



GHSA

"ITEMS OF INTEREST"

February 2016

Hard Work, Plenty of Compromise, Led to New Reclass Plan

Thankfully, the Reclassification plan for school years 2016-2020 has been finalized. The adopted plan was approved at the conclusion of a very long session on Wednesday, January 13, 2016, in Macon. All newly organized regions should meet as soon as possible in order to construct football schedules for 2016-2017 and to elect officers for the Reclassification cycle. The GHSA will schedule a meeting of the new Executive Committee for later in the Spring.

The discussion for this Reclassification Plan began in July, 2014 with a meeting in Thomaston where some 12-13 proposals were presented. Some plans were very elaborate, others much simpler, but these proposals reflected the varying ideas for an overhaul of reclassification going forward. Over the next 18 months, all or parts of the Reclassification Committee traveled throughout the state listening to ideas, reading proposals and collecting information from the many areas of our constituencies.



As this school year began, the Reclassification Committee reviewed all proposals submitted or collected over the preceding months. During a lengthy meeting at the Civic Center in Thomaston, certain plans were brought forward for further consideration while others were eliminated from the process. Eventually the frame work of the adopted plan began to form and, after an open discussion session, the "Big 44 Plan," as it was called then, was presented to the full Executive Committee.

That plan was approved by the Executive Committee and a timeline taking the process from August to January was communicated to the entire membership. A delay in the release of the public school FTE numbers compressed the steps that had to be taken leading up to the final meeting on January 13. Throughout this long and arduous journey, the 14 members of the Reclassification Committee spent a great deal of their personal and professional time listening, traveling and giving earnest consideration to those who sought to contribute to this very important task.

No one involved in this effort got everything they wanted. There was a "give and take" throughout and a lot of compromise kept the process moving. The Reclassification Committee is to be commended for its serious deliberations and its professionalism in arriving at the point where we are now. There can never be a perfect plan; the GHSA has 455 member schools located across a vast geographic area. This is a state of complex diversity – from the North Georgia mountains to the sandy playing fields along the southern borders. We now have the plan in place and all of you are to go forward, compete and provide the best possible opportunities for our schools, coaches and athletes.

– Gary Phillips, Executive Director

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

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 - Executive Director -

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

JAY RUSSELL (extension 25)
 - Assistant Executive Director -
 By-Law Interpretations, Transfer Eligibility, Cross Country, Golf, Track

ERNE YARBROUGH (extension 27)
 - Coordinator of Officiating -
 Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Officials Training

DENIS TALLINI (extension 34)
 - Associate Director -
 Lacrosse, Volleyball, Wrestling, Sports Medicine

TOMMY WHITTLE (extension 23)
 - Associate Director -
 Football, Literary, One-Act Play, Soccer

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 Coach's Liaison, Compliance/Investigations, Sportsmanship

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 Media Coordination for State Events, Newsletter,
 GHSA Constitution & Calendar, Web Site Content, Tennis

PAM THOMPSON (extension 30)
 - Officials' Registrar -
 Officials' Registration, Testing & Online Clinics, Service Awards

TANYA ANDERSON (extension 29)
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 Event Sanctioning, School Passes, Directory,
 Online Clinics for Coaches, Trophies & Medals

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 Coaches Education Program, Web Site Content, Entry Notification

SHERI BROOKS (extension 0)
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 Hardship Hearings, Fines, School System/Retiree Passes,
 Publication Orders

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

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

GHSA Licensed Products

This month's featured licensees are: **Georgia Photographic** (georgiaphotographics.com); **RiverOak Photography** (riverokphotography.com); **Pinion Photography** (pinionphotography.com) & **Athletic Image** (theathleticimage.com), official action photographers; **EvoShield**, official protective gear (evoshield.com); **The Little Clinic**, official neighborhood medical clinic (thelittleclinic.com); **Precision Pro Golf Company**, golf laser rangefinder (precisionprogolf.com); and **NFHS Network**, streaming Web powered by **PlayOn Sports** (playonsports.com).

New Mobile Website Launched

A new mobile website for GHSA.net was launched in January. The new digital site features a redesigned pull-down menu with improved navigation and readability. A total of 52% of the traffic on GHSA.net comes from mobile phones (45%) and tablets (7%). The project was designed by MELT Interactive in collaboration with Jim Bullington, GHSA's IT Director.

STATE CHAMPIONS

CHEERLEADING

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| AAAAAA | Lambert High School |
| AAAAA | Northgate High School |
| AAAA | Carrollton High School |
| AAA | Pierce County High School |
| AA | Coosa High School |
| A (public) | Commerce High School |
| A (private) | Mt. Paran Christian School |
| Co-Ed | Johns Creek High School |

FOOTBALL

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

| | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| AAAAAA | Colquitt County High School |
| AAAAA | Allatoona High School |
| AAAA | Cartersville High School |
| AAA | Westminster School |
| AA | Pace Academy |
| A (public) | Clinch County High School |
| A (private) | Eagles Landing Christian |

TEAM DUAL WRESTLING

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

| | |
|--------|---------------------------|
| AAAAAA | Archer High School |
| AAAAA | Camden County High School |
| AAAA | Gilmer High School |
| AAA | Jefferson High School |
| AA | Social Circle High School |
| A | Commerce 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.

GHSA Events On The Air!



State Championship action of the **Swimming and Traditional Wrestling** state championships will video stream live on the NFHS Network.

The swimming State Finals will be live from Georgia Tech on Saturday, Feb. 6 from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m., (classes 1A-5A) and from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., (class 6A).

A week later, the traditional wrestling State Finals, presented by the Georgia Army National Guard, will be broadcast from the Infinite Energy Arena (formerly the Gwinnett Arena) with live action from all 12 mats on Saturday, Feb. 13 beginning at 3:00 p.m.

Subscription rates will apply to both the swimming and the wrestling events. Schedules for both events can be found on the GHSA web site and on Page 7 of this newsletter.

GHSA's Ernie Yarbrough Inducted into Softball Hall of Fame



Georgia Dugout Club Executive Director **Lisa Chapman** (left) and GADC President **Matt East** (right) present **Ernie Yarbrough** with his plaque after his induction into the Georgia Softball Hall of Fame by the Georgia Dugout Club on January 16. East said, "I couldn't think of anyone more deserving of this honor. He has been one of the motivating forces in the advancement of softball players and coaches throughout the state through his work at the GHSA and the softball community." Chapman added, "Ernie has been involved as a coach and administrator at the youth and high school levels since the beginning of fast pitch softball in Georgia. He has been the torch bearer for the sport and is deserving of the induction into the hall of fame."

MaxPreps Basketball Reminder!

MaxPreps is the "Official Statistician and Media Partner" for the GHSA. MaxPreps offers coaches a free stat management and communication platform that enables you to efficiently submit your schedule, scores, roster and statistics. MaxPreps is a 100% free service and the official source of scores and stats for the GHSA.

All GHSA basketball teams statewide must submit game results to MaxPreps, regardless of classification. This information will be used to verify GHSA Region Standings and manage Class A Power Ratings. In addition, all information submitted will be used to power the statewide statistical leader boards.

For assistance, you may contact MaxPreps' Georgia state representative, Kylie McClarty at kylie.mclarty@cbsi.com with any questions.



Home 'Pink' is OK April 4-9, 2016

In observance of "Cancer Awareness" the GHSA will allow member schools to wear "pink" jerseys at their HOME spring sports events during the week of April 4-9, 2016.

The visiting teams must wear their normal "dark" uniforms, as usual.

GHSA Reminders:

DEADLINES FOR NOMINATIONS: The nomination deadlines for submitting your students for Athletes for a Better World's 9th annual Vince Dooley Awards (**Feb. 28**) and Positive Athletes Georgia (**March 15**) are coming soon. For more information and nomination forms, please visit their respective web sites or go to <http://www.ghsa.net/sportsmanship>.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ITEMS: Anyone wishing to have an item included on the agenda for the spring State Executive Committee meeting must submit the item to the GHSA office by March 18, 2016. The spring State Executive Committee meeting will be held April 18, 2016 at the Marriott Macon City Center.

FOOTBALL SCHEDULES: Coaches and/or Athletic Directors are reminded that 2016 varsity Football Schedules are due in the GHSA office no later than March 1, 2016. If your school has hired a new coach for the 2016 season, please make sure he is made aware of this deadline.

OPEN MEET DEADLINE: Member schools are reminded of 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 2016-2017. The deadline for notification in **all** those events is April 1, 2016.

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: The mandatory "Dead Week" for this year is Sunday, July 3, 2016 through Saturday, July 9, 2016.

GHSA Seeks Host Sites

Each year, many schools contribute to the success of the 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 events for the 2016-17 year.

Sites are needed for the following events:

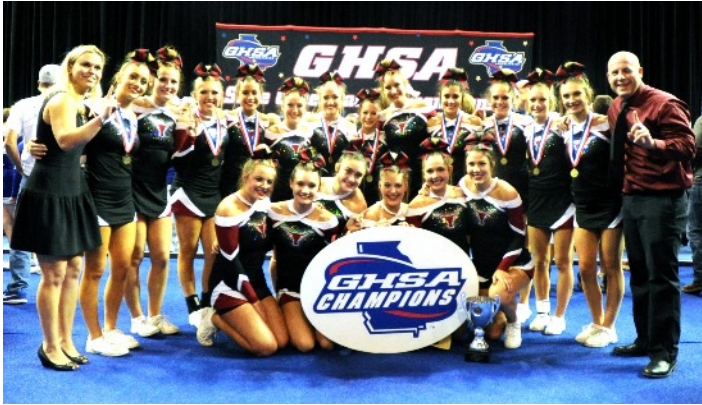
- Region Cheerleading
- Area Wrestling (Traditional and/or Team Duals)
- Sectional Wrestling (Traditional)
- Sectional Track
- Sectional Golf and State Golf

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

Attention Basketball Coaches

BASKETBALL STATE TOURNAMENT: All teams advancing to the State Tournament should go to the GHSA website for important information. Look for the headline that reads "State Tournament Team Information Packet." This information will be available on Monday, February 15.

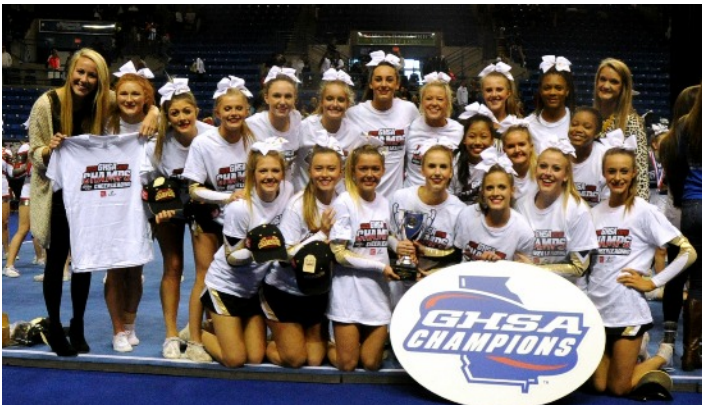
Cheerleading State Champions - 2015



AAAAAA: Lambert



AAAAA: Northgate



AAAA: Carrollton



AAA: Pierce County



AA: Coosa



A (private): Mt. Paran



A (public): Commerce



CoEd: Johns Creek

Football State Champions - 2015



Photographs of the state championship Football teams were provided by Cady Studios. Pictures of the winning Cheerleading teams were provided by Georgia Photographics.



AAAAAA: Colquitt County



AAAAA: Allatoona



AAAA: Cartersville



AAA: Westminster



AA: Pace Academy



A (public): Clinch County



A (private): Eagles Landing Christian

Team Dual Wrestling State Champions - 2016



Photographs of the state championship Dual Wrestling teams were provided by Clay Teague.



AAAAAA: Archer



AAAAA: Camden County



AAAA: Gilmer



AAA: Jefferson



AA: Social Circle



A: Commerce

Stay Connected to the GHSA!

For all coaches, athletic directors, schools and teams, the GHSA invites you to follow us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook @OfficialGHSA for all the latest GHSA news and live state championship information.



State Swimming and Diving Meets

The 2016 **State Swimming and Diving Championships** will be held on February 4-6 at the Georgia Tech Campus Recreation Center in Atlanta. Admission is \$12 per day.

Free admission will be allowed for the following: 1. Swimmers and divers qualified and entered in the State Meet; 2. Coaches that are listed on the Swimming and Diving Coaches list; 3. Four girls and four boys designated as substitutes by the coach on the team list; 4. Two team attendants or trainers as listed on the team roster; 5. Those normally allowed free admission, such as GHSA passes, will continue to be admitted by signing the pass list.

Schedule of Events:

Thursday:

Feb. 4 9:00 am Diving Finals for A-5A (warmup at 7:00 am)
Feb. 4 3:00 pm Diving Finals for 6A (warmup at 1:00 pm)

Friday:

Feb. 5 9:00 am Swim Prelims for A-5A (warmup at 7:00 am)
Feb. 5 6:00 pm Swim Prelims for 6A (warmup at 4:20 pm)

Saturday:

Feb. 6 1:00 pm Swim Finals for A-5A (warmup at 11:00 am)
Feb. 6 6:00 pm Swim Finals for 6A (warmup at 4:30 pm)

Order of Swim Events: (boys events precede girls events)

200-yard Medley Relay
200-yard Freestyle
200-yard Individual Medley
50-yard Freestyle
100-yard Butterfly
100-yard Freestyle
500-yard Freestyle
200-yard Freestyle Relay
100-yard Backstroke
100-yard Breaststroke
400-yard Freestyle Relay

Qualifying Standards - Swimming

| BOYS | EVENTS | GIRLS |
|---------|----------------------------|---------|
| 1:51.00 | 200-yard Medley Relay | 2:07.00 |
| 1:55.00 | 200-yard Freestyle | 2:07.00 |
| 2:12.00 | 200-yard Individual Medley | 2:24.00 |
| :23.50 | 50-yard Freestyle | :26.50 |
| :58.00 | 100-yard Butterfly | 1:05.00 |
| :52.00 | 100-yard Freestyle | :58.50 |
| 5:20.00 | 500-yard Freestyle | 5:40.00 |
| 1:40.00 | 200-yard Freestyle Relay | 1:53.00 |
| 1:00.00 | 100-yard Backstroke | 1:06.00 |
| 1:07.00 | 100-yard Breaststroke | 1:15.00 |
| 3:44.00 | 400-yard Freestyle Relay | 4:12.00 |

Qualifying Standards - Diving

A diver may become eligible for the State Meet using a 6-dive sheet or an 11-dive sheet.

1) 6-DIVE: The degree of difficulty of dives 2-6 when totaled shall be equal to or more than 10.4 for both boys and girls. The score to be achieved must be 200 points or more.

2) 11-DIVE: The minimum degree of difficulty for optional dives shall be 11.5 for girls and 12.0 for boys. The score to be achieved for both boys and girls is 270 points or more.

Sectional, State Wrestling Tournaments

Sectional Traditional Wrestling Tournaments will be held on Friday and/or Saturday, February 5-6, 2016.

The Traditional Wrestling Finals, presented by the Georgia Army National Guard, will be held on Thursday through Saturday, February 11-13, 2016 at the Infinite Energy Arena.

Admission prices for the State Finals are \$7 on Thursday and \$10 on Friday and Saturday (all day), or a total tournament ticket will be sold for \$24.

Sectional Tournaments will be held at the following sites:

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 6A (Top 8 Qualify for State Finals): Sec. A (Areas 2, 4, 6, 7) Sec. B (Areas 1, 3, 5, 8) | Mill Creek Lowndes |
| 5A (Top 8 Qualify for State Finals): Sec. A (Areas 4, 6, 7, 8) Sec. B (Areas 1, 2, 3, 5) | Lanier Allatoona |
| 4A (Top 8 Qualify for State Finals): Sec. A (Areas 3, 4, 6, 8) Sec. B (Areas 1, 2, 5, 7) | West Laurens Gilmer |
| 3A (Top 8 Qualify for State Finals): Sec. A (Areas 1, 3, 7, 8) Sec. B (Areas 2, 4, 5, 6) | Morgan County Calhoun |
| 2A (Top 4 Qualify for State Finals): Sec. A (Areas 3, 4) Sec. B (Areas 1, 2) | GACS Bremen |
| A (Top 4 Qualify for State Finals): Sec. A (Areas 1, 2) Sec. B (Areas 3, 4) | Irwin County Mt. Zion, Carroll |

The Schedule for the **State Finals Tournament** at the Infinite Energy Arena is as follows:

| Date/Time | Event | Classes |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Thursday, Feb. 11 | | |
| noon | Weigh-Ins | 3A, 4A, 5A & 6A |
| 1:15 - 1:45 pm | Coaches Meeting | 3A, 4A, 5A & 6A |
| 2:00 - 7:00 pm | Round of 16 | 3A, 4A, 5A & 6A |
| 7:00 - 9:00 pm | Quarterfinals | 3A, 4A, 5A & 6A |
| Friday, Feb. 12 | | |
| 7:00 am | Weigh-Ins | 3A, 4A, 5A & 6A |
| 9:00 - 11:00 am | 1st Round WBs | 3A, 4A, 5A & 6A |
| 9:00 am | Weigh-Ins | A & 2A |
| 10:15 - 10:45 am | Coaches Meeting | A & 2A |
| 11:00 am - 1:00 pm | Quarterfinals | A & 2A |
| 1:00 - 3:00 pm | 2nd Round WBs | 3A, 4A, 5A & 6A |
| 3:00 - 5:00 pm | Consolation Quarters | All Classes |
| 7:00 - 9:00 pm | Semifinals | All Classes |
| Saturday, Feb. 13 | | |
| 7:30 am | Weigh-Ins | All Classes |
| 9:30 - 11:00 am | Consolation Semis | All Classes |
| 11 a.m. - 12:30 pm | Consolation Finals | All Classes |
| 2:30 pm | Finals Opening Ceremonies | All Classes |
| 3:00 pm | FINALS Begin | All Classes |
| (Awards ceremony immediately after finals) | | |

GHSA - February Calendar - 2016

February

- 1 Deadline for notification of entry in Literary
- 1 Earliest contest date for Tennis and Gymnastics
- 4-6 State Swimming & Diving Meets
- 5, 6 Traditional Wrestling Sectional Tournaments
- 8 Earliest contest date for Soccer and Track
- 9 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 11-13 Traditional Wrestling State Tournaments
- 13 Complete Region Basketball
- 15 File reports of Region Basketball winners by 9 a.m.
- 15 Earliest contest date for Baseball and Lacrosse; Golf practice begins
- 16, 17 First Round State Basketball Tournaments 2A through 6A
- 19, 20 First Round State Basketball Tournaments Class A
- 19, 20 Second Round State Basketball Tournaments 2A through 6A
- 20 First contest date for Golf
- 23 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 25, 26 Quarterfinal Round State Basketball Tournament all classes
- 28 Semifinal Round State Basketball Tournament all classes

March

- 1 Football Schedules due into GHSA Office
- 3-5 Final Round State Basketball Tournament all classes

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