



GHSA

“Items of Interest”

September 2007

GHSA to Renew Emphasis on School-Based Athletics

The start of the school year, especially when considering athletics, is a time of high expectations (except for those few people who refuse to consider the possibility of anything positive ever happening). As GHSA schools begin another school year, it is fitting and proper to expect good things to happen, but they don't happen accidentally. It takes a lot of people working hard and working together.

At a summer meeting of the National Federation of State High School Associations, I spoke on issues of academic reform that challenge current eligibility rules. In that speech I mentioned that the Georgia High School Association was a voluntary association of member schools. I suggested that the answer to the question of “What constitutes a school?” has changed dramatically over time.

The constituency of the GHSA now includes: Superintendents and School Boards, Principals and faculty members, coaches, students, parents and other community groups, and even Legislators and Judges. Each of these categories of people views themselves as stakeholders in high school athletics and competitive activities. An inherent challenge in this situation occurs when the various categories of people have differing agendas for getting what they want. The solution to this challenge lies in getting as many people and groups as possible moving in the same direction.

School-based athletics and activities have a different perspective from other levels of athletics, and many people who are not in the educational system don't understand that. Unfortunately, some educators also lose track of the distinctive purposes of school-based athletics from time to time. A major theme that will come out of the GHSA office this year is a renewed emphasis on the perspective of school-based athletics and activities. This emphasis will utilize various ways to communicate the following principles:

1. The educational process should be the engine that drives the train of athletics and competitive activities in a high school.
2. Educators are expected to perform their duties at the highest levels of ethics and professionalism when involved in programs regulated by the GHSA.
3. The environment at GHSA contests must be managed at a level that is fitting for an educational endeavor.

These principles affect practical issues such as adherence to rules, sportsmanship, relationships with other schools and their personnel, and a host of other issues. If every category of people listed as part of the “constituency” of a school in the earlier paragraph will buy into this emphasis, then the state of high school athletics in Georgia will continue to move forward at a more dramatic rate. Those people who have had the vision of school-based athletics must continue to lead by example, and must share that vision with others.



– **Ralph Swearngin**, Executive Director

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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- GHSA STAFF -
Areas of Responsibility

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

GARY PHILLIPS (extension 6)

- Assistant Executive Director -
Student Eligibility, Community Coach Program,
Cross Country, Wrestling, Track, Golf

JOYCE KAY (extension 5)

- Associate Executive Director -
Finances, Entry Notification, Agendas,
Literary, One-Act Play, Debate, Cheerleading, Riflery

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- Director of Media Relations -
Press Releases, Media Coordination for State Events, Newsletter,
Football Schedules, Constitution, Calendar, Tennis

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- Officials' Registrar -
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DENNIS PAYNE (extension 23)

- Associate Director -
Football, Baseball, Swimming

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- Associate Director -
Basketball, Soccer, Softball

TANYA ANDERSON (extension 2)

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

JULIE JONES (extension 1)

- Administrative Assistant -
Dues, Community Coach Program

SHERI COKER (extension 0)

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

New Marketing Partners

Three new companies have joined the GHSA marketing programs. **Naturally Fresh**, based in Atlanta, will be a champion sponsor as the official sauce and dressing of the GHSA. Two new licensees include, **American Solutions for Business** (Lagrange) specializing in custom school promotional products and **Electro Mech Scoreboard Company** (Wrightsville) a manufacture of sport scoreboard. . . Check out the **GHSA Store** and a full list of sponsors and licensees at www.GHSA.net

2006-07 Sportsmanship Winners

The Georgia High School Association (GHSA) and Georgia Electric Membership Corporation (GEMC) salute the GHSA-member high schools that will receive the 2007 GEMC Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award honoring exemplary sportsmanship demonstrated during the 2006-07 school year.

Sponsored by the GHSA and Georgia's EMCs, the Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Awards program was introduced in 2006 to honor GHSA schools that exhibit outstanding sportsmanship. The awards program is designed to promote sportsmanship by honoring those who do it well, reinforcing GHSA's philosophy: "Student athletes, coaches, school spectators, and all others associated with high school activities should adhere to the fundamental values of respect, fairness, honesty and responsibility."

The program honors student athletes along with faculty, parents and game spectators, making the award not only a school honor but a community honor.

The Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Awards are presented annually with up to 40 awards distributed, one available for each of the eight regions within the five GHSA classifications. Regions select winners based on sportsmanship demonstrated the previous school year.

"I want to congratulate all the schools that were selected by their respective regions as examples of good sportsmanship," said GHSA Executive Director Dr. Ralph Swearngin. "Awards bestowed by peers are especially meaningful. It is my hope that all GHSA schools will follow the lead of these schools and make proper behavior at high school sporting events a high priority."

Representatives from the EMCs will present the trophies to winning high schools within their service territories at presentations during fall athletic events.

Winners of the 2007 Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Awards include:

Region 1: Berrien (Class AA); Crisp County (AAA); Thomas County Central (AAAA); Lowndes (AAAAA).

Region 2: Wheeler County (A); Brantley County (AA); Northgate (AAAA).

Region 3: Bryan County (A); Westside, Augusta (AA); Wayne County (AAAA); Evans (AAAA); Camden County (AAAAA).

Region 4: Schley County (A); Tattnall County (AA); Northeast, Macon (AAA); Griffin (AAAA).

Region 5: Providence Christian School (A); Macon County (AA); Westminster School (AAA); Sequoyah (AAAA); Etowah (AAAAA).

Region 6: Excel Christian School (A); Carrollton (AAA); Marist School (AAAA); Chattahoochee (AAAAA).

Region 7: Rockmart (AA); Forsyth Central (AAAAA).

Region 8: Hebron Christian Academy (A); Oglethorpe County (AA); Franklin County (AAA); Winder-Barrow (AAAA); Grayson (AAAAA).

Georgia's EMCs provide electricity and related services to four million people, nearly half of Georgia's population, across 73 percent of the state's land area. Georgia's 42 electric membership cooperatives serve more customers than any other state network of EMCs in the nation.



Media Kickoffs: PrepSports+ and Scoreboard Show

Catch all the weekly action, highlights and interviews on **Prep Sports +**, which airs statewide on Georgia Public Broadcasting on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 12:30 p.m.

Prep Sports +, "the fastest half hour in public television," started a 16th season directed by Tom Vardase, the program's veteran executive producer.

The 2007-08 debut show on August 30th was the 349th program, believed to be the longest running high school sports series of its kind in the United States.

The 2007 **Georgia High School Scoreboard Show** presented by Dodge kicks off a 12th season as the state's premier radio source for Friday night football scores.

The program, hosted by Tommy Palmer, is carried on a 50+ radio network of affiliates and internet broadcasts for 14 weeks from August 31 to November 30 from 10 p.m., until midnight. The fast-paced, live show features up-to-the-minute scores, game reports, special features and coaches' interviews.



Class AAAA Cross Country State Champion Emily Reese of Chamblee is interviewed for *PrepSports+* by reporter John Wilkerson and videographer Gary Peacock.

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. This is effective through June 30, 2008.

Sport	Make/Model
Baseball	WILSON A1010 B-Pro
Basketball	WILSON EVOLUTION Boys: B0516 Girls: B0586
Football	WILSON F1003 or F1005
Soccer	BRINE "Championship"
Softball - SP (optic yellow 11")	WILSON A9202B
Softball - FP (optic yellow 12")	WILSON A9011 BSST
Volleyball	SPALDING TF4000

Scholar/Athlete & Scholar/Manager Awards Forms Available Online

The Scholar/Athlete Awards Program and the Whitey Zimmerman Scholarship Program will be in place again this year, sponsored by Havoline, the Atlanta Falcons Youth Foundation, Gallagher Electric & Engineering Company, Inc., and the National Football Foundation & College Football Hall of Fame, Inc. The GHSA has been asked by these organizations to make the forms for these programs available to our member schools.

Nomination forms are provided online at www.ghsa.net on the "Football" webpage. The deadline to submit the forms to your Region Secretary is November 1, 2007.

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."

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
August 27, 2007

MINUTES

The semiannual meeting of the Executive Committee of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on August 27, 2007, at the Holiday Inn, Forsyth, 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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Report presented by Wayne Tootle
The Committee recommended:

Revise Article IV; Section 8; F. (paragraph 2), dealing with officers (i.e., President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, etc.) of the various regions, to read: "Terms of office shall be two years and elections shall be held at the beginning of each reclassification cycle. Any vacancy occurring on a Region Committee shall be filled by the Region Committee until the next meeting of the region."

MOTION PASSED (voice vote) Note: Constitutional Change - will require 2nd vote

Revise Article IV; Section 13; C; and By-Law 2.69(b)(8) to increase the maximum fine to a member school from \$1,000.00 to \$2,500.00

MOTION PASSED (voice vote) Note: Constitutional Change - will require 2nd vote

Create new By-Law 1.14 to read: "If a school or school system initiates litigation against the Association and the court rules in favor of the Association, the school or school system shall be responsible for paying all court costs and attorney fees."

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

Create new By-Law 1.15 to read: "If the Association conducts an investigation of a member school in reference to a violation of Association rules and the member school is found guilty, the school shall be assessed the cost of the investigation in addition to any fines."

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

Expand the time interval for interruptions due to rain and/or lightning from one hour to two hours. This would apply to all baseball, softball, and lacrosse games, and to football and soccer competitions involving teams from different classifications.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote) EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Approval of the Audit Report for 2006-07. Motion presented and passed during the Executive Director's report.

Authorize the Executive Director and the Marketing Director to negotiate the "Official Ball of the GHSA" contracts that will be in effect for 2008-2013.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

BASEBALL COMMITTEE: Report presented by Jesse Crews
The Committee received as information:

1. Concerns about having the state championship series after schools are out of session. The proposal for a change in the baseball season was withdrawn and an updated proposal may be submitted at the Spring Meeting.
2. Concerns about seating limitations at many schools hosting championship series.

CHEERLEADING COMMITTEE: Report presented by Sam Barrs

The Committee voted to deny the proposal to change the Class A region competitions to a statewide sectional competition to determine advancement to the state championship.

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, *Continued*

ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE: Report presented by Glenn White

The Committee recommended:

That the Glynn County "8.5 Program" be exempt from By-Law 1.45 (c) for the 2007-08 school year, and that the GHSA office survey all superintendents about present or proposed programs of a similar nature.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

On By-Law 1.82, add to the end of the sentence: ".....or financial aid based on institutional policies for academic performance (classroom record and/or test scores) that is administered by persons not in the athletic department."

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Earl Etheridge.

The Committee recommended:

Add "Exception" to "E.1.a.", page 65, to read: "Each theatre style seat (with back and arm rests) will count as one seat regardless of the width of the seat." (This item was tabled at the Spring Meeting)

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

That the tie-breaker method used for football games be kept the same as it is presently.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

On page 65, item D.2: delete the "note" at the end of the statement.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

The Executive Director and the GHSA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee are to compose a list of respected organizations who have set standards for practicing in times of high heat and humidity. This list is to be submitted to the full Committee for possible refinement of By-Law 2.67.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

The following calendar be set for football season for the next three years:

Basic Principles:

1. Three (3) school days of practice in shorts, helmets, and shoulder pads.
2. Seventeen (17) school days of practice in full pads before opening game.
3. Eleven (11) weeks to play ten (10) games in the regular season.
4. Five (5) weeks of playoff games.

2008-09

Practice in shorts, helmets, shoulder pads:	August 1 - August 5
Practice in full pads:	August 6 - August 28
Regular Season:	August 29 - November 8
Playoffs:	November 14 - December 13

2009-10

Practice in shorts, helmets, shoulder pads:	July 31 - August 4
Practice in full pads:	August 5 - August 27
Regular Season:	August 28 - November 7
Playoffs:	November 13 - December 12

2010-11

Practice in shorts, helmets, shoulder pads:	July 30 - August 3
Practice in full pads:	August 4 - August 26
Regular Season:	August 27 - November 6
Playoffs:	November 12 - December 11

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, *Continued*

LACROSSE COMMITTEE: Report presented by Donnie Griggers
The Committee recommended:

The game limit for playing on a varsity team and a sub-varsity team be set as follows:

Boys: 5 quarters per day

Girls: 3 halves per day

MOTION PASSED (voice vote) **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**

OFFICIALS COMMITTEE: Report presented by Earl Etheridge
The Committee recommended:

Revise By-Law 2.93 (e) to read: "In the event that a scheduled contest cannot be started due to weather-related conditions, and the assigned officials have arrived at the contest site, the officials will be paid one-half the contest fee in addition to the travel allowance."

MOTION PASSED (voice vote) **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**

All sportsmanship fouls in all sports be reported to the GHSA office by officials associations in order to create a report to be presented at the Spring Meeting.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

Officials Associations are also to make a report to the GHSA office when there is lack of game management or a game management issue such as inadequate provisions of dressing room facilities and/or security at a contest site.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

Create new (c) to By-Law 2.68 to read: "Officials associations and their assigned schools shall include the method of payment in their contracts."

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

TENNIS COMMITTEE: Report presented by Dave Hunter
The Committee recommended:

Add the following to the Tennis Section under "State Tournament:" "During the first three rounds of the state playoffs, the host school shall provide a designated "site manager" to make any rulings concerning sportsmanship, lateness, or other rules violations that might occur during the match. This person should be a certified USTA official when possible, hired and paid for by the host school. In instances where a USTA official cannot be secured, a school administrator must be the replacement."

MOTION PASSED (voice vote) **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**

TRACK COMMITTEE: Report presented by Fred Price

The Committee voted not to add the 4x800 meter relay after reviewing the results of the survey from Regions.

OLDBUSINESS

At the request of the Executive Committee at the Spring Meeting 2007, the Ad Hoc Committee met at the GHSA Office on July 17, 2007, and voted unanimously to bring forth the following proposal: "A team shall forfeit any team standing or points toward team honors when an ineligible student participates in a contest. In individual activities (Cross Country, Literary, Swimming & Diving, Traditional Wrestling, Gymnastics, Golf, Tennis, and Track & Field), eligible individuals will keep their placements and opportunities to advance toward individual honors if a teammate participated while ineligible."

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

Motion was made and unanimously approved to adjourn.

GHSA Officials / Coaches Clinics

By-Law #2.54, page 37 of the 2007-08 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 \$50.00 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 2007-08 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, SOFTBALL** and **VOLLEYBALL** clinics have been completed.

RIFLERY

GHSA Rules Clinics in Riflery will be held in conjunction with the Area Meetings to draw schedules at each Area designated site.

GYMNASTICS

December 2 Westminster (1 p.m.)

BASKETBALL (Coaches ONLY)

September 29 Ola High School - Gym (9 a.m.)
 October 13 Stone Mountain High School - Auditorium
 October 13 Westover High School - Auditorium
 October 16 Tift County High School - Commons
 October 16 Wheeler High School - Auditorium
 October 20 Northside-WR High School - Auditorium
 October 20 Rome High School - Commons
 October 23 Chapel Hill High School - Auditorium
 October 23 Oconee County High School - Commons
 October 27 Westside High School, Macon - Cafeteria
 October 27 McIntosh High School
 October 30 Woodward Academy
 October 30 Columbus High School - Auditorium
 October 31 Ware County High School - Cafeteria
 October 31 Vidalia High School
 November 3 Gainesville High School - Auditorium
 November 3 Evans High School - Auditorium
 November 6 Dalton High School - Auditorium
 November 6 Buford High School - Auditorium
 November 8 GHSA Office, Thomaston
 November 10 Savannah Country Day School - Auditorium

SOCCER

Code: C = Coaches, R = Returning Officials, N = New Officials

Coaches may attend any clinic listed

January 5, 2008 Wheeler High School - Auditorium (C/R/N)
 January 5, 2008 Savannah Country Day - Auditorium (C/R/N)
 January 10, 2008 Milton High School - Auditorium (C/R)
 January 12, 2008 Rome High School - Commons (C/R/N)
 January 12, 2008 Westover High School - Auditorium (C/R/N)
 January 17, 2008 Sams Auditorium - Fayetteville (C/R)
 January 17, 2008 Johnson, Gainesville HS - Auditorium (C/R)
 January 19, 2008 Columbus High School - Cafeteria (C/R/N)
 January 19, 2008 Brunswick High School - Cafeteria (C/R/N)
 January 24, 2008 Norcross High School - Auditorium (C/R)
 January 24, 2008 Dalton High School - Auditorium (C/R)
 January 26, 2008 Evans High School - Auditorium (C/R/N)
 January 26, 2008 Westside High School, Macon (C/R/N)
 February 2, 2008 Peachtree Ridge HS - Commons (C/R/N)
 February 2, 2008 Tift County High School - Auditorium (C/R/N)

SWIMMING & DIVING

September 15 Kennesaw Mtn. High School - Auditorium
 October 13 Albany High School - Gymnasium
 October 20 Savannah Country Day School - Auditorium
 October 23 Westminster School - Gymnasium

October 25 Norcross Day School - Auditorium
 October 27 St. Pius High School

WRESTLING

October 16 Marist School - Cafeteria
 October 16 Northside High School, WR - Auditorium
 October 17 Calhoun High School - Auditorium
 October 18 Morgan County High School - Media Center
 October 22 Tift County High School - Auditorium
 October 23 Whitewater High School - Auditorium
 October 24 Vidalia High School - Cafeteria
 October 25 Collins Hill High School - Auditorium
 October 27 Groves High School - JROTC Building
 October 29 Eagles Landing High School
 October 30 Lakeside High School, Evans - Auditorium
 October 31 Flowery Branch High School - Auditorium
 October 31 McEachern High School - Auditorium
 November 1 Columbus High School - Cafeteria

LACROSSE

January 26, 2008 Chattahoochee High School - (Boys & Girls)
 January 31, 2008 Pope High School - Theatre (B)
 January 31, 2008 Woodward Academy - Chapel (G)
 February 2, 2008 Westminster School - Gym (B/G)

TRACK & FIELD

January 23, 2008 Westover High School - Auditorium
 January 23, 2008 Wheeler High School - Auditorium
 January 24, 2008 Jefferson High School - Cafeteria
 January 28, 2008 Westside High School, Macon - Cafeteria
 January 30, 2008 Columbus High School - Cafeteria
 January 31, 2008 St. Pius High School
 February 2, 2008 Dublin High School - Cafeteria
 February 2, 2008 Savannah Country Day School - Auditorium
 February 4, 2008 Carrollton High School - Media Center
 February 6, 2008 Calhoun High School - Auditorium
 February 7, 2008 Lovejoy High School - Commons
 February 9, 2008 Thomson High School - Cafeteria
 February 9, 2008 Ware County High School - Cafeteria

BASEBALL

February 4, 2008 Columbus High School - Cafeteria
 February 4, 2008 Dalton High School - Auditorium
 February 6, 2008 Statesboro High School - Media Center
 February 6, 2008 Wheeler High School - Auditorium
 February 7, 2008 Evans High School - Auditorium
 February 7, 2008 Norcross High School - Auditorium
 February 11, 2008 Vidalia High School - Cafeteria
 February 11, 2008 Savannah Country Day - Auditorium
 February 13, 2008 Oconee County High School - Cafeteria
 February 13, 2008 Northside High School, WR - Auditorium
 February 14, 2008 Lowndes High School - Cafeteria
 February 14, 2008 Woodward Academy
 February 18, 2008 Habersham Central High School - Cafeteria
 February 18, 2008 Westover High School - Auditorium
 February 20, 2008 Whitewater High School - Auditorium
 February 20, 2008 Rome High School - Commons
 February 21, 2008 Ware County High School - Cafeteria
 February 21, 2008 GHSA Office, Thomaston

GHSA - September / October Calendar - 2007

September

- 3 Labor Day, GHSA Office closed
- 4 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 18 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 24 Deadline for notification of entry in Cross Country
- 28 Deadline for notification of entry in One Act Play
- 29 Deadline to set Riflery schedules

October

- 1 Earliest date for Riflery match
- 2 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 5 Deadline date to file Riflery schedules with GHSA office
- 13 Complete Region Softball
- 15 Deadline for payment of GHSA membership dues
- 15 Report Region Softball winners by noon
- 16 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 19, 20 Complete Sectionals in Softball
- 20 Determine Area Volleyball winners
- 22 Report Area Volleyball winners by noon

GHSA Sponsors



Helping Students Plan, Apply, and Pay for College