



# GHSAA

## "ITEMS OF INTEREST"

September 2022

### A Few Reminders As We Get Into the New School Year

It's hard to believe we are a month into school and our Fall sports are in full swing. It has been great for the GHSA staff to be out around the state visiting schools and enjoying GHSA sports after a long summer of planning for the year. I appreciate all you do to provide awesome opportunities for the student athletes in Georgia.

This time of year I always look back to the previous year to see where we were and how far we've come. The start of school the previous two years revolved around COVID-19, first the focus was on "return to play" after the previous spring shut down, and last year the Delta Variant was prevalent and we were much more prepared with the safeguards you implemented. I am grateful that this is no longer at the forefront of our thoughts and we have finally gotten back to where we were prior to the pandemic and I am grateful for all of your efforts in getting to this point.

There are several reminders for you as follows:

- ✓ Please continue to **file eligibility** for students as soon as you are able to do so. Be reminded of the very first by-law which states that a student may not participate (practice or contests) until eligibility has been filed and processed by the GHSA office.

- ✓ **Account for your students that are migrant** and are not eligible for varsity competition. Migrant students are eligible for sub-varsity competition but if they are not pulled from your eligibility roll from the previous year, they will be electronically placed on a form A (non-transfer list) and will be processed as eligible because non-transfer students are deemed eligible **ONLY** by academic units. This will happen regardless of the fact that they have been deemed migrant within the past 12 months. The problem is that if you don't account for these students, you could inadvertently allow a migrant student to participate in a varsity contest which could result in forfeitures and financial penalties. Most student information programs allow you to flag these students and will make sure your eligibility rosters are correct.

- ✓ For those **schools that are members of the NFHS Network**, please make sure your Pixellot cameras are up and running. If you have any issues with this, you can call the network and they will help. Or you can give me a call and I'll reach out to them on your behalf. If you are not currently using the NFHS Network at your school, I would encourage you to do so. Seventy (70) percent of GHSA schools participate and it is definitely a revenue stream for your school. If you are interested in learning more about joining the network, let me know and I will be sure to have them contact you directly.

- ✓ Another revenue stream is **GoFan, our digital ticketing partner**. Again, 70% of GHSA schools use GoFan during the regular season, as well as your association for all post-season contests. If you need help, I am happy to have them contact you with information regarding this service.

I hope you are off to a great start and things are running smoothly for you. I hope to see you at a game soon and feel free to call if I, or any member of our staff, can do anything for you.

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



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

**GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION Newsletter**

Issued monthly, September through April, by the Georgia High School Association, 151 S. Bethel St., Thomaston, GA 30286

Phone: 706-647-7473 Fax: 706-647-2638 Web: [www.ghsa.net](http://www.ghsa.net)

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

**Vol. 41****September 2022****No. 1**

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**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, Swimming, Lacrosse, Golf & Girls Flag Football

**DON CORR** (extension 34)

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

**CARROR WRIGHT** (extension 39)

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

**PENNY PITTS MITCHELL** (extension 22)

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Cheerleading, Gymnastics, Dance, Student Leadership, Title IX

**KEVIN GIDDENS** (extension 25)

- Associate Director -  
Bass Fishing, Football & Soccer

**TANYA ANDERSON** (extension 29)

- Associate Director -  
Literary, One Act Play, Esports, DragonFly Liaison,  
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- Director of Information/Media Services -  
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Officials' Registration, Testing & Online Clinics, Service Awards

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Publication Orders

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**STACEY JONES** (extension 32)

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Directory, Coaches' Clinics, Trophies & Medals

**GHSA Licensed Products**

This month's featured licensees are: **Jostens**, official championship rings and 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 unique, dynamic and protectable spirit logos / marks ([hartwellstudioworks.com](http://hartwellstudioworks.com)), **NFHS Network**, School Broadcast Program produces, distributes and monetize your school's own video streaming Web powered by PlayOn Sports. ([nfhsnetwork.com/associations/ghsa](http://nfhsnetwork.com/associations/ghsa)).

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

**Sept. is Cancer Awareness Month**

September is official fall sports "Cancer Awareness Month" in the Georgia High School Association to help fight all types of this dreaded disease. Teams may wear colored jerseys, socks, wristbands, and headbands during a home game to show support for their chosen cancer fundraiser.

In honor of Childhood Cancer Awareness, the GHSA is partnering with the Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research to be #Goldstrong, United against Childhood Cancer during September, Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

Each school day in America, 47 kids are diagnosed with cancer, the leading disease killer of children in America ages 1 to 19, yet less than 4% of federal cancer research funding is allocated to childhood cancers. Learn more at [RallyFoundation.org](http://RallyFoundation.org).

GHSA first partnered with Rally in September 2016. The initiative has since raised more than \$500,000 statewide for childhood cancer research through change collection at various sporting events and other school activities.

In observance of Breast Cancer "Pink" awareness, the GHSA allows member schools to wear "Pink" at their HOME event.

January (winter) and April (spring) are additional "cancer awareness" months throughout the GHSA scholastic season. Thank you to everyone in advance.

**Rule Interpretations Now Available!**

**COACHES & OFFICIALS** - To request an interpretation of a current NFHS Rule or GHSA Policy, go to the MIS System "Forms" page and scroll down to "Rules Interpretation Request."

Your request will then be sent to the respective GHSA Sport Coordinator.



## GHSA Student Athlete Advisory Council Holds First Meeting

### 2022-23 GHSA Student Athlete Advisory Council Members

The 2022-23 GHSA Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC) had its first meeting in Macon on August 24, 2022.

The Council is made up of 19 student-athletes from 455 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 from each classification and four "at large" members.

The focus this year is directed to tweaking and improving on last year's Student Section of the Year Award that was won by Mill Creek's Creek's Freaks. The rubric will include band participation, good sportsmanship, and more specific details on what we are looking for. The student leadership conference (moving to April next spring) continues to be a huge undertaking for this group.

Members also will try to help other students 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).



Lea Smith  
Norcross



TJ Wells  
Duluth



Caroline Hilley  
Lakeside-Evans



James Paige  
Newnan



Melody Fowler  
Ola



Abegayle NeSmith  
West Laurens



Gavin Ollis  
Northwest Whitfield



SaNiiyah Burchfield  
Douglass-Atlanta



Logan Hickman  
Mary Persons



Ciara Passmore  
Rutland



Turner Michael  
Fannin County



Maggie Palmer  
Seminole County



Will Walker  
Seminole County



Hannah Heinen  
Lake Oconee Academy



Marquez Harris  
East Laurens



Emma Castro Poveda  
ACE Charter



Cassie Pritchett  
Gilmer



Tim Dees  
Peach County



Olivia Miller  
Oconee County

## GHSA's Dr. Robin Hines Named to AAASP's Board of Directors

The American Association of Adapted Sports Programs, Inc., is excited to welcome Dr. Robin Hines to the distinguished AAASP Board of Directors. As someone with about four decades of experience in education, administration, and coaching, Hines is an exceptional addition to the organization and brings a wealth of knowledge to the AAASP Board of Directors.

Hines is the Executive Director of the Georgia High School Association, where he handles day-to-day operations and challenges, along with interpreting the by-laws created by schools and voted on by the Executive Committee. He also oversees the GHSA's Coach's Education Program, which offers training and certification for those interested in becoming a community coach.

Before joining the GHSA, Hines was a teacher, coach, assistant superintendent, and superintendent in the Houston County School System before retiring. He has also worked in Jackson and Charlton Counties, as well as served as an athletic director and assistant principal.

After retiring from his nearly four decades long career in education, he was initially hesitant to apply for the position of Executive Director out of consideration for his family and time with his wife, Kim. However, both of them felt a sense of service and gratitude to the Georgia High School Association, so Hines decided to apply and has been serving in the position since 2017.

Beyond education, Hines is an avid sports enthusiast, having played football and baseball in high school which he says shaped the rest of life. It was his experience with his coaches and teachers in high school that set him on the path he has led in life.

In addition to sports, Hines loves music and even plays several instruments. He loves rock and bluegrass music, especially music from the Allman Brothers, and he even plays in a couple of local bands.

Hines is married to his college sweetheart and retired kindergarten teacher, the former Kim Dilling, and they have three children: Melissa, Ashley, and Bobby.



The American Association of Adapted Sports Programs (AAASP), headquartered in Atlanta, just celebrated its 25th year as a not-for-profit association.

AAASP is dedicated to developing interscholastic adapted sports programs in partnership with national, state, and local educational agencies.

It represents a standardized approach to extracurricular adapted team sports and has developed one of the nation's most comprehensive school-based athletic programs for students with physical disabilities attending elementary, middle, and high schools.

For more information, please visit the official AAASP website at <http://adaptedsports.org> or join their conversations on Twitter at: @AdaptedSports.

### GHSA Starts 'Officials Appreciation Week'

In recognition of the contribution that GHSA contest officials make to our member schools and student athletes, the GHSA is starting a new program called "Officials Appreciation Week."

There will be a week in each GHSA sports season during which we request that schools hosting events during the designated weeks recognize contest officials in some special manner (cookies, treats, thank you notes, etc.) to show your appreciation for their service. Listed below are the designated weeks for 2022-23:

**FALL** - September 19 - 24 (Football, FP Softball, Cross Country, Volleyball, Cheer, One-Act Play)

**WINTER** - January 23 - 28 (Basketball, Wrestling, Swimming, Esports, Bass Fishing, Dance, Literary)

**SPRING** - April 17 - 22 (Baseball, Soccer, Lacrosse, SP Softball, Track & Field, Gymnastics)

### 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 Honors 2021-22 Cooperative Spirit Award Winners

Georgia's Electric Membership Cooperatives (EMCs) proudly sponsor the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award and are pleased to announce the 64 GHSA-member high schools that will receive this year's award. The award honors schools that demonstrated impeccable sportsmanship during the 2021-2022 school year.

"Congratulations to all of the region winners of the GHSA Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award for 2021-2022," said Dr. Robin Hines, GHSA's 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 64 regions from the eight classifications by EMC representatives during fall athletic events and school assemblies.



## 2021-22 Award Winning Schools

### Class 7-A

**Region 1:** Camden County  
**Region 2:** McEachern  
**Region 3:** Marietta  
**Region 4:** Newton  
**Region 5:** Roswell  
**Region 6:** Lambert  
**Region 7:** Duluth  
**Region 8:** Mill Creek

### Class 3-A

**Region 1:** Long County  
**Region 2:** Sumter County  
**Region 3:** Savannah  
**Region 4:** Harlem  
**Region 5:** Douglass-Atlanta  
**Region 6:** Coahulla Creek  
**Region 7:** East Forsyth  
**Region 8:** Stephens County

### Class 6-A

**Region 1:** Northside-WR  
**Region 2:** Bradwell Institute  
**Region 3:** Rockdale County  
**Region 4:** Lakeside-DeKalb  
**Region 5:** East Paulding  
**Region 6:** Wheeler  
**Region 7:** Cambridge  
**Region 8:** Habersham Central

### Class 2-A

**Region 1:** Cook  
**Region 2:** East Laurens  
**Region 3:** Bleckley County  
**Region 4:** Jefferson County  
**Region 5:** Haralson County  
**Region 6:** KIPP Atlanta  
**Region 7:** Coosa  
**Region 8:** Elbert County

### Class 5-A

**Region 1:** Warner Robins  
**Region 2:** Northgate  
**Region 3:** Woodward Academy  
**Region 4:** Woodland-Henry  
**Region 5:** Lithonia  
**Region 6:** Midtown  
**Region 7:** Hiram  
**Region 8:** Johnson-Gainesville

### Class A Public

**Region 1:** Calhoun County  
**Region 2:** Atkinson County  
**Region 3:** Screven County  
**Region 4:** Johnson County  
**Region 5:** Taylor County  
**Region 6:** Armuchee  
**Region 7:** Twiggs County  
**Region 8:** Lake Oconee

### Class 4-A

**Region 1:** Dougherty  
**Region 2:** Shaw  
**Region 3:** Islands  
**Region 4:** West Laurens  
**Region 5:** Hampton  
**Region 6:** Arabia Mountain  
**Region 7:** Central-Carroll  
**Region 8:** Flowery Branch

### Class A Private

**Region 1:** Deerfield-Windsor  
**Region 2:** Our Lady of Mercy  
**Region 3:** Savannah Christian  
**Region 4:** Brookstone  
**Region 5:** Atlanta International  
**Region 6:** Mt. Paran  
**Region 7:** Walker  
**Region 8:** Loganville Christian

## Nfinity Peach Classic Cheerleading Oct. 29

Announcing the Nfinity Peach Classic Georgia Middle School State Championships on Saturday, October 29th at Marietta High School.

We ask varsity coaches to please spread the word to your middle school feeder programs. Nfinity, the official uniform, shoe, and backpack sponsor of GHSA cheer, is excited to introduce the middle school state contests.

Contact Steve Solberg at [steve@nfinity.com](mailto:steve@nfinity.com), for additional questions.

State championship trophies for winners!

Two middle school state champions will be crowned: small middle school (5-16 competitors) and large middle school (17-30 competitors).

Event backdrop and professional sound system will create a fun competition atmosphere.

Nfinity Store On-Site: state champions will get 20% off a team order; 2nd and 3rd place teams will get a 15% discount; EVERYONE gets a 10% discount.

Register at [www.nfinity.com/pages/georgia-middle-school-cheerleading-state-championships](http://www.nfinity.com/pages/georgia-middle-school-cheerleading-state-championships)



## Schools Are Reminded of MaxPreps Requirements in 2022-23

Schools are reminded that you are required to enter team schedules, rosters and game results during the season on MaxPreps and be responsible for updates as needed in the sports of Baseball, Basketball, Football (including Flag), Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball and Volleyball.

This information will support statewide media, event programs, broadcasts partners and GHSA Region Standings. Teams are encouraged to maintain team / individual statistics on MaxPreps.

The MaxPreps Support Team walks you through the basics of using the website including best ways to log in, gain access to your team, enter your team information, and more.

This MaxPreps 101 training is specifically targeted to get you more familiar with all the tools MaxPreps offers.

You can watch a training video on YouTube by going to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=578avouF3rc>

### **Logging in to MaxPreps**

- Login to [MaxPreps.com](https://www.maxpreps.com) and click the user icon in the upper right corner.
- Click on your school to be taken to the coach admin. You will see links for your roster & schedule.

### **Need access to MaxPreps?**

- Contact Ryan Casey ([rcasey@maxpreps.com](mailto:rcasey@maxpreps.com)) with your school & sport if you do not have access to your coach admin.

### **Schedules**

1. Once logged in, click on "Schedule"
2. To add a game, click on "+ Add"
3. Fill out the game information (date, time, location, game type).
4. The information will reflect on the team page within 15-30 minutes.

### **Scores**

- Step-by-step instruction on how to enter scores is available by going to: <https://support.maxpreps.com/hc/en-us/articles/202055644-Score-Management->

- Instructions on how to enter scores on the go may be found by going here: <https://support.maxpreps.com/hc/en-us/articles/360013582273-Enter-in-scores-stats-on-the-go->

### **Rosters**

1. Once logged in, click on your school to be taken to the coach admin. You'll see links for your roster.
2. Click on Roster in the menu or under the Team Checklist.
3. Click "Copy Roster from Last Year" to advance everyone from last year's team -or- select "Quick Add" to begin manually entering athletes.
4. Remember to include jersey numbers.

### **Stats**

- The GHSA encourages coaches to submit stats after every game to help promote high school sports, and accurately track team and student-athlete performances.

- Step-by-step instructions of how to enter and edit stats is available here: <https://support.maxpreps.com/hc/en-us/articles/202103644-Stat-Management>

### **Live scores**

- Keep your community up to date by assigning someone to provide live score updates.



- More info here: <https://support.maxpreps.com/hc/en-us/articles/202176914-Sports-with-live-scores>

- Live scores will appear on MaxPreps.com & the MaxPreps app

### **MaxPreps app**

- Get exclusive push notifications & real-time updates about your favorite teams

- Instantly find scores for any game

- View rosters, schedules, photos, videos & more for thousands of teams

- Go to the following link to download for iOS:

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/id980665604>

- Go to the following link to download for Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.maxpreps.mp scoreboard>

### **MaxPreps Help & Support**

- Coaches may contact MaxPreps at 800-329-7324 x1 or [support@maxpreps.com](mailto:support@maxpreps.com) with any questions.

- Support articles and videos on how to login, post scores and more are available at [support.maxpreps.com](https://support.maxpreps.com)

### **Other links:**

- Photo and video submissions should go to this link: <https://support.maxpreps.com/hc/en-us/articles/208774058-Photo-Video-Submissions>

## 2022 Radio PSAs Now Available

The GHSA greatly appreciates radio station coverage of local high school teams in communities statewide. High school activities need your station's support more than ever, and we think the new PSA's will help.

This year's NFHS/NIAAA radio PSA campaign has been produced and is ready for distribution. We think you'll agree the commercials are among the best ever!

GHSA encourages all statewide radio station that carry high school sports and member schools to broadcast the PSAs during your events. These PSAs tell a great story, and the more people who hear them, the better. Thank you for all you're doing to promote the value of high school sports and performing arts in your state!

Type in the following link to download the PSAs - <https://www.supporthighschoolsports.org/>





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## GHSA - September / October Calendar - 2022

### September

- 5 Labor Day, GHSA Office closed
- 6 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 19 First Practice date for Flag Football
- 20 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting

### October

- 1 Deadline for notification of entry in One Act Play
- 2, 3 State Executive Committee Meeting
- 4 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 6 Earliest date for Flag Football game
- 10 First Practice date for Swimming & Diving
- 15 Complete Region Fastpitch Softball; Determine Region/Area Volleyball winners
- 16 Report Region Fastpitch Softball winners by 9 a.m.
- 17 Report Region/Area Volleyball winners by 9 a.m.
- 18 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 18, 19 First Round State Volleyball Tournament
- 18-21 State Fastpitch Softball Tournament Super Regionals
- 21 Deadline for posting rosters in Cross Country
- 22 Second Round State Volleyball Tournament
- 24 Earliest date for Basketball, Dance & Wrestling practice, Riflery & Swim contests

### GHSA Sponsors

