



# GHSA

## *“Items of Interest”*

March 2009

### **School-based Athletics Still Vital During Slow Economy**

The GHSA (like all state high school associations) repeatedly proclaims that school-based athletics must be an extension of the classroom. At the same time, however, school-based athletics are an extension of the local, regional and national cultures in which they exist. Students, teachers, and fans are all influenced by the circumstances in which they live.

This influence of culture has been addressed in previous discussions in regard to sportsmanship. Many aspects of the American culture are marked by a decline in civility among people. This has intruded into school-based athletics in a variety of ways, and those who manage high school sports often feel as though they are “swimming against the current” when they try to promote sportsmanship.

In this article, however, I want to address another cultural issue that is impacting high school athletics – the economy. Since most schools in Georgia may not use tax funds to operate athletic programs, the legislative budget cuts have not had a direct impact on our programs. The indirect impact, however, is significant.

School administrators are having to make important decisions about funding issues. Coaching supplements and bus costs are just two areas where there are major concerns that may result in changes in school athletic programs. On the other side of the economic coin, the revenue streams from gate receipts and boosters’ clubs are dwindling. The loss of revenue was evident in the fall playoffs administered by the GHSA.

I hope that school administrators will be able to balance some important philosophical information against the stark realities of the economy. School-based sports exist to provide all interested students with opportunities to learn important lessons about themselves and about life. They provide teachable moments to emphasize practical applications of traditional values that mold good citizens.

I hope that school administrators will look for creative scheduling solutions and minimal schedule pruning before deciding to cut programs – even at the sub-varsity level. All of us are in a period where decisions have to be made for educational and economic benefits and not for competitive success, and this is a major paradigm shift for coaches.

The GHSA Executive Committee has already begun to discuss changes in rules clinics, playoff structures, and reclassification procedures that take into consideration the times in which we live. The GHSA is an association of member schools and not just a staff of people in Thomaston. The membership of the GHSA must work together to solve critical issues that threaten schools and their programs.



– **Ralph Swearngin**, Executive Director

**GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION** Newsletter

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

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**- GHSA STAFF -**  
**Areas of Responsibility**

**RALPH SWEARNGIN** (extension 7)

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

**GARY PHILLIPS** (extension 6)

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

**JOYCE KAY** (extension 5)

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

**STEVE FIGUEROA** (extension 4)

- Director of Media Relations -  
Press Releases, Media Coordination for State Events, Newsletter,  
Football Schedules, Constitution, Calendar, Tennis

**JIM BULLINGTON** (extension 33)

- Technology Specialist -  
Web Page Supervision, Database Management, Technical Support

**PAM THOMPSON** (extension 30)

- Officials' Registrar -  
Officials' Registration, Test Scoring and Records

**DENNIS PAYNE** (extension 23)

- Associate Director -  
Football, Baseball, Swimming

**ERNIE YARBROUGH** (extension 27)

- Associate Director -  
Basketball, Soccer, Softball

**TANYA ANDERSON** (extension 2)

- Administrative Assistant -  
Sanctioning of Events, School Passes,  
Directory, Coaches' Clinic Attendance

**JULIE JONES** (extension 1)

- Administrative Assistant -  
Dues, Community Coach Program

**SHERI COKER** (extension 0)

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

**GHSA Licensed Products**

Advanced orders for GHSA event T-shirts can be placed with All-Star Outfitters at [www.asoapparel.com](http://www.asoapparel.com) or call 678-569-0134 ... Action photos from select championship events can be found at Photographic Arts [www.schoolpix.biz](http://www.schoolpix.biz) / 678-393-1719 ... DVDs / VHS copies of GHSA televised games can be ordered from [www.gametapes.com](http://www.gametapes.com) / 206-285-8816 ... Visit the GHSA Store and a full list of GHSA sponsors and licensees at [www.ghsa.net](http://www.ghsa.net).

**STATE CHAMPIONS****WRESTLING - Traditional**

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

AAAAA	Collins Hill High School
AAAA	Effingham County High School
AAA	Eastside High School
AA	Jefferson High School
A	Bremen High School

**SWIMMING and DIVING**

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

**Boys**

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

**Girls**

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

**DEBATE**

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

AAAAA/AAAA	Milton High School
AAA/AA/A	Pace 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.

**New GHSA Licensee**

**Musco Sports Lighting** is now the official sports lighting source of the GHSA. Whatever your sports or event lighting need, Musco Lighting has the solution. A leader in developing sports-lighting technology — including solutions for permanent and temporary lighting, and sports facility management — Musco offers innovative systems, a comprehensive package of services and decades of experience. Since 1976, Musco Lighting, the world class leader in sports lighting, has specialized in the design and manufacture of systems for lighting recreation and athletic fields. From neighborhood ball fields to NASCAR superspeedways to the fast-paced world of sports broadcasting and the entertainment industry, Musco's team can state: "We Make It Happen." Learn more at [Musco.com](http://Musco.com).

**Basketball Finals on TV**

For the 12th season, Georgia Public Broadcasting will televise live the GHSA Basketball State Championship Finals presented by State Farm on March 13 & 14.

The AAAAA and AAAA games begin March 13 at 3 p.m., while Saturday's action for A, AA and AAA tips off at 11 a.m. The AAASP Wheelchair Championship contest will air at 9:30 a.m. The games also be Webcast live on [GPB.org](http://GPB.org).

Supporting the statewide coverage are GEMC, Regions Bank, GaCollege411, State Farm, Dodge and Naturally Fresh. DVDs will be available at [gametapes.com](http://gametapes.com).



## Traditional Wrestling State Champions - 2009



Class AAAAA Champion: Collins Hill



Class AAAA Champion: Effingham County



Class AA Champion: Jefferson



Class AAA Champion: Eastside



Class A Champion: Bremen



## Swimming & Diving State Champions - 2009



Class AAAAA Boys Champion: Brookwood



Class AAAAA Girls Champion: Lassiter



Class AAAA/AAA/AA/A Boys Champion: Marist



Class AAAA/AAA/AA/A Girls Champion: Marist

Photos of the championship teams represented in this newsletter were provided by **Photographic Arts**. Other photos from the various GHSA state events can be found at [www.schoolpix.biz](http://www.schoolpix.biz).

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

**HOLIDAY INN / Convention Complex - FORSYTH, GEORGIA  
March 23, 2009 - 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: Jay Russell, Athletic Director, LaGrange High School  
Appeal of student eligibility - Liddle (eight-semesters)
  - Monday - 9:15 am: Mark Mygrant, Principal, North Atlanta High School  
Appeal of student eligibility - Charles (eight-semesters)
  - Monday - 9:30 am: Ken Johnson, Principal, Berkmar High School  
Appeal of student eligibility - Hybru (eight-semesters)
  - Monday - 9:45 am: Kendall Johnson, Principal, Berkmar High School  
Appeal of student eligibility - Pastrana (eight-semesters)
  - Monday - 10:00 am: John Osborne, Principal, North Oconee High School  
Appeal of student eligibility - Hoag (eight-semesters)
  - Monday - 10:15 am: David McGee, Principal, Apalachee High School  
Appeal of student eligibility - Ameyaw (eight-semesters)

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Board of Trustees**

Proposal to replace the word "forfeit" with "vacate the win" in by-laws  
 Suggested change in 2.93(b2) concerning Postponing games  
 Suggested rewording of By-Law 4.31 (d) for clarification  
 Report on GHSA rules affecting participation of 8th grade students and suggested proposals  
 Proposed change in 2.64 when 2 schools are competing  
 Request to issue GHSA Pass to Strength & Conditioning Coach

1.46 to allow a team to play multiple games on a single day (except football)

**Basketball Committee**

Proposal to delete limitations on number of days of week for games  
 Blend game time limitation wording  
 Proposal to mandate a minimum of 2 games per site in region playoffs

**Football Committee**

Suggested changes:  
 School night sub-varsity games start and/or ending times  
 Delete band noise rule  
 Artificial noisemakers except air horns are legal at games  
 GHSA to provide gate workers, supervisor at semifinals  
 Suggested procedure for officials assignments for regular season games to determine seeding  
 Region 8-AAAAA - August practice dates

**Cheerleading Committee**

Proposal to require all stunting at basketball games be on mats

**Golf Committee**

Proposal to allow top 2 individual medalists advance to State

**Coaches Committee**

Proposal to require ejected coaches to attend "Principles of Coaches" course

**Lacrosse Committee**

Request for change in Lacrosse calendar

**Eligibility Committee**

Proposed by-law changes:  
 1.62(g1,g2) to accept permanent custody by Juvenile Court  
 1.51, exception 2, to allow academically ineligible cheerleader to tryout if passing all classes  
 1.44 delete "exception"

**Officials Committee**

Request to consider minimum membership in associations

**Reclassification**

Report from Reclassification Forum  
 Proposal concerning solving subdivision issues

**Soccer Committee**

Appointment: John Bowen, McIntosh  
 Proposal to increase the overtime periods from 5 minutes to 10 minutes and use a sudden-victory format

**AGENDA, Continued**

Proposal to implement the cross-over in the second round rather than the third round of the playoff bracket  
Request for change in season dates

**Softball Committee**

Proposal for change in playoff format to eliminate Sectionals

**Tennis Committee**

Proposal to amend use of alternates in playoffs

**Track Committee**

Appointment: Scott Starr, Bainbridge

Proposal to add quarterfinals to qualify for State Meet

**Volleyball Committee**

Proposal for change in playoff format with suggested dates and brackets

**Wrestling Committee**

Proposal to delete limit on number of days per week to compete

Proposal to have head-to-head weigh-ins one hour before matches at site of competition

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

1. Financial Report
2. Budget for 2009-10

**OLD BUSINESS:** Second vote on Constitutional Amendments:

1. Modify the guidelines for reclassification by placing general provisions in Article 3 of the Constitution, and specific procedures in the 4.00 section of by-laws.  
Article 3: Section 2 (new wording - delete current Sections 2-9 - to be effective 2010)  
The Reclassification Committee of the Executive Committee shall place member schools in classifications and regions based on student F.T.E. figures and geographic proximity respectively.
  - (a) Member schools will be realigned every four years, and may be adjusted at the end of the second year for schools whose student population growth creates unfair advantages or disadvantages.
  - (b) The number of classifications and the number of regions will be determined by the Reclassification Committee at the time of each realignment.
  - (c) The realignment plan of the Reclassification Committee shall be ratified by a simple majority of the full Executive Committee.  
(Note: If passed, will require rewording of procedures listed in By-Laws 4.15 - 4.16 - 4.17)
2. Article IV, Section 2, "B" and "C", change:
  - B. Terms of office for members of the State Executive Committee elected by Regions shall coincide with the length of each reclassification cycle. (effective with 2010-11 year)

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Election of officers for 2009-10

**ADJOURNMENT****2009 STATE GOLF SITES**

The sites for the 2009 State Golf Tournaments have been finalized and are as follows:

<b>BOYS</b>		<b>GIRLS</b>	
AAAAA	Oleander Golf Course, Jekyll Island Host: Glynn County Schools	AAAAA	Indian Mounds Golf Course, Jekyll Island Host: Glynn County Schools
AAAA	Nob North Golf Club, Tunnel Hill Host: Northwest Whitfield High School	AAAA	Dalton Country Club, Dalton Host: Dalton High School
AAA	Waynesboro Country Club, Waynesboro Host: Burke County HS & Burke Chamber	AAA	Applewood Golf Course, Keysville Host: Burke County HS & Burke Chamber
AA	Rocky Creek Golf Course, Vidalia Host: Vidalia High School	AA	Brazell's Creek Golf Course, Reidsville Host: Vidalia High School
A	Forest Hills Golf Course, Augusta Host: Aquinas HS & Augusta Sports Council	A	Bartram Trail Golf Course, Augusta Host: Aquinas HS & Augusta Sports Council



## Schedule for State Literary Meet

The state literary meet for all classifications will be held at two sites on Saturday, March 21, 2009. Classes AA and AAA will be held at Houston County High School, while Classes A, AAAA and AAAAA will be at Northside High School in Warner Robins. Admission is free to all events.

### Classes AAA and AA Houston County High School

#### Girls Dramatic Interpretation:

AA	9:30 am	Room 215
AAA	11:00 am	Room 215

#### Boys Dramatic Interpretation:

AA	9:30 am	Room 205
AAA	11:00 am	Room 205

#### Girls Extemporaneous Speaking:

AA	8:30 am	Room 305 (Drawing)
AA	9:30 am	Room 308 (Speaking)
AAA	10:00 am	Room 305 (Drawing)
AAA	11:00 am	Room 308 (Speaking)

#### Boys Extemporaneous Speaking:

AA	8:30 am	Room 305 (Drawing)
AA	9:30 am	Room 307 (Speaking)
AAA	10:00 am	Room 305 (Drawing)
AAA	11:00 am	Room 307 (Speaking)

#### Boys And Girls Essay:

AA	9:00 am	Room 317
AAA	9:00 am	Room 317

#### Girls Solo:

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

#### Boys Solo:

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

#### Girls Trio:

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

#### Boys Quartet:

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

Music warmup area is in the Band Room.

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

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

#### Girls Dramatic Interpretation:

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

#### Boys Dramatic Interpretation:

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

#### Girls Extemporaneous Speaking:

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

#### Boys Extemporaneous Speaking:

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

#### Boys And Girls Essay:

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

#### Girls Solo:

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

#### Boys Solo:

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

#### Girls Trio:

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

#### Boys Quartet:

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

## GHSA - March Calendar - 2009

### March

- 1 Deadline to submit Football Schedules to GHSA office
- 3, 4 Second Round State Basketball
- 6 Complete Area Riflery
- 6, 7 Quarterfinal Round State Basketball
- 10 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 11-13 Semifinals and Finals State Basketball (AAAA & AAAAA)
- 11-14 Semifinals and Finals State Basketball (A, AA & AAA)
- 14 Complete Region Literary
- 16 File reports of Region Literary winners with GHSA by noon
- 16 Complete Riflery Sectionals
- 17 File reports of Riflery Sectionals with State Coordinator and GHSA office
- 21 State Literary Meet; Complete Riflery Semifinals
- 23 State Executive Committee Meeting
- 24 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting

### April

- 1 Deadline to submit notification of entry in Gymnastics, Lacrosse, Riflery, Softball, Soccer, Volleyball & Wrestling for 2009-10

## GHSA Sponsors

