



GHSA

"ITEMS OF INTEREST"

October 2020

All Things Considered, We Are Progressing Quite Well

It's hard to believe that we are into October of 2020 and, while things are going well as we move forward, I don't think there's any argument that generally speaking we are ready to put this year behind us. We've heard over and over again that these are unprecedented times and we have never experienced anything like COVID-19 and all that has come with it in our lifetimes.

This is absolutely true and with that being said, we have so much for which to be grateful. Softball, Volleyball and Cross Country were able to start on time and the seasons have progressed and the playoffs are coming soon. We are well into the football season and while there have been a few bumps in the road, the vast majority of the season is on schedule. We have averaged just eight cancellations each week with four of those being made up and have averaged over 160 contests.

This hasn't just happened. The local school districts, superintendents, local school boards, principals and mostly Athletic Directors and Coaches have taken steps to keep everyone as safe as possible while navigating a situation we have never experienced. All schools have worked through modifications, recommendations, infectious disease plans and much more to provide opportunities for our student-athletes. We find ourselves in a much better situation than we were in the spring and a great deal of gratitude is owed to those mentioned earlier, especially our coaches.

The plan for the football region games and state playoffs has been consistent since the beginning of the summer, but there have been several questions as of late so I would like to address them here. If games are canceled due to legitimate COVID-19 issues, schools can make those games up later in the season or the game will be a "no contest" and not be counted in the permanent record of the team. If it is a region game, the same process is in place. However, every effort should be made to play the game. Obviously, if a team has to cancel a game once the playoffs start, their season will be ended at that point, unfortunately.

Remember, individual regions determine their playoff participants and, in most cases, those games must be accounted for in the playoff process. If the region plan is in conflict with the GHSA By-Laws, contact Kevin Giddens before scheduling. Playing a game during the week with regularly scheduled games the weekend prior and the weekend after requires approval after all other possibilities have been exhausted. We appreciate the work regions have put into this and let us know if we can help in any way.

Scheduling Winter sports' playoffs and championships has been difficult and tricky. As we work through the process, we are reminded that this is a different year and everything may not look the same as it does in a normal year. There are venues we have traditionally used that are not currently allowing outside groups to use them. As a result, some of the events normally held in neutral sites will be held at school facilities. Everything will be considered to ensure that our students will have championships in all sports this year. We also should remember that things may look drastically different in February and March than they do currently. The COVID-19 numbers continue to improve and our hope is that this trend continues.

I want to bring your attention to By-Law 1.11. This is the first by-law and states, "Students gain eligibility to practice or compete for the school in which they are enrolled after they have been certified by the principal of that school, after the eligibility forms have been processed by the GHSA office." We have found numerous examples of schools skipping this by-law and allowing student to participate prior to submitting eligibility and being processed by the GHSA office.

As a result there have been examples of ineligible players allowed to participate due to academics, illegal transfers and some that were never submitted but participated in contests. There is a reason this by-law is the first one and with all eligibility submitted electronically, the submissions are usually processed the same day. Report preparers should submit all eligibility as soon as possible to allow for accurate eligibility rosters and, most importantly, to get the students on the courts and fields.

Thank you for all you do for your schools, communities and students. You have a great deal to be proud of and have worked exceedingly hard to provide a framework of opportunities for your students. Please call if we can do anything for you.

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



Join the conversation on social media @OfficialGHSA 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 & Girls Flag Football

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, Student Leadership, Title IX

KEVIN GIDDENS (extension 25)

- Associate Director -
Bass Fishing, Football, Cross Country, & Soccer

TANYA ANDERSON (extension 29)

- Associate Director -
Event Sanctioning, Esports, DragonFly Liaison,
Assist with Cross Country and with Student Leadership

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

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 -
Literary & One-Act Play Liaison, Riflery Liaison, School Contacts &
School Passes, Directory, Coaches' Clinics, Trophies & Medals

GHSA Licensed Products

This month's featured licensees are: **RiverOak Photography** (riverokphotography.com); **Pinion Photography** (pinionphotography.com) & **Athletic Image** (theathleticimage.com), official action photographers; **InsideOut Initiative**, helping school communities successfully reclaim the educational purpose of sports (insideoutinitiative.org); **Cap Guard**, official face shield for protection against Covid-19. (Contact: Nick Sharp, nsharp@lairdplastics.com); and **Pickle Juice**, management solution for player registration, payments & online fundraising. (www.picklejuiceapp.com).

**GHSA Preferred Shot Clock Package**

Don't miss your shot to get everything you need for Basketball season. The GHSA approved shot clocks for high schools (with a three-year phase-in period beginning this season) and has now partnered with Daktronics to offer special pricing on a GHSA preferred shot clock package. The package includes two shot clocks, controller, two receivers and a start/stop switch for \$2,900.

Already a Daktronics Customer?

You could be able to save even more. Contact your local Daktronics rep, Scott Berardi, to get a personalized quote based off your existing equipment.

Scott.Berardi@daktronics.com or 404-290-3266

If you choose to work with BSN Sports, please contact your BSN Sports Sales Pro or Lu Nunnally at lun@bsnsports.com. Lu will direct you to the BSN manager and/or rep in your area.

SMITTY
OFFICIAL'S APPAREL

GHSA APPROVED!

PROTECT YOURSELF & OTHERS WHILE ON THE COURT
"MADE IN USA" - SMITTY WHISTLE POCKET

Insert whistle tip into the back of the pocket
with whistle sticking out of the small elastic end.

Close the velcro tightly on the backside of the pocket.

Tip of whistle can extend outside of the elastic end of the pocket.

Do not let the elastic block the top and bottom chambers of the whistle.

Attach lanyard to the elastic loop on the outside of the pocket.

Contact Your Smitty/GHSA Dealer to order today!

2020 State Fast Pitch Softball Playoff Information

Teams advancing to the GHSA State Softball Championships presented by Mizuno on October 30-31, 2020 need to follow the procedures listed below (additional **Team Instructions** may be found on the **GHSA web site**):

TEAM ROSTER AND PHOTO – Must be sent via e-mail to adam@scoreatl.com by 9:00 a.m., on Monday, October 26. Failure to do so will result in a \$250 fine to the school.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS – Go to www.visitcolumbusga.org for team registration and hotel selection. The site will be active beginning on Saturday, October 17. For more information regarding team lodging, call 1-800-999-1613 or 706-256-4347 and use the reference "GHSA Housing" when you make your reservations. You may also e-mail Carter Flynn at cflynn@visitcolumbusga.org.

ON-LINE INFORMATION PACKETS – The team information packets for First Round, Second Round and Third Round contests as well as for the Final Four tournament are available on the GHSA website.

Go to the Softball page on the web site (www.ghsa.net) and click on the appropriate banners.

PRESALE FINAL FOUR TICKETS – Tickets for the Final Four in Columbus are available ONLY through GoFan at <https://gofan.co/app/school/GHSA>.

The purchase of paper tickets at the gate will NOT be available for this event!



COVID-19 MODIFICATIONS FOR SPECTATORS

1. Spectators will be required to bring their own seating items for all fields, except for games in the stadium.
2. Per Columbus City Ordinance, ALL spectators not "socially spaced" shall wear face coverings.
3. There will not be an Opening Ceremony.
4. Spectator admission will ONLY be available through "GOFAN". Individual tickets will not be available at the complex.
5. Spectators shall observe "social distancing" at concession stands and restrooms.
6. Sanitation/hand cleaning stations will be located throughout the complex.
7. Security personnel will be on-site to monitor all safety regulations.

COVID-19 MODIFICATIONS FOR TEAMS

1. ONLY coaches and players are allowed in team dugouts, and shall wear face coverings while in the dugout.
2. Teams are required to bring their own beverages into the dugout. Coolers and cups will NOT be provided.
3. At the conclusion of the game teams will gather near their respective dugout and wave/nod in a gesture of sportsmanship, then quickly clear the dugout so it can be sanitized before the next game.
4. Umpires will handle the game balls with protective gloves. Balls that go out of play will be returned and placed in a "yellow" Wilson bucket located behind each backstop. Those balls will then be sanitized and utilized as backup game balls.
5. Sunflower seeds are NOT allowed in the team dugouts.
6. Team huddles without physical distancing are not allowed.
7. ONLY the head coach shall attend the pregame meeting and shall wear a face covering, stand outside the batter's box, and bring two (2) copies of the lineup card. NOTE: Umpires shall also wear face coverings.
8. During offensive timeouts only one coach and two players are allowed, and during defensive timeouts only one coach and three players are allowed physically spaced around the pitching circle.

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.



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."

Volleyball State Finals to Stream Live on NFHS Network

The NFHS Network will stream live coverage of the GHSA Volleyball State Championships, presented by Mizuno, on Saturday, November 7 from the Champions Center at Lakepoint Sports Complex in Cartersville.

ALL tickets must be purchased online on GoFan at <https://gofan.co/app/school/GHSA>. No tickets will be sold at the site.

If you can't be there in person, family and friends can watch all the action at <https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/associations/ghsa>. Subscribing to the Network is just \$10.95 for a 30-day period or \$69.99 for an annual pass. DVDs and Digital Copies can also be ordered on [NFHS Network.com](https://www.nfhsnetwork.com).

Webcast partners include: Georgia Farm Bureau Insurance, Mizuno and Molten.



VOLLEYBALL FINALS November 7, 2020

Court#8

11:00 am - 1A Private
1:30 pm - Class 3A
4:00 pm - Class 5A
6:30 pm - Class 7A

Court#17

12 noon - 1A/2A Public
2:30 pm - Class 4A
5:00 pm - Class 6A

NOTE: Special COVID-19 modifications for this event may be seen on the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net).



2020 GHSA Cross Country Dates, Deadlines and Schedule

- Oct. 23** INITIAL deadline for electronic submission of Region or Area rosters on GHSA MIS site (<https://app.ghsa.net/node>). Changes to rosters may be made until the deadline established by each Region or Area prior to the beginning of Region/Area competition.
- Oct. 31** Deadline to complete Region/Area Meets
- Nov. 2** 9:00 a.m., deadline for electronic submission of Region/Area results on GHSA MIS site (<https://app.ghsa.net/node>)
- Nov. 2** 5:00 p.m., deadline for Head Coaches of State Meet qualifying teams to confirm projected seven (7) runners at state meet (<https://app.ghsa.net/node>)
- Nov. 6-7** State Meet at Carrollton High School (www.ghsa.net/ghsa-state-cross-country-championships)

Schedule at Carrollton High School

Friday, Nov. 6, 2020

9:00 am Boys 3A
9:45 am Girls 3A
10:30 am Boys 4A
11:15 am Girls 4A
12 noon Boys 6A
12:45 pm Girls 6A

Saturday, Nov. 7, 2020

8:00 am Boys 5A
8:45 am Girls 5A
9:30 am Boys A Private
10:15 am Girls A Private
11:00 am Boys 7A
11:45 am Girls 7A
12:30 pm Boys 2A
1:15 pm Girls 2A
2:00 pm Boys A Public
2:45 pm Girls A Public



**GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SPRING MEETING
AGENDA**

October 5, 2020 - 11:00 am - Thomaston-Upson County Civic Center

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

APPOINTMENTS: 1:00 - 3:00 pm: Various student eligibility appeals

COMMITTEE PROPOSALS:

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1. **Proposal** to allow 8th grade students to participate in varsity sports (other than football and wrestling) for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year in order to fill roster spots depleted by COVID 19 situations. This rule would be revisited in the Spring of 2021. (Eagle’s Landing Christian Academy)
2. **Proposal** to increase the three-man crew officials’ fee in Soccer from \$60 to \$70. The fee would then be comparable to basketball and baseball crews of two or three on the GHSA Fee Chart. **Effective Immediately** (GHSA Office)
3. **Proposal** to modify By-Law 1.62-b on page 19 of the GHSA Constitution by **deleting** the “NOTE” which reads as follows: “Students who have a bona fide move within a service area that has multiple private schools must file a hardship to seek eligibility if they wish to enroll into a different private school.” (GHSA Office)
4. The Board of Trustees’ will receive as information a late proposal from Cobb County Schools to rename the GHSA State Baseball Championships “The Harvey Cochran Georgia High School Baseball State Championships.”
5. The Board of Trustees’ will select nominees for two “at large” members to join the BOT as outlined in Section 3, Item “A” on page 8 of the GHSA Constitution. Those selections will then be presented to the full committee for approval.

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:

1. **Proposal** to replace ALL scenarios involving “Mini Games” in the GHSA football tiebreaker. This will begin with the 2021 season and reads as follows:
 - A. If two teams tie, and one of the teams has defeated the other in a regular schedule region game, the winner shall be declared the region play-off representative. Three or more tied teams shall first be considered in sets of two-way ties. NOTE: If three or more teams are tied, use head to head record among the tied teams to break ties for seeding. Only utilize points to break ties among teams when the ties are a perfect triangle, with each team having the same record among the tied teams.
 - B. If two teams tie and the tied teams split or have not played each other in a region game (no round robin) the team with the greater sum of winning margin using the following point system, shall be the play-off representative.
 - C. If more than two teams remain tied after applying (A) above, the following point system shall be used to eliminate all but two teams. Tabulate the sum of the winning margins of each team’s region games as indicated in the following:

POINT SYSTEM:

 1. If the margin of victory is more than 13 points only 13 points shall count.
 2. Losses shall be tallied as 0 (zero) points.
 3. Forfeited games. Offended teams shall receive 13 points when tabulating the sum of the winning margins for breaking region ties.

(more)

AGENDA, continued

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE, continued:

- D. After tabulating the sum of the winning margins, all teams except the two with the greater sum shall be eliminated, and the selection process shall begin again with paragraph (A).
- E. If teams remain tied after the above procedures are applied, the play-off representative shall be determined by a coin toss. The coin toss, supervised by the REGION OFFICERS, shall be used to eliminate all but two teams and then begin again with paragraph (A).
- F. In the event the region is eligible for more than one play-off representative, each subsequent play-off representative shall be chosen by reapplying the procedures above.
- G. All regions will use the adopted procedures for breaking ties that occur in the order of standings when round robin schedules are completed. (GHSA Office)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Robin Hines will address the full committee on several issues.

ADJOURNMENT

SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 5, 2020 MEETINGS

(Meetings Will Be Held at the Thomaston-Upson County Civic Center)

Monday, October 5

11:00 am Board of Trustees Meeting (Main Hall)
11:45 am Football Committee (Main Hall)

Monday, October 5 (continued)

12:00 pm Box Lunch for all (Main Hall)
1:00 pm Full Executive Committee Meeting (Main Hall)

GHSA Announces New Partnership With VNN Sports

VNN, America's largest and fastest-growing high school sports communication platform, has announced a partnership with the GHSA.

The deal initiates a mutual dedication to bringing top technology to Georgia schools through VNN's communication platform, and marks the beginning of collaboration between the two organizations.

Since VNN's first signing of Centennial High School in 2014, the company's sports marketing platform has made promoting sports programs easy for athletic directors across Georgia.

Now partnered with 125+ of the state's high schools, the package includes a collegiate-style website, live schedules, team rosters, score reporting and site connected team app free to all sports within each school.

Schools can then plug-in services that digitize their departments even more, including registration, live scores, spirit shops, collegiate-style game graphics and video options.

With new COVID policies & procedures in place VNN's SportsHub platform helps streamline the administration and promotion tasks athletic departments do on a daily basis, saving them time and connecting local communities closer to their high school sports more than ever before.



VNN Highlights:

Custom branded athletic URL i.e. stephenscountyathletics.com
Custom website, includes all sports/teams at the school
Host all things athletics: schedules, forms, documents, video links, etc.

Connects everything to schools social media accounts: Twitter and Facebook

Final score notifications, team info alerts to subscribed parents, athletes & fans

Compliance for ADA and Google Translate built in

For a high level VNN overview please visit - <https://youtu.be/61nNtJDYn7U> or visit VNNSports.net

To schedule a demo of the platform please contact the VNN-GA State Manager Brandon Rogers - brogers@vnnsports.net

National Federation of State High School Associations



National High School Activities Month

Promoting values inherent in high school athletics and other activities such as speech, music, theatre and band.

October 2020

National Sportsmanship, Fan Appreciation and Public-Address Announcers Week

October 4-10

National Performing Arts Activities and Local State High School Associations Week

October 11-17

National Coaches, Advisors, Officials, and Sponsors Week

October 18-24

National Community Service/Youth Awareness Week

October 25-31

Promote activities at your school on social media using **#HSAactivitiesMonth**

Facebook: @NFHS1920 | Twitter: @NFHS_Org | Instagram: @nfhs_org

Extra protection for employees and customers while branding your business

Our clear PETG plastic Cap Guard lens attaches to the brim of any standard baseball hat or visor with 3 patent pending clips.



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Cap Guard, Lens & Clips	10 Pk = \$65.00 / Pk
Cap Guard, Lens & Clips	25 Pk = \$150.00 / Pk
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Cap Guard, Clips Only	50 Pk = \$105.00 / Pk
Cap Guard, Lens Only	10 Pk = \$44.00 / Pk
Cap Guard, Lens Only	50 Pk = \$200.00 / Pk
Cap Guard, Wall Unit	\$40.00 / Each

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GHSA - October Calendar - 2020

October

- 5 State Executive Committee Meeting
- 6 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 12 First Practice date for Flag Football and for Swimming & Diving
- 16 Complete Region Fastpitch Softball
- 17 Report Region Fastpitch Softball winners by 9 a.m.
- 17 Determine Region/Area Volleyball winners
- 19 Report Region/Area Volleyball winners by 9 a.m.
- 19 Earliest date for Flag Football game
- 19-21 First Round State Fastpitch Softball Tournament
- 20 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 20, 21 First Round State Volleyball Tournament
- 22-24 Second Round State Fastpitch Softball Tournament
- 23 Deadline for posting rosters in Cross Country
- 24 Earliest date for Dance practice; Second Round State Volleyball Tournament
- 26 Earliest date for Wrestling and Basketball practice
- 26 Earliest date for Riflery and Swimming contests
- 27-28 Quarterfinal Round State Fastpitch Softball Tournament
- 27-28 Quarterfinal Round State Volleyball Tournament
- 30-31 Final Four State Fastpitch Softball Tournament
- 31 Semifinal Round State Volleyball Tournament; Complete Region Cross Country

GHSA Sponsors

