



GHSA

“Items of Interest”

October 2013

Know the GHSA Rules and By-Laws to Avoid Problems

The more moving parts that are in an organism (or organization), the more complicated it is to coordinate the activities of that organism. That obvious truth is demonstrated daily in the activities of the GHSA and its 448 member schools.

The “plates” of administrators, teachers, coaches, and supporting staff members are full just with the business that occurs within the school environment. Then the GHSA adds another layer of policies and procedures that school personnel are expected to follow. However, if the interscholastic activities in Georgia are going to operate effectively within the principles of education-based competitions, compliance of association standards is necessary.

Here is a non-exhaustive listing of important things that are expected of coaches and administrators by the GHSA:

1. Each coach should have a working knowledge of the rules of his/her sport. These rules change over time, so a coach should have an up-to-date copy of the rules book published by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). Those books may be purchased from the GHSA office with an order form found on the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net).

2. Each coach should have a working knowledge of the procedures of the GHSA that are published in the sport-specific sections of the GHSA By-laws. These policies and procedures are subject to change, so they should be checked regularly on the GHSA web site.

3. All people working with student-athletes need to have a working knowledge of academic eligibility rules, and a thorough system for checking on and filing eligibility forms for these students. Students who are academically ineligible may not participate in practices or in competitions. Once again, the academic eligibility standards are found on the association web site in the GHSA By-laws (1.51 - 1.59).

4. All people working with student-athletes need to have a working knowledge of transfer eligibility rules, and need to communicate those rules to incoming and outgoing students. These rules are quite complicated with the specific rules and the variety of exceptions that are available. It is important to understand the definition of a “bona fide move,” to understand that a change in “guardianship” is not valid for eligibility purposes, and to understand that “school-choice/permissive transfers” do not carry athletic eligibility. Transfer eligibility standards are found in GHSA By-laws 1.61-1.69.

5. Administrators need to know that they may choose to file hardship appeals or may choose not to file them. The GHSA definition of a “hardship” specifies that the issues need to be outside the control of the people involved. Inconveniences and options for a “better educational experience” do not necessarily constitute a hardship.

Many of the problems that are encountered in our interscholastic activities result from people not knowing the rules and procedures, or trying to seek ways around those rules and procedures. Remember: smart people are often good at getting out of problems that wise people would have avoided in the first place.



– Ralph Swearngin, Executive Director

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. 32 October 2013 No. 2

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GHSA Licensed Products

This month's featured GHSA licensees are: **Chill Zone** (chillzonellc.com), sales / rentals of misting fans and heaters; **Georgia Photographic** (georgiaphotographics.com); **RiverOak Photography** (riverokphotography.com); **Pinion Photography** (pinionphotography.com) & **Athletic Image** (theathleticimage.com), official action photographer; **PlayOn Sports**, produce, your school's own video streaming Web channel (playonsports.com); and **Sports Imports**, official volleyball net systems (sportsimports.com).

REMINDER: GHSA Membership Dues Must Be Paid On Or Before October 15th!

Online Wrestling Clinics Set!

All Wrestling Coaches must complete the online **NFHS/GHSA Rules Clinic** again this season. The Rules Clinic is available on the GHSA web site between the dates of Sunday, Oct. 27 and Sunday Nov. 17 ONLY!

In addition, at least one (1) coach from each member school must complete the online **Weight Management Seminar** between the dates of Sunday, Oct. 27 and Sunday Nov. 17, also on the GHSA web site.

State Softball Playoff Information

Teams advancing to the GHSA State Softball Championships presented by Mizuno on October 31-November 2 need to follow the procedures listed below (Additional **Team Instructions** may be found on the **GHSA web site**):

TEAM ROSTER AND PHOTO – Must be emailed to the Columbus Sports Council at msherman@columbusga.org by 12 p.m., on Monday, October 28. Failure to do so will result in a \$250 fine to the school.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS – Go to www.visitcolumbusga.org for team registration and hotel selection. The site will not be active until 8 p.m., on Saturday, October 26. 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 1 p.m., on October 31. The Opening Ceremonies will take place after the noon games on the Stadium Field.

ON-LINE INFORMATION PACKETS – The team information packets for First Round and Second Round contests as well as for the State Finals tournament are available **now** on the GHSA website. Go to www.ghsa.net and click on the appropriate banners.

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 28.

Stay Connected to the GHSA!

For all coaches, athletic directors and teams that are active in social media, the GHSA invites you to follow ("like") the GHSA on [Facebook.com/OfficialGHSA](https://www.facebook.com/OfficialGHSA) and be a fan at [Twitter.com/officialGHSA](https://twitter.com/officialGHSA). Statewide news, association announcements and playoff information are posted daily for interaction with GHSA followers and fans. When Twittering scores of games, please include the tag "@OfficialGHSA" to enable scores to be posted on the GHSA feed.



Volleyball on GHSA.tv

Get set for action at the GHSA Volleyball State Championships presented by Mizuno on November 1 and 2 at Marietta High School.

All six (6) finals will stream live for a seventh season in partnership with the NFHS Network and PlayOn Sports. Subscription rates will apply. The full schedule will be posted on GHSA.net.

Webcast partners are: Mizuno, Verizon, Molten (official ball) and Sports Imports (official net system).

SEMIFINAL MATCHES

October 30, 2013

All Semifinal Round matches will be held at the court of the higher-seeded teams

**CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES
(at Marietta High School)**

November 1, 2013

Times: 5:30 & 7:30 pm

November 2, 2013

Times: 11:00 am, 1:30, 4:00 & 7:30 pm

(Note: Exact schedule to be set after semifinal teams are decided.)



GHSA Welcomes Four New Licensees

The GHSA would like to welcome the following new licensees:

■ **Fit Communities / Rubber Floors and More**, fitness equipment and rubber flooring provider (fit-communities.com)

■ **Hartwell Studio Works**, creating unique, dynamic and protectable spirit logos / marks (hartwellstudioworks.com)

■ **Sports Imports**, world-class volleyball net systems (sportsimports.com)

■ **Planet HS**, connecting high communities online (planeths.com).

View all licensee at www.ghsa.net/licensing.



Online Basketball Clinics Set!

All Basketball Coaches are reminded that they must complete the online **NFHS / GHSA Rules Clinic**. The Rules Clinic is available on the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net) between the dates of Friday, Oct. 18 and Friday, Nov. 8 **ONLY!**

REMINDER: GHSA Membership Dues Must Be Paid On Or Before October 15th!

GHSA Official Balls

Coaches and school administrators are reminded that the GHSA State Executive Committee has approved "Official" balls for all GHSA state playoff events.

Listed below are the balls that will be provided for GHSA state playoff events. These balls are effective from now through June 30, 2016.

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Make/Model</u>
Baseball	WILSON A1010
Basketball	WILSON WAVE "SOLUTION" Boys: B0600 Girls: B0601
Football	WILSON F1003 or F1005
Soccer	BRINE "Championship"
Softball (optic yellow 12")	WILSON A9011 BSST
Volleyball	MOLTEN IV58L-3-HS "Super Touch"

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."



The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) has designated the month of October as National High School Activities Month to help schools throughout the nation promote the values inherent in high school athletic and performing arts activities.

Started in 1980 as National High School Activities Week, the NFHS expanded the celebration to a month in 2011 to provide additional time for the 19,000-plus high schools to hold special activities at the local level.

"High school sports and activity programs provide one of the best bargains in our community and nation and will continue to do so as long as our nation supports them as an integral part of the education of our young people," said Bob Gardner, NFHS executive director. "Not only do these programs teach the more than 11 million young people who participate in them valuable life skills lessons, such as ethics, integrity and healthy lifestyles, they also provide the best entertainment value in our nation."

The NFHS has provided suggested activities for schools during each of the week-long events. All materials for National High School Activities Month, including The Case for High School Activities, are available on the NFHS Web site at www.nfhs.org (About NFHS/About Us Resources/2013 National High School Activities Month Materials).

Ways to Celebrate 'Activities Month' - October, 2013

October 1-5

National Sportsmanship & Fan Appreciation Week

What You Can Do:

- Make up positive cheers, chants or songs
- Make posters for contest
- Cheer good plays made by the opposing team
- Offer tailgate party with hot chocolate and refreshments
- Give Booster Club members coupon for free pop and popcorn
- Introduce parents of players and cheerleaders during pregame ceremony
- Give school shirt to most avid fans (student and adult)
- Present chair cushion to a dedicated adult fan
- Dress up in your school spirit outfit
- During the course of the season, acknowledge season ticket-holders by name
- Hand out incentives to faculty, staff and students "caught" being a good sport

October 7-12

National Performing Arts Activities Week

What You Can Do:

- Recognize performing arts participants at pep rally
- Have reception for students interested in joining performing arts programs
- Create magnetic posters for display on lockers of students involved in performing arts
- Invite local actors or musicians for performance with students
- Do feature story in school newspaper
- Present drama skit during lunch
- Have a performing arts participant read the morning or afternoon announcements
- Have former band members return to play with current band
- Have former band members who are parents return to play with current band
- Present program to elementary school or judge "American Idol" program at local nursing home

October 14-19

National Coaches/Sponsors/Advisors/Officials Week

What You Can Do:

- Ask non-coaching faculty to serve as "coach of the day" to give them different perspective
- Honor different coaches and advisors each hour of the day
- Recognize coaches and sponsors and their families on public-address system during events
- Invite retired coaches to attend practice or event
- Post signs thanking officials
- Send letters or e-mails of thanks to a coach, sponsor or advisor
- Host breakfast for officials who help in sports and fine arts
- Have round-table discussion with students, officials and parents
- Send certificates of recognition and appreciation letters to officials
- Present the NFHS Sportsmanship-Ethics-Integrity Award to deserving officials

October 21-26

National Community Service/Youth Awareness Week

What You Can Do:

- Offer a beneficial service to business partners, i.e., clean parking lot, cut grass, etc.
- Offer free admission to event to representatives of program advertisers
- Hold open house in gymnasium; invite alumni, businesses and media to attend
- Do radio (school) and TV PSAs (community access) with activities participants
- Offer school souvenirs at auction
- Put announcement on school marquee
- Videotape and put on YouTube or on the school's Web site
- Hold student workshops on health issues; recognize school nurse, trainer and team doctor
- Read a "health tip of the hour"
- Create and display bulletin boards and posters dealing with healthy lifestyle issues

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

September 16, 2013

MINUTES

The semiannual meeting of the Executive Committee of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on September 16, 2013, 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

(Committee reports constitute motions by Chairman of the Committee, no seconds are required.)

NOTE: Proposals passed will go into effect for the 2014-15 school year unless specified to be "**effective immediately.**"

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Report presented by Wayne Tootle
The Committee **RECOMMENDED:**

For playoff events that are held at multiple, centralized sites, when venue expenses exceed 45% of the revenue for that day at that site, the GHSA will pay the excess expenses.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

BASEBALL COMMITTEE: Reporter: Don Corr
The Committee **RECOMMENDED:**

Adding an additional week of preseason practice for Baseball – starting 4 weeks before the date of first contest.

MOTION PASSED (Roll Call Vote #4 - Yes: 54, No - 4)

No: White, Hudson, L. Campbell and Oglesby.

ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE: Reporter: Glenn White
The Committee **RECOMMENDED:**

Proposal to amend **By-law 1.62c:** The student was enrolled in a non-member private school in Georgia or was boarded at a school out of state and, without a bona fide move, transferred to a GHSA member school that serves his area of residence as long as:

(1-3) remain as printed

(4) "it is the initial move of the student from a non-member school serving his area of residence. (Note: Rules about joint custody transfers overrule the one-time transfer restriction in this by-law.)"

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Proposal to amend **By-law 1.62f:** "If one of his/her parents or the custodial parent is a certified teacher or administrator teaching at the receiving school. This opportunity is available one time only at any given school. (Note: Rules about joint custody transfers overrule the one-time transfer restriction in this by-law.)"

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Re-write **By-law 1.68** as follows:

"Hardship applications may be filed by an administrator at a member school when a student does not meet the standards of eligibility outlined in By-laws 1.50 (academic issues) and 1.60 (transfer issues).

a) The GHSA Constitution (Art. IV; Sec. 5; Subsection B4) specifies that the hardship issues must be beyond the reasonable control of the persons involved.

b) The process for appealing a decision of the Hardship Committee is outlined in the GHSA Constitution (Art. IV; Sec. 9; Subsection C&D).

c) [remain as published]"

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

New **By-law 1.96:** "Players attending national camps or all-star events may keep reasonable benefits for housing, meals, and transportation. Players may keep only equipment that is commemorative in nature and/or used in the process of the event's workouts."

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE: Reporter: Earl Etheridge
The Committee **RECOMMENDED:**

Establish a \$250.00 penalty for schools that change their football schedules after June 1. NOTE: Appeal procedures are available.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

(over)

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, *Continued*

Change the bye week for Class A football teams in the post-season playoffs to the third round.

MOTION WITHDRAWN by 7-0 vote of football committee on September 16, 2013.

GOLF COMMITTEE: Reporter: Joe Lancaster

The Committee **RECOMMENDED:**

All State Golf Tournaments will be 36-hole events for all classifications and genders.

MOTION FAILED (Roll Call Vote #5 - Yes: 22, No - 36)

Yes: Griggers, Jones, Mathis, Long, Dowling, McCrary, Nobles, Payne, Brooks, Parrott, Potts, Wilson, Lancaster, Thompson, Fields, Oblesby, Hughes, Bradley, Williams, Arasi, Hampton, Wade.

No: Giddens, Hoffman, Horton, Hunter, Masters, Etheridge, Miller, Breedlove, Corr, Stringer, Tootle, Finch, Jewell, Sanford, Pollock, C. Campbell, Arnold, Beggs, Wood, Mobley, B. Rogers, Hudson, White, Ingram, Crews, Ingle, Tidwell, Queen, Stinchcomb, L. Campbell, Drew, Blenke, Truby, T. Rogers, Norwood, Holmes.

Change the playing distances required for all Regional Golf Tournaments as follows: Boys: 6,200 yards; Girls: 5100 yards. **[Effective Immediately]**

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Change the playing distances required for all Sectional Golf Tournaments as follows: Boys: 6,500 yards; Girls: 5500 yards. **[Effective Immediately]**

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Change the qualifying scores for advancement to post-season competitions to:

CLASS	BOYS	GIRLS
AAAAAA	330	300 (3 scores)
AAAAA	340	330 (3 scores)
AAAA & AAA	350	330 (3 scores)
AA	360	220 (2 scores)

[Effective Immediately]

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Change the number of individual qualifiers that will advance out of the Region Tournament.

- At the conclusion of regional competition, the top individual not on a qualifying team will advance.
- At the conclusion of sectional competition, 8 individuals will advance.

[Effective Immediately]

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

GYMNASTICS COMMITTEE: Reporter: Lucia Norwood

The Committee **RECOMMENDED:**

1. The top 12 teams and the top 24 individual gymnasts will qualify for the State Qualifying Meet based on regular season competitions.

[Effective Immediately]

Motion by Jesse Crews, seconded by Kevin Giddens, to table the proposal

MOTION (TO TABLE) PASSED (Roll Call Vote #6 - Yes: 54, No - 3, Absent - 1)

No: Wood, McCrary and Hudson. **Absent:** T. Rogers.

LITERARY COMMITTEE: Reporter: Tracey Sanford

The Committee **RECOMMENDED:**

Mandating a progressive program of judges' training for One Act Play competitions.

- 2013: At least one judge in each region or sub-region competition must have completed the training program.
- 2014: At least two judges in each region or sub-region competition must have completed the training program
- 2015: All judges in each region or sub-region competition must have completed the training program.

[Effective Immediately]

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

OFFICIALS COMMITTEE: Reporter: Earl Etheridge

The Committee **RECOMMENDED:**

Mandating the use of Arbiter as the official GHSA computer program for officiating business beginning July 1, 2014, and strongly

(over)

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, *Continued*

recommends that local associations use Arbiter as soon as possible.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Increase the registration fees for officials by \$2.00 per official.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

RECLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE: Reporter: Earl Etheridge
The Committee **RECOMMENDED:**

1. Maintain the six classification structure currently used with the same division of Class A public and private schools.

MOTION PASSED (Roll Call Vote #7 - Yes: 50, No - 7, Absent - 1)

No: L. Campbell, Oglesby, Bradley, Fields, Parrott, B. Rogers, Nobles. **Absent:** T. Rogers.

2. Classify schools on the FTE count of student populations for grades 9-12.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

3. Conduct a survey of member schools (public and private) about the number of students who reside outside the school's service area.

MOTION PASSED (Roll Call Vote #8 - Yes: 56, No - 1, Absent - 1)

No: Drew. **Absent:** T. Rogers.

4. Create a task force to study the results of the survey of students living outside the school service area to determine if there is a need to deal with that situation in future reclassification procedures. [Vote 12-1]

MOTION PASSED (Roll Call Vote #9 - Yes: 56, No - 1, Absent - 1)

No: Drew. **Absent:** T. Rogers.

SOFTBALL COMMITTEE: Reporter: Don Corr
The Committee **RECOMMENDED:**

1. Proposal to allow time limits to be used at varsity invitational tournaments as follows:

- No game may be less than five (5) innings regardless of the time limit (4.5 innings if the home team is ahead)
- No time limit may be less than 90 minutes
- If the game is tied when the time limit expires, the International Tie-breaker must be implemented until there is a winner.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

SWIMMING COMMITTEE: Reporter: Rusty Hudson
The Committee **RECOMMENDED:**

1. Proposal for the 2014 GHSA State Meet to be a three-day event with an increase in admission fees to \$12.00 per day. [**Effective Immediately**]

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

2. Proposal to mandate an online clinic for Swimming & Diving Coaches about administrative procedures for qualification for the State Meet.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Dave Hunter, seconded by Tommy Stringer, to modify **By-law 4.22d**, adding the following: "Note: football may be exempted from the isolation policy."

MOTION PASSED (Roll Call Vote #10 - Yes: 54, No: 2, Absent: 2)

No: Nobles, Fields. **Absent:** T. Rogers, Hughes.

Motion by Jesse Crews, seconded by Wayne Tootle, to take the following proposal off the table and to accept the new wording of GHSA attorney Alan Connell: Amend **By-law 1.62h**: "Students who are U.S. citizens that have been enrolled in high school in a foreign country for the equivalent of at least one full semester shall, upon return to the U.S., be eligible to participate at a GHSA member school provided that the student lives in the new school's service area and is otherwise eligible under GHSA age, eight-semester, academic and other eligibility rules."

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

There being no further business, the President adjourned the meeting.

GHSA - October Calendar - 2013

October

- 1 Deadline for notification of entry in One Act Play & to set Riflery schedules
- 7 Earliest date for Riflery match
- 8 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 11 Deadline date to file Riflery schedules with GHSA office
- 12 Complete Region Softball; Determine Area Volleyball winners
- 14 Report Area Volleyball winners & Region Softball winners by 9 a.m.
- 15 Deadline to post Cross Country rosters; Deadline to pay GHSA dues
- 16, 17 First Round State Softball Classes 2A through 6A
- 16 First Round State Volleyball in 2A, 3A & 4A
- 17 First Round State Volleyball in A, 5A & 6A
- 21 Earliest practice date for Swimming
- 22 Second Round State Volleyball for all classifications
- 22 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 23, 24 Second Round State Softball 2A through 6A, First Round Class A
- 26 Quarterfinals State Volleyball; Complete Region/Area One Act Plays
- 28 Earliest date for Basketball & Wrestling practice
- 28 File reports of Region One Act Play winners
- 30 Semifinals State Volleyball
- 31 State Softball Tournament Finals (All Classes) Begins in Columbus

GHSA Sponsors

