



# GHSAA

## "ITEMS OF INTEREST"

September 2020

### Wading - With Your Help - Through Uncharted Waters

Welcome back to school..... maybe! The last six months have been a whirlwind to say the least and I can't say enough good things about our superintendents, school boards, school administrations, teachers, coaches and students.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been something we have never seen in our lifetimes and I appreciate all involved with our schools, sports and activities as we navigate these uncharted waters together. We all have learned a great deal since this began and I believe we are doing the right things to make sports and activities a possibility for our student-athletes this fall.

Our local districts have taken different approaches to school, some are virtual, some face-to-face and some are hybrid. The overwhelming majority of districts have elected to participate in athletics, which indicates the level of importance our schools and communities place in these activities as they affect the emotional, mental and physical well-being of our students.

I am proud of our schools and their coaches and administrators as they have learned how to participate while dealing with strategies to prevent the exposure to and spread of the virus.

As a result of your efforts, softball, volleyball and cross country are well into their seasons and football will begin very soon. There will be some rough spots during the seasons and that is understood as we move forward. The good news is the numbers have been going down with regard to the virus and continue to do so as we move forward.

Your Sports Medicine Advisory Council has met weekly to track COVID-19 and to develop guidance for you to use to make your return to sports as safe as possible. This group is comprised of physicians, athletic trainers, nurses, first responders and other health care professionals and they have graciously given of their time in guiding us through these difficult times. We all owe them a debt of gratitude.

There have been a few changes and please understand that those have been made to give our students the best chance to have a complete season. Football has moved back two weeks and cheerleading and One Act Play have been moved to the winter and spring, respectively.

These changes were made in the interest of safety and to allow those events to be as normal as possible in an abnormal time. As you know, we are doing our best in an uncertain time and we are creating the game plan as it plays out.

We understand there could be additional changes as we move forward but it will be in the interest of safety and to provide a framework of opportunities for our young people.

Thanks again for all you do and as always feel free to give me a call if I can assist you in any way.

– Dr. James R. Hines, Jr., Executive Director



Join the conversation on social media @OfficialGHSAA on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube

**GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION Newsletter**

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Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday

**Vol. 39****September 2020****No. 1**

**- GHSA STAFF -**  
**Areas of Responsibility**

**ROBIN HINES** (extension 41)

- Executive Director -  
Administration, By-Law Interpretations, Hardship Rulings,  
Football Playoffs, Coaches Education Program

**ERNIE YARBROUGH** (extension 27)

- Assistant Executive Director -  
Basketball, Softball, Track, Golf & Girls Flag Football

**DON CORR** (extension 34)

- Associate Director -  
Baseball, Volleyball, Wrestling, Sports Medicine

**TOMMY WHITTLE** (extension 23)

- Associate Director -  
Literary, One-Act Play, Lacrosse

**CARROR WRIGHT** (extension 39)

- Associate Director -  
Coach's Liaison, Compliance & Transfer Eligibility, Sportsmanship

**PENNY PITTS MITCHELL** (extension 22)

- Associate Director -  
Cheerleading, Gymnastics, Dance, Student Leadership, Title IX

**KEVIN GIDDENS** (extension 25)

- Associate Director -  
Bass Fishing, Football, Cross Country, & Soccer

**TANYA ANDERSON** (extension 29)

- Associate Director -  
Event Sanctioning, Esports, DragonFly Liaison,  
Assist with Cross Country and with Student Leadership

**STEVE FIGUEROA** (extension 26)

- Director of Information/Media Services -  
Media Coordination, Newsletter, Constitution & Calendar, Tennis

**PAM THOMPSON** (extension 30)

- Officials' Registrar -  
Officials' Registration, Testing & Online Clinics, Service Awards

**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 -  
Literary & One-Act Play Liaison, Rifery Liaison, School Contacts &  
School Passes, Directory, Coaches' Clinics, Trophies & Medals

**GHSA Licensed Products**

This month's featured licensees are: **Jostens**, official championship jewelry ([jostens.com](http://jostens.com)); **Musco Sports Lighting**, leader in developing sports-lighting technology solutions ([musco.com](http://musco.com)); **FieldTurf**, official artificial turf ([fieldturf.com](http://fieldturf.com)); **Hudl**, official video exchange service ([hudl.com](http://hudl.com)); **Hartwell Studio Works**, creating dynamic spirit logos ([hartwellstudioworks.com](http://hartwellstudioworks.com)); and **NFHS Network**, School Broadcast Program produces, distributes and monetizes your school's own video streaming Web powered by PlayOn Sports. ([nfhsnetwork.com/associations/ghsa](http://nfhsnetwork.com/associations/ghsa)).

**REMINDER: The GHSA has waived Membership Dues for all schools this year.**

**New: Pickle Juice Payment Solutions**

As student athletes begin to return to the class rooms and to team sports, ensuring the safe return to play for your team is paramount. That's why Pickle Juice is offering its team sports management and contactless payment solution available to clubs at no monthly charge this season.

Pickle Juice is the official team management solution of the Georgia High School Association. Many local High Schools such as Cambridge, Alpharetta, Centennial and Roswell are already using Pickle Juice for safe, contactless registration and payments.

Just a few of our solutions include:

■ **Contactless Payments.** Accept all major credit cards or using contactless and mobile payments with our mobile payment app. Pickle Juice enables payments via all major credit cards. Accept contactless transactions such as Apple Pay or Tap and go through our secure card readers.

■ **Online Registration.** All forms and registrations are managed electronically in one central place.

■ **Online Fundraising.** Tools to help raise additional funds to fuel the upcoming season. Leverage our incredible fundraising platform to help your fundraisers go viral. You can effortlessly share your campaign through social media and donors can easily donate via credit card with just a few clicks!

■ **Email & Text Communication.** Easily schedule and manage communications to teams and individuals via email and text.

■ **Electronic forms and waivers.** Eliminate the need for paper forms and waivers. Upload important forms, documents, and waivers to include with your team's registration event and allow parents and players to digitally accept terms during registration.

I would be happy to schedule a quick 15 min demo or jump on a call to answer any questions. To learn how Pickle Juice is enabling contactless payments across teams and clubs, please visit us at [www.picklejuiceapp.com](http://www.picklejuiceapp.com). Contact: Andrew Miller | Sr. Account Manager; direct: 786 942-9878 | email: [andrew.miller@picklejuiceapp.com](mailto:andrew.miller@picklejuiceapp.com)



## Re-Acclimation Rules Defined

After input from the Sports Medicine Advisory Council, the GHSA has decided to define the re-acclimation process for quarantined athletes when they return to practice.

Initially, all football players are required to complete five (5) days of acclimation. Once acclimated, if players miss five (5) or more consecutive days of practice, they must re-acclimate. Athletes requiring re-acclimation must now follow the schedule below (for all athletes who have previously completed the acclimation period):

### Re-Acclimation

**Day 1:** 1.5 hour conditioning - helmets only

**Day 2:** 2 hours conditioning - helmets only

**Day 3:** 2.5 hours with helmets only

**Day 4:** 2.5 hours with helmets and shoulder pads

**Day 5:** 2.5 hours with full pads – No Game

Recommendations and restrictions are fluid and subject to change. Safety must be our top priority.

## New GHSA Football Radio Partnership

Dickey Broadcasting Company's Sports Radio 680 The Fan & Southern Sports Today Network, along with the GHSA and the Georgia News Network are proud to announce a production partnership for the 2020 Georgia High School Football Network Scoreboard Show.

The program will feed live from the studios of 680 The Fan and Southern Sports Today in the Battery Atlanta, Friday nights 10 p.m., to 12 midnight starting September 4 through November 27. The show will be distributed in partnership with Georgia News Network and will be hosted online at <http://SouthernSportstoday.com>.

The show will be hosted by 680 The Fan's Friday Night Football staff consisting of Steve West, Chris Mooneyham, and Brandon Joseph with Executive Producer Derrick Thomas, and will include the latest scores and interviews with coaches and play by play announcers from metro Atlanta and across the state of Georgia and heard locally in Atlanta on 680 The Fan and Xtra 106.3 FM.

## GHSA Honors 2019-20 Cooperative Spirit Award Winning Schools

Georgia's Electric Membership Cooperatives (EMCs) proudly sponsor the Georgia High School Association Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award and today announce the 56 GHSA-member high schools that will receive this year's award. The award honors schools that demonstrated impeccable sportsmanship during the 2019-2020 school year.

"Congratulations to all of the region winners of the GHSA Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award for 2019-2020," 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 winning this award are thus honored for displaying exemplary sportsmanship during competition throughout the school year.

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 sportsmanship demonstrated throughout the school year.

Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Awards are presented annually to the GHSA-member high schools in the 56 regions from the seven classifications by EMC representatives during fall athletic events and school assemblies. Winners of the

2019-2020 GHSA Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award to be presented by Georgia's EMCs are::

### 2019-20 Award Winning Schools

#### Class 7-A

**Region 1:** Colquitt County  
**Region 2:** Wheeler  
**Region 3:** Hillgrove  
**Region 4:** Roswell  
**Region 5:** Lambert  
**Region 6:** Duluth  
**Region 7:** Parkview  
**Region 8:** Rockdale County

#### Class 6-A

**Region 1:** Coffee  
**Region 2:** Effingham County  
**Region 3:** Evans  
**Region 4:** Mundy's Mill  
**Region 5:** Northgate  
**Region 6:** Osborne  
**Region 7:** Chattahoochee  
**Region 8:** Habersham Central

#### Class 5-A

**Region 1:** Warner Robins  
**Region 2:** Ware County  
**Region 3:** McIntosh  
**Region 4:** Eagle's Landing  
**Region 5:** Arabia Mountain  
**Region 6:** Riverwood  
**Region 7:** Woodland-Bartow  
**Region 8:** Johnson-Gainesville

#### Class 4-A

**Region 1:** Americus-Sumter  
**Region 2:** West Laurens  
**Region 3:** Thomson  
**Region 4:** McDonough  
**Region 5:** Central-Carroll  
**Region 6:** Pickens  
**Region 7:** West Hall  
**Region 8:** Madison County

#### Class 3-A

**Region 1:** Monroe  
**Region 2:** Long County  
**Region 3:** Benedictine  
**Region 4:** Rutland  
**Region 5:** Cedar Grove  
**Region 6:** Ringgold  
**Region 7:** Fannin County  
**Region 8:** Morgan County

#### Class 2-A

**Region 1:** Early County  
**Region 2:** Metter  
**Region 3:** East Laurens  
**Region 4:** Butler  
**Region 5:** Heard County  
**Region 6:** Therrell  
**Region 7:** Coosa  
**Region 8:** Social Circle

#### Class A

**Region 1:** Pelham  
**Region 2:** Atkinson County  
**Region 3:** Claxton  
**Region 4:** Marion County  
**Region 5:** Our Lady of Mercy  
**Region 6:** Trion  
**Region 7:** Georgia Military  
**Region 8:** Tallulah Falls



## 2020-21 GHSA Student Athlete Advisory Council

The 2020-21 GHSA Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC) had its first meeting virtually on August 26, 2020.

The Council is made up of 18 student-athletes from 469 GHSA member schools. The students submitted applications last spring and were chosen by a panel that scored their applications based on answers to five questions. There is a male and female representative for each classification and two "at large" members.

The focus continues with the topic of sportsmanship between teams, schools and officials. Another topic is unifying the student body and sports teams, and ways to reach out to all students no matter their race, economic backgrounds, athletic ability, academic success, etc.

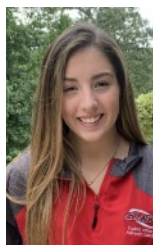
Members will try to reach out to students in schools of the same classification to help them understand the role of the GHSA and be their voice. The council will be posting on Instagram (@ghsa.saac) and Twitter (@athleteGhsa).

For more information on the SAAC, you can contact Penny Mitchell at [penny@ghsa.net](mailto:penny@ghsa.net) or Tanya Anderson at [tanyaanderson@ghsa.net](mailto:tanyaanderson@ghsa.net).

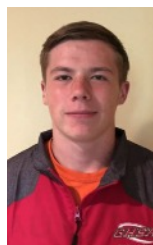
### 2019-20 Student Athlete Advisory Council



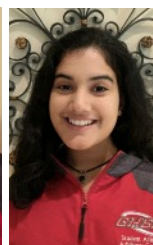
Ashlynn Anderson  
Upson-Lee



Calliway Selman  
Mary Persons



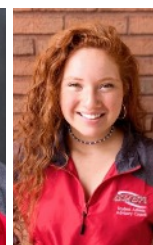
Allen Gruehn  
Marietta



Pari Jain  
Peachtree Ridge



Navan Kothari  
Wheeler



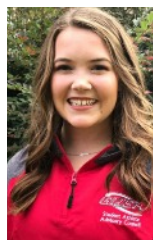
Emma Ramos  
Kennesaw Mtn.



Cal Bowles  
McIntosh



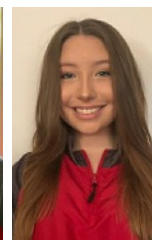
Trinity Crance  
Union Grove



Ella Newsome  
West Laurens



Caleb Griffiths  
Central-Carroll



Cassie Pritchett  
Gilmer



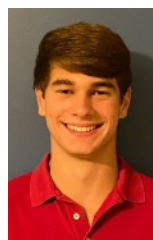
Tate Yancey  
Oconee County



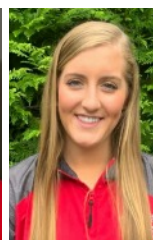
Tyrese Miller  
South Atlanta



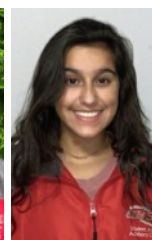
O'niya Threatt  
Northeast



Ben Jamison  
Stratford Acad.



Katy Corbett  
Tallulah Falls



Emma Castro Poveda  
ACE Charter



Chase Chafin  
Wash.-Wilkes

## ACT and SAT Assessment Dates

Each year, the GHSA office gets requests to alter schedules due to conflicts with ACT and SAT tests. We cannot accommodate those requests. The following chart gives dates of the exams and possible conflicts with GHSA activities. We urge you to inform your athletes and coaches **now** about these dates in order for the athletes to plan their assessments around events in which they are to compete.

### ACT ASSESSMENT DATES

September 12, 2020.....	None
October 24, 2020.....	Volleyball playoffs
December 12, 2020.....	State Football playoffs
February 6, 2021.....	State Swimming Meet, Sectional Traditional Wrestling, Region One Act Plays
April 17, 2021.....	Region/Area Literary
June 12, 2021.....	None
July 17, 2021.....	None

### ACTIVITY CONFLICTS

### SAT ASSESSMENT DATES

September 26, 2020.....	None
October 3, 2020.....	None
November 7, 2020.....	State Volleyball, State Cross Country
December 5, 2020.....	State Football playoffs
March 13, 2021.....	Area Rifery, Basketball State Finals
May 8, 2021.....	Sectional Track Meets, State Tennis Finals, Area/Region Golf
June 5, 2021.....	None

### ACTIVITY CONFLICTS

### AP EXAM DATES

Week 1 - May 3-7, 2021 .....	Baseball, Lacrosse, Soccer & Tennis Playoffs, Area Golf
Week 2 - May 10-14, 2021.....	Baseball, Lacrosse & Soccer Playoffs, State Track Meets

### ACTIVITY CONFLICTS

## September is GHSA's Cancer Awareness Month

The GHSA is once again designating September as its official fall sports "**Cancer Awareness Month**" to advance the awareness of and help fight all types of this dreaded disease.

Teams may wear colored jerseys, socks, wristbands, and/or headbands during a home game to show support for their chosen fundraiser.

January (winter) and April (spring) are also designated GHSA "cancer awareness" months later in the scholastic year.

Thank you to everyone in advance for your enthusiasm and action to fight back against cancer. Here are some groups that can support your much appreciated efforts:

**American Cancer Society:** If your school or team wants to get involved by raising funds for a specific type of cancer, participate in your local breast cancer walk or Relay For Life, host a Coaches Versus Cancer game, join Schools Versus Cancer, or join the fight against ALL cancers, please email [Jessica.Hong@cancer.org](mailto:Jessica.Hong@cancer.org).

If you have already raised funds and wish to donate to the American Cancer Society, please email Jessica and she can notify you where to mail your check or donate online.

**Leukemia & Lymphoma Society:** Leukemia affects more children than any other cancer, so, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's (LLS) Hero Squad program is a science-based service-learning program that connects schools with local blood cancer patients, provides tangible life skills to participants, and allows students to see the impact they're making in the lives of others. Our mission is to cure Leukemia, Lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and Myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. Registering is fast and easy at <https://www.herosquad.org/school-registration>. Teachers, parents and school administrators may also call Mary Kate Abel at (404) 720-7815 for more information.

**Rally Foundation Against Childhood Cancer:** Rally Foundation United Against Childhood Cancer Teams Up with GHSA to #Goldstrong for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month this September. Each school day in America, 46 kids are diagnosed with cancer, the leading disease killer of children in America ages 1 to 19, yet



**4 QUARTERS  
4 RESEARCH**



Rally Kid Maddox  
Fighting Blood Cancer

### RAISE MONEY FOR KIDS WITH CANCER

#### FOUR EASY STEPS TO RAISE MONEY FOR KIDS WITH CANCER

- 1 ANNOUNCE YOUR FUNDRAISER**
  - To friends, family, neighbors, teachers.
- 2 SHARE, SHARE, SHARE**
  - Put up flyers promoting your fundraiser.
  - Post your fundraiser on social media. Post a video explaining it.
  - Create an online fundraising page with Rally's help!
  - Send a letter explaining 4 Quarters 4 Research.
- 3 MAKE IT MEANINGFUL**
  - By raising money in honor of a child fighting cancer in your community or selecting a Rally Kid from Rally's website.

**RALLY IS HERE TO HELP EVERY STEP OF THE WAY!**  
**COLLECT MONEY AND SEND ONE CHECK:**

Rally Foundation C/O Adam Cohen  
5775 Glenridge Drive, Building B, Suite 370  
Atlanta, GA 30328  
Venmo - @RallyFoundation  
Include school name in memo if applicable







**INTERESTED? CONTACT:**  
Adam Cohen, Director of Events  
Ph. (404) 847 - 1270  
[Adam@RallyFoundation.org](mailto:Adam@RallyFoundation.org)

**Rally is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. EIN: 20-1950849**  
The proceeds from the 4 Quarters 4 Research will support childhood cancer research. Rally operates at 93% efficiency according to audited financials. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

less than 4% of federal cancer research funding is allocated to childhood cancers. Learn more at [RallyFoundation.org](http://RallyFoundation.org) or contact [Adam@RallyFoundation.org](mailto:Adam@RallyFoundation.org).

**Georgia Breast Cancer Coalition:** The Georgia Breast Cancer Coalition Fund is a non-profit education and advocacy organization founded by breast cancer survivors. We exist to focus the attention of Georgians on the epidemic proportions of breast cancer. We work diligently to bring together individuals and organizations with a commitment to ending this devastating disease.

Since 1994, GABCC has been instrumental in breast cancer education and advocacy work. We remain dedicated to making a difference for the nearly 9,000 Georgians who are diagnosed with breast cancer each year. All of the donations, grants and funds that GABCC receives goes directly toward GEORGIA's breast cancer patients. Learn more at [gabcc.org](http://gabcc.org).

If a school does NOT have a home contest during one of the designated cancer awareness weeks, the school may request to wear or display the special cancer-awareness colors at a home contest during another week.



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[www.NFHSNetwork.com/pixellot](http://www.NFHSNetwork.com/pixellot)





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2. Book your stays between **July 15, 2020** and **September 15, 2020**.
3. Check-in at any of our 6,000+ participating hotels worldwide by **December 31, 2020**.

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<sup>1</sup> For terms and conditions, see [www.choicehotels.com/choice-privileges/rules-regulations](http://www.choicehotels.com/choice-privileges/rules-regulations). The double points are only available to members of the Choice Privileges Rewards Program who are employees of Choice Hotels corporate travel partners that are the intended recipients of this email ("eligible members"). Eligible members will be awarded double points after a qualifying stay with arrival between 7/15/2020 and 12/31/2020 at a participating Choice Hotel. WoodSpring Suite locations, among others, are not currently participating. All hotels are independently owned and operated. "Double points" means two times the base points earned from a qualifying stay (base points may vary by hotel). To qualify for the bonus points, members must book their stays between 7/15/2020 and 9/15/2020 with a participating hotel via ChoiceHotels.com, the Choice Hotels mobile app, or 800.4CHOICE at a rate that qualifies for Choice Privileges points and arrive between 7/15/2020 and 12/31/2020. Corporate travelers may book through their online booking tool, CDS, or with a travel agent. Corporate travelers must provide their Corporate ID/IATA/Member ID when booking at 800.4CHOICE and, regardless of method booked, all members must provide their Choice Privileges member number upon check-in. Guest must book their preferred corporate rate. Production will be based on the amount of point earning stays booked with the Corporate Travel ID, the dedicated IATA, Rate Access Code, or Special Rate Plan by employees enrolled in the U.S. Choice Privileges program during the program term year. Most stays are eligible to earn Choice Privileges points EXCEPT: rooms booked at rates below \$40 USD per night; certain hotel-initiated promotions; reward night stays; complimentary rooms; rooms paid for as part of a convention or meeting; rooms booked through a travel agent or third party online retailer including online travel agencies, wholesale packages, group tours, and stays booked using the employee discount or the Friends, family and associate discount. Stays at vacation rental property locations and Choice Hotels properties in the following countries are excluded from this promotion: Japan, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Guyana, and Ecuador. To be eligible for the bonus points, members must set their earning preference to Choice Privileges points in their online account. Any changes made to earning preference will remain in effect after the promotion has ended, unless the member changes it. Points will be posted 2-4 weeks after the end of each month during the promotion period. Requests for bonus points made by members who did not include their Choice Privileges number on the original reservation during the promotion will only be considered up to 60 days after the promotion ends; requests thereafter will be denied. You must maintain an address in the U.S. (including U.S. territories) or Canada to be eligible for this promotion. Choice Hotels reserves the right to amend these terms or terminate this promotion at any time. Hotel participation may vary. For Choice Privileges program details, eligible rates, eligible countries and point redemption rules, visit [www.ChoiceHotels.com/CPRules](http://www.ChoiceHotels.com/CPRules). Hotels are independently owned and operated.

## GHSA - September / October Calendar - 2020

### September

- 4 Earliest Date for Football Game
- 7 Labor Day, GHSA Office closed
- 8 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 22 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting

### October

- 5 State Executive Committee Meeting
- 6 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 12 First Practice date for Flag Football and for Swimming & Diving
- 16 Complete Region Fastpitch Softball
- 17 Report Region Fastpitch Softball winners by 9 a.m.
- 17 Determine Region/Area Volleyball winners
- 19 Report Region/Area Volleyball winners by 9 a.m.
- 19 Earliest date for Flag Football game
- 19-21 First Round State Fastpitch Softball
- 20 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 20, 21 First Round State Volleyball Tournament
- 22-24 Second Round State Fastpitch Softball Tournament
- 23 Deadline for posting rosters in Cross Country
- 24 Earliest date for Dance practice; Second Round State Volleyball Tournament

### GHSA Sponsors

