GHSA Continues to Move Forward Through Technology

Transitions are always challenging, and those involving changes in technology seem to be even more so. The Georgia High School Association continues to move its communication procedures from traditional methods to newer methods. While we do not believe we are "on the cutting edge" of technology by any means, we are trying to move forward. There are three areas that I would like to discuss.

1. GHSA WEB SITE: The GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net) is the primary communication tool used by the association. Statistics indicate that an average of 4,000,000 "hits" occur each month. If you and your staffs are not familiar with this site, please take a look at it and utilize its resources. The Constitution and By-laws are available in a ready-reference form. Information about the association (past, present, and future) is available so that school



personnel can find answers to their questions. GHSA forms are available for downloading. Educational materials in the areas of sportsmanship and sports medicine are updated with some degree of regularity. If you have difficulty navigating the web site, please let us know so we can provide the assistance you desire.

- 2. <u>ALL-SCHOOL EMAILS</u>: There are very few, if any, all-school mailings. Information that amplifies the web site information or information that needs immediate attention from school personnel will be sent to the schools' designated contact persons. Please be certain that the contact person does check emails periodically and that they distribute the information as needed. Specific emails may be sent to Principals, ADs, or individual coaches directly.
- 3. <u>CRISIS TELEPHONE COMMUNICATION</u>: The GHSA is linked to member schools through the "Crisis Communication System". In the event of weather emergencies or other events that would be disruptive to GHSA activities in specific regions of Georgia or the entire state, the GHSA is capable of sending telephone messages to provide essential information.

These modest steps to improve communication between the state office and member schools will be refined and improved as time goes on. Please feel free to give us constructive feedback as to how we can work better together.

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION Newsletter

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OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday

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

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- Associate Director - Basketball, Soccer, Softball

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

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- Receptionist -

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

GHSA Licensed Products

Advanced orders for GHSA event T-shirts can be placed with All-Star Outfitters at www.asoapparel.com or call 678-569-0134 ... Action photos from select championship events can be found at Photographic Arts www.schoolpix.biz / 678-393-1719 ... DVDs / VHS copies of GHSA televised games can be ordered from www.gametapes.com / 206-285-8816 ... Visit the GHSA Store and a full list of GHSA sponsors and licensees at www.ghsa.net.

ATTENTION: Diving Coaches

The 2009 GHSA State Diving Championships have been moved to Marist School. This is a change from the original schedule in the 2008-09 Constitution & By-Laws.

The Class AAAAA Diving Championship will be held at 1:00 p.m., on Wednesday, February 11, 2009.

The Class A-AAAA Diving Championship will be held at 1:00 p.m., on Thursday, February 12, 2009.

The **only** changes are to the location, time and date of the Diving portion of the State Swimming & Diving Meet. All other rules as to qualification, timing and scoring remain as printed in the GHSA by-laws.

Volleyball to Stream Live

For the third straight year, volleyball fans will be able to watch the GHSA State Volleyball Championships presented by Mizuno through free online video streaming available at www.GHSA.net.

The live Webcasts are a production of ScoreAtlanta. Providing color commentary will be Phil Bush, an expert on the Georgia scholastic volleyball scene.

The GHSA State Volleyball Championships will take place on November 1 at Marietta High School. The schedule has Class AA/A at 11 a.m., AAA at 1: 30 p.m., AAAA at 4 p.m., and AAAAA at 7 p.m.

Free online video viewing is available both live and ondemand. The sponsors of the live streaming event will be Verizon Wireless, Mizuno and Spalding, the official volleyball of the GHSA.

Hibbett Sports Joins GHSA

Hibbett Sports has joined the GHSA as a corporate part-

ner with support of Comcast Sports broadcasts, in-Sports Countshow.



playoff TV on Southeast and radio cluding the Hibbett down To Kickoff

Attention Athletic Directors: GHSA sponsors may request display space at any GHSA playoff event. Sponsors have been asked to coordinate with the host school's athletic director 2-3 days before the game.

For any questions contact GHSA Marketing, Alan Sharp at 770-401-3129 / alansharp@sharpedgeventures.com.

Mizuno enters its sixth season as a GHSA partner and will be presenting sponsor of the upcoming softball and volley-ball state championships.

GHSA Dues Must Be Paid By Oct. 15

School administrators are reminded that the deadline for paying GHSA membership dues is October 15th. An invoice for the dues can be found in the "Forms" section on the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net).

Softball Finals Bulletin

Teams advancing to the State Softball Championships October 23 – 25 at the South Commons Complex in Columbus need to follow the procedures listed below:

TEAM ROSTER AND PHOTO – Must be emailed to the Columbus Sports Council at licenhour@columbusga.org by 12:00 PM on Monday, October 20. Failure to do so will result in a \$250 fine to the school.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS – Go to www.regonline.com/gahsasoftball for team registration and hotel selection. The site will not be active until 8 p.m., on Saturday, October 18. For more information regarding team lodging call 1-800-999-1613 or 706-322-1613 and refer to "GHSA Housing" when you call.

OPENING CEREMONIES – Every team playing in the Championship will be required to attend the Opening Ceremonies in uniform at 2 p.m., on Thursday, October 23. The Opening Ceremonies will take place after the noon games on the Stadium Field.

ON-LINE INFORMATION PACKET – The team information packets will be available on the GHSA website beginning Wednesday, October 1. Go to www.ghsa.net and click on the SOFTBALL FINALS INFORMATION banner.

PRESALE TOURNAMENT TICKETS – Go to www.columbusgasports.com to purchase presale tickets. Click on "Softball" then "GHSA" then "Tickets" to make the purchase. This function will be available beginning Monday, October 20.

ATTENTION: Tennis Coaches

Questions have been directed to the GHSA office about a new "Team Tournament" sanctioned by the USTA this year during November and December.

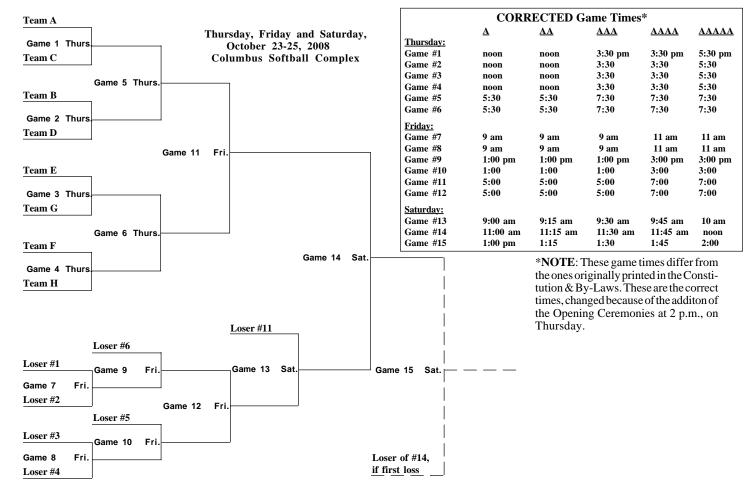
Since this is out of season for GHSA tennis teams, players from GHSA schools may participate in this tournament only under the following conditions:

- High school coaches may NOT organize the team for this event or be involved in any way. Parents, players or nonschool coaches must organize these teams.
- 2) The GHSA high school may not pay the entry fee or provide transportation for the "team" to this event.
- 3) The players may not wear school uniforms or logos, or represent their schools. For example, players could go as the Valdosta Aces, but not as the Valdosta Wildcats.
- 4) No tennis coach on the school's staff may attend this event.

In short, participation in this event is allowed under the "Unattached Competitor" rule of By-Law 2.62-d(4), but all the restrictions of that by-law must be followed.

If there are any further questions about this tournament, or any other tennis-related issue, please contact Steve Figueroa at the GHSA office (706-647-7473, ext. 4).

FAST-PITCH SOFTBALL FINALS - 2008 AAAAA - AAAA - AAA - AA - A





National High School Activities Week

Since 1980, the NFHS has set aside the third week in October to celebrate and encourage schools and communities to highlight the importance of high school activities such as athletics, speech and debate, music, drama, band and spirit squads. Through the week, different days, such as national Be A Sport day, are highlighted through official designation. The goal is to increase the public's awareness of the positives that result from participation.

'Ways to Celebrate the Week' - October 12-18

Sunday, Oct. 12

National Be A Sport Day

- Make up positive cheers, chants or songs
- Print bookmarks with sportsmanship ideas; ask library to slip them into all books
- Give incentives to faculty, staff and students "caught" being a sport
- Use table tents in cafeteria, reading lounges or library for sportsmanship messages
- Welcome visiting teams with announcement over PA system
- Make posters for contest

Monday, Oct. 13

National Fine Arts Activities Day

- Recognize fine arts participants at pep rally
- Organize youth talent program for community
- Give program at elementary school or judge "Star Search" program
- Invite middle school band students to perform with high school band at football game
- Invite local actors or musicians
- for performance with students
- Do feature story in campus newspaper

Tuesday, Oct. 14

National Officials Day

- Host breakfast for officials who help in sports and fine arts
- Hold class competition of "You Make the Call;" feature questions on sports rules
- Have round-table discussion with students, officials and parents
- Donate sportsmanship-related book or video to library on behalf of officials
- Send certificates of recognition and appreciation letters to officials

Wednesday, Oct. 15

National Youth Health Awareness Day

- Offer pregame meal with nutritional analysis
- Hold workshops on health issues; recognize school nurse, trainer and team doctor
- Offer students opportunity to "shadow" health professionals
- Create and display bulletin boards and posters dealing with healthy life-style issues
- Have students prepare directory of community agencies
- Set aside part of practice to discuss healthy life-style issues

Thursday, Oct. 16

National Coaches / Sponsors / Advisors Day

- Host breakfast for all coaches and sponsors
- Ask non-coaching members of the faculty to be "coaches of the day"
- Honor different coaches and advisors each hour of the day
- Recognize coaches, sponsors and their families during school events
- Let "fan of the week" sit on the bench with the team
- Play "Name that Coach" clue game

Friday, Oct. 17

National Fan Appreciation Day

- Provide booster club members a coupon for free popcorn and soda
- Present free program to fans (based on school colors or other criteria)
- Give school shirts to most avid fans (students and adults)
- Offer tailgate party with refreshments
- Introduce parents of players and cheerleaders during pregame
- Ask media to feature fan with longest attendance record

Saturday, Oct. 18

National Community Service / Participation Day

- Offer free admission to event to representatives of program advertisers
- Hold open house; invite alumni, businesses and media to attend
- Do radio or television public service announcements with activities participants
- Offer "errand running" service for elderly
- Recognize business partners in programs
- Offer school souveniers at auction to fund service project

High School Sports Participation Increases Again; Girls and Overall Participation Reach All-Time Highs

INDIANAPOLIS, IN - For the 19th consecutive year, the number of student participants in high school athletics increased in 2007-08, according to the National Federation of State High School Associations.

Based on figures from the 50 state high school athletic/ activity associations, plus the District of Columbia, that are members of the NFHS, participation for the 2007-08 school year set an all-time high of 7,429,381, according to the 2007-08 High School Athletics Participation Survey conducted by the NFHS.

In addition, boys and girls participation figures reached all-time highs, with 3,057,266 girls and 4,372,115 boys participating in 2007-08. The girls figure surpassed the total of 3,021,807 set last year, while the boys figure eclipsed the former record of 4,367,442 set in 1977-78.

Through the survey, it was also determined that 54.8 percent of students enrolled in high schools participate in athletics.

"This is certainly another great report on the interest of high school sports in our nation's schools," said NFHS Executive Director Robert F. Kanaby. "The fact that we experienced all-time records for both girls and boys reflects the fact that the high school sports participation experience is more viable than ever and is of great interest to our nation's young people. In addition, the results support the NFHS 2008-2011 Strategic

Number of Schools

Plan, in which the organization committed to providing stronger leadership and support for high school athletics and fine arts activities."

Competitive spirit squads gained the most female participants in 2007-08 with 16,130, followed by soccer with 8,913 and cross country with 6,973.

Lacrosse gained the most participants among boys sports in 2007-08 with 11,336, followed by soccer with 5,562, swimming and diving with 5,158 and cross country with 5,042.

In terms of combined participation, the emerging sports of bowling and lacrosse continued their rise in popularity with significant percentage increases. Overall participation in bowling increased 17 percent, while lacrosse participation was up 14 percent.

Basketball remained the most popular sport for girls with 449,450 participants, followed by outdoor track and field (447,520), volleyball (397,968), fast pitch softball (371,293), soccer (346,545), cross country (190,349), tennis (172,455), swimming and diving (147,197), competitive spirit squads (111,307) and golf (69,243).

In boys sports, 11-player football once again topped the list with 1,108,286 participants, followed by basketball (552,935), outdoor track and field (548,821), baseball (478,029), soccer (383,561), wrestling (259,688), cross country (221,109), golf (159,958), tennis (156,285) and swimming and diving (111,896).

TEN MOST POPULAR BOYS PROGRAMS

Number of Schools		Total Participants	
1. Basketball	17,861	1. Football — 11-player 1,108,286	
2. Track and Field — Outdoor	15,835	2. Basketball	
3. Baseball	15,720	3. Track and Field — Outdoor 548,821	
4. Football — 11-player	13,987	4. Baseball	
5. Golf	13,647	5. Soccer	
6. Cross Country	13,485	6. Wrestling	
7. Soccer	11,122	7. Cross Country	
8. Wrestling	10,090	8. Golf	
9. Tennis	9,576	9. Tennis	
10. Swimming and Diving	6,428	10. Swimming and Diving	

TEN MOST POPULAR GIRLS PROGRAMS

Total Participants

1. Basketball	17,564	1. Basketball	449,450
2. Track and Field — Outdoor	15,772	2. Track and Field — Outdoor	447,520
3. Volleyball	15,009	3. Volleyball	397,968
4. Softball — Fast Pitch	14,846	4. Softball — Fast Pitch	371,293
5. Cross Country	13,294	5. Soccer	346,545
6. Soccer	10,543	6. Cross Country	190,349
7. Tennis	9,694	7. Tennis	172,455
8. Golf	9,447	8. Swimming and Diving	147,197
9. Swimming and Diving	6,766	9. Competitive Spirit Squads	111,307
10. Competitive Spirit Squads	4,510	10. Golf	. 69,243

GHSA Officials / Coaches Clinics

By-Law #2.54, page 37 of the 2008-09 GHSA Constitution and By-Laws states: Every coach at a GHSA member school must attend a **GHSA-sponsored rules clinic** if he/she coaches the following sports: football, softball, volleyball, riflery, cheerleading (spirit and/or competitive), basketball, lacrosse, wrestling, swimming and diving, track, baseball, soccer and gymnastics.

- (a) A fine per coach who does not attend a clinic will be assessed to the school.
- (b) All Community Coaches are reminded that clinic attendance is mandatory for them, also.

Following is a listing of the remaining 2008-09 GHSA Rules Clinics for coaches and officials.

Weeknight clinics begin at 7:30 p.m. Saturday clinics begin at 10 a.m., unless otherwise noted. ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED.

NOTE: All CHEERLEADING, FOOTBALL, RIFLERY, SOFTBALL and VOLLEYBALL clinics have been completed.

	GYMNASTICS
December 7	Westminster (1 p.m.)

BASKETBALL (Coaches ONLY)

October 4	Stone Mountain High School, Auditorium
October 4	Westover High School, Auditorium
October 7	Tift County High School, Commons
October 7	Wheeler High School, Auditorium
October 11	Northside High School, WR, Auditorium
	Rome High School, Commons
October 14	Chapel Hill High School, Auditorium
October 14	Oconee County High School, Commons
October 18	Westside High School, Macon, Cafeteria
October 18	Whitewater High School
October 21	Savannah Country Day
October 21	Columbus High School, Auditorium
October 22	East Laurens High School, Cafeteria
October 25	Gainesville High School, Auditorium
October 25	Evans High School, Auditorium
October 28	Dalton High School, Auditorium
October 28	Buford High School, Auditorium
October 30	Woodward Academy
November 1	Ware County High School, Cafeteria
November 1	GHSA Office, Thomaston

SOCCER Code: C = Coaches. R = Returning Officials. N = New Officials

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Coaches may attend any clinic listed
January 3 Wheeler High School, Auditorium (C/R/N)
January 3 Savannah Country Day, Auditorium (C/R/N)
January 8Lovett School, Theatre (C/R)
January 8 Whitewater High School, Auditorium (C/R)
January 10 Westover High School, Auditorium (C/R/N)
January 15Johnson HS, Gainesville, Theatre (C/R)
January 17 Columbus High School, Cafeteria (C/R/N)
January 17 Brunswick High School, Cafeteria (C/R/N)
January 22 Norcross High School, Auditorium (C/R)
January 22 Dalton High School, Theatre (C/R)
January 24 Evans High School, Auditorium (C/R/N)
January 24 Westside HS, Macon, Cafeteria (C/R/N)
January 31 Peachtree Ridge HS, Commons (C/R/N)
January 31 Tift County High School, Commons (C/R/N)
February 7 Oconee County HS, Commons (C/R/N)

SWIMMING & DIVING

October 11	Albany High School, Gymnasium
October 18	Savannah Country Day, Auditorium
	Westminster School, Robinson Hall
October 23	Norcross High School, Auditorium
October 25	St. Pius X High School, Auditorium

WRESTLING

October 21 October 22 October 23 October 25 October 27	Calhoun High School, Auditorium Morgan County High School, Media Centel Tift County High School, Auditorium Whitewater High School, Auditorium Vidalia High School, Cafeteria Collins Hill High School, Auditorium Groves High School, ROTC Building Eagles Landing High School Lakeside High School, Evans, Auditorium
October 29	
	Columbus High School, Cafeteria

October 13...... Marist School, Cafeteria

LACROSSE

January 29	Pope High School, Theatre 7:30 pm (B)
January 29	. Woodward Academy, Chapel 7:30 pm (G)
January 31	Chattahoochee High School 10:00 am (B/G)
February 7	Marist School, Gym 10:00 am (B/G)

TRACK & FIELD

January 21 We	stover High School, Auditorium
January 21 Wh	eeler High School, Auditorium
January 22 Jeff	ferson High School, Theatre
	stside High School, Macon, Cafeteria
January 28 St. I	Pius X High School, Auditorium
January 29 Col	umbus High School, Cafeteria
January 31 Dub	olin High School, Cafeteria
January 31 Sav	vannah Country Day, Auditorium
February 2 Car	rollton High School, Field House
February 4 Cal	houn High School, Auditorium
February 5 Lov	rejoy High School, Commons
February 7 Tho	omson High School, Cafeteria
	re County High School, Cafeteria

BASEBALL

BASEBALL
February 2 Columbus High School, Cafeteria
February 2 Dalton High School, Theatre
February 4 Statesboro High School, Media Center
February 4 Wheeler High School, Auditorium
February 5 Evans High School, Auditorium
February 5 Norcross High School, Auditorium
February 9 Vidalia High School, Cafeteria
February 9 Savannah Country Day, Auditorium
February 9 Westover High School, Auditorium
February 11 Oconee County High School, Cafeteria
February 11 Northside High School, WR, Auditorium
February 12 Lowndes High School, Cafeteria
February 12 Woodward Academy, Chapel
February 16 GHSA Office, Thomaston
February 18 Whitewater High School, Auditorium
February 18 Rome High School, Commons
February 19 Ware County High School, Cafeteria
February 19 Habersham Central High School, Cafeteria
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GHSA Approved & Sanctioned Events - October/November

BASKETBALL:

Beach High School, November 25-26, 2008 Dade County High School, November 26,28 & 29, 2008 East Jackson High School, November 22,24,25 & 29, 2008 Gilmer High School, November 24-26, 2008 Glenn Hills High School, November 24-25, 2008 (Girls) Lincoln County High School, November 22 & 24, 2008 (Girls) Lowndes High School, November 24-26, 2008 Madison County High School, November 22 & 25, 2008 Morrow High School, November 24,25,26,28 & 29, 2008 Mt. Zion High School-Jonesboro, November 22,24,25 & 29, 2008 North Gwinnett High School, November 22,24 & 25, 2008 North Oconee High School, November 28-29, 2008 Pebblebrook High School, November 20,21,22,24 & 25, 2008 Richmond Academy, November 28-29, 2008 (Boys) Savannah Christian School, November 25-26, 2008 Savannah Country Day School, November 21-22, 2008 South Forsyth High School, November 22,25,26 & 29, 2008 Southeast Whitfield High School, November 25,26,28 & 29, 2008 Towns County High School, November 24-25, 2008 Vidalia High School, November 15 & 18, 2008 White County High School, November 24-25, 2008

CHEERLEADING:

Brookstone School, October 4, 2008 Carrollton High School, October 11, 2008 Cedartown High School, October 4, 2008 Central Gwinnett High School, October 25, 2008 Central High School, October 18, 2008 Chestatee High School, October 18, 2008 Duluth High School, October 4, 2008 East Coweta High School, October 18, 2008 East Laurens High School, October 11, 2008 Effingham County High School, October 25, 2008 Fitzgerald High School, October 18, 2008 Forsyth Central High School, October 18, 2008 Gordon Central High School, October 18, 2008 Grayson High School, October 4, 2008 Houston County High School, October 18, 2008 Kennesaw Mountain High School, October 4, 2008 LaFayette High School, October 18, 2008 Loganville High School, October 18, 2008 Mary Persons High School, October 25, 2008 North Cobb High School, October 18, 2008 Ola High School, October 4, 2008 Peachtree Ridge High School, October 11, 2008 Pepperell High School, October 4, 2008 Pope High School, October 18, 2008 Roswell High School, October 25, 2008 Southeast Bulloch High School, October 11, 2008 Starr's Mill High School, October 4, 2008 Tift County High School, October 4, 2008 Vidalia High School, October 4, 2008 Walton High School, October 25, 2008 Ware County High School, October 18, 2008 Winder-Barrow High School, October 25, 2008 Woodstock High School, October 25, 2008 Worth County High School, October 25, 2008

CROSS COUNTRY:

Alexander High School, October 4, 2008 Atlanta Public Schools, October 15, 2008 Bleckley County High School, October 18, 2008 Carrollton High School, October 25, 2008 Cartersville High School, October 7, 2008 Cass High School, October 7, 2008 Chattahoochee High School, October 4, 2008 East Jackson High School, October 21, 2008 Greenbrier High School, October 18, 2008 Lassiter High School, October 4, 2008 Lithia Springs High School, October 1, 2008 Marist School, October 25, 2008 Mill Creek High School, October 18, 2008 Northeast High School, October 2, 2008 Northeast High School, October 16, 2008 Oconee County High School, October 14, 2008 Pepperell High School, October 23, 2008 Pickens High School, October 18, 2008 Pike County High School, October 11, 2008 Riverside Military Academy, October 18, 2008 Savannah Country Day School, October 22, 2008 Spalding High School, October 4, 2008 Spalding High School, October 11, 2008 Thomas County Central High School, October 18, 2008 Ware County High School, October 23, 2008 Washington County High School, October 9, 2008 Wayne County High School, October 16, 2008 Wesleyan High School, October 18, 2008 Westover High School, October 4, 2008 White County High School, October 7, 2008 Woodland High School, October 14, 2008

DEBATE/FORENSICS/LITERARY:

Fayette County High School, November 14-15, 2008 Lee County High School, October 17-18, 2008 Sequoyah High School, November 8, 2008 Westminster School, October 31-November 1, 2008

SWIMMING & DIVING:

Chapel Hill High School, November 13, 2008 Chapel Hill High School, November 21, 2008 Whitewater High School, November 15, 20088

VOLLEYBALL:

Blessed Trinity High School, October 10-11, 2008 Collins Hill High School, October 3-4, 2008 Glynn Academy, October 4, 2008 North Cobb High School, October 1 & 4, 2008 Southeast Whitfield High School, October 4, 2008 Whitewater High School, October 4, 2008

WRESTLING:

Allatoona High School, November 22, 2008 Athens Christian School, November 29, 2008 Centennial High School, November 22, 2008 Colquitt County High School, November 22, 2008 Dacula High School, November 22, 2008 Forsyth Central High School, November 22, 2008 Grayson High School, November 29, 2008 Holy Innocents' Episcopal School, November 25, 2008 Kennesaw Mountain High School, November 29, 2008 Miller Grove High School, November 29, 2008 North Forsyth High School, November 29, 2008 South Forsyth High School, November 26, 2008 Toombs County High School, November 22, 2008 Wesleyan School, November 26, 2008 West Hall High School, November 22, 2008 Westside High School-Augusta, November 21-22, 2008

GHSA - October Calendar - 2008

October

3	Deadline for notification of entry in One Act Play
4	Deadline to set Riflery schedules
6	Earliest date for Riflery match
7	Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
10	Deadline date to file Riflery schedules with GHSA office
11	Complete Region Softball
13	Report Region Softball winners by noon
15	Deadline for payment of GHSA membership dues
17, 18	Complete Sectionals in Softball
18	Determine Area Volleyball winners
20	Report Area Volleyball winners by noon
20	Earliest practice date for Swimming
21	Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
23, 25	Volleyball Sectionals
23-25	Softball State Tournament Finals
27	Earliest date for Basketball practice
30	Volleyball Semifinals

GHSA Sponsors































