



Columbus Consolidated
Government
Columbus Parks & Recreation
Athletic Division
3720 5th Avenue
Columbus, Georgia 31904
(706) 225-4506/ 4507 Office
(706) 653-4594 FAX



WELCOME TO THE GHSA FAST PITCH SOFTBALL ELITE EIGHT CHAMPIONSHIPS

October 12, 2023

Dear Coach:

We cordially invite you and your team to the XVI Olympiad Softball venue. The entire Columbus community is excited to be able to host the GHSA State Softball Championships. We trust your stay with us will be pleasant and a memorable experience.

We have assembled what we hope is a detailed packet of information. It is very important that you look over this information ASAP and comply with the instructions.

All bats are to be inspected prior to being used in a game. The bat inspection will take place in an area just beyond the "Team Check-In Gate" at a designated time on Wednesday, October 26. Coaches are asked to collect ALL the players' bats and submit them at one time while the players proceed to their respective game field. If you wish to have your bats tested the evening of Tuesday, October 24 please contact Eric Philbert at (Umpericp@gmail.com). Bats that fail the testing process will be held in the stadium press box and returned following the final game the respective team plays. It is the responsibility of each head coach to confirm that all uniforms and equipment are legal. Dugouts are restricted to "team essential" personnel ONLY (players, coaches, medical staff). There is a MANDATORY Head Coach Zoom call on Monday, October 23 @ 7:00 PM. This is the call link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81068081319?pwd=oDEjYFg732UzH2D4nF3kBrxzviEaek.1>

Best Wishes,

Tommy Groce, CPRA

Enjoy,

Merri Sherman, CSC

Good Fortune,

Ernie Yarbrough, GHSA

CONGRATULATIONS!

You have qualified for State...



HOTEL RESERVATION ASSISTANCE

Please visit visitcolumbusga.com/stay/ for a complete listing of hotels in Columbus, Georgia!

If you need further assistance, please contact the **Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau**. Please reference “**GHSA Softball Housing**”!
1-800-999-1613

The GHSA, Columbus Sports Council, and Columbus Parks and Recreation Administration wish you and your team Good Fortune and a great time while participating in the 2023 Softball State Championship in Columbus, Georgia site of the 1996 Olympics, 2019 International Cup Championship and 2022 WBSC World Cup friendly.



2023 GHSA SOFTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Please read the “General Instructions” very carefully. Each year problems arise because the coaches/team representatives did not follow the instructions. Pay particular attention to the State Tournament bracket on the GHSA web site regarding the game time and field location for each game. Also, ensure your parents/spectators are aware of GHSA and venue policies.

Enclosed you have the following forms:

- OFFICIAL TEAM TRAVEL FORM – Please fill this form out completely and turn it in at the “Team Entry Gate” at the arena. You are allowed to list (22) names on this form. Complete this form and submit it upon arrival at the venue at the team check-in station.
- LINE-UPS/COIN TOSS – Line-up cards, and the coin toss to determine “home team”, will be conducted with the Home Plate Umpire during the pregame plate meeting. Each team shall present two (2) copies of their lineup at that time (one for HP umpire/one for official scorekeeper).
- EXCESS TEAM ENTRY FORM – List names on this form of individuals who are part of your team operations over the limit of the (22) names on the TEAM TRAVEL FORM. Complete this form and submit it upon arrival at the venue at the team check-in station.
- GAME ADMINISTRATOR/RESOURCE OFFICER – Each school is responsible to have an Administrator and/or Resource Office on site during the game. Please provide the name and cell # of those individuals on the enclosed form and submit it upon arrival at the venue at team check-in.
- PARKING – The parking area beyond the “Team Entry” gate (near field #8) is the designated area for team buses and tournament staff. Please see the map within the packet. Please instruct your parents and spectators not to park in that area; parents/spectators enter the complex at the front of the complex. Those traveling in RVs are instructed to park in “Lot D” near the far back of the complex.
- **OPENING CEREMONY – Each team is required to participate in uniform (teams playing the late games may wear matching shorts with game jerseys) at the Opening Ceremony in the stadium Thursday, October 26 at 10:30 AM. Classes A-D1, 3A, 5A & 7A will meet outside the 3rd base side of the stadium. Classes A-D2, 2A, 4A, & 6A will meet outside the 1st base side of the stadium. Failure to participate will result in a \$250.00 fine.**
- PROGRAM – Please make sure your updated roster has been submitted to Laura at lgrieve@scoreatl.com no later than Friday, October 13. o School name, City, Head Coach and Assistant Coaches, Roster with Player number, full name, position, and grade. (No Team photo)
- TICKETS, VIDEO STREAMING & FAN GUIDES – Digital tickets are exclusively sold on GoFan: Single Day \$15.00 – 4-Day Package \$45.00. (<https://gofan.co/app/school/GHSA>). All fans are urged to purchase GoFan tickets in advance.
- Games are video streamed live on NFHS Network at:<https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/associations/ghsa>). Subscribing to the Network for an all-access pass is the low price of \$11.99 per month (30-days). Digital fan guides are free to download at GHSA.net and @OfficialGHSA social media. [NFHS Network](https://www.nfhsnetwork.com) will stream all fields, all games produced by AthletesGoLive.com. Spread the word with family and friends. Subscribing to the Network for an all-access pass with unlimited viewing is the low price of \$11.99 per month (30-days). Streaming rights are exclusive to the GHSA and the NFHS Network. NO other live broadcasts are permitted on social media or any other online platform! Spectators will NOT be allowed to set-up cameras on the backstop section behind home plate. That space is reserved for NFHS cameras.

GAME ADMINISTRATORS SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

Please list the individual(s), and their cell phone numbers, who will be in attendance at the GHSA State Tournament contest.

ADMINISTRATORS

NAME: _____

POSITION: _____

CELL PHONE #: _____

NAME: _____

POSITION: _____

CELL PHONE #: _____

RESOURCE OFFICERS

NAME: _____

POSITION: _____

CELL PHONE #: _____

NAME: _____

POSITION: _____

CELL PHONE #: _____

The head coach is responsible for turning in this form prior to the "Game Manager" upon arrival at the venue.

OFFICIAL TEAM TRAVEL FORM

SCHOOL: _____

Each team is allowed (22) names on the "Team Travel Form, consisting of players, managers, trainers, statisticians, etc. Coaches are admitted on their GHSA Coaches Pass. Teams wishing to admit more than the (22) names on this form must list the names of those individuals on the "Excess Team Entry Form" at the team entry gate.

NAME	FUNCTION (player, manager, etc.)
1 _____	_____
2 _____	_____
3 _____	_____
4 _____	_____
5 _____	_____
6 _____	_____
7 _____	_____
8 _____	_____
9 _____	_____
10 _____	_____
11 _____	_____
12 _____	_____
13 _____	_____

14 _____

15 _____

16 _____

17 _____

18 _____

19 _____

20 _____

21 _____

22 _____

NOTE: The head coach is responsible for turning in these forms when entering the “Team Entry Gate”.

EXCESS TEAM ENTRY FORM

SCHOOL: _____

Teams wishing to admit more than the (22) player names must list the names of those individuals on this "Excess Team Entry Form" at the team entry gate.

NAME	FUNCTION
1 _____	_____
2 _____	_____
3 _____	_____
4 _____	_____
5 _____	_____
6 _____	_____
7 _____	_____
8 _____	_____
9 _____	_____
10 _____	_____
11 _____	_____
12 _____	_____
13 _____	_____
14 _____	_____
15 _____	_____

COACH: _____ DATE: _____

NOTE: The head coach is responsible for turning in these forms when entering the "Team Entry Gate".

SOUTH COMMONS COMPLEX POLICY

All team members must enter the complex through the “Team Entry Gate”. (See enclosed map). This will be the only gate Players and Coaches will be allowed to enter free of charge. If team members or coaches enter main gate, admission will be charged. Spectators may NOT enter through the “Team Entry Gate”.

1. Team Buses and Team Vans will be admitted free (no charge for parking) through the team parking entrance by Lumpkin Boulevard entrance. Individual vehicles will be charged a \$5.00 daily pass for parking.
2. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in all areas.
3. Glass containers are prohibited in all areas.
4. All Team Coolers must be brought into the complex through team gate by the team only. No hard sided coolers are allowed in complex through main gate.
5. Top line of the bracket uses first base dugout unless a team is playing back-to-back on that field.
6. No pepper games between dugouts. No ball-toss drills on field fences.
7. Admission fee is \$15.00 per day, or 4-day package is \$45.00, with the exception of a “baby in arms”. Ticketing is only available through GoFan.
8. Animals are prohibited in all areas (except service dogs).
9. Lineups: Lineup cards are provided by the scorekeeper or on site staff.
10. **BATTING CAGES:** Each team will have access to the batting cage facility. Teams listed on the top of the bracket will have access 1-hour prior to scheduled game time for 20-minutes, and teams listed on the bottom of the bracket will have access 40-minutes prior to game time for 20minutes. Cage assignments will be designated by field numbers.
11. Teams are prohibited from warming up inside the confines (between fields) of South Commons complex. Practice areas may be found at:

Benning Park	Rigdon Park
1441 Benning Dr.	1600 Howe Ave.
Columbus, GA 31901	Columbus, GA 31903

Practice times will be available Tuesday and/or Wednesday only and shall be reserved at (706) 225-4506. Practices on Thursday through Saturday will be on a first come first serve basis. Please limit warm-up on the tournament playing fields to the outfield grass. It is our intention to prepare the infield to the best of our ability with the time allotted between games. If either team gets on the dirt, with the intentions of warming up, before the grounds crew finishes, work will cease and they will immediately leave the field.

Please provide the following information at the Team Entrance Gate:

School _____

Hotel _____

Number of Nights _____ Number of Rooms _____



Veterans Parkway
Use far left lane turn

Welcome to Columbus!!!

BUS ROUTE, UNLOADING AREA AND BUS PARKING



All TEAM BUSES enter South Commons via Lumpkin Blvd by following the yellow arrows as noted on the map!

Proceed to the drop off point between fields 4 and 8.

All TEAM Buses PLEASE park in the lower section of Lot E and Lot F.

Teams please turn in your hotel information at the Team Entrance upon your arrival.

SPECTATORS

1. Spectator admission will ONLY be available through "GOFAN". Individual tickets will not be available at the complex.
2. Ticket pricing: 1-Day \$15.00 – 4-Day Package \$45.00
3. Parking Fee: 1- Day \$5.00 – 4-Day Pass \$15.00
4. Team coolers must be brought in **by the team** at the team gate.
5. Pop-up tents are not allowed behind the back stops.
6. Spectators shall only enter through the spectator gate located between field 1 and 5.
7. RV overnight parking is not recommended, however is permitted at your own risk only in lower Parking Lot E.

TEAM CHECK-IN AND BAT CHECK SCHEDULE

It is important that each team adheres to the check-in and bat check schedule. Teams with the early games will be given priority check-in. If a team arrives prior to their designated bat-check time they will be required to wait if the testing tables are being used. One or two coaches (without players) shall bring the bats to the testing area near Gate 8. The remaining coaches and players shall proceed to their designated game field, or wait in an area away from the testing area.

TEAM BAT INSPECTION SCHEDULE

Wednesday, October 25

8:30 AM – A-D1, A-D2,

9:00 AM – 2A & 3A

10:00 AM – 4A & 5A

10:30 AM – 6A & 7A

Teams wishing your bats to be tested the evening of Tuesday, October 24 please contact Eric Philbert at (Umpericp@gmail.com). Bats that fail inspection will be kept in the stadium press box. They may be picked up after the team's final game.

TICKETS FOR ELITE EIGHT IN COLUMBUS ARE ONLY AVAILABLE THROUGH GOFAN.



GOFAN™

**BUY TICKETS
MOBILE
ONLY**

<https://gofan.co/app/school/GHSA>

**NFHS
NETWORK**

**ALL GAMES
ALL ROUNDS
LIVE**



<https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/associations/ghsa>