



American Association of Adapted Sports This year marks the 30th anniversary of the American Association of Adapted Sports Programs (AAASP), which has been transforming lives through athletics since 1996. The AAASP exists to provide students with disabilities the opportunity to experience the benefits of school sport competition—just as their non-disabled peers do. Founded on the belief that every student deserves a place on the team, AAASP continues to make that vision a reality.



Through its partnership with AAASP, the GHSA provides students with valuable opportunities to learn life skills such as leadership, perseverance, and teamwork. AAASP supports this work by providing published competition rules, standardized seasons, safety guidelines, coach and official training, compliance standards, and inclusive policies to help schools organize and participate in adapted sports programs.

Jenny Millward currently serves as Executive Director, succeeding Tommie Storms, who did a great job leading the organization. Jenny has done an outstanding job championing this special group of athletes. Over the past 30 years, Adapted Sports has built and sustained a standardized structure of education-based athletic competition for students in Georgia with qualifying disabilities. Through training hundreds of coaches, officials, and coordinators, and by forming partnerships with organizations such as the NFHS, NIAAA, GDOE, and GHSA—as well as numerous governmental and community agencies—AAASP has ensured that students are no longer left on the sidelines.

As AAASP enters its fourth decade, it reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that no student is excluded from school athletics because of a physical or qualifying disability. The organization continues to expand its resources, training, and structures to stay aligned with best practices in

both the disability and educational communities. If your school or students are not currently involved in this program, I encourage you to reach out to AAASP at adaptedsports.com to learn how your athletes can benefit from these opportunities.

GHSA Reclassification

Update Currently, the GHSA office and Reclassification Committee are working diligently to prepare for the next two-year classification cycle. As you know, a multiplier of 3.0 will be applied to "out of-district" students across all schools and classifications, and postseason rankings will be used to seed playoff teams.

The Georgia Department of Education's October FTE count is expected to be released during the first week of November. "Out-of-district" numbers were due October 15, and the GHSA office is prepared to calculate and assign classifications as soon as we receive the FTE data. Once classifications are published, schools will have an opportunity to appeal their placement. After the Reclassification Committee finalizes classifications, the GHSA office will assign schools to regions, which will again be open to appeal.

Once all placements are finalized, the plan will be presented to the full State Executive Committee for ratification. Upon ratification, schools may begin scheduling games for the upcoming two-year cycle. Appeal dates are to be announced, pending the release of the official FTE count.

Thank you for all you do for the young people of the great state of Georgia. As always, please feel free to call me or any member of the GHSA staff if we can assist you in any way.

Staff & Responsibilities

151 S. Bethel St., Thomaston, GA 30286 Phone: 706-647-7473 Fax: 706-647-2638 Web: www.ghsa.net Office Hours: 8am to 4 pm Monday - Friday

TIM SCOTT - Executive Director - (ext. 141) Administration, Interpretation of GHSA Rules, Hardship Applications, Appeals, Coaches Education Program, Wrestling tim.scott@ghsa.net

JAY RUSSELL - Assistant Executive Director - (ext. 123) Football, Golf, Hardship Eligibility jayrussell@ghsa.net

ROBIN HINES - GHSA Legislative Liaison/Consultant. By-law Interpretations, Eligibility, Hardship Rulings, Swimming, Bass Fishing robin.hines@ghsa.net

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PAM THOMPSON - Officials' Registrar - (ext. 130) Officials' Clinic Attendance, Officials' Registrations, Test Scoring & Records, Waivers, Officials and Evaluator Passes, GHSA Recruiting Grant, Publications and eBooks, Awards, Service Plaques <a href="mailto:pamble:pam

LINDA CROWDER - Administrative Assistant - (ext. 121) Organizing Championship Medals, Assist with Cheerleading, Student Leadership, Literary, School System Passes, Finance Reports linda@ghsa.net

Reclassification Proposals

The GHSA is releasing the proposed Classifications for the 2026-2028 Reclassification Cycle. The proposed classifications are attached and will be published on the GHSA website soon. Schools have until Sunday, November 9, 2025 at 12:00 pm to appeal or request to move to a higher



classification. The instructions for appeals and request to move to a high classification are listed below.

The appeal meetings are scheduled for Monday, November 10, 2025 starting at 10:00 am. This meeting will take place at the GHSA Office. The Agenda will be sent out Sunday afternoon.

Member schools may appeal their classification.

- 1. Member schools will be able to review and verify their assigned Reclassification Student Count on the GHSA web site and attached. When there is a major discrepancy between the school's count and the count determined by the GHSA staff, the school may appeal by emailing Don Corr (don.corr@ghsa.net) and copying Dr. Tim Scott (tim.scott@ghsa.net).
- 2. Members schools wishing appeal their proposed classification may appeal by emailing Don Corr (don.corr@ghsa.net) and copying Dr. Tim Scott (tim.scott@ghsa.net).

Schools may Request to move to a higher classification.

- 1. A request to move to a higher classification must be submitted over the signatures of the school's administrative authorities (i.e., the Principal and Superintendent).
- 2. A school that transfers to a higher classification must remain in the higher classification until schools are next reclassified on a statewide basis.

Schools may request to move to a higher classification by emailing the form at the link below to Don Corr (<u>don.corr@ghsa.net</u>) and copying Dr. Tim Scott (<u>tim.scott@ghsa.net</u>).

Congratulations to the 2025 GHSA Fast Pitch Softball State Champions!

The 2025 GHSA Fast Pitch Softball State Championships presented by Mizuno were held October 29 - November 1 at South Commons Softball Complex in Columbus. After the Day 1 rainout that cancelled all games and opening ceremonies, the action resumed early Thursday and Halloween with enthusiastic players and fans. Congratulations to the 2025 state champions: Buford, Creekview, Eastside, Heritage-Catoosa, Sonoraville, Bremen, Lanier Co. and Wesleyan. It was first time state titles for Bremen and Sonoraville, while back-to-back top trophies were won by Creekview, Heritage-Catoosa (3-peat) and Wesleyan (4 straight). Eastside reclaimed the softball championship since last won in 1999. View Past Champions.

A special thanks to all who helped make this state tournament a success in spite of the inclement weather.. Appreciation goes to the Columbus Sports Council, Columbus Parks & Recreations, GHSA staff, volunteers, umpires, fans and corporate partners.

Playoff Brackets

Elite Eight Brackets

Video

Order digital game copies on NFHS Network.

Merchandise

Merchandise by PepWear. Order link to TBA.

Event Fan Guide

<u>Download Digital Fan Guide</u> Produced by Score Atlanta.

Photos

Order action photography at <u>BPI Photography</u>.







6A Buford

5A Creekview

4A Eastside





3A Heritage, Catoosa

2A Sonoraville



A Division 1 Bremen



A Division 2 Lanier County



Private (A-3A) Wesleyan

GHSA Inspiration Award for Student-Athletes

Congratulations on your nomination for the **GHSA Inspiration Award for Student-Athletes**. Being nominated by a teacher, coach, or peer is a significant honor and a testament to the positive impact you have made within your school and community.

This nomination reflects your character, perseverance, and ability to inspire others—qualities that truly embody the spirit of the GHSA. We now invite you to share your story and help us understand



what makes you an inspiration to those around you.

The recipient of the GHSA Inspiration Award will be recognized and celebrated during the **GHSA State Football Championships** in December at **Mercedes-Benz Stadium**.

We commend you for the example you set both on and off the field and look forward to learning more about your journey.

The deadline to apply is November 18, 2025. Find the link to apply here: https://forms.gle/5Foqgh4z1h3C9R218

Who Has the Best Student Section in Georgia?

Friday nights under the lights aren't just about the players on the field — they're about the roar of the crowd, the energy in the stands, and the traditions that bring a school community together. A great student section can completely change the atmosphere of a game, lifting teams to new heights and creating memories that last long after the final whistle.



So, here's the big question: Which school has the best student section in Georgia? We want to see how your school shows up, represents, and makes a difference! It's not just about football — the best student sections support all sports and activities. Do you cheer at volleyball matches? Line the course for cross country? Show up for softball or competition cheer? That's what makes a student section truly special: passion that goes beyond the gridiron.

How to Enter

Show us what your student section is all about by creating a **2 to 2**½ **minute video** that captures your energy, creativity, and school pride. You can upload it or share a link. Tell us all about your student section at this link: https://forms.gle/aH1EZ9yedG9mtYxG9

You can attach your video to the google form or email and attach a link of the video to ghsaspirit@gmail.com

Deadline: Midnight, November 28th.

Things to Highlight in Your Video

- Your student section at various events (not just football!)
- · Creative and inclusive traditions that get everyone involved
- Pep rallies that pump up the entire school
- Unique themes that set your section apart
- Fun gimmicks that bring the hype (chants, signs, props, etc.)
- Your school mascot in action

This is your chance to show Georgia why your student section is the best. Bring the noise, bring the pride, and let your spirit shine.

Because at the end of the day, the heart of a school isn't just found on the field — it's in the stands.

The 2025 GHSA Volleyball State Championships presented by Mizuno, was held October 29 & 30 at Lake Point Sports Champions Center. State Champions are: Walton, Woodward Academy, Marist, Whitewater, Morgan County, Oglethorpe County and Lovett. Highlighting the exciting event were three (3) matches decided in five (5) sets with only Morgan County defending their state title.



First time trophy was captured by Oglethorpe County, while Lovett last won in 2012. <u>View complete past champion history</u>.

Watch matches on <u>NFHSNetwork.com/GHSA</u> free on demand three days after the event. Digital downloads available to order at NFHS Network. View & order action photos at <u>BPI Photography</u>.

Much appreciation goes to host site Lake Point Sports Complex, match officials, GHSA staff, GVCA, media, fans and corporate partners with special thanks to presenting sponsor Mizuno, Molten (official ball), PepWear (merchandising), NFHS Network (video streaming), GoFan (digital tickets), Gatorade (official sports fuel), ScoreAtlanta (digital fan guide) and West Georgia Sports Information Services (social media), all of whom made this volleyball championship a huge success.



A - Oglethorpe County



AA - Morgan County



AAA - Whitewater



AAAA - Marist



AAAAA - Woodward Academy







Private (A-3A) Lovett

SUPPORT INFORMATION FOR GOFAN AND NFHS NETWORK

Support Information: GOFAN SUPPORT

Email: schoolsupport@gofan.co

Request Help: https://hqsupport.playonsports.com/s/contactsupport

Phone Number: <u>770-910-3695</u> **NFHS NETWORK SUPPORT**

Email: support@nfhsnetwork.com

Request Help: https://help.nfhsnetwork.com

Phone Number: (404) 334-7988

Georgia Legislators Pass Resolution to Grow High School Girls Flag Football

There's some exciting news taking place under the Gold Dome in Atlanta. News that will continue the elevation of girls' prep sports in Georgia. HR 347 is a resolution "strongly urging all Georgia high schools to establish flag football for girls". A growing effort that enhances the strength of girls' sports across the Peach State. The House Bill brought lawmakers together from both sides to prioritize the importance of teamwork and competition for female student-athletes. The resolution was sponsored by six Representatives, comprised of four Republicans and two Democrats. Representatives Brent Cox (28th District, Dawsonville) and Chas Cannon (172nd District, Moultrie) led the request along with representatives Rick Jasperse (11th District, Jasper), Lydia Glaize (67th District, Fairburn), Demetrius Douglas (78th District, Stockbridge), and Chuck Efstration (104th District, Mulberry).

Girls' flag football is the fastest-growing sport in the Georgia High School Association atop the organization's 22 sanctioned sports and activities. This impact of flag football wouldn't be possible without the financial support and guidance from the Arthur Blank Foundation and the Atlanta Falcons. Both have been staunch advocates since the launch of a pilot program for girls' flag football in 2018.

The GHSA wants to thank the Georgia House of Representatives, the Arthur Blank Foundation, the Atlanta Falcons, dozens of corporate sponsors, school administrators, coaches, parents, and of

course our talented young lady student-athletes who work tirelessly to make this all happen on the field in the Fall.

2025 GHSA Football Playoffs - Bracket Reveal



AAASP hosts a Track and Field clinic in Central Georgia

American Association of adaptED SPORTS Programs executive director, Jenny Milward hosted an Adapted Track and Field Coaches Clinic at Perry High School in Houston County. Milward invited guest speakers GHSA Associate Director, Tanya Anderson, as well as former coach and adapted equipment specialist, Barry Ewing. AAASP's Robyn Hootselle and Christy Jones also attended the workshop in a coaching capacity. nearly a dozen coaches from



Gwinnett, Worth, Peach, Henry and Houston County learned about the differences between wheelchair and ambulatory athletes. Ewing provided a detailed "show and tell" of the equipment including maintenance techniques along with demonstrations on the outside track.



Barry Ewing demonstrates the use of



Ewing shows off an adapted racing device



A dozen T&F coaches from across the state

The 7th Annual ASPIRE Awards Honors 29 Recipients in the Field of Adapted Sports

The American Association of Adapted Sports Programs, Inc. (AAASP) is pleased to announce the recipients of the Seventh Annual ASPIRE Awards, recognizing 29 individuals and organizations across 24 categories highlighting outstanding contributions in support of student athletes with disabilities. The Adapted Sports Programs in Recreation and Education (ASPIRE)



Awards celebrate those whose dedication and impact have been instrumental in furthering AAASP's mission to expand access to adapted sports programming nationwide. The ASPIRE Awards Dinners and Celebration, held at Maggiano's Little Italy in Atlanta, was emceed by actor, writer and television personality Patrick Cusick. The evening began with an inspiring keynote address from world record holding athlete, author, entrepreneur and adventurer Kyle Maynard, whose remarkable story captivated a full house of guests. Throughout the ceremony, nominees were recognized for their exemplary achievements, with winners in each category receiving the prestigious ASPIRE Award trophy, generously sponsored by Northside Hospital.

The 2025 ASPIRE Award Recipients are as follows:

Ben Vondrak, Adapted Track & Field, the Wesleyan School, Gwinnett County

Larry Osborne, Coach of the Year JV, Houston County School District

Len Boudreaux, Coach of the Year Varsity, Gwinnett County Public Schools

Auburn University Adapted Sports Program, Community Based Program Award, Auburn, AL

National Federation of State High Schools (NFHS), Community Based Program Award, Indy, IN Clayton Eagles, Education-Based Program Award, Clayton County Public Schools

Dr. Lionel Brown, Eli Wolff Advocacy Award, Peach County Schools

Mark Christmas, Eli Wolff Advocacy Award, Clayton County Public Schools

Marcia Edwards, Gail Hendrick Champion of Support Award, Atlanta Public Schools

Vincent Hamlin, Gail Hendrick Champion of Support Award, Peach County Schools

Jacee Hand, Heart and Hustle Award, Georgia Storm, Georgia Connections Academy, Henry County Bailey McCartney, High School Senior Athlete Award, West Georgia Wolverines, Troup County SS Sherry Richards, Leslie Sweatman Official of The Year Award, Macon, GA

Luke Hetrick, Media "Hero" Award, WSB Channel 2, Atlanta, GA

Elam Tyson, Most Improved Athlete Award-JV, Classic City Dawgs, Clarke County School District Daniel Apuango, Most Improved Athlete Award-Varsity, Gwinnett Heat, Gwinnett Co Public Schools

Kila Ray Brown, Most Valuable Player Award, Clayton Eagles, Clayton County Public Schools

Jeremiah Hopson, Most Valuable Player Award, Gwinnett Heat, Gwinnett County Public Schools

Joshua Biyoyouwei, Power Chair Athlete of the Year, Gwinnett Heat, Gwinnett County Public Schools

Elam Tyson, Scholar Athlete of the Year - JV, Classic City Dawgs, Clarke County School District

Anthony Cuti, Scholar Athlete of the Year - Varsity, Houston Co Sharks, Houston Co School District

Ashlyn Stevens, Scholar Athlete of the Year - Varsity, Houston Co Sharks, Houston Co School District

Najee Smothers, Dr. Swearngin Spirit of AAASP Award, DeKalb Silver Streaks, DeKalb Co Schools **Antoine L. Craig, Vaughn-Storms Founders Award, Blind Soccer Nation, Virginia State University** Jeremiah Rhodes, Wheelchair Basketball Athlete of the Year JV, Peach Co Rolling Trojans, Peach Co

Anthony Cuti, Wheelchair Basketball Athlete of the Year Varsity, Houston Co Sharks, Houston Co

Caleb Merriken, Wheelchair Football Athlete of the Year-JV, Muscogee Lions, Muscogee Co SD Dalton Crosby, Wheelchair Football Athlete of the Year-Varsity, Houston Co Sharks, Houston Co SD

Ruby Stachowski, Wheelchair Handball Athlete of The Year Award, Houston Co Sharks, Houston County School District

Q & Awith GHSA!

GHSA is producing a weekly video podcast where we answer YOUR questions and give you information about the latest news and notes from the GHSA office. Click on the picture below to join us in "Q & A with GHSA!" Fill out the google document and we will work hard to provide an answer for you. Look to watch the video podcast on our OFFICIALGHSA YouTube Channel.



OFFICIALGHSA

Share your videos with friends, family, and the world

☑ youtube.com

Go Watch the Falcons Play on GHSA Day

Troup Cheer & Oglethorpe Cheer celebrate officials at a football game!

Jones County Volleyball Hunkers Down with UGA 10K Match

Jones County Greyhounds volleyball coach, Leah Bodnarchuck, took her team to Athens to attend the second-annual 10K Day at Stegeman Coliseum when the Bulldogs hosted Alabama on October 17th. Georgia set a program record and state NCAA volleyball attendance record of 8,376 fans at last season's 10K Day on Oct. 11, 2024.















Become an Official today!

When doing the right thing is expected of you, who says thank you? We do. Our sincerest thanks to all of our hardworking officials. If doing the right thing comes naturally to you, sign up to #BecomeAnOfficial today.



Sign Up to Become an Official!

Every sport needs more officials. Join the ranks! #BecomeAnOfficial

☑ highschoolofficials.com

November Dates to Remember

- (1) Complete Region One Act Plays Classes 6A, 4A, 2A, AD1
- (1) Cross Country Sectional Meets
- (1) End of Football Regular Season
- (1) Last Contest Date for Cheerleading
- (3) GHSA Football Playoffs Bracket Reveal
- (7) Earliest Date for Basketball Game
- (7) Earliest Date for Wrestling Meet
- (7-8) GHSA State Cross Country Championships Presented by Atlanta Track Club
- (8) Complete Region One Act Plays Classes 5A, 3A, AD2
- (8) Region Cheerleading
- (11) Hardship/Appeal Meeting
- (14) State Football Playoffs First Round
- (14-15) GHSA Cheerleading State Championships presented by Rebel Athletic
- (15) eSports Fall 2025 Regular Season Ends
- (15) GHSA State One Act Play Championships
- (17) eSports Fall 2025 Playoffs Begin
- (21) State Football Playoffs Second Round
- (22) GHSA State One Act Play Championships
- (26-28) GHSA Office Closed
- (28) State Football Playoffs Quarterfinals
- (29) Last Contest Date for Game Day Cheerleading
- (29) Last Play Date for Flag Football



Marvin James

"Always BET on yourself!" - November 2025

