

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA

MARRIOTT/Macon City Center – MACON, GEORGIA

Magnolia Ballroom

April 13, 2026, at 9:00AM

Call To Order	Jim Finch, President
Pledge of Allegiance	Curt Miller, Vice President
Invocation	Carror Wright, Associate Director
Roll Call.....	Marvin James, Director of Media Relations
Adoption of Agenda	Executive Committee

NFHS NATIONAL CONTRIBUTOR AWARD

The GHSA is proud to announce that Chris Millman, Senior Vice President of Community Engagement for the Atlanta Falcons and Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, has been named the recipient of the NFHS National Contributor Award. This honor recognizes his continued support of the Georgia High School Association student-athletes and contest officials.

During the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years the Atlanta Falcons have contributed more than 2.5 million dollars to support the growth of Girls Flag Football in the GHSA. Additionally, the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation has contributed more than \$200,000 to promote the recruitment and retention of high school contest officials.

On behalf of the Georgia High School Association, we extend our sincere congratulations and appreciation to Chris Millman, the Atlanta Falcons and the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation for their outstanding commitment to education-based athletics.

OFFICIATING FOR A CAUSE AWARDS

RETIREMENT RECOGNITION: Alan Sharp, Marketing

COMMITTEE PROPOSALS:

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1. Proposed Amendment to GHSA By-Law 2.69(b) - Submitted by: Oconee County High School

Rationale - Many GHSA member schools have coaches who dedicate significant time outside the school day to conducting 4-and-1 skill development workouts with student-athletes. These workouts often require coaches to be on campus early in the morning or late in the evening in order to remain compliant with the current by-law. As an association, the GHSA should explore ways to support our coaches while continuing to prioritize student development. Allowing limited additional groups during off-season skill development periods would help reduce the time burden placed on coaches while also providing more opportunities for student-athletes to receive instruction from their school coaches rather than being forced to seek paid instruction through outside training organizations.

Current Language – By-Law 2.69(b)

Illegal practices are defined as practices involving five or more students participating in any extracurricular activity in the presence of, or under the direct or indirect supervision of, any coach of the school (including a community coach). At any given point in time, only one (1) coach in a sport may work with up to four (4) athletes in skill-building drills.

Proposed Revision – By-Law 2.69(b)

Illegal practices are defined as practices involving five or more students participating in any extracurricular activity in the presence of, or under the direct or indirect supervision of any coach of the school (including a community coach). At any given point in time, a member school may conduct up to three (3) separate groups participating in skill-building drills. A group is defined as one (1) coach working with no more than four (4) student-athletes in a sport. Each sport may have up to three (3) groups conducting 4-and-1 workouts simultaneously, provided the groups are located in separate facilities or clearly separate practice areas. Any coach found to be in violation of this by-law shall be subject to a one-year suspension from coaching any GHSA sport at any member school.

Exception – Competition Cheerleading

Competition cheerleading programs shall be permitted two (2) groups participating in 6-and-1 workouts simultaneously in separate facilities or clearly separate practice areas. Each group may include one (1) coach working with up to six (6) cheerleaders, which allows for the additional athletes necessary to safely spot stunts.

2. Proposed Amendment to By-Law 2.71 - Submitted by: GHSA office

Subparagraphs d.4. and d.5. of GHSA BY-LAW 2.71 are hereby amended as follows:

d.4. The prohibition against players fighting or being involved in a fight shall continue until all players have left the school or other venue where the contest takes place.

d.5. The GHSA office may review video recordings and statements of contest officials, school officials and law enforcement to determine which players were fighting, leaving the bench or otherwise involved in a fight situation. After review of the same, the GHSA may levy, modify or withdraw penalties including fines against member schools and enforcement of the sit-out rule against players fighting, leaving the bench or involved in a fight.

3. Proposal for Updates to Sanctioning By-law - Submitted by: GHSA Office

The Sanctioning By-Law requires updating.

4. Proposal to Amend By-Law 1.65 - Submitted by: GHSA Office

1.65 Students whose transfers from member school to member school have been approved by the GHSA office after the end of regular season play or during post-season play are not eligible for participation in GHSA sponsored tournaments and/or playoffs in that particular sport for the school year of transfer.

Revised: 1.65 Students whose transfers from a member *or non-member* school to a member school have been approved by the GHSA office within (20) *calendar days* of the end of the regular season play are not eligible for participation in GHSA sponsored tournaments and/or playoffs in that particular sport for the school year of transfer.

Rationale: By-Law 2.37 reads as follows: Requests to investigate a student's eligibility in regard to the transfer rule must be filed with the GHSA office at least twenty (20) calendar days before the end of the regular season in order for any penalties to be applied before the end of the playoffs.

These two By-Laws now complement one another and provide needed consistency.

5. Proposal to amend PSR Fine for not Completing Requirements - Submitted by: GHSA Office

All State Playoff Qualification including Private School Bracket

To qualify for the State Playoffs schools are required to play a Region schedule and the minimum number of contests per sport listed below. All the Region Champions (1-16, host 1st Round game) are guaranteed a home contest and will be seeded by the school's post season ranking formula total and all the remaining schools will be seeded strictly by the school's post season ranking formula (after all the Region Champions are seeded).

NOTE: Girls Flag Football will utilize a Sectional (1st and 2nd Round Same Day) Format in the State Playoffs. The highest PSR seed will host each sectional.

- Every Class 1A - 7A, each school enters their schedule in the MIS system (Schedule will be locked before 1st game).
 - Each school enters their teams schedule on the MIS platform for all contests; Contests against non GHSA member schools will be calculated using winning percentage only.
 - **Schools who fail to enter all games prior to the schedules being locked will be fined \$100 per game added.**
 - **No games may be added during the last week of the season.**
 - All postponed contests should be rescheduled.
 - Canceled contests will need approval from the GHSA office to reschedule a replacement opponent.
 - Forfeited contests count in a school's formula and the appropriate points should be applied (If a school chooses to accept the forfeited contest points, any additional scheduled game played will not be calculated into the school's formula).
 - However, if a school chooses to not accept the forfeited contest points, the additional "makeup" contest will be calculated into the school's formula. The school must choose which option to accept before the makeup contest is played.

6. Review of Private School Letter

7. Review of Conflict-of-Interest Policy

8. Review GHSA as Unincorporated Nonprofit (Present) vs Nonprofit Corporation

CHEER/DANCE COMMITTEE

1. Proposal to amend Cheerleading Game Day competition rule 3.c.3 – Submitted by Collins Hill HS

Amend Cheerleading Constitution Game Day competition rule 3.c.3 to replace the phrase "not sanctioned by the GHSA" with "not endorsed by NFHS Spirit Rules". This change would align our policies with national standards while maintaining appropriate oversight.

2. Proposal to Adjust Current Cheer Practice Window – Submitted by Collins Hill HS

Adjust the current cheer practice window to accommodate preparation time for national championships. This modification would ensure our teams can adequately prepare while maintaining academic excellence.

FLAG FOOTBALL COMMITTEE

1. Proposal to Update Flag Football Equipment Requirement - Submitted by: GHSA Office

It is the recommendation of the GHSA that protective head gear become mandatory equipment beginning in the 2026 fall season. Certified full cover or halo type head gear are acceptable.

Rationale: The speed and athleticism of the game has risen to a level where the safety of the participants is a growing concern. During the past two years reported Injuries to the head comprise 90% of the reports. At an average of \$40.00 - \$50.00 per item, the Falcon/AMBFF grants are more than sufficient to cover the cost.

TENNIS COMMITTEE

1. **Proposal to Adjust Rules Due to Power Rankings** – Submitted by: Roswell HS
2. **Proposal to Allow for Earlier Playing Times** – Submitted by: LaGrange HS
3. **Proposal for Tennis Rule Changes** – Submitted by: Bleckley County HS

WRESTLING COMMITTEE

1. **Proposal to Update the Structure of State Traditional Wrestling** – Submitted by GHSA Office

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

LEGAL REPORT

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

ADJOURNMENT

SCHEDULE OF SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS – Spring 2026

(Meetings will be Held at the Marriot Macon City Center Hotel)

Sunday, April 12th

12:00pm	Board of Trustees (Grand Salon A)
2:30pm	Wrestling Committee (Grand Salon B)
3:00pm	Cheer Committee (Grand Salon B)
3:30pm	Flag Football Committee (Grand Salon B)
4:00pm	Tennis (Grand Salon B)
4:30pm	Hospitality (Grand Salon A)

Board of Trustees

Proposal for Updates to Sanctioning By-law

Edits to by-law

2.64 ~~Tournaments or multiple-meets~~, *Interscholastic events* other than the Region/Area or State elimination series must be approved (sanctioned) by the GHSA Executive Director, subject to the special conditions for athletics and/or ~~other~~ activities.

a. A GHSA-member school shall not enter ~~a tournament~~ *an event* which requires sanctioning until ~~that tournament~~ *it* has been approved by the GHSA Executive Director.

1. The GHSA Executive Director may assess a fine and/or other penalties against a member school that violates the sanctioning rules.

Move 2 to i.

2. Member state championship teams receiving an invitation to *a nationally-recognized tournament event*, held after the designated sports season has ended, must apply to the Executive Director for approval. Such application must be signed by the principal of the school, must be submitted at least *fourteen 14* calendar days prior to the beginning of the ~~tournament~~ *event* and must include the following: contact information for the ~~tournament organizer~~ *event manager*; proposed plans for the school to include manner and date of travel; number of hours of instruction to be missed and fees to participate. A decision not to approve may be appealed to the GHSA Board of Trustees, who shall review the information submitted to the Executive Director. No additional information or documentation shall be considered. The vote of the majority of the Trustees shall control.

Move 3 to j.

3. ~~Tournament~~ Participation limits are set for each sport, and they are listed in the specific sport sections in this document.

b. *For events hosted in Georgia*, All applications for sanctioning must be submitted to the GHSA thirty ~~calendar~~ (30) days prior to the ~~tournament~~ *event* by a GHSA-member school.

NOTE: ~~Tournaments~~ *Events* that require *applications for sanctioning from National Federation* ~~sanctioning are an exception to this rule.~~ *should be submitted to NFHS sixty (60) days prior to the event by the host member school. Sanctioning fees will increase due to late applications.*

c. The host school for all sanctioned ~~tournaments~~ *events* shall pay five percent (5%) of all gross gate receipts, *including parking fees charged in lieu of admission*, to the GHSA within fourteen (14) calendar days after the ~~tournament~~ *event*.

1. ~~Total gate receipts before expenses are paid equals the gross receipts. Gross gate receipts are the total gate/admission fees or parking fees collected before expenses are deducted.~~
 2. A financial report of the event shall accompany the payment.
- d. GHSAA approval for events in Georgia and in contiguous states is needed when there are ~~four~~ five or more schools participating, *unless otherwise noted in specific sports sections. (i.e. Cross Country and Track & Field events must be sanctioned if eight (8) or more schools participate.)*
- e. ~~Tournaments~~ Events that require approval *an application for sanctioning* from the National Federation are:
1. ~~any interstate tournament in which more than eight schools participate, and at least one participant is from a non-contiguous state OR~~
 2. ~~any interstate tournament that involves schools from five (5) or more state High School Associations, and at least one of them does not border on the State of the sponsoring school OR~~
 3. ~~any international tournament (except competition with Canadian and Mexican high schools) OR~~
 4. ~~any interstate tournament involving two (2) or more schools which is co-sponsored by or titled in the name of an organization outside the high school community (e.g., a university, a theme park, an athletic company).~~

Copied from NFHS:

Any interstate or international event involving two (2) or more schools which is co-sponsored by or titled in the name of an organization outside the school community (e.g., a college/university, a theme park, a service organization (Kiwanis, Optimist) or an athletic shoe/apparel company)

Events in non-bordering states if five (5) or more states are involved

Events in non-bordering states if more than eight (8) schools are involved

Any event involving two (2) or more schools that involves a team from a foreign country. The host school should complete the international sanction application. This would include any event(s) that involves international traveling teams that play in multiple games in multiple states. (The exceptions to this rule are Canada and Mexico which are considered "bordering states to every U.S. state.")

- f. The GHSA Executive Director has the authority to approve competition between GHSA schools and private schools from states in which membership in the State Association is not allowed. These non-member schools must meet or exceed the State Association standards in order to compete with GHSA schools.
- g. In all sports except Football, a team (subvarsity or varsity) may play multiple games on a single calendar day in a tournament setting. NOTE: In these instances, the special "quarter/half participation rules" in ~~in basketball and soccer~~ *Basketball, Soccer and Lacrosse* are waived. When playing multiple games in a single day in Basketball, Soccer and Lacrosse, there must be at least a four (4) hour scheduling interval between games.
- h. For any ~~one-day~~ *showcase* event in which more than two (2) schools compete (i.e., a basketball showcase or some similar event), the following stipulations are in effect:
 - 1. *(Eliminate quotes)* A "host school" must be designated for each game even if the games are played at neutral sites.
 - 2. The host school must provide a Game Manager for ~~that~~ *each* game.
 - 3. The host school must schedule game officials through the local association assigned to it.
 - 4. These special events will require sanctioning approval from the GHSA office.

Revised Sanctioning by-law

2.64 Interscholastic events other than Region/Area or State elimination series must be approved (sanctioned) by the GHSA Executive Director, subject to the special conditions for athletics and/or activities.

- a. A GHSA-member school shall not enter an event which requires sanctioning until it has been approved by the GHSA Executive Director.
- b. The GHSA Executive Director may assess a fine and/or other penalties against a member school that violates the sanctioning rules.
- c. For events hosted in Georgia, applications for sanctioning must be submitted to the GHSA thirty (30) days prior to the event by a GHSA member school.
- d. Events that require applications for sanctioning from National Federation should be submitted to NFHS sixty (60) days prior to the event by the host member school. Sanctioning fees will increase due to late applications.
- e. The host school for all sanctioned events shall pay five percent (5%) of all gross gate receipts, including parking fees charged in lieu of admission, to the GHSA within fourteen (14) calendar days after the event.
 1. Gross gate receipts are the total gate/admission fees or parking fees collected before expenses are deducted.
 2. A financial report of the event shall accompany the payment.
- f. GHSA approval for events in Georgia and in contiguous states is needed when there are five or more schools participating, unless otherwise noted in specific sports sections. (i.e. Cross Country and Track & Field events must be sanctioned if eight (8) or more schools participate.)
- g. Events that require an application for sanctioning from the National Federation are:
 1. Any interstate or international event involving two (2) or more schools which is co-sponsored by or titled in the name of an organization outside the school community (e.g., a college/university, a theme park, a service organization (Kiwanis, Optimist) or an athletic shoe/apparel company)
 2. Events in non-bordering states if five (5) or more states are involved
 3. Events in non-bordering states if more than eight (8) schools are involved
 4. Any event involving two (2) or more schools that involves a team from a foreign country. The host school should complete the international sanction application. This would include any event(s) that involves international traveling teams that

play in multiple games in multiple states. (The exceptions to this rule are Canada and Mexico which are considered "bordering states to every U.S. state.")

- h. The GHSA Executive Director has the authority to approve competition between GHSA schools and private schools from states in which membership in the State Association is not allowed. These non-member schools must meet or exceed the State Association standards in order to compete with GHSA schools.
- i. Member state championship teams receiving an invitation to a nationally recognized event, held after the designated sports season has ended, must apply to the Executive Director for approval. Such application must be signed by the principal of the school, must be submitted at least fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the beginning of the event and must include the following: contact information for the event manager; proposed plans for the school to include manner and date of travel; number of hours of instruction to be missed and fees to participate. A decision not to approve may be appealed to the GHSA Board of Trustees, who shall review the information submitted to the Executive Director. No additional information or documentation shall be considered. The vote of the majority of the Trustees shall control.
- j. Participation limits are set for each sport, and they are listed in the specific sport sections in this document.
- k. In all sports except Football, a team (sub-varsity or varsity) may play multiple games on a single calendar day in a tournament setting. NOTE: In these instances, the special "quarter/half participation rules" in Basketball, Soccer and Lacrosse are waived. When playing multiple games in a single day in Basketball, Soccer and Lacrosse, there must be at least a four (4) hour scheduling interval between games.
- l. For a showcase event in which more than two (2) schools compete (i.e., a basketball showcase or some similar event), the following stipulations are in effect:
 - 1. A host school must be designated for each game even if the games are played at neutral sites.
 - 2. The host school must provide a Game Manager for each game.
 - 3. The host school must schedule game officials through the local association assigned to it.
 - 4. These special events will require sanctioning approval from the GHSA office.



Gregg Clifton
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Direct: 857.313.3931

February 9, 2026

VIA Federal Express & Email:
tim.scott@ghsa.net
jim.french@monroe.k12.ga.us

Mr. Jim Finch-President
Mr. Tim Scott-Executive Director
Executive Members of the Executive Committee
Georgia High School Association
151 South Bethel Street
Thomaston, GA 30286

Re: *Formal Notice of Alleged Discriminatory and Unequal Treatment of Private School Members Under GHSA Classification and Postseason Policies*

Dear Mr. Finch and Members of the GHSA Executive Committee:

My name is Gregg Clifton and my firm and I have been retained to represent the private school members of the Georgia High School Association ("GHSA") listed in Exhibit A attached to this letter. We submit this letter on behalf of our undersigned clients as formal notice of the Association's continued and systemic inequitable treatment of private school members through the adoption and enforcement of its current classification, multiplier, attendance-zone, and postseason policies. These policies, in both their design and implementation, have created an unjust, discriminatory, and unsafe environment for private school student-athletes and stand in direct violation of GHSA's Constitution, Bylaws, and stated mission to promote fair competition and student welfare. In particular, we call to your attention these statements made on the GHSA "About Us" page which provide as follows:

"It endeavors to maintain high standards so that each pupil competing in each school is on the same basis. In the field of athletics its interest is the safety of the participants; it is on this principle that its athletic rules are based."

"Schools are divided into classification according to size so that schools will have an opportunity to compete for honors among schools their own size."

Over the past twenty-five years, GHSA has enacted a series of policies that have disproportionately burdened private schools. Around the year 2000, following private school success in everything from football to debate, GHSA introduced a 1.5 enrollment multiplier that

applied solely to private institutions. Most recently, in 2022, the enrollment multiplier was increased to 3.0 for out-of-zone students, while attendance zones were narrowed in 2021, resulting in artificially inflated enrollment figures that bear no relationship to actual campus population or athletic participation rates. These actions forced smaller private schools to be reclassified into classifications to compete against schools that are multiple times their size, creating clear and measurable inequities. The decision to merge all Class A–AAA private schools into a single postseason bracket further compounds this disparity by limiting championship access exclusively for private institutions, while public schools continue to compete for separate championships across multiple classifications.

The combined effect of these policies is the creation of a fundamentally unbalanced system. The 3.0 out-of-zone multiplier lacks any rational or data-based justification and is inconsistent with GHSA's own Bylaws, which require the Reclassification Committee to consider factors such as enrollment size, competitive balance, and geographic fairness. The absence of such analysis renders the multiplier arbitrary and inequitable. While the multiplier technically applies to all member schools, its disproportionate impact on private institutions - whose enrollments naturally draw from broader geographic areas - creates a de facto two-tiered system that disadvantages private schools in both classification placement and postseason opportunity.

GHSA's consolidation of private school postseason play into a single bracket denies proper proportional representation and equitable access to championships. This action stands in direct contradiction to Article II of the GHSA Constitution, which obligates the Association to promote fair and equitable competition among all member schools. By limiting all private schools - regardless of size, enrollment, or geography - to one championship, GHSA has created a structural inequity that marginalizes private institutions and their student-athletes. This approach is discriminatory in its creation and its effect and inconsistent with the stated purposes of the Association.

In addition to its inequitable competitive impact, the reclassification policies create substantial safety and operational concerns. Smaller private schools are being forced to compete against institutions with two to four times their student population, resources, and physical athletic size depth. This mismatch not only erodes competitive integrity but also increases the risk of injury, particularly in contact sports. In addition, these reclassification policies has created indefensible travel burdens and extended scheduling demands which disrupt academic programs, strain athletic budgets, and create logistical challenges that GHSA's own Bylaws instruct the Reclassification Committee to avoid. GHSA has failed to meaningfully address these concerns or provide transparent justification for its actions.

Further exacerbating these inequities is GHSA's governance structure, which grants public-school representatives a decisive majority in all policy and classification decisions directly affecting private schools. Private schools are separated from the GHSA when convenient, yet the governance structure allows for no private school authority in the decision making process. Compounding this imbalance is GHSA's continued refusal to disclose the data, methodology, or analysis underlying its multiplier calculations or classification decisions. The absence of transparency and the lack of a rational, evidence-based foundation for these policies violate GHSA's obligation to administer its rules fairly, uniformly, and in good faith toward all members.

To restore fairness and compliance with GHSA's governing principles, the private school members listed and attached in Exhibit A fully support the submission of this letter and formally request GHSA to suspend implementation of the merged Class AA–AAAA private postseason format pending independent review, commission of an independent audit of the multiplier methodology, enrollment data, and geographic criteria used in classification and eligibility decisions; establish a transparent, data-driven classification process that accurately reflects school size, geography, and competitive balance; form a joint classification committee with equal representation of private and public schools; and defer any further reclassification of private schools until an independent review has been completed and its findings implemented.

This correspondence serves as formal notice and preservation of all rights and remedies available to our member schools. The undersigned request that the GHSA promptly undertake appropriate corrective action consistent with the measures outlined and expressed herein above, we are prepared to consider all appropriate administrative, legislative, and judicial avenues available to protect the interests of our schools and student-athletes.

We remain open and are hopeful that constructive dialogue and collaborative reform can be accomplished. However, absent prompt and substantive action to address these inequities, we will have no alternative but to seek redress through available channels to ensure fair and safe athletic opportunities for all Georgia student-athletes.

Respectfully,

/s/ Gregg Clifton

Gregg Clifton of
LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP

Exhibit A

<u>School</u>	<u>Head of School Name</u>
Athens Academy	John Thorsen
Atlanta International	Kevin Glass
Calvary Day School	Hunter Chadwick
Christian Heritage	Kent Harrison
Darlington School	Brent Bell
Fellowship Christian	Aaron Farrant
Galloway	Amir Farohki
Hebron Christian Academy	Dr. James Taylor
King's Ridge	Tony Fajardo
Landmark Christian	Dr. Daniel Wesche
Mt. Bethel Christian	Dr. Jim Cianca
Mt. Paran Christian	Dr. Matt Kerlin
Mt. Pisgah Christian	Chris Harmon
North Cobb Christian	Todd Clingman
Paideia	Tom Taylor
Providence Christian	Dr. Jason Harrison
Savannah Christian	Jeff Plunk
St. Vincent's Academy	Mary Anne Hogan
Trinity Christian	Dr. Mark Anthony
Walker	Carl Carlson

Private School Members of the Georgia High School Association In Support of this Letter

Athens Academy

Signature: 
John C Thorsen (Dec 19, 2025 12:57:43 EST)

Name: John C THorsen

Title: Head of School


Darlington School

Signature: 
Brent Bell (Dec 19, 2025 12:39:34 EST)

Name: Brent Bell

Title: Head of School

Mt. Bethel Christian Academy

Signature: 
Matthew Kerlin (Dec 19, 2025 17:53:18 EST)

Name: Jim Cianca

Title: Head of School

Mt. Paran

Signature: 
Matthew Kerlin (Dec 19, 2025 17:53:18 EST)

Name: Matthew Kerlin

Title: Head of School

Mt. Pisgah

Signature: 
Todd Clingman (Jan 6, 2026 12:15:09 AST)

Name: Chris Harmon

Title: President / Head of School

North Cobb Christian

Signature: 
Todd Clingman (Jan 6, 2026 12:15:09 AST)

Name: Todd Clingman

Title: Head of School

Paideia

Signature: 
Jason Harrison (Jan 5, 2026 10:19:26 EST)

Name: Thomas E. Taylor

Title: Head of School

Providence Christian

Signature: 
Jason Harrison (Jan 5, 2026 10:19:26 EST)

Name: Jason Harrison

Title: Head of School

King's Ridge

Signature: Antonio Fajardo
Antonio Fajardo (Jan 8, 2026 11:06:01 EST)

Name: Antonio Fajardo

Title: Head of School

Atlanta International School

Signature: Kevin Glass
Kevin Glass (Dec 19, 2025 13:08:14 EST)

Name: Kevin Glass

Title: Head of School

Calvary Day

Signature: Hunter M Chadwick
Hunter M Chadwick (Jan 3, 2026 11:43:20 EST)

Name: Dr. Hunter Chadwick

Title: Head of School

Christian Heritage

Signature: Kent A Harrison
Kent A. Harrison (Dec 18, 2025 01:08:49 EST)

Name:

Title:

Landmark Christian

Signature: Daniel Wesche
Daniel Wesche (Jan 5, 2026 10:28:53 EST)

Name: Daniel Wesche

Title: Head of School

Fellowship Christian

Signature: Aaron Farrant
Aaron Farrant (Dec 18, 2025 12:35:29 EST)

Name: Aaron Farrant

Title: Head of School

Galloway School

Signature: Amir Farokhi
Amir Farokhi (Dec 19, 2025 15:19:28 EST)

Name: Amir Farokhi

Title: Head of School

Hebron Christian Academy

Signature: James Taylor
James Taylor (Dec 30, 2025 11:47:28 EST)

Name: Dr. James Taylor

Title: Head of School

Savannah Christian

Signature: Jeff Plunk
Jeff Plunk (Doc ID: 20250312081257)

Name: Jeff Plunk

Title: Head of School

Walker

Signature: Carl C Carlson
Carl C Carlson (Doc ID: 20250312081257)

Name: _____

Title: _____

St. Vincent's Academy

Signature: M Hogan
Mary Anne Hogan (Doc ID: 20250312081257)

Name: Mary Anne Hogan

Title: President

Trinity

Signature: Mark J. Anthony
Mark J. Anthony (Doc ID: 20250312081257)

Name: Mark J. Anthony

Title: Head of School

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Conflict of Interest Policy

Article I – Purpose

The purpose of this conflict-of-interest policy is to protect the Georgia High School Association's (GHSA) interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer, representative or employee of the GHSA. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state laws governing conflicts of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable corporations.

The GHSA is committed to the highest ethical and professional standards of conduct.

1. **Integrity:** Individuals representing the GHSA should perform their work ethically with honesty, diligence, and responsibility. They should observe state and federal laws and the rules of the GHSA. They should not knowingly be a party to any illegal activity or engage in acts that are discreditable to the GHSA.
2. **Objectivity:** Individuals representing the GHSA should not participate in any activity or relationship that may impair or be perceived to impair their unbiased judgment. They should not accept gifts or favors that may be perceived to impair their professional judgment and they must disclose all material facts known to them.
3. **Confidentiality:** Individuals representing the GHSA should be prudent in the use and protection of information acquired in the course of their duties and should not use the information for any personal gain.

Article II – Definitions

1. **Interested Person**

Any Executive Committee member, trustee, officer, or member of a committee with Executive Committee delegated powers, who has a direct or indirect financial or other non-financial interest, as defined below, is an interested person.

2. **Financial Interest**

A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family:

- a. Has ownership or investment interest in any entity with which the GHSA has a transaction or arrangement; or
- b. A compensation arrangement with the GHSA or with any entity or individual with which the GHSA has a transaction or arrangement, or
- c. A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with any entity or individual with which the GHSA is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.

Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are substantial in nature.

A financial interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. Under Article III, Section 2, a person who has a financial interest may have a conflict of interest only if the Executive Committee decides that a conflict of interest exists.

3. Non-financial conflicts of interest need to be identified and reviewed. Examples include the subjects of political gain, unmerited preference in hiring, disciplinary decisions, and other conflicts that can compromise the integrity of the GHSA.
4. It shall not be a conflict of interest for an Executive Committee member to take part in discussions or voting on matters of reclassification, placement in regions, or other like decisions affecting the membership of the GHSA as a whole rather than such decisions effecting an individual school related to the Executive Committee member.

Article III – Procedures

1. Duty to Disclose

In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence of his or her own actual or apparent conflict and must be allowed to disclose all material facts to the Executive Committee and members of committees with Executive Committee-delegated powers considering the proposed transaction or arrangement. If reasonable observers, knowing all the relevant circumstances, would conclude that the Executive Committee member has an actual or apparent conflict of interest in a matter related to the GHSA, the Executive Committee member or officer should have no role for the GHSA in the matter.

2. Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists

After disclosure of the actual or apparent interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the interested person, he/she shall leave the meeting or hearing while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining Executive Committee members shall decide whether or not a conflict of interest exists. This shall be documented in the official records of the GHSA.

3. Procedures for Addressing the Conflict of Interest

An interested person may make a presentation at the Executive Committee meeting or hearing, but after such presentation, he/she shall leave the meeting or hearing during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement that results in the conflict of interest.

4. Violations of the Conflicts of Interest Policy

- a. If the Executive Committee has reasonable cause to believe that a member has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the member of the basis for such belief and allow the member to explain the alleged failure to disclose.
- b. If, after hearing the response of the member and making such further investigation as may be warranted in the circumstances, the Executive Committee determines that the member has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take such disciplinary and corrective action as it deems appropriate.

Article IV - Records of Proceedings

The minutes of the Executive Committee, and the minutes of all committees with board-delegated powers, shall contain:

The names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a personal actual or perceived conflict of interest, the nature of the conflict, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the board's or committee's decision as to whether or not a conflict of interest existed, and

Article V – Compensation

A voting member of the Executive Committee who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the GHSA for services is precluded from voting on matters of that member's compensation.

Article VI - Annual Statements

Upon election to the Board, and annually thereafter, each Executive Committee member, trustee, principal officer, and member of a committee with Executive Committee delegated powers shall sign a statement, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit "A" that affirms that such person

- a. Has received a copy of the conflict of interest policy;
- b. Has read and understands the policy;
- c. Has agreed to comply with the policy; and
- d. Understands that the GHSA is a charitable organization and that to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities that accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

Article VII - Periodic Reviews

To ensure that the GHSA operates in a manner consistent with its charitable purposes and that it does not engage in activities that could jeopardize its status as an organization exempt from federal income tax, periodic reviews may be conducted by the GHSA Trustees.

Article VIII – Certificate

The foregoing conflict of interest policy was duly adopted as and for the conflict-of-interest policy of the GHSA by the Board of Trustees of said GHSA effective as of the ____ day of _____, 2026.

Dr. Jim Finch, GHSA President

Dr. Tim Scott, GHSA Executive Director

Issue	Unincorporated Nonprofit (Georgia)	Georgia Nonprofit Corporation
Legal Existence	Limited statutory recognition; can hold property and sue/be sued	Full legal personhood
Liability Protection	Members generally not liable solely by membership (O.C.G.A. §14-5-23), but organizers/managers may face exposure	Strong limited liability for directors/officers (O.C.G.A. §14-3-830 et seq.)
Contract Authority	Can contract, but authority may be questioned	Clear statutory authority
Continuity	May dissolve if governing agreement unclear	Perpetual existence
Governance Structure	Flexible; governed by agreement or custom	Required board, officers, bylaws
Fiduciary Duties	Not well-defined in statute	Clearly defined duties of care, loyalty, obedience
Credibility	Often viewed as informal	Favored by donors, banks, and foundations
Federal Tax-Exempt Eligibility	Eligible, but IRS scrutiny higher	Strongly preferred by IRS
State Filing Requirements	Minimal	Annual registration with GA Secretary of State
Cost	Very low	Filing + compliance costs
Fundraising	May face donor reluctance	Easier access to grants and institutional donors

Liability Exposure in Georgia (Key Distinction)

Unincorporated Nonprofit

- Members are **not personally liable** for debts **solely due to membership**
- However:
 - Officers, agents, or those signing contracts may incur liability
 - Tort liability can attach if negligence occurs
 - Insurance coverage is often harder to obtain

Risk Profile: Moderate and fact-dependent

Nonprofit Corporation

- Directors and officers protected unless:
 - Bad faith
 - Willful misconduct
 - Improper personal benefit
- Georgia allows **liability limitation provisions** in articles of incorporation (O.C.G.A. §14-3-202(b)(4))

Risk Profile: Significantly reduced

Tax Implications (Federal and Georgia)

Federal Tax

- Both structures can qualify for **§501(c)(3)** or other exemptions
- IRS preference: **Nonprofit corporations**
- Corporate form simplifies:
 - Organizational test
 - Private inurement safeguards
 - Governance review

Georgia State Tax

After incorporation and IRS exemption:

- Eligible to apply for:
 - Georgia **income tax exemption**
 - Sales and use tax exemptions (limited and activity-specific)
 - Local **property tax exemptions** (county approval required)

Unincorporated groups often face:

- Delays or denials due to unclear legal structure

Area	Unincorporated	Incorporated
GA Charitable Solicitation Registration	Required if fundraising	Required, but smoother
Bank Accounts	Often restricted	Easily opened
Grant Eligibility	Limited	Broad eligibility
Insurance Availability	Limited	Widely available

Administrative Burden

Unincorporated

- Minimal formal filings
- High reliance on internal agreements
- Risk of governance disputes

Incorporated

- Annual registration with GA Secretary of State
- Board meetings and minutes
- IRS Form 990 filing
- Policies (conflict of interest, whistleblower, etc.)

Tennis

Tennis Committee – Proposal #1

Good morning, Tennis Committee, I'm *Derek Shackelford*, Girls Varsity Coach at **Roswell High School** and I've been coaching now for 22 seasons. The new Power Rankings present some challenges especially for the top teams. Let me list out some points of discussion please:

1. Number of Matches Played by School: Right now, we have several teams that are only playing 6-9 matches which will not be a balanced PR vs other teams with more matches. My understanding is that there will be a minimum of 14 matches next year. What happens if teams play more? You can increase your Power Ranking then vs teams who only play 14. Some teams who aren't as good can "pad their stats" by playing more matches than others especially vs lower opponents to even get just a .200 advantage and get a 3 seed instead of a 4 while "bumping" another team down to a 4 seed. In order for the math to work, I believe everyone needs one "magic number". Everyone plays 14 matches or whatever number you all decide. Look at the current state of wins and losses and you'll see teams are all over the place on how many matches they play. The math needs to be even. **PROPOSAL: Set a specific number of matches to be played.**

2. Strength of a Win: A 5-0 win or even a 4-1 shows dominance over an opponent and should be worth more points in the formula. A 3-2 win could mean you barely escaped with a third set tie break. You didn't dominate. So, team A with a dominate win gets the same points as team B who may have "gotten lucky?" That might give a team a 2 seed who really should be a 3 seed because they got lucky on a couple of matches. Who showed dominance? **PROPOSAL: Have a waterfall of points awarded based on lines won 5-0, 4-1, 3-2, etc.**

3. Number of Matches Played Per Player to Qualify for State: I know this sounds like a "1st World Problem" of the really good teams, but this was a rule "back in the day" of the early 2000s that individual players had to play 75% of the regular season matches to qualify for State. The rule also stated that if you missed the 25%, you needed medical documentation to support why you were not in the lineup and are now cleared to play. Right now, we have teams who are not playing their #1 and #2 singles because they are very good tournament players and "can't be bothered" to play the regular season. Their job is to show up for State only. How is that an accurate Power Ranking if they are not playing? How is that fair to all of the thousands of players who are working their tail off to win for their team day in and day out? Even if a team is really good, they can slip up and lose a regular season match (it has happened this season!!) and that throws off the PR numbers. One match literally has a domino effect on at least 3-4 other matches for points causing other teams to lose points because a team didn't play a full-strength line up on purpose and lost. **PROPOSAL: Reinstate the 75% rule and provide medical documentation to cover the missed 25% of the season.**

4. No Region Tournaments: This also goes back to a specific number of matches played. If Region Tournaments are optional, then some teams will have more points than others. If only the #1 team in the region is an automatic bid and #1 seed, then what is the point of a Region tournament? No one is playing for that 4th seed anymore. If this is not played, then we have more room in the schedule for weather make ups AND the new early season start date of January 26th is not as difficult because you aren't pushing to finish your season on time for a Region Tournament. **PROPOSAL: No Region Tournaments. Final season standings earn the #1 seed for that Region.**

Those are the main concerns I see right now and how teams can manipulate the numbers. Manipulating the Power Ranking is the central concern especially with the stronger teams who can maneuver their line ups more than the mid to lower-level teams. When teams manipulate the numbers, the domino effect ripples across 3-4 teams at least. Let me know if I need to clarify any of these points. I know Mr. James will be glad not to receive so many e-mails from me about Power Rankings! He has been doing a great job, and many Coaches appreciate him and his Tuesday e-mails. Thank you for your consideration,

Derek Shackelford
Roswell Girls Varsity Tennis Coach
Region 7-AAAAA Tennis Coordinator
JV Division Coordinator
USTA Referee
2023, 2024, and 2025 Girl's Tennis State Final Four
2012 Girl's Tennis State Champions AAAAAA

Tennis Committee – Proposal #2

Proposal to the Georgia High School Association – Submitted by LaGrange High School

High School Tennis Scheduling Adjustment (Effective 2026-27 Season)

Proposal Overview

Beginning with the 2027 high school tennis season, we propose that GHSA member schools be permitted to schedule and begin up to four (4) regular-season tennis matches on school days as early as 1:00 PM.

This adjustment would provide schools with greater flexibility in scheduling while addressing several logistical and operational challenges currently faced by tennis programs across the state.

Rationale and Supporting Factors

1. Limited Court Availability at Off-Campus Facilities

A significant number of GHSA tennis programs rely on municipal and privately owned tennis facilities rather than on-campus courts. These facilities often prioritize public and revenue-generating use during peak afternoon and evening hours.

As a result -

- High school teams are frequently required to adjust match times to avoid conflicts with paying customers.
- Schools face pressure to complete matches earlier in the day, often under less-than-ideal conditions.
- Limited availability can lead to scheduling congestion and reduced flexibility, especially during peak season.

Allowing earlier match start times would help alleviate these conflicts and provide more equitable access to facilities.

2. Facilities Without Lighting

Many tennis facilities utilized by GHSA schools do not have court lighting, making it difficult or impossible to complete matches that begin later in the afternoon.

This creates several challenges:

- Matches risk being cut short due to daylight limitations.
- Schools are forced to rush competition, which can impact the quality and fairness of play.
- Rescheduling incomplete matches adds additional strain to already tight schedules.

Earlier start times would ensure matches can be completed in full under appropriate playing conditions.

3. Transportation Constraints

School systems across Georgia are increasingly facing transportation shortages, particularly during the spring athletic season.

By allowing earlier match start times:

- Schools may be able to utilize transportation more efficiently, such as:
 - Transporting teams to match sites early in the day
 - Allowing buses to complete regular afternoon routes
 - Returning to pick up teams after routes are completed
- This flexibility can reduce the burden on transportation departments and minimize disruptions to academic and extracurricular operations.

4. Tournament Management and Completion

Schools that host tennis tournaments often face significant challenges in completing matches within a reasonable timeframe, particularly when matches begin after the school day.

Current issues include:

- Matches extending late into the evening or night
- Increased strain on student-athletes, coaches, and officials
- Conflicts with facility availability and supervision requirements

Earlier start times would allow tournaments to:

- Run more efficiently
- Conclude at a reasonable hour
- Improve the overall experience for participants and spectators

Impact on Student-Athletes and Academic Considerations

This proposal is designed with student-athletes in mind. While it allows for earlier match start times, it is limited to no more than four (4) matches per season, ensuring minimal disruption to instructional time.

Additionally:

- Schools would retain discretion in scheduling to ensure academic priorities remain the primary focus.
- The flexibility provided by this proposal may actually reduce missed class time overall, as fewer matches would need to be rescheduled or extended into multiple days.

Supporting Testimonials

If granted the opportunity to formally present this proposal, LaGrange High School intends to provide supporting testimonials from tennis coaches across Georgia. These testimonials will further highlight:

- Common scheduling challenges
- Facility limitations
- Transportation concerns
- Broad support for increased scheduling flexibility

Conclusion

This proposal seeks to provide a practical, limited, and flexible solution to ongoing challenges faced by high school tennis programs throughout Georgia. By allowing up to four early-start matches per season, the GHSA can support its member schools in improving scheduling efficiency, reducing logistical strain, and enhancing the overall experience for student-athletes.

We respectfully request the Georgia High School Association's consideration of this proposal for implementation beginning with the 2027 tennis season.

Tennis Committee – Proposal #3

Proposed GHSA Tennis Rule Changes for 2026-27 – Submitted by Bleckley County High School

Medical Time Out

Each player gets one medical time out per match not to exceed 10 minutes in length. If a player cannot continue after 10 minutes, the match is a default. A second medical timeout will result in a default.

4 matches in a day

If short sets are used (sets to 4) with a tie breaker in lieu of a 3rd set, a school may play 4 matches in a day. Under no circumstances can a school play 5 or more matches in a day.

Sportsmanship

Self-motivation phrases such as "come on" or "let's go" are allowed, if used appropriately. Excessive use of these phrases, however, is not allowed in GHSA matches and can be penalized at the discretion of an official. If an official deems a player is using self-motivational phrases as gamesmanship or in an unsportsmanlike manner, the official may limit and/or prohibit the player from these phrases for the rest of a match. The official may code future phrases said by the player according to the code violation policy of the USTA. Yelling a self-motivational phrase at excessive volume levels is also not allowed. Any phrase that exceeds such a level is at the discretion of an onsite official. Per USTA guidelines, phrases such as "come on" or "let's go" should not be made in the direction of the opponent. A player should turn their back to the opponent to appropriately make a self-motivational phrase.

State Playoffs Home Team Provides Balls

In the state playoffs the home team shall provide balls for the match. The balls should be extra duty (XD) felt of a major brand of tennis balls.

USTA Officials

If a school employs an official for a match, a USTA official should be used and not an ITA official. NCAA rules and sportsmanship do not apply to GHSA.

Courts

In order to host a State Tournament match beyond the region level, the host school must have available a minimum of four (4) courts. Five (5) courts are preferable.

Wrestling

**Wrestling
Proposal #1**

Subject: Wrestling Committee Recommendations

From: Jason Holcombe <jason.holcombe@gcpsk12.org>

Date: 3/16/2026, 12:31 PM

To: Tim Scott <tim.scott@ghsa.net>, Bud Hennebaul <budresilite@gmail.com>

CC: Lamarr Glenn <glennl2@fultonschools.org>, Steven Craft <steven.craft@dalton.k12.ga.us>, Andrew Calhoun <calhounac@troup.org>, Darrell Demastus <ddemastus@cartersvilleschools.org>, "e034285@muscogee.k12.ga.us" <e034285@muscogee.k12.ga.us>

Good Afternoon,

Please see the information below from the GHSA Wrestling Committee meeting on March 11,2026 that was held at the GHSA office.

- There are major concerns with the Traditional Individual State Championship Tournament moving forward in the 2026-2028 reclassification cycle. Those concerns are:
 - The Girls division must move from 1 to 2 divisions due to the large growth & participation numbers in the sport.
 - GHSA moving from 6 classifications to 7 in the next reclass cycle would then take the Traditional Tournament to 9 different tournaments being ran at once.
 - Problems with 9 Classifications
 - Would need to add an extra day of competition for the event to take place.
 - Would need an extra day of setup for the tournament at the Morrow venue.
 - This would increase cost to host the Traditional State Tournament
 - More time out of school for the event
 - Officials and tournament volunteers would need more time off from regular jobs in order to support the tournament.
 - Already facing an officials shortage

The Georgia Wrestling Coaches Association (GWCA) made the following proposal:

- The State Duals Tournament will remain at 7 classifications for boys and 2 classifications for girls to match the next reclass cycle. Nothing would change with the Duals Tournament.
- Traditional Individual State Championships Tournament
 - Boys
 - Create 5 Divisions for the boys tournament that would distribute the wrestling schools up equally amongst the 5 divisions
 - Division 1 - 80 schools (smallest schools by FTE)
 - Division 2 - 80 Schools
 - Division 3 - 75 schools
 - Division 4 - 70 schools
 - Division 5 - 70 Schools (largest schools by FTE)
 - The GHSA office would be responsible for creating each Division using the FTE numbers for the 2026-2028 Reclass cycle.
 - Once Divisions are created, the GHSA office would then create Regions/Areas based on geography to place schools.
 - Girls
 - Create 2 Divisions for the girls tournament that would distribute the wrestling schools equally amongst the 2 divisions

Wrestling Committee Recommendations

- Division 1 - Smallest schools by FTE
- Division 2 - Largest schools by FTE
- The GHSA office would be responsible for creating each Division using the FTE numbers for the 2026-2028 Reclass cycle.
 - Once Divisions are created, the GHSA office would then create Regions/Areas based on geography to place schools.
- Traditional Region, Sectionals, & Duals
 - Girls will be held on Fridays
 - Boys will be held on Saturdays
 - This is to help coaches across the state who coach both boys and girls teams.

After debating the topic and working through different scenarios, there was a motion on the committee by Dr. Steven Craft to pass the GWCA proposal. It was second by Mr. Lamar Glenn. The Wrestling Committee voted 4-0 to approve the GWCA proposal for the Traditional State Tournament.

Thank you to all of the committee members for taking the time to address this concern over multiple meetings. Dr. Scott please let us know if there is anything else that we need to do as we proceed to the next State Executive Meeting in April.

Thank you,



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