

Girls Volleyball Tournament Bulletin

**STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – NOVEMBER 15, 2025 – APG FEDERAL CREDIT UNION ARENA,
HARFORD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

| DATE | EVENT | DATE | EVENT |
|-------------|--|----------------|----------------------|
| August 13 | First Practice Date | October 29 | Region Quarterfinals |
| September 5 | First Play Date | Oct. 31/Nov. 1 | Region Semifinals |
| October 25 | Last play date for seeding consideration | November 5 | Region Finals |
| October 27 | Tournament seeding date | November 7/8 | State Quarterfinals |
| October 28 | Last Play Date | November 11 | State Semifinals |
| November 6 | Team Tournament Roster Forms Due | November 15 | State Championships |

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association is the official governing body for the Volleyball tournament. Plans for the tournament were formulated by the State Volleyball 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 Volleyball Bulletin. Unless specifically stated, all rules and regulations stipulated in the NFHS Volleyball 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 and in the front section of this publication.
- E. As allowed in National Federation rule 1-7-1, note 1, by state adoption, schools may play a five-game match in which a team is considered the winner of the match when it wins three games.
- F. Games postponed during the regular season shall be made up on the first available date and in the order originally scheduled. Subsequent games shall not be moved. Local supervisor(s) of athletics shall be consulted and will make final decisions on postponed games.
- G. The Girls State Volleyball Committee is requiring the use of the Molten IV58L Super Touch leather ball during the region and state tournament. It is highly recommended the Molten IV58L Super Touch leather ball be used during the regular season.
- H. Per NFHS Rule 1-6-1, the home team selects its team bench. By state association adoption in accordance with NFHS Rule 9-1 and 9-2-2, all teams will remain on the same benches and side of court during all regular and postseason matches.

II. REGION AND STATE TOURNAMENTS

- A. Tournament Organization
 1. Every school is automatically entered into the region tournament unless the MPSSAA office receives written notification to the contrary. Request for withdrawal shall be by letter, signed by the school principal. It is the responsibility of schools to work with region directors to accurately report schedules, results and records. (Refer to page 4, Section II, A of this Bulletin)
 2. A TEAM ENTRY FORM utilized for State Semifinals and Finals must be filled out by teams winning their Region Final. Instructions on filling out the TEAM ENTRY FORM are available on mpssaa.org.

B. Playing Rules

1. All games will be played under the current National Federation rules, with the addition of the official game ball being the Molten IV58L Super Touch leather ball.
2. Ball handling is permitted prior to the official warm-up. Use of 1/2 court only is permitted with no over-the-net play when both teams are present.
3. Official warm-ups at High School sites shall consist of:
 - (a.) Only the official team party's uniformed members, managers, and coaches shall assist with warm-ups in any manner, including tossing, feeding, and retrieving volleyballs.
 - (b.) 15 minutes of shared-court time (use of 1/2 court only, no over-the-net play).
 - (c.) The use of the game net shall be six minutes for the Home Team first, followed by six minutes for the Visiting Team. Teams may use their six minutes in any way they want, including serving.

C. General Policies

1. The official representatives of a school team, as listed on the online team entry form (20 total - players, managers, and coaches), shall be admitted free at a designated entrance door. Each team will also be responsible for supplying two ball retrievers of high school age, who will be admitted free of charge and not included in the school's allotted 20 representatives.
2. Each school should feel a responsibility for its athletes and team followers to exhibit good sportsmanship. For purposes of crowd control, the principal and school personnel should be alert to detect and correct or discipline any unsafe or unruly behavior. (Refer to page 4, Section II.D, in the front section of this publication.)
 - (a.) Upon arrival, each school should identify its security person (administrator).
 - (b.) Noisemakers and other distractions, i.e., sirens, whistles, horns, bells, etc., are prohibited.
 - (c.) Balloons, large hats, mascots, etc. must not visually obstruct teams, officials, or spectators.
 - (d.) Signs are permitted which display a positive support of the school. Derogatory or obscene signs will be confiscated. Signs may not be carried through the stands as a means of taunting other spectators. Principals and faculty members of participating schools are expected to enforce this regulation.
3. When local jurisdictions allow and can accommodate pep bands, 15 band members, accompanied by a faculty sponsor, will be admitted free. Pep bands will alternate playing time and, once a contest begins, will play only when time is out. Bands will coordinate their playing with the cheerleaders from their school.
4. A maximum of 20 cheerleaders from each of the participating schools will be admitted free of charge only if they are in complete uniform and accompanied by a coach. Cheerleaders should get together before the contest to work out arrangements for each school to cheer, unopposed by the other. Cheerleaders should use their megaphones only for addressing their own student body.

III. REGION TOURNAMENT**A. Tournament Organization**

1. The region director (found on mpssaa.org) is responsible for the assignment of officials and the notification of schools as to the tournament bracket, site, and starting times.
 - (a.) The region director shall employ local officials who service the designated home team, plus qualified individuals as scorers and linesmen.
 - (b.) The region director shall inform the state committee director and the MPSSAA of the schedule established for competition.

2. The tournament seeding meeting will take place Monday, October 27 in the MPSSAA Office via conference call with the state tournament chair. Tournament pairings will appear on the MPSSAA web site <mpssaa.org> later that day.
 - (a.) Region directors will verify and submit to the state tournament chair by 9 a.m., October 26, the official records of all teams for regular season games played through October 25.
 - (b.) All teams in each region will be seeded as determined by regular season winning percentage, excluding the one additional tournament and any city, county, or conference championship.
 - (c.) Teams with less than 12 varsity games played will be seeded based on a regular season winning percentage using a divisor of 12 games.
 - (d.) Ties among teams in a region will be first broken by head-to-head competition to determine the higher seed. This applies if all tied teams meet the criteria. If head-to-head does not break the tie, a coin toss will be used to determine the order of seeding.
 - (e.) The higher-placed team is defined as one who occupies the lower-numbered position (the favored position), on the bracket in any given round.
3. Unless a specific alternative plan has been approved, all teams region play will abide by the following guidelines.
 - (a.) All region games will be played at the site of the higher seed throughout the tournament.
 - (b.) The Region Quarterfinals will be played on Wednesday, October 29.
 - (c.) The Region Semifinals may be played on Friday, October 31 or Saturday, November 1. The higher-placed team will determine the date of the contest in consultation with the opposing school. Every effort should be made to avoid conflicts and local supervisors of athletics shall be consulted and make the final decision when conflicts occur.
 - (d.) If circumstances render a home site unplayable and the game is scheduled at any alternate site, the designated home team will remain unchanged.
 - (e.) Region contests will begin no earlier than 5 p.m. unless agreed upon by the two schools involved. Region directors MUST be notified of all starting times.
4. Local MPSSAA districts will collect all revenue and pay all expenses. Site directors shall pay officials and required workers. When funds are not available, fees should be referred to the host district.

B. General Policies

1. Individuals 7 years of age and older will be charged an admission of \$6.
2. Teams will provide their own balls for warm-ups.
3. The host school will provide the official Molten IV58L Super Touch leather ball.
4. Team champions will receive a region plaque plus individual certificates.

IV. STATE TOURNAMENT

A. State Quarterfinals

1. The region champions from each classification shall advance to a State Quarterfinal round.
2. The eight region champions will be seeded 1-8 based on their regular season winning percentage used to seed each region. Ties among teams in the State Quarterfinals will be first broken by head-to-head competition to determine the higher seed. This applies if all tied teams meet the criteria. If head-to-head does not break the tie, a coin toss will be used to determine the order of seeding.
3. Unless a specific alternate plan has been approved, all State Quarterfinal games will be played at the site of the higher seed.

4. Schools hosting a State Quarterfinal game may schedule the contest on Friday, November 7 or Saturday, November 8. When setting game times hosting sites must be mindful of other school activities, SAT and ACT Tests, and provide appropriate travel time for any schools. Local Supervisors of Athletics shall be contacted and make the final decision when conflicts occur.
 5. Officiating crews (R1, R2, and Line Judges) from the association local to the higher seeded team will be assigned to the State Quarterfinal contest.
 6. An experienced Scorer and Libero Tracker shall also be assigned to the State Quarterfinal contest. In lieu of an experienced Scorer and Libero Tracker, the host school may request officials to serve in these roles.
 7. Local MPSSAA districts will collect all revenue and pay all expenses. Site directors shall pay officials and required workers. When funds are not available, fees should be referred to the host district.
 8. Admission charge for State Quarterfinals will be \$6.00 for individuals 7 years of age and older.
- B. State Semifinals and Finals
1. The winners of the State Quarterfinal round shall advance to the State Semifinals.
 - (a.) The winner in each classification of the No. 1 versus No. 8 seeded game will play the winners of the No. 4 versus No. 5 seeded game.
 - (b.) The winner in each classification of the No. 2 versus No. 7 seeded game will play the winners of the No. 3 versus No. 6 seeded game.
 2. The State Semifinals will be held on Tuesday, November 11, 2025 at high school sites with games starting no earlier than 5 p.m. Schedules and times are tentative and a definitive schedule will be set as teams have advanced out of the State Quarterfinals. Potential sites that have been confirmed are as follows. Other sites will be included as confirmations are received.

DATE TENTATIVE SITES

November 11.....Arundel High School

November 11.....Bel Air High School

November 11.....Reservoir High School

November 11.....River Hill High School

November 11.....Gov. Thomas Johnson High School

*** Note: Schools offering their site to be a host of the state semifinals are eligible to host their own school in this round.**

3. The State Championships are scheduled to be played at APG Federal Credit Union Arena on the campus of Harford Community College on November 15, 2025. Schedule and Championships information will be released when plans are finalized.
4. The official representatives of a school (20 total - players, managers, and coaches) shall be admitted free at a designated entrance door after being identified by the coach. Each team will be responsible for supplying two ball retrievers of high school age, who will be admitted free of charge.
5. Directions to APG Federal Credit Union Arena – Harford Community College - The arena is located on the campus of Harford Community College at 401 Thomas Run Road, Bel Air, Maryland 21015
6. There will be an admission charge of \$10 for individuals 7 years of age and older.
7. For additional information, consult “Volleyball State Championship Central” on the MPSSAA website <mpssaa.org>.

C. General Policies

- 1. Official game balls, practice balls and water for team benches will be provided by the MPSSAA.
- 2. State Quarterfinal winners will complete the Media Information Form (found on the Volleyball page of mpssaa.org) and bring the requested copies to the State Semifinals. This form shall be revised following the State Semifinals and new requested copies brought to the State Final match.
- 3. The team champion in each classification shall receive a trophy, 20 individual awards, and a game ball. The finalist team shall receive a trophy and 20 individual awards.
- 4. The State Volleyball Committee will recognize the school which displays the best overall sportsmanship while participating in the tournament with the Lesley W. Cooke Sportsmanship Award. Appointed judges will observe each school’s coaches, players, spectators, cheerleaders, and pep bands, rating them on a scale of 1-10. The award will be presented to the school achieving the highest average score.

| Projected MPSSAA Girls Volleyball Championship Dates | | | | | |
|--|-------------|------|-------------|------|-------------|
| 2026 | November 21 | 2027 | November 20 | 2028 | November 19 |

STATE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS ARE LISTED ON MPSSAA.ORG

2025 Girls Volleyball Classification Alignment

| Class 4A West | | | Class 4A North | | | Class 4A South | | | Class 4A East | | |
|---------------|---------------------|-----|----------------|-----------------------------|------|----------------|--------------------------|------|---------------|---------------------------------|------|
| REGION I | | | REGION I | | | REGION I | | | REGION I | | |
| 1. | Gov. Thomas Johnson | Fre | 1. | Dulaney | B Co | 1. | Montgomery Blair | Mtg | 1. | Glen Burnie | AA |
| 2. | Urbana | Fre | 2. | Dundalk | B Co | 2. | Paint Branch | Mtg | 2. | Meade | AA |
| 3. | Clarksburg | Mtg | 3. | Kenwood | B Co | 3. | Eleanor Roosevelt | PG | 3. | North County | AA |
| 4. | Northwest | Mtg | 4. | Parkville | B Co | 4. | High Point | PG | 4. | Severn Run | AA |
| 5. | Seneca Valley | Mtg | 5. | Perry Hall | B Co | 5. | Laurel | PG | 5. | Mergenthaler Vo-Tech | Balt |
| 6. | South Hagerstown | Was | 6. | Woodlawn | B Co | 6. | Northwestern | PG | 6. | Western | Balt |
| REGION II | | | REGION II | | | REGION II | | | REGION II | | |
| 1. | Bethesda-CC | Mtg | 1. | Albert Einstein | Mtg | 1. | Bladensburg | PG | 1. | Annapolis | AA |
| 2. | Gaithersburg | Mtg | 2. | James Hubert Blake | Mtg | 2. | Charles H. Flowers | PG | 2. | Broadneck | AA |
| 3. | Quince Orchard | Mtg | 3. | John F. Kennedy | Mtg | 3. | Dr. Henry A. Wise | PG | 3. | Crofton | AA |
| 4. | Walt Whitman | Mtg | 4. | Richard Montgomery | Mtg | 4. | Duval | PG | 4. | North Point | Cha |
| 5. | Walter Johnson | Mtg | 5. | Springbrook | Mtg | 5. | Parkdale | PG | 5. | Bowie | PG |
| 6. | Winston Churchill | Mtg | 6. | Wheaton | Mtg | 6. | Suitland | PG | 6. | Leonardtown | StM |
| Class 3A West | | | Class 3A North | | | Class 3A South | | | Class 3A East | | |
| REGION I | | | REGION I | | | REGION I | | | REGION I | | |
| 1. | Westminster | Car | 1. | Milford Mill Academy | B Co | 1. | Atholton | How | 1. | Chesapeake | AA |
| 2. | Frederick | Fre | 2. | Overlea | B Co | 2. | Guilford Park | How | 2. | Northeast | AA |
| 3. | Linganore | Fre | 3. | Patapsco | B Co | 3. | Mount Hebron | How | 3. | Baltimore City College | Balt |
| 4. | Oakdale | Fre | 4. | Towson | B Co | 4. | Oakland Mills | How | 4. | Baltimore Polytechnic Institute | Balt |
| 5. | Tuscarora | Fre | 5. | Aberdeen | Har | 5. | Reservoir | How | 5. | Digital Harbor | Balt |
| 6. | North Hagerstown | Was | 6. | Edgewood | Har | 6. | Sherwood | Mtg | 6. | Patterson | Balt |
| | | | | | | 7. | Largo | PG | | | |
| REGION II | | | REGION II | | | REGION II | | | REGION II | | |
| 1. | Col. Zadok Magruder | Mtg | 1. | Catonsville | B Co | 1. | Northern | Cal | 1. | Arundel | AA |
| 2. | Damascus | Mtg | 2. | Franklin | B Co | 2. | St. Charles | Cha | 2. | Old Mill | AA |
| 3. | Northwood | Mtg | 3. | New Town | B Co | 3. | Oxon Hill | PG | 3. | Severna Park | AA |
| 4. | Rockville | Mtg | 4. | Centennial | How | 4. | Potomac | PG | 4. | South River | AA |
| 5. | Thomas S. Wootton | Mtg | 5. | Howard | How | 5. | Chopticon | StM | 5. | James M. Bennett | Wic |
| 6. | Watkins Mill | Mtg | 6. | Marriotts Ridge | How | 6. | Great Mills | StM | | Stephen Decatur | Wor |
| Class 2A West | | | Class 2A North | | | Class 2A South | | | Class 2A East | | |
| REGION I | | | REGION I | | | REGION I | | | REGION I | | |
| 1. | Century | Car | 1. | Hereford | B Co | 1. | Crossland | PG | 1. | Elkton | Cec |
| 2. | Winters Mill | Car | 2. | Lansdowne | B Co | 2. | Fairmont Heights | PG | 2. | North East | Cec |
| 3. | Poolesville | Mtg | 3. | Owings Mills | B Co | 3. | Frederick Douglass | PG | 3. | Rising Sun | Cec |
| 4. | Middletown | Fre | 4. | Randallstown | B Co | 4. | Friendly | PG | 4. | Bel Air | Har |
| 5. | Walkersville | Fre | 5. | Carver Vocational-Technical | Balt | 5. | Gwynn Park | PG | 5. | C. Milton Wright | Har |
| 6. | Williamsport | Was | 6. | Manchester Valley | Car | 6. | Surrattsville | PG | 6. | North Harford | Har |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| REGION II | | | REGION II | | | REGION II | | | REGION II | | |
| 1. | Southern | AA | 1. | Chesapeake | B Co | 1. | Calvert | Cal | 1. | North Caroline | Cin |
| 2. | Hammond | How | 2. | Eastern Tech | B Co | 2. | Huntingtown | Cal | 2. | Kent Island | QA |
| 3. | Long Reach | How | 3. | Sparrows Point | B Co | 3. | Henry E. Lackey | Cha | 3. | Queen Anne's | QA |
| 4. | River Hill | How | 4. | Forest Park | Balt | 4. | La Plata | Cha | 4. | Easton | Tal |
| 5. | Wilde Lake | How | 5. | Paul Laurence Dunbar | Balt | 5. | McDonough | Cha | 5. | Parkside | Wic |
| 6. | Glenelg | How | 6. | Fallston | Har | 6. | Thomas Stone | Cha | 6. | Wicomico | Wic |
| | | | | | | 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. | Harford Tech | Har | 1. | Chesapeake Science Point | AA | 1. | Benjamin Franklin | Balt |
| 2. | Fort Hill | All | 2. | Havre de Grace | Har | 2. | Western Tech | B Co | 2. | Green Street Acad. | Balt |
| 3. | Mountain Ridge | All | 3. | Joppatowne | Har | 3. | Carver A&T | B Co | 3. | ACCE | Balt |
| 4. | Northern | Gar | 4. | Patterson Mill | Har | 4. | Loch Raven | B Co | 4. | Lake Clifton | Balt |
| 5. | Southern | Gar | 5. | Bohemia Manor | Cec | 5. | Pikesville | B Co | 5. | National Acad. Foundation | Balt |
| 6. | Clear Spring | Was | 6. | Perryville | Cec | 6. | CMIT - North | PG | 6. | Reginald Lewis | Balt |
| 7. | Hancock | Was | | | | | | | | | |
| REGION II | | | REGION II | | | REGION II | | | REGION II | | |
| 1. | Francis Scott Key | Car | 1. | SEED School | MD | 1. | Patuxent | Cal | 1. | Colonel Richardson | Cin |
| 2. | South Carroll | Car | 2. | Coppin Academy | Balt | 2. | Central | PG | 2. | North Dorchester | Dor |
| 3. | Brunswick | Fre | 3. | Edmondson-Westside | Balt | 3. | CMIT - South | PG | 3. | Kent County | K |
| 4. | Catoctin | Fre | 4. | Frederick Douglass | Balt | 4. | College Park Academy | PG | 4. | Mardela | Wic |
| 5. | Boonsboro | Was | 5. | Southwestern | Balt | 5. | Int. HS at Langley Park | PG | 5. | Pocomoke | Wor |
| 6. | Smithsburg | Was | 6. | Liberty | Car | 6. | Int. HS at Largo | PG | 6. | Snow Hill | Wor |