



GHSA

“Items of Interest”

September 2010

Be Familiar with GHSA Policies - and Follow them!

Educational administrators rarely have the luxury of making “casual” decisions these days. Most of the decisions we make carry consequences and ramifications of a very serious nature. There are concerns about costs, risk management issues, and meeting regulatory mandates. However, that may not be all bad. These concerns force all of us to plan ahead, think through the decisions, and be responsible for the decisions we make.

I know that school personnel are bombarded with demands from federal, state, and local agencies. The “overload factor” is huge, but Georgia High School Association policies are designed to ensure a safe, positive environment for students who participate in athletics.

Some of those policies found in the GHSA by-laws are:

- Heat and Hydration Policy
- Game Manager Policy
- Lightning Detector Policy
- Post-game Sportsmanship Policy
- Concussion Management Policy
- Standardized Procedures for Pre-participation Physical Evaluations



There are times when the GHSA is urged to short-cut its policies because “we should be in it for the students.” That sword cuts both ways. If what we are doing is really “for the students” (and it is), then proper attention to details should be given by school personnel to meet the students’ needs. This means that GHSA procedures and deadlines should be followed fully. Eligibility rules should be known and the procedures for filing done properly. There should be no shortcuts in matters pertaining to student health and safety.

Please be certain that all staff members who work with your school’s athletic and competitive activities are familiar with the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net). That is the depository for the information, calendars, and forms that are necessary to administer the athletic programs.

Impress on your staff members that technology is now producing “fluid documents” that require periodic visits to the web site. Also remind your coaches to check out the “windows of opportunity” that exist for our online rules clinics in most sports. Then let the GHSA staff know if there are questions that cannot be answered by the resources we provide online.

– **Ralph Swearngin**, Executive Director

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION Newsletter

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

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

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

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Press Releases, Media Coordination for State Events, Newsletter,
Football Schedules, Constitution, Calendar, Tennis

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- Associate Director -
Football, Baseball, Swimming

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Basketball, Soccer, Softball

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Sanctioning of Events, School Passes,
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JULIE JONES (extension 1)

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Dues, Community Coach Program

SHERI COKER (extension 0)

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

GHSA Licensed Products

This month's featured licensees are: **Jostens**, official championship rings and jewelry (jostens.com); **Musco Sports Lighting**, the leader in developing sports-lighting solutions (musco.com); **FieldTurf**, official artificial turf (fieldturf.com), **Resilite**, official wrestling mat (resilite.com), **TeamIP**, official merchandiser and online store (teamip.com) and **Championship Funding Solutions**, discount cards and logoed custom-made products (cfsteams.com). View a complete list of GHSA licensees at www.ghsa.net/licensing

GHSA on the Air:

Channel 2 WSB-TV (Atlanta) and **PlayON! Sports** began on August 27th broadcasting live high school football games to fans all over north Georgia each Friday evening.

The 15-week schedule, which extends thru the GHSA playoffs, features premiere matchups from the area's biggest games and will air on Channel 2's second digital channel (Comcast Cable channel 248, Charter channel 127) at 7:30 p.m., and replay at 1 a.m., on Channel 2. ...

GHSA Network On Demand will have football games available 24-48 hours after the games are played on both Comcast and Charter On Demand TV.

To watch on **COMCAST** select the ON DEMAND button on your Comcast remote or go to Channel, choose "Get Local," select "Top Picks" and then "GHSA On Demand."

To watch on **CHARTER** go to ON DEMAND CHANNEL1, choose "iWant More!," select "Local Interest " and then "GHSA Sports." ...

Comcast Sports Southeast (CSS) began their 13th season of live high school football on August 28, with regular scheduled Friday "Game of The Week" action starting Sept. 3. The CSS crew will follow the GHSA gridiron excitement all the way to the semifinals. ...

Georgia Public Broadcasting's **Friday Nights in Georgia** kicked-off on August 27 for a third season of weekly live Webcasts of top football games throughout the state at 7:00 pm. Watch the regular and post-season battles at their new Website, www.gpb.org/football, and GHSA's digital channel, www.ghsa.tv. ...

The Georgia High School Football Scoreboard Show presented by NAPA Auto Parts (Friday, 10-12 midnight), **Wednesday Night Huddle** (6-7 p.m.) and **Hibbett Sports Countdown To Kickoff** (Friday, 6-7 p.m.) hosted by Tommy Palmer will air each week during football season from August through November.

For a list of radio network affiliates or to listen live online go to www.palmermediagroup.com.

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."

GHSA Salutes Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Winners

The Georgia High School Association (GHSA) and Georgia Electric Membership Corporation (GEMC) salute the 38 GHSA-member high schools that will receive the 2010 GEMC Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award honoring exemplary sportsmanship demonstrated during the 2009-10 school year.

"The GHSA believes that sportsmanship is really good citizenship expressed in the athletic arena," said Dr. Ralph Swearngin, GHSA Executive Director. "Schools that are recognized for having their players, coaches and spectators exhibit good sportsmanship are worthy of praise. The GHSA is appreciative of the work done by Georgia EMC to provide this recognition to those schools"

Sponsored by GHSA and Georgia's EMCs, the Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award program was introduced in 2006 to honor GHSA-member schools that exhibit outstanding sportsmanship.

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

The Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Awards are presented annually to GHSA-member high schools in the 40 regions in all five classifications. GHSA Region Secretaries select winners based

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

Winners of the 2009-10 GEMC Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Awards are:

Region 1: Ware County Magnet (Class A); Early County (AA); Worth County (AAA); Lee County (AAAA); Warner Robins (AAAAA).

Region 2: Schley County (A); Appling County (AA); Kendrick (AAA); Ware County (AAAA); Greenbrier (AAAAA).

Region 3: Calvary Day (A); Toombs County (AA); West Laurens (AAA); Evans (AAAA); Johnson-Savannah (AAAAA).

Region 4: Georgia Military College (A); Northeast-Macon (AA); Spalding (AAA); Ola (AAAA); Newnan (AAAAA).

Region 5: Our Lady of Mercy (A); Manchester (AA); Columbia (AAA); Sandy Creek (AAAA); South Cobb (AAAAA).

Region 6: Bremen (A); Westminster (AA); Heritage-Catoosa (AAA); Lakeside-DeKalb (AAAA); Pope (AAAAA).

Region 7: Providence (A); Chattooga (AA); Sprayberry (AAAA); Peachtree Ridge (AAAAA).

Region 8: Towns County (A); Dawson County (AA); Heritage-Conyers (AAAA);

Meadowcreek (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.



GPB Media Announces New High School Sports Division

After experiencing record ratings during last year's GHSA Championship football games, GPB Media is responding by launching a new division, **GPB Sports**. GPB Sports will change the way Georgians experience high school sports by creating new programs and access across all its platforms.

Now high school sports fans from Rome to Valdosta have a new sports home at GPB, committed to bringing the best high school sports coverage to Georgia. Here's what's new at GPB Sports:

❑ **GPB Sports Central** (formally Prep Sports Plus) is the state's only weekly high school sports show, an exciting, fast-paced 30-minute look at breaking news stories, features, recruiting and polls from around the state. Premiered Wednesday, Aug. 25 at 7:30 p.m., encores Fridays at 11 p.m., with final scores and Saturdays at noon with final scores and game news.

❑ **GPB Sports Central XL:** a live video chat featuring interviews with Georgia High School coaches mixing it up with bloggers, writers and fans. Premiered Wednesday, Aug. 25 at 8:00 p.m., online at gpb.org/sports.

❑ **Football Fridays in Georgia:** This "game of the week" features top Georgia football matchups every Friday at gpb.org/sports and comes complete with a 30-minute pre-game show,

principal interviews, live chats, real time scores from around the state and scoreboard show after the game. Premiered Friday, August 27 at 7:00PM at gpb.org/sports.

❑ **GPB Sports.org:** GPB Sports unveils a completely redesigned sports-lover's website, delivering on-demand coverage of top matchups and archived GHSA Championship games; school pages for over 400 Georgia High Schools, rankings, sports blogs and live chats.

GPB will continue its 17-year broadcast partnership with the

GHSA for coverage of the football, cheerleading and basketball state championship games on GPB Television and online at gpb.org. These broadcasts are being expanded with interactive live coverage between games that feature interviews and stories.

GPB is also expanding its **Academic All-Star Athletes** program, which was launched last year in partnership with Wachovia, A Wells Fargo Company; Georgia Natural Gas and the Georgia PTA.

Watch GPB TV on these nine stations across Georgia: Atlanta – Channel 8.1; Albany – WABW/14.1, Augusta – WCES/20.1, Chatsworth – WCLP/18.1, Columbus – WJSP/28.1, Dawson – WACS/25.1, Macon – WMUM/29.1, Savannah – WVAN/9.1, Waycross – WXGA/8.1.



STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

August 16, 2010

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 16, 2010, at the Ramada Inn Convention Complex, 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 Earl Etheridge

The Committee recommended:

When there are double-header playoffs in Soccer and Lacrosse (boy/girl in one sport or a Soccer/Lacrosse combination), the admission fee will be \$10.00 for the doubleheader and the GHSA will receive 20%. **Effective Immediately**

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

Change the percentage that the GHSA receives from playoffs in Baseball and Softball from 10% to 12% to be consistent with other sports. **Effective Immediately.**

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

Approve the audit of GHSA finances for the 2009-10 school year. A copy of the audit is available from the GHSA office upon request.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

Make a Constitutional Amendment to Section 9 D.3. Appellate Procedure - add the following:

(a) An appeal of an eligibility decision must be based on one or more of the following reasons:
 (1) There is substantial new information to be submitted that was not heard by the previous group

(2) There is an allegation that a GHSA rule was misapplied

(3) There is an allegation that due process was not given in previous considerations

All appeals shall set forth the basis for the appeal and facts supporting the same and shall be screened by the Executive Director for compliance with this rule prior to scheduling a hearing.

(b) An appeal of a decision by the Executive Director must be based on one of the following reasons:

(1) There is an allegation that a GHSA rule was misinterpreted

(2) There was an absence of due process given by the Director

MOTION PASSED (voice vote) **Note: Constitutional Amendment will require a second vote**

The GHSA strongly recommends that all coaches complete the free, online course on Concussion Injuries offered by the National Federation of State High School Associations (www.nfhslearn.com)

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

Create a new By-Law 4.65 to read:

The Executive Director shall have the authority to grant permission to sanction football recruiting fairs for collegiate coaches provided:

1. There are no high school athletes present

2. It is a non-profit venture

3. It is organized and supervised by a GHSA member school, school system, or region

4. It does not deny attendance to any GHSA member school provided space is available and deadlines are met

5. It does not charge collegiate representatives for their attendance

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

Form an "Ad Hoc Committee on Recruiting and Undue Influence" to develop proposals to bolster GHSA By-Laws in this area and to present that report to the Executive Committee at the March 2011 meeting. This Ad Hoc Committee will be composed of coaches, administrators, Executive Committee members, and the Executive Director.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

(over)

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, *Continued*

COACHES COMMITTEE: Report presented by Jim Hughes

The Committee recommended:

In By-Law 2.52 (a), change the last sentence to read:

Community coaches are not allowed to function without the immediate supervision of an educational professional, and may not function as a varsity head coach or be named by the school as the varsity head coach.

MOTION PASSED Show of Hands: Yes - 24; No - 13

ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE: Report presented by Glenn White

The Committee recommended:

Change the wording in By-Law 1.12 that would require the initial eligibility reports to be submitted by the date for first practice rather than 20 days before the first contest date.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

The Committee denied the request from Darlington School to be included in the list of boarding schools that are exempt from the GHSA migratory rule.

The Committee received as information:

1. Questions about changing standards for college credits earned in Dual Enrollment programs
2. New guidelines put into effect by the NCAA Eligibility Clearinghouse in regard to non-traditional academic programs. More information will be sent to all schools when finalized.

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE: Report presented by Earl Etheridge

The Committee recommended:

Add new F. 6 on page 65 to allow the use of a 25-second clock in GHSA football games that must be visible on both ends of the field and that will be operated by a game official.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

When a player or coach is ejected from a pre-season scrimmage in any sport, the school shall be fined a minimum of \$250.00 and there will be no sit-out penalties imposed. **Effective beginning September 1, 2010.**

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

That the GHSA make editorial changes to bring By-Law 1.44 and the wording in the Football Section into agreement dealing with limiting a student to play 6 quarters per week on one varsity and one sub-varsity team.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

The Committee received as information:

The procedure for allowing players to use shoulder pads in football camps during the summer months.

GOLF COMMITTEE: Report presented by Danny Cronic

The Committee recommended:

Add new B. 3 on page 69 to read:

Other electronic devices including, but not limited to, cell phones, cameras, video recorders, etc., may not be used (sending and/or receiving messages or pictures) by players or coaches during competition.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

Approval for Regions' low individual on a non-qualifying team to advance to State as an individual competitor. **Effective Immediately.**

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

(over)

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, *Continued*

RECLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Earl Etheridge

The Committee recommended:

By-Law 4.21: Member schools (public and private) will be placed in classifications for competition by the following procedures:

- (a) based on the FTE count for students in grades 9-11 provided by the Georgia Department of Education and on the actual head count of students in grades 9-11 in private schools
- (b) for the fall semester of the second year of the current reclassification cycle
(Note: This means schools will be classified on one count rather than two.)

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

By-Law 4.21: Member schools may be placed in classifications based on projected enrollment numbers for all schools affected by the opening of a new school or the consolidation of existing schools.

- (a) Projections must be submitted by the system Superintendent no later than September 15th of the second year of the current reclassification cycle. Projections must be filed for the next two school years, and those numbers will be averaged to get the number by which the schools will be classified
- (b) In the event that a new school's actual enrollment in the first semester of the new reclassification cycle exceeds the projection average by 10% or more or an existing school exceeds its projection by 5% or more (and the average results in the numbers being in a higher classification), the school shall not be eligible for post-season play in any sport for the entirety of that reclassification cycle.
- (c) Schools may appeal the loss of post-season competition to the full Executive Committee.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

TENNIS COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Dave Hunter

The Committee recommended:

Page 82, D. - The format of all GHSA varsity tennis matches shall be three (3) singles matches and two (2) doubles matches. With prior agreement of both coaches, JV squads may use a format of two (2) singles matches and one (1) doubles match.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

The Committee denied:

1. The proposal to mandate that a player must play in 60% of the region matches in order to qualify to play in the Region Tournament
2. The proposal to allow singles tournaments for JV teams

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Ralph Swearngin, Executive Director, welcomed the fifteen new members to the Committee. His report included: the GHSA staff will seek a different venue for the March Meeting; that 2009-10 closed on a positive note; that 2010-11 will have many budgetary pressures because of the economic situation. Dr. Swearngin commented that Georgia is recognized as an exemplary state in many ways: Committee member Wes Taylor is a finalist for the Principal of the Year Award by the National Association of Secondary School Principals; the National Executive Directors Council held their annual meeting at Stone Mountain this year; the National Association of Sports Officials will meet in Atlanta next summer; and the National Federation of State High Schools will hold its winter meeting in Savannah in January. Dr. Swearngin now serves on the Board of Directors of both the National Federation of State High School Associations and the National Association of Sports Officials.

NEW BUSINESS

Terry Rogers announced that there has been a change in the GACA liability insurance coverage for coaches who are members of the GACA to now include coverage of coaches in the classrooms.

Motion by Earl Etheridge, second by Wayne Tootle, to allow girls from another school to cheer at an all-boys school.

Substitute motion by Dave Hunter, second by Jay Floyd, to table.

MOTION PASSED to table (voice vote)

Motion by Gary Long, second by Dave Hunter, to rescind the rule passed at the last meeting disallowing stunting and tumbling by cheerleaders at GHSA basketball games.

MOTION FAILED (voice vote)

Motion was made and unanimously approved to adjourn.



Team up with Brian McCann to help fund research for kids with cancer

The top fundraiser will have the opportunity to
meet Brian McCann
at the 2010 Brian McCann Celebrity Softball Game!

The school that raises the most money in this simple change collection fundraiser between now and October 25 will win the *Rally 4 Quarters 4 Research* Award. As an award recipient, the school will receive:

- ! **On-field recognition and award presentation at the Brian McCann Celebrity Softball Game on November 5, 2010**
- ! **"Rally 4 Quarters 4 Research" Trophy**
- ! **Feature Story on Rally the website**
- ! **Mention in the Rally Spring Newsletter**



Sign Up Your School for the 2010 Football Season

More than 200 schools have participated!

"Cancer is a word that brings concern to the hearts of most people, and childhood cancer accentuates those concerns. Rally 4 Quarters 4 Research will enable Rally to raise funds to fight the ravages of childhood cancer. I think it will send a positive message if high school athletics joined that cause."

- GHSA Executive Director Ralph Swearngin

TO SIGN UP YOUR SCHOOL OR LEARN MORE, CONTACT:

Lauren Flanary, Project Coordinator
lauren@rallyfoundation.org
404.847.9176

RallyFoundation.org



GHSA - September / October Calendar - 2010

September

- 6 Labor Day, GHSA Office closed
- 7 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 21 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 27 Deadline for notification of entry in Cross Country

October

- 1 Deadline for notification of entry in One Act Play
- 2 Deadline to set Riflery schedules
- 4 Earliest date for Riflery match
- 5 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 8 Deadline date to file Riflery schedules with GHSA office
- 9 Complete Region Softball & Determine Area Volleyball winners
- 11 Report Region Softball and Area Volleyball winners by noon
- 13, 14 First Round State Softball
- 14 First Round State Volleyball in AAAAA & AAAA
- 16 First Round State Volleyball in AAA & AA/A
- 18 Earliest practice date for Swimming
- 19 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 19 Second Round State Volleyball for all classifications
- 20, 21 Second Round State Softball

GHSA Sponsors

