



GHSA

"Items of Interest"

October 2007

Some Changes for Reclassification This Time Around

An Executive Director of another state high school association was asked what he was most looking forward to in his retirement and his answer was, "No more reclassification!" It is just about that time again in Georgia when schools are reclassified and placed in regions, and I understand his sentiments.

Reclassification procedures would be less volatile if there were a consensus about the priorities in the process. There is general agreement that schools should compete against schools of "comparable" size. There is less agreement on what "comparable" means. There is strong agreement that travel time and time out of school for athletic events should be minimized, but many educators still view reclassification with the focus on how much chance there is to get to the playoffs. The task is to get the same number of schools of nearly the same size in regions that require little travel. That may be a hopeless task at this point.

In order to attack this task, several new wrinkles have been added to the GHSA reclassification process. (The schedule for reclassification can be found on Page 2 of this edition.) Here are some of the changes that will be in effect from the fall of 2008 through the spring of 2010:

1. A public school's FTE count for reclassification will be determined by averaging the spring 2007 count and the fall 2007 count. These numbers are expected to be released in late October. The GHSA member private schools submitted their current FTE counts in early September. If a new school is being built either in 2008 or 2009, the Superintendent in that system has projected the enrollments for the new school and for all existing schools affected by the opening of the new school through the 2009-2010 school year.
2. All schools with an FTE count of 1,850 or more will be placed in Class AAAAA. All schools with an FTE count of 525 or less will be placed in Class A. Schools with FTE counts of 526-1849 will be divided equally among Classes AAAA, AAA, and AA.
3. There will be two alignments in class A – one will be for football only, and the other will be for all remaining activities.

The rationale for these changes in the reclassification process are:

1. The largest and smallest schools have the greatest disparity in school populations within that classification. Placing hard numbers instead of a fluctuating percentage number will help keep the population difference in check to some degree.
2. A major problem in Class A occurs when regions are made large enough to have a reasonable number of football-playing schools, and then a larger number of non-football playing schools have to be included for all other sports.
3. By the end of the 2008-2010 cycle, it is estimated that there will be 420 member schools. At the beginning of the 2006-2008 cycle, there were 394 member schools. The population growth is not occurring uniformly across the state. This presents problems with excess travel in order to play schools of comparable size.

There will be excitement off the playing fields as well as on those fields for the next few months.

– **Ralph Swearngin**, Executive Director



GHSA Dues Must Be Paid By Oct. 15

School administrators are reminded that the deadline for paying GHSA membership dues is October 15th. An invoice for the dues can be found in the GHSA Forms Notebook.

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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- 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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Football Schedules, Constitution, Calendar, Tennis

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

SHERI COKER (extension 0)

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

New Marketing Partners

Three new companies have joined the GHSA marketing programs. **Naturally Fresh**, based in Atlanta, will be a champion sponsor as the official sauce and dressing provider of the GHSA. Two new licensees include, **American Solutions for Business** (LaGrange) specializing in custom school promotional products and **Electro Mech Scoreboard Company** (Wrightsville) a manufacturer of sports scoreboards. . . . Check out the **GHSA Store** and a full list of sponsors and licensees at www.GHSA.net

NEW Softball Hotel Procedure!

Coaches of teams advancing to the State Softball Championships October 25-27, at the South Commons Complex in Columbus are advised of a **new hotel booking procedure** for this season.

Once your team has qualified for the tournament, go to www.columbusgasports.com to reserve rooms for your team. You will not be able to reserve or block rooms until you are sent the access code after the Sectionals Oct. 19-20. You will click on "Softball" then "GHSA" then "Hotel Accommodations."

Your fans also can purchase pre-tournament tickets on the same site. Simply click on "Softball" then "GHSA" then "Tickets" to make the purchases.

For questions, please contact Merri Sherman with the Sports Council at 706-225-3821.

Reclassification Schedule

There have been many questions e-mailed or phoned into the GHSA office concerning the upcoming process for reclassification of member schools for the 2008-10 school years. Listed below is the schedule for that process.

Note: Exact dates for the meetings outlined below will be determined after the Fall FTE counts are received from the Department of Education and the dates will be published on the GHSA web site and in future newsletters.

BASIS FOR COUNT:

Public Schools: Average of the Spring 2007 and Fall 2007 FTE counts

Private Schools: FTE count as of September 4, 2007 (no multiplier used)

LATE OCTOBER:

The GHSA office will send out numerical ranking of all member schools that delineates the five classifications.

Schools will have two weeks after receiving mailing to:

- a) appeal the validity of the FTE count
- b) submit a written notice to "play up" into a higher classification

MID NOVEMBER:

1. GHSA Reclassification Committee will meet to place schools in regions

2. GHSA office will send out region alignments

3. Schools will have two weeks after receiving mailing to file an appeal for a lateral transfer to another region

MID DECEMBER:

The GHSA Reclassification Committee will hear appeals regarding lateral transfers.

EARLY JANUARY:

The GHSA Executive Committee will have a specially-called meeting to:

- a) hear appeals from the Reclassification Committee meeting
- b) ratify the reclassification of schools for 2008-2010

STATE FARM UNVEILS NEW CHAMPIONSHIP HEADGEAR

State Farm, the official awards presenter of the GHSA, unveiled a new headgear design that will be presented to the 2007-08 state champions. The new hats and visors will be produced by The Game, a veteran sports apparel company. "State Farm would like to thank GHSA for our continued partnership and we look forward to another great year with Georgia high school sports," said Kari Butler, State Farm Marketing Manager.



Scholar/Athlete & Scholar/Manager Awards Forms Available Online

The Scholar/Athlete Awards Program and the Whitey Zimmerman Scholarship Program will be in place again this year, sponsored by Havoline, the Atlanta Falcons Youth Foundation, Gallagher Electric & Engineering Company, Inc., and the National Football Foundation & College Football Hall of Fame, Inc. The GHSA has been asked by these organizations to make the forms for these programs available to our member schools.

Nomination forms are provided online at www.ghsa.net on the "Football" webpage. The deadline to submit the forms to your Region Secretary is November 1, 2007.

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."

Howard Named National High School Principal of the Year

Molly P. Howard, principal of Jefferson County High School, was recently named National High School Principal of the Year.

Howard, who represents Region 3-AA on the Georgia High School Association's State Executive Committee, received the honor on September 4th at an assembly attended by State Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox and several other dignitaries.

At first, Howard thought she was being recognized for being named Georgia High School Principal of the Year and a finalist in the national contest.

But officials from the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) told Howard that she had been named the National High School Principal of the Year. She was chosen from a pool of three finalists that also included principals from Delaware and Alaska.

"Molly Howard is a great school leader and it shows not only in the performance of her students, but also in the quality of students they produce," Superintendent Cox said. "I am so proud of the

great work going on at Jefferson County High School. I know Molly shares this award with her outstanding teachers, staff and students."

ABOUT MOLLY HOWARD (from the NASSP website): Bridging a serious achievement gap can be a daunting challenge, but it's one that Molly Howard tackled head on with the help of the entire school community.

When she took the helm of Jefferson County High School, her first order of business was to create a school improvement team that developed a mission and vision for the school and set several top priorities: increase graduation rates, create a personalized caring school community, and increase student achievement on state tests.

To address those priorities, Howard worked with the school community to build a culture of collaboration and establish a true learning community.

An annual summer workshop gives teachers a week of uninterrupted time to develop and refine units of study that reflect best practices, differentiation,

essential learnings, and standards.

One decision the staff made, knowing that setting high expectations is a key to student achievement, was to eliminate all lower-level courses. All students take college preparatory-level English, as well as math, science, and social studies. With extended learning time and a mastery approach, every student also has the opportunity to master essential Algebra I skills.

Students who have not mastered standards are offered extra help through an after-school tutoring program and in-class retests.

To keep students on track, each certified adult in the school serves as an advisor to a group of 12-15 students and follows the students throughout their entire high school career.

According to Howard, the advisory program has helped create a new culture within the school.

Now the school boasts improved student achievement and a 75% graduation rate, which is above the state and national rates.

GHSA Official Balls

Coaches and school administrators are reminded that the GHSA State Executive Committee has approved "Official" balls for all GHSA state playoff events. Listed below are the balls that will be provided for GHSA state playoff events. This is effective through June 30, 2008.

Sport	Make/Model
Baseball	WILSON A1010 B-Pro
Basketball	WILSON EVOLUTION Boys: B0516 Girls: B0586
Football	WILSON F1003 or F1005
Soccer	BRINE "Championship"
Softball - SP (optic yellow 11")	WILSON A9202B
Softball - FP (optic yellow 12")	WILSON A9011 BSST
Volleyball	SPALDING TF4000

Basketball Quarterfinal Sites Set

The sites for the State Basketball Quarterfinals on Friday, February 29 and Saturday, March 1, 2008 are as follows:

Class A South - Columbus State University (Fri.); A North - Georgia Highlands College, Rome (Sat.); AA South - Savannah State University (Fri.); AA North - Forum, Rome (Sat.); AAA South - Columbus State University (Sat.); AAA North - Mt. Zion High School, Jonesboro (Sat.); AAAA South - Ft. Valley State University (Sat.); AAAA North - Marietta High School (Sat.); AAAAA South - Savannah State University (Sat.); AAAAA North - The University of Georgia, Athens (Fri.).

Volleyball Will Stream Live Again

For the second straight year, volleyball fans will be able to watch the GHSA State Volleyball Championships through free online video streaming available at www.GHSA.net.

The online video stream is a production partnership of PlayON! Sports, a division of Turner Broadcasting, and ScoreAtlanta. Providing color commentary will be Phil Bush, an expert on the Georgia scholastic volleyball scene.

The GHSA State Volleyball Championships will take place on November 3 at Marietta High School. The schedule has Class AA/A at 11 a.m., AAA at 1:30 p.m., AAAA at 4 p.m., and AAAAA at 7 p.m. Free online video streams are available both live as well as on-demand. The sponsors of the live streaming event will be Verizon Wireless, Mizuno and Spalding, the official volleyball of the GHSA.



National High School Activities Week

Since 1980, the NFHS has set aside the third week in October to celebrate and encourage schools and communities to highlight the importance of high school activities such as athletics, speech and debate, music, drama, band and spirit squads. Through the week, different days, such as national Be A Sport day, are highlighted through official designation. The goal is to increase the public's awareness of the positives that result from participation.

'Ways to Celebrate the Week' - October 14-20

<p>Sunday, Oct. 14</p> <p><i>National Be A Sport Day</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Make up positive cheers, chants or songs ■ Print bookmarks with sportsmanship ideas; ask library to slip them into all books ■ Give incentives to faculty, staff and students "caught" being a sport ■ Use table tents in cafeteria, reading lounges or library for sportsmanship messages ■ Welcome visiting teams with announcement over PA system ■ Make posters for contest 	<p>Monday, Oct. 15</p> <p><i>National Fine Arts Activities Day</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Recognize fine arts participants at pep rally ■ Organize youth talent program for community ■ Give program at elementary school or judge "Star Search" program ■ Invite middle school band students to perform with high school band at football game ■ Invite local actors or musicians for performance with students ■ Do feature story in campus newspaper 	<p>Tuesday, Oct. 16</p> <p><i>National Officials Day</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Host breakfast for officials who help in sports and fine arts ■ Hold class competition of "You Make the Call;" feature questions on sports rules ■ Have round-table discussion with students, officials and parents ■ Donate sportsmanship-related book or video to library on behalf of officials ■ Send certificates of recognition and appreciation letters to officials 	<p>Wednesday, Oct. 17</p> <p><i>National Youth Health Awareness Day</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Offer pregame meal with nutritional analysis ■ Hold workshops on health issues; recognize school nurse, trainer and team doctor ■ Offer students opportunity to "shadow" health professionals ■ Create and display bulletin boards and posters dealing with healthy life-style issues ■ Have students prepare directory of community agencies ■ Set aside part of practice to discuss healthy life-style issues
<p>Thursday, Oct. 18</p> <p><i>National Coaches / Sponsors / Advisors Day</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Host breakfast for all coaches and sponsors ■ Ask non-coaching members of the faculty to be "coaches of the day" ■ Honor different coaches and advisors each hour of the day ■ Recognize coaches, sponsors and their families during school events ■ Let "fan of the week" sit on the bench with the team ■ Play "Name that Coach" clue game 	<p>Friday, Oct. 19</p> <p><i>National Fan Appreciation Day</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Provide booster club members a coupon for free popcorn and soda ■ Present free program to fans (based on school colors or other criteria) ■ Give school shirts to most avid fans (students and adults) ■ Offer tailgate party with refreshments ■ Introduce parents of players and cheerleaders during pregame ■ Ask media to feature fan with longest attendance record 	<p>Saturday, Oct. 20</p> <p><i>National Community Service / Participation Day</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Offer free admission to event to representatives of program advertisers ■ Hold open house; invite alumni, businesses and media to attend ■ Do radio or television public service announcements with activities participants ■ Offer "errand running" service for elderly ■ Recognize business partners in programs ■ Offer school souvenirs at auction to fund service project 	

High School Sports Participation Increases Again; Girls Exceeds Three Million for First Time Ever

INDIANAPOLIS, IN — For the 18th consecutive year, the number of student participants in high school athletics increased in 2006-07, according to the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

Based on figures from the 50 state high school athletic/activity associations, plus the District of Columbia, that are members of the NFHS, participation for the 2006-07 school year rose by 183,006 students to 7,342,910, according to the 2006-07 High School Athletics Participation Survey conducted by the NFHS.

In addition, girls participation exceeded three million for the first time, with 3,021,807 females participating in 2006-07. Through the survey, it was also determined that 54.2 percent of students enrolled in high schools participate in athletics.

"This is certainly another great report on the interest of high school sports in our nation's schools," said NFHS Executive Director Robert F. Kanaby. "The girls participation figure is particularly exciting since this year is the 35th anniversary of Title IX. We are pleased that more and more girls are taking advantage of the opportunity to participate in high school sports.

"The results support the NFHS 2005-2008 Strategic Plan, in which the organization committed to providing stronger leadership and support for high school athletics and fine arts activities."

Last year, the NFHS began a new brand identity emphasis

using a communications tag line of "Take Part. Get Set for Life.™" In addition to its chief task of writing playing rules for high school sports, the NFHS is striving to gain awareness and support from state and local governments, media, corporate partners, and especially students and their parents.

Not only is participation at an all-time high, this year's increase of 183,006 participants from last year is the largest one-year jump since a rise of 225,168 between the 1994-95 and 1995-96 school years.

"Although we've had increases in participation for 18 consecutive years, a jump of 183,000 makes a strong statement that students want these programs," Kanaby said. "We must do all we can to keep these programs alive in our nation's high schools. We can demonstrate that participation in athletics and activities helps students succeed in life."

In addition to the overall numbers, the boys participation total of 4,321,103 is the highest participation in the past 29 years. This year's boys participation figure is second only to the record 4,367,442 in 1977-78.

Soccer gained the most female participants in 2006-07 with 16,077, followed by volleyball with 15,798 and cross country with 7,422.

Eleven-player football gained the most participants among boys sports in 2006-07 with 32,773, followed by soccer with 19,064 and outdoor track and field with 10,195.

TEN MOST POPULAR BOYS PROGRAMS

Number of Schools	Total Participants
1. Basketball	1. Football — 11-player
2. Track and Field — Outdoor	2. Basketball
3. Baseball	3. Track and Field — Outdoor
4. Football — 11-player	4. Baseball
5. Golf	5. Soccer
6. Cross Country	6. Wrestling
7. Soccer	7. Cross Country
8. Wrestling	8. Golf
9. Tennis	9. Tennis
10. Swimming and Diving	10. Swimming and Diving

TEN MOST POPULAR GIRLS PROGRAMS

Number of Schools	Total Participants
1. Basketball	1. Basketball
2. Track and Field — Outdoor	2. Track and Field — Outdoor
3. Softball — Fast Pitch	3. Volleyball
4. Volleyball	4. Softball — Fast Pitch
5. Cross Country	5. Soccer
6. Soccer	6. Cross Country
7. Tennis	7. Tennis
8. Golf	8. Swimming and Diving
9. Swimming and Diving	9. Competitive Spirit Squads
10. Competitive Spirit Squads	10. Golf

GHSA Officials / Coaches Clinics

By-Law #2.54, page 37 of the 2007-08 GHSA Constitution and By-Laws states: Every coach at a GHSA member school must attend a **GHSA-sponsored rules clinic** if he/she coaches the following sports: football, softball, volleyball, riflery, cheerleading (spirit and/or competitive), basketball, lacrosse, wrestling, swimming and diving, track, baseball, soccer and gymnastics.

- (a) A \$50.00 fine per coach who does not attend a clinic will be assessed to the school.
- (b) All Community Coaches are reminded that clinic attendance is mandatory for them, also.

Following is a listing of the remaining 2007-08 GHSA Rules Clinics for coaches and officials.

Weeknight clinics begin at 7:30 p.m. Saturday clinics begin at 10 a.m., unless otherwise noted. ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED.

NOTE: All CHEERLEADING, FOOTBALL, RIFLERY, SOFTBALL and VOLLEYBALL clinics have been completed.

GYMNASTICS

December 2 Westminster (1 p.m.)

BASKETBALL (Coaches ONLY)

October 13 Stone Mountain High School - Auditorium
 October 13 Westover High School - Auditorium
 October 16 Tift County High School - Commons
 October 16 Wheeler High School - Auditorium
 October 20 Northside-WR High School - Auditorium
 October 20 Rome High School - Commons
 October 23 Chapel Hill High School - Auditorium
 October 23 Oconee County High School - Commons
 October 27 Westside High School, Macon - Cafeteria
 October 27 McIntosh High School
 October 30 Woodward Academy
 October 30 Columbus High School - Auditorium
 October 31 Ware County High School - Cafeteria
 October 31 Vidalia High School
 November 3 Gainesville High School - Auditorium
 November 3 Evans High School - Auditorium
 November 6 Dalton High School - Auditorium
 November 6 Buford High School - Auditorium
 November 8 GHSA Office, Thomaston
 November 10 Savannah Country Day School - Auditorium

WRESTLING

October 16 Marist School - Cafeteria
 October 16 Northside High School, WR - Auditorium
 October 17 Calhoun High School - Auditorium
 October 18 Morgan County High School - Media Center
 October 22 Tift County High School - Auditorium
 October 23 Whitewater High School - Auditorium
 October 24 Vidalia High School - Cafeteria
 October 25 Collins Hill High School - Auditorium
 October 27 Groves High School - JROTC Building
 October 29 Eagles Landing High School
 October 30 Lakeside High School, Evans - Auditorium
 October 31 Flowery Branch High School - Auditorium
 October 31 McEachern High School - Auditorium
 November 1 Columbus High School - Cafeteria

SOCCER

Code: C = Coaches, R = Returning Officials, N = New Officials

Coaches may attend any clinic listed

January 5, 2008 Wheeler High School - Auditorium (C/R/N)
 January 5, 2008 Savannah Country Day - Auditorium (C/R/N)
 January 10, 2008 Milton High School - Auditorium (C/R)
 January 12, 2008 Rome High School - Commons (C/R/N)
 January 12, 2008 Westover High School - Auditorium (C/R/N)
 January 17, 2008 Sams Auditorium - Fayetteville (C/R)
 January 17, 2008 Johnson, Gainesville HS - Auditorium (C/R)
 January 19, 2008 Columbus High School - Cafeteria (C/R/N)

January 19, 2008 Brunswick High School - Cafeteria (C/R/N)
 January 24, 2008 Norcross High School - Auditorium (C/R)
 January 24, 2008 Dalton High School - Auditorium (C/R)
 January 26, 2008 Evans High School - Auditorium (C/R/N)
 January 26, 2008 Westside High School, Macon (C/R/N)
 February 2, 2008 Peachtree Ridge HS - Commons (C/R/N)
 February 2, 2008 Tift County High School - Auditorium (C/R/N)

SWIMMING & DIVING

October 13 Albany High School - Gymnasium
 October 20 Savannah Country Day School - Auditorium
 October 23 Westminster School - Gymnasium
 October 25 Norcross Day School - Auditorium
 October 27 St. Pius High School

LACROSSE

January 26, 2008 Chattahoochee High School - (Boys & Girls)
 January 31, 2008 Pope High School - Theatre (B)
 January 31, 2008 Woodward Academy - Chapel (G)
 February 2, 2008 Westminster School - Gym (B/G)

TRACK & FIELD

January 23, 2008 Westover High School - Auditorium
 January 23, 2008 Wheeler High School - Auditorium
 January 24, 2008 Jefferson High School - Cafeteria
 January 28, 2008 Westside High School, Macon - Cafeteria
 January 30, 2008 Columbus High School - Cafeteria
 January 31, 2008 St. Pius High School
 February 2, 2008 Dublin High School - Cafeteria
 February 2, 2008 Savannah Country Day School - Auditorium
 February 4, 2008 Carrollton High School - Media Center
 February 6, 2008 Calhoun High School - Auditorium
 February 7, 2008 Lovejoy High School - Commons
 February 9, 2008 Thomson High School - Cafeteria
 February 9, 2008 Ware County High School - Cafeteria

BASEBALL

February 4, 2008 Columbus High School - Cafeteria
 February 4, 2008 Dalton High School - Auditorium
 February 6, 2008 Statesboro High School - Media Center
 February 6, 2008 Wheeler High School - Auditorium
 February 7, 2008 Evans High School - Auditorium
 February 7, 2008 Norcross High School - Auditorium
 February 11, 2008 Vidalia High School - Cafeteria
 February 11, 2008 Savannah Country Day - Auditorium
 February 13, 2008 Oconee County High School - Cafeteria
 February 13, 2008 Northside High School, WR - Auditorium
 February 14, 2008 Lowndes High School - Cafeteria
 February 14, 2008 Woodward Academy
 February 18, 2008 Habersham Central High School - Cafeteria
 February 18, 2008 Westover High School - Auditorium
 February 20, 2008 Whitewater High School - Auditorium
 February 20, 2008 Rome High School - Commons
 February 21, 2008 Ware County High School - Cafeteria
 February 21, 2008 GHSA Office, Thomaston

GHSA - October / November Calendar - 2007

October

- 1 Earliest date for Riflery match
- 2 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 5 Deadline date to file Riflery schedules with GHSA office
- 13 Complete Region Softball
- 15 Deadline for payment of GHSA membership dues
- 15 Report Region Softball winners by noon
- 16 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 19, 20 Complete Sectionals in Softball
- 20 Determine Area Volleyball winners
- 22 Report Area Volleyball winners by noon
- 22 Earliest Date for Swimming and Diving practice
- 25-27 State Softball Quarterfinals, Semifinals and Finals
- 27 Volleyball Sectional Tournaments
- 29 Earliest date for Basketball and Wrestling practice

November

- 1 Volleyball State Semifinals
- 3 Region Cheerleading & Complete Region Cross Country
- 3 Volleyball State Finals

GHSA Sponsors



Helping Students Plan, Apply, and Pay for College