



# GHSA

## *“Items of Interest”*

April 2008

### **GHSA Web Site Important to Communication Process**

In retail sales and real estate, the key may be “location, location, location.” But in most other areas of life, the key is “communication, communication, communication.” The more the procedures of the Georgia High School Association change, the greater the need for strong communication between the GHSA office and member schools.

Each school has submitted the name of its “key contact person” with the GHSA office. This is the person to whom the general communications are sent via email, mail or fax. It is very important that this contact person distribute the information that is sent to the appropriate persons at the school – especially when new procedures are introduced. The GHSA attempts to package its communications in the most appropriate way, and proper listening and responding on the part of the schools will ensure strong communication.



A great example of this process involves the notification of participants in this year’s State Track Meet. In past years, the results that were received from the Region Track Meets were entered in the computer and each school was faxed or mailed the names of its students who had qualified for state. If mistakes were found with the qualifiers and/or the spelling of their names, the GHSA office was contacted and corrections were made.

This year, the information will be posted on the GHSA web site ([www.ghsa.net](http://www.ghsa.net)). It is the responsibility of each track coach to check that site to make certain the school’s information is accurate. If there are mistakes, the coach should contact the Region Secretary before the deadline posted in the GHSA By-laws. All substitutions that are allowable also should be made through the Region Secretary before that deadline.

The GHSA is utilizing its web site more and more in the communication process. The office is not “paperless” yet, but there is steady progress in that direction. Jim Bullington continues to do an outstanding job in keeping the GHSA web site a vital source of information about the association and its events. Please stress with your coaches and administrators the need to consult our web site regularly.

– **Ralph Swearngin**, Executive Director

**GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION** Newsletter

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OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday

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No. 7

**- GHSA STAFF -**  
Areas of Responsibility

**RALPH SWEARNGIN** (extension 7)

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

**GARY PHILLIPS** (extension 6)

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

**JOYCE KAY** (extension 5)

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

**STEVE FIGUEROA** (extension 4)

- Director of Media Relations -  
Press Releases, Media Coordination for State Events, Newsletter,  
Football Schedules, Constitution, Calendar, Tennis

**JIM BULLINGTON** (extension 33)

- Technology Specialist -  
Web Page Supervision, Database Management, Technical Support

**PAM THOMPSON** (extension 30)

- Officials' Registrar -  
Officials' Registration, Test Scoring and Records

**DENNIS PAYNE** (extension 23)

- Associate Director -  
Football, Baseball, Swimming

**ERNIE YARBROUGH** (extension 27)

- Associate Director -  
Basketball, Soccer, Softball

**TANYA ANDERSON** (extension 2)

- Administrative Assistant -  
Sanctioning of Events, School Passes,  
Directory, Coaches' Clinic Attendance

**JULIE JONES** (extension 1)

- Administrative Assistant -  
Dues, Community Coach Program

**SHERI COKER** (extension 0)

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

**GHSA Licensed Products**

Advanced orders for GHSA event T-shirts can be placed with All-Star Outfitters at [www.asoapparel.com](http://www.asoapparel.com) or call 678-569-0134 ... Action photos from select championship events can be found at Photographic Arts [www.schoolpix.biz](http://www.schoolpix.biz) / 678-393-1719 ... DVDs / VHS copies of GHSA televised games can be ordered from [www.gametapes.com](http://www.gametapes.com) / 206-285-8816 ... Visit the GHSA Store and a full list of GHSA sponsors and licensees at [www.ghsa.net](http://www.ghsa.net).

**STATE CHAMPIONS****BASKETBALL - Boys**

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

AAAAA	Norcross High School
AAAA	Columbia High School
AAA	Glenn Hills High School
AA	Wesleyan School
A	Hancock Central High School

**BASKETBALL - Girls**

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

AAAAA	Stephenson High School
AAAA	Southwest DeKalb High School
AAA	Kendrick High School
AA	Wesleyan School
A	Calvary Day School

**LITERARY**

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

AAAAA	Forsyth Central High School
AAAA	Northside High School, W. Robins
AAA	Washington County High School & (Tie) White County High School
AA	Bleckley County High School
A	Lakeview Academy

**AIR RIFLE**

Congratulations to the following State Champion:

ALL CLASS	Union Grove High School
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Winning a State Championship is an outstanding achievement for the GHSA schools, athletes and coaches, and a distinction that should create a great deal of pride in the community.

**CHEERLEADING CLINICS SET**

The 2008 GHSA Rules Clinics for Cheerleading have been set and are listed below.

All weeknight clinics begin at 7:00 p.m, while all Saturday clinics begin at 10:00 a.m.

You are reminded that By-Law 2.54 on Page 37 of the GHSA Constitution and By-Laws states that every coach at a GHSA member school must attend a GHSA-sponsored rules clinic or face a \$50 fine.

This applies to both spirit and competitive cheerleading and includes Community Coaches.

April 19 (Sat.)	..... Columbus HS - Cafeteria	..... Coaches/Judges
May 3 (Sat.)	..... Northside, WR - Commons	..... Coaches/Judges
May 6 (Tues.)	..... North Cobb HS - Theatre	..... Coaches
July 8 (Tues.)	..... SE Bulloch HS, Auditorium	..... Coaches
July 19 (Sat.)	..... Gordon Central HS, Cafeteria	..... Coaches/Judges
July 22 (Tues.)	..... Oconee County HS, Cafeteria	..... Coaches
July 26 (Sat.)	..... Tift County HS, Commons	..... Coaches/Judges
Aug. 2 (Sat.)	..... Centennial HS, Cafeteria	..... Coaches/Judges
Aug. 5 (Tues.)	..... Whitewater HS, Auditorium	..... Coaches
Aug. 9 (Sat.)	..... Shaw HS, Auditorium	..... Coaches

## Sponsor Spotlight: WACHOVIA

Wachovia is an official partner of Georgia Public Broadcasting and the Georgia High School Association, and a proud supporter of Georgia interscholastic sports and activities. This sponsorship provides funding of live broadcasts of championship action in football, basketball, cheerleading and Prep Sports Plus, as well as events at all 19 state championships. Wachovia has demonstrated its commitment to building strong and vibrant communities, improving quality of life, and making a difference in the Georgia high school experience.

Wachovia is a diversified financial services company that provides a broad range of retail banking and brokerage, asset and wealth management, and corporate and investment banking products and services. Wachovia is one of the largest providers of financial services in the United States, with retail and commercial banking operations in 21 states from Connecticut to Florida and west to Texas and California, and nationwide retail brokerage, mortgage lending and auto finance businesses.



## GHSA Reminders:

**STATE TRACK MEETS:** Track Coaches are reminded that the procedure for checking qualifiers for the girls and boys state track meets is different this year. All entries for the state meets will be posted on the GHSA web site ([www.ghsa.net](http://www.ghsa.net)) for verification following the region meets. Schools will **not** receive paper copies of their qualified athletes. It is now the responsibility of EACH COACH to review their school's entries on the GHSA web site and immediately notify their Region Secretary if any corrections need to be made.

**OPEN MEET DEADLINE:** Member schools are reminded that April 1, 2008 is the deadline to notify the GHSA of entry in Open Meet State Events such as Volleyball, Slow Pitch Softball, Lacrosse, AA/A Soccer, Wrestling, Riflery and Gymnastics for the school year 2008-2009. The form for notification can be found on the GHSA web site.

**PARTICIPATION SURVEY:** Member schools are reminded that the Sports Participation Surveys are due in the GHSA office no later than April 15, 2008. The Surveys were mailed to each school's designated contact person.

**CHAMPIONSHIP HEADWEAR:** To purchase additional GHSA/State Farm championship headwear, please contact Chad Kennedy at The Game, 800-723-5656 ext. 129. The minimum order is 36 pieces; lead time approximately 6 weeks.

**SCHOOL MARKS & LOGOS:** Any schools desiring to copyright their own original marks and logos should contact the State of Georgia's Office of Secretary of State Corporations Division for information at <http://www.sos.state.ga.us/corporations/tmforms.htm>; (404-656-2861). J.Patton Sports Marketing, the graphic designer of the GHSA logos, offers member school services to "clean up" existing logos, and new school logo development. For more information contact Jody Anthis at J. Patton Sports; 770-612-0476; [jody@jpattonsports.com](mailto:jody@jpattonsports.com).

## Riflery State Champions - 2008



All Class Champion: Union Grove

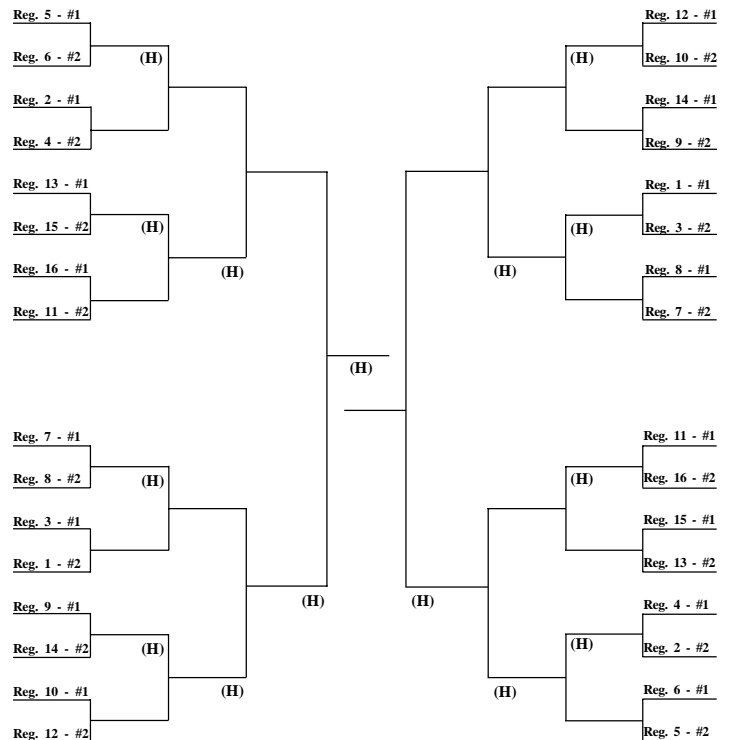
## ATTENTION: Soccer Coaches

Please note the additions to the Class AA/A State Soccer Bracket shown below. The designations for home team in the second round are new. This bracket may now be found on the GHSA web site also.

### STATE SOCCER TOURNAMENT - 2008 Boys and Girls: AA / A

**AA/A Dates:**

1st Rd.	2nd Rd.	Quarterfinals	Semifinals	FINALS	Semifinals	Quarterfinals	2nd Rd.	1st Rd.
B: 4/24	B: 4/29	B: 5/2	B: 5/6	B: May 9	B: 5/6	B: 5/2	B: 4/29	B: 4/24
G: 4/25	G: 4/30	G: 5/3	G: 5/7	G: May 10	G: 5/7	G: 5/3	G: 4/30	G: 4/25



In ALL rounds, the higher-seeded team will host.  
If both teams are the same seed, the (H) printed in the bracket will indicate the host school.

### Basketball State Champions - 2008



**Class AAAA Boys Champion: Norcross**



**Class AAAA Boys Champion: Columbia**



**Class AAA Boys Champion: Glenn Hills**



Photos of the 2008 Basketball state championship teams were provided by Photographic Arts. Additional photos may be found at [www.schoolpix.biz](http://www.schoolpix.biz).



**Class AA Boys Champion: Wesleyan**



**Class A Boys Champion: Hancock Central**

## Basketball State Champions - 2008



Class AAAAA Girls Champion: Stephenson



Class AAAA Girls Champion: SW DeKalb



Class AAA Girls Champion: Kendrick



Class AA Girls Champion: Wesleyan



Class A Girls Champion: Calvary Day



Wheelchair Champion: Atlanta Wolfpack

## STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### March 17, 2008

#### MINUTES

The semiannual meeting of the Executive Committee of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on March 17, 2008, at the Holiday Inn, 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](http://www.ghsa.net)).

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES:** Report presented by Wayne Tootle

The Committee recommended:

The following women be named as at-large members of the Executive Committee as called for by the GHSA Constitution: Raynette Evans - Athletic Director of Bibb County Schools and Debbie Ball - Athletic Director of Shaw High School.

**Motion Passed (voice vote)**

Adding the following to By-Law 2.69 (b4): "It is illegal for a high school coach to conduct a clinic or coach in a competitive setting with 8th grade athletes in that sport out-of-season during the school year."

**Motion Passed (voice vote)**

Increasing travel allowances as follows:

To schools in playoffs:            Football - \$5.00 per mile (one way); Other sports - \$.80 per mile (one way)

To Individuals (staff, Executive Committee, etc.):        \$.45 per mile (round trip)

**Motion Passed (voice vote)**

Increasing each school's portion of the catastrophic insurance premium, due to a 25% increase in cost of premium, to the following amount: AAAAA - \$525.00, AAAA - \$425.00, AAA - \$375.00, AA - \$270.00, A - \$220.00

**Motion Passed (voice vote)**

Offering Ralph Swearngin a four-year contract (2008-2012) with the same percentage of salary increase as afforded all other staff members.

**Motion Passed (voice vote)**

**BASKETBALL COMMITTEE:** Report presented by Charlie Henderson

The Committee recommended:

That the Executive Director be given the authority to make the decision on where classifications play quarterfinal games (using central sites) based on the geographic locations of the participating teams.

**Motion Passed (voice vote)**

The Committee denied the following:

1. The request to allow JV basketball teams to play more than one night preceding a school day.
2. The proposal to play the first three rounds of the playoffs at the school with the higher seed.

**ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE:** Report presented by Glenn White

The Committee recommended:

Developing mandatory workshops for guidance counselors in member schools by requiring at least one guidance counselor and the Athletic Director from each member school to attend a workshop directed by the GHSA to improve communication about eligibility requirements in various academic situations.

**Motion Passed (voice vote)**

Add to end of By-Law 1.58 C: "Exception: If end-of-course test is not offered within 14 days of the new semester, the student may be granted a reasonable extension by the GHSA for credit recovery work."

**Motion Passed (voice vote)**

When a school or school system loses its accreditation, students transferring from that system will be handled by the hardship appeal process as outlined in the GHSA Constitution. The mere threat of such a loss does not constitute a hardship.

**Motion Passed (voice vote)**

## STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, *Continued*

### **FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:**

Report presented by Earl Etheridge

The Committee recommended:

Adding a new "Section D1d" on page 70 [re-letter existing "d" and "e"]: "For the semifinal playoff games, the host school may use portable seating to bring the stadium seating size up to GHSA standards as long as the following criteria are met:

1. The seating meets the standards of the industry and is installed by professional installers.
2. All seats have a clear sight line to the field of play.
3. All costs are paid by the host school outside of game revenue.

Note: Any portable seating voluntarily brought in for the first three rounds must meet the above criteria.

**Motion Passed (voice vote)**

The Committee denied:

1. Amending By-Law 1.43 to allow JV football teams to schedule eight games during the season.
2. Proposal to allow the Executive Director to approve the use of shoulder pads at some summer camps.

### **RIFLERY COMMITTEE:**

Report presented by Donnie Griggers

The Committee recommended:

Changing the format for playoffs as follows:

1. Expanding playoff qualifiers to six (6) teams from each Area going to the Sectional competition.
2. Adding a Semifinal competition of 24 teams with the top 12 advancing to the Championship round.
3. Adding an additional two "at-large" teams that have the highest losing scores in the Semifinals to the Championship round to increase the number of competing teams at the Championship to 14.

(Note: The procedure of individuals advancing to State who score 290 or better if their team does not qualify will still be in place.)

**Motion Passed (voice vote)**

### **SOFTBALL COMMITTEE:**

Report presented by Ed Thayer

The Committee denied:

The proposal to move slow-pitch Softball to the spring season.

### **SPORTSMANSHIP COMMITTEE:**

Report presented by Lucia Norwood

The Committee recommended:

Creating a new By-Law 2.71(e) to read: "Players and coaches are expected to exhibit good sporting behavior before and after a contest even if the game officials do not have jurisdiction. Behaviors such as taunting, fighting, etc., are forbidden."

**Motion Passed (voice vote)**

Creating a new By-Law 2.71 (f) to read: "No coach may remove his/her team from competition before the end of a contest unless it is done in accordance with the playing rules of the sport."

**Motion Passed (voice vote)**

Creating a new By-Law 3.18 to read: "Each region shall select a Region Sportsmanship Award winner each spring using criteria developed by the Region or criteria developed by the GHSA Sportsmanship Committee."

**Motion Passed (voice vote)**

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Dr. Ralph Swearngin, Executive Director**, commended the Executive Committee members for their work on the Committee and also those who volunteer at GHSA Region and State playoff events.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Motion by Earl Etheridge, second by Jesse Crews, for a Constitutional change on page 14, Section 13 B, to eliminate the word "eligibility" on the first sentence.

**Motion Passed (voice vote) CONSTITUTION CHANGE - WILL REQUIRE A SECOND VOTE**

Motion was made by Earl Etheridge, seconded by Jesse Crews, to re-elect Gary Holmes as President and Walter Wade as Vice President.

**Motion Passed (voice vote)**

Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to adjourn.

## GHSA - April Calendar - 2008

### April

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| 1      | Deadline to submit notification of entry in Gymnastics, Lacrosse, Riflery, Softball, Soccer, Volleyball & Wrestling for 2008-09 |
| 15     | Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting   |
| 16     | Complete Area/Region Soccer   |
| 17     | Report Area/Region Soccer winners   |
| 19     | Complete Region Tennis  |
| 21     | Report Region Tennis winners  |
| 22     | Boys First Round Soccer in AAAAA & AAAA   |
| 23     | Girls First Round Soccer in AAAAA & AAAA & Complete Region Girls Track  |
| 24     | File reports of Region Girls Track to GHSA by 9 a.m.  |
| 24     | Boys First Round Soccer in AAA & AA/A   |
| 25     | Girls First Round Soccer in AAA & AA/A  |
| 25     | Complete First Round State Tennis, Region Golf & Area Lacrosse  |
| 26     | Complete Region Golf & Area Lacrosse; Gymnastics State Qualifying   |
| 28     | Report First Round State Tennis winners & File Reports of Region Golf   |
| 29     | Boys Second Round State Soccer  |
| 29, 30 | First Round State Lacrosse playoffs   |
| 30     | Girls Second Round State Soccer   |
| 30     | Complete Second Round State Tennis; Region Boys Track   |

### GHSA Sponsors

