



GHSA

“Items of Interest”

November 2011

Timetable for Reclassification Pushed Back Slightly

The GHSA has learned that the “FTE counts” for public schools will not be released for another week or two. That means that the GHSA time table will need to be adjusted somewhat.

Here are the steps in the process that will be followed to reclassify member schools for the 2012-2014 cycle:

1. Numbers will be released by the Georgia Department of Education and the GHSA will publish a list of school populations on its web site. Any school that has concerns about its numbers will need to contact the GHSA office.
2. The Reclassification Committee will place member schools in six classifications as approved by the Executive Committee last spring. That list of classified schools will be placed on the GHSA web site, and member schools will have 14 days to declare their intention to play at a higher classification.
3. The Reclassification Committee will place member schools in regions within the classification in which each school falls. Schools will have 14 days to appeal for a “lateral transfer” to another region in their classification.
4. The Reclassification Committee will hear the appeals for a lateral transfer. Schools seeking a lateral transfer will have 5 days to appeal the decision of the Reclassification Committee if their petition is denied.
5. The full Executive Committee will hear appeals about lateral transfers and then will vote on the reclassification plan as moved forward by the Reclassification Committee. It is hoped that this meeting will occur in early January, 2012.



Across the nation, reclassification is one of the most difficult tasks a state association undertakes. The theory is that schools of like size should compete in regions that are relatively close to home. The reality in Georgia is that such a goal is hard to achieve. The geographic nature of the state and the population imbalances in the state create monumental headaches.

One reason that reclassification is such a problem is that many people view the situation with a very small point of reference – “what’s good for my school?” Another problem is that some people look first and foremost at the implications for football, but it is the other sports playing multiple times in a week that tax the resources of our schools. Also, there are people who are primarily concerned about competitive balance issues even though they talk about travel issues.

With all these factors in mind, the GHSA Reclassification will tackle this task in the very near future. Stay tuned for the developments.

– **Ralph Swearngin**, Executive Director

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION Newsletter

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OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday

Vol. 30**November 2011****No. 3****- GHSA STAFF -****Areas of Responsibility****RALPH SWEARNGIN** (extension 7)

- Executive Director -
Administration, Interpretation of GHSA Rules,
Hardship Appeals, Lacrosse, Volleyball

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Student Eligibility, Community Coach Program,
Cross Country, Wrestling, Track, Golf

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Finances, Entry Notification, Agendas,
Literary, One-Act Play, Debate, Cheerleading, Riflery

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Press Releases, Media Coordination for State Events, Newsletter,
Football Schedules, Constitution, Calendar, Tennis

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Web Page Supervision, Database Management, Technical Support

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- Officials' Registrar -
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Football, Baseball, Swimming

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Basketball, Soccer, Softball

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Sanctioning of Events, School Passes,
Directory, Coaches' Clinic Attendance

JULIE JONES (extension 1)

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Dues, Community Coach Program

SHERI BROOKS COKER (extension 0)

- Receptionist -
Lifetime Passes, School System Passes,
Ejection Reports, Publication Orders

GHSA Licensed Products

This month's featured licensees are: **Honig's Whistle Stop** (honigs.com), **Purchase Officials Supply** (purchaseofficials.com), Officials/umpires uniforms, apparel and equipment; **Mr Video** videographer / order championship DVDs (mrvideoonline.com); and **Resilite**, official wrestling mat (resilite.com). View a complete list of GHSA licensees at www.ghsa.net/licensing. Become a Fan of the GHSA on Facebook (Facebook.com/OfficialGHSA) and Follow us on Twitter (Twitter.com/OfficialGHSA).

STATE CHAMPIONS**SOFTBALL**

Congratulations to the following State Champions in Softball:

- AAAAA** - Collins Hill High School
- AAAA** - Northgate High School
- AAA** - Oconee County High School
- AA** - Buford High School
- A** - Gordon Lee High School

VOLLEYBALL

Congratulations to the following State Champions in Volleyball:

- AAAAA** - Walton High School
- AAAA** - Pope High School
- AAA** - Sandy Creek High School
- AAA** - Eagles Landing Christian

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

Cheerleading Finals to Air on GPB

The excitement of the GHSA Cheerleading State Championships, presented by Verizon Wireless, will video stream live on GPB.org/sports on Saturday, November 12 from the Columbus Civic Center.

Classes AAA, AA and A will begin airing at 9:00 a.m., while AAAAA, AAAA and the Coed division will be carried at 2:00 p.m.

In addition, Georgia Public Broadcasting will televise a "Cheerleading Special" on November 18 at 7:00 p.m., and 10:30 p.m., and November 23 at 7:00 p.m.

Action photos will be available at GHSAPhotos.com. DVDs can be ordered through Mr. Video.



GHSA State Golf Tournaments All Moving to Augusta in 2012

The Georgia High School Association (GHSA) and Augusta Sports Council (ASC) have announced the venues for the 2012 GHSA Golf State Championships. Earlier this year it was announced that the GHSA would bring the 10 state golf championships to the Augusta area in 2012. This is the first time a single community has been selected to host all 10 tournaments.

The Championships for A-AAAAA boys and girls will be held at 10 area golf courses on Monday, May 7, 2012. Combined, the tournaments will draw 880 golfers, plus coaches and fans.

Burke County High School golf coach and athletic director Wade Marchman will serve as the overall tournament director for this ground-breaking event, while the Augusta Sports Council will provide tournament support.

The 2012 tournament venues are as follows:

- Class A** Boys – Forest Hills Golf Club
Girls – Pointe South Golf Club
- Class AA** Boys - Waynesboro Country Club
Girls – Goshen Plantation Golf Club
- Class AAA** Boys – Augusta Country Club
Girls – Applewood Golf Course
- Class AAAA** Boys – Jones Creek Golf Club
Girls – Bartram Trail Golf Club
- Class AAAAA** Boys – Champions Retreat Golf Club
Girls – The River Golf Club



State Cross Country Championships

The 2011-2012 GHSA State Cross Country Championships will be held on Saturday, November 5 at the Carrollton High School Course. Admission is \$5.00.

Meet Schedule

8:30 a.m.	Boys AA	12:00 noon	Girls AAAAA
9:00 a.m.	Girls AA	1:00 p.m.	Boys AAA
10:00 a.m.	Boys A	1:30 p.m.	Girls AAA
10:30 a.m.	Girls A	2:30 p.m.	Boys AAAAA
11:30 a.m.	Boys AAAAA	3:00 p.m.	Girls AAAAA



ACT and SAT Assessment Dates

Each year, the GHSA office gets requests to alter schedules due to conflicts with ACT and SAT. We cannot accommodate those requests. The following chart (also published in the GHSA Constitution & By-Laws and listed on the GHSA web site) gives dates of the exams and possible conflicts with GHSA activities. We urge you to inform your athletes, your counselors, and your coaches **now** about the dates scheduled for exams in order for the athletes to plan their assessments around events in which they are to compete.

ACT ASSESSMENT DATES

ACTIVITY CONFLICTS

December 10, 2011	State Football Finals
February 11, 2012	Sectional Traditional Wrestling, State Swimming & Diving
April 14, 2012	State Riflery Championship
June 9, 2012	None

SAT ASSESSMENT DATES

ACTIVITY CONFLICTS

November 5, 2011	State Cross Country, Region Cheerleading, State One-Act Play
December 3, 2011	State Football Semifinals
January 28, 2012	None
March 10, 2012	AAA, AA & A State Basketball Finals, Region Literary Meets
May 5, 2012	State Baseball playoffs, Girls State Track
June 2, 2012	None

SAT ASSESSMENT DATES

ACTIVITY CONFLICTS

Week 1 - April 30-May 5	Baseball, Lacrosse, Soccer & Tennis Playoffs, Girls State Track
Week 2 - May 7-11	State Golf Tournaments, Baseball, Lacrosse, Soccer & Tennis Playoffs, Boys State Track

State Volleyball Champions - 2011



Class AAAAA:
Walton
Lady Raiders



Class AAA:
Pope
Lady Greyhounds



Class AAA:
Sandy Creek
Lady Patriots



Class AA/A:
Eagles Landing Christian
Lady Chargers

State Softball Champions - 2011

Class AAAAA
Collins Hill
Lady Eagles



Class AAAA
Northgate
Lady Vikings

Class AAA
Oconee County
Lady Warriors



State Softball Champions - 2011



Class AA
Buford
Lady Wolves

Class A
Gordon Lee
Lady Trojans



Photographs in this newsletter of the state championship softball teams were provided by **The Athletic Image**. Championship volleyball photos were provided by **Georgia Photographic**. More images from both sports may be found and purchased at GHSAPhotos.com.



GHSA Welcomes New Sponsors

The GHSA welcomes three new corporate partners, **Georgia Farm Bureau, Sports Authority** and **Georgia Army National Guard**.

Georgia Farm Bureau, the official insurance company, is presenting sponsor of the football state championships and Georgia High School Scoreboard Show.

Sports Authority offers member school athletes, coaches and fans discount coupons throughout the season that can be redeemed at Sports Authority retailers and online.

The Georgia Army National Guard, as an official military sponsor, will be presenting sponsor of the traditional wrestling state championship.

GHSA was also pleased to renew longtime partners, Mizuno, Gatorade and Sports Medicine South. Georgia Public Broadcasting renewed deals with Georgia Electric Membership Corporation and Regions Bank.



Sports Authority Offers 15% Coupon

Sports Authority, the GHSA's official sports retailer, offers students, coaches and fans 15% off any purchase made from now through December 31, 2011. The coupon is good for both in-store purchases and online orders.

You can download the coupon by visiting the Coaches page or any fall sports page on the GHSA site (www.ghsa.net).

**SPORTS
AUTHORITY**

Stay Connected to the GHSA!

For all coaches, athletic directors and teams that are active in social media, the GHSA invites you to follow ("like") the GHSA on [Facebook.com/OfficialGHSA](https://www.facebook.com/OfficialGHSA) and be a fan at [Twitter.com/officialGHSA](https://twitter.com/officialGHSA). Statewide news, association announcements and playoff information are posted daily for interaction with GHSA followers and fans. When Twittering scores of games, please include the tag "@OfficialGHSA" to enable scores to be posted on the GHSA feed.



Home 'Pink' is OK for Jan. 30-Feb. 4

In observance of "Cancer Awareness" the GHSA will allow member schools to wear "pink" jerseys at their HOME basketball games during the week of January 30 through February 4, 2012.

The visiting teams must wear their normal "dark" uniforms, as usual.

Game officials will be using "pink" whistles for the "Calling For The Cure" promotion during the same week.

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."

GHSA Official Balls

Coaches and school administrators are reminded that the GHSA State Executive Committee has approved "Official" balls for all GHSA state playoff events.

Listed below are the balls that will be provided for GHSA state playoff events. These balls are effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2013.

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Make/Model</u>
Baseball	WILSON A1010
Basketball	WILSON WAVE Boys: B0610 Girls: B0611
Football	WILSON F1003 or F1005
Soccer	BRINE "Championship"
Softball (optic yellow 12")	WILSON A9011 BSST
Volleyball	SPALDING TF5000

GHSA - November Calendar - 2011

November

- 4, 5 End Regular Season in Football
- 5 Complete Region Cheerleading
- 5 State One-Act Plays
- 5 State Cross Country Meet
- 7 Earliest Date for Swimming meet
- 8 Hardship/Appeal Meeting
- 11, 12 Cheerleading Sectionals & State Finals
- 11, 12 First Round State Football Playoffs
- 12 Earliest Date for Basketball game
- 18 Earliest date for Wrestling match
- 18, 19 Second Round State Football Playoffs
- 24 **Thanksgiving Day** - GHSA Office closed on 24th and 25th
- 25, 26 Quarterfinal Round State Football Playoffs

The GHSA Staff Wishes You and Yours The Best of the Season



GHSA Sponsors


