



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 who have tolerated illegal actions during the regular season must also assume some responsibility.

2023 TENNIS TIME LINE		
	REGION TOURNAMENT	STATE TOURNAMENT
Mar. 21First play date	May 8Region Tournament Entries Due	May 25-26Qtr. & Semifinals May 27Finals
	May 20Completion Deadline	June 20Reimbursement request due

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 2023 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 8.

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 12, 2023.
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 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.
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 20, 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 23 at 4:30 p.m.

2. The 2023 tournament will be held on May 25-27 and will be co-hosted by Baker Park and Frederick High School.

3. Schedule

- a. Thursday, May 25 - 9 a.m. - State Quarterfinals and Semifinals - 17 Courts - Class 1A and 2A.
- b. Friday, May 26 - 9 a.m. - State Quarterfinals and Semifinals - 17 Courts - Class 3A and 4A.
- c. Saturday, May 27 - 9 a.m. - State Championships and Consolations- 17 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.

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) - 4 points
 - b. 3rd place (State) - 6 points
 - c. 2nd place (State Finalist) - 9 points
 - d. 1st place (State Champion) - 12 points

REGIONAL SCHEDULE AND SITES WILL BE LISTED ON MPSSAA.ORG

STATE TENNIS COMMITTEE DIRECTORS ARE LISTED ON MPSSAA.ORG

PROJECTED MPSSAA TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

2024 - May 23-25

2025 - May 22-24

2026 - May 21-23

2023 ALIGNMENT FOR TENNIS

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		
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. Severna Park	AA
4. Northwest	Mtg	4. Northwood	Mtg	4. Eleanor Roosevelt	PG	4. South River	AA
5. Quince Orchard	Mtg	5. Paint Branch	Mtg	5. Suitland	PG	5. Leonardtown	StM
6. Seneca Valley	Mtg	6. Sherwood	Mtg				
7. Wheaton	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. Northern (Cal.)	Cal	1. Westminster	Car
2. Lingnore	Fre	2. Towson	B Co	2. North Point	Cha	2. Centennial	How
3. Oakdale	Fre	3. Woodlawn	B Co	3. St. Charles	Cha	3. Howard	How
4. Thomas Johnson	Fre	4. City	Balt	4. Chopticon	StM	4. Marriotts Ridge	How
5. Tuscarora	Fre	5. Digial Harbor	Balt	5. Great Mills	StM	5. Mt. Hebron	How
6. North Hagerstown	Was	6. Poly	Balt				
7. South Hagerstown	Was	7. Mergenthaler	Balt				
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. Patapsco	B Co	2. Chesapeake	AA	2. Long Reach	How
3. John F. Kennedy	Mtg	3. Aberdeen	Hfd	3. Crofton	AA	3. Reservoir	How
4. Rockville	Mtg	4. Bel Air	Hfd	4. Oxon Hill	PG	4. River Hill	How
5. Springbrook	Mtg	5. Edgewood	Hfd	5. J. M. Bennett	Wic	5. Wilde Lake	How
6. Watkins Mill	Mtg						
CLASS 2A-WEST		CLASS 2A-NORTH		CLASS 2A-SOUTH		CLASS 2A-EAST	
REGION I		REGION I		REGION I		REGION I	
1. Southern-A	AA	1. Hefeford	B Co	1. Fairmont Heights	PG	1. Elkton	Cec
2. Northeast (AA)	AA	2. Lansdwone	B Co	2. Frederick Douglass	PG	2. Rising Sun	Cec
3. Century	Car	3. Milford Mill	B Co	3. Friendly	PG	3. North Harford	Hfd
4. Winters Mill	Car	4. New Town	B Co	4. Gwynn Park	PG	4. C. Milton Wright	Hfd
5. Manchester Valley	Car	5. Owings Mills	B Co	5. Potomac	PG	5. Kent Island	Qa
		6. Randallstown	B Co			6. Queen Anne's	Qa
REGION II		REGION II		REGION II		REGION II	
1. Glenelg	How	1. Carver A&T	B Co	1. Calvert	Cal	1. North Caroline	Cin
2. Hammond	How	2. Eastern Technical	B Co	2. Huntingtown	Cal	2. Easton	Tal
3. Oakland Mills	How	3. Overlea	B Co	3. Patuxent	Cal	3. Parkside	Wic
4. Middletown	Fre	4. Sparrows Point	B Co	4. La Plata	Cha	4. Wicomico	Wic
5. Walkersville	Fre	5. Patterson	Balt	5. Lackey	Cha	5. Stephen Decatur	Wor
6. Poolesville	Mtg			6. Thomas Stone	Cha		
				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. Fallston	Hfd	1. Chesapeake	B Co	1. Bohemia Manor	Cec
2. Fort Hill	All	2. Harford Tech	Hfd	2. Loch Raven	B Co	2. North East (Cecil)	Cec
3. Mountain Ridge	All	3. Havre de Grace	Hfd	3. Pikesville	B Co	3. Perryville	Cec
4. Northern (Gar.)	G	4. Joppatowne	Hfd	4. Western STES	B Co	4. Colonel Richardson	Cin
5. Southern (Gar.)	G	5. Patterson Mill	Hfd			5. Kent County	K
REGION II		REGION II		REGION II		REGION II	
1. Brunswick	Fre	1. Dunbar	Balt	1. McDonough	Cha	1. Cambridge-SD	Dor
2. Catocin	Fre	2. Edmondson/Westside	Balt	2. Central	PG	2. North Dorchester	Dor
3. Boonsboro	Was	3. Forest Park	Balt	3. Crossland	PG	3. Washington	Som
4. Clear Spring	Was	4. Frederick Douglass-B	Balt	4. Int. School at Langley Park	PG	4. St. Michaels	Tal
5. Smithsburg	Was	5. Francis Scott Key	Car	5. int. School at Largo	PG	5. Pocomoke	Wor
6. Williamsport	Was	6. Liberty	Car	6. Largo	PG	6. Snow Hill	Wor
		7. South Carroll	Car	7. Surrattsville	PG		