



GHSA

“Items of Interest”

March 2011

Make Sure You Know Which Bats Are Legal This Spring

The national playing rules for high school baseball (published by the National Federation of State High School Associations) include a one-year remedy for some of the problems associated with bats. In an attempt to minimize risk to players, the NFHS Baseball Rules Committee approved a change in bat standards that will begin in 2012.

In the meanwhile, organizations regulating other levels of baseball competition made more stringent restrictions on bats before 2012 – especially composite bats. The NFHS believed that liability concerns required immediate attention be given to this matter. After negotiations with the Sporting Goods Manufacturers’ Association, a set of guidelines was instituted. This information was placed on the GHSA web site and was included in the mandatory online rules clinics for coaches and umpire.

Regardless of any rules changes about non-wood bats, all bats must comply with the rules found in the NFHS Rules Book (Rules 1-3-2 through 1-3-5). After those rules have been accounted for, there is a need to understand the requirements for bats of differing construction.



Here is a simplified summary of what constitutes a legal bat for the 2011 season:

1. Any wood bat that meets the aforementioned standards.
2. Aluminum bats with BESR markings – NOTE: these bats will not be legal in 2012.
3. Any aluminum or composite bat with BBCOR markings – NOTE: these bats will continue to be legal in 2012.
4. Any bat with a composite barrel and BESR markings that has been granted a waiver from the NFHS – NOTE: waivers are granted to the manufacturer and not to individual bat owners.

The list of composite bats that have been granted a waiver can be found at www.nfhs.org (Click on “Baseball”; and then “Baseball Resources; and finally “2010-11 NFHS Compliant Baseball Bat Search Information). For a more detailed listing of all bats, you can go to <http://www.mme.wsu.edu/~ssl/certified/besr/certified.html>. This web site is made available by Washington State University where a great deal of the bat research is being conducted for all levels of competition.

It is important that coaches understand that only legal bats are to be used in practices and games. It is important for umpires to understand that equipment needs to be checked before each game. **Therefore, the GHSA wants a copy of the bat list off the NFHS web site to be in the home dugout for each game.** That way umpires will be able to verify the legality of bats that are questioned.

– **Ralph Swearngin**, Executive Director

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OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday

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- GHSA STAFF -
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- Executive Director -
Administration, Interpretation of GHSA Rules,
Hardship Appeals, Lacrosse, Volleyball

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- Assistant Executive Director -
Student Eligibility, Community Coach Program,
Cross Country, Wrestling, Track, Golf

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- Associate Executive Director -
Finances, Entry Notification, Agendas,
Literary, One-Act Play, Debate, Cheerleading, Riflery

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Sanctioning of Events, School Passes,
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Dues, Community Coach Program

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- Receptionist -
Lifetime Passes, School System Passes,
Ejection Reports, Publication Orders

GHSA Licensed Products

This month's featured licensees are: **Electro Mech Scoreboard** Company, official scoreboard company (electro-mech.com); **Baseline Sports Media**, award-winning team schedule cards (baselinesportsmedia.com); **Honig's Whistle Stop**, Officials/Umpires uniforms, apparel and equipment (honigs.com) and **DragonFly Athletics**, official digital exchange provider (dragonflyathletics.com). View a complete list of GHSA licensees at www.ghsa.net/licensing.

GHSA Basketball on Web & TV

GPB Sports continues its broadcast tradition, which began in 1998, with live television coverage of all finals at the GHSA Basketball State Championship presented by State Farm on March 11 from the Arena at Gwinnett Center (AAAAA/AAAA) and March 12 from the Macon Coliseum (AAA/AA/A).

All semifinal and final game action from also will be Web streamed on GHSA.tv and GPB.org/sports. DVDs can be purchased at GHSA.tv.

The events also will be available on Comcast On Demand and Charter on Demand in the Get Local and High School Sports section.

Live Web coverage of select contests will continue during the second round and quarterfinals. The games will be available at GPB.org/sports and GHSA.tv.



STATE CHAMPIONS

WRESTLING - Traditional

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

AAAAA	Collins Hill High School
AAAA	Pope High School
AAA	Gilmer High School
AA	Jefferson High School
A	Bremen High School

WRESTLING - Dual

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

AAAAA	Collins Hill High School
AAAA	Woodland, Cartersville High School
AAA	Gilmer High School
AA	Jefferson High School
A	Bremen High School

SWIMMING and DIVING

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

Boys

AAAAA	Peachtree Ridge High School
AAAA/AAA/AA/A	Wesleyan School

Girls

AAAAA	Lassiter High School
AAAA/AAA/AA/A	Marist School

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.

Traditional Wrestling State Champions - 2011



Class AAAAA Champion: Collins Hill



Class AAAA Champion: Pope



Class AA Champion: Jefferson



Photos of the championship teams represented in this newsletter were provided by JacksonPhoto.net.



Class AAA Champion: Gilmer



Class A Champion: Bremen

Swimming & Diving State Champions - 2011



Class AAAAA Boys Champion: Peachtree Ridge



Class AAAAA Girls Champion: Lassiter



Class A-AAAA Boys Champion: Wesleyan



Class A-AAAA Girls Champion: Marist

GHSA Reminders:

FOOTBALL SCHEDULES: Coaches and/or Athletic Directors are reminded that 2010 varsity Football Schedules are due in the GHSA office no later than March 1, 2010. If your school has hired a new coach for the 2010 season, please make sure he is made aware of this deadline.

OPEN MEET DEADLINE: Member schools are reminded that April 1, 2011 is the deadline to notify the GHSA of entry in Open Meet State Events such as Volleyball, Lacrosse, Class A Soccer, Wrestling, Riflery and Gymnastics for the school year 2011-2012. The form for notification can be found on the GHSA web site.

SPRING CHEERLEADING TRYOUTS: Cheerleading practice/tryouts are limited to a maximum of 10 consecutive days per school between February 1 and the last day students are in school. Once tryouts are complete, no further practices may be held until school is out.

DEAD WEEK: Coaches and administrators are reminded that the mandatory "Dead Week" for this year is Sunday, July 3, 2011 through Saturday, July 9, 2011.

HOST SITES NEEDED: Each year, there are many schools that contribute to the success of GHSA programs by hosting a region/area or state event as a service to all member schools. The GHSA office soon will be determining sites for the 2011-12 year. Sites are still needed for the following events:

- Region Cheerleading
- Area Wrestling (Traditional and/or Team Duals)
- Sectional Wrestling (Traditional)
- Sectional Track
- State Golf

If your school would like to host one of the above events, please notify the GHSA office.

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA

MARRIOTT / Macon City Center - MACON, GEORGIA

March 21, 2011 - 9:00 a.m.

Call To Order Dr. Gary Holmes, President
 Invocation Dr. Ralph Swearngin, Executive Director
 Roll Call Joyce Kay, Associate Director

APPOINTMENTS: Monday - 9:00 am: Rick Higginbotham, Principal, Elbert County High School
 Appeal of student eligibility - Agustin Bravo (eight semesters)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Board of Trustees

Region 7-AAAAA - Proposal that Online Rules Clinic be available until first contest date
 GHSA Office:
 Proposal for change in Softball playoff admission fees to \$7.00 1st day, \$5.00 2nd day, \$10.00 State
 Proposal to charge a set fee for GHSA passes issued
 Change wording in By-Law 1.41 (b) - delete MD or DO must evaluate health history form
 Proposal to allow schools to play varsity football games on Thursday nights if agreed upon by both schools
 Proposal to reinstate dues and catastrophic insurance fees
 2011-12 Budget
 Proposal to extend the contract of Executive Director to June 30, 2014

Baseball Committee

Georgia Dugout Club - Proposal for change in Baseball season calendar

Basketball Committee

Bainbridge HS - Proposal to change policy for distribution of State Basketball gate receipts
 Lithia Springs - Proposal to change seeding procedures
 Discussion of double-headers in 1st & 2nd Rounds

Cheerleading Committee

Appointment: Brenda Petty, Mill Creek HS
 Regions 7-AAAAA and 6-AA - Proposal to rescind and/or amend the rule to disallow stunting and tumbling at basketball games

Eligibility Committee

Appointment: Riverside Military College - request that students from other schools be allowed to cheer at Riverside
 Proposed By-Law changes from Ad Hoc Committee on Recruiting/Undue Influence (new Form B)
 Proposal that hardship decisions be a majority vote rather than unanimous vote

Football Committee

Review and analyze the procedures for semifinal games

Golf Committee

Clarify regulation concerning use of electronic devices

Lacrosse Committee

State Coordinator - Proposal for change in overtime procedure in regular season and proposal for change in Area tiebreakers

Reclassification Committee

Proposed format for reclassification for school years 2012-13/2013-14

Soccer Committee

Appointment: Christopher Ming, Loganville
 Coordinator/ Region 8-AAAA - Proposal to eliminate limiting 8th graders to 25-minute halves

(over)

AGENDA, Continued**Swimming Committee**

GHSSCA - proposals to:

- 1) score top 20 at State
- 2) allow divers to compete in 11-dive meets beyond 10 team meet limit

- 3) discuss possible solutions to decrease size of State Meet
 - 4) evaluate State Meet site at Georgia Tech
- Proposals generated from 2011 Championship

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

1. Financial Report
2. Budget for 2011-12

OLD BUSINESS:**Second Vote on Constitutional Amendment - Section 9D.3. Appellate Procedure - add the following:**

(a) An appeal of an eligibility decision must be based on one or more of the following reasons:

- (1) There is substantial new information to be submitted that was not heard by the previous group
- (2) There is an allegation that a GHSA rule was misapplied
- (3) There is an allegation that due process was not given in previous considerations

All appeals shall set forth the basis for the appeal and facts supporting the same and shall be screened by the Executive Director for compliance with this rule prior to scheduling a hearing.

(b) An appeal of a decision by the Executive Director must be based on one of the following reasons:

- (1) There is an allegation that a GHSA rule was misinterpreted
- (2) There was an absence of due process given by the Director

Report from Ad Hoc Committee on Recruiting/Undue Influence**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Election of officers for 2011-12

ADJOURNMENT**Home 'Pink' is OK for April 4-9**

In observance of "Calling for the Cure" cancer awareness week, the GHSA will allow member schools to wear "pink" uniforms at their HOME events during the week of April 4 - 9.

This ruling holds true for ALL spring sports being played during this time period.

If a school does NOT have a home contest during this week, they may request to be allowed to wear pink at a home contest either the week prior to or the week following April 4 - 9.

Schools should contact their GHSA sports coordinator with this request.

The home team **must** inform the visiting team that pink uniforms will be worn, and the visiting teams must wear their normal "dark" uniforms at these events.

GHSA SPORTSMANSHIP STATEMENT

Please insure that the following statement is read as a public address announcement prior to the start of **every GHSA sanctioned contest**:

"The GHSA and its member schools have made a commitment to promote good sportsmanship by student/athletes, coaches, and spectators at all GHSA sanctioned events.

Profanity, degrading remarks, and intimidating actions directed at officials or competitors will not be tolerated, and are grounds for removal from the event site.

Spectators are not allowed to enter the competition area during warm-ups or while the contest is being conducted.

Thank you for your cooperation in the promotion of good sportsmanship at today's event."

Schedule for State Literary Meet

The state literary meet for all classifications will be held at two sites on Saturday, March 19, 2011. Classes AA and AAA will be held at Veterans High School, while Classes A, AAAA and AAAAAA will be at Northside High School in Warner Robins. Admission is free to all events.

Classes AAA and AA Veterans High School

Girls Dramatic Interpretation:

AA	9:30 am	Room 2403
AAA	11:00 am	Room 2403

Boys Dramatic Interpretation:

AA	9:30 am	Room 2405
AAA	11:00 am	Room 2405

Girls Extemporaneous Speaking:

AA	8:30 am	Room 1213 (Drawing)
AA	9:30 am	Room 1201 (Speaking)
AAA	10:00 am	Room 1213 (Drawing)
AAA	11:00 am	Room 1201 (Speaking)

Boys Extemporaneous Speaking:

AA	8:30 am	Room 1213 (Drawing)
AA	9:30 am	Room 1203 (Speaking)
AAA	10:00 am	Room 1213 (Drawing)
AAA	11:00 am	Room 1203 (Speaking)

Boys And Girls Essay:

AA	9:00 am	Room 2416
AAA	9:00 am	Room 2416

Girls Solo:

AA	9:15 am	Choral Room 1602
AAA	9:30 am	Theater

Boys Solo:

AA	10:30 am	Choral Room 1602
AAA	10:45 am	Theater

Girls Trio:

AA	11:30 am	Choral Room 1602
AAA	11:45 am	Theater

Boys Quartet:

AA	1:30 pm	Choral Room 1602
AAA	1:45 pm	Theater

Music warmup area is in the Band Room 1603.

Note: GHSA Headquarters, Scoring and Awards located in the Cafeteria at both sites.

Classes AAAAA, AAAA and A Northside High School, Warner Robins

Girls Dramatic Interpretation:

A	9:30 am	Room 902
AAAA	11:00 am	Room 902
AAAAA	1:00 pm	Room 902

Boys Dramatic Interpretation:

A	9:30 am	Room 906
AAAA	11:00 am	Room 906
AAAAA	1:00 pm	Room 906

Girls Extemporaneous Speaking:

A	8:30 am	Room 702 (Drawing)
A	9:30 am	Room 703 (Speaking)
AAAA	10:00 am	Room 702 (Drawing)
AAAA	11:00 am	Room 703 (Speaking)
AAAAA	12:00 noon	Room 702 (Drawing)
AAAAA	1:00 pm	Room 703 (Speaking)

Boys Extemporaneous Speaking:

A	8:30 am	Room 702 (Drawing)
A	9:30 am	Room 708 (Speaking)
AAAA	10:00 am	Room 702 (Drawing)
AAAA	11:00 am	Room 708 (Speaking)
AAAAA	12:00 noon	Room 702 (Drawing)
AAAAA	1:00 pm	Room 708 (Speaking)

Boys And Girls Essay:

A	9:00 am	Room 501
AAAA	9:00 am	Room 503
AAAAA	9:00 am	Room 505

Girls Solo:

A	9:00 am	Tabor Chorus Room 607
AAAA	9:15 am	Tabor Cafe
AAAAA	9:30 am	Theatre

Boys Solo:

A	10:15 am	Tabor Chorus Room 607
AAAA	10:30 am	Tabor Cafe
AAAAA	10:45 am	Theatre

Girls Trio:

A	11:15 am	Tabor Chorus Room 607
AAAA	11:30 am	Tabor Cafe
AAAAA	11:45 am	Theatre

Boys Quartet:

A	1:15 pm	Tabor Chorus Room 607
AAAA	1:30 pm	Tabor Cafe
AAAAA	1:45 pm	Theatre

GHSA - March Calendar - 2011

March

- 1 Deadline to submit Football Schedules to GHSA office
- 1, 2 Second Round State Basketball
- 4 Complete Area Riflery
- 4, 5 Quarterfinal Round State Basketball
- 8 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 9-11 Semifinals and Finals State Basketball (AAAA & AAAAA)
- 9-12 Semifinals and Finals State Basketball (A, AA & AAA)
- 12 Complete Region Literary
- 14 File reports of Region Literary winners with GHSA by noon
- 14 Complete Riflery Sectionals
- 15 File reports of Riflery Sectionals with State Coordinator and GHSA office
- 19 State Literary Meet; Complete Riflery Semifinals
- 21 State Executive Committee Meeting
- 22 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting

April

- 1 Deadline to submit notification of entry in Gymnastics, Lacrosse, Riflery, Soccer, Volleyball & Wrestling for 2011-12

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