



# NEWSLETTER

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## ONLINE TICKETS

Online tickets for TSSAA championship events are available via GoFan.com. Member schools can sell tickets electronically during the regular season! For more information, contact [pnoles@huddleinc.com](mailto:pnoles@huddleinc.com).



OFFICIAL DIGITAL TICKET PROVIDER  
[gofan.co/TSSAA](http://gofan.co/TSSAA)

## Classroom with a Scoreboard

As school districts build their budgets for next year, they will include millions of dollars that are allocated in these spending plans to pay for scholastic sports. In this time of escalating property taxes, rising costs, weakened pensions and painful financial realities, the reflective individual could not be blamed for asking if the considerable public cost of scholastic sports programs is worth it. Does it make sense for schools to still be in the sports business during an educational funding crisis?

To answer that question, it should be acknowledged that the phrase *extracurricular* is one that has always been misleading and should be discarded. If we are going to spend this much money on athletic programs, they need to be viewed as *cocurricular* – a vital, integral and uniquely important part of the comprehensive educational experience.

Institutions like Princeton University promote the concept of 'Education Through Athletics' and, if that credo is important enough to be adopted by our Ivy League higher education brethren, it certainly should be embraced by high school institutions everywhere. The true value and purpose of our sports programs, and why we do it and the public pays for it, is for students in public education to gain the educational benefits that are provided by scholastic athletics.

When we look at the attributes that make an individual successful in life – the real, meaningful traits that truly translate to achievement and cannot be measured by standardized tests – we begin to see the true educational value of our athletic programs.

Perseverance, a strong work ethic, dedication, resiliency, dealing with adversity – attributes truly needed for achievement and valued by employers – are all characteristics honed and developed by participation in sports.

It is not only these intrinsic values that are built by our high school sports programs, but key components of intelligence and analytical thinking that are enhanced by participating in athletics. In fact, when you see a high school game or event for any sport, you are viewing perhaps the most authentic form of assessment that exists in education. The student-athletes are being asked to strategize, think critically, act selflessly and work toward a common goal as part of a team. Like any valuable form of instruction, the activity involves the construction of knowledge and has value and meaning far beyond the classroom, which in this case is the athletic arena.

Granted, high school sports are not recreational activities, and coaches and administrators are expected to put forth competitive programs, but schools are not professional franchises. They are institutions of learning and the ultimate evaluation of any scholastic athletic program, and the justification for spending community funds should be the educational value of the program for each participant. Did the entire endeavor, from the first day of practice to the final whistle of the last game, help us produce a better student, citizen and person?

*By Michael Nitti from the NFHS High School Today. Nitti is superintendent of the Ewing Public Schools in Ewing, New Jersey.*

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE RECOGNITION

TSSAA is proud to recognize Rita Whitaker as its distinguished service honoree as a contributor.

Rita Hope Whitaker is in her 22nd year at Middle Tennessee State University, where she serves as the facility manager for the Murphy Center Complex. Rita oversees the facilities management for Floyd Stadium, Murphy Center, and Kennon Hall of Fame. She also serves as an adjunct instructor in the Health and Human Performance Department at MTSU.



Rita is a two-time graduate of Middle Tennessee State University. In 1998, she received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree and in 2003, she received a Master of Science degree in Sport Management. Rita is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Health and Human Performance at MTSU and is planning to graduate in August 2018.

For over two decades, Rita Whitaker has assisted the TSSAA at numerous state championship events on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University. A lot of her work goes unnoticed, but the events could not run as smoothly as they do without her efforts and expertise.

Rita is a native of Lynchburg, Tennessee and has a son, Joseph, who is 27 years old.

TSSAA proudly salutes Rita Whitaker for her many years of service and contributions to high school athletics in Tennessee.



**TSSAAsports.com** HOME OF THE TSSAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS  
CHAMPIONSHIP BRACKETS, RECORDS, SCOREBOARDS, SCHEDULES, ROSTERS AND MORE

Fifty-four years of basketball tournament history is now available on TSSAAsports.com. Visitors to the site can view final box scores for all state tournament basketball games from 1964 to the current year and most tournaments after 1980 have halftime stats as well.

More recent tournaments (since 2000) will also have play-by-play listings. TSSAA thanks Hall of Fame member Nelson Smotherman for providing us with his extensive archive of records to make this addition possible.

## Congratulations to the BlueCross Basketball State Champions

TSSAA would like to congratulate the following schools in winning the 2018 BlueCross State Basketball Championships!

### GIRLS

Division II, Class A - Webb School of Knoxville  
Division II, Class AA - Brentwood Academy  
Division I, Class A - Greenfield High School  
Division I, Class AA - Upperman High School  
Division I, Class AAA - Riverdale High School

### BOYS

Division II, Class A - Grace Christian (Knoxville)  
Division II, Class AA - Brentwood Academy  
Division I, Class A - Loretto High School  
Division I, Class AA - Hamilton High School  
Division I, Class AAA - Memphis East High School

# SPRING FLING INFORMATION

## 2018 Spring Fling May 22-25, 2018

### Spring Fling Venues:

**Track and Field** - MTSU

**Tennis** - Adams Tennis Complex  
at Old Fort Park

**Baseball** -

Class A - Riverdale & MTCS

Class AA - Smyrna & Blackman

Class AAA - Oakland & Siegel

Division II - LaVergne & Wilson Central  
Championship Games - MTSU

**Boys' Soccer** - Siegel Soccer Complex

**Softball** - McKnight and Starplex Fields

### **ADMISSION**

**1 Session per day - \$10 per session**

## 2018 Spring Fling Schedule

### Tuesday, May 22, 2018

**Tennis** - Team Semifinals @ Adams  
Tennis Complex (A-AA, AAA, D-II) - 9:00  
a.m.

**Baseball** - MTCS (A); Riverdale HS (A);  
Blackman HS (AA);

Smyrna HS (AA); Siegel HS (AAA);

Oakland (AAA); LaVergne HS (DII-A);

Wilson Central HS (DII-AA) - 4:00 p.m. (2  
games all fields)

**Soccer** - Richard Siegel Park - 1:30  
p.m.; 2:00 p.m. (Division I, Class A  
Quarterfinals - 2 fields); 4:00 p.m.; 4:30  
p.m. (Division I, Class AAA Quarterfinals  
- 2 fields); 6:30 p.m.; 7:00 p.m. (Division  
I, Class AA Quarterfinals - 2 fields)

**Softball** - Starplex & McKnight  
Ballfields - 4:00 p.m.

4 fields/Starplex, 2 fields/McKnight (2  
games all fields)

### Wednesday, May 23, 2018

**Tennis** - Team Finals @Adams Tennis  
Complex (A-AA, AAA, D-II) - 9:00 a.m.

**Baseball** - MTCS (A); Riverdale HS (A);  
Blackman HS (AA);

Smyrna HS (AA); Siegel HS (AAA);

Oakland (AAA); LaVergne HS (DII-A);

Wilson Central HS (DII-AA) - 10:00 a.m.  
(2 games all fields); 5:00 p.m. (1 game)

**Softball** - Starplex & McKnight

Ballfields - 10:00 a.m.

4 fields Starplex & 2 fields McKnight (2  
games each field)

Starplex - 4:00 p.m. (4 fields) 2 games  
all fields

**Soccer** - Richard Siegel Park - 2:00 p.m.  
(Division I, Class A Semifinals - 2 fields);  
4:00 p.m. (Division I, Class AAA  
Semifinals - 2 fields); 4:30 p.m. (Division  
I, Class AA Semifinals - 2 fields); 6:30  
p.m. (Division II-A Semifinals - 2 fields);  
7:00 p.m. (Division II-AA Semifinals - 2  
fields)

**Track & Field** - MTSU (Division I - Small  
Class)

Girls & Boys Field Events - 9:00 a.m.

Girls & Boys Running Events - 3:00 p.m.

### Thursday, May 24, 2018

**Tennis** - Singles & Doubles  
Quarterfinals and Semifinals @ Adams  
Tennis Complex - 9:00 a.m. (A-AA, AAA,  
D-II)

**Track & Field** - MTSU (Division I - Large  
Class)

Girls & Boys Field Events - 9:00 a.m.

Girls & Boys Running Events - 3:00 p.m.

**Baseball** - **Division II:**

DII-A Championship - MTSU 10:00 a.m.

DII-AA Championship - MTSU 12:30  
p.m.

If necessary, games to follow.

**Division I:**

MTCS (A); Riverdale HS (A); Blackman HS  
(AA); Smyrna HS (AA);

Oakland HS (AAA); Siegel HS (AAA); 2:00  
p.m.; if necessary, games to follow.

**Softball** - Starplex - 10:00 a.m. (4 fields,  
2 games all fields)

Starplex - 4:00 p.m. (3 fields, 2 games  
all fields)

Starplex - 4:00 p.m. (Starplex #3) -  
Division II, Class A Championship

Starplex - 5:30 p.m. (Starplex #3) -  
Division II, Class AA Championship

**Soccer** - Richard Siegel Park

DII-A Championship- 4:00 p.m.

DII-AA Championship - 6:30 p.m.

### Friday, May 25, 2018

**Tennis** - Adams Tennis Complex -  
Singles & Doubles Girls' Finals (A-AA,  
AAA, D-II) - 9:00 a.m.

Old Fort - Singles & Doubles Boys'  
Finals (A-AA, AAA, D-II) - 11:00 a.m.

**Track & Field** - MTSU (Division II)

3200 Meter Run (Division II-AA only) -  
8:00 a.m.

Girls & Boys Field Events - 9:00 a.m.

Girls & Boys Running Events - 3:00 p.m.

**Softball** -

Starplex - 9:00 a.m. (3 fields, Division I)  
- 1 game each field

Starplex - Championship Games

Field #3 - Division II, Class A - 10:00  
A.M. (If Game)

Field #3 - Division II, Class AA - (If Game  
- Time TBA)

Field #4 - Division I, Class A - 2:00 P.M.  
(If Game - 5:30 P.M.)

Field #2 - Division I, Class AA - 2:30 P.M.  
(If Game - 6:00 P.M.)

Field #1 - Division I, Class AAA - 3:00  
P.M. (If Game - 6:30 P.M.)

**Baseball** -

Class A Championship - MTSU - 11:00  
a.m.

Class AA Championship - MTSU - 2:00  
p.m.

Class AAA Championship - MTSU - 5:00  
p.m.

**Soccer** - Richard Siegel Park

Division I, Class A Championship - 11:00  
a.m.

Division I, Class AAA Championship -  
1:30 p.m.

Division I, Class A Championship - 4:00  
p.m.

### Recent Bylaw Changes

Below is a summary of the TSSAA/TMSAA Bylaw changes which, unless otherwise specified, will go into effect at the beginning of the 2018-19 school year. Each change will be discussed at the TIAAA Conference in April. They will also be discussed during the Administrators' Meetings which will begin the last week of September.

Please be reminded that the TSSAA Board of Control's mandated heat, lightning, and concussion policies apply to every sanctioned sport during practice and games. The "Heat Policy" has been updated and approved by the Board. The TSSAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee is reviewing the other policies as well. The state law concerning "Cardiac Arrest" must also be followed at all times. This information is always available on our website ([tssaa.org](http://tssaa.org)). It is vital that every administrator and coach have copies of these policies and understand their importance. They must be followed at all times in all sports whether indoors or outdoors.

The following is a summary of the Bylaw changes and where they can be found in the TSSAA or TMSAA handbook. An updated version of the TSSAA and TMSAA handbooks will be available on our website prior to member schools receiving the 2018-19 printed copies. The changes are as follows:

1. Article I, Section 3 (Membership) of the TSSAA Bylaws:

This change states that, effective with the 2019-20 school year, for post-season tournament competition, all public schools will participate in Division I, and all independent schools will compete in Division II. Public and independent schools may continue to compete against each other during regular season competition.

2. Article IV, Section 8 (TSSAA Sports Calendar) of the TSSAA Bylaws:

This proposal changed the maximum number of regular season contests allowed in girls' wrestling and wrestling from 18 dates to 22 dates. There is no change in the number of matches an individual student-athlete can wrestle, which is 55 matches.

3. Article II, Section 18 (Amateur Rule) and Sections 19 & 20 (Award Rule) of the TSSAA/TMSAA Bylaws:

This amendment simply states the bowling, golf, and tennis students will abide by USBC, USGA, and USTA regulations in accepting pay, items of commercial value, and awards. The statement in the Award Rule that did not allow student-athletes to accept items of commercial value from non-school organizations was removed.

4. Article I, Section 10 (Rules Meetings for Coaches) of the TSSAA Bylaws:

This change requires coaches to attend a state rules meeting or complete the online rules meeting in their sport every year by a set deadline, or the school will be fined \$50.00. The coach must complete a make-up online rules meeting if they missed the face-to-face meeting or did not complete the online meeting by the original deadline. If not, the head coach will not be eligible to coach in the post-season tournament series. The school is still fined if the coach takes the make-up meeting after the original deadline.

5. Article II, Section 21 (Independent Game Participation) of the TMSAA Bylaws:

This rule only applies to basketball and football at the middle school level. It has not changed at the high school level.