



GHS A

"ITEMS OF INTEREST"

April 2021

It Appears Home-School Students Will Be Eligible Soon

Spring is a busy time for the GHSA as baseball, track and field, slow pitch softball, golf, tennis, lacrosse, riflery, soccer, literary and gymnastics are well underway. All winter sports have been completed, and thanks and congratulations should be given to all participating member schools.

This has been a difficult year at best and moving indoors for winter sports caused concerns for us all. But our member schools did an awesome job in safely providing opportunities for our students. I am sure we have all breathed a collective sigh of relief as we move outdoors for most spring competitions.

We have crowned eight State Champions in basketball and special thanks go out to Ernie Yarbrough, Basketball Administrator, for providing well-run championships. I also want to thank the Macon Coliseum and its staff for a great job hosting our event and providing a safe venue.

At the time of this writing, the legislature is winding up this year's session. The Dexter Mosely Act, which is the bill allowing home schooled students to participate in sports and activities, has passed the senate with a vote of 39-15 and the House 149-13. A summary of the bill is provided below.

"A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Part 14 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the O.C.G.A., relating to other educational programs under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to authorize home study students in grades six through 12 to participate in extracurricular and interscholastic activities in the student's resident public school system; to provide that home study students shall complete one qualifying course during any semester the student participates in an extracurricular or interscholastic activity in the student's resident public school system; to amend Code Section 20-2-690 of the O.C.G.A., relating to educational entities and requirements for private schools and home study programs; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes."

While the bill allows home-schooled student participation, they will have the same eligibility requirements as current GHSA student-athletes do regarding required units passed and accumulated. And students must be enrolled in a course approved by the school, they must participate in the zoned school and, if a student withdraws from the zoned school to become home schooled, the student will be ruled ineligible for one calendar year. Should the bill move forward and be signed into law, and it appears that it will, eligibility will be filed through a form similar to the MT form.

There have also been transgender bills in both the senate and the house designed to prevent biological males to compete in girls sports. This has become a hot political topic and I don't believe anything will be passed this session, although anything is possible. The current GHSA policy regarding gender is that the GHSA accepts the gender determination provided by the local school district.

Thank you for all of your efforts in providing sports and activities for your students in this most unusual year and I wish you the best of luck as you direct your schools through the final months of this school year. Hopefully as more of our state become vaccinated we will move closer to normalcy next year. As always feel free to give us a call if we can do anything for you.



– Dr. James R. Hines, Jr., Executive Director

Join the conversation on social media @OfficialGHSA on TikTok, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION Newsletter

Issued monthly, September through April, by the Georgia High School Association, P.O. Box 271, Thomaston, GA 30286

Phone: 706-647-7473 Fax: 706-647-2638 Web: www.ghsa.net

Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday

Vol. 39

April 2021

No. 7

**- GHSA STAFF -
Areas of Responsibility**

ROBIN HINES (extension 41)

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

ERNIE YARBROUGH (extension 27)

- Assistant Executive Director -
Basketball, Softball, Track, Golf & Girls Flag Football

DON CORR (extension 34)

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

TOMMY WHITTLE (extension 23)

- Associate Director -
Literary, One-Act Play, Lacrosse

CARROR WRIGHT (extension 39)

- Associate Director -
Coach's Liaison, Compliance & Transfer Eligibility, Sportsmanship

PENNY PITTS MITCHELL (extension 22)

- Associate Director -
Cheerleading, Gymnastics, Dance, Student Leadership, Title IX

KEVIN GIDDENS (extension 25)

- Associate Director -
Bass Fishing, Football, Cross Country, & Soccer

TANYA ANDERSON (extension 29)

- Associate Director -
Event Sanctioning, Esports, DragonFly Liaison,
Assist with Cross Country and with Student Leadership

STEVE FIGUEROA (extension 26)

- Director of Information/Media Services -
Media Coordination, Newsletter, Constitution & Calendar, Tennis

PAM THOMPSON (extension 30)

- Officials' Registrar -
Officials' Registration, Testing & Online Clinics, Service Awards

JULIE JONES (extension 24)

- Administrative Assistant -
Coaches Education, Dues, Web Site Content, Entry Notification

SHERI EUBANKS (extension 0)

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

ROBIN BULLINGTON (extension 33)

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

STACEY BASILICI (extension 32)

- Administrative Assistant -
Literary & One-Act Play Liaison, Rifery Liaison, School Contacts &
School Passes, Directory, Coaches' Clinics, Trophies & Medals

GHSA Licensed Products

This month's featured licensees are: **Jostens**, official championship rings and jewelry (jostens.com); **Musco Sports Lighting**, leader in developing sports-lighting technology solutions (musco.com); **FieldTurf**, official artificial turf (fieldturf.com); **Hudl**, official video exchange service (hudl.com); **Hartwell Studio Works**, creating unique, dynamic and protectable spirit logos / marks (hartwellstudioworks.com); and **NFHS Network**, School Broadcast Program produces, distributes and monetize your school's own video streaming Web powered by PlayOn Sports. (nfhsnetwork.com/associations/ghsa).

STATE CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

BASKETBALL - Boys

7A	Milton High School
6A	Wheeler High School
5A	Eagles Landing High School
4A	Baldwin High School
3A	Cross Creek High School
2A	Pace Academy
A (Public)	Towns County High School
A (Private)	Mt. Pisgah

BASKETBALL - Girls

7A	Marietta High School
6A	Westlake High School
5A	Woodward Academy
4A	Carver-Columbus High School
3A	Cross Creek High School
2A	Josey High School
A (Public)	Calhoun County High School
A (Private)	Hebron Christian

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.

Heat Ends Sharks' AAASP Streak

The Gwinnett County Heat led from start to finish in defeating the Houston County Sharks 42-25 to capture the 2021 AAASP Wheelchair Basketball State Championship on March 13 at the Macon Centreplex, ending the Sharks' streak of eight consecutive titles.

The rest of the basketball state champions are pictured on Pages 4-5 of this newsletter, while the 3-point shootout and slam dunk winners can be found on Page 3.



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

COVID-19 Tennis Rule Modification

Because of COVID-19 shortages, the GHSA has decided to temporarily modify the current rules concerning the minimum number of players necessary to begin a varsity tennis match. For any remaining regular-season matches (if both coaches agree), and for the region tournaments (if a majority of region coaches vote to use this format), a team can start a match with **only the three singles positions filled**.

Both doubles lines may be forfeited (if the opposing team has two doubles teams) and the team with only three singles lines would begin the match down 2-0. If both teams are missing doubles lines, those lines would be considered "no contest" and the winner of the match would be determined by the outcome of the contested and/or forfeited lines.

This modification is for the remainder of the 2021 regular season and will **NOT** carry over into the state playoffs. The regular rules will apply in the state playoffs.

Dunk & 3-Point Winners Crowned

After weeks of competition leading up to the finals, the second annual GHSA Slam Dunk and Three-Point Shooting Champions, presented by BSN Sports, were crowned during the 2021 State Championship Basketball Championships at the Macon Centreplex March 10-13.

Congratulations to Dunk champion Wilson Sibley of North Oconee, who defeated Cash Allen (Chattooga) and Cameryn Johnson (Long County), and to Three-Point winner De'mauri Flourney of Carrollton, who defeated Sara Viti of Buford, Leah Smith of Whitewater and Livi Blackstock of Jefferson.



(L-R) BSN's Carly Klingler, Leah Smith, Livi Blackstock, Sara Viti, De'mauri Flourney & Robin Hines



(L-R) Wilson Sibley, Cameryn Johnson, BSN Representative Carly Klingler & Cash Allen



Gainesville's Pamela Ware Honored by the NFHS

INDIANAPOLIS, IN — A total of 42 high school speech, debate, theatre and music teachers and coaches have been selected as recipients of awards from the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

The NFHS Speech, Debate, Theatre and Academic Association is honoring 20 individuals with the 2020-21 Outstanding Speech/Debate/Theatre Educator Awards, and the NFHS Music Association is honoring 22 individuals with the 2020-21 Outstanding Music Educator Awards.

Seven of the 20 speech/debate/theatre awards are section awards, and the other 13 are state awards. Section recipients receive a plaque from the NFHS to be presented in their respective state, while state award recipients receive a certificate. Likewise, seven music section awards will be presented, along with 15 state award recipients.

Pamela Ware was chosen to receive the Section 3 2020-21 NFHS Outstanding Speech/Debate/Theatre Educator Award. Ware has been director of theatre and debate coach at Gainesville (Georgia) High School for the past 45 years after beginning her career in education as an English teacher and director of theatre in Selma, Alabama. She is truly a living legend at Gainesville High and has developed annual winning programs in One-Act Play and Literary for many years.

Ware has served on the Georgia Thespian State Board since 1975 and was president of the Alabama Thespian Association for three years in the 1960s. Ware has also been active in the Educational Theatre Association, serving on the Board of Trustees for 17 years as well as a term as president. She established the First International Troupe at Gainesville High School in 1975.

Ware received the Louisiana Tech College of Education Alumna of the Year award in 2015 and was a Louisiana Tech University Centennial Distinguished Alumnus in 1994. In December 1994, the Pam Ware Performing Arts Center was dedicated in Gainesville.

Girls Basketball State Champions - 2021



7A: Marietta



6A: Westlake



5A: Woodward Academy



4A: Carver-Columbus



3A: Cross Creek



2A: Josey



A Public: Calhoun County



A Private: Hebron Christian

Boys Basketball State Champions - 2021



7A: Milton



6A: Wheeler



5A: Eagles Landing



4A: Baldwin



3A: Cross Creek



2A: Pace Academy



A Public: Towns County



A Private: Mount Pisgah

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA
Thomaston-Upson County Civic Center - Thomaston, GA
Main Hall
April 19, 2021 - 11:00 a.m.

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

(NOTE: the following is a condensed version of the agenda. The full version may be found on the GHSA web site.)

<u>APPOINTMENTS:</u>	1:00 pm:	Special presentation by Assistant Executive Director Ernie Yarbrough of a new award for individuals who have made a substantial contribution in 2020-21 to the recruitment, training and mentoring of GHSA officials.
	1:15 pm:	Eric Parker, Principal, Tucker High School Appeal of student eligibility - Mekai Byrd (eight semesters)

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Proposal** to modify GHSA Constitution (Article IV, Section 13, Violation of Rules on page 13) by adding to existing paragraph "B" the following language: "The Executive Director shall also have the authority to refer allegations of intentional or grossly negligent violations of GHSA by-laws and rules by GHSA member schools or their personnel to the GHSA Trustees for considerations of additional penalties." (GHSA Office)
2. **Proposal** to modify GHSA Constitution (Article IV, Section 3, Board of Trustees on page 8) by adding a new paragraph "E" that reads as follows: "Upon receiving a referral from the Executive Director of alleged intentional or grossly negligent violations of GHSA by-laws and rules by GHSA member schools or their personnel, the Board of Trustees by majority vote shall have the authority to assess further and additional penalties for such intentional or grossly negligent violations against the member school, including, but not limited to, an additional fine of not more than \$2,500.00 for each such offense, and/or probation for a period of up to one calendar year in the sport(s) in which the violation occurred, and/or suspension of the member school from the GHSA for a period of up to one full calendar year. Any additional penalties assessed under this paragraph shall be appealable to the GHSA Executive Committee." (GHSA Office)

NOTE: Both of the above proposals are Constitutional changes and require two (2) votes. This is the **second** vote. Both passed unanimously in the first vote.

COMMITTEE PROPOSALS:

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1. **Proposal** to allow one week of tryouts during the fall semester in the sport of Soccer. (Region 7, Class 7A)
2. **Proposal** to allow five days of spring tryouts between May 1 and the end of school in the sport of Flag Football. (Bulloch County Schools)
3. **Proposal** to modify the rule to allow for one coach (head or assistant) to stand in the libero replacement zone to coach his/her team during play in the sport of Volleyball. (Fulton County Schools)
4. **Proposal** to amend by-law 2.62, item "f" on page 29 of the GHSA Constitution to allow two (2) interscholastic scrimmages in the sport of Soccer while keeping the current limit of one (1) in the other sports listed. The stipulations in items 1-4 of the by-law would remain the same. (Region 6, Class 7A).

(more)

AGENDA, continued

5. **Proposal** to amend by-law 2.62, item "f" on page 29 of the GHSA Constitution to add a scrimmage in the sport of Wrestling with the following wording "*tri match allowed on days preceding school or quad match on days not preceding a school day.*" The stipulations in items 1-4 of the by-law would remain the same. (GHSA office).
6. **Proposal** to amend by-law 4.23, item "b" (**Out-Of-Zone Multiplier**) on page 40 of the GHSA Constitution to **delete** the wording "...except that no school shall be moved up into Class 7A.". The rest of the by-law would remain the same. (Lee County High School)
7. **Proposal** to discuss modifying item G-1 under State Tournament on page 52 of the GHSA Constitution to allow pep bands to play at playoff basketball games. (GHSA office)
8. **Proposal** to approve GHSA budget for the 2021-22 school year. (GHSA office)

ONE ACT PLAY COMMITTEE

Proposal to add a new item No. 5 to Section "G" on page 105 of the GHSA Constitution to read as follows: "*If two of the three judges rank a play as being No. 1 at Region or State competition, that play wins the competition no matter what rank or score the other judge gives the play.*" (GHSA office)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Robin Hines will address the full committee on several other issues.

ADJOURNMENT

SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 19, 2021 MEETINGS

(Meetings Will Be Held at the Thomaston-Upson County Civic Center)

Monday, April 19

11:00 am One Act Play Committee Meeting (Main Hall)

11:15 am Board of Trustees Meeting (Main Hall)

Monday, April 19 (continued)

12:00 pm Box Lunch for all (Main Hall)

1:00 pm Full Executive Committee Meeting (Main Hall)

Pickle Juice is Easier Way to Up Your Concessions Game

Go touchless: Eliminate the need for swiping cards and swapping cash. Pickle Juice accepts all popular forms of contactless and mobile payments, including Apple Pay.

Sell anything, anywhere: Go beyond burgers and pizza. Pickle Juice can travel wherever your team does, and can be used for raffle tickets, fundraising events, banquets and merchandise sales.

Professionalize the concession stand: Keep better track of your merchandise to avoid theft and loss. Pickle Juice lets you create a full inventory of apparel and food items so your team can make more money from your concessions and event sales.

Keep score: Get real-time reporting across multiple categories, right on your mobile device. Compare results across events and measure your organization's performance throughout the season.

Learn more about Pickle Juice and Pickle Juice POS by visiting us online at PickleJuiceApp.com.





SELECT
OFFICIAL MATCH BALL

ROYALE
Team Colors Available

IMS NFHS APPROVED

www.select-sport.com/us

GHSA SPORTSMANSHIP STATEMENT

Please insure that the following statement is read as a public address announcement prior to the start of every GHSA sanctioned contest:

"The GHSA and its member schools have made a commitment to promote good sportsmanship by student/athletes, coaches, and spectators at all GHSA sanctioned events.

Profanity, degrading remarks, and intimidating actions directed at officials or competitors will not be tolerated, and are grounds for removal from the event site.

Spectators are not allowed to enter the competition area during warm-ups or while the contest is being conducted. Thank you for your cooperation in the promotion of good sportsmanship at today's event."

Lacrosse Finals Now At Denmark

After a one-year absence due to the pandemic, the 2021 GHSA State Lacrosse Championships will be held at Denmark High School on May 15.

Tickets are \$14 and are available on GoFan. All four championship games will be live streamed on the NFHS Network. Defending champs from 2019 are Starr's Mill (girls A-5A), Milton (girls 6A-7A), Westminster (A-5A boys) and Walton (6A-7A boys).

The schedule has the A-5A Girls championship game at 10:00 a.m., followed by the A-5A Boys final at noon. Then the 6A-7A Girls take the field at 2:00 p.m., followed at 4:00 p.m., by the 6A-7A Boys title match.

Subscription to the Network for an all-access pass is the low price of \$10.99 per month per 30 days.

Athletes deserve our *best*...

***Sports Track* delivers
what Coaches
demand...**

**And what
Parents require.**

***SPORTS
TRACK***
— COMPANY —

Putting athlete safety first.



*Recognized as a leader in Athletic
Construction for 30 years.*

Call **770-832-8691** or
visit **www.SportsTurf.net**

**PROUD
SPONSOR
OF THE**



GHSA - April Calendar - 2021

April

- 2 **Good Friday;** GHSA Office Closed
- 10 Complete Riflery Semifinals and Area SP Softball
- 12 File reports of Riflery Semifinals and SP Softball winners with GHSA by 9 a.m.
- 14-15 Slow Pitch Softball Sectionals
- 15 Complete Region Tennis
- 16 Complete Region Soccer; Report region tennis results to GHSA office by 9 a.m
- 17 Complete Region/Area Literary; Report Soccer results to GHSA office by 9 a.m.
- 19 State Executive Committee meeting, Thomaston-Upson County Civic Center
- 20 Complete First Round State Tennis; Girls First Round State Soccer (A, 3A, 5A & 7A)
- 21 Boys First Round State Soccer (A, 3A, 5A & 7A)
- 21, 22 Slow Pitch Softball State Tournament
- 22, 23 Gymnastics preliminaries
- 23 Girls First Round State Soccer (2A, 4A & 6A)
- 24 Boys First Round State Soccer (2A, 4A & 6A)
- 24 State Riflery Meet; Gymnastics Finals; Complete Region Baseball & Area Lacrosse
- 24 Complete Second Round State Tennis; State Literary Meet (A, 2A, 4A, 6A & 7A)
- 26 Complete Area Golf; Girls Second Round State Soccer (A, 3A, 5A & 7A)
- 27 Boys Second Round State Soccer (A, 3A, 5A & 7A)
- 28 Girls Second Round State Soccer (2A, 4A & 6A)
- 28, 29 First Round State Lacrosse playoffs
- 28-30 First Round State Baseball playoffs
- 29 Complete Quarterfinal Round State Tennis; Boys Second Round State Soccer (2A, 4A & 6A)

GHSA Sponsors

