



GHSA

"ITEMS OF INTEREST"

March 2023

Ernie Yarbrough Too Valuable to Allow to Retire Completely

As you may know, Ernie Yarbrough is “retiring” July 1, 2023. Retiring is a relative term where Ernie is concerned though, as he has too much institutional knowledge and has done an exemplary job for many years for the GHSA for us to let him leave the association.

He will be part time and continue to oversee Lacrosse and work with our championship events, negotiate neutral site venues and work with me covering legislative meetings and issues. Probably most importantly, he will continue to provide guidance to me and the associate directors as his many duties transition to others next year. We all owe Ernie a debt of gratitude for his great work over the years and we look forward to him working with the GHSA in this new capacity.

I am excited to have Jay Russell back in the GHSA office! Jay has been a teacher, coach, athletic director, administrator and Assistant Executive Director for the GHSA. We are all grateful to have Jay back in the “GHSA family” and are fortunate to have his vast expertise and knowledge. Jay is back where he belongs! He will oversee fast pitch softball, flag football, basketball and golf. He will also work with eligibility and the legislative processes that involve the GHSA.



On the legislative front, HB 32 has been submitted by Demetrius Douglas to mandate Video Review in football championship games. As I’m sure you are aware, the GHSA staff made the decision to submit a proposal for the State Executive Committee this spring to allow video review in the championship games.

The Board of Trustees met in early January and voted unanimously to move the proposal forward. Certainly, the move to the Mercedes Benz Stadium for the championship games next fall makes this transition easy and the goal is to “get it right”.

The proposal has been met with positive comments from member schools and officials alike and I have heard no negative feedback. There has been conversation with several legislators who have asked why there is a bill when the GHSA’s intention is to implement video review regardless of the bill. The bill is good and Mr. Douglas considered our input in the language of the bill so if it does go through, there is no problem with it. However, I do expect the GHSA proposal to pass overwhelmingly in April and it will be in the Constitution and By-Laws before the legislative process is complete.

I want to thank Kevin Giddens, James Arnold and David Reynolds for their work in completing the protocol associated with video review. The process and operation of the protocol is detailed and we will have the opportunity to pilot this process in the Corky Kell games that will be played in the MBS at the beginning of the 2023 football season.

As always, thank you for all you do for the student athletes of Georgia and feel free to call on me or any of the GHSA staff if we can assist you in any way.

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

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

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION Newsletter

Issued monthly, September through April, by the Georgia High School Association, 151 S. Bethel St., Thomaston, GA 30286

Phone: 706-647-7473 Fax: 706-647-2638 Web: www.ghsa.net

Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday

Vol. 41

March 2023

No. 6

**- GHSA STAFF -
Areas of Responsibility**

ROBIN HINES - Executive Director - (extension 41)

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

ERNIE YARBROUGH - Assistant Executive Director - (ext. 27)

Basketball, Softball, Swimming, Lacrosse, & Flag Football

DON CORR - Associate Director - (ext. 34)

Baseball, Volleyball, Wrestling, Sports Medicine

CARROR WRIGHT - Associate Director - (ext. 39)

Coach's Liaison, Compliance & Transfer Eligibility, Sportsmanship

PENNY PITTS MITCHELL - Associate Director -(ext. 22)

Cheerleading, Gymnastics, Dance, Student Leadership, Title IX

KEVIN GIDDENS - Associate Director - (ext. 25)

Bass Fishing, Football and Soccer

TANYA ANDERSON - Associate Director - (ext. 29)

Literary, One Act Play, Esports, DragonFly Liaison,
Cross Country, Track & Field, and Event Sanctioning

JAY RUSSELL - Associate Director - (ext. 23)

Flag Football, Golf, Assistant Basketball,
Assistant Softball, Assistant Eligibility

STEVE FIGUEROA - Media Director - (ext. 26)

Media Coordination, Newsletter, Constitution & Calendar, Tennis

PAM THOMPSON - Officials' Registrar - (ext. 30)

Officials' Registration, Testing & Online Clinics, Service Awards

JULIE JONES - Administrative Assistant - (ext. 24)

Coaches Education, Dues, Web Site Content, Entry Notification

SHERI EUBANKS - Receptionist - (ext. 0)

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

ROBIN BULLINGTON - Office Manager - (ext. 33)

Budgeting and Finances, Playoff Finances, Staff Procedures

STACEY JONES - Administrative Assistant - (ext. 32)

Riflery Liaison, School Contacts & School Passes,
Directory, Coaches' Clinics, Trophies & Medals

GHSA Licensed Products

This month's featured licensees are: **Honig's Whistle Stop** (honigs.com), **Cliff Keen** (cliffkeen.com), **Smitty Official's Apparel** (smittyusadyesub.com), Officials uniforms, apparel and equipment; **Nfinity**, official cheerleading footwear and apparel (nfinity.com); **Snapphound**, event photo platform that empowers schools and nonprofits to unlock valuable marketing and fundraising opportunities. (ghsa.snapphound.com/events); and **Gipper**, official social media Graphics. Gipper empowers anyone at a school to create effective and compelling content for social media in just a few clicks. (gipper.com)

STATE CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to the following GHSA State Champions:

DANCE

7A	Peachtree Ridge High School
5A-6A	McIntosh High School
3A-4A	Starr's Mill High School
A-2A	Stilwell Arts

SWIMMING & DIVING

7A Girls	- North Gwinnett High School
7A Boys	- Walton High School
6A Girls	- Lassiter High School
6A Boys	- Johns Creek High School
4A-5A Girls	- Westminster
4A-5A Boys	- Chattahoochee High School
A-3A Girls	- Wesleyan
A-3A Boys	- Wesleyan

GAME DAY CHEERLEADING

7A	- Buford High School
5A-6A	- South Effingham High School
3A-4A	- Mary Persons High School
A-2A	- Vidalia High School
Dance	- McIntosh & Mill Creek High Schools

TRADITIONAL WRESTLING

7A	- Camden County High School
6A	- Woodward Academy
5A	- Jefferson High School
4A	- Lovett School
3A	- Gilmer High School
2A	- Rockmart High School
A	- Social Circle High School
Girls	- Chestatee High School

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

Game Day Dance Teams Share Title

For the second year, the 2023 Game Day Cheerleading event featured a Dance division. And because of an error in score tabulation, Mill Creek and McIntosh (pictured together below) shared the title.

The Game Day championships, in partnership with Varsity Spirit, were held February 24 at Columbus State University. Besides Dance, the other championship divisions were A-2A, 3A-4A, 5A-6A and 7A.

Photos of the rest of the Game Day state champions are pictured on Page 4 of this newsletter.



Swimming and Diving State Champions - 2023



7A Boys: Walton



7A Girls: North Gwinnett



6A Boys: Johns Creek



6A Girls: Lassiter



4A-5A Boys: Chattahoochee



4A-5A Girls: Westminster



A-3A Boys: Wesleyan



A-3A Girls: Wesleyan

Dance State Champions - 2023



7A: Peachtree Ridge



5A-6A: McIntosh



3A-4A: Starr's Mill



A-2A: Stilwell Arts

Game Day State Champs - 2023



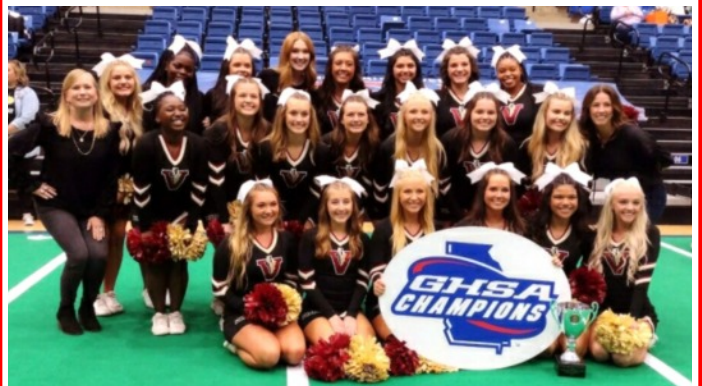
7A: Buford



5A-6A: South Effingham



3A-4A: Mary Persons



A-2A: Vidalia

Basketball State Finals March 8-11 at Macon Centreplex

The 2023 GHSA / Dr. Ralph Swearngin State Basketball Tournament, presented by Breda Pest Management, will include 17 state championship games, along with a boys Slam Dunk contest and a girls Three-Point contest.

And for the second year in a row, the March 8-11 event will include a CoEd three-point contest featuring two-person teams of a boy and girl from the same high school.

The four-day championship tip off on day, with four Class girls things 1:00 by the A, Div. 1 championship round will Wednesday March 8 finals. The A, Div. 2 will get started at p.m., followed Div. 2 boys at 3:00 p.m. Then the Class 4A girls and boys play the last two games at 5:00, and 7:00, respectively. All games will be played at the Macon Centreplex again this year.

Tickets each day are \$15 and are available ONLY via [GoFan](#) this year. No tickets will be sold at the site. Parking is again free of charge for this event.

Thursday's schedule also begins at 1:00 p.m., with the Class 2A and then 5A championships. The coed three-point contest will follow the 2A boys final.

Friday's action begins at 1:00 p.m., with the 3A and then the 6A title contests. The Girls 3-point shooting contest will follow the 3A boys championship game.

The action concludes Saturday beginning at 11:00 a.m., with first the A, Div. 1 and then the 7A championships. In between, at 3:00 p.m., the 26th annual AAASP Wheelchair championship will be held.

The third GHSA Slam Dunk Contest, will take place following the AAASP championship.

Both the three-point shooting events and the slam dunk contest are presented by BSN Sports.



2023 GHSA / Dr. Ralph Swearngin State Basketball Championships

Championship Schedule

Wednesday, March 8

1:00 pm - Girls A Public, Div. 2
 3:00 pm - Boys A Public, Div. 2
 5:00 pm - Girls Class 4A
 7:00 pm - Boys Class 4A

Thursday, March 9

1:00 pm - Girls Class 2A
 3:00 pm - Boys Class 2A
 5:00 pm - Coed 3-point contest
 5:30 pm - Girls Class 5A
 7:30 pm - Boys Class 5A

Friday, March 10

1:00 pm - Girls Class 3A
 3:00 pm - Boys Class 3A
 5:00 pm - Girls 3-point contest
 5:30 pm - Girls Class 6A
 7:30 pm - Boys Class 6A

Saturday, March 11

11:00 am - Girls Class A, Div. 1
 1:00 pm - Boys Class A, Div. 1
 3:00 pm - AAASP Wheelchair
 5:00 pm - Boys Slam Dunk contest
 5:30 pm - Girls Class 7A
 7:30 pm - Boys Class 7A

All championship games will be televised LIVE on the GPB Knowledge Channel (check your local listings) and streamed to GPB Sports and NFHS Network to any device. Also available on the GPB Sports app as well as @GPB-Sports social media on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube..

Literary State Championships at Four Sites on March 18 and 25

The 2023 State Literary Championships will be held on consecutive Saturdays in March at four different sites.

Buford High School will host the championships in Classes 7A and 6A Private on March 18, while Warner Robins will be the site of the 5A and 4A competitions that same day.

Then on March 25, the 3A and Class A, Division 1 titles will be decided at Bremen, while Georgia Military College in Milledgeville will host the 2A and Class A, Division 2 events. Admission is free at all locations.

The defending champions are: Cherokee (7A), Buford (6A), Calhoun (5A), North Oconee (4A), Ringgold (3A), Bremen (2A), Georgia Military College (A Public) and King's Ridge (A Private).



Bass Fishing State Qualifier #3 at West Point Lake on March 18

The third of four qualifying tournaments in GHSA Bass Fishing will take place on March 18 at West Point Lake in LaGrange. Below is more information on the event:

Tournament Director:

• Randy Sullivan - TBF/SAF
580-716-4261 or Randy@federationangler.com

High School Fishing Contacts:

• Joey Bray, National Youth Director SAF/TBF
580.716.4251 or Joey@federationangler.com
• Scott Ellison, MLF Big 5
270.205.6864 or scott.ellison@majorleaguefishing.com

Practice:

• Competition waters are open for practice until 5 p.m. on March 17
• The purchasing of, or bartering for, information or the hiring of fishing guide services will not be permitted after March 7.

Boat Operation:

• Contestants are not permitted to drive the boat when the combustion engine is in operation. Each boat will be driven by a coach or volunteer driver. Contestants may operate the trolling motor. Coaches and volunteers may provide assistance, including information about locating and catching fish, but are not permitted to fish.

Catch & Size Limit:

• Five bass per team; minimum 14 inches on largemouth and 12 inches on spotted bass.

License Requirement:

• A Valid GA fishing license is required for students 16 and older.

Format:

• Each GHSA approved school may enter up to six boats in each regional competition. The top 15 boats from each regional advance to the state Championship. One additional boat will advance from each regional for every 10 boats that compete over a minimum of 100 boats in the regional. Boats advance from the first event in which they qualified. If a boat has already qualified for the state championship, the next eligible boat will advance.

GHSA Contact:

• Kevin Giddens - 706-647-7473 ext. 25 or kevin@ghsa.net

Registration:

• All anglers must pre-register online at HighSchoolFishing.org no later than Monday before the event at 8:00 a.m.

Mandatory Registration:

• Friday, March 17, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
• Pyne Road Park Mega Ramp, 4481 Roanoke Rd., LaGrange, GA 30240
• Anglers, coaches & captains must attend.
• Pretournament meeting immediately following check-in.

Takeoff and Weigh-in on March 18:

• Takeoff: 7:30 a.m. • Weigh-in: 4:00 p.m.

Items to Bring:

- Signed liability release
- Personal floatation device
- Valid student ID
- Valid license for state waters to be fished if 16 or older
- Sunscreen & sunglasses
- Rods and reels
- Line cutters & needle-nose pliers
- Lures & tackle
- Rainsuit
- Jersey or shirt representing your school

**HIGH SCHOOL
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Celebrate 25 Years of AAASP History

From its founding inspired by the 1996 Paralympic games to fostering the play of over 7,034 athletes to date, the American Association of AdaptED Sports (AdaptED Sports/AAASP), "25 years of Innovation and Achievement", online exhibit highlights the growth, evolution, and impact of the American Association of AdaptED Sports Programs, and the people who made it possible.

Through photos, newspaper clippings, videos, and quotes, virtual visitors to the exhibit get to experience the story and legacy of AdaptED Sports like never before. View the exhibit at: <https://adaptedsports.org/25-years-of-innovation-and-achievement/>.

The exhibit is part of a three-part awareness and resource campaign introduced in 2023. The American Association of AdaptED Sports is re-introducing its logo to emphasize the "ED" in its mission to remind and inform the community based on adapted and standardized sports for the physically disabled. The organization will begin referring to itself more often as AdaptED Sports, rather than AAASP. Visitors will be inspired by the stories of people who have helped to make AdaptED Sports a success. Former Georgia High School Association Executive Director, Dr. Ralph Swearngin, a trailblazer who helped make the AAASP/GHSA Alliance a reality, helped make history in 2004 as AAASP/GHSA Wheelchair Basketball State Championship was held as part of the GHSA State Basketball Championship, the first time a wheelchair championship was part of a traditional championship event.



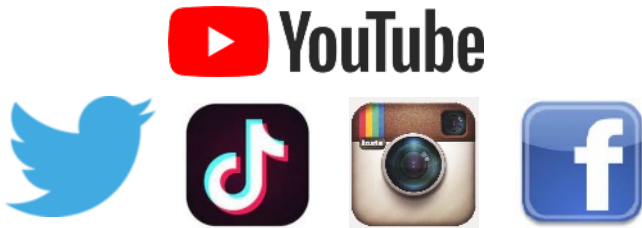
Over the last year, AdaptED Sports collaborated with History Associates Inc., a historical research firm with over 40 years of experience in exhibits, research, interpretive planning, and archives to create the exhibit housing 55 Stories, with over 225 Images and videos.

Bev Vaughn, former AAASP Co-Founder/Executive Director, and now Advisor to AdaptED Sports, took the lead on the project; compiling and organizing the AAASP historical documents into 5-year segments to assist with the planning phase. The History Associates team performed an archival assessment of AdaptED Sports' collection, and then worked with Vaughn and current AdaptED Sports Executive Director and Co-Founder, Tommie Storms, to create a strategy and ultimately, the exhibit content.

The exhibit is hosted on the Pass It Down platform, a platform for creating immersive and versatile digital experiences. Each story has a main image with a title that the viewer can click on to read more.

Stay Connected to the GHSA!

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



BEWARE

OF FAKE LINKS & ACCOUNTS PROMOTING LIVE STREAMS OF GAMES

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GHSA - March / April Calendar - 2023

March

- 1 Deadline to submit Football Schedules to GHSA office
- 1 Deadline for notification of entry in ALL SPORTS for 2023-24
- 1 Quarterfinal Round State Basketball Tournament
- 1 Complete Area Riflery
- 3, 4 Semifinal Round State Basketball Tournament
- 7 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 8-11 Championship Round State Basketball Tournament at Macon Centreplex
- 11 Complete Region/Area Literary and Riflery Sectionals
- 13 Report Riflery & Literary results to GHSA by 9 a.m.
- 18 State Literary Meet (Classes 4A, 5A, 6A & 7A)
- 21 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 21 Complete Riflery Semifinals
- 22 File reports of Riflery Semifinals with GHSA and State Coordinator
- 25 State Literary Meet (Classes A, 2A & 3A)

April

- 1 GHSA Participation Survey Due; State Riflery
- 7 Good Friday, GHSA Office Closed
- 8 Complete Region Soccer and Area Slow Pitch Softball

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