johnson	Mtg	4.	Springbrook	Mtg	4.	Duval	PG	4.	Bowie	PG
5.	Winston Churchill	Mtg	5.	Richard Montgomery	Mtg	5.	Charles H. Flowers	PG	5.	Suitland	PG
6.	Bethesda-CC	Mtg				6.	Parkdale	PG			

Class 3A West			Class 3A North			Class 3A South			Class 3A East		
Region I			Region I			Region I			Region I		
1.	Linganore	Fre	1.	Catonsville	B Co	1.	Westminster	Car	1.	Arundel	AA
2.	Oakdale	Fre	2.	Dulaney	B Co	2.	Howard	How	2.	Crofton	AA
3.	Tuscarora	Fre	3.	Franklin	B Co	3.	Long Reach	How	3.	Severna Park	AA
4.	North Hagerstown	Was	4.	Lansdowne	B Co	4.	Marriotts Ridge	How	4.	South River	AA
5.	South Hagerstown	Was	5.	Overlea	B Co	5.	Mount Hebron	How	5.	Chesapeake	AA
			6.	Towson	B Co				6.	Northeast	AA
Region II			Region II			Region II			Region II		
1.	Col. Zadok Magruder	Mtg	1.	Baltimore City College	Balt	1.	Atholton	How	1.	Northern	Cal
2.	Rockville	Mtg	2.	Polytechnic	Balt	2.	Reservoir	How	2.	North Point	Cha
3.	Thomas S. Wootton	Mtg	3.	Patterson	Balt	3.	River Hill	How	3.	St. Charles	Cha
4.	Watkins Mill	Mtg	4.	Aberdeen	Har	4.	James Hubert Blake	Mtg	4.	Oxon Hill	PG
5.	John F. Kennedy	Mtg	5.	Bel Air	Har	5.	Sherwood	Mtg	5.	Chopticon	StM
			6.	Edgewood	Har				6.	Great Mills	StM

Class 2A West			Class 2A North			Class 2A South			Class 2A East		
Region I			Region I			Region I			Region I		
1.	Century	Car	1.	Chesapeake	B Co	1.	Calvert	Cal	1.	Elkton	Cec
2.	Manchester Valley	Car	2.	Eastern Tech	B Co	2.	Huntingtown	Cal	2.	North East	Cec
3.	Winters Mill	Car	3.	Patapsco	B Co	3.	La Plata	Cha	3.	Rising Sun	Cec
4.	Walkersville	Fre	4.	Sparrows Point	B Co	4.	McDonough	Cha	4.	North Caroline	Cin
5.	Glenelg	How	5.	C. Milton Wright	Har	5.	Thomas Stone	Cha	5.	Kent Island	QA
6.	Wilde Lake	How	6.	North Harford	Har	6.	Westlake	Cha	6.	Queen Anne's	QA
Region II			Region II			Region II			Region II		
1.	Centennial	How	1.	Hereford	B Co	1.	Southern	AA	1.	Easton	Tal
2.	Hammond	How	2.	Milford Mill Academy	B Co	2.	Crossland	PG	2.	James M. Bennett	Wic
3.	Oakland Mills	How	3.	New Town	B Co	3.	Fairmont Heights	PG	3.	Parkside	Wic
4.	Damascus	Mtg	4.	Owings Mills	B Co	4.	Frederick Douglass	PG	4.	Wicomico	Wic
5.	Poolesville	Mtg	5.	Randallstown	B Co	5.	Gwynn Park	PG	5.	Stephen Decatur	Wor
						6.	Potomac	PG			

Class 1A West			Class 1A North			Class 1A South			Class 1A East		
Region I			Region I			Region I			Region I		
1.	Allegany	All	1.	Fallston	Har	1.	Carver A&T	B Co	1.	Perryville	Cec
2.	Fort Hill	All	2.	Harford Tech	Har	2.	Loch Raven	B Co	2.	Bohemia Manor	Cec
3.	Mountain Ridge	All	3.	Havre de Grace	Har	3.	Pikesville	B Co	3.	Colonel Richardson	Cin
4.	Northern	Gar	4.	Joppatowne	Har	4.	Western Tech	B Co	4.	Kent County	K
5.	Southern	Gar	5.	Patterson Mill	Har	5.	Frederick Douglass	Balt	5.	St. Michael's	Tal
						6.	Paul Laurence Dunbar	Balt			
						7.	Forest Park	Balt			
Region II			Region II			Region II			Region II		
1.	Brunswick	Fre	1.	Francis Scott Key	Car	1.	Patuxent	Cal	1.	Cambridge-SD	Dor
2.	Boonsboro	Was	2.	Liberty	Car	2.	Henry E. Lackey	Cha	2.	North Dorchester	Dor
3.	Smithsburg	Was	3.	South Carroll	Car	3.	Central	PG	3.	Washington	Som
4.	Williamsport	Was	4.	Catoctin	Fre	4.	Friendly	PG	4.	Pocomoke	Wor
5.	Clear Spring	Was	5.	Middletown	Fre	5.	International HS at Langley Park	PG	5.	Snow Hill	Wor
			6.	Guilford Park	How	6.	International HS at Largo	PG			
						7.	Largo	PG			
						8.	Surrattsville	PG			