



GHSAA

"ITEMS OF INTEREST"

April 2019

GHSAA Has Received Much Attention During Legislative Session

As the legislative session comes to an end (Tuesday, April 2 marks the final day), the GHSAA has certainly drawn attention. At the time of this writing, it seems certain that SB 60 (Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention) will pass.

The GHSAA will work with the State Board of Education to provide educational materials for coaches, players and parents to inform them of symptoms and to outline return-to-play policies as well as the process to disseminate and sign off on the training and information meetings. The process will be similar to the concussion protocol and will be included in the pre-participation packets. The work to provide guidelines will begin once the bill is signed by the Governor.

The "Tim Tebow Act" is still alive but time is growing short and there are many questions and issues in the House Education Committee that have yet to be answered. My best guess at this time is that the bill will be held for this session, but it is surely to resurface next year. I want to stress that every bill is never completely gone until the session is over.

The GHSAA board of trustees has discussed this bill extensively and concerns are that there is no validation of academic records and home-schooled students will be deemed eligible simply on the word of the parents. Unlike all other students, home-schooled students will be ruled eligible with no validation of grades by the local school. Local control in terms of school districts is important in my opinion and this is absent in this bill.

While keeping in mind that this bill comes up during each legislative session, it has currently passed the senate and is in committee in the House. Given these facts, the GHSAA Board of Trustees will consider a proposal to allow home-schooled students to participate with local board approval that allows for participation and grade validation. In short, the decision would lie with the local boards of education. Should the proposal make it out of the Board of Trustee meeting, the by-law would be voted on by the State Education Committee.

Senate Bill 86 seeks to separate public and private schools with enrollments of 640 students or less into different regions as well as playoffs. SB 165 seeks to create an association to govern athletics in Georgia which would essentially dissolve the GHSAA by removing the State Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees completely and creating other appointed governance boards to provide administration and a public liaison committee to hear complaints.

As the GHSAA is currently structured, its members elect representatives to provide by-laws and govern the association. This bill would eliminate this current structure. Eligibility would be very limited should this bill pass. Students would be eligible once they begin practice or enter a school to begin the year. It also mandates that where a student lives, who he/she lives with, and where they went to school the previous year shall not be considered when determining eligibility.

Neither of these bills made it past "crossover day" but as I stated, any bill can be attached to another bill after this day so it's never truly gone until the legislative session ends.

The GHSAA has scheduled public forums throughout the state to allow the association to inform the public of current issues, how it operates and to receive input from all stakeholders. We held the first forum March 27 in Cartersville and the meeting was informative, well-attended and a great deal of input was received from member schools, officials and the general public.

Three more meetings are scheduled at the following schools:

April 2, 2019- Houston County High School

April 8, 2019- North Atlanta High School

April 9, 2019- Lowndes High School

I hope to see you at one of these meetings, and please contact me if I can help you in any way.

– Dr. James R. Hines, Jr., Executive Director



Join the conversation on social media @OfficialGHSAA on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION Newsletter

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**- GHSA STAFF -
Areas of Responsibility**

ROBIN HINES (extension 41)

- Executive Director -
Administration, By-Law Interpretations, Hardship Rulings,
Football Playoffs, Coaches Education Program

ERNIE YARBROUGH (extension 27)

- Assistant Executive Director -
Basketball, Softball, Track, Golf & Officials Training

DON CORR (extension 34)

- Associate Director -
Baseball, Volleyball, Wrestling, Sports Medicine

TOMMY WHITTLE (extension 23)

- Associate Director -
Literary, One-Act Play, Lacrosse

CARROR WRIGHT (extension 39)

- Associate Director -
Coach's Liaison, Compliance & Transfer Eligibility, Sportsmanship

PENNY PITTS MITCHELL (extension 22)

- Associate Director -
Cheerleading, Gymnastics, Dance, Esports, Student Leadership, Title IX

KEVIN GIDDENS (extension 25)

- Associate Director -
Football, Cross Country, & Soccer

STEVE FIGUEROA (extension 26)

- Director of Information/Media Services -
Media Coordination, Newsletter, Constitution & Calendar, Tennis

PAM THOMPSON (extension 30)

- Officials' Registrar -
Officials' Registration, Testing & Online Clinics, Service Awards

TANYA ANDERSON (extension 29)

- Administrative Assistant -
Event Sanctioning, School Passes, Directory,
Online Clinics for Coaches, Trophies & Medals

JULIE JONES (extension 24)

- Administrative Assistant -
Coaches Education, Dues, Web Site Content, Entry Notification

SHERI EUBANKS (extension 0)

- Receptionist -
Hardship Hearings, Fines, School System/Retiree Passes,
Publication Orders

ROBIN BULLINGTON (extension 33)

- Office Manager -
Budgeting and Finances, Playoff Finances, Staff Procedures

STACEY BASILICI (extension 32)

- Administrative Assistant -
Non-transfer Eligibility, Literary & One-Act Play Liaison,
Riftery Liaison, School Contact Coordinator

GHSA Licensed Products

This month's featured licensees are: **Jostens**, official championship rings and jewelry (jostens.com); **Musco Sports Lighting**, leader in developing sports-lighting technology solutions (musco.com); **FieldTurf**, official artificial turf (fieldturf.com); **Hudl**, official video exchange service (hudl.com); **College Football Hall of Fame**, the perfect destination for family, football and fun! (cfbhall.com); **Hartwell Studio Works**, creating unique, dynamic and protectable spirit logos / marks (hartwellstudioworks.com), and **TeamIP**, official merchandiser and online store (teamip.com).

STATE CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

BASKETBALL - Boys

7A	McEachern High School
6A	Tri-Cities High School
5A	Buford High School
4A	Carver-Columbus High School
3A	Morgan County High School
2A	Therrell High School
A (Public)	Calhoun County High School
A (Private)	St. Francis

BASKETBALL - Girls

7A	Westlake High School
6A	Lanier High School
5A	Buford High School
4A	Carver-Columbus High School
3A	Johnson-Savannah High School
2A	Douglass-Atlanta High School
A (Public)	Marion County High School
A (Private)	Holy Innocents'

LITERARY

7A	South Forsyth High School
6A	Creekview High School
5A	Buford High School
4A	Columbus High School
3A	Calhoun High School
2A	Bremen High School
A (Public)	Georgia Military College
A (Private)	Lakeview Academy

Winning a State Championship is an outstanding achievement for the GHSA schools, athletes and coaches, and a distinction that should create a great deal of pride in the community.

Sharks Win 7th AAASP Title in Row

The Houston County Sharks won their seventh consecutive AAASP Wheelchair Basketball State Championship when they defeated the Gwinnett Heat 39-17 on March 8 at the Macon Centreplex. The rest of the basketball winners are pictured on Pages 4-5 of this newsletter.



Photographs of all the state championship Basketball teams in this newsletter were provided by Ty Freeman.

'Gold Week' is April 8-13, 2019

Each school day in America, 46 kids are diagnosed with childhood cancer, the leading disease killer of children in America ages 1 to 19, yet less than 4% of federal cancer research funding is allocated to childhood cancers. The Georgia High School Association (GHSA) is partnering with the Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research (Rally) to be "GoldStrong" for childhood cancer awareness during spring sports the week of April 8-13.

GHSA first partnered with Rally to demonstrate their support for National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in September 2016. The organization encouraged Georgia high school students, athletes and parents to be "GoldStrong" during the week of Sept. 12, 2016. The initiative raised more than \$100,000 statewide for childhood cancer research.

"We are honored to partner with the Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research to encourage our schools to bring attention to this worthy cause," said Dr. Robin Hines, GHSA executive director. "The GHSA and its member schools are affected by this disease far too often, and we are excited to do our part to raise awareness and funds for researching childhood cancers. We encourage everyone to support childhood cancer research in April!"

Georgia high school students and parents can fundraise and be "GoldStrong" by wearing gold T-shirts, wristbands and ribbons, in compliance with school uniform and dress codes, throughout the entire month of April. Then, the week of April 8, Georgia high school athletes are encouraged to be "GoldStrong" at home games and meets by wearing gold apparel and accessories that comply with the following GHSA uniform restrictions:

- Soccer, baseball, tennis and lacrosse teams can wear gold jerseys, socks or wristbands at home games.

"We are thrilled to partner with the Georgia High School Association again this spring for teams to be 'GoldStrong' for childhood cancer awareness," said Dean Crowe, Rally founder and CEO. "We love seeing kids empowered to help kids, and that's exactly what these student athletes are doing when their teams are 'GoldStrong' – they are bringing awareness to their peers who are fighting, have fought or have lost their battle with cancer. This is crucial to our mission of raising awareness and funds for childhood cancer research to find better treatments and, ultimately, cures."

For more information on how to get involved with Rally, or to donate, visit RallyFoundation.org or @RallyFoundation on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Suggested "GoldStrong" social media hashtags include #GoldStrong and #RallyOn. Schools can also elect to participate in a Rally 4 Quarters 4 Research fundraiser, a loose change collection, if they desire. For more information, please email Jacob@RallyFoundation.org.

GHSA Leads NFHS Broadcast Program In Revenue Returned to Schools

The NFHS recently sent an update on the School Broadcast Program and the revenue the live streaming program has returned to member schools. The program has surpassed \$2.3 million in returns to schools and Georgia leads the nation by a wide margin.

Below is a list of the top 10 programs, showing how much money has been earned by the schools in those states:

1. Georgia	\$487,487
2. Illinois	\$287,443
3. California	\$232,123
4. Tennessee	\$165,563
5. Alabama	\$155,901
6. Colorado	\$232,123
7. Florida	\$121,295
8. Texas	\$119,372
9. Montana	\$75,918
10. Michigan	\$68,621

SBP is a huge part of the success of the NFHS Network, and we are having the biggest and best year yet. Thanks for your continued support. Let's keep it up!

GHSA Holding 'Public Input' Meetings

The Georgia High School Association will hold four public meetings to inform stakeholders of the operations of the GHSA and to provide an opportunity for input from school systems, member schools and the general public. Feel free to contact the GHSA for more information prior to the meetings which are listed below. All meetings begin at 6:00 p.m.

The first meeting was March 27 at Cartersville High School. Below is the schedule for the remaining meetings:

- April 2, 2019- Houston County High School
- April 8, 2019- North Atlanta High School
- April 9, 2019- Lowndes High School

Stay Connected to the GHSA!

All coaches, athletic directors, schools and teams, join the conversation on social media @OfficialGHSA on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Instagram for all the latest association news and live championship updates.



State Basketball Champions - 2019



7A Girls: Westlake



6A Girls: Lanier



5A Girls: Buford



4A Girls: Carver-Columbus



3A Girls: Johnson-Savannah



2A Girls: Douglass-Atlanta



A (private) Girls: Holy Innocents'



A (public) Girls: Marion County

State Basketball Champions - 2019



7A Boys: McEachern



6A Boys: Tri-Cities



5A Boys: Buford



4A Boys: Carver-Columbus



3A Boys: Morgan County



2A Boys: Therrell



A (private) Boys: St. Francis



A (public) Boys: Calhoun County

Bremen Transforms Stadium Experience With Musco's LED Lighting

Bremen High School, in Haralson County, is among the latest schools to energize the stadium experience for its baseball team and fans by installing Musco's Total Light Control—TLC for LED system.

While LED sports lighting continues to emerge as a cost-effective option, schools are finding out that LED lighting from different manufacturers produces vastly different results.

In fact, high schools have had to replace recently-installed LED lighting from other manufacturers with Musco's TLC for LED system to resolve complaints from neighbors about light spill and glare.

Bremen's new lighting features patented glare control technology, greatly reducing glare and spill.

And it is a complete system with poles, cross arms, fixtures, and electrical components designed to work together, simplifying installation and providing better reliability.

The LED system significantly reduces energy consumption compared to metal halide lighting.

Musco's Control-Link® facility management system enables the school to turn the lights on and off instantly, from anywhere, with the touch of a smart phone.



Also, it provides 24/7 proactive monitoring and scheduling support from a call center.

Musco's 25-year warranty covers every part and all labor, eliminating maintenance costs for Bremen well into the future.

For more information about Musco Lighting and the TLC for LED system please contact Jeremy Jordan at 678-428-7700 or Jeremy.jordan@musco.com or Rob Staples at 706-870-2177 or rob.staples@musco.com.

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GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA
MARRIOTT / Macon City Center - MACON, GEORGIA
Magnolia Ballroom
April 15, 2019 - 9:00 a.m.

Call To Order	Glenn White, President
Pledge of Allegiance	Lisa Moore Williams, Vice President
Invocation	Carror Wright, Associate Director
Roll Call	Steve Figueroa, Media Director
Adoption of Agenda	Executive Committee

(NOTE: the following is a condensed version of the April 2019 agenda. The full version may be found on the GHSA web site.)

OLD BUSINESS:

Second vote on the following Constitutional proposal:

1. **Proposal** to amend Article IV, Section 3A on page 8 of the Constitution by adding to the end of the first sentence the following language (new wording is in italic): . . . , plus one member from each classification (*as selected by a vote of the BOT representatives in that respective classification*) and three (3) at-large members, two (2) of which must be female and one (1) of which must represent a private school, to be appointed by the BOT and approved by a vote of the State Executive Committee.” (Note: This proposal was passed unanimously by the BOT at a meeting on March 4, 2019)

COMMITTEE PROPOSALS:

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1. **Proposal** to allow “home schooled” students to participate in GHSA activities for the member school in whose attendance zone they reside. Decisions regarding participation, grade validation and discipline are determined by the local education agency. (GHSA Office) (Note: This was tabled at the March 18, 2019 BOT meeting.)
2. **Proposal** to increase from one (1) to two (2) the number of officially-dressed volleyball officials required at all GHSA varsity volleyball matches. (GHSA Office)
3. **Proposal** to add the following language to by-law 4.41, item “c-7” on page 43 (new wording is in italic):
 Two (2) Certified Athletic Trainers employed by the school system in grades 9-12 and recommended by the principal. *A copy of their Georgia Athletic Training license must be provided. Additional Certified Athletic Trainers employed by the school system may be requested.* (GHSA Office)
4. **Proposal** to create new item “g” in by-law 2.67 on page 31 as follows (new wording in italic):
 (g) When the WBGT reading is over 86, ice towels and spray bottles filled with ice water should be available at the “cool zone” to aid the cooling process AND cold immersion tubs must be available for the benefit of any player showing early signs of heat illness. *In the event of a serious EHI, the principle of **Cool First, Transport Second** should be utilized and implemented by the first medical provider onsite until cooling is completed (core temperature of 103 or less).* (GHSA Office)
5. **Proposal** to add the following language to by-law 2.54 on page 27:
 CPR (minimum compression only) and AED training must occur prior to any team activity or within a maximum of 30 days from the start of team activity and must be renewed at a minimum of every two years. (GHSA Office)
6. **Proposal** to create a new item “c” in by-law 2.21 on page 24 to read as follows:
 (c) The Emergency Action Plan (EAP) should include the following:
 - 1) The venue specific EAP should be reviewed and rehearsed annually and prior to each sport season.
 - a) Recommended personnel include local Emergency Medical Services (EMS), school public safety officials, school administrators, on-site medical personnel or school medical staff (team physicians or athletic trainers) and all pertinent coaching staff members.
 - 2) The venue-specific EAP should be accessible to all involved in a potential emergent situation.
 - 3) All emergency equipment, including Automatic External Defibrillators (AED), which is available on-site should be listed on the EAP.
 - 4) The EAP should identify key personnel and their responsibilities to carry out the plan of action with a designated chain of command.
 - 5) The EAP should contain appropriate contact information for the local and/or responding EMS personnel.
 - 6) The EAP should contain the facility address, GPS coordinates, location and contact information.
 - 7) A medical timeout is recommended prior to all GHSA sanctioned events and games to review EAP. (GHSA Office)
7. **Proposal** to revise by-law 2.16 on page 24, requiring schools that want to play non-region schedules in football, basketball, baseball and softball to inform the GHSA office of this intention at least 30 days prior to the first playing date for that sport. (GHSA Office)

(more)

AGENDA, continued

8. **Proposal** to allow appeals of the GHSA Age Rule. (GHSA Office) (**Note:** This is a Constitutional change and will require two votes. This is the first vote)

BASEBALL COMMITTEE

1. **Proposal** to allow schools to hold **fall try-outs** in baseball, choosing one of two options: Option 1 - Have five (5) consecutive days from the start of the school year until the end of August. Option 2 - Have three (3) designated Saturdays during the fall semester, each consisting of no more than five (5) hours maximum per day. (Johns Creek HS)
2. **Proposal** to allow **sub-varsity** teams the option of using free substitution and a batting order of 10 players if agreed upon by both coaches before the game. (Lineup cards must be presented to the umpire before the game and all subs and courtesy runners reported when changes are made. The batting order shall remain the same throughout the game). (Johns Creek HS)

BASKETBALL COMMITTEE

1. **Proposal** to mandate the use of a 30-second shot clock for all GHSA varsity games. (Region 5, Class 6A)
2. **Proposal** to implement the use of a Player-Control Restricted Arc for all GHSA games. The Arc would be four (4) feet from the center diameter of the basket rim. Illegal contact inside this Arc would be called a blocking foul unless the contact is a flagrant foul. (Region 5, Class 6A)
3. **Proposal** to increase the number of floor passes allowed per team at the state playoffs from six (6) to 10. (Model High School)

ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE

1. **Proposal** to require **all** transfer students to complete a transfer form that has to be reviewed for accuracy and approved by the coach and principal from the previous school. On the form, the former coach should be able to declare whether or not the student left the program in good standing. If the coach declares that the student did not leave in good standing, then that student should be denied automatic eligibility and should be reviewed as a hardship applicant. (Region 4AAA)
2. **Proposal** to revise items "f" and "g" in by-law 1.45 on page 16 as follows (new wording is in italic):
 - (f) Students enrolled in grade 8 in a middle school or junior high school which is a feeder school to the member high school may participate in Spring football practice. *Eighth grade students at a non-feeder school that has no system high school may participate in spring football practice at the member high school serving the student's area of residence. Such a student must be pre-enrolled at that member high school, and once pre-enrolled, the student has established eligibility at that high school.*
 - (g) Students enrolled in grade 8 in a middle school or junior high school which is a feeder school to the member high school may try out for cheerleader, *volleyball and softball* at the high school. Eighth grade students at a non-feeder school that has no system high school may participate in cheerleader, *volleyball and softball* tryouts at the member high school serving the student's area of residence. Such a student must be pre-enrolled at that member high school, and once pre-enrolled, the student has established eligibility at that high school.

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE

1. **Proposal** to have the sideline officials change sides for the second half of a game. (Region 2A)
2. **Proposal** to allow the head football coach access to review the game officials grades on their game evaluations. (Region 2A)
3. **Proposal** to allow the head football coaches the option of evaluating officials immediately after the contest. (Region 2A)

GOLF COMMITTEE

Proposal to add an item "D-1" on page 65 that reads as follows: *Schools may use one (1) Saturday during the regular season as a playing date that does not count as one of the 12 allowed playing dates.* (Columbus HS)

RECLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE

Will meet to continue process towards reclassifying member schools for the 2020-21 school year.

SOCCER COMMITTEE

1. **Proposal** to change the overtime rule back to what it was in 2017-18: two (2) 10-minute periods, played to their entirety, to be followed by A-B-A-B penalty kicks if the teams are still tied after the OT periods. (First Presbyterian & Denmark HS).
2. **Proposal** to change the overtime rule to two (2) 10-minute "Golden Goal" periods, whereby the first team to score during either period will be the winner. A shootout of A-B-A-B penalty kicks will take place if neither team scores during the OT periods. (Denmark HS).

SOFTBALL COMMITTEE

Proposal to limit games to 30, including all regular-season, invitational tournament and region tournament games. (GHSA Office).

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Robin Hines will address the committee on several issues and introduce some guest speakers.

GHSA - April Calendar - 2019

April

- 1 Deadline for notification of entry in Gymnastics, Lacrosse, Riflery, Class A Soccer, Golf, Swimming, SP Softball, Volleyball, Esports, Dance and Wrestling for 2019-20
- 13 Complete Riflery Semifinals, Region Tennis and Area Slow Pitch Softball
- 15 State Executive Committee meeting in Macon
- 15 Report Region Tennis, Riflery Semifinals & Slow Pitch Softball results by 9 a.m.
- 17, 18 Slow Pitch Softball Sectional Tournament
- 18 Complete First Round State Tennis (Area Class A); Complete Area/Region Soccer
- 19 **Good Friday**, GHSA Office closed
- 20 Complete Region Baseball
- 22 Report Region Baseball results to GHSA Office by 9 a.m.
- 23 Complete Second Round State Tennis (First Round for Class A)
- 23 Girls First Round State Soccer (A, 3A, 5A & 7A)
- 24 Boys First Round State Soccer (A, 3A, 5A & 7A)
- 24, 25 Slow Pitch Softball State Tournament
- 24-26 State Baseball Playoffs - First Round
- 25 Girls First Round State Soccer (2A, 4A & 6A)
- 26 Boys First Round State Soccer (2A, 4A & 6A)
- 27 Gymnastics State Preliminary Meet; State Riflery Meet, Complete Region Track
- 27 Complete Area Lacrosse; Complete Quarterfinal Round State Tennis
- 29 File reports of Region Track and Area Lacrosse winners by 9 a.m.
- 30 Complete Semifinal Round State Tennis

GHSA Sponsors

