



GHSA

"ITEMS OF INTEREST"

September 2017

Many Changes Taking Place at the GHSA Office

As we enter this new school year, I am reminded that there will always be change and it is inevitable. Changes occur in your school systems, your student body, your teams and your players. How we adapt to these changes will determine the level of success in all we do both professionally and personally.

A big change for me in both areas is coming to work for you and the Georgia High School Association. It is a welcomed change and I am humbled and honored to assume my role. It is important to me that I am accessible to you, under any circumstances, and that I provide you with great customer service.

I also want our processes and procedures to be transparent and we all make our best effort to communicate between the GHSA office and our schools. After all, the GHSA is your association. I have had the opportunity to meet with many groups throughout the summer and look forward to meeting many more. Please let me know of opportunities to join you throughout the year and I'll make every attempt to do so.

As I speak of change, there are several items I want to share with you. We are making every attempt to upgrade through technology. The voluntary submitting of Form B's has been a resounding success. Turnarounds have been expedited and please keep in mind this will be the **only** option in January 2018. I encourage you to use the electronic submission if you are not already doing so.

We also are researching web designs and preparing to improve our web site. It has been over five years since we moved to the current web site and there are many more possibilities available today. It will take some time to prepare for the move, but we are excited about the possibilities.

We are in the final stages of negotiating the contract to hold the 2017 State Football Finals at the new Mercedes Benz Stadium. The MBS will be the premier stadium in the United States and the experience for the players and fans will be like no other. I am looking forward to the games and I know you won't want to miss them either!

The mid-cycle reclassification adjustment will take place this fall. Private schools must have their head count into the GHSA office by September 15, 2017 and we should receive FTE counts for public schools in October.

The Board of Trustees and the Reclassification Committee met to write the rules that will guide the process. It is important that our member schools know and understand the rules prior to starting the adjustment. The goal is to simplify the process and to ensure that it is an adjustment, not a reclassification. I will send a copy of this document to all member schools and look forward to your questions and comments.

I wish all of our schools the best this school year and I appreciate all that you do to promote academics, athletics and the arts. It is my belief that no education is complete without all three. As you work with our young people, always remember that you can make an impact on them that will last a lifetime. Make it a positive one!

—Robin Hines, Executive Director



Join the GHSA social media conversation @OfficialGHSA on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

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. 36

September 2017

No. 1

- 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 (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' Registrar -
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 Program, 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, Dues, 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: **Jostens**, official championship jewelry (jostens.com); **Musco Sports Lighting**, leader in developing sports-lighting technology solutions (musco.com); **FieldTurf**, official artificial turf (fieldturf.com); **Hudl**, official video exchange service (hudl.com); **Formetco Sports**, Official scoreboard/LED video screen system (formetco.com/sports); **Sports Imports**, official volleyball net systems (sportsimports.com) and **TeamIP**, official merchandiser and online store (teamip.com). View a complete list at www.ghsa.net/licensing.

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.

It's a New School Year, So Let the Games Begin!

By Bob Gardner, Executive Director of the National Federation of State High School Associations and Dr. Robin Hines, Executive Director of the Georgia High School Association

Tailgates. Pep rallies. Friday night lights. The new school year is here. And that's exciting news for student-athletes and high school sports fans alike.

Research shows that being a student-athlete is about a lot more than fun and games. It teaches important life lessons, too. In fact, high school athletes not only have higher grade-point averages and fewer school absences than non-athletes, they also develop the kind of work habits and self-discipline skills that help them become more responsible and productive community members.

Attending high school sporting events teaches important life lessons, too.

Among them, it teaches that we can live in different communities, come from different backgrounds, faiths and cultures, cheer for different teams and still have a common bond.

That's why attending the activities hosted by your high school this fall is so important. It's not only an opportunity to cheer for your hometown team, it is also an opportunity to celebrate our commonality. And that's something our country needs right now.

The bond we share is mutually supporting the teenagers in our respective communities. We applaud their persistence, tenacity, preparation and hard work, regardless of the color of the uniform they wear. We acknowledge that education-based, high school sports are enhancing their lives, and ours, in ways that few other activities could. And we agree that, regardless of what side of the field we sit on, attending a high school sporting event is an uplifting, enriching, family-friendly experience for all of us.

Many of the high schools in our state lie at the heart of the communities they serve. They not only are educating our next generation of leaders, they also are a place where we congregate, where people from every corner of town and all walks of life come together as one. And at no time is this unity more evident than during a high school athletic event.

This is the beginning of a new school year. Opportunities abound in the classroom and outside it. Let's make the most of them by attending as many athletic events at the high school in our community as possible.

Turn on the lights. Let the games begin!

September is GHSA's Cancer Awareness Month

The Georgia High School Association is once again designating the month of September as its official fall sports "Cancer Awareness Month" to advance the awareness of and help fight several types of this dreaded disease.

In observance of Breast Cancer awareness, the GHSA will allow member schools to wear "Pink" uniforms and/or pink socks, wristbands, etc., at their HOME events during the week of September 4-9, 2017 for all fall sports (football, cheerleading, cross country, softball and volleyball).

There will be additional weeks designated as "Pink Weeks" for winter

and spring sports.

September 11-16 will be the third annual GHSA "Gold Week" to help raise the awareness of Childhood Cancer. The GHSA is proud to partner with **Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research** to encourage Georgia high schools to "Go Gold" during this week. Again, this is for all fall sports.

Football teams can wear gold jerseys, socks and wristbands at home games, while cross country, volleyball and softball teams can wear matching gold headbands and wristbands at home events. To learn about even more ways to get involved, visit RallyFoundation.org.

And, finally, September 18-23 will be the fourth annual "Blue Week" in the sport of Football only to help fight Prostate Cancer. Special blue decals and blue wristbands can be worn this week, and the officials will have blue penalty flags to throw. Also the host school can stencil blue ribbons on the playing field for this special contest.

If a school does NOT have a home contest during one of the designated cancer awareness weeks, that school may request to wear or display the special cancer-awareness colors at a home contest during another week in September. Schools should contact the appropriate GHSA sports coordinator with this request.



GHSA Leads Way Nationally by Offering Digital Ticketing

The Georgia High School Association (GHSA) and 125 of its member schools across the state are leading the way nationally in offering digital event ticketing to fans. The GHSA and the schools are partnering with Huddle, further expanding the nation's largest and most innovative ticketing solution for the high school

market. Huddle offers an integrated digital and paper ticketing solution for both state association post-season events and individual school regular season events.

The Huddle digital ticketing app is called GoFan. GoFan provides high schools with digital ticketing capabilities along with the convenience, safety and security of professional sporting events at no cost to the schools. Digital ticketing provides consumers with a convenient way to purchase and redeem tickets online or via a mobile phone.

GoFan will now be available at most GHSA championship events. Additionally, GoFan will be offered at quarterfinal and semifinal levels at host schools during the high school football playoffs.

While testing GoFan, GHSA sold 5,500 tickets at this year's basketball finals hosted at the University of Georgia and Georgia Tech, which helped contribute to a 25% increase in



ticket sales compared to 2016.

"We are excited to add the GHSA to our rapidly expanding Huddle Tickets / GoFan family. The GHSA and its member schools are a perfect fit for our easy-to-use digital ticketing technology, and the fans will absolutely love it," stated Huddle CEO Joey Thacker.

"Our exclusive digital ticketing partnership with GoFan is a terrific opportunity for our schools and their fans. GoFan is quick and easy to use on any mobile device or laptop. GHSA schools want the best and GoFan delivers a proven, successful online digital ticketing solution," said GHSA Executive Director Dr. Robin Hines.

"Digital ticketing has never been available to our schools or fans until now," said Fulton County District Athletic Director Steven Craft. "Since we now live in a digital world, we want to continue to lead the way in education and technology. Our schools are ready for it, and so are our fans. GoFan is making it a reality."

"GoFan makes it much easier to manage the money on a Friday night. Bookkeepers throughout the county say it makes their jobs easier and provides more transparency and security," stated Gwinnett County Athletic Director Jon Weyher.

GHSA Honors 2017 Cooperative Spirit Award Winning Schools

Georgia's Electric Membership Cooperatives (Georgia's EMCs) proudly sponsor the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award and are proud to announce the 56 GHSA-member high schools that will receive the 2017 award.

The award honors schools that showed exemplary sportsmanship during the 2016-2017 school year.

"Congratulations to all of the region winners of the GHSA Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award for 2016-2017," says Dr. Robin Hines, GHSA Executive Director.

"It is an honor for these member schools to be selected by their regions for this award. The characteristics of good sportsmanship are critical to the development of our young people as they transition into productive adults. The GHSA applauds our schools on this accomplishment and appreciates Georgia's EMCs for their support of this outstanding recognition program."

Since 2006, the GHSA and Georgia's EMCs have sponsored the Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award, which reinforces the GHSA philosophy: "Students, athletes, coaches, spectators and all others associated with high school activities programs should adhere to the fundamental values of respect, fairness, honesty and responsibility."

Schools around the state are honored for exhibiting exceptional sportsmanship during competitive events.

Student athletes, fellow students, school staff, parents and event spectators are recognized for the sportsmanship they display.

The award is not only a school honor, but a community honor as well. The GHSA region secretaries select winners based upon the sportsmanship demonstrated throughout the school year.

The Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Awards are presented annually to the GHSA-member high schools in



the 56 regions from the seven classifications by representatives from the EMCs during fall athletic events and school assemblies.

Winners of the 2017 Georgia EMC Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award are listed below:

2017 Award Winning Schools

Class 7-A

Region 1: Lowndes HS
Region 2: Campbell HS
Region 3: Hillgrove HS
Region 4: Lassiter HS
Region 5: Forsyth Central HS
Region 6: Mountain View HS
Region 7: Meadowcreek HS
Region 8: Archer HS

Class 6-A

Region 1: Coffee HS
Region 2: Bradwell Institute
Region 3: Heritage-Conyers
Region 4: Forest Park HS
Region 5: Tri-Cities HS
Region 6: Harrison HS
Region 7: Pope HS
Region 8: Apalachee HS

Class 5-A

Region 1: Thomas Co. Central
Region 2: Statesboro HS
Region 3: Fayette County HS
Region 4: Hampton HS
Region 5: Chamblee HS
Region 6: Riverwood HS
Region 7: Cass HS
Region 8: Johnson-Gaines.

Class 4-A

Region 1: Americus-Sumter
Region 2: Upson-Lee HS
Region 3: Richmond Academy
Region 4: Salem HS
Region 5: Central-Carroll HS
Region 6: SE Whitfield HS
Region 7: Chestatee HS
Region 8: St. Pius X

Class 3-A

Region 1: Worth County HS
Region 2: Tattnall County HS
Region 3: Savannah HS
Region 4: Peach County HS
Region 5: McNair HS
Region 6: Lakeview-Ft. Ogle.
Region 7: Union County HS
Region 8: Monroe Area HS

Class 2-A

Region 1: Thomasville HS
Region 2: Bacon County HS
Region 3: Bleckley County HS
Region 4: Jefferson County
Region 5: Heard County HS
Region 6: South Atlanta HS
Region 7: Gordon Central HS
Region 8: Banks County HS

Class A

Region 1: Webster County HS
Region 2: Clinch County HS
Region 3: Jenkins County HS
Region 4: Dooly County HS
Region 5: Galloway School
Region 6: Christian Heritage
Region 7: Lake Oconee Acad.
Region 8: Providence Christian

2017 NFHS National Student Leadership Summit

The GHSA was represented by seven student ambassadors at the NFHS' third annual National Student Leadership Summit this past July in Indianapolis, IN. The students were selected by the GHSA staff from nominations received from member schools across Georgia.

Representing Georgia in 2017 were Ellen Conley, Maddie Priest and Taylor Hogan of Allatoona High School, Brooklyn Hilley of Lakeside-Evans, Carleisha Cullins of Eastside, Kayleigh Ryles of Mary Persons and Ashlynn Anderson of Upson-Lee.

The NSLS focuses on relevant and contemporary issues affecting today's students in education-based athletics and performing arts. Students sharpened their leadership skills and realized the privilege and power of their influence in their school, community and state.

By utilizing a "train the trainer" concept, each student ambassador learned how to develop and maintain healthy relationships with teammates, coaches/adult leaders and officials.

They learned conflict-resolution techniques and how to communicate better with their peers and adults. They also learned the value of perspective and inclusion. Experts discussed these issues in a lecture/interactive format in small group breakout classes.

During the course of the summit,



2017 NSLS ambassadors (L-R): Taylor Hogan (Allatoona); Ellen Conley (Allatoona); Brooklyn Hilley (Lakeside-Evans); Carleisha Cullins (Eastside); Ashlynn Anderson (Upson-Lee); Maddie Priest (Allatoona) and Kayleigh Ryles (Mary Persons).

there were several sessions that included meeting to discuss issues and ways to include student feedback within our state.

The entire group visited a local high school where they learned about Unified Sports and had the opportunity to work with Special Olympics athletes. Unified Sports brings together people with intellectual disabilities and people without intellectual disabilities to

participate on teams together.

The NFHS covered most of the expenses for the ambassadors (hotel room, materials, meals and local ground transportation), while the GHSA covered travel cost.

The GHSA will be accepting nominations for a new group of ambassadors next spring from any coach or athletic director. For more information, contact Penny Pitts at the GHSA office: pennypitts@ghsa.net.

First Class A Power Ratings on Sept. 5

MaxPreps will continue to provide all content to the GHSA to verify Region Standings and manage Class A Power Ratings in Softball, Football, Basketball and Baseball.

The **first power rating** for football and softball will be Tuesday, September 5, 2017. All GHSA member schools statewide must submit complete box score results to MaxPreps, regardless of classification.

Please login to MaxPreps to check accuracy and completeness of your team's roster and schedule prior to the season starting. If you have any questions about MaxPreps, you are encouraged to contact MaxPreps at 800-329-7324 x1 or visit support.maxpreps.com.



Stay Connected to the GHSA!

For all coaches, athletic directors, schools and teams, join the conversation on social media @OfficialGHSA on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram for all the latest association news and information.

Statewide news, association announcements and playoff information are posted daily for interaction with GHSA followers and fans.



Automated Streaming Production with NFHS Network

The No. 1 challenge for schools to take part in video streaming their events is an issue of manpower. Many schools have no one to run the program.

Even when schools do have an established NFHS Network school broadcast program with plenty of participating students, there are simply too many events – they can't cover them all.

NFHS Network now has a solution for everyone. In partnership with Pixellot, there is a system designed for automated event production. No people required.

Type in the following link to watch the informational video - <https://vimeo.com/218501654>

- Camera head - 4 weatherproof HD cameras
- Video Processing Computer for integrating the video feeds and creating the automated production
- Device to plug into scoreboard for automated score graphics in the broadcast
- Audio board for optional addition of announcers

You can contact Matt Abramson for more information: matt.abramson@nfhsnetwork.com.



AUTOMATED SPORT PRODUCTION

The NFHS Network has partnered with **Pixellot** to offer a new hardware & software solution for automated live event production.

- One-time installation in your athletic venue
- All events can be live broadcasted to the NFHS Network
- Fully automated (no people required)

HOW IT WORKS

- Panoramic 4-camera view captures the whole playing field
- Auto-tracking feature enables cameras to follow the action (panning and zooming)
- No camera operator required
- Score graphics sync with venue scoreboard
- All events stream to your branded school page on NFHSNetwork.com



HARDWARE

Fixed installation includes:

- **Camera unit** – 4 weatherproof HD cameras in a single mounted unit
- **Scoring device** – plugs into scoreboard for automated score integration into the broadcast
- **Desktop Computer** – for production integration & video processing

PRICING

- Exclusive pricing only through NFHS Network

Contact Matt Abramson for more information: matt.abramson@nfhsnetwork.com

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES August 29, 2017

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 11:30 a.m., on August 29, 2017, at the GHSA office in Thomaston, Georgia, by Glenn White, President.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice President Lisa Moore Williams. The invocation was given by Robin Hines, Executive Director. Roll call by Steve Figueroa, Media Director, showed the following: Present - 9; Absent - 1 (shown by "A" below)

Gary Long
Steven Craft

Tommy Stringer - A
Jim Finch

Joe Lancaster
Jasper Jewell

Jesse Crews
Michelle Masters

Glenn White
Lisa Moore Williams

Motion was made by Crews, seconded by Lancaster, and unanimously approved to adopt the agenda for the meeting.

APPOINTMENTS

Motion was made by Crews, seconded by Finch, and unanimously approved to go into Executive Session to hear student eligibility appeals. (NOTE: Presentations were made in Executive Session; all votes were taken after voting to come out of Executive Session. For clarity, outcome of vote is given after each statement of presentation.)

Darlington School - Eddie Guth, Athletic Director, presented the appeal for student Addie Holmes, requesting a waiver of the eight semester rule.

Motion by Crews, second by Williams, to **Approve** the appeal.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Heritage-Conyers High School - Ralph Denmark, Assistant Athletic Director, presented the appeal for student Griffen Smith, requesting a waiver of the eight semester rule.

Motion by Masters, second by Finch, to **Deny** the appeal.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Norcross High School - Kirk Barton, Athletic Director, presented the appeal for student Ray Peng, requesting a waiver of the eight semester rule.

Motion by Long, second by Craft, to **Approve** the appeal.

MOTION PASSED (6-3; Finch, Lancaster and White voting "no")

Shiloh High School - Robert Wilson, Athletic Director, presented the appeal for student Kevin Hill, requesting a waiver of the eight semester rule.

Motion by Finch, second by Masters, to **Deny** the appeal.

MOTION PASSED (5-4; Long, Craft, Jewell and Williams voting "no")

Dacula High School - Mark Karen, Athletic Director, presented the appeal for student Brenden Tucker, requesting a reconsideration of a hardship decision rendered on 8/22/17 on migratory status.

Motion by Finch, second by Masters, to **Deny** the appeal.

MOTION PASSED (8-1; Long voting "no")

NEW 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 will require two votes. This is the first vote.)

Motion by Finch, second by Craft, to **Approve** the proposal

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

There being no further business, a motion was made and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.

GHSA - September / October Calendar - 2017

September

- 4 Labor Day, GHSA Office closed
- 5 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 15 Final date to withdraw from Co-Ed Cheerleading
- 19 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting

October

- 1 Deadline to notify entry in One Act Play
- 7 Complete Region Softball
- 7 Determine Area Volleyball winners
- 9 Report Region Softball & Area Volleyball winners by 9 a.m.
- 10 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 10 Deadline for posting rosters in Cross Country
- 11 First Round State Volleyball in 3A, 5A & 7A
- 11, 12 First Round FP State Softball in 3A, 5A, 6A & 7A
- 12 First Round State Volleyball in A, 4A & 6A
- 13, 14 First Round FP State Softball in A, 2A, & 4A
- 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 through 7A
- 18, 19 Second Round FP State Softball all classes

GHSA Sponsors

