



GHSA

"Items of Interest"

April 2009

Be 'Fair' to the Visiting Team During Spring Playoffs

Since this is the last GHSA Newsletter of this school year, I want to cover several different topics that I believe merit the attention of all member schools.

SPRING PLAYOFFS: Many of the playoff formats for spring sports involve the games and matches being hosted by a higher seeded school. It is important to remember that the playoff contests are GHSA contests and do not carry the same "perks" as a regular season home contest. As much as possible, there should be an "atmosphere of fairness" at these events. Many of the procedures that lead to such an atmosphere are noted in the GHSA by-laws and the particular sport sections found therein. Spectators from the visiting teams should be afforded reasonable opportunities for seating, and should be treated in a respectful way. Merchandise sales at GHSA championship events must be done by GHSA-approved vendors.



PUBLIC ADDRESS ANNOUNCERS: One area of fairness for playoff contests (that should be present at all GHSA events) involves public address announcers. When this task is handled well, the athletic event is enhanced. When announcers try to be "play by play" commentators or amplified cheerleaders, then they intrude on the contest. The GHSA is happy to announce that the second clinic for school PA announcers will be held in August in Atlanta. Information about this seminar sponsored by the National Association of Public Address Announcers can be found on the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net). I strongly encourage school administrators to let their PA announcers know about this seminar.

SPRING WEATHER: As the likelihood of severe weather increases, it is imperative that host schools utilize lightning detectors under the control of the Game Manager. Also be certain that your school's emergency plans for severe weather are well known by your coaches and administrators so they can be implemented quickly and efficiently if needed. Schools often go over the procedures for emergencies during the "classroom day," but sometimes do not emphasize the "after-hours" plans. We all hope that these plans won't have to be used, but we must be prepared in case an emergency arises.

ON-LINE CLINICS AND SEMINARS: The eligibility seminars for guidance counselors and athletic directors that were scheduled for this spring will be done via the GHSA web site. This material will be available around the 20th of April.

The GHSA rules clinics for coaches and officials in most sports will be handled through on-line sessions. These sessions will have accountability measures built in that will enable the GHSA to track the mandatory attendance of the participants. There will be a three-week window of opportunity before each season to take these clinics. Precise information will be available soon on the GHSA web site.

– **Ralph Swearngin**, Executive Director

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION Newsletter

Issued monthly, September through April, by the Georgia High School Association, P.O. Box 271, 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. 27**April 2009****No. 7****- GHSAA STAFF -****Areas of Responsibility****RALPH SWEARNGIN** (extension 7)

- Executive Director -

Administration, Interpretation of GHSAA 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

GHSAA Licensed Products

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

STATE CHAMPIONS**BASKETBALL - Boys**

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

AAAAA	Wheeler High School
AAAA	Miller Grove High School
AAA	South Atlanta High School
AA	Dublin High School
A	Whitefield Academy

BASKETBALL - Girls

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

AAAAA	Redan High School
AAAA	Southwest DeKalb High School
AAA	Carrollton High School
AA	Buford High School
A	Wesleyan School

LITERARY

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

AAAAA	Kennesaw Mountain High School
AAAA	Forsyth Central High School
AAA	Washington County High School
AA	Buford High School
A	Lincoln County High School

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

CHEERLEADING CLINICS SET

The 2009 GHSAA Rules Clinics for Cheerleading have been set and are listed below.

All weeknight clinics begin at 7:00 p.m., while all Saturday clinics begin at 10:00 a.m.

You are reminded that By-Law 2.54 on Page 37 of the GHSAA Constitution and By-Laws states that every coach at a GHSAA member school must attend a GHSAA-sponsored rules clinic or face a \$100 fine.

This applies to both spirit and competitive cheerleading and includes Community Coaches.

May 2 (Sat.)	..... Northside, WR - Commons	..... Coaches/Judges
May 12 (Tues.)	... Tift County HS, Commons	..... Coaches
June 13 (Sat.)	..... Putnam Co. Middle, Cafeteria	..... Coaches
July 7 (Tues.)	..... East Jackson HS, Gym	..... Coaches
July 11 (Sat.)	..... Gordon Central HS, Cafeteria	..... Coaches/Judges
July 18 (Sat.)	..... Southeast Bulloch HS, Auditorium	Coaches/Judges
July 25 (Sat.)	..... Ware County HS	..... Coaches/Judges
Aug. 1 (Sat.)	..... Centennial HS, Gym	..... Coaches/Judges
Aug. 4 (Tues.)	.... Whitewater HS, Auditorium	..... Coaches
Aug. 8 (Sat.)	..... Shaw HS, Auditorium	..... Coaches/Judges

Clinics for late-assigned Basketball Cheerleading Coaches (makeup)

Oct. 13 (Tues.)	... Marist School, Atlanta	..... Coaches
Oct. 24 (Sat.)	..... Westside HS, Macon, Gym	..... Coaches

ATTENTION: Several Changes Made In 2009-2010 GHSA Calendar

Four sports were impacted by decisions made at the March State Executive Committee meeting. The seasons and/or playoff schedules in Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball and Volleyball were changed beginning in 2009-10. Those changes are highlighted below in red type. The reasons for the changes can be found in the minutes of the meeting elsewhere in this newsletter.

GEORGIA HIGHSCHOOL ASSOCIATION BEGINNING AND ENDING DATES FOR 2009-2010

*Revised 3/26/09
(Changes shown in Red)*

ACTIVITY	DATE FOR FIRST PRACTICE	FIRST CONTEST	MAXIMUM GAMES/DATES	LAST PLAY DATE	AREA/REGION QUALIFIERS DETERMINED	GHSA STATE PLAYOFF DATES				
						First Round/Sectionals	Second Round	Quarterfinals	Semifinals	Finals
FOOTBALL	Aug. 1 Feb. 1 or later (Spring)	Aug. 28	10 (7 JV)	Nov. 7	Nov. 7	Nov. 13-14	Nov. 20-21	Nov. 27-28	Dec. 4-5	Dec. 11-12
CHEERLEADING	Aug. 1 Feb. 1 or later (Spring)	Aug. 15	6 (4 JV)	Nov. 6	Nov. 7	Nov. 13				Nov. 14
SOFTBALL	Aug. 1	Aug. 14	16 (11 JV)	Oct. 10	Oct. 10	Oct. 13-14	Oct. 16-17		Oct. 22-23	Oct. 24
VOLLEYBALL	Aug. 1	Aug. 14	15 (11 JV) Dates	Oct. 10	Oct. 10	Oct. 15, 17	Oct. 20-21	Oct. 24	Oct. 24	Oct. 31
CROSS COUNTRY	Aug. 1	Aug. 17	10 (7 JV)	Oct. 31	Oct. 31					Nov. 7
DEBATE	Aug. 10	Aug. 10	-	May 15	Jan. 16					Feb. 5-6
ONE ACT PLAYS	Aug. 10	Aug. 10	-	May 15	Nov. 7					Nov. 14
LITERARY	Aug. 10	Aug. 10	-	May 15	March 13					March 20
RIFLERY	Aug. 10	Oct. 5	-	May 15	March 5	March 15			March 20	April 3
SWIMMING	Oct. 19	Nov. 9	10 (7 JV)							Feb. 10-13
<u>BASKETBALL</u> (Girls and Boys)	Oct. 26	Nov. 14	25 (18 JV)	Feb. 20	Feb. 20	Feb. 26-27	March 2-3	March 5-6	March 10-12	March 12-13
WRESTLING	Nov. 2	Nov. 20	20 (14 JV) Dates	Feb. 3	Du - Jan. 8-9 Tr - Feb. 5-6	Tr - Feb. 12-13				Du - Jan. 15-16 Tr - Feb. 18-20
GYMNASTICS	Jan. 18	Feb. 8	10 (7 JV)	April 23	April 24					April 30
TENNIS	Jan. 18	Feb. 8	18 (13 JV)	April 17	April 17	By April 23	By April 28	By May 4	May 7-8	May 7-8
GOLF	Feb. 1	Feb. 15	12 (8 JV) Dates	April 23	April 23					May 3
SOCCER	Feb. 1	Feb. 22	18 (13 JV)	April 21	April 21	April 27-30	May 4-5	May 7-8	May 11-12	May 14-15
LACROSSE	Feb. 1	Feb. 22	18 (13 JV)	April 30	April 30	May 4-5		May 7-8	May 11-12	May 15
TRACK - Girls TRACK - Boys	Jan. 25 Feb. 1	Feb. 15 Feb. 22	10 (7 JV) 10 (7 JV)	April 28 May 5	April 28 May 5					May 6-8 May 13-15
BASEBALL	Feb. 1	Feb. 22	26 (18 JV)	May 1	May 1	May 7-8	May 12-13	May 18-19	May 24-25	May 28-29

NOTE: Eligibility reports in all activities are due 20 days before First Contest date.

New GHSA Licensees

Equip-It and GameDay Frames, have recently become new licensees of the GHSA.

Equip It, based in Alpharetta, provides customized plans and professional installation for athletic equipment needs with the right manufacturer. Equip-it is a full service, factory authorized dealer of over 40 different manufacturer's of athletic equipment. Learn more at Equip-It.com.

GameDay Frames, Inc., based in Norcross, provides custom, value-framing solutions typically 50 percent below retail frame shops. For more info go to gamedayframes.com or contact owner Michael Ackerman at 770-317-5571.

GHSA licensees now include: All Star Outfitters, American Solutions, Baseline Sports Media, Electro Mech Scoreboards, Equip It, GameDay Frames, Gametapes, Honigs, Jostens, Mr. Video, SCG Sports Coating and Photographic Arts.

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."

Basketball State Champions - 2009



Class AAAAA Boys Champion: Wheeler



Class AAAA Boys Champion: Miller Grove



Class AAA Boys Champion: South Atlanta



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.



Class AA Boys Champion: Dublin



Class A Boys Champion: Whitefield Academy

Basketball State Champions - 2009



Class AAAAA Girls Champion: Redan



Class AAAA Girls Champion: SW DeKalb



Class AAA Girls Champion: Carrollton



Class AA Girls Champion: Buford



Class A Girls Champion: Wesleyan



Wheelchair Champion: Atlanta Wolfpack

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

March 23, 2009

MINUTES

The semiannual meeting of the Executive Committee of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on March 23, 2009, at the Holiday Inn Convention Complex, Forsyth, Georgia, by Dr. Gary Holmes, President. Following is a **condensed** version of the minutes of that meeting. A complete version may be found on the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net).

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 GHSA 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: This will require rewording of procedures listed in By-Laws 4.15, 4.16, 4.17. (See Reclassification Committee Report)

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)

Motion by Earl Etheridge, second by Jesse Crews, to approve.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Report presented by Wayne Tootle

The Committee recommended:

Delete By-Law 2.69 (b4d): "High school coaches may not coach 8th grade players during clinics or non-school competitions out-of-season." EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Motion Passed (voice vote)

Football Section (Page 67, G) add at end: Spring Practice: No student (8th grade or older) may participate in more than 10 days of practice.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

BASKETBALL COMMITTEE: Report presented by Fred Price

The Committee recommended:

Region post-season games (play-in games, sub-region games, and full region games) must have a minimum of two games at each site.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE: Report presented by Glenn White

The Committee recommended:

By-Law 1.51 Exception 2: A cheerleader who is academically ineligible for the spring semester may try-out if he/she is passing ALL classes at the time of the try-out. The window of opportunity to try-out under these conditions is available only during the ten days set aside for try-outs that the school has designated. EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE: Report presented by Earl Etheridge

The Committee recommended:

Page 66, C3 - Change to read: "A single sub-varsity game played on a night before a school day may start no later than 6:30 pm. The first game of two sub-varsity games played on a night before a school day may start no later than 5:30 pm."

Motion Passed (voice vote)

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, *Continued*

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE, Continued:

Page 66, change in football practice schedule: Football practice may begin no earlier than August 1. In the first five days, at least two practices must be in shorts, helmets, and shoulder pads, and no more than two consecutive days may be in full pads.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

LACROSSE COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Donnie Griggers

The Committee recommended:

Moving the calendar forward by one week to give three weeks of preseason practices. The season will start one week later than noted in the previously published calendar, and so will the championship competitions.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

RECLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Earl Etheridge

The Committee recommended:

Adjustments to 2010-2014 cycle: (based on the previous passage of implementing the four-year cycle)

- (a) Class AAAAA will consist of schools with an FTE of 1900 or greater, and Class A will consist of schools with an FTE of 525 or less.
- (b) At the mid-term of the cycle, a school shall be moved to a higher or lower classification if it has had an increase or a decrease in FTE of 20% or more, and the new numbers would move the school to a different classification.
- (c) Private schools may enter the GHSA at the "mid-term" period.
- (d) Policy for public schools entering the 2nd and 4th years of the reclassification cycle:
 - (1) In sports where the region has two-year scheduling, the new school will not be able to play a complete region schedule at the varsity level. In those sports, the school could play a varsity non-region schedule or a JV schedule.
 - (2) In sports having year-to-year schedules, the new school will have full membership once it has been assigned to a new region by the Reclassification Committee.
 - (3) In sports that have a region tournament to advance to post-season play, the region may allow a new school to accept a low seed in the tournament even though they did not play a complete region schedule. That is a decision of the region.

Motion Passed (voice vote) Each of the above items were voted on individually and all passed.

SOCCER COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Dave Hunter

The Committee recommended:

Beginning with the 2010 season, the following season dates will apply:

first date of practice: February 1; first contest: February 22; end of regular season: April 21; finals: May 14, 15

Motion Passed (voice vote)

SOFTBALL COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Ed Thayer

The Committee recommended:

For post-season play, the first and second rounds will have teams play a best-of-three series at the site of the higher seeded team:

- (a) There will be a double-header on the first day and the "if" game on the second day.
- (b) Host team will be home team the first game; visiting team will be designated home team for the second game: a coin-flip will be used to determine home team for third game.
- (c) Teams that win the second round series will advance to the State Tournament (Elite 8).

Motion Passed (voice vote)

VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Mike Davis

The Committee recommended:

The following format changes:

1. All playoff matches will be a best-of-five, single-elimination format.
2. Rounds 1 and 2 of the playoff will be held at the site of the higher seeded team.
3. Rounds 3 and 4 (Elite 8) will be played at four sites - one classification at each site
4. Championship matches will be held as they have in the past.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

NEW BUSINESS

Motion was made by Jesse Crews, seconded by Wayne Tootle, to re-elect Gary Holmes as President and Walter Wade as Vice President.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to adjourn.

GHSA - April Calendar - 2009

April

- 1 Deadline to submit notification of entry in Gymnastics, Lacrosse, Riflery, Softball, Soccer, Volleyball & Wrestling for 2009-10
- 4 State Riflery Championship
- 14 Complete Area/Region Soccer
- 15 Report Area/Region Soccer winners
- 18 Complete Region Tennis
- 20 Report Region Tennis winners
- 21 Girls First Round Soccer in AAAAA & AAAA
- 22 Boys First Round Soccer in AAAAA & AAAA
- 23 Girls First Round Soccer in AAA & AA/A
- 24 Boys First Round Soccer in AAA & AA/A
- 24 Complete First Round State Tennis, Region Golf & Area Lacrosse
- 25 Complete Area Gymnastics
- 27 Report First Round State Tennis winners & File Reports of Region Golf
- 28 Girls Second Round State Soccer
- 28, 29 First Round State Lacrosse playoffs
- 29 Boys Second Round State Soccer
- 29 Complete Second Round State Tennis; Region Boys Track
- 30 Report Region Boys Track results by 9 a.m.

GHSA Sponsors

