



# GHSAA

## "ITEMS OF INTEREST"

February 2022

### **Legislators Give Rise to Some Valid Reclassification Issues**

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and Winter Break and had the chance to enjoy some extended time with your families. Looking back at this time last year, we were in the midst of navigating our way through the initial season with COVID and you all did a great job bringing us to that point and I can say the same this year. COVID will be with us well into the future and you continue to do those things that allow sports and activities to go on. You provide tremendous opportunities for the students of Georgia and the benefits you provide them are immeasurable.

The General Assembly is in session and, as always, there are challenges to your association. SB 328 has been filed and assigned to the Senate Youth and Education Committee and provides for the GaDOE to create a new nonprofit organization that essentially replaces the GHSAA. This bill comes up most years and is following the Florida model. It provides that any student is eligible at any school in which they enroll or attend a practice session regardless of where they live, who they live with, or where they attended school the previous year. It also provides that the Executive Committee be replaced by a Board of Directors consisting of six (6) public school representatives, six (6) private school representatives, two (2) appointees by the GaBOE, two (2) Superintendents, two (2) local BOE members and the State School Superintendent.

Currently, GHSAA member schools elect within their regions a member to represent that region on the Executive Committee. There are also members that represent the GSSA, GSBA, GADA, GACA and an at-large private member and two (2) female representatives. Member school representation would be drastically reduced under SB 328. The GHSAA appeal boards would be replaced and there would be a committee designed to hear all appeals and another to be a liaison between the public and the new nonprofit organization. In summary, this bill would dissolve your organization and change the landscape of high school athletics in Georgia by eliminating eligibility safeguards provided through current eligibility by-laws as well as reducing member school representation by approximately 71%. There is also a bill assigned to the Youth and Education Committee to require separate regions and playoffs for public and private schools.

All of this is in response to the recent reclassification process that was ratified by the full Executive Committee earlier this month. The focus of this cycle was to provide for a competitive balance of schools within the classifications that included a multiplier. The approval vote for Division II-A was 64-2, Division I-A 65-1 and classes 2A through 7A were 66-0 each. The committee overwhelmingly supported the results. And keep in mind that all regions had representation in this process.

With all of that being said, I have attended all Senate and House education committees and have had the opportunity to speak to numerous members of the General Assembly. There have been a couple of common threads of concern among the legislators that I believe our association should consider as we look forward to the next cycle. The most prevalent of these is travel and game scheduling. While there is no perfect solution that would solve all issues, reducing the number of classifications would increase the size of regions and allow for easier game scheduling and would lessen travel across the association.

Another common concern is the way out-of-district students are counted. Many representative feel that students who enter a school district in elementary school should not be counted in the multiplier. The rationale is that after being in the system for several years in elementary school, those students "belong" to the system and should not be considered out-of-district.

Finally, competitive balance is an issue and we should work toward a formula that will empirically measure success and move schools/sports to the appropriate classification. These three ideas are reasonable and I hope will be seriously considered as we move forward. I would note that all schools were subjected to the same rules in the process and therefore were treated fairly in the process, but these changes mentioned are reasonable and, along with a competitive balance formula, could be beneficial and ease some of the concerns expressed by some members of the GHSAA as well as the General Assembly.

As always, feel free to contact me or any member of the GHSAA office if we can assist you in any way.

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



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

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## GHSA Licensed Products

This month's featured licensees are: **RiverOak Photography** ([riveroakphotography.com](http://riveroakphotography.com)), **Athletic Image** ([theathleticimage.com](http://theathleticimage.com)), and **Unforgettable Moments** ([unforgettablemoment.com](http://unforgettablemoment.com)), official action photographers; **Pickle Juice**, official team management solution for player registration & online fundraising. ([www.picklejuiceapp.com](http://www.picklejuiceapp.com)); **GameChanger** (<https://gc.com>), official scorekeeping and team management partner of softball and baseball; and **E3 Sports Apparel** ([e3sport.com](http://e3sport.com)), official sublimated jerseys in bass fishing & esports.

## Attention Basketball Coaches!

All teams advancing to the 2022 State Tournament beginning February 22-23 should go to the GHSA website for important information. Look for the headline that reads "Team Instructions for 2022 State Basketball Tournament." This information is available NOW.

## 2021 Flag FB State Champions

Congratulations to the second ever GHSA Flag Football State Champions. A third division was added in 2021 after two champs were crowned during the initial campaign in 2020. Winning in 2021 were Hillgrove (7A), Dodge County (5A-6A) and Southeast Bulloch (A-4A). Photos of the other Football champions may be found on the next page.



**7A: Hillgrove**



**5A-6A: Dodge County**



**A-4A: Southeast Bulloch**

# State Football Champions - 2021



**7A: Collins Hill**



**6A: Buford**



**5A: Warner Robins**



**4A: Benedictine**



**3A: Cedar Grove**



**2A: Fitzgerald**



**A Public: Brooks County**



**A Private: Trinity Christian**

# Team Dual Wrestling State Champions - 2022



**7A: Camden County**



**6A: Buford**



**5A: Cass**



**4A: West Laurens**



**3A: Rockmart**



**2A: Lovett**



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



**A: Trion**

## Slam Dunk, 3-Point Contest Info



The third 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 10-12 at the Ralph Swearngin State Basketball Championships in Macon. This year will see the addition of a Co-Ed (teams of one boy & one girl) three-point shooting competition as well as the existing all-girls event. **Full rules and details may be found on the GHSA web site ([www.ghsa.net](http://www.ghsa.net)).**

For further questions, please contact Ernie Yarbrough, Assistant Executive Director, [ery@ghsa.net](mailto:ery@ghsa.net).

### BOYS SLAM DUNK CONTEST

- Participants must meet all GHSA eligibility standards
- Videos should be 30-45 seconds. Game footage is ALLOWED.
- Special props/ gimmicks are not allowed. Participants may use one individual to assist.
- To enter a video, users must first upload their video to one of the accepted platforms (YouTube, Vimeo, or Instagram) and then enter the video URL into that field. (IGTV, Reels, Stories, etc. are not supported).
- Video entries (mov. Or mp4 can also be emailed to [marketing@ghsa.net](mailto:marketing@ghsa.net)).
- Gold, silver and bronze medals will be presented.

### SLAM DUNK KEY DATES

Jan. 18 to Feb. 13 Enter Slam Dunk Contest  
 Feb. 8 (Tues.) to Feb. 13 (Sun.) - First Round Voting  
 Feb. 15 (Tues.) to Feb. 20 (Sun.) - Top 15 Voting  
 Feb. 22 (Tues.) to Feb. 27 (Sun.) - Semifinal Voting  
 Feb. 28 - Finalists will be announced

### GIRLS & CO-ED 3-POINT SHOOTING CONTESTS

- Participants must meet all GHSA eligibility standards
- Participants must complete the Participation Liability Consent form prior to participating (see web site for the form)
- Must wear official school uniform during the finals

### 3-POINT KEY DATES

Feb. 5 (Sat.) – Host sites: Banks Co. HS, Model HS & Buford HS  
 Feb. 12 (Sat.) – Host sites: Monroe HS, Hebron Christian HS, Perry HS, Griffin HS & Statesboro HS  
 Feb. 26 (Sat.) – Semifinal Sites: Perry HS & Banks Co. HS  
 Feb. 28 - Finalists will be announced

## Important 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 11, 2022. The meeting will be held April 11, 2022 at the Marriott Macon City Center.

**FOOTBALL SCHEDULES:** Coaches and/or Athletic Directors are reminded that 2022 varsity Football Schedules are due in the GHSA office no later than March 1, 2022. If your school has hired a new coach for the 2022 season, please make sure he is made aware of this deadline.

**INTENT TO PARTICIPATE DEADLINE:** Member schools are reminded of the March 1, 2022 deadline to notify the GHSA of entry in **All Sports and Activities** for the school year 2022-2023.

**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 again two (2) mandatory "Dead Weeks" this year - Monday, May 30, 2022 through Sunday, June 5, 2022 **AND** Monday, July 4, 2022 through Sunday, July 10, 2022.

### 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 2022-23 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.

## SHBP Well-Being Program!

State Health Benefits Plan Members\*: Register for the **Be Well SHBP® well-being program** to receive personalized information for healthier living.

- Complete activities to earn a \$150 Sharecare Rewards Visa® Prepaid Card or 480 well-being incentive credits for eligible medical and pharmacy expenses.
- Create new habits to help manage stress, food cravings, and more with the guided programs.
- Register or log in to your account today or go to [BeWell/SHBP.com](http://BeWell/SHBP.com).

\*Available at no additional cost for members and their covered spouses enrolled in Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield or UnitedHealthcare Commercial (non-Medicare Advantage) Plan Options.

## Bass Fishing State Qualifier #2 at Lake Oconee on February 12

The second qualifying tournament in Bass Fishing will take place on Feb. 12 at Lake Oconee in Buckhead. Below is more information on the event:

### **Tournament Director:**

- Kevin Hunt – MLF Big 5  
270.205.5155 or [kevin.hunt@majorleaguefishing.com](mailto:kevin.hunt@majorleaguefishing.com)

### **High School Fishing Contacts:**

- Joey Bray, National Youth Director SAF/TBF  
580.716.4251 or [Joey@federationangler.com](mailto:Joey@federationangler.com)
- Scott Ellison, MLF Big 5  
270.205.6864 or [scott.ellison@majorleaguefishing.com](mailto:scott.ellison@majorleaguefishing.com)

### **Practice:**

- Competition waters are open for practice until 5 p.m. on Feb. 11
- The purchasing of, or bartering for, information or the hiring of fishing guide services will not be permitted after Feb. 1.

### **Boat Operation:**

- Contestants are not permitted to drive the boat when the combustion engine is in operation. Each boat will be driven by a coach or volunteer driver. Contestants may operate the trolling motor. Coaches and volunteers may provide assistance, including information about locating and catching fish, but are not permitted to fish.

### **Catch & Size Limit:**

- Five bass per team; minimum 14 inches on largemouth and spotted bass.

### **License Requirement:**

- A Valid GA fishing license is required for students 16 and older.

### **Format:**

- Each GHSA approved school may enter up to six boats in each regional competition. The top 15 boats from each regional advance to the state Championship. One additional boat will advance from each regional for every 10 boats that compete over a minimum of 100 boats in the regional. Boats advance from the first event in which they qualified. If a boat has already qualified for the state championship, the next eligible boat will advance.

### **GHSA Contact:**

- Kevin Giddens - 706-647-7473 ext. 25 or [kevin@ghsa.net](mailto:kevin@ghsa.net)

### **Registration:**

- All anglers must pre-register online at [HighSchoolFishing.org](http://HighSchoolFishing.org) no later than Monday before the event at 8 a.m.

### **Mandatory Registration:**

- Friday, February 11, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- Sugar Creek Marina, 353 Parks Mill Road, Buckhead, GA.30506
- Anglers, coaches & captains must attend.
- Pretournament meeting immediately following check-in.

### **Takeoff and Weigh-in on Feb. 12:**

- Takeoff: 7:00 a.m.
- Weigh-in: 3:00 p.m.

### **Items to Bring:**

- Signed liability release
- Personal floatation device
- Valid student ID
- Valid license for state waters to be fished if 16 or older
- Sunscreen & sunglasses
- Rods and reels
- Line cutters & needle-nose pliers
- Lures & tackle
- Rainsuit
- Jersey or shirt representing your school

**HIGH SCHOOL  
FISHING**  
TBF · STUDENT ANGLER FEDERATION · MLF



## Traditional Wrestling State Tournament

The 2022 GHSA Traditional Wrestling State Tournament will be held February 10-12 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](https://www.nfhs.com).

Tickets are \$15 per day or you can purchase a three-day All Tournament pass for \$35, or a two-day Tournament Pass for \$25 (good for either Thursday & Friday **OR** Friday & Saturday). All tickets are available on [GoFan](https://www.gofan.com) only!

The **SCHEDULE** is as follows:

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Classes</u>
<b>Thursday, February 10</b>		
8:00 am	Weigh-Ins	3A & 4A
9:00 am	Round of 12	3A & 4A
After previous	Round of 8	3A & 4A
After previous	Round 1 of WBs	3A & 4A
After previous	Semifinals & Conso. Quarters	3A & 4A
After previous	Conso. Semifinals	3A & 4A
1:00 pm	Weigh-Ins	5A & 6A
2:00 pm	Round of 12	5A & 6A
After previous	Round of 8	5A & 6A
After previous	Round 1 of WBs	5A & 6A
After previous	Semifinals & Conso. Quarters	5A & 6A
After previous	Conso. Semifinals	5A & 6A
<b>Friday, February 11</b>		
7:00 am	Weigh-Ins	1A & 2A
8:00 am	Round of 12	1A & 2A
After previous	Round of 8	1A & 2A
After previous	Round 1 of WBs	1A & 2A
After previous	Semifinals & Conso. Quarters	1A & 2A
After previous	Conso. Semifinals	1A & 2A
12:00 pm	Weigh-Ins	7A & Girls
1:00 pm	Round of 12 & 16	7A & Girls
After previous	Round of 8	7A & Girls
After previous	Round 1 of WBs	7A & Girls
After previous	Round 2 of WBs	Girls
After previous	Semifinals & Conso. Quarters	7A & Girls
After previous	Conso. Semifinals	7A & Girls
4:00 pm	Weigh-Ins	3A, 4A, 5A & 6A
6:00 pm	Conso. Finals	3A, 4A, 5A & 6A
6:00 pm	<b>FINALS</b>	3A, 4A, 5A & 6A
<b>Saturday, February 12</b>		
8:00 am	Weigh-Ins	1A, 2A, 7A & Girls
10:00 am	Conso. Finals	1A, 2A, 7A & Girls
10:00 am	<b>FINALS</b>	1A, 2A, 7A & Girls



## GHSA Swimming & Diving State Championships on Feb. 3-5

The 2022 GHSA Swimming & Diving State Championships will be held Feb. 3-5 at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center.

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.

There are scoring divisions for each meet (6A and 7A in the 6-7A session, and 1-3A and 4-5A in the 1-5A session). Teams will score points against teams in their scoring division only.

The top three (3) male and female teams and individuals in each scoring division will be recognized and receive team trophies and medals for their performances.

Tickets are \$15.00 per day and are available ONLY at [GoFan](#). Information about how to buy tickets on GoFan and spectator parking information may be found on the GHSA web site ([www.ghsa.net](http://www.ghsa.net)).



### SCHEDULE

#### Thursday, February 3, 2022

(All Diving Events)

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

Boys will dive first in the odd numbered years, girls will dive first in the even numbered years.

#### Friday, February 4, 2022

(Swim Prelims)

8:00 am - 9:25 am	1A-5A Swimming Warm-Ups
9:30 am - 1:00 pm	1A-5A Swimming Prelims
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm	6A-7A Swimming Warm-Ups
6:00 pm - 8:45 pm	6A-7A Swimming Prelims

Prelims will be conducted in two 10-lane courses. The boys events will swim in the west pool (by the main scoreboard) and the girls will swim in the east pool (by the diving well). Finals will be swum in one 10-lane course, in the east pool.

#### Saturday, February 5, 2022

(Swim Finals)

9:30 am - 10:55 am	1A-5A Swimming Finals Warm-Ups
11:00 am - 3:30 pm	1A-5A Swimming Finals
4:30 pm - 5:55 pm	6A-7A Swimming Finals Warm-Ups
6:00 pm - 10:00 pm	6A-7A Swimming Finals

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.

### Dance State Championships Feb. 12

The GHSA will hold the 2021-22 Dance State Championships on Saturday, February 12, 2022.

The event will take place at the Columbus Convention and Trade Center beginning at 9:00 am.

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

Tickets are \$12 and will be sold exclusively on GoFan, no box office sales.

The center will be cleared between the first and second sessions, so be sure your tickets are for the correct session.

Session No. 1 begins at 8:30 a.m., and includes competition in the A-2A division and the 3A-4A division.

Session No. 2 begins at 12:30 p.m., And will see champions crowned in the 5A-6A division and the Class 7A division.

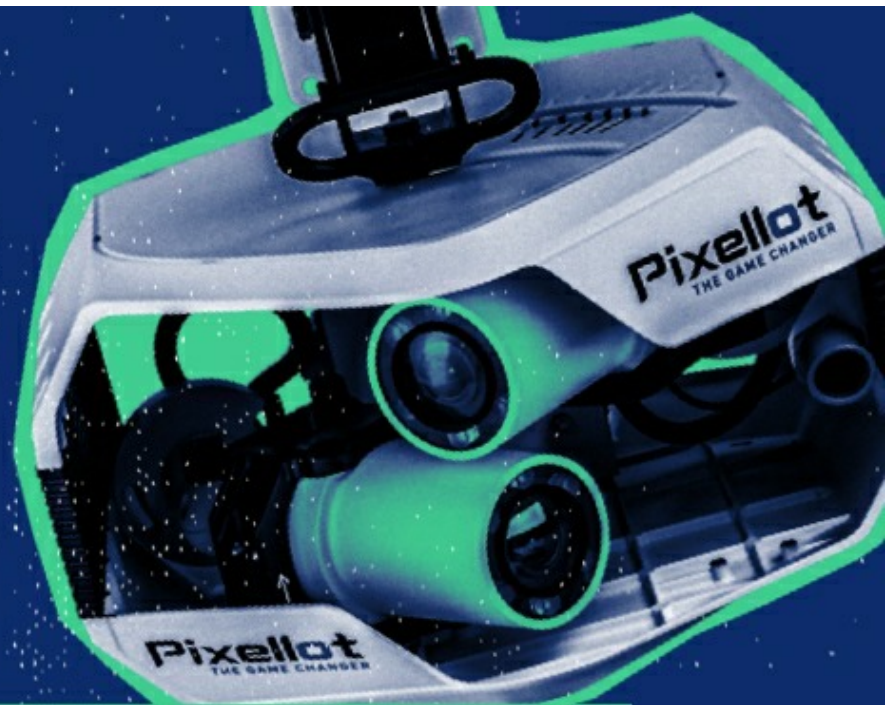
### Esports Registration Ends Feb. 11

The 2021-22 GHSA **Spring** Esports State Championships, powered by PlayVS, will be held Friday, April 29, at 3:00 p.m., at the University of West Georgia Coliseum.

The **deadline to register** is Feb. 11. Information on how to register may be found on the GHSA web site.

Titles will be determined in League of Legends, Rocket League, Madden NFL and Smash Bros. Ultimate. Defending champion from the Fall of 2021 were Northview (League of Legends), Forsyth Central (Rocket League), East Paulding (Smash) and Westminster (FIFA).

The finals of Rocket League, Smash and League of Legends will be carried live on NFHS Network & Twitch. Spectators are welcome to attend the event free of charge.



**2 FREE PIXELLOT UNITS  
AND FREE INSTALLATION**

**CONTACT MATT ABRAMSON:  
[Matt.Abramson@nfhsnetwork.com](mailto:Matt.Abramson@nfhsnetwork.com)**





## GHSA - February/March Calendar - 2022

### February

- 1 Deadline for notification of entry in Literary
- 3-5 State Swimming & Diving Meets
- 4, 5 Traditional Wrestling Sectional Tournaments
- 7 Earliest contest date for Lacrosse and Track; Earliest date for Golf practice
- 8 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 10-12 Traditional Wrestling State Tournament
- 12 Dance State Championship
- 14 First practice date for Slow Pitch Softball; Earliest contest date for Baseball
- 18 Slow Pitch Softball first contest date
- 19 Complete Region Basketball; First contest date for Golf
- 20 File Region Basketball winners by 9 a.m.
- 22 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 22, 23 First Round State Basketball Tournaments
- 25, 26 Second Round State Basketball Tournament

### March

- 1 Football Schedules due; Deadline for notification of entry in **ALL** sports (2022-23)
- 1, 2 Quarterfinal Round State Basketball Tournament
- 4, 5 Semifinal Round State Basketball Tournament
- 4, 5 Game Day Cheerleading Championships
- 8 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 9-12 Finals State Basketball Tournament - All Classes

## GHSA Sponsors

