



GHSA

"ITEMS OF INTEREST"

March 2022

Sportsmanship Has Reached Unacceptable Level This Year!

Legislative Update: SB 328: This bill designates a new nonprofit organization to govern high school sports, essentially dissolving the GHSA, replacing the governing structures (Executive Committee, Board of Trustees, appeal boards) and basically eliminates eligibility rules.

SB 334: This bill seeks to provide that schools cannot be in an association that doesn't provide separate regions and championships for public and private schools. Both SB 328 and SB 334 remain in the Senate Youth and Education Committee and have not been placed on an agenda to be heard in committee as of this writing.

SB 266: This bill is the "Save Girls Sports Bill" and uses the sex identified at birth for participation in sports. There will be a House version of this bill expected to be filed soon. Many of you have expressed your opinions about these bills to your senators and representatives. I will keep you informed so you can provide further input should you feel it is necessary.

Sportsmanship: Sportsmanship this school year has reached unacceptable levels, following a year that was exceptional in that area. My feeling is that last year all involved were grateful just to participate and the benefit of doing so was recognized by all. The GHSA office has been inundated with unsporting events and I encourage all to again make this your priority.

Dr. Karissa Niehoff, CEO of the National Federation of High Schools, has written eloquently in her last "The NFHS Voice" about this disturbing trend and I have included it below.

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

Regarding Sportsmanship, It's Time for Wake-up Call in High School Sports

By Dr. Karissa L. Niehoff, NFHS Chief Executive Officer

From time to time, everyone needs a wake-up call to get back on course, to regain focus and to "get with the program." That time is at hand in high school sports as it relates to unsportsmanlike conduct.

In the 103-year history of the NFHS and organized sports in the United States, good sportsmanship has been one of the most important outcomes of these programs. When appropriate behavior occurs, competitive play is more enjoyable for everyone. And for some individuals recently, the games have not been enjoyable. In the past few months, following are some of the unfortunate incidents that have occurred at the high school level:

- The mayor of a city was ejected from his daughter's basketball game after threatening a referee.
- A volleyball official was followed off the court by a coach who was shouting obscenities.
- A referee was assaulted and knocked unconscious during a basketball tournament.
- A student from the opposing school in the stands shouted racist comments at a high school basketball player on the court.
- At another game in another state, inappropriate chants were made against the opposing team's players on the court.
- Continued poor parent behavior in the stands led a Central New York youth basketball league to end the season early.

Unfortunately, the list could go on and on. When hearing accounts like these that regularly occur, the primary reason for the current officials' shortage becomes painfully obvious – unacceptable behavior on the part of coaches, parents and other spectators.

While all of these displays of unacceptable behavior must stop, the recent occurrences of students and other spectators using hurtful, demeaning and hateful language at individuals on the opposing team is heartbreaking.

High school sports and other activities exist to lift people up, not demean or tear people down. The goal is to treat everyone equally and treat each other with respect. Any speech or harassment that is insulting, demeaning or hurtful will not be tolerated.

High schools must establish a culture that values the worth of every single person – both players on the school's team and players on the opposing team. There must be a no-tolerance policy regarding behavior that shows disrespect for another individual.

Likewise, the accounts of violent attacks against officials are incomprehensible and must be stopped. As Dana Pappas, NFHS director of officiating services, said, "Do you really think that these individuals who are volunteers are going to take a half-day off of work, get paid less than they're probably making at their real job to go and be unfair in a game? It doesn't make sense. They are there to give back. They are there to be community servants."



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GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION Newsletter

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Administration, By-Law Interpretations, Hardship Rulings,
Football Playoffs, Coaches Education Program

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- Assistant Executive Director -

Basketball, Softball, Lacrosse, Golf & Girls Flag Football

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Game Day Championships March 4-5

The 2022 Game Day Cheerleading Championship, in partnership with Varsity Brands, Inc., will be held on March 4 & 5 at Mercer University in Macon. Admission is \$12 per person. Tickets are available only on [GoFan](https://www.go.com), and the ticket is good for the entire day's event.

The divisions will be A-2A, 3A-4A, 5A-6A, 7A and Dance. Teams will compete in areas they use to lead a crowd at a game on "Game Day" at a football or basketball game. There are three segments on which they will be judged: cheer, band chant, and fight song. The teams scoring the highest in these three segments will be the finalists and will then combine all of these areas in an additional three-minute routine.

The event will stream LIVE at NFHSNetwork.com. Subscription for an all-access pass is \$10.99 for 30 days. DVDs can also be ordered at NFHSNetwork.com.

The NFHS Voice: Sportsmanship

Continued from Page 1

NFHS playing rules are written to encourage sportsmanship. Participation in these programs should promote respect, integrity and sportsmanship. However, for these ideals to occur, everyone involved must do their part.

Because of a concern that unsporting behavior in education-based athletics has increased the past year, the NFHS has made sportsmanship the No. 1 Point of Emphasis in all sports for the 2022-23 season.

And if there was ever a doubt, the recent unfortunate events at the college level should make it crystal clear that the person most responsible for setting the tone at high school athletic contests is the coach(es).

If coaches act in a sportsmanlike manner, their behavior sets the tone for players, spectators and others. If coaches, however, are constantly complaining about the decision of contest officials, spectators are more likely to do the same.

There must be a collaborative, working relationship between contest officials and game administration to promote good sportsmanship and safely conduct the contest. Everyone has their roles to play in creating a positive, sportsmanlike atmosphere at contests.

Officials should focus on the actions of players, coaches and other bench/sideline personnel. A positive, open line of communication between officials and coaches ultimately results in a better contest for everyone involved.

Contest officials, however, should never engage with spectators who are exhibiting unsporting behavior. Once the contest begins, school administration is responsible for dealing with unruly spectators. A proactive approach by school administration includes monitoring the behavior of spectators and intervening as needed.

If spectators are using demeaning or profane language at officials – or at others in the stands – those individuals must be removed from the contest by school administration.

Rather than spectators like the ones described above, more fans are needed at high school sporting events. Fans support the officials, the players and the coaches, unlike the fanatics who tear down and do harm to the participants, the school and the community.

Good sports win with humility, lose with grace and do both with dignity. It takes the efforts of everyone every day to ensure that sportsmanship remains one of the top priorities in education-based activity programs.

Swimming & Diving State Champions - 2022



7A Boys: Parkview



7A Girls: Walton



6A Boys: Johns Creek



6A Girls: Lassiter



4A-5A Boys: Marist



4A-5A Girls: St. Pius

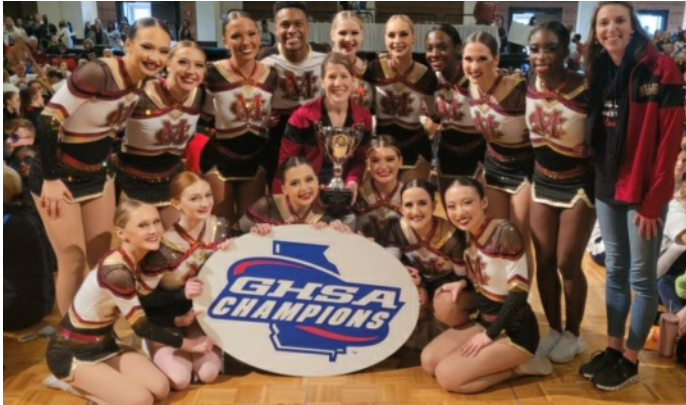


A-3A Boys: Westminster



A-3A Girls: Westminster

Dance State Champions - 2022



7A: Mill Creek



5A-6A: Starr's Mill



3A-4A: West Laurens



A-2A: Stilwell Arts

Bass Fishing State Qualifier #3 at West Point Lake on March 19

The third of four qualifying tournaments in Bass Fishing will take place on March 19 at West Point Lake in LaGrange. Below is more information on the event:

Tournament Director:

• Randy Sullivan – SAF/TBF

580.716.4251 or Randy@federationangler.com

High School Fishing Contacts:

• Joey Bray, National Youth Director SAF/TBF

580.716.4251 or Joey@federationangler.com

• Scott Ellison, MLF

270.205.6864 or scott.ellison@majorleaguefishing.com

Practice:

- Competition waters open for practice until 5 p.m. on March 18.
- The purchasing of, or bartering for, information or the hiring of fishing guide services will not be permitted after March 8.

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 12 inches on 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

Registration:

- All anglers must pre-register online at HighSchoolFishing.org no later than Monday before the event at 8 a.m.

Mandatory Registration:

- Friday, March 18, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- Pine Road Park Mega Ramp, 4481 Roanoke Road, LaGrange, GA, 30240 (Anglers, coaches & captains **must** attend).
- Pretournament meeting immediately following check-in.

Takeoff and Weigh-in on March 19:

- Takeoff: 7:30 a.m.
- Weigh-in: 3:30 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

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Basketball State Finals Adding Coed Three-Point Contest

For the third year in a row, the 2022 GHSA / Dr. Ralph Swearngin State Basketball Tournament will include 17 state championship games along with a boys Slam Dunk contest and a girls Three-Point contest.

But this year, the March 9-12 event will add a first-time CoEd three-point contest featuring two-person teams of a boy and girl from the same high school.

The four-day championship round will tip off on Wednesday, March 9 with four finals. The Class A Public girls will get things started at 1:00 p.m., followed by the Class A boys at 3 p.m. Then the Class 4A boys play the last two games at 5:00, and the Class 4A girls play the final game at 7:00, respectively. All games will be played at the Macon Centreplex again this year.



Tickets each day are \$15 and are available ONLY via [GoFan](#) this year. No tickets will be sold at the site. Parking is again free of charge for this event.

Thursday's schedule also begins at 1:00 p.m., with the Class 2A and then 5A championships. The inaugural coed three-point contest will follow the 2A boys final.

Friday's action begins at 1:00 p.m., with the 3A and then the 6A title contests. The Girls 3-point shooting contest will follow the 3A boys championship game.

The action concludes Saturday beginning at 11:00 a.m., with first the A Private and then the 7A championships. In between, at 3:00 p.m., the 25th annual AAASP Wheelchair championship will be held.

The third GHSA Slam Dunk Contest, will take place following the AAASP championship.

Both the three-point shooting events and the slam dunk contest are presented by BSN Sports.



2022 GHSA / Dr. Ralph Swearngin State Basketball Championship Facts

When: March 9-12

Where: Macon Centreplex

Tickets: \$15 per day ONLY on [GoFan](#)

Championship Schedule

Wednesday, March 9

- 1:00 pm - Girls Class A Public
- 3:00 pm - Boys Class A Public
- 5:00 pm - Girls Class 4A
- 7:00 pm - Boys Class 4A

Thursday, March 10

- 1:00 pm - Girls Class 2A
- 3:00 pm - Boys Class 2A
- 5:00 pm - Coed 3-point contest
- 5:30 pm - Girls Class 5A
- 7:30 pm - Boys Class 5A

Friday, March 11

- 1:00 pm - Girls Class 3A
- 3:00 pm - Boys Class 3A
- 5:00 pm - Girls 3-point contest
- 5:30 pm - Girls Class 6A
- 7:30 pm - Boys Class 6A

Saturday, March 12

- 11:00 am - Girls Class A Private
- 1:00 pm - Boys Class A Private
- 3:00 pm - AAASP Wheelchair
- 5:00 pm - Boys Slam Dunk contest
- 5:30 pm - Girls Class 7A
- 7:30 pm - Boys Class 7A

All Championship Finals will stream live on the NFHS Network. A 30-day subscription is \$10.99 for an all-access, unlimited viewing pass on any device.

Literary State Championships at Three Sites on March 19 and 26

The 2022 State Literary Championships will be held on consecutive Saturdays in March at three different high school sites.

Buford High School will host the championships in Classes 7A, 6A and A Private on March 19.

Also on March 19, the Class 3A and 5A competitions will be held at Warner Robins High School.

Then on March 26, the A Public, 2A and 4A finals will take place at Georgia Military College in Milledgeville.

Admission is free at all three locations.

The defending state champions are: Cherokee (7A), Buford (6A), Calhoun (5A), North Oconee (4A), Ringgold (3A), Bremen (2A), Georgia Military College (A Public) and Lakeview Academy (A Private).





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GHSA - March / April Calendar - 2022

March

- 1 Deadline to submit Football Schedules to GHSA office
- 1 Deadline for notification of entry in ALL SPORTS for 2022-23
- 1, 2 Quarterfinal Round State Basketball Tournament
- 4, 5 Semifinal Round State Basketball Tournament
- 4, 5 Game Day Cheerleading State Championship
- 8 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 9-12 Championship Round State Basketball Tournament at Macon Centreplex
- 12 Complete Area Riflery and Region/Area Literary
- 14 Report Riflery & Literary results to GHSA by 9 a.m.
- 19 State Literary Meet (Classes A Private, 3A, 5A, 6A & 7A)
- 22 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 26 State Literary Meet (Classes A Public, 2A & 4A)
- 26 Complete Riflery Sectionals
- 29 File reports of Riflery Sectionals with GHSA and State Coordinator

April

- 1 GHSA Participation Survey Due
- 10 Complete Riflery Semifinals, Area SP Softball & Region Soccer
- 10, 11 Spring State Executive Committee Meeting in Macon

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