

SCOUT

MPSSAA News and Notes

Welcome Donnee Gray

The MPSSAA is pleased to announce the appointment of Donnee Gray as the new Coordinator of Officials. Donnee brings a wealth of knowledge to the position from his experiences as a Division I college basketball referee and as Supervisor of Officials for the Mid-Atlantic Basketball Officials Association (MACBOA).

Donnee also worked for the US Government in the US Senate Library as a Supervisor of Legislative Information Services for 28 years and as a Senate Validation Clerk in the Office of Legislative Clerk for five years before retiring in 2007.

Donnee's career as an NCAA Basketball official began in 1980 and spanned 29 years and included Division I games in the ACC, Atlantic Ten, Big Ten, Big Twelve, and Conference USA. He also earned the honor of officiating numerous NCAA Division I Tournament games which included five Final Four contests.

Since 1992, Donnee has also served as the Supervisor of Officials for the MACBOA where he has worked with officials, coaches and athletic directors to train, supervise, evaluate, and oversee all aspects of the officials supplied by the board to Maryland Junior Colleges (JUCO) and several Division II colleges. Please join us in welcoming Donnee to our team!

NFHS Offers Free Online Course

In an effort to provide information on hazing, bullying and inappropriate relationships to more high school coaches, school administrators and the general public, the National Federation of High School Associations (NFHS) is now offering its online course "Creating a Safe and Respectful Environment" for free for one year on the NFHS Coach Education Web site at www.nfhslearn.com.

Creating a Safe and Respectful Environment, which has been available for \$20 since February 2012, provides education on inappropriate relationships, hazing, bullying and cyber-bullying and the appropriate use of technology when interacting with players and the public. The course provides examples of court cases and actions coaches should take when these types of issues arise.

In addition to this course, the NFHS also offers free courses on Concussion in Sports, A Guide to Heat Acclimatization, Sportsmanship, The Role of Parents in Sports and the NCAA Eligibility Center Coaching Education. All of these courses can be found at www.nfhslearn.com.

Getting Involved

On the 40th Anniversary year of Title IX legislation, female participation for Maryland public high school athletics grew to an all-time mark of 47,803 participants. Total participation for the 2011-12 school year reached 113,708 participants.

The following is the sport participation breakdown:

Sports	Number of Boy Participants	Number of Girl Participants
Badminton	169	584
Baseball	5565	7
Basketball	5618	4665
Bowling	30	26
Cross Country	3745	2575
Field Hockey	1	4055
Football	14912	17
Golf	1470	248
Gymnastics	0	119
Indoor Track	4856	4266
Lacrosse	6622	5206
Soccer	6251	5699
Softball	0	5180
Swimming	1904	2167
Tennis	2278	2410
Track & Field	6825	5563
Volleyball	610	4927
Wrestling	5030	89
Ice Hockey	19	0
Total	65,905	47,803
TOTAL COMBINED		113,708

Heat Acclimatization Survey

This past year, the Maryland General Assembly enacted legislation requiring each local school system to adopt a model policy designed to acclimatize student-athletes to participate effectively in warm and hot conditions and reduce the risk of heat related illnesses. These guidelines took effect immediately and impacted traditional practice plans this past fall sports preseason.

In an attempt to strike a safe balance between a gradual introduction and assimilation into athletic competition with the need to properly teach safe playing techniques, the MPSSAA will be conducting a survey regarding ways to increase instruction time prior to the first date of competition while not compromising a student-athlete's acclimatization period. The survey will be available at mpssaa.org and emailed to athletic directors on September 21.

EXECUTIVE'S

CORNER

Edward "Ned" Sparks

Executive Director, MPSSAA

Anyone over the age of 25 will recognize that the rapidity of change has significantly accelerated in the last few years. The instant exchange of information has not only changed our habits, but in some places sparked revolutions. Movements and causes that have festered over many years can erupt into cataclysmic events with a Twitter or Facebook posting. Change which once was slow and methodical is not even absorbed before more change is upon us. Ask yourself, how long does it take before electronic hardware becomes obsolete?

In the realm of athletics, we have begun to see the same rapid changes take place especially in the knowledge, treatment and prevention of injuries. The application of injury research has begun to make significant alterations to the conduct of sport.

Perhaps the best example in the last few years has been our awareness and action regarding concussions. Attitudes and practices have dramatically changed regarding head injuries. This year the primary health issue was heat acclimatization. For coaches of fall sports, practice schedules and routines were turned on their heads. Some are predicting that next year's health issue will be Sudden Cardiac Arrest.

While change is coming rapidly, human nature remains the same. Simply put, change is difficult. When "Old School" clashes with recent medical data and research the resulting mixture is not always smooth.

That being the case, it is important to remember that the foremost goal of organized athletic programs is the health and safety of the participants. Coaches that embrace the changes as a factor in risk reduction will better manage their teams overall health and be better prepared to meet the challenges of today's competition.

Today's sports are not your father's games. Romantizing about the lack of safety practices of yesteryear might be great when the old gang gets together, but thankfully not something that today's athletes will have to endure.

Official MPSSAA Balls

Field Hockey

Sponsor: Longstreth

Official Ball: Longstreth Chingford multi-turf balls or Longstreth TK multi-turf ball

Soccer

Sponsor: Brine

Official Ball: Brine Championship Soccer Ball

Football

Sponsor: Wilson

Official Ball: Wilson F1003GST

Volleyball

Sponsor: Molten

Official Ball: Molten IV58L Super Touch

Basketball

Sponsor: Spalding

Official Ball: Spalding TF-1000 Legacy

Baseball

Sponsor: Wilson

Official Ball: Wilson A1010BPROSST

Softball

Sponsor: Dudley

Official Ball: OPTIC YELLOW version of Dudley SB12LND-FP

Lacrosse

Sponsor: Harrow

Official Ball: Harrow Boy's Lacrosse Ball 38000 (White)

Harrow Girl's Lacrosse Ball 38001 (Yellow)

Tennis

Sponsor: Wilson

Official Ball: Wilson T1001

SCOUT is published by the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association for the staff and fans of Maryland high school athletics.

Earl Hawkins, President
Edward F. Sparks, Executive Director

Fall Coaches: What You Need To Know Come Region and State Tournament Time

As schools conclude the regular season and begin Region and State Tournament play, a number of items will be required by schools as they progress through the tournament to ensure a smooth operation of the state tournament. The following is a general chronological checklist for coaches and athletic administrators to use as they advance through the tournament.

Regular Season

- Review Tournament Bulletin:** Make sure you have reviewed your state tournament bulletin. If for some reason you do not have a bulletin you may find a copy on the MPSSAA website on your sport specific page. Most frequently asked questions can be answered in the bulletin.
- Contact Regional Director:** Make sure you are in contact with your regional director prior to the end of the regular season. It is the responsibility of the school to work with regional directors to accurately report schedules, results and records for the purpose of tournament seeding. Regional directors can be found in the tournament bulletin and on each sport page of mpssaa.org.
- Submit Final Regular Season Record:** At the conclusion of your final game prior to the draw date, contact your regional director with your record. Region directors must verify and submit to the state committee by the the draw the official records of each of their region's teams.

Regional Tournament

- Draw Day:** The MPSSAA will conduct all draws for the spring sports season via conference call with the each sport committee director. After the draw is complete it will be posted on the MPSSAA website. Schools should identify their respective matchup and plan accordingly to setup all necessary logistics for the regional games.

Fall 2012 Draw Dates

Girl's Field Hockey - October 18
Boy's and Girl's Soccer - October 22
Girl's Volleyball - October 29

- Reporting Scores:** At the conclusion of each regional game, coaches should call in scores to regional directors who will in turn report all regional scores to the MPSSAA. This will allow the MPSSAA to update brackets accordingly. Failure to report scores significantly hinders the ability of the MPSSAA to update brackets and provide athletic administrators the necessary time to schedule the logistics for the next round of contests.
- Regional Quarterfinal Round Champions Team Entry Form:** Schools that advance past the Regional Quarterfinals have an obligation to submit a **team photo** and **team entry form** to the MPSSAA. The deadline for these submissions is 4 p.m. the day following their quarterfinal win. Team entry forms and photos allow the MPSSAA to have all necessary information for the state tournament. Accuracy is extremely important as this information will be duplicated in the state playoff book and the state finals t-shirts.

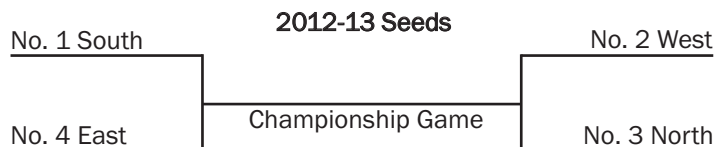
Fall 2012 Team Entry Form Dates

Girl's Field Hockey - October 26
Boy's and Girl's Soccer - October 31
Girl's Volleyball - November 6
Football - November 12

- Regional Final Champion:** Regional champions will be awarded a team plaque and individual certificates to members of the team. At the conclusion of the regional final game, schools should contact their regional director and submit the score of the regional final game and their season record, including all tournament games.

State Tournament

- Media Forms:** Schools competing at the state semifinals need to fill out and bring copies of the media form to the their state semifinal contest. Media forms are found on the respective sport pages of mpssaa.org. These forms are important to highlight school programs as media outlets who may not typically cover you during the season will be writing articles on your success. These forms will be provided to media at the state semifinals and finals.
- Playoff Magazine:** The MPSSAA official state playoff program magazine will be given to all state semifinal participants. Team photo, roster and school information for each state semifinal participating team will be highlighted in the book. All information is based upon the team entry form so accuracy and spelling is important.
- State Tournament:** Schools advancing to the state semifinals and finals should refer to the MPSSAA bulletin for state finals information. Each school will have an opportunity to compete for the state championship in their classification. Based on your seed:



and your opponent's seed will determine whether you are the designated home or away team for both your semifinal and final matchup. Be safe and bring both sets of uniforms. Schools should encourage their fan base to check the MPSSAA Fan Focus for event information and direct them to purchase state final tickets online to avoid lines at the gate the day of the event.

Important Dates To Remember

First Day of Fall Practice: August 11, 2012
 First Play Date of Fall Season: August 31, 2012
 First Day of Winter Practice: November 15, 2012

First Play Date of Winter Season: December 5, 2012
 First Day of Spring Practice (2012): March 1, 2013
 First Play Date of Spring Season (2012): March 21, 2013

September 2012

SEP 6Executive Council – BWI Courtyard Marriott.....9:30 a.m.
 SEP 11Cross Country Committee – BWI Courtyard Marriott9:30 a.m.
 SEP 12Wrestling Committee – BWI Courtyard Marriott9:30 a.m.
 SEP 18Field Hockey Committee – BWI Courtyard Marriott9:30 a.m.
 SEP 19Football Committee – BWI Courtyard Marriott9:30 a.m.
 SEP 20.....Indoor Track Committee – BWI Courtyard Marriott9:30 a.m.
 SEP 28.....Basketball Committees – BWI Courtyard Marriott9:30 a.m.

October 2012

OCT 1Soccer Committees – BWI Courtyard Marriott.....9:30 a.m.
 OCT 2Lacrosse Committees – BWI Courtyard Marriott9:30 a.m.
 OCT 3Scholar Athlete Committee – BWI Courtyard Marriott9:30 a.m.
 OCT 5Swimming Committee – BWI Courtyard Marriott9:30 a.m.
 OCT 9Volleyball Committee – BWI Courtyard Marriott9:30 a.m.
 OCT 10Baseball and Softball Committees – BWI Courtyard Marriott.....9:30 a.m.
 OCT 11.....Track and Field Committee – BWI Courtyard Marriott9:30 a.m.
 OCT 16.....Golf District Tournament Completion Date
 OCT 17Golf Committee—University of Maryland Golf Course9:30 a.m.
OCT 18.....FIELD HOCKEY DRAW - MPSSAA Office.....TBA
 OCT 19.....Last day to submit Bylaw changes for 2012-2013
OCT 22.....CROSS COUNTRY TEAM ENTRY FORMS DUE
OCT 22.....BOYS AND GIRLS SOCCER DRAWS - MPSSAA OfficeTBA
OCT 22-24.....STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT - U. OF MARYLAND GOLF COURSE.....10:00 a.m.
 OCT 23.....Field Hockey First Round
 OCT 25.....Field Hockey Region QF
 OCT 26.....Boys and Girls Soccer First Round
OCT 26.....FIELD HOCKEY TEAM ENTRY FORMS DUE.....4:00 p.m. deadline
OCT 29.....VOLLEYBALL DRAW - MPSSAA OfficeTBA
 OCT 29.....Field Hockey Region SF
 OCT 30.....Soccer Region QF
 OCT 31.....FH Region Finals
OCT 26.....SOCCER TEAM ENTRY FORMS DUE4:00 p.m. deadline

November 2012

NOV 1Classification Committee – BWI Courtyard Marriott9:30 a.m.
 NOV 1Cross Country Region Meets3:00 p.m.
 NOV 1Volleyball First Round
 NOV 2Soccer Region SF
 NOV 4Cross Country Committee – BWI Courtyard Marriott9:30 a.m.
 NOV 4Football Committee – BWI Courtyard Marriott9:30 a.m.
 NOV 5Field Hockey State Semifinals5 and 7 p.m.
 NOV 5Volleyball Region QF
 NOV 6Soccer Region Finals
NOV 6VOLLEYBALL TEAM ENTRY FORMS DUE4:00 p.m. deadline
 NOV 7Field Hockey State Semifinals.....5 and 7 p.m.
 NOV 7Volleyball Region SF
 NOV 9Volleyball Region Finals
 NOV 9Soccer State Semifinals5 and 7:30 p.m.
 NOV 9Football Region SF
NOV 10FIELD HOCKEY STATE FINALS at Washington College11:00 a.m., 1:30, 4 and 6 p.m.
NOV 10CROSS COUNTRY STATE FINALS at Hereford HSAll Day
 NOV 10Soccer State Semifinals12, 2:30, 5 and 7:30 p.m.
 NOV 10Football Region SF
 NOV 10Volleyball Region Finals
 NOV 12Volleyball State Semifinals6 and 8 p.m.
NOV 12FOOTBALL TEAM ENTRY FORMS DUE4:00 p.m. deadline
 NOV 13Tennis Committee – BWI Courtyard Marriott9:30 a.m.
 NOV 13Volleyball State Semifinals6 and 8 p.m.

NOV 14	.....Constitution Committee— BWI Courtyard Marriott	9:30 a.m.
NOV 14	.....Volleyball State Semifinals	6 and 8 p.m.
NOV 15	.....First Practice Date Winter Sports	
NOV 15	.....Volleyball State Semifinals	6 and 8 p.m.
NOV 15	.....BOYS AND GIRLS SOCCER STATE FINALS at UMBC	5 and 7:30 p.m.
NOV 16	.....BOYS AND GIRLS SOCCER STATE FINALS at UMBC	5 and 7:30 p.m.
NOV 16	.....VOLLEYBALL STATE FINALS at Ritchie Coliseum	6 and 8 p.m.
NOV 16	.....Football Region Finals	
NOV 17	.....BOYS AND GIRLS SOCCER STATE FINALS at UMBC.....	12, 2:30, 5 and 7:30 p.m.
NOV 17	.....Football Region Finals	
NOV 19	.....VOLLEYBALL STATE FINALS at Ritchie Coliseum	6 and 8 p.m.
NOV 20	.....Football Press Conference - M&T Bank Stadium	11:30 a.m.
NOV 23	.....Football State Semifinals	
NOV 24	.....Football State Semifinals	
NOV 29	.....FOOTBALL STATE FINALS at M&T Bank Stadium.....	7:00 p.m.
NOV 30	.....FOOTBALL STATE FINALS at M&T Bank Stadium.....	7:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 2012

DEC 1.....	.....FOOTBALL STATE FINALS at M&T Bank Stadium	12:00 and 3:30 p.m.
DEC 5	.....Winter Sports First Play Date	
DEC 6.....	.....MPSSAA Board of Control - BWI Marriott.....	8:45 a.m.
DEC 13	.....Reimbursement Request Deadline - Fall Sports	

MPSSAA Winter Rules Interpretation Clinics

Attendance at a rules interpretation clinic is a certification requirement for officials assigned to MPSSAA contests—both regular and post-season play. COACHES ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND! Please continue to check the officials page on MPSSAA.org for the latest information on all clinic dates. You may also email Donnee Gray at dgray@msde.state.md.us.

Basketball- Al Battista, Interpreter

Sep. 25..6:30 pm..	Frederick/Washington Co ..	South Hagerstown HS
Oct. 2....6:30 pm..	Baltimore Co/Northeastern	Joppatowne HS
Oct. 8....7:00 pm ..	Southern Maryland/SMAC	Westlake HS
Oct. 9....7:00 pm ..	Baltimore/Carroll Co	Franklin HS
Oct. 10..7:00 pm ..	Baltimore City	Poly HS
Oct. 17..6:30 pm..	Southern Maryland/PG	C H Flowers HS
Oct. 18..7:00 pm ..	Eastern Shore	Dorchester Co. Tech Ctr.
Nov. 3 ..9:00 am..	Montgomery Co.....	Springbrook HS
Nov. 7 ..6:00 pm..	Anne Arundel County	Arundel HS

Swimming - David Stark, Interpreter

Oct. 10..7:00 pm ..	Baltimore City	McDonough School
Oct. 16..6:00 pm..	Harford County	Patterson Mill HS
Oct. 17..7:00 pm ..	Prince George's County	C.H. Flowers HS
Oct. 19..7:00 pm ..	Frederick County	Frederick HS
Oct. 25 7:00 pm ..	Montgomery County	Mont. Co. Bd. of Ed. Office
Oct. 29 6:00 pm..	Southern Maryland	Great Mills HS
Nov. 7 ..6:00 pm..	Anne Arundel County	Arundel HS
Nov. 8 ..6:00 pm..	Eastern Shore	Talbot Co. Board of Ed.

Wrestling - Bruce Malinowski, Interpreter

Oct. 2....7:00 pm ..	Potomac Valley/Washington Co	South Hagerstown HS
Oct. 3....7:00 pm ..	Eastern Shore	Parkside HS
Oct. 17..7:00 pm ..	WMWOA	Blake HS - Ampitheater
Nov. 5 ..7:00 pm ..	Baltimore	Poly HS (RM 115)
Nov. 7 ..6:00 pm..	Anne Arundel Co.....	Arundel HS

