



GHSAA

"ITEMS OF INTEREST"

February 2021

GHSAA's Goal Is Still to Have Full Seasons in Remaining Sports

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and has smoothly and safely moved into the New Year. It has been an interesting journey thus far, to say the least, and our member schools deserve much gratitude from their local communities for their outstanding work in providing a full fall season for our student athletes.

Looking in the rear view mirror to March, there were few that really believed there would be Fall sports. And, if we started, how long would it be before it would be shut down? We pushed forward and our local boards of education, school administrations and coaches did an unbelievable job in providing the safest environment possible to allow these opportunities for the students throughout Georgia.

The GHSAA had a great deal of support from the Department of Public Health and our Sports Medicine Advisory Council in providing guidelines, recommendations and considerations that enabled us to move forward. The support received from Governor Kemp and his office has been, and continues to be, tremendous and I believe sets us apart from many states in enabling sports and activities for our young people.

We are moving through Winter sports and, while there have been some bumps in the road here and there, the playoffs are quickly approaching. I want to encourage all of you to be vigilant in doing those things that have allowed the association success and your teams to compete. Our goal continues to be to provide full seasons for all of our sports and activities and moving forward into spring sports is critical.

One could argue that health issues have been the focus of this school year and this provides a segue into my next topic. Many of you may know Dr. Garry McGiboney, who served 30 years with the DeKalb County School System and the last 12 with the Georgia Department of Education. I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. McGiboney for many years on school policy, CCRPI, Military Interstate Compact issues, legislation and many other things.

He has recently retired from the department, but is now working with Sharecare and will focus on helping Georgia employees in the State Benefits Health Plan better understand their health and how they can improve it as well as the health of their family. Members and spouses who have coverage through Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield or United Health Care are eligible for incentives. There is no cost and, as a matter of fact, your participation will save you money. The programs are easy, designed to promote and encourage good health and will not take much of your time.

If you are in the State Health Benefits Plan I encourage and recommend that you consider participation. I participate and it has provided great savings over the past few years for my family. The link to learn more is here <https://bewellshbp.com/>.

Finally, congratulations to all of our football state champions! Centre Parc Stadium was a great venue and the Georgia State University staff was outstanding and provided great customer service. GPB did an outstanding job with the broadcasts, and the inaugural Girls Flag Football Championships were held and televised as well. The games were awesome and all participating schools and their communities have a lot for which to be proud.

As always, please contact me or any of the staff if we can assist you in any way. Stay safe, be well and thank you for all you do for the young people of Georgia.

– Dr. James R. Hines, Jr., Executive Director



Join the conversation on social media @OfficialGHSAA on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube

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GHSA Licensed Products

This month's featured licensees are: **InsideOut Initiative**, helping reclaim the educational purpose of sports (insideoutinitiative.org); **Cap Guard**, official face shield to provide an additional layer of protection against Covid-19. (Contact: Nick Sharp, nsharp@lairdplastics.com); **E3 Sports Apparel** (e3sport.com), official sublimated jerseys in bass fishing & esports; and **Pickle Juice** (picklejuiceapp.com), official team management solution for player registration, concession payments and online fundraising. (www.picklejuiceapp.com).

Attention Basketball Coaches!

All teams advancing to the 2021 State Tournament beginning February 23-24 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, 2021.

New Radio PSAs Now Available

The GHSA greatly appreciates radio station coverage of local high school teams in communities statewide. High school sports and performing arts need your station's support now more than ever before, and we think these new PSAs will help.

This year's NFHS/NIAAA radio PSA campaign is completely digital covering such topics as: the value of participation, inclusion, and the mental health of teens. We've also produced one commercial exclusively about participating in the performing arts!

Please go to the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net) to download these PSAs to run on your station in 2021. Thank you for making sure our voice is heard!

2020 Flag FB State Champions

Congratulations to the first ever GHSA Flag Football State Champions, West Forsyth and Calvary Day. Photos of the other Football champions may be found on the next page.



6A-7A: West Forsyth



A-5A: Calvary Day

State Football Champions - 2020



7A: Grayson



6A: Buford



5A: Warner Robins



4A: Marist



3A: Pierce County



2A: Callaway



A Public: Irwin County



A Private: Prince Avenue

Team Dual Wrestling State Champions - 2021



7A: Camden County



6A: Buford



5A: Woodland-Bartow



4A: Jefferson



3A: North Hall



2A: Oglethorpe County



Photographs in this newsletter of the state championship Football and Dual Wrestling teams were provided by Cecil Copeland, Athletic Image.



A: Mount Pisgah

Slam Dunk, 3-Point Contest Info



The second annual GHSA Slam Dunk and Three-Point Shooting Contests, presented by BSN Sports, will be conducted in the coming weeks with finals to be held on March 12-13 at the Ralph Swearngin State Basketball Championships in Macon. The competitions will be a single classification with one entry per school. **See full rules and details on the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net).**

For further questions, please contact Ernie Yarbrough, Assistant Executive Director, ery@ghsa.net.

BOYS SLAM DUNK CONTEST

■ Enter videos at woobox.com/ojo4pa or email videos (MP4, MOV) with player, school name to market@ghsa.net

- Game video is allowed
- Participants must wear official school uniforms during the finals
- Participants must meet all GHSA eligibility standards
- Gold, silver, and bronze medals presented
- Special props/ gimmicks are not allowed. Participants may use one individual to assist.

■ The live Championship Final will be conducted March 13 between the 7A Girls championship game and the 7A Boys championship game at the Macon Centreplex.

GIRLS 3-POINT SHOOTING CONTEST

- Participants must meet all GHSA eligibility standards and complete Liability Consent form
- Participants must wear official school uniforms during the finals
- Gold, silver, and bronze medals presented
- Each participant will have 90 seconds to shoot from four (4) areas beyond the 3-point line. Each rack will contain six (6) balls with the final ball counting three (3) points.
- The top four point scorers from each Semifinal round will advance to the Championship Final, which will take place March 12 between the 6A Girls championship game and the 6A Boys final at the Macon Centreplex.

One Act Play Finals Feb. 13 & 20

The GHSA State One Act Play Championships will be held February 13, 2021 for Classes 7A, 5A, 4A, 2A and A Public, and February 20, 2021 for Classes 6A, 3A, and A Private. Limited free admission will be allowed at all sites.



ONE ACT PLAY FINALS

February 13

- 1A Public - at Crisp County
- Class 2A - at Washington County
- Class 4A - at Perry
- Class 5A - at Northside-WR
- Class 7A - Houston County

February 20

- 1A Private - at Warner Robins
- Class 3A - at Perry
- Class 6A - at Veterans

GHSA Reminders:

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 19, 2021. The meeting will be held April 19, 2021 at the Thomaston-Upson County Civic Center.

FOOTBALL SCHEDULES: Coaches and/or Athletic Directors are reminded that 2021 varsity Football Schedules are due in the GHSA office no later than March 1, 2021. If your school has hired a new coach for the 2021 season, please make sure he is made aware of this deadline.

INTENT TO PARTICIPATE DEADLINE: Member schools are reminded of the March 1, 2021 deadline to notify the GHSA of entry in **All Sports and Activities** for the school year 2021-2022.

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 WEEKS: Reminder that there are two (2) mandatory "Dead Weeks" this year - Monday, May 31, 2021 through Sunday, June 6, 2021 **AND** Monday, June 28, 2021 through Sunday, July 4, 2021.

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 2021-22 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.

State Swimming and Diving Meets

The 2021 **State Swimming and Diving Championships** will be held on February 2-6 at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center in Atlanta. Because of COVID-19 site restrictions, **NO FANS or MEDIA MEMBERS will be allowed to attend this year's meet.**

All swimming and diving finals will be streamed live on NFHS Network to any device for the one low price of \$10.99 good for 30 days of unlimited viewing.

This year's meet will be a TIMED FINAL format with scoring through 20 places in all events.

SCHEDULE:

(All times and dates are subject to change)

Tuesday, February 2

7:30 – 8:15 am	6A-7A Boys Warm-Up
8:30 – 10:30 am	6A-7A Boys Diving
10:30 – 11:15 am	6A-7A Girls Warm-Up
11:15 am – 1:30 pm	6-7A Girls Diving
1:30 – 2:15 pm	1A-5A Boys Warm-Up
2:15 – 3:45 pm	1A-5A Boys Diving
3:45 – 4:30 pm	1A-5A Girls Warm-Up
4:30 – 6:15 pm	1A-5A Girls Diving

(Boys will dive first in the odd numbered years)

Wednesday, February 3

8:30 am – 9:55 am	4A-5A Girls Swimming Warmup
10:00 am – 12:45 am	4A-5A Girls Swimming
4:30 pm – 6:00 pm	4A-5A Boys Swimming Warmup
6:00 pm – 8:45 pm	4A-5A Boys Swimming

Thursday, February 4

1:15 pm – 2:35 pm	1A-3A Girls Swimming Warmup
2:45 pm – 5:15 pm	1A-3A Girls Swimming
6:30 pm – 7:45 pm	1A-3A Boys Swimming Warmup
7:45 pm – 10:15 pm	1A-3A Boys Swimming

Friday, February 5

8:30 am – 9:55 am	6A Girls Swimming Warmup
10:00 am – 12:45 am	6A Girls Swimming
4:30 pm – 6:00 pm	6A Boys Swimming Warmup
6:00 pm – 8:45 pm	6A Boys Swimming

Saturday, February 6

9:30 am – 11:05 am	7A Girls Swimming Warmup
11:10 am – 2:30 pm	7A Girls Swimming
4:30 pm – 6:05 pm	7A Boys Swimming Warmup
6:10 pm – 9:30 pm	7A Boys Swimming

For all sessions, teams will have a scheduled arrival time window. Early arriving teams will NOT be allowed into the building until their scheduled check-in time.



Traditional Wrestling State Tournament

The 2021 GHSA Traditional Wrestling State Tournament will be held February 9-13 at the Macon Centerplex.

Girls will compete in their own single championship with 10 weight classes, and boys' individual state titles will be contested in seven classifications with 14 weight divisions.

All matches on all mats will be streamed live on NFHS Network and TrackWrestling.

Tickets are \$13 per day (plus a \$2 facility fee) and are available at the site only.

The **SCHEDULE** is as follows:

Date/Time	Event	Classes
Tuesday, February 9		
7:00 am	Weigh-Ins	Class 2A
8:00 am	Round of 24	Class 2A
after previous	Round of 16	Class 2A
after previous	WBs, Quarters & Semis	Class 2A
12:00 pm	Weigh-Ins	Class A
1:00 pm	Round of 24	Class A
after previous	Round of 16	Class A
after previous	WBs, Quarters & Semis	Class A
Wednesday, February 10		
7:00 am	Weigh-Ins	Class 3A
8:00 am	Round of 24	Class 3A
after previous	Round of 16	Class 3A
after previous	WBs, Quarters & Semis	Class 3A
12:00 pm	Weigh-Ins	Girls
1:00 pm	Round of 24	Girls
after previous	Round of 16	Girls
after previous	WBs, Quarters & Semis	Girls
6:00 pm	Weigh-Ins	Class A & 2A
7:00 pm	Consolation Quarters & Semis	Class A & 2A
after previous	Consolation Finals & FINALS	Class A & 2A
Thursday, February 11		
7:00 am	Weigh-Ins	Class 4A
8:00 am	Round of 24	Class 4A
after previous	Round of 16	Class 4A
after previous	WBs, Quarters & Semis	Class 4A
12:00 pm	Weigh-Ins	Class 6A
1:00 pm	Round of 24	Class 6A
after previous	Round of 16	Class 6A
after previous	WBs, Quarters & Semis	Class 6A
6:00 pm	Weigh-Ins	Girls & 3A
7:00 pm	Consolation Quarters & Semis	Girls & 3A
after previous	Consolation Finals & FINALS	Girls & 3A
Friday, February 12		
7:00 am	Weigh-Ins	Class 5A
8:00 am	Round of 24	Class 5A
after previous	Round of 16	Class 5A
after previous	WBs, Quarters & Semis	Class 5A
12:00 pm	Weigh-Ins	Class 7A
1:00 pm	Round of 24	Class 7A
after previous	Round of 16	Class 7A
after previous	WBs, Quarters & Semis	Class 7A
6:00 pm	Weigh-Ins	Class 7A
7:00 pm	Consolation Quarters & Semis	4A & 6A
after previous	Consolation Finals & FINALS	4A & 6A
Saturday, February 13		
8:00 am	Weigh-Ins	5A & 7A
9:00 am	Conso Quarters & Semis	5A & 7A
after previous	Consolation Finals & FINALS	5A & 7A



GHSA Cheerleading State Championships on February 15-16

The 2021 GHSA Cheerleading State Championships will take place February 15-16 at a site to be determined.

Admission is \$12 per session and the arena will be cleared between sessions each day. Please make sure your ticket purchase is for your team's session!

Absolutely **NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY** allowed from any mobile device (phone / iPad/ tablet) or cameras by spectators during the competition!

Fans can watch every session live on NFHSNetwork.com/GHSA for \$10.99 all-access pass, or on Georgia Public Television (GPB.org).

SCHEDULE

Monday, February 15, 2021

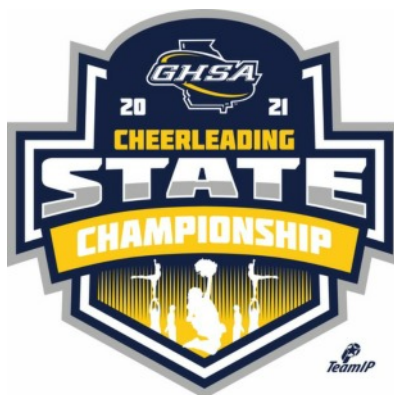
Session 1: Class A and CoEd Finals
Doors open at 9:00 a.m. Session begins at 10:00 a.m.

Session 2: Class 2A and 5A Finals
Doors open at 3:00 p.m. Session begins at 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

Session 1: Class 4A and 7A Finals
Doors open at 9:00 a.m. Session begins at 10:00 a.m.

Session 2: Class 3A and 6A Finals
Doors open at 3:00 p.m. Session begins at 4:00 p.m.



Other Important GHSA Events Taking Place in the Month of February

Board of Trustees Meeting Feb. 10

The GHSA Board of Trustees will meet at 10:00 a.m., on February 10 at the GHSA office in Thomaston. The agenda for this meeting will be published on the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net) once it is set.

Dance Championship Feb. 13

The GHSA will host the 2020-21 Dance State Invitational on February 13, 2021 at the Columbus Convention and Trade Center at 9:00 am.

Tickets are \$12 at the door and available digitally at GoFan.

Doors open at 8:00 a.m., for Session One, which is the finals for A-2A and 5A-6A divisions. The Center will be cleared between sessions. Doors

open at 1:00 p.m., for Session Two, which is the finals for 3A-4A and 7A divisions. Make sure your tickets are for the correct session.

Dance teams can compete as co-ed or all-girl in genres of Jazz, High Kick, Hip Hop and Pom.

GameDay Championship Feb. 27

The 2021 GHSA Game Day Cheerleading Invitational, in partnership with Varsity Brands, will take place on Saturday, February 27 at Carrollton High School.

Tickets are \$12 at the door and available digitally at GoFan. The event will be run in two sessions. Session One is for divisions A-3A and 4A-5A and doors will open at

7:30 a.m. Session Two is for the 6A-7A division and doors will open at 2:00 p.m. Merchandise will be available for purchase on-site.

Spring Esports Deadlines

Esports is the fastest growing sport, not just in Georgia but, all over the world. The Fall championships are over and it's now time to register for the Spring season. The optional preseason begins on February 15 and the **Deadline to Register is February 26**. The Spring regular season begins on March 1 with the championships planned for May.

You will find a link to register on the Esports page of the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net).

GHSA - February/March Calendar - 2021

February

1	Earliest contest date for Soccer
2-6	State Swimming & Diving Meets
5, 6	Traditional Wrestling Region/Area Tournaments
6	Complete Region/Area One Act Play; Region Cheerleading (A & Coed Sectionals)
8	Earliest contest date for Lacrosse and Track; Earliest date for Golf practice
9	Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
9-13	Traditional Wrestling State Tournament
10	Board of Trustees Meeting, 10 a.m., at GHSA Office
13	First contest date for Golf; Dance State Championship
13	One-Act Play State Finals (A public, 2A, 4A, 5A & 7A)
15	First practice date for Slow Pitch Softball; Earliest contest date for Baseball
15, 16	Cheerleading State Finals
20	Complete Region Basketball
20	One-Act Play State Finals (A private, 3A & 6A); Slow Pitch Softball First Contest
22	File Region Basketball winners by 9 a.m.; Literary entry notification deadline
23	Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
23, 24	First Round State Basketball Tournaments
26, 27	Second Round State Basketball Tournament
27	GameDay Cheerleading State Invitational

March

1	Football Schedules due; Deadline for notification of entry in ALL sports (2021-22)
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GHSA Sponsors

