



GHSAA

"ITEMS OF INTEREST"

November 2023

Five Tips for Creating a Culture of Caring in Our High Schools

By Dr. Karissa Niehoff, Chief Executive Officer of the NFHS, and Dr. Robin Hines, Executive Director of the GHSAA

Participants in high school sports and performing arts are under tremendous pressure these days – from parents, teachers, coaches and peers. Their days are consumed with school, sports and activities. They are trying to figure out who they are and who they want to be – all while having to compare themselves to everyone else on social media. It's easy to see why high school students have a lot on their plates ... and their minds.

It is time for all of us to turn our attention to these students, including the activity participants at schools in Georgia. Empathy is so important. No matter who you are—a parent, teacher, coach, athletic administrator, performing arts director or anyone else who interacts with teens—we can all play a part in looking out for them.

That's why the GHSAA and the NFHS are launching the **#WeSeeYou** Campaign. Together, we want to create a culture of caring in our school communities – one where everyone feels seen and supported, *especially* our students.

Our message: No matter what challenges you're facing, we see you. We support you. And we're here for you.

It's not about having all the answers. It's about empathizing with our students and offering the support they need. So where do you start?

Here are a few tips for supporting the mental well-being of the teens in your life:

1. Focus on the meaning of mental health.

The World Health Organization suggests that "mental health is a state of mental well-being that enables people to cope with the stresses of life, realize their abilities, learn well and work well, and contribute to their community."

2. Acknowledge and connect with *all* students.

Every teenager—not just the honor roll student or star athlete—wants to feel seen by someone who matters to them, like a parent, teacher, coach or director.

3. Keep in mind that teens are seeing life through a highlight reel.

Teenagers are "seen" a lot on social media, but are they seen for who they truly are? Be the person who wants to know and support the *real* them.

4. Create a culture where *everyone* is looking out for each other.

It is not one person's responsibility to check in on every student's mental well-being. We can *all* play a part in noticing, acknowledging and offering support to one another.

5. Remember your influence is greater than you often realize.

Far beyond students' academic or athletic potential, you can make a difference in their lives by paying attention to their behavior and who they are as people.

Creating a culture of caring isn't just good for teenagers. It's good for *all* of us. When we demonstrate empathy through listening, connecting and caring, we let young people know that they are not alone.

Ready to join us? Visit our website, **WeSeeYou.Community**, to learn more and get free resources like social media posts, graphics, printables and more to promote the #WeSeeYou culture in your school community. Together, we can offer support, empathy and encouragement to every teenager in Georgia and across the country!

Join the conversation on social media @OfficialGHSAA 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
 Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday

Vol. 42 November 2023 No. 3

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GHSA Playoff Broadcast Policy!

Attention Coaches & ADs: With the football playoffs rapidly approaching, this is a good time to remind member schools of the GHSA broadcast policies. During the regular season, the HOST school owns the rights to its events and must give permission for the visiting school to produce a broadcast (**audio or video**). The host school can use any platform it chooses to broadcast its own regular season events.

But the GHSA owns the rights to **all state playoff events** and anyone wishing to produce an audio or video broadcast **MUST** secure a contract from the GHSA and pay a right's fee. This includes **any streaming** of the event, whether it be by the school, a parent or an outside media entity, and no matter the platform (even personal YouTube channels).

No streaming of a state playoff event in ANY sport is allowed without first securing a contract from the GHSA. Email Media Director Steve Figueroa (stevefig@ghsa.net) to request a broadcast contract.

The only exception to this rule is if the school is a member of the NFHS School Broadcast Program (SBP). All schools participating in the SBP may live-stream any contest their team is participating in during the state playoffs (without a contract or fee) with the exception of any **neutral-site** event.

A school hosting a state playoff event **must** allow the visiting school to stream the event without a fee if that school is an SBP member. In addition, if the visiting school is uploading the stream to the NFHS Network, the host school is prohibited from originating a separate stream on another platform. The NFHS Network has exclusive rights to any state playoff events it wishes to put on its network. If the host school is also an SBP member, then it also may stream the event.

If a school is hosting a playoff event and an outside entity wishes to broadcast or stream the event, but does not have a contract from the GHSA, the host school **should not allow** the broadcast.

Please contact Steve Figueroa (see above email) with any questions about the GHSA broadcast policy.

WATCH FALL SPORTS

**LIVE ON THE
 NFHS NETWORK.**



GHSA Licensed Products

This month's featured licensees are: **Honig's Whistle Stop** (honigs.com) **Cliff Keen** (cliffkeen.com), **Smitty Official's Apparel** (smittyusadyesub.com), Officials/umpires uniforms, apparel and equipment; **Snapphound**, photo platform that empowers schools and nonprofits to unlock valuable fundraising opportunities. (ghsa.snapphound.com/events); **Gipper**, empowers anyone at a school to create effective and compelling content for social media in just a few clicks. (gipper.com); **VNN**, Website software that helps high school athletic departments digitize their day, save time, and promote their programs online. (vnnsports.net); **RefReps** to develop the next generation of sports officials (<https://www.refreps.com>). View complete list of GHSA licensees at www.ghsa.net/licensing.

AAASP Honors 43 Recipients with 2023 ASPIRE Awards

The American Association of Adapted Sports Programs, Inc. (AAASP) honored 43 key people and organizations on October 22 for their outstanding contributions to support student athletes with physical disabilities to get "off the sidelines and into the game."

The Fifth Annual ASPIRE Awards Celebration, emceed by actor, writer and television personality Patrick Cusick with special guest speaker, Aaron Golub, the first ever, legally-blind Division I Athlete representing Tulane was held at Maggiano's Little Italy in Atlanta.

Adapted Sports Programs in Recreation and Education (ASPIRE) Award recognizes the significant contributions of these individuals and organizations that have been central to the mission of making adapted sports programming available nationwide.

Through these programs, student athletes with physical disabilities across the country reap the physical, social, emotional, and academic benefits of competitive athletics resulting in personal and social empowerment. AAASP received a record 59 nominations for the awards this year.

These prestigious awards were announced at the event by AAASP Executive Director, Tommie Storms, and GHSA Executive Director, Dr. Robin Hines.

Thank you to the following 2023 AAASP ASPIRE Awards Sponsors: the Georgia Department of Education, the Georgia High School Association, Vocal Video, MLT Creative, and the AAASP Board of Directors.

To learn more about the annual event, please visit the following link: <https://adaptedsports.org/aaasp-aspire-awards/>.

The following were recipients of the 2023 ASPIRE Awards:

Eli Wolff Award for Advocacy:

GAEL (Georgia Association of Educational Leaders) Robert "Buddy" Costley, Executive Director, and Dr. Zabrina Cannady, President of GAEL

Ed Shaddix /Athletic Director (Retired), Gwinnett Heat, Gwinnett County Public Schools



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
2023 ASPIRE AWARD RECIPIENTS



ADAPTEDSPORTS.ORG | @ADAPTEDSPORTS

American Association of
adaptEDSPORTS
PROGRAMS

Coach of the Year (Varsity):

Dr. Nicholas Griffin, West Georgia Wolverines, Troup County Schools

Coach of the Year (Junior Varsity):

Len Boudreaux, Gwinnett Heat, Gwinnett County Public Schools

Outstanding Program Award (Community-Based):

Miracle League of the Okefenokee, Ware County Recreation Department, Waycross Quality Living, Inc., (Ed Armstrong), Omaha Parks and Recreation, Omaha, NE

Outstanding Program Award (School-Based):

Clayton Eagles, Clayton County Public Schools

Also honoring Dr. Sheila Cook, Area Coordinator; Trina Smith, Director of Special Education; Coach Sebastian Tillman

Media "Hero" Award:

Michael Leverett - Disability Connections, Macon, GA, Houston Sharks

Gail Hendrick Award for Volunteerism:

Jeff Jones, Gwinnett Heat, Gwinnett County Public Schools

Senior Athlete of the Year:

Tadaisia Hillman, Clayton Eagles, Clayton County Public Schools

Leslie Sweatman Official of the Year:

Aron Young, AAASP League

Most Improved Athlete:

King James McMurry, DeKalb Silver Streaks, DeKalb County Schools

Power Chair Athlete of the Year:

Caleb Merriken, Muscogee Lions, Muscogee County School District

Male Athlete of the Year:

Dominique Epps, Muscogee Lions, Muscogee County School District

Female Athlete of the Year:

Taylor Nation, West GA Wolverines, Troup County Schools

Male Scholar Athlete of the Year:

Anthony Cuti, Houston Sharks, Houston County Schools

Female Scholar Athlete of the Year:

Kila-Ray Brown, Clayton Eagles, Clayton County Public Schools

Founders' Award for Career

Achievement or Extraordinary Service: Robyn Hootselle, AAASP Adapted Sports Director, GA

Michelle Masters, Executive Director of Adm. Services, Peach County Schools, GA
Billy Mitchell, Partner/Senior Creative Director, MLT Creative, Tucker, GA

Matt Albert, Art Director, MLT Creative, Tucker, GA

State Fastpitch Softball Champions - 2023



7A: Buford



6A: Newnan



5A: Northside-Columbus



4A: Heritage-Catoosa



3A: Wesleyan



2A: Appling County



A, Division 1: Prince Avenue



A, Division 2: Lanier County

GHSA Cheerleading State Championships on November 10-11

The 2023 GHSA Cheerleading State Championships will take place November 10-11 at the Macon Centreplex.

Admission is \$15.00 per session and tickets are ONLY available digitally on GoFan (<https://gofan.co/app/school/GHSA>).

The arena will be cleared between sessions each day so please make sure your ticket purchase is for your team's session!

Absolutely **NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY** will be allowed from any mobile device (phone / iPad/ tablet) or cameras by spectators during the competition! There is a danger to the cheerleaders and this displays poor sportsmanship toward the team competing. Violators of this policy are subject to removal from the venue.

Fans can watch every session live on NFHSNetwork.com/associations/GHSA for \$11.99 all-access pass.

Thanks to our partners: Team IP and Unforgettable Moment Photography.

Defending state championship teams are Lambert (Class 7A), Houston County (6A), McIntosh (5A), Whitewater (4A), Savannah Christian (3A), Mt. Paran (2A), Armuchee (1A) and Mill Creek (Coed).



SCHEDULE

Friday, November 10, 2023

- Session 1: Class A and 5A Finals
Doors open at 9:00 a.m. Session begins at 10:00 a.m.
- Session 2: Class 2A and 4A Finals
Doors open at 2:00 p.m. Session begins at 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 11, 2023

- Session 1: Class 3A and Coed Finals
Doors open at 9:00 a.m. Session begins at 10:00 a.m.
- Session 2: Class 6A and 7A Finals
Doors open at 2:00 p.m. Session begins at 3:00 p.m.

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Discount prices starting at \$25

AVAILABLE AT TEAMIP.COM/PREORDER

State Championship merchandise will be available for purchase at the site by Team IP (teamip.com/preorder)

You may also preorder team t-shirts by using the flyer at left.

Preorder deadline is November 6, 2023.

Volleyball Finals Will Stream Live on NFHS Network!

The NFHS Network will stream live and on-demand coverage of the 2023 GHSA Volleyball State Championships, presented by Mizuno, on Friday and Saturday, November 3 & 4, from the Champions Center at Lakepoint Sports Complex in Cartersville.

Tickets are \$15 per day (or \$20 for a two-day pass) and MUST be purchased online on GoFan at <https://gofan.co/app/school/GHSA>.

If you can't be there in person, family and friends can watch all the action live at <https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/associations/ghsa>. Subscribing to the Network is just \$11.99 for a 30-day period. Molten is the official volleyball of the GHSA.

Defending state champions are Buford (Class 7A), Pope (6A), GACS (5A), Pace Academy (4A), Morgan County (3A), Mt. Paran (2A) and Tallulah Falls (1A).



VOLLEYBALL FINALS

November 3, 2023

- 3:00 pm - Class 1A
- 5:30 pm - Class 2A
- 8:00 pm - Class 3A

November 4, 2023

- 11:00 am - Class 4A
- 1:30 pm - Class 5A
- 4:00 pm - Class 7A
- 6:30 pm - Class 6A

Cross Country Championship Info

The 2023 GHSA Cross Country State Championships, presented by Atlanta Track Club, will be held Friday and Saturday, November 3 & 4, at the Carrollton High School Course.

Tickets to the event are \$10.00 and are available for purchase **ONLY** on [GoFan](#).

Live results will be available online by Perfect Timing Group (www.ptgrouponline.com).

Defending boys state champions are: Marietta, North Atlanta, Decatur, Westminster, Oconee County, Athens Academy, Armuchee and Atkinson County.

And defending girls state champions are: Marietta, Marist, Decatur, Pace Academy, Wesleyan, Savannah Arts, Bleckley County and Atlanta Classical.

Schedule at Carrollton High School

Friday, Nov. 3, 2023

- 9:00 am Boys 5A
- 9:45 am Girls 5A
- 10:30 am Boys A Div. 1
- 11:15 am Girls A Div. 1
- 12 noon Boys A Div. 2
- 12:45 pm Girls A Div. 2

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023

- 8:00 am Boys 7A
- 8:45 am Girls 7A
- 9:30 am Boys 2A
- 10:15 am Girls 2A
- 11:00 am Boys 3A
- 11:45 am Girls 3A
- 12:30 pm Boys 4A
- 1:15 pm Girls 4A
- 2:00 pm Boys 6A
- 2:45 pm Girls 6A



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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."

One Act Play State Championships on November 11 & 18

The 2023 GHSA State One Act Play Championships will be held at eight different sites on November 11 for Classes 7A, 5A, 4A and A Division 1, and on November 18 for Classes 6A, 3A, 2A and A Division 2.

Admission is free at all sites.

Defending state champions are Lambert (Class 7A), Allatoona (6A), Calhoun (5A), North Oconee (4A), Ringgold (3A), ACE Charter (2A), Bleckley County (A, Div. 1) and Georgia Military College (A, Div. 2).

ONE ACT PLAY FINALS SCHEDULE

The Schedule at ALL Sites Shall be:

9:00 am - 10:15 am	Region 4
10:15 am - 11:30 am	Region 5
11:30 am - 12:45 pm	Region 6
12:45 pm - 2:00 pm	Region 7
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	RECESS
3:00 pm - 4:15 pm	Region 8
4:15 pm - 5:30 pm	Region 1
5:30 pm - 6:45 pm	Region 2
6:45 pm - 8:00 pm	Region 3
8:00 pm	Judges' Deliberations
Awards Presentation to follow	



ONE ACT PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP SITES & DATES

November 11

Class 1A, Division 1 - at Northside-Warner Robins High School

Class 4A - at Tift County High School

Class 5A - at the Monroe County Fine Arts Center

Class 7A - at Georgia Military College

November 18

Class 1A, Division 2 - at Denmark High School

Class 2A - at Harris County High School

Class 3A - at the Buford Performing Arts Center

Class 6A - at Carrollton High School

GHSA Teams with The Dairy Alliance to Promote Health Benefits of Milk

The Dairy Alliance, a leader in the dairy industry raising awareness about the nutritional and wellness advantages of dairy milk, is teaming up with high school athletics associations across the Southeast to be the Official Milk Partner this fall season. The organization will sponsor a variety of high school sports championships across Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

"We are delighted to show our support for high school athletes in our region and to be the Official Milk Sponsor for these exciting championship games," said Geri Berdak, Chief Executive Officer at The Dairy Alliance. "We know these student-athletes work hard to balance school and sports, so we want to encourage them to stay strong on and off the field with dairy milk, which provides 8 grams of high-quality protein and 13 essential nutrients in every serving."

The Dairy Alliance sponsorship kicked off on October 14 with South Carolina High School League's Swimming Championship. The Dairy Alliance will be sponsoring a total of 22 championship games across seven states in their region, including for the Georgia High School Association, North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association, Kentucky High School Athletic Association, Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association, Mississippi High School Activation Association, and Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association.

"The Georgia High School Association is proud to partner with The Dairy Alliance and for the opportunity to edu-

cate students, parents and coaches about the benefits of dairy milk," said Dr. Robin Hines, Executive Director. "After all, athletes have forever known of the nutritional benefits of dairy milk and know it's the best recovery drink available for post practice and workouts. We are also grateful for the opportunity to join our friends from the high school associations in North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Virginia in this partnership!"



Reminder: Post-Season Tickets Are Available ONLY on GoFan

It is almost time for 2023 GHSA post season. Here's important GoFan information you need to know. All the best in the playoffs.

Game Upload Information

Please note that GoFan will upload all games into GoFan HQ for the school

Please note that all games will be hidden initially to allow for edits to date, time, etc.

Edits to your events can be made in [GoFan HQ](#)

If you need assistance logging into your GoFanHQ, please reach out to schoolsupport@gofan.co

In case you have questions concerning help with GoFan

Fans should reach out to service@gofan.co

Schools should use schoolsupport@gofan.co, or use the "GoFan School Support" links that follow.



GoFan Success Links

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[GoFan Free Success Kit \(best practices, promotion, graphics, templates\)](#)

[GoFan Shop \(if needed - signs, point-of-sale\)](#)

[Get GoFan/ Helpful Resources](#)

GoFan Training/Help Links

[How To Guide](#)

How to redeem tickets

How to Find Tickets

How to share and transfer tickets

GHSA Partners with RefReps to Develop Next Generation of Sports Officials

The Georgia High School Association has announced a new partnership with RefReps, an innovative education technology company focused on sports officiating education. The goal of the partnership is to develop the next generation of great sports officials in the state of Georgia.

RefReps (www.refreps.com) offers a variety of comprehensive, digital coursework, curriculum, and support materials that will afford high schools the opportunity to teach Intro to Sports Officiating to students during the curricular day. Their unique Officiating Education System is engaging in ways that connect well with today's learner.

Currently, RefReps' Intro to Sports Officiating classes are being taught in more than 35 states to well over 14,000 individuals and high school students.

"We are excited to partner with RefReps to provide an excellent curriculum that will prepare the next generation of officials," said Dr. Robin Hines, Executive Director of the Georgia High School Association. "I have reviewed the content and it is outstanding and we hope that our member schools will implement RefReps into their coursework to provide much needed contest officials for our state."

"We are honored to partner with the GHSA to further our mission to develop the next generation of great sports officials," said RefReps Founder, Kyle Armstrong. "There is a long, storied sports culture here in Georgia, and the GHSA is a national leader in high school athletics. Together,

we look forward to reversing the officiating shortage by getting students and adults alike interested in, and excited about, sports officiating."

The GHSA and RefReps will host webinars November 9 (11:00 am) and 13 (1:00 pm), to engage high schools interested in learning about the educational opportunities affiliated with these initiatives. The GHSA looks forward to students learning the skills needed to become immediately employable, while helping solve the need for officials at the youth and middle school levels. More information and a link to register may be found on the GHSA web site.





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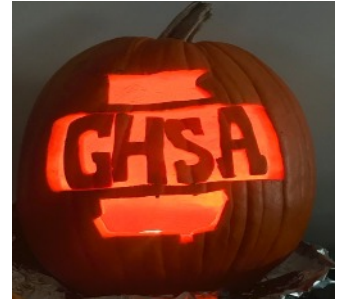
GET YOUR TICKETS



GHSA - November Calendar - 2023

November

- 1 Deadline to file Riflery schedules with GHSA
- 3, 4 State Cross Country Meet
- 3, 4 End Football Regular Season; Volleyball State Finals
- 4 Earliest date for Dance events
- 4 Region Cheerleading (A & Coed Sectionals)
- 4 Complete Region One Act Play
- 7 Hardship/Appeal Meeting
- 10 Earliest date for Wrestling match and Basketball game
- 10, 11 First Round State Football Playoffs; Cheerleading State Championships
- 11 State One Act Plays (Classes 7A, 5A, 4A and A, Division 1)
- 17, 18 Second Round State Football Playoffs
- 18 State One Act Plays (Classes 6A, 3A, 2A and A, Division 2)
- 23 **Thanksgiving Day** - GHSA Office closed 22nd through 24th
- 24, 25 Quarterfinal Round State Football Playoffs
- 30 Determine Flag Football Playoff Qualifiers



The GHSA Staff Wishes You and Yours The Best of the Season



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



GHSA Sponsors

