Tennis Tournament Bulletin

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – MAY 21-23, 2026 – WILDE LAKE TENNIS CLUB

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
February 28	First Practice Date	May 18	State Seeding Meeting
March 20	First Play Date	May 21/22	Quarterfinals & Semifinals
May 5	Region Seeding Meeting	May 23	Finals
May 8-16	Region Meets		

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. 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)]. Participants who withdraw after such entry are subject to penalties.**

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 2026 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 Friday, May 1.**
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 **16-line** single elimination tournament.
6. Region Tournaments may begin on Friday, May 8, 2026.
7. The **finalists** of each region will advance to the state quarterfinals.
8. **There will be a 3rd and 4th place match conducted.**
9. 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.
10. Seeding: Based on entries per region, the MPSSAA will conduct a random draw for each Region.
11. **The region tournament seeding meeting will be held at Howard High School on Tuesday, May 5.**
12. All region tournaments shall be completed by May 16, weather permitting.

B. Region tournament points

1. A region championship plaque 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.) **4th place (Region) - 1 points**
   (b.) **3rd place (Region) - 3 points**
   (c.) **2nd place (Region Finalist) - 5 points**
   (d.) **1st place (Region Champion) - 7 points**

IV. STATE TOURNAMENT

A. Tournament Organization

1. The state tournament seeding meeting will be held at Howard High School on May 18 at 4:00 p.m.
2. The 2026 tournament will be held on May 21-23 and will be hosted by Wilde Lake Tennis Club.
3. Schedule

   (a.) Thursday, May 21 - State Quarterfinals and Semifinals - 15 Courts – **Class 3A (9 a.m.) and 4A (10:30 a.m.)**

   (b.) Friday, May 22 - State Quarterfinals and Semifinals - 15 Courts - **Class 1A (9 a.m.) and 2A (10:30 a.m.)**

   (c.) Saturday, May 23 - State Championships and Consolations- 15 Courts

   i. Classes 3A and 4A (9 a.m.) will play first followed by Classes 1A and 2A (10:30 a.m.).

   NOTE: Once play begins, no warm-up courts will be available.

4. **If a region finalist cannot compete in the state tournament, the 3rd 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 **9:00 a.m.** in order to accommodate player graduations and weather issues when possible.
7. Participation is expected in the tournament. 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 consulation 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.) The team with the fewest number of code violations during the state tournament

   (b.) The team with the most number of champions

(c.) The team with the greatest number of second place finishes

(d.) The team with the greatest number of third place finishes

(e.) The team with the fewest number of games lost during the state 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					
2027	May 27-29	2028	May 25-27	2029	May 24-26

2026 Tennis Classification Alignment

Class 4A West			Class 4A North			Class 4A South			Class 4A East		
1.	Bethesda-CC	Mtg	1.	Dulaney	B Co	1.	Montgomery Blair	Mtg	1.	Annapolis	AA
2.	James Hubert Blake	Mtg	2.	Dundalk	B Co	2.	Albert Einstein	Mtg	2.	Broadneck	AA
3.	Winston Churchill	Mtg	3.	Kenwood	B Co	3.	Paint Branch	Mtg	3.	Glen Burnie	AA
4.	Clarksburg	Mtg	4.	Parkville	B Co	4.	Springbrook	Mtg	4.	Meade	AA
5.	Gaithersburg	Mtg	5.	Perry Hall	B Co	5.	Bladensburg	PG	5.	North County	AA
6.	Walter Johnson	Mtg	6.	Woodlawn	B Co	6.	DuVal	PG	6.	North Point	Cha
7.	Richard Montgomery	Mtg	7.	Mergenthaler Vo-Tech	Balt	7.	High Point	PG	7.	Bowie	PG
8.	Northwest	Mtg	8.	Western	Balt	8.	Laurel	PG	8.	Charles H. Flowers	PG
9.	Quince Orchard	Mtg	9.	Gov. Thomas Johnson	Fre	9.	Northwestern	PG	9.	Dr. Henry A. Wise	PG
10.	Seneca Valley	Mtg	10.	Urbana	Fre	10.	Parkdale	PG	10.	Suitland	PG
11.	Wheaton	Mtg	11.	South Hagerstown	Was	11.	Eleanor Roosevelt	PG	11.	Leonardtown	StM
12.	Walt Whitman	Mtg									

Class 3A West			Class 3A North			Class 3A South			Class 3A East		
1.	Westminster	Car	1.	Catonsville	B Co	1.	Damascus	Mtg	1.	Arundel	AA
2.	Frederick	Fre	2.	Franklin	B Co	2.	John F. Kennedy	Mtg	2.	Chesapeake	AA
3.	Linganore	Fre	3.	Milford Mill Academy	B Co	3.	Col. Zadok Magruder	Mtg	3.	Crofton	AA
4.	Oakdale	Fre	4.	New Town	B Co	4.	Northwood	Mtg	4.	Old Mill	AA
5.	Tuscarora	Fre	5.	Overlea	B Co	5.	Rockville	Mtg	5.	Severn Run	AA
6.	Atholton	How	6.	Patapsco	B Co	6.	Sherwood	Mtg	6.	Severna Park	AA
7.	Centennial	How	7.	Towson	B Co	7.	Watkins Mill	Mtg	7.	South River	AA
8.	Guilford Park	How	8.	Baltimore City College	Balt	8.	Thomas S. Wootton	Mtg	8.	St. Charles	Cha
9.	Marriotts Ridge	How	9.	Baltimore Polytechnic Inst.	Balt	9.	Oxon Hill	PG	9.	Chopticon	StM
10.	Reservoir	How	10.	Patterson	Balt	10.	Potomac	PG	10.	Great Mills	StM
11.	North Hagerstown	Was	11.	Aberdeen	Har				11.	James M. Bennett	Wic
				Edgewood	Har				12.	Stephen Decatur	Wor

Class 2A West			Class 2A North			Class 2A South			Class 2A East		
1.	Middletown	Fre	1.	Chesapeake	B Co	1.	La Plata	Cha	1.	Northeast	AA
2.	Walkersville	Fre	2.	Eastern Tech	B Co	2.	McDonough	Cha	2.	Southern	AA
3.	Glenelg	How	3.	Hereford	B Co	3.	Thomas Stone	Cha	3.	Calvert	Cal
4.	Hammond	How	4.	Lansdowne	B Co	4.	Westlake	Cha	4.	Huntingtown	Cal
5.	Howard	How	5.	Forest Park	Balt	5.	Crossland	PG	5.	Northern	Cal
6.	Long Reach	How	6.	Paul Laurence Dunbar	Balt	6.	Fairmont Heights	PG	6.	North Caroline	Cin
7.	Mount Hebron	How	7.	Manchester Valley	Car	7.	Frederick Douglass	PG	7.	Kent Island	QA
8.	Oakland Mills	How	8.	Winters Mill	Car	8.	Friendly	PG	8.	Queen Anne's	QA
9.	River Hll	How	9.	North East	Cec	9.	Gwynn Park	PG	9.	Easton	Tal
10.	Wilde Lake	How	10.	Bel Air	Har	10.	Largo	PG	10.	Parkside	Wic
11.	Poolesville	Mtg	11.	C. Milton Wright	Har				11.	Wicomico	Wic
12.	Williamsport	Was	12.	North Harford	Har						

Class 1A West			Class 1A North			Class 1A South			Class 1A East		
1.	Allegany	All	1.	Carver A&T	B Co	1.	Owings Mills	B Co	1.	Bohemia Manor	Cec
2.	Fort Hill	All	2.	Loch Raven	B Co	2.	Pikesville	B Co	2.	Elkton	Cec
3.	Mountain Ridge	All	3.	Sparrows Point	B Co	3.	Randallstown	B Co	3.	Perryville	Cec
4.	Brunswick	Fre	4.	Century	Car	4.	Western Tech	B Co	4.	Rising Sun	Cec
5.	Catoctin	Fre	5.	Francis Scott Key	Car	5.	Patuxent	Cal	5.	Colonel Richardson	Cin
6.	Northern	Gar	6.	Liberty	Car	6.	Henry E. Lackey	Cha	6.	Cambridge-SD	Dor
7.	Southern	Gar	7.	South Carroll	Car	7.	Central	PG	7.	North Dorchester	Dor
8.	Boonsboro	Was	8.	Fallston	Har	8.	CMIT - North	PG	8.	Kent County	K
9.	Clear Spring	Was	9.	Harford Tech	Har	9.	College Park Academy	PG	9.	Washington	Som
10.	Smithsburg	Was	10.	Havre de Grace	Har	10.	Int. HS at Langley Park	PG	10.	St. Michael's	Tal
			11.	Joppatowne	Har	11.	Int. HS at Largo	PG	11.	Pocomoke	Wor
			12.	Patterson Mill	Har	12.	Surrattsville	PG	12.	Snow Hill	Wor