*As needed, in consultation with schools and sport commissioners, AACPS Athletics reserves the right to make adjustments to this bulletin.*

**Coach Responsibilities**

1. Adhere to all policies, procedures, rules and regulations in the AACPS Athletic Handbook.
2. Adhere to all policies, procedures, rules and regulations in this AACPS Bulletin.
3. Adhere to all policies, procedures, rules and regulations MPSSAA Handbook.
4. Adhere to all policies, procedures, rules and regulations in the MPSSAA Bulletin.

<https://www.mpssaa.org/information-center/mpssaa-publications-and-content/>

1. Adhere to all policies, procedures, rules and regulations in the appropriate NFHS rule book.
   1. Rule Changes for all applicable sports available at [https://www.nfhs.org/sports-resource-content/basketball-rules-changes-2023-24/](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nfhs.org%2Fsports-resource-content%2Fbasketball-rules-changes-2023-24%2F&data=05%7C01%7CCCULP%40AACPS.org%7C983a115378394296b20308dbda1d29f5%7Cb7d27e93356b4ad88a7089c35df207c0%7C0%7C0%7C638343591009799000%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=v%2Be0J2PYKAd3WPmSd22wXVAD8nNMgtcHIwT7O6x9Px8%3D&reserved=0)
2. Participate in Coaches All- County Selection process. It is the responsibility of the head coaches of each sport to determine the process for their all county selections. It is recommended that a head coach or two from around the county volunteer to take the lead in organizing and facilitating the Coaches All-County. An agreed upon process should be communicated to all schools in writing before the season starts. End of season communications and/or a meeting (in-person or virtual) should be used to implement the agreed upon process.

*Notes:*

1. *AACPS Athletics does not sponsor or provide oversight for the Coaches All-County selection process.*
2. *Sport Commissioners may help to facilitate the date, time, and location of an end-of-season meeting for this purpose. They may attend for note taking, questions, and general support. However, they will not lead, control, or provide oversight on the process.*

**Contact Information**

1. Questions should initially be directed to local school athletic directors.
2. Then, questions should be directed to:
3. County Sport Commissioner - Dave Klingel, South River, [dklingel@aacps.org](mailto:dklindel@aacps.org), 443-995-7877
4. District V Representatives - Mike Rudd (boys), Glen Burnie, [mrudd@aacps.org](mailto:mrudd@aacps.org), 443-889-4212 and Teresa Waters (girls), River Hill, [twaters@hcpss.org](mailto:twaters@hcpss.org), 410-313-7120
5. AACPS Office of Athletics at 410-222-5463
6. Regional Tournament Directors: <https://www.mpssaa.org/state-championships/basketball/basketball-state-committee-regional-directors/>

**Classifications/Regions**

| **4A** | **3A** | **2A** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Crofton - East Region I  Glen Burnie - East Region I  Meade - East Region I  North County - East Region I  Old Mill - East Region I  Annapolis - East Region II  Broadneck - East Region II | Arundel - East Region I  Severna Park - East Region I  South River - East Region I  Chesapeake - South Region I  Northeast - South Region I | Southern - West Region II |
| **1A** |
| Chesapeake Science Point - South Region I |

**Important Dates**

**November 2023**

* November 7 - 4:00 pm - Winter Coaches Kickoff, Severna Park High School
* November 10 - 1st MP report cards (tentative)
* November 15 - 1st day of of tryouts AND Academic assistance sessions start date (based on 1st MP report cards)
* November 21 - First scrimmage day
* November 20-24 - No school for students (Nov 20 & 21 - PT conferences)
* November 23 - No practice on Thanksgiving Day (football exception)

**December 2023**

* December 2 - Testing date (nothing mandatory before 2 pm)
* December 5 - 2-hour early release (PD for teachers) AND MPSSAA start date for contests
* December 7 - Academic assistance sessions end date AND **Grade Check**
* December 8 - Cheerleading Season Management Form due to Athletics (submitted by cheer head coach)
* December 9 - Testing date (nothing mandatory before 2 pm)
* December 25-29 - Winter Break

**January 2024**

* January 1 - Winter Break (cont.)
* January 8-13 - MPSSAA Officials Appreciation week (AACPS commemorative coins)
* January 15 - MLK Day (Voluntary practice only - no penalty for missing)
* January 17 & 18 - 2-hour early release (work time for teachers)
* January 19 - No school for students (workday for teachers)
* January 31 - 2nd MP report cards (tentative)

**February 2024**

* February 6 - 2-hour early release (PD for teachers)
* February 10 - Testing date (nothing mandatory before 2 pm)
* February 19 - Schools closed for Presidents Day

**March 2024**

* March 1 - Spring sports start
* March 19 - 2-hour early release (PD for teachers)
* March 2 - Testing date (nothing mandatory before 2 pm)
* March 9 - Testing date (nothing mandatory before 2 pm)

**Contests**

* Scrimmages**:**
  + 3 preseason scrimmages allowed - a multi-team scrimmage counts only as one scrimmage (AACPS)
  + Teams are allowed one postseason scrimmage (in between last game and first playoff game). No officials, no score keeping, and no bus transportation (no added costs). (AACPS)
* MPSSAA Season Limitations:
  + 20 contests or 22 with designated optional tournament;
  + No more than two games per week;
  + Three games in one week may be scheduled twice during the season;
  + A team may elect to play in one designated optional two or three-game tournament; and
  + If a team elects to play in a designated optional three-game tournament, only 19 regular season games may be scheduled
* Game Procedures:
  + NFHS Rule Change Point of Emphasis.
    - ***4-8-1:*** *Eliminates the one-and-one for common fouls beginning with the seventh team foul in the half and establishes the bonus as two free throws awarded for a common foul beginning with the team’s fifth foul in each quarter and resets the fouls at the end of each quarter.*
    - ***Rationale:*** *Improves flow by providing an opportunity for teams to adjust their play by not carrying over fouls from quarters 1 and 3 to quarters 2 and 4 while significantly reducing the opportunity for correctable errors to occur. Minimizes risk of injury by eliminating the one-and-one and reducing opportunities for rough play during rebounding opportunities.*
  + Ball. The MPSSAA Basketball Committees are requiring the use of the Spalding TF-1000 Precision basketball during the playoffs AND the state tournament. It is highly recommended that this same ball be used during the regular season as well.
  + Music. Visiting teams are not permitted to play music with portable/rolling speakers or other devices while visiting away sites.
  + Varsity games
    - Four 8-minute quarters
    - Halftime is 10-minutes (may be extended to 15 minutes for special activities with proper notification of the visiting team)
    - Varsity contests that end in a tie after regulation will play 4-minute OT periods until a winner is determined.
    - By state adoption, the State Basketball Committees have adopted the following rule regarding the use of running time. Once a 35-point differential exists in the second half, the following changes, and only these changes, will be made regarding rules which determine when the clock will and will not be stopped.

1. An official’s time-out for an injured participant.

2. A charged (team) time-out occurs.

3. A score occurs that reduces the point spread to less than 35 points (in which case regular

timing procedures will be used.

4. A period ends.

5. Free throws are taken.

* + Junior Varsity games
    - Teams must come dressed to play to the visiting school.
    - Four 8-minute quarters
    - JV games will only have a 4-minute halftime and should remain on the court.
    - Mercy Rule: In the 4th quarter if a team goes up by 20 points or more the clock will go into “running” mode and will remain until the conclusion of the game. Clock will only stop on fouls shots and time-outs.
    - JV contests that end in a tie after regulation will play 4-minute OT periods until a winner is determined.
* AACPS Scheduling Scheme:
  + The 12/13 games after winter break will determine who plays in the county championship games (starting with the games on Friday, January 5, 2024)
  + Tuesday matchups Thursday/Friday matchups

JV / V double headers at both sites Thursday at primary site - JVG at 4:45

JV at 4:45, Varsity at 6:00 Thursday at secondary site - JVB at 4:45

**County Championship and Awards**

* The top two teams from the regular season will play for the County Championship based on results from the final 12 (girls)/13 (boys) county-scheduled games of the regular season (handbook criteria will be used as needed to break ties). The sport commissioner will communicate with schools and keep track of results.
* February 23 & 24 at Arundel HS
  + Times TBD based on matchups
* If tied at the end of regulation, play 4-minute OT’s until a winner is determined
* Awards:
  + In-season county champions receive a plaque (see handbook for criteria)
  + Varsity: Team and head coach plaques; 21 medals for both participating teams (gold and silver);
  + JV: Team plaque
* JV County Championship criteria:
  + A JV player is eligible to participate so long as they have entered no more than two regular season varsity contests (excluding tournaments – they may also play in varsity tournaments)

**MPSSAA Playoffs**

*Notes - Every MPSSAA school is automatically entered into the region tournament unless the MPSSAA office receives written notification to the contrary. All schools must adhere to the MPSSAA bulletin.*

* **Point of Emphasis**: Egregious Ejections: Any ejection during the state tournament that is classified as egregious now results in a two-game suspension. The MPSSAA has established criteria based on definitions of egregious behavior that will be used during the regional and state tournaments to elevate any ejections under this category to a minimum of two contest disqualification from the current state tournament, next sport season, or the succeeding year’s tournament based on the circumstances of the situation (Example of student whose team loses the first round of the next season. Egregious behavior is being defined as:
  + *Fighting*
  + *Physical or verbal personal attacks directed towards an official, coach, student-athlete, spectator, or school personnel*
  + *Use of racial, ethnic, homophobic or other derogatory or discriminatory language, slurs or practices.*
* **Dates:**

MPSSAA championship info <https://www.mpssaa.org/state-championships/basketball/mpssaa-basketball-state-championships-central/>

* + Last Play Date for seeding Feb 22
  + Seeding Feb 23
  + Last play date Feb 24
  + Region Quarterfinal Feb 27 (B) / Feb 28 (G)
  + Regional Semifinals Feb 29 (B) / Mar 1 (G)
  + Regional Finals Mar 5 (B) / Mar 6 (G)
  + State Quarterfinals Mar 8-9
  + State Semifinals Mar 12-13
  + State Championships Mar 15-16