

Hard to Believe, But It's Almost Playoff Time for Fall Sports

It is hard to believe we are nearly two months into the school year. It seems like yesterday we were starting school, kicking off the first time, throwing the first pitch, making the first serve and running the first race. We are closing in on the playoffs in volleyball, fast pitch softball and cross country and we've reached the midpoint of the football season. Cross country finals will be here before you know it and one act play competition is almost here.

The Fall is an exciting time and the sports and activities offered by our member schools greatly contribute to a successful school year. I want to thank our school communities for the great work that you do for our young people. As I travel around the state, I am always impressed by the atmosphere for contests you create and the great experiences you provide your students.

At the GHSA office, your staff is hard at work managing activities, planning quality championships and serving our member schools. There are a few things currently at the forefront that I would like to share with you.

Football Championships at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium: We have worked very hard to complete our contract to host the Football Championships at MBS December 8-9. It has been a long process and we are very impressed with the staffs of the Falcons

and the MBS. They have been great to work with from the beginning and have made every effort to accommodate our needs. The stadium is awesome and I believe it is the best venue not only in the United States, but anywhere. The teams that make it to the finals are sure to have an experience they will never forget. Everyone that attends will be impressed with the stadium and the experience it will provide. I encourage you to make your plans to be there.

Basketball Finals at Georgia Tech and the Macon Centreplex, Wrestling State Duals and Traditional Tournament at the Macon Centreplex: Georgia Tech proved to be an outstanding venue for our basketball championships last year. Attendance was outstanding and the atmosphere was electric. We are excited to return for the games to be played on March 10-11, 2018. The same can be said for UGA, but it will not be able to host again because school will be in session this time.

Basketball and both wrestling tournaments will be held at the Macon Centreplex this year. They will host the Basketball Finals on March 8-9, 2018 and the specific classifications to be held at each venue are to be announced. We will assign them based on geography as much as possible. The Wrestling Duals will be on January 11-13, 2018 and the Traditionals on February 8-10, 2018.

The Centreplex is under new management, Spectra, and you will notice the improvements that have been made to accommodate these events. New lighting, a new basketball court, standards and restroom and concessions renovations are among the improvements. I am also very happy to announce that there will be no charge for parking at these events. Mayor Robert Reichert, the Board of Commissioners and the Macon-Bibb Convention and Visitors Bureau joined with Spectra in the negotiations and were extremely accommodating. We are excited to host these events in Macon and I am confident that we will provide exemplary championships for our student-athletes.

Finally, the GHSA is your organization and our staff is in place to serve our member schools. If there is ever anything we can do for you, don't hesitate to give us a call or send an email.

-Robin Hines, Executive Director



No.2

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION Newsletter
Issued monthly, September through April, by the Georgia High
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OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday October 2017

Vol. 36

- GHSA STAFF -Areas of Responsibility

ROBIN HINES (extension 41) - Executive Director -Administration, By-Law Interpretations, Hardship Rulings, Football Playoffs, Coaches Education Program

JAY RUSSELL (extension 25) - Assistant Executive Director -By-Law Interpretations, Transfer Eligibility, Cross Country, Golf, Track

> ERNIE YARBROUGH (extension 27) - Coordinator of Officiating -Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Officials Training

DON CORR (extension 34) - Associate Director Soccer, Volleyball, Wrestling, Sports Medicine

TOMMY WHITTLE (extension 23) - Associate Director -Football, Literary, One-Act Play, Lacrosse

CARROR WRIGHT (extension 39) - Associate Director -Coach's Liaison, Compliance/Investigations, Sportsmanship

> **PENNY PITTS MITCHELL** (extension 22) - Associate Director -Cheerleading, Title IX Compliance

STEVE FIGUEROA (extension 26) - Director of Information/Media Services Media Coordination for State Events, Newsletter, GHSA Constitution & Calendar, Web Site Content, Tennis

PAM THOMPSON (extension 30) - Officials' Registration, Testing & Online Clinics, Service Awards

TANYA ANDERSON (extension 29) - Administrative Assistant -Event Sanctioning, School Passes, Directory, Online Clinics for Coaches, Trophies & Medals

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

GHSA Licensed Products

This month's featured licensees are: RiverOak Photography (riverokphotography.com); Pinion Photography (pinionphotography.com) & Athletic Image (theathleticimage.com), official action photographers; Athletes For A Better World & Positive Athlete GA, student character recognition (abw.org & georgia.positiveathlete.org); Jolyn Clothing, athletic swim and activewear company made for the women who inspire us. (Jolynclothing.com); and Precision Pro Golf Company, Precision Pro V400 golf laser rangefinder (precisionprogolf.com).

REMINDER: GHSA Membership Dues Must Be Paid On Or Before October 15th! The Membership Dues Invoice is on the GHSA web site under "forms." Please complete the form and submit it with your membership dues payment.

Softball Power Rating Procedures

Below is the timetable and procedures for release of the final 2017 Class A Softball Power Ratings, appeals and seeding of the playoff brackets, as well as the "at large" playoff team in Class 7A:

Oct. 7th - Region winners in all classifications must be determined and results entered into MaxPreps web site by the end of day on the 8th.

Oct. 8th - MaxPreps' final Class A power ratings will be posted on the GHSA web site.

Oct. 9th - Region playoff qualifiers in classes 2-A through 7-A (except for the "at large" team) must be submitted to the GHSA office by 9:00 a.m.

Oct. 9th:

(1) Any Class A school that believes its final power rating points are incorrect may file an appeal in writing to GHSA softball coordinator Ernie Yarbrough between 8 - 11 a.m. A fax is acceptable (706-647-2638) or you may e-mail directly to ery@ghsa.net. The appeal letter must be accompanied by a complete list of results and points earned for each game!

(2) A GHSA Softball Appeals Committee will verify the results (including any appeals), break any ties and determine the Class A playoff brackets.

(3) The results of the appeals and the Class A playoff brackets will be posted by 4:00 p.m., on the GHSA web site.

(4) The "At Large" team in Class 7A also will be determined by the Appeals Committee at this time and the advancing team will be posted to the 7A bracket by 4:00 p.m., on the GHSA web site.

NOTES:

(1) Teams winning a Region championship will be placed in the Class A brackets (public school or private school) first based on their power rating numbers. Then the rest of the Class A brackets will be completed based on the power rating numbers.

(2) Once posted, the brackets are FINAL.

NFHS Network Maintains Lower Rate

The NFHS Network is still offering the outstanding price model to fans that allows subscriptions to the network for a full 30-day period at a price of just \$9.95.

To subscribe to the NFHS Network, go to this link: http://www.nfhsnetwork.com/subscribe/retail.

NFHS Network - High School Happens Here!



State Softball Playoff Information

Teams advancing to the GHSA State Softball Championships presented by Mizuno on October 26-28, 2017 need to follow the procedures listed below (additional **Team Instructions** may be found on the **GHSA web site**):

TEAM ROSTER AND PHOTO – Must be sent via e-mail to RhondaRawls@scoreatl.com by 9:00 a.m., on Monday, October 16. Failure to do so will result in a \$250 fine to the school.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS – Go to <u>www.visitcolumbusga.org</u> for team registration and hotel selection. The site will not be active until 8 p.m., on Saturday, October 21.

For more information regarding team lodging, call 1-800-999-1613 or 706-256-0075 and refer to "GHSA Housing" when you call, or **e-mail Joel Slocumb** at jslocumb@visitcolumbusga.com.

OPENING CEREMONIES – Every team playing in the Championship will be required to attend **in uniform** the Opening Ceremonies at 1:30 p.m., on October 26.

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 <u>www.ghsa.net</u> and click on the appropriate banners.

PRESALE TOURNAMENT TICKETS – Go to <u>www.columbusgasports.com</u> to purchase presale tickets. Click on "Softball" then "GHSA" then "Tickets" to make the purchase. This function will be available beginning Monday, October 23.

Mobile tickets will be available on GoFan at https://gofan.co/app/school/GHSA.



Nominations Open For Vince Dooley Awards & Positive Athlete Georgia!

Nominations are open for the 2017-18 Vince Dooley Awards and Positive Athlete Georgia. These programs recognize the character building benefits of GHSA sports and activities participation.

Athletes for a Better World nominations for the 11th Annual Vincent J. Dooley Awards are open until February 28, 2018. The athletic director of each school may designate the Senior Class male and female recipient of the Awards for their school.

For more information and the nomination form, go to: http://www.abw.org/awards/dooley-award-nomination/.

Positive Athlete Georgia will be accepting nominations for high school athletes in any grade, in any sport, from any public or private school in the state of Georgia until March 16, 2018.

Last year, almost 5,000 student athletes and coaches from 400 different schools across Georgia were nominated and \$25,000 in college scholarships were awarded. So be sure to nominate your favorite high school athletes and coaches that embody the "Seven Definitions of a Positive Athlete!"

All you have to do to nominate is fill out the form at http://georgia.positiveathlete.org/nominate-now/.



- + OPTIMISTIC
- + ENCOURAGING
- **+**SERVANT LEADER
- **+**HEART FOR OTHERS
- **+**ADMITS IMPERFECTIONS
- +ALWAYS GIVES 100%
- **+**PUTS TEAM FIRST



Winning More Than The Game

G阳SA "Items of Interest"

Volleyball Finals Live on NFHS Network

The NFHS Network will stream live coverage of the GHSA Volleyball State Championships, presented by Mizuno, on Saturday, October 28 from Marietta High School and Holy Innocents'.

will be available Mobile tickets on GoFan at https://gofan.co/app/school/GHSA.

If you can't be there in person, family and friends can watch all the action at NFHSnetwork.com. Subscribing to the Network is still just \$9.95 for any 30-day period. DVDs can also be ordered on NFHS Network.com. NFHS Network - High School Happens Here!

Webcast partners include: Mizuno, Georgia Farm Bureau

Insurance, Sports Imports Net Systems and Molten.





VOLLEYBALL FINALS October 28, 2017

At Holy Innocents'

Class A - 11:00 am Class 2A - 1:30 pm Class 3A-4:00 pm

At Marietta HS

Class 4A - 11:00 am Class 5A-1:30 pm Class 6A-4:00 pm Class 7A-6:30 pm



2017 GHSA Cross Country Dates, Deadlines and Schedule

- Oct. 10 INITIAL deadline for electronic submission of Region or Area rosters on GHSA MIS site (https://app.ghsa.net/node). Changes to rosters may be made until the deadline established by each Region or Area prior to the beginning of the Region/Area Meet.
- **Oct. 28** Deadline to complete Region/Area Meets
- Oct. 30 9:00 a.m., deadline for electronic submission of Region/Area results on GHSA MIS site (https://app.ghsa.net/node)
- **Oct. 30** 5:00 p.m., deadline for Head Coaches of State Meet qualifying teams to confirm projected seven (7) runners at state meet (https://app.ghsa.net/node)
- State Meet at Carrollton High School Nov. 3-4 (www.ghsa.net/ghsa-state-cross-countrychampionships)

Schedule at Carrollton High School

Friday, Nov. 3, 2017 9:00 am Boys 5A 9:45 am Girls 5A 10:30 am Boys A Private 11:15 am Girls A Private 12 noon Boys 7A 12:45 pm Girls 7A

Saturday,	Nov. 4, 2017
8:00 am	Boys 2A
8:45 am	Girls 2A
9:30 am	Boys 3A
10:15 am	Girls 3A
11:00 am	Boys 4A
11:45 am	Girls 4A
12:30 pm	Boys 6A
1:15 pm	Girls 6A
2:00 pm	Boys 1A Public
2:45 pm	Girls 1A Public









National High School Activities Month

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.

Ways to Celebrate 'Activities Month' - October, 2017

October 1-7

National Sportsmanship, Fan Appreciation & PA 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 ticketholders by name

Hand out incentives to faculty, staff and students "caught" being a good sport

October 8-14

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 15-21

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 at-

tend 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 22-31

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

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

<u>AGENDA</u>

GHSA Office - Thomaston, GEORGIA

October 16, 2017 - 10:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance Invocation Roll Call	Glenn White, President
APPOINTMENTS: 10:00 am:	LeAnne McCall, Principal, Lowndes High School Appeal of student eligibility - Kassandra Hertzog (eight semesters)
10:15 am:	Kibbey Crumbley, Principal, Centennial High School Appeal of student eligibility - Antonio Buckley (eight semesters)

OLD BUSINESS:

Proposal to amend Article IV, Section 5, Paragraph C-2 of the GHSA Constitution as follows: C. 2. The Executive Director shall have the authority to grant or deny an application for hardship status. (**Note**: This is a constitutional change and requires two votes. This is the **second** vote.)

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. **Proposal** to reduce the number of teams automatically qualifying for the state playoffs from Region 1-7A in the sport of Soccer from four (4) to two (2). The other two state playoff berths would be filled by the highest power rated teams not already making the playoffs from any of the eight regions. (Norcross HS)
- 2. **Proposal** to reduce the number of teams automatically qualifying for the state playoffs from Region 1-7A in the sport of Soccer from four (4) to three (3). The other state playoff berth would be filled by the highest power rated teams not already making the playoffs from any of the eight regions. (Region 4-7A)
- 3. **Proposal** to restructure the Football calendar, moving the start of practice and the season one week later in 2018 and two weeks later in 2019 to help with heat issues. (Veterans HS)
- 4. **Proposal** to split Class A Soccer into Public and Private divisions for state championship consideration. (Atkinson County HS).
- 5. **Proposal** to increase the number of Class A Soccer teams qualifying for the state playoffs from 32 to 48 (24 each in Public and Private divisions). (Atkinson County HS)
- 6. **Proposal** to use power ratings to determine the 48 teams (24 each in Public and Private divisions) qualifying for the state playoffs in Class A Soccer. (Atkinson County HS)
- 7. **Proposal** to increase the number of Class A Cross Country teams qualifying for the state meet from 32 to 48 (24 each in Public and Private divisions). (Athens Academy)
- 8. **Proposal** to add an item "g" to by-law 2.92 on Page 44 as follows: "Judgement calls by contest officials are not reviewable or reversible." (GHSA office) **Effective Immediately**
- 9. **Proposal** to add the word "student" to the definition of a "booster" in by-law 1.73 on Page 22. (GHSA office) **Effective Immediately**

AGENDA, continued

- Proposal to standardize academic eligibility requirements for the sports of cheerleading, softball and volleyball by doing the following: Eliminate 1.51-c, Exception #2; Add to Section 2: Cheerleading item H-5-c "Students must meet academic eligibility requirements in order to try out for cheerleading" and Add to Section 15 - Volleyball item E-7 :Students participating must be academically eligible and ..." (GHSA office)
- 11. **Proposal** to reword by-law 2.16 on page 32 as follows (new wording in itallic): "Playing a Non-Region Schedule: A school may choose to play a non-region schedule in football, basketball and/or baseball, and this choice is in effect for *the two-year scheduling period*." (GHSA office) **Effective Immediately**
- 12. **Proposal** to reword by-law 4.24 on page 51 as follows (new wording in itallic): "A school that transfers to a higher classification must remain in the higher classification until schools are next reclassified on a state-wide basis, *but may appeal to the Reclassification Committee to come back down to its proper classification when adjustments are made after two years of the four-year reclassification cycle*." (GHSA office) **Effective Immediately**
- 13. **Proposal** to reword by-law 2.62-e-7 on page 36 as follows (new wording in itallic): "Drones shall not be permitted to fly during any GHSA sanctioned event (*Note: This prohibition begins when the gates or doors open and extends until the last spectator has left the field or arena.*)" (GHSA office) **Effective Immediately**
- 14. **Proposal** to add new item "4" to by-law 2.71-d on page 41 as follows: "The GHSA office may review film to determine participants in a fight situation at a GHSA event, or to determine athletes leaving their bench to go to a fight situation. Note: Penalties may be levied, modified or changed based on this film review." (GHSA office) **Effective Immediately**
- 15. **Proposal** to reword item 2. (e) on page 58 under the Baseball Pitching Restrictions to eliminate the requirement for a registered umpire to be paid to monitor the pitch counts. Instead, the home team will be responsible for providing an adult (21 or over) Pitch Count Monitor who will monitor the pitch counts for both teams, notify the umpire when a pitcher is nearing a threshold and later record the pitch counts on the GHSA MIS web site. (Baseball ad-hoc committee) **Effective Immediately**
- 16. **Proposal** to add wording to item 2. (e) on page 58 under the Baseball Pitching Restrictions to the effect that once a coach is warned that the pitcher is approaching a pitch count threshold, that pitcher shall be allowed to finish the batter. But, upon completion of that batter, the Days of Rest restrictions will only be based on the number of pitches that were thrown PRIOR to reaching the threshold. (Baseball ad-hoc committee) **Effective Immediately**
- 17. **Proposal** to add wording to item 2. (e) on page 58 under the Baseball Pitching Restrictions to the effect that any pitches that were thrown during a game that was suspended or rained out shall be counted for that pitcher towards any pitching restriction thresholds. (Baseball ad-hoc committee) **Effective Immediately**
- 18. Proposal to reword item 2. (h) on page 58 under the Baseball Pitching Restrictions to add the following under penalties for violating the pitch count restrictions (new wording in italic): "... the offending school shall be fined \$250, the head coach at that level assessed a two-game suspension, and the game forfeited." (Baseball ad-hoc committee) Effective Immediately

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Page

ADJOURNMENT

GHSA - October Calendar - 2017

October

- 1 Deadline to notify entry in One Act Play
- 30 Earliest date for Riflery match
 - 7 Complete Region Softball; Determine Area Volleyball winners
- 9 Report Region Softball & Area Volleyball winners by 9 a.m.
- 10 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting; Deadline for posting Cross Country rosters
- 11 First Round State Volleyball in 3A, 5A & 7A
- 11, 12 First Round State Softball Playoffs in 2A, 3A, 4A & 5A
- 12 First Round State Volleyball in A, 4A & 6A
- 13, 14 First Round State Softball Playoffs in A, 6A & 7A
- 15 Deadline for payment of GHSA membership dues
- 16 Earliest date for swimming practice
- 17 First Round State Volleyball in 2A; Second Round in Class A & 3A-7A
- 18, 19 Second Round State Softball Playoffs in All Classes
- 21 State Volleyball Quarterfinals
- 23 Earliest date for Wrestling Practice
- 24 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 25 State Volleyball Semifinals
- 26-28 Softball State Tournament
- 28 Volleyball State Finals; Area/Region Cross Country; Area/Region One Act Plays

GHSA Sponsors

30 Earliest date for Riflery match, Swim meet & for Basketball practice





























