



# GHSA

## *"ITEMS OF INTEREST"*

April 2017

### **We Must Work to Protect Values of Education-Based Athletics**

The month of March brought the close of a hugely-successful winter of competition and championship play. Already in February we saw the wrestling championships conclude with the Traditional Tournament in Macon. The Swimming & Diving championships conducted at Georgia Tech were an overwhelming success as well.

These events were followed at fast-forward speed by the basketball playoffs, highlighted by the semifinal games contested at some of the best facilities and venues throughout the state. The final four days of basketball season were capped off by great games and great action at the state's two major universities – The University of Georgia and Georgia Tech. The size of the crowds at these sites indicates the tremendous enthusiasm for high school sports throughout Georgia.

The GHSA State Executive Committee will meet in early April to further develop policy that will take the association forward into the coming years. Trying to be proactive in the ever-changing landscape of education-based athletics is a very difficult task. Recent events involving school representatives from both in-state and from surrounding states have caused much uneasiness.

We can no longer assume high school athletics are going to continue just as they have been in the past. Looming internally and externally are important issues that must be addressed to insure that high school athletics in Georgia will be a stable force in the lives of the young people we serve.

Since the GHSA is outspoken in its belief that participation in athletics and competitive activities are an extension of classroom experiences, it is important this association responds to the changes we are seeing in education in Georgia.

Several rules and procedures have been put in place over the past few years that accentuate accountability of schools, their coaches and their leadership. While these measures may have imposed more work for school personnel, they protect our students and provide integrity within the sports community. Above all, high school athletics must remain as the purest form of competition throughout our state – and the nation.

School personnel, parents and fans – and the representatives of the Georgia High School Association – must work diligently to redouble efforts to value and protect our truly unique experiences and opportunities in education-based athletics. Let's not lose sight of our traditional purposes in high school athletics while continuing to find new ways to take our games to even higher levels of competition and sportsmanship.

– Gary Phillips, Executive Director

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**GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION Newsletter**

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**- GHSA STAFF -**  
**Areas of Responsibility**

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

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- Assistant Executive Director -  
By-Law Interpretations, Transfer Eligibility, Cross Country, Golf, Track

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Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Officials Training

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- Associate Director -  
Lacrosse, Volleyball, Wrestling, Sports Medicine

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Football, Literary, One-Act Play, Soccer

**CARROR WRIGHT** (extension 39)

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- Director of Information/Media Services -  
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GHSA Constitution & Calendar, Web Site Content, Tennis

**PAM THOMPSON** (extension 30)

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Officials' Registration, Testing & Online Clinics, Service Awards

**TANYA ANDERSON** (extension 29)

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Event Sanctioning, School Passes, Directory,  
Online Clinics for Coaches, Trophies & Medals

**JULIE JONES** (extension 24)

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Coaches Education Program, Web Site Content, Entry Notification

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Hardship Hearings, Fines, School System/Retiree Passes,  
Publication Orders

**ROBIN BULLINGTON** (extension 33)

- Office Manager -  
Budgeting and Finances, Dues, Playoff Finances, Staff Procedures

**STACEY BASILICI** (extension 32)

- Administrative Assistant -  
Non-transfer Eligibility, Literary & One-Act Play Liaison,  
School Contact Coordinator

**GHSA Licensed Products**

This month's featured licensees are: **Jostens**, official championship jewelry ([jostens.com](http://jostens.com)); **Musco Sports Lighting**, leader in developing sports-lighting technology solutions ([musco.com](http://musco.com)); **FieldTurf**, official artificial turf ([fieldturf.com](http://fieldturf.com)); **Hudl**, official video exchange service ([hudl.com](http://hudl.com)); **Formetco Sports**, Official scoreboard/LED video screen system ([formetco.com/sports](http://formetco.com/sports)); **Sports Imports**, official volleyball net systems ([sportsimports.com](http://sportsimports.com)) and **TeamIP**, official merchandiser and online store ([teamip.com](http://teamip.com)). View a complete list at [www.ghsa.net/licensing](http://www.ghsa.net/licensing).

**STATE CHAMPIONS**

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

**LITERARY**

7A	Mill Creek High School
6A	Lakeside-Evans High School
5A	Buford High School
4A	Columbus High School
3A	Bremen High School
2A	Gordon Central High School
A (Public)	Georgia Military College
A (Private)	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.

**NFHS Network Spring Schedule**

The NFHS Network will stream live coverage of spring state championships in track & field, soccer, lacrosse and baseball. An all-access monthly pass is \$9.95 for 30 days. Spread the word. NFHS Network - We Are High School!



**HIGH SCHOOL  
HAPPENS HERE**

**Digital Tickets on GoFan**

Digital tickets for all GHSA Spring State Championships will be available at GoFan ([GoFan.co/app/school/GHSA](http://GoFan.co/app/school/GHSA)).

**Sharks Win 5th AAASP Title in Row**

The Houston County Sharks won their fifth consecutive AAASP Wheelchair Basketball State Championship when they defeated the West Georgia Wolverines 41-26 on March 9 at Stegeman Coliseum on the campus of the University of Georgia.



Photographs of all the state championship Basketball teams in this newsletter were provided by Ty Freeman.



## State Basketball Champions - 2017



**7A Girls: McEachern**



**6A Girls: Mays**



**5A Girls: Buford**



**4A Girls: Columbus**



**3A Girls: Beach**



**2A Girls: Laney**



**A (private) Girls: Wesleyan**



**A (public) Girls: Pelham**



## State Basketball Champions - 2017



7A Boys: Tift County



6A Boys: Langston Hughes



5A Boys: Buford



4A Boys: Upson-Lee



3A Boys: Pace Academy



2A Boys: South Atlanta



A (private) Boys: Greenforest



A (public) Boys: Wilkinson County



**GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**  
**STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**AGENDA**  
**MARRIOTT / Macon City Center - MACON, GEORGIA**  
**Magnolia Ballroom**  
**April 10, 2017 - 9:00 a.m.**

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Call To Order .....	Glenn White, President
Pledge of Allegiance .....	Lisa Moore Williams, Vice President
Invocation .....	Carror Wright, Associate Director
Roll Call .....	Steve Figueroa, Media Director
Adoption of Agenda .....	Executive Committee

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**APPOINTMENTS:** 9:00 am

The Executive Committee will hear appeals.

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**PROPOSALS** (NOTE: the following is a condensed version of the agenda. The full agenda is on the GHSA web site)

**BOARD of TRUSTEES**

1. Proposal to change the "Power Ratings" procedure in all sports so that the only game results used to calculate the "power ratings" are those games played as part of the regular-season game limit by each sport. Games played as part of a Region Tournament shall NOT be used to calculate the power ratings. (GHSA office)
2. Proposal to change the "Power Ratings" procedure in Football only beginning with the 2018-19 school year so that games between Class 7A teams and any team below Class 5A will NOT count in determining the power rating for the 7A school if power ratings are needed due to a Region having fewer than five teams in 7A. (GHSA office)
3. Proposal to reword By-Law 4.52 (e) on page 55 to read (new text in italic): All invoices for officiating fees in all sports shall be paid within ~~30 days~~ *10 days of the end of the season of receipt of the invoice*. Failure to ~~do so~~ *remit payment within 10 days of receipt of the invoice* will result in a 10% late fee charged to the member school by the officials association of record. ~~Associations must send a final season invoice to schools within one week of the completion of the season.~~ Schools are prohibited from paying contest officials at the game site. (GHSA office).
4. Proposal that during Basketball state tournament games, the designated host school shall be required to provide 50% of the available seating to the visiting school spectators. (GHSA office).
5. Proposal to increase the seating requirement by classification to host Basketball State Tournament games to the following minimums: 7A – 2,000; 6A – 2,000; 5A – 1,500; 4A – 1,200; 3A – 900; 2A – 700; 1A – 500. (GHSA Office).
6. Proposal that member schools compelled to play at a higher classification because of special stipulations in the reclassification process may petition the Executive Director for stadium / arena seating waivers by August 31 each year. A waiver would allow the school to use the smaller classification's seating requirements in order to comply with playoff by-laws. (GHSA office).
7. Proposal to revise By-Law 2.69 (b) on page 40 to read (new text in italic): At any given point in time, only one (1) coach in a sport may work with up to ~~two (2)~~ *four (4)* athletes in skill-building drills. (Region 4, Class 5A).
8. Proposal that By-Law 2.72 (a) on Page 41 by reworded so that the GHSA office could use video to review an ejection of a coach from a contest. (Savannah HS)
9. Proposal that Literary become an Area activity for all classifications with the Areas increasing the number of qualifiers so there is no reduction in State qualifiers. (GHSA Office).
10. Proposal that the GHSA office will conduct one (1) universal coin toss prior to the Quarterfinal Round and again prior to the Semifinal Round in all sports to determine the designated home team in ALL classifications (2A – 7A) where equal seeds are meeting in the next round. The toss would determine if the top or bottom of the bracket would be the host team (subject to other hosting requirements as specified in the GHSA by-laws for each sport). (GHSA office)

**BASEBALL COMMITTEE**

Proposal to add new item "e" (and renumber existing items) to the "Pitching Restrictions" on page 58: In games vs. non-GHSA member schools, the GHSA pitching restrictions shall be adhered to, regardless of the pitch count policy of the host school affiliation or state association. When playing out of state, it is the school's responsibility to report the pitch count information to the GHSA office. (GHSA office)

**CHEERLEADING COMMITTEE**

1. Proposal to combine Class A Public and A Private cheerleading into one division and move to an Area format. (GHSA office)
2. Proposal to move to an Area format for Classes 2A - 7A in Competitive Cheerleading. (GHSA office)

(more)

## **AGENDA, continued**

### **ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE**

1. Proposal to modify By Law 1.58 on Page 18 (items "c," "d" & "e") so as to eliminate the 15-day credit recovery grace period at the beginning of the first semester. (Mary Persons HS)
2. Proposal to add Darlington to the list of schools (Riverside, Ben Franklin, Tallulah Falls) whose students are granted a one-time migratory waiver for eligibility upon enrollment in by-law 1.62 (L) on page 20. (Darlington School)

Upon completion of the business above, the **Transfer Eligibility Task Force** will host an open forum to discuss issues / potential proposals they are currently addressing. These include but are not limited to: Hardship Committee Re-structure, 50% sit out rule, Form B Revisions, Professional Investigator possibilities, Home School participation.

### **FOOTBALL COMMITTEE**

1. Proposal to add a new item "3" (and renumber existing items) under by-law 2.93 c-2 that reads "All scheduled GHSA varsity football games that have been either interrupted or postponed must be played to completion. Schools must decide when completion will take place in a timely manner. The team behind in the score of an interrupted game will have the option not to complete the game and the score will be recorded as it was at the point of interruption. (GHSA office)
2. Proposal that, beginning in 2018, the Spring Game culminating Spring Practice may be either a traditional team vs. team contest or a Jamboree type game with three teams playing a half against the other two teams. (GHSA office)
3. Proposal that the six (6) quarters per week participation limitation will NOT include an athlete's play on any special teams. (Region 7, Class 5A)

### **GYMNASTICS COMMITTEE**

1. Proposal to change the substitution policy so as to allow any team member who has competed in the mandatory number of meets during the season (3) to compete as part of their team at the State Meet. Note: Their scores would count for their teams, but they would not be eligible for individual awards if they did not compete at the qualifying meet. (Region 5, Class 7A)
2. Proposal that all qualifying teams will be allowed to have one team manager on the competition floor to assist the coaches at both the Preliminary and State Meets. (Region 5, Class 7A)
3. Proposal that all qualifying teams will be allowed free admission for all team members to the Preliminary and State Meets even if those members did not qualify to compete. (Region 5, Class 7A)
4. Proposal to increase the number of teams qualifying at the Preliminary Meet to go to the State Meet from six (6) to eight (8). (Region 5, Class 7A)

### **RECLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE**

1. Proposal to return the reclassification cycle to two (2) year rotation beginning in 2018-19. (Region 5, Class 6A; Region 5, Class 4A; St. Pius, Marist, Blessed Trinity)
2. Proposal to rethink the addition of a seventh classification and return to the six-class distribution of member schools. Note: Class A would continue with the current public/private split in certain sports. (St. Pius, Marist, Blessed Trinity)
3. Proposal to eliminate the GHSA Reclassification Committee and transfer its responsibilities to individual GHSA activity sub-committees. (Region 6, Class 3A)

### **RIFLERY COMMITTEE**

Proposal that if a team has less than four (4) competitors, they must forfeit the match and receive a loss. But, if both teams agree to compete anyway, the individual scores from both teams will count as GHSA official scores. (GHSA office)

### **SOFTBALL COMMITTEE**

1. Proposal to restructure fast pitch softball playoffs using best-of-three series format for first two rounds with seeds 1-4 all playing at site of No. 1 seed. (Region 7, Class 6A)
2. Proposal to reword Softball GENERAL INFORMATION item No. 7, page 85 (new text in italic). The tie-breaker procedure for extra-inning games will be used. At the beginning of the ~~eight-inning~~ 10th inning (and all subsequent half-innings) ... *Exception: In Invitational Tournament games with a "time limit" in place, the tie-breaker would start in the subsequent inning.* (Region 3, Class 6A)
3. Proposal to change the first two rounds of the fast pitch softball state tournament to a format that is consistent with the Elite Eight Championships. This change is to be termed as "Super Regionals" and would condense the playoffs to two double-elimination tournaments on consecutive weekends. (Region 3, Class 6A)

(more)

## **AGENDA, continued**

### **SWIMMING COMMITTEE**

Proposal to score the top 30 places in the finals (instead of the current 20) and award separate team championships for Class 6A and Class 7A and separate team championships for 1A-3A and 4A-5A for a total of four (4) swimming team champions instead of the current two (2). (Region 8, Class 7A)

### **VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE**

Proposal to allow Areas the option of using the best-of-five format for regular season Area matches, if all teams in the Area agree, provided that only one Area dual match is played per day. (Region 4, Class 7A)

### **WRESTLING COMMITTEE**

1. Proposal to allow, but not require, alternates to weigh-in and be placed on the bracket at the Sectional Tournament if a wrestler representing the same Area cannot wrestle for any reason. (Kell High School)
2. Proposal to allow a wrestler in the state tournament, who cannot wrestle for any reason, to be replaced by an alternate at the time of weigh-in. (Kell High School)
3. Proposal to allow, in multiple-day tournaments, a wrestler in the championship bracket who does not make weight on the second day, to be replaced in the championship bracket by the last wrestler which was defeated by the wrestler who did not make weight. (Kell High School)

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Gary Phillips will address the committee on several issues and introduce some guest speakers.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Proposal to amend Article IV, Section 3, Board of Trustees as follows:

Sub-paragraph "A" would be deleted in its entirety and the following language substituted in lieu thereof:

- A. Membership of the Board of Trustees shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Executive Director, one member of the Executive Committee from each classification (to be elected by the Executive Committee members from each respective classification), two at-large female members, two at-large minority members and one at-large private school member to be appointed by the President. The at-large members shall not be required to be current Executive Committee members. The term of office for Trustees shall be four years and members shall be allowed to succeed themselves in office.

Subparagraph "D" would be revised to delete the words "in exigent circumstances, as determined by the President".

**NOTE:** This is a Constitutional Amendment and **will require two (2) votes**. This is the first vote.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

## **SCHEDULE OF SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS - Spring 2017** (Meetings Will Be Held at the Marriott Macon City Center Hotel & Macon Centreplex)

### **SUNDAY, April 9**

<p>9:00 am Board of Trustees (Private Dining Room)</p> <p>11:30 am Baseball Committee (Salon A) Wrestling Committee (Salon B)</p> <p>12-1 pm Lunch (on your own)</p> <p>1:00 pm Softball Committee (Salon A) Gymnastics Committee (Salon B)</p> <p>1:30 pm Reclassification Committee (Magnolia Ballroom) Rifle Committee (Salon A)</p>
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### **SUNDAY, April 9 (continued)**

<p>2:00 pm Cheerleading Committee (Salon A)</p> <p>2:30 pm Swimming Committee (Salon A) Volleyball Committee (Salon B)</p> <p>3:00 pm Football Committee (Salon A) Eligibility Committee (Magnolia Ballroom)</p> <p>4:45 pm Low Country Boil (Centreplex Ballroom)</p> <p>Note: Salons A &amp; B and the Private Dining Room are in the Macon City Center Hotel.</p>
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## GHSA - April Calendar - 2017

### April

- 1 Deadline for notification of entry in Gymnastics, Lacrosse, Riflery, Class A Soccer, Slow Pitch Softball, Volleyball and Wrestling for 2017-18
- 1 Complete Riflery Sectionals
- 8 Complete Area Slow Pitch Softball
- 10 State Executive Committee meeting in Macon
- 12 Complete Riflery Semifinals
- 14-15 Slow Pitch Softball Sectionals
- 15 Complete Region Tennis; Gymnastics Preliminary Meet
- 17 Report Region Tennis results to GHSA Office by 9 a.m.
- 20 Complete First Round State Tennis (2A - 7A) and Area Tennis (Class A)
- 20 Complete Area/Region Soccer
- 21 Report State Tennis winners (Area in Class A); State Gymnastics Meet
- 22 Complete Region Baseball and Track; State Slow Pitch Softball; State Gymnastics
- 24 Report Region Baseball and Region Track results to GHSA Office by 9 a.m.
- 25 Girls First Round State Soccer (A, 2A, 3A & 4A)
- 25 Complete Second Round State Tennis (First Round for Class A)
- 26 Boys First Round State Soccer (A, 2A, 3A & 4A)
- 27 Girls First Round State Soccer (5A, 6A & 7A)
- 28 Boys First Round State Soccer (5A, 6A & 7A); State Baseball Playoffs - First Round
- 29 Sectional Track Meets; Complete Area Lacrosse
- 29 Complete Quarterfinal Round State Tennis Playoffs

### GHSA Sponsors

