



**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. **All information found in the MPSSAA Spring Bulletins for COVID-19 mitigation and the MPSSAA Return To Play Guidance are incorporated by reference into this document and shall be utilized to minimize the spread of COVID-19 during the Tennis Tournaments.**
- C. 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.
- D. **School systems choosing not to enter the tournament, or schools eliminated during the course of the tournament, may continue with seasonal competitions under the direction of their local school system and in compliance with the weekly and seasonal limitations found in COMAR 13A.06.03.03.**
- E. Eligibility rules for all participants are defined in MPSSAA Bylaw .02, found in the current MPSSAA Handbook.
- F. 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.
- G. 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).**

2021 TENNIS TIME LINE		
	REGION TOURNAMENT	STATE TOURNAMENT
June 1.....Entry Due Date	June 5.....Region Section Start .....Date June 15.....Region Completion .....Deadline	June 18.....Semifinals June 19.....Finals

- 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 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.):
    - (1.) One game for each five minutes or fraction thereof that contestant(s) is/are late.
    - (2.) 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:  
1st offense - Warning  
2nd offense - one point
  - c. Violation of Rule 29 (continuous play):  
1st offense - Warning  
2nd & subsequent offenses - one point
  - d. Unsportsmanlike acts:  
1st offense - one point  
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 2021 Region and State Tournaments shall be administered with the following structure and modifications in order to limit the total number of participants in any region or state meet, control the size of gatherings, and maintain local competitions as best as possible in the first two regional rounds.**
2. **The State Tournament will be contested in four classifications (1A, 2A, 3A, 4A).**
3. **Each school may enter one team consisting of a boys singles, boys doubles, girls singles, girls doubles, and mixed doubles.**
  - a. **Participants are not allowed to compete in more than one event.**
  - b. **Doubles teams must be composed of players from the same school.**
  - c. **If either player on a doubles team is unable to compete, the entry is disqualified.**
  - d. **Schools do not have to enter participants in all five events.**
  - e. **All team entries shall be submitted by 4 p.m. on Monday, June 1.**
4. **Each classification will conduct a single-elimination tournament.**
5. **Qualification to the State Meet will take place through the course of two region meets.**
6. **Each region has been divided into a sectional region. Each Sectional Region will conduct an 8-line single elimination tournament. The top player/team in each event will advance to the Regional Final.**
7. **Sectional Region Meets may begin on Saturday, June 5, 2021 as long as all schools within the sectional region do not have a graduation conflict, SAT testing conflict, or pre-scheduled regular season match conflict.**
8. **The winner of each sectional will advance to a single regional final match against the other section in their region.**
9. **Winners of the regional final will advance to a four-line state final bracket per classification at the state finals.**
10. **The format shall be single elimination (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 the match tie-breaker will be allowed, if requested.**
11. **Seeding: Based on entries per region, the MPSSAA will conduct a random draw for each Regional Section.**
12. **All region tournaments shall be completed by June 15, 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. Sectional Finalist earn 2 points.
  - b. Sectional Winner earn 3 points.
  - c. Region Finalists earn 4 points.
  - d. Region Champions earn 6 points.

## IV. STATE TOURNAMENT

### A. Tournament Organization

1. The 2021 tournament will be held at Wilde Lake Tennis Club in Columbia on June 18-19. Please refer to the Tennis Fan Focus on MPSSAA.org.

**Directions (from Rt. 29 in Howard County):** Off of Rt. 29, take exit 20B towards Columbia/Town Center. Merge onto Little Patuxent Parkway and then take a slight right onto Gov. Warfield Pkwy. Take Gov. Warfield Pkwy. to the 2nd right onto Twin Rivers Road. Follow Twin Rivers Road for 1/2 mile and then take a left onto Lynx Road. Take Lynx Road for almost 2/10 of a mile to a right onto Cross Fox Lane. Club will be on the right (10499 Cross Fox Lane).

2. Schedule
  - a. Friday, June 18 - 9 a.m. (10 Courts State Semifinals- Class TBA)
  - b. Friday, June 18 - 11 a.m. (10 Courts State Semifinals- Class TBA)
  - c. Friday, June 18 - 1 p.m. (10 Courts State Semifinals- Class TBA)
  - d. Friday, June 18 - 3 p.m. (10 Courts State Semifinals- Class TBA)
  - e. Saturday, June 19- 10 a.m. - State Finals - 10 Courts Class 3A and 2A.
  - f. Saturday, June 19 - 1 p.m. - State Finals - 10 Courts Class 4A and 1A.
3. 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.**
4. 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.

### 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 and 2nd 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 region and state tournaments combined. In addition to their region tournament points, schools will earn additional state tournament points as follows:
  - a. 2nd place (State Finalist) - **10** points.
  - b. 1st place (State Champion) - **12** points.

# 2021 ALIGNMENT FOR TENNIS

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