



# GHSA

## "ITEMS OF INTEREST"

April 2020

### Unprecedented Times Will Call For Unprecedented Decisions

Without question, we are living in unprecedented times. In my 35+ years in education, I have never experienced anything like COVID 19 and the impact it is having on the world. The GHSA is part of that world and, from my perspective, it plays no small role in the lives of our young people, their parents and fans.

There has been no shortage of advice on how to handle the pandemic, from whether to play and practice or how to set up the playoffs if circumstances allow us to return to play. I have heard mostly from parents of senior athletes who are losing their senior seasons day by day. I hear from the athletes themselves and they talk about how important our activities are and they feel they are being robbed of something they have worked so hard for.

I get it, I understand the parent's point of view and my heart breaks a little more every day this continues. The GHSA wants to resume our seasons as soon as possible. But the safety of our student athletes, and those with whom they have contact as well as those who support them, has to be our top priority.

If we are able to resume play, I don't know what it will look like. We will be prepared for any scenario and, if my prayers are answered, we will play a reduced regular season and playoffs. We will do everything we can to get our teams back on the field but we must be back in school. When those decisions are made, rest assured they will be made with the most current information available with safety as our top priority.

Questions to be answered are what is the date we could return and still play for championships? When and how will physicals take place for next year? What happens if some schools are back and others remain closed? What if local municipalities mandate closures longer than Governor Kemp's Executive Order? There are many other questions to be answered, but believe me, there is not enough information at this time to answer any of them. We will do our best when the time comes.

Finally, I have avoided opinions throughout this writing and have done my best to communicate the most accurate information available. While I hope and pray we have the opportunity to "restart," I don't want to give false hope. I spoke to Steve Saverese, Alabama's Executive Director, recently and he informed me that their schools are closed for the remainder of the year and he had cancelled Spring sports.

I am concerned that too much time will have passed before COVID 19 begins decrease to have a season. I worry that we will not be in school again this school year. I worry about the safety of activities in the summer and I worry about its effect on Fall sports and activities.

I am worried about a lot of things, but one thing I'm not worried about is the strength of the Georgia High School Association. Regardless of the time our sports and activities resume, we will be prepared to provide the best sports, activities and experiences for our 400,000+ student-athletes.

Thank you for your support during this very difficult time and as always, please let me know 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

**ERNE YARBROUGH** (extension 27)

- Assistant Executive Director -  
Basketball, Softball, Track, Golf & Officials Training

**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, Esports, Student Leadership, Title IX

**KEVIN GIDDENS** (extension 25)

- Associate Director -  
Football, Cross Country, & Soccer

**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

**TANYA ANDERSON** (extension 29)

- Administrative Assistant -  
Event Sanctioning, School Passes, Directory,  
Online Clinics for Coaches, Trophies & Medals

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

**GHSA Licensed Products**

This month's featured licensees are: **Jostens**, official championship rings and jewelry ([jostens.com](http://jostens.com)); **Musco Sports Lighting**, leader in developing sports-lighting technology solutions ([musco.com](http://musco.com)); **FieldTurf**, official artificial turf ([fieldturf.com](http://fieldturf.com)); **Hudl**, official video exchange service ([hudl.com](http://hudl.com)); **Hartwell Studio Works**, creating unique, dynamic and protectable spirit logos / marks ([hartwellstudioworks.com](http://hartwellstudioworks.com)); **NFHS Network**, School Broadcast Program ([nfhsnetwork.com/associations/ghsa](http://nfhsnetwork.com/associations/ghsa)); and **TeamIP**, official merchandiser and online store ([teamip.com](http://teamip.com)).

**STATE CHAMPIONS**

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

**BASKETBALL - Boys**

7A	Wheeler High School
6A	Chattahoochee High School
5A	Dutchtown High School
4A	Woodward Academy
3A	Pace Academy
2A	Swainsboro High School
A (Public)	Hancock Central High School
A (Private)	St. Francis

**BASKETBALL - Girls**

7A	Westlake High School
6A	Forest Park High School
5A	Buford High School
4A	Americus-Sumter High School
3A	Greater Atlanta Christian School
2A	Douglass-Atlanta High School
A (Public)	Wheeler County High School
A (Private)	Holy Innocents'

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.

**Sharks Win 8th AAASP Title in Row**

The Houston County Sharks won their eighth consecutive AAASP Wheelchair Basketball State Championship when they rallied from a double-digit deficit to edge the Henry County Hurricanes 23-22 in overtime on March 6, 2020 at the Macon Centreplex.

The rest of the basketball state championship teams are pictured on Pages 4-5 of this newsletter.



Photographs of all the state championship Basketball teams in this newsletter were provided by Ty Freeman.

## 13th Annual Dooley Scholarship Recipients and Finalists Named

Sovi Wellons of The Heritage School and Quinn Harron of Marist School have been named as the two recipients of the four-year scholarship of \$1,000 per year. These two recipients will also each receive \$500 to donate to the charitable organization of their choice. Wellons and Harron were selected from Finalists listed below.

Due to the national circumstances surrounding the Coronavirus pandemic, the College Football Hall of Fame has canceled all spring events. Plaques for all Dooley Award recipients and scholarship information will be mailed to the respective athletic directors during the month of May.

Wellons achieved a 110.7 weighted GPA and will attend Dartmouth College. Her many academic honors include National Merit Semifinalist, Georgia Merit Scholar, and the Kiwanis Science Award, as well as being the founder of The Heritage School Science Olympiad. Her community volunteerism includes a surgical internship at Piedmont Hospital in Newnan, Angels House, Heritage School Can-A-Thon, and Newman Youth Council. Sovi was the 2019 GISA State Cross Country Champion, after overcoming heart surgery in 2018.

Harron achieved a 4.39 GPA and will swim at Harvard University. He was a Scholastic All American in addition to being a U.S. Open and Junior National swim qualifier, plus the GHSA's 4A-5A Male Swimmer of the Year. Quinn's community volunteerism includes Swim Across America for cancer research, Meals By Grace for childhood hunger, and Friday Night Lights young swimmer mentoring program.

### The Scholarship Finalists were:

#### **GIRLS**

Lauren Boykins	Allatoona High School
Emily Flynt	Archer High School
Ashley Bowden	Callaway High School
Sydne Watts	Cherokee High School
Amaya Harris	Dutchtown High School
Anna Lako	First Presbyterian Day School
Kate McRae	Grace Christian Academy
Katy Lyn Boardman	Lyndon Academy
Taylor Green	Marion County High School
Savannah Cornell	Mill Creek High School
Megan Messinger	Mount Pisgah Christian School
Shaylen Sutton	Northwest Whitfield High School
Hannah Belew	Pierce County High School
Sovi Wellons	The Heritage School
Olivia Blakely	West Forsyth High School

#### **BOYS**

Gavin Kim	Allatoona High School
Jared Nation	Callaway High School
Kody Everett	Effingham County High School
Andres Jorquera	Etowah High School
Camden Lashley	First Presbyterian Day School
Jake Bretz	Forsyth Central High School
Quinn Harron	Marist School
Kade Scott	Pierce County High School
Alexander Blankinship	River Ridge High School
Thomas DeLoach	Tattnall County High School
DeVante Willis	Toombs County High School
David Coleman	Trinity Christian School
Gabriel Van Gorder	Union Grove High School
Caleb Thompson	West Forsyth High School
A.J. Mathis	West Laurens High School

## Positive Athlete Deadline April 3!

Because of the disruption in our school year, Positive Athlete is extending their nominations deadline until April 3rd! Over 400 schools have already sent in nominations for this year's Positive Athlete program, totaling over 4,500 nominees!

During this extended time away from school, we encourage everyone to take 10-15 minutes and nominate a deserving high school student-athlete or coach.

Make sure your Positive Athletes and Positive Coaches are nominated **BY APRIL 3rd!**

Go to this link: <http://positiveathlete.org/nominate-now/>

## Dunk, 3-Point Champs Crowned

After weeks of competition leading up to the finals, the first GHSA Slam Dunk and Three-Point Shooting Championships, presented by BSN Sports, were crowned during the 2020 State Basketball Championships March 4-7.

Congratulation to the Slam Dunk Champion, **Ja' Queze Kirby** of Jeff Davis, who defeated finalists Micah Bell (Chapel Hill) and Oliver Gerard (Alcovy), and to Girls Three-Point Contest winner **Emily Acampora** of Harrison, who defeated Trinity Jones of Americus-Sumter, Jashiyah Jones of Vidalia and Leah Turner of Griffin.



Three-point finalists with Dr. Robin Hines and BSN Representative



Slam Dunk finalists with Dr. Robin Hines and BSN Representative

# Basketball State Champions - 2020



**7A Boys: Wheeler**



**6A Boys: Chattahoochee**



**5A Boys: Dutchtown**



**4A Boys: Woodward**



**3A Boys: Pace Academy**



**2A Boys: Swainsboro**



**A Public Boys: Hancock Central**



**A Private Boys: St. Francis**

# Basketball State Champions - 2020



**7A Girls: Westlake**



**6A Girls: Forest Park**



**5A Girls: Buford**



**4A Girls: Americus-Sumter**



**3A Girls: Greater Atlanta Christian**



**2A Girls: Douglass-Atlanta**



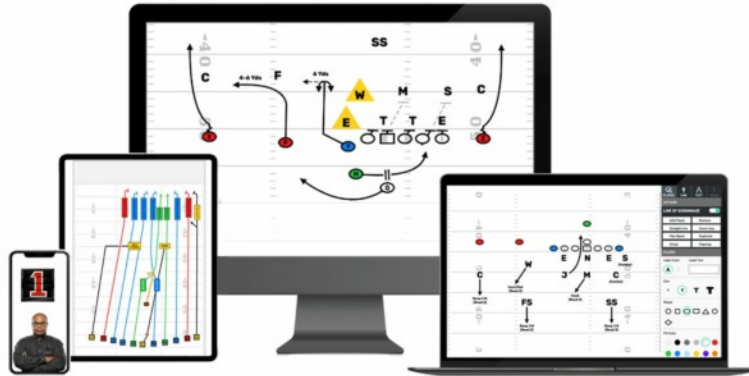
**A Public Girls: Wheeler County**



**A Private Girls: Holy Innocents'**



# FIRSTDOWN PLAYBOOK™



### FirstDown PlayBook Program Membership

Regular price: \$700.00

Your state member price for high school programs: \$600.00

Revenue share with your state, FirstDown PlayBook pays you: \$50.00 each

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**" FirstDown PlayBook is fast and easy. We literally used it on our college clinic visits to create the additions and changes which gave us the ability to put everything in our terminology. By far the best tool of its kind on the market today."**



**Scott Criner**

Rocky Mountain High School, OC, Meridian, ID

Head Coach Record: 55-21

2015 ID State Champion

College Assistant: Sac. State, Boise State, Navy, Cincinnati & Pacific

**All high school coaches get a two-week free trial after attending a free 30-minute webinar!**

**GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION  
STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SPRING MEETING  
AGENDA  
Site, Date and Format of Meeting - To Be Announced**

Call To Order .....	Glenn White, President
Pledge of Allegiance .....	Lisa Moore Williams, Vice President
Invocation .....	Carror Wright, Associate Director
Roll Call .....	Steve Figueroa, Media Director

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Second vote** on the following Constitutional proposal:

**Proposal** to expand the State Executive Committee to include one (1) representative from a member private school in Class AA or higher. (Henry County Schools) (**NOTE:** This proposal was passed by the BOT at a meeting on March 9, 2020)

**COMMITTEE PROPOSALS:**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

1. **Proposal** that GHSA establish a Second Dead Week on the GHSA Calendar for the Monday through Sunday in which Memorial Day falls each year. (The dead week would begin on Memorial Day and last until the following Sunday.) This would begin on Memorial Day in 2021. The July 4th Dead Week will stay intact.. (GHSA Office)
2. **Proposal** to create New Section 4.65 titled "Indemnification" to read as follows:  
The GHSA shall, to the extent legally permissible, indemnify each person who may serve or who has served at any time as an officer, committee member, employee or volunteer of the GHSA against all expenses and liabilities, including, without limitation, counsel fees, judgments, fines, excise taxes, penalties and settlement payments, reasonably incurred by or imposed upon such person in connection with any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding in which he or she may become involved by reason of his or her service in such capacity; provided that no indemnification shall be provided for any such person with respect to any matter as to which he or she shall have been finally adjudicated in any proceeding not to have acted in good faith in the reasonable belief that such action was in the best interests of the GHSA; and further provided that any compromise or settlement payment, other than those funded by insurance, shall be approved by a majority vote of a quorum of GHSA Executive Committee who are not at that time parties to the proceeding. The GHSA may maintain insurance, at its expense, to protect any such person against any such liability, cost or expense. (GHSA Office)
3. **Proposal** to reword By-Law 1.45, item "d" so that eight grade students participating on sub-varsity teams may play 70% of the varsity limit for that sport instead of the current rule of 60%. (Henry County Schools)

**BASEBALL COMMITTEE**

**Proposal** to reword item "C" under General Information on page 47 of the Constitution so as to eliminate the requirement of doubleheaders during the 30-game regular season. (GHSA Office)

**BASKETBALL COMMITTEE**

**Proposal** to use a 30-second **shot clock** for varsity games with a three-year phase-in period as follows:  
Year 1 (2020 - 2021): Shot clock used only in approved Holiday Tournaments and Showcase games. Not allowed in region games or post season games.  
Year 2 (2021 - 2022): Shot clock used in approved tournaments and showcase games. Also used in region play as a region decision.  
Year 3 (2022 - 2023): Shot clock used in all varsity games including the State Playoffs. (Region 5, Class 6A)

**FOOTBALL COMMITTEE**

**Proposal** to allow players participating in 7-on-7 camps to wear girdles for safety reasons. (GHSA Office)

**TRACK / CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE**

1. **Proposal** to eliminate Area meets and have all classes (A through 7A) be Region competitions in the sport of Cross Country. (GHSA Office)

(more)

## State Executive Committee Agenda, continued

2. **Proposal** that schools may enter three (3) athletes in each of the 14 individual events at Area/Region qualifying Track meets. (Westminster School)
3. **Proposal** that the GHSA adopt NFHS rule 4-2-1 that individual athletes may compete in any four (4) events, and also may be listed as one of eight (8) participants on Relays at Track meets. (Westminster School)
4. **Proposal** that all Area/Region schools are allowed only one (1) Relay Team entry per relay event with eight (8) names listed per relay at Area/Region qualifying Track meets. (Westminster School)
5. **Proposal** that the GHSA add the 4x800 Meter Relay to the list of Track events contested. (Westminster School)

### WRESTLING COMMITTEE

1. **Proposal** that Traditional/Individual wrestling schools would be divided into four (4) public/private school classifications and a small (1A-2A) size private school classification. One (1) girl's classification would continue. Under this plan, the four public/private school divisions would be closely divided into approximately 80 schools per classification with eight (8) Areas in each classification. Each Area would consist of approximately 9-11 schools. The sectional and state tournaments would maintain 16-man brackets. (GHSA Office)
2. **Proposal** to **delete** in Section 16, Wrestling, State Finals Tournament under item "C" on page 91 the following sentence: "A wrestler who cannot wrestle (for any reason) at the State Tournament may be replaced by an alternate (from the same Sectional) at the time of weigh-in." (GHSA Office)

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

### ADJOURNMENT

### GHSA Sponsors

