



GHSA

"Items of Interest"

April 2011

Winning Trophies NOT Main Mission of School-Based Activities

From time to time, it is beneficial to review basic principles that have traditionally been a part of school-based athletics. Such a review is really important now when challenges are mounting in regard to funding and operating athletics and competitive activities.

Why should member schools invest time and money in GHSA activities? As I listen to school personnel, and as I read comments made in the media, I wonder whether we have lost some of our focus on the role these activities ought to play at our schools. Across the nation, school-based activities exist to provide participation experiences to a wide variety of students. Participation is important because it allows these students to learn lifelong lessons that enable them to be well-rounded, productive citizens – first on campus; then in the community. These experiences should be available to students in rural areas and students in metro areas; to students in public schools and students in private schools; to boys and to girls; to elite athletes and to less-than-elite athletes.



It is not surprising that media attention rarely focuses on the basic rationale for school-based sports – it really isn't all that glamorous. Media attention goes to championships and scholarships. Now those are good things, but they should not be the ultimate reasons for school-based activities. Approximately 1% of all GHSA teams can become state champions in any given year, and a similar percentage of students earn scholarships to Division I schools. We have to believe that benefits exist in GHSA activities for the other 99% also.

I get concerned when educators (coaches and administrators) fixate on the wonderful – but secondary – benefits of activities. Success cannot be tied solely to wins and honors. There needs to be a balanced, consistent voice about priorities in school-based athletics. How do we balance academic issues, economic issues, and competitive issues in our programs? What things are REALLY important?

The GHSA Executive Committee is working hard to develop new policies and to refine old policies so that the traditional mission of school-based activities can be sustained in a world of new challenges. At the recent meeting, strong resolutions were approved to address perceived problems with the recruitment of athletes. In the next month or so, that Committee will address issues involving reclassification and the public-private school debate. It is very important to remember that many of the challenges we face were not created by the GHSA and probably cannot be solved by the GHSA. We cannot control population migration, economic fluctuations, or legislative decisions. The ultimate goal, however, is to make decisions that enhance the primary mission of school-based activities.

– **Ralph Swearngin**, Executive Director

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No. 7

- GHSA STAFF -
Areas of Responsibility

RALPH SWEARNGIN (extension 7)

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

GARY PHILLIPS (extension 6)

- Assistant Executive Director -
Student Eligibility, Community Coach Program,
Cross Country, Wrestling, Track, Golf

JOYCE KAY (extension 5)

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

STEVE FIGUEROA (extension 4)

- Director of Media Relations -
Press Releases, Media Coordination for State Events, Newsletter,
Football Schedules, Constitution, Calendar, Tennis

JIM BULLINGTON (extension 33)

- Technology Specialist -
Web Page Supervision, Database Management, Technical Support

PAM THOMPSON (extension 30)

- Officials' Registrar -
Officials' Registration, Test Scoring and Records

DENNIS PAYNE (extension 23)

- Associate Director -
Football, Baseball, Swimming

ERNIE YARBROUGH (extension 27)

- Associate Director -
Basketball, Soccer, Softball

TANYA ANDERSON (extension 2)

- Administrative Assistant -
Sanctioning of Events, School Passes,
Directory, Coaches' Clinic Attendance

JULIE JONES (extension 1)

- Administrative Assistant -
Dues, Community Coach Program

SHERI FORBUS (extension 0)

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

GHSA Licensed Products

This month's featured GHSA licensees are: **Jostens**, official championship rings and jewelry (jostens.com); **Musco Sports Lighting**, the Georgia High School Association leader in developing sports-lighting technology solutions (musco.com); **FieldTurf**, official artificial turf (fieldturf.com), **Resilite**, official wrestling mat (resilite.com); and **TeamIP**, official merchandiser and online store (teamip.com). View a complete list of GHSA licensees at www.ghsa.net/licensing.

Soccer Tournament Meetings!

Listed below are the dates, times and sites for the annual post-season meetings for Soccer officials and coaches. A reminder that these meetings are **MANDATORY** and failure to attend will result in penalties to the guilty individuals or schools.

OFFICIALS		
Sat., April 9	Peachtree Ridge HS	10 a.m.
Sun., April 10	Westside-Macon HS	1 p.m.
Sat., April 16	Westside-Macon HS	10 a.m.
Sun., April 17	Peachtree Ridge HS	1 p.m.

COACHES		
Fri., April 22	Peachtree Ridge HS	7 p.m.
Sat. April 23	Westside-Macon HS	11 a.m.

GHSA Network Spring Schedule

The GHSA Network, produced by PlayOn Sports, will carry live and on demand coverage of spring state championships on GHSA.tv, Comcast and Charter On Demand.

First, the GHSA Gymnastic State Championships on April 29th will air live on GHSA.tv, followed by action in tennis, track & field, soccer, lacrosse and baseball. Broadcast details will be provided for each event.



STATE CHAMPIONS

BASKETBALL - Boys

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

AAAAA	Norcross High School
AAAA	Miller Grove High School
AAA	Columbia High School
AA	Greater Atlanta Christian School
A	Wilkinson County High School

BASKETBALL - Girls

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

AAAAA	Norcross High School
AAAA	Fayette County High School
AAA	Washington County High School
AA	Buford High School
A	Wesleyan School

LITERARY

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

AAAAA	Kennesaw Mountain High School
AAAA	Lakeside-Evans High School
AAA	Carrollton High School
AA	Buford High School
A	Lakeview Academy

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

Basketball State Champions - 2011



Class AAAA Boys Champion: Norcross



Class AAAA Boys Champion: Miller Grove



Class AAA Boys Champion: Columbia



Photos of the championship teams represented in this newsletter were taken by Larry Williams of 4-Shot Sports.



Class AA Boys Champion: GACS



Class A Boys Champion: Wilkinson County

Basketball State Champions - 2011



Class AAAAA Girls Champion: Norcross



Class AAAA Girls Champion: Fayette County



Class AAA Girls Champion: Washington County



Class AA Girls Champion: Buford



Class A Girls Champion: Wesleyan



Wheelchair Champion: Atlanta Wolfpack

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

March 21, 2011

MINUTES

The semiannual meeting of the Executive Committee of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on March 21, 2011, at the Marriott City Center, Macon, Georgia, by Dr. Gary Holmes, President. Following is a **condensed** version of the minutes of that meeting. A complete version may be found on the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Report presented by Wayne Tootle
The Committee recommended:

Allowing schools to play varsity football games on Thursday nights if both schools and their Superintendents are in agreement on the issue as long as the game time is 7:00 p.m. or earlier and as long as the travel distance between schools is 50 miles or less (one way). Games that don't meet the time and distance criteria will need the approval of the Executive Director.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

Set admission fees for early rounds of softball at \$7.00 for a doubleheader and \$5.00 for a single game. Admission fee for the State Tournament will be \$10.00 per day.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

Reinstating the membership dues and the catastrophic insurance assessments for the 2011-12 school year at the same rate as in 2009-10 school year.

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>DUES</u>	<u>INSURANCE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
AAAAA	\$300.00	\$525.00	\$825.00
AAAA	\$240.00	\$425.00	\$665.00
AAA	\$210.00	\$375.00	\$585.00
AA	\$180.00	\$270.00	\$450.00
A	\$120.00	\$220.00	\$340.00

Motion Passed (voice vote)

Extending the contract of the Executive Director from June 30, 2012 to June 30, 2014

Motion Passed (voice vote)

Approving the policy on selling email addresses for school contact persons to interested parties at a fee that covers administrative costs.

Motion Failed (voice vote)

Approving a policy that new officiating associations will be recognized only when it can be demonstrated that the needs of member schools will not be met in a better way.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

The Board of Trustees tabled the following :

- Changing the wording in By-Law 1.41 (b) as follows:
"The physical exam must be conducted by a licensed physician, doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant. ~~An M.D. or D.O. must evaluate the student's health history form.~~
(Tabled until after status of House Bill 303 is determined.)
- Problems involved with GHSA and GAOA passes and this will be a matter for study in the coming year.
Currently 22,343 GHSA passes are given and that does not include GAOA passes. Attention will also be given to having college and universities pay for passes to GHSA playoff events.

BASKETBALL COMMITTEE: Report presented by Raynette Evans
The Committee recommended:

Under "STATE TOURNAMENT", page 56 - A1 (First and Second Round Games)

(a) If a school's boys and girls teams are to host a 1st and/or 2nd round game(s), the host school may schedule a double header on either date of the respective round.

(b) A revised financial agreement will be in effect.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

(over)

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, *Continued*

CHEERLEADING COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Sam Barrs

The Committee recommended:

Allowing cheerleaders to perform stunts that are in accordance with NFHS rules without mats at basketball games.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Glenn White

The Committee recommended:

(NOTE: Underline text indicates new wording; text that is struck-through indicates a deletion.)

Allowing all-male schools to have cheerleaders who are students at other schools by

AMENDING BY-LAW 1.21

EXCEPTION: All-male schools may enlist female students from other schools to be on sideline cheerleading squads as long as the following conditions are met:

(a) Each cheerleader must be eligible at the school at which she is enrolled, and must have a signed release from an administrator at that school.

(b) Each cheerleader must have a GHSA Pre-participation Physical Evaluation Form on file at the school where she will be cheering as well as at the school in which she is enrolled.

(c) Each cheerleader must have insurance coverage comparable to all other participants in GHSA activities.

(d) Supervision must be provided by the all-male school for all practices and games.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

By-Law 1.71b - change to read:

Evidence of undue influence includes, but is not limited to:

1. personal contact initiated by coaches, boosters, and sponsors or other school personnel in an attempt to persuade transfer
2. gifts of money, jobs, supplies, or clothing
3. free transportation
4. free admission to contests
5. an invitation to attend practices and/or games
6. a social event (other than an official schoolwide Open House program) specifically geared for prospective athletes
7. free tuition beyond the allowable standards found in By-Law 1.82
8. a coach asking a prospective student for contact information

Motion Passed (voice vote)

By-Law 1.71 d (New)

A school will be afforded an opportunity to demonstrate it could not be reasonably expected to be responsible for the actions of a booster who is found guilty of the recruiting/undue influence violations.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

By-Law 1.72 (New "c" and "d")

c. The player who played for a coach at the former GHSA school followed that coach when he/she moved to another GHSA school. This is not applicable for dependent children of the coach.

d. The situations in this by-law are considered to be violations even if a bona fide move has occurred, and the hardship appeal procedures are available to demonstrate that undue influence has not occurred.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

By-Law 1.81 (New "a", "b", and "c" - move existing "a" and "b" to "d" and "e")

a. If tuition is charged it must be paid by a parent, legal guardian, or other family member with the exception of payments coming from need-based financial aid.

b. It is not legal for donated funds to be designated for a specific student that are given by non-family members, businesses, churches, or other organizations except for programs specified in state law.

c. schools may not employ students to work off their tuition costs.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

By-Law 1.73 (New)

A booster shall be considered to be an extension of the school and must abide by all rules applied to coaches and other school personnel. The following persons or groups may be considered boosters: members of the school's Booster Club; alumni; parent, guardian, or relative of a student or former student; financial donor; or a donor of time and effort.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

(over)

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, *Continued*

Hardship Committee decisions to grant an appeal shall be decided by a majority vote.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

GOLF COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Danny Cronic

The Committee recommended:

Regular Season: Rule B3 (New):

If a coach receives information from an artificial device (as defined by USGA rules), and passes that information on to a player during a competition, it is grounds for disqualification.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

LACROSSE COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Donnie Griggers

The Committee recommended:

Under General Information, page 73, I-2 - change to read:

Regular season matches between teams in different classifications that are tied at the end of regulation play will end in a tie. For teams in the same classification, overtime will be played according to the overtime rules published by US Lacrosse and endorsed by the NFHS.

- a. Team will play two (2) overtime periods of three (3) minutes each.
- b. If the score is tied at the end of the second overtime period, a third overtime period will be played where the first team to score will be declared winner.
- c. NOTE: This format will be used in all tournaments and the GHSA Playoffs.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

RECLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Earl Etheridge

The Committee recommended:

Placing New Manchester High School (Douglas County) in Region 5-AAAA (South) for the 2011-12 school year due to changes in district boundaries that have occurred recently.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

A new reclassification plan for the 2012-2014 cycle that involves four classifications that will be split into two tiers each based on population sizes of the schools in each region. This will produce eight championships in regionalized sports.

Substitute motion by Jesse Crews, seconded by Wayne Tootle, that this proposal lay on the table until the next Executive Committee Meeting.

Motion Passed to lay on table (voice vote)

SWIMMING COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Donnie Griggers

The Committee recommended:

Under General Information, page 79 - Add A4 (New) and renumber existing #4 and #5:

For divers, the maximum number of dual meet competitions using the six-dive format is ten. Additionally, divers may compete in five invitational meets using the eleven-dive format.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Ralph Swearngin, Executive Director, gave a report to the Committee that included current financial data, the successful competitions held this year, and how well the organization has continued to adjust to the challenges faced. He emphasized the importance of understanding the missions of the GHSA and of working together toward accomplishing those missions. He reiterated that the role of the organization is to establish policy and the GHSA staff is to implement those policies on a day to day basis.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion was made by Jim Hughes, and seconded, to elect Jesse Crews President.

Motion was made by Raynette Evans, seconded by Dave Hunter, to reelect Gary Holmes as President.

Gary Holmes was reelected President. Show of Hands: Holmes - 29 Crews - 17

Motion was made by Jesse Crews, seconded by Wayne Tootle, to re-elect Walter Wade as Vice President.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to adjourn.

GHSA - April Calendar - 2011

April

- 1 Deadline to submit notification of entry in Gymnastics, Lacrosse, Riflery, Soccer, Volleyball & Wrestling for 2011-12
- 2 State Riflery Championship
- 15-16 Complete Area Gymnastics
- 16 Complete Region Tennis
- 18 Report Region Tennis winners to GHSA Office by noon
- 20 Complete Area/Region Soccer
- 21 Report Area/Region Soccer winners
- 22 Good Friday - GHSA Office Closed
- 22 Complete First Round State Tennis and Region Golf
- 25 Report First Round State Tennis winners and File Reports of Region Golf
- 26 Girls First Round State Soccer in AAAAA & AAAA
- 27 Boys First Round State Soccer in AAAAA & AAAA
- 27 Complete Second Round State Tennis and Region Boys Track
- 28 Girls First Round State Soccer in AAA, AA & A
- 28 Report Region Boys Track results & Second Round Tennis winners by 9 a.m.
- 29 Boys First Round State Soccer in AAA, AA & A
- 29 State Gymnastics Meet and Complete Area Lacrosse
- 30 Complete Region Baseball

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