*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/swimming-and-diving-rules-changes-2023-24/](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nfhs.org%2Fsports-resource-content%2Fswimming-and-diving-rules-changes-2023-24%2F&data=05%7C01%7CCCULP%40AACPS.org%7C983a115378394296b20308dbda1d29f5%7Cb7d27e93356b4ad88a7089c35df207c0%7C0%7C0%7C638343591010111535%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=7wTG7dupMfOlkbwE7nEdwoElKgU1TMiRZlaGzkxFQBU%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 - Katie Holmes, Holmes, [ksholmes@AACPS.org](mailto:ksholmes@AACPS.org), 410-222-5463
4. District V Representatives - Ellen Hays, Old Mill, [ehays@aacps.org](mailto:ehays@aacps.org), 443-848-2780
5. AACPS Office of Athletics at 410-222-5463
6. Regional Tournament Directors: <https://www.mpssaa.org/state-championships/swimming-diving/region-meet-dates/>

John Adey, [john.s.adey@gmail.com](mailto:john.s.adey@gmail.com), 443-995-5072

**Classifications/Regions**

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

**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 9 (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**

* AACPS Practice Requirements:
  + Each team member is required to attend all pool practices.
  + Dryland is a school-based decision but is highly recommended on non-pool practice days.
* 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:
  + 12 regular season meets
  + No more than two meets per week, and
  + Three meets in one week may be scheduled once during the season
* AACPS Scheduling Scheme:
  + The AACPS schedule was based on feedback from coaches and approved by Athletics Directors and Athletics. It is based on providing as many matchups between all schools as possible (all schools swimming against all other schools).
  + Each school is scheduled for 6 regular season meets on Friday nights at the Anne Arundel or North Arundel pool.
  + The February 9 snow date is initially designated for the county championship (if needed).

**County Championship Game and Awards**

* February 2 at AOSC
* 135 medals for 1st-3rd place in 22 events, County Championship plaques for the school and head coach

**MPSSAA Playoffs**

* **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 website <https://www.mpssaa.org/state-championships/swimming-diving/mpssaa-swimming-and-diving-state-championships-central/>

* + February 12 Deadline for entry into regions
  + February 13 Scratch / late entry deadline for regions
  + February 17 4A-3A East Region Meet (9 am at AOSC)

3A-2A-1A East Region Meet (3 pm at AOSC)

* + February 19 Seeding of state meet
  + February 23-24 State Championship Meets (university of Maryland, College Park)