



GHSA

“Items of Interest”

September 2013

Make Sure to Follow GHSA Safety Guidelines to Minimize Risk

The landscape of high school athletics across America is marked by a heavy emphasis on the health and wellbeing of the student athletes. This issue has been acknowledged for a long time, but the focus of attention is increasing .

The Georgia High School Association and the National Federation of State High School Associations are continuing to work together to provide resources for school personnel to address the issues of risk minimization in athletics. The GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net) features a page dedicated to sports medicine issues. I am going to highlight several GHSA policies that need to be followed in an attempt to minimize risks.

Concussion Awareness: In the last session of the Georgia Legislature, a concussion management law was passed that mirrors the protocols used by the GHSA. One aspect of the law covers the awareness of the signs and symptoms of concussions, and the removal of any player from a game or practice who shows such signs or symptoms. Any student removed must be evaluated by an appropriate health care professional, and may not return to play that day unless it is determined that the student has not suffered a concussion.

There are two educational pieces included in this law. First, all GHSA coaches must take a concussion awareness course that is found at www.nfhslearn.com. This is a free, online course that must be taken by all coaches this year before they have coaching contact with students, and must be taken once every two years thereafter. Second, the concussion protocol information must be distributed to all players and their parents, signed, and retained to indicate an understanding of the procedures involved.

Emergency Action Plan: Each school is required to have an emergency action plan that covers after-school athletic activities – both practices and games. That plan should reflect cooperative efforts on the part of school personnel and community emergency responders to handle emergencies involving serious injuries or illnesses, weather emergencies, or terroristic activities. This plan should be known by all people involved, and practiced periodically.

Mandatory Warm-up Period: At the end of each halftime intermission at GHSA football games, there is a mandatory three-minute warm-up period. Players on both teams are expected to engage in some type of physical activity that will prepare them to participate in the second half. There has been some confusion about whether this is required or recommended – **it is required.**

Lightning Policy: At every outdoor GHSA athletic event, there must be a fully-functioning lightning detector that will be monitored by the Game Manager at a game, and a designated school person at a practice. There are a variety of views on the “danger zone” on the detector, but 10 miles appears to be a valid measure. When a practice or game has been halted because of the detection of dangerous lightning, all participants should immediately go to a safe place, and the activity may not be resumed until thirty minutes after the last detected lightning strike in the danger zone.



– **Ralph Swearngin**, Executive Director

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION Newsletter
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**- GHSA STAFF -
 Areas of Responsibility**

RALPH SWEARNGIN (extension 21)

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

GARY PHILLIPS (extension 25)

- Assistant Executive Director -
 By-Law Interpretations, Transfer Eligibility, Cross Country, Track, Golf

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 Basketball, Soccer, Softball, Officials Training

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

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 Baseball, Football, Literary, One-Act Play

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 Coach's Liaison, Community Coach Program,
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 GHSA Constitution & Calendar, Web Site Content, Tennis

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 Officials' Registration, Testing & Online Clinics, Service Awards

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- Administrative Assistant -
 Event Sanctioning, School Passes, Directory,
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 Community Coach Program, Web Site Content, Entry Notification

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 Hardship Hearings, Fines, School System/Retiree Passes,
 Publication Orders

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 Budgeting and Finances, Dues, Playoff Finances, Staff Procedures

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- Administrative Assistant -
 Non-transfer Eligibility, Literary & One-Act Play Liaison,
 School Contact Coordinator

GHSA Licensed Products

This month's featured GHSA licensees are: **Jostens**, official championship rings and jewelry (jostens.com); **Musco Sports Lighting**, leader in developing sports-lighting technology solutions (musco.com); **FieldTurf**, official artificial turf (fieldturf.com); **Hudl**, official video exchange service (hudl.com), **Planet HS**, connecting high communities online (planeths.com) and **TeamIP**, official merchandiser and online store (teamip.com). View a complete list of licensees at www.ghsa.net/licensing.

REMINDER: GHSA Membership Dues Must Be Paid On Or Before October 15th!

First Power Ratings on September 10

The first power ratings for Class A football and softball by MaxPreps will be posted on GHSA.net on September 10. The power ratings will be updated each Tuesday after that for the remainder of the respective regular seasons.

Every GHSA member school **must** submit all game results, regardless of classification, to MaxPreps in order to manage the Class A football and softball power ratings and to verify Region Standings across **all** classifications.

MaxPreps offers coaches a stat management and communication platform that enables them to efficiently submit their schedules, scores, rosters and statistics.

MaxPreps is a 100% **free** service and is the **official** source of power ratings, region standings and stats for the GHSA.

For assistance, you may contact MaxPreps' Georgia state representative, **Kylie McLarty** at kylie.mclarty@cbsi.com with any questions.



Home 'Pink' is OK for September 9-14

In observance of cancer awareness week, the GHSA will allow schools to wear "pink" uniforms at their HOME events during the week of September 9-14 for ALL fall sports.

If a school does NOT have a home contest that week, it may request to wear pink at a home contest either the week prior to or the week following September 9-14. Schools should contact their GHSA sports coordinator with this request.

The home team **must** inform the visiting team that pink uniforms will be worn, and the visiting teams must wear their normal "dark" uniforms at these events.

GHSA Welcomes Four New Licensees

The GHSA would like to welcome the following new licensees:

■ **Fit Communities / Rubber Floors and More**, fitness equipment and rubber flooring provider (fit-communities.com)

■ **Hartwell Studio Works**, creating unique, dynamic and protectable spirit logos / marks (hartwellstudioworks.com)

■ **Sports Imports**, world-class volleyball net systems (sportsimports.com)

■ **Planet HS**, connecting high communities online (planeths.com).

View all licensee at www.ghsa.net/licensing.



High School Football Scoreboard Show Begins 18th Season

The "Georgia High School Scoreboard Show" presented by Georgia Farm Bureau kicked off an 18th season on Friday night, August 30th.

The popular program has become a staple for high school football fans across Georgia from 10 p.m., until midnight.

The statewide radio network has over 60 affiliate stations and is streamed online. The show, which runs 13 weeks through November 15th, is hosted by the legendary voice of Tommy Palmer for the 9th consecutive season.

Countdown To Kickoff also began on August 30th for

an 8th season on 25+ radio affiliates from 6-7:00 p.m. Countdown is the statewide "pregame show," hosted by Tommy Palmer, featuring interviews and insights into Friday's top games from expert correspondents throughout Georgia.

Sponsors include: Georgia Farm Bureau and Georgia Southern.

Both live programs are produced by Palmer Sports Media in partnership with the Georgia High School Association.

For a list of affiliates and more information about the programs, go to: www.palmermediagroup.com.



GHSA Salutes 2013 Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Winners

Georgia Electric Membership Corporation (Georgia EMC) is proud to sponsor the Georgia High School Association Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award and announces the 48 GHSA-member high schools that will receive the 2013 award.

The award honors schools that demonstrated exemplary sportsmanship during the 2012-2013 school year.

"Sportsmanship is an essential element in the mission of education-based athletics," said Dr. Ralph Swearngin, GHSA Executive Director. "Good sporting behavior involves many important values that influence the behavior of productive citizens. The GHSA appreciates the efforts of Georgia EMC to recognize schools that have excelled at good sportsmanship."

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 around the state are honored for exhibiting exceptional sportsmanship during competitive events.

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 the sportsmanship demonstrated throughout the school year. Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Awards are awarded annually to the GHSA-mem-



ber high schools by representatives from the EMCs during fall athletic events and school assemblies.

Georgia EMC is a statewide trade association representing the state's 41 EMCs, Oglethorpe Power Corp., Georgia Transmission Corp. and Georgia System Operations Corp.

Collectively, Georgia's customer-owned EMCs provide electricity and related services to more than five million people, half of Georgia's population,

across 73 percent of the state's land area. Winners are as follows:

- 1-A-A-A-A-A-A - Brunswick High School
- 2-A-A-A-A-A-A - Luella High School
- 3-A-A-A-A-A-A - East Coweta High School
- 6-A-A-A-A-A-A - West Forsyth High School
- 7-A-A-A-A-A-A - Duluth High School
- 8-A-A-A-A-A-A - Shiloh High School
- 1-A-A-A-A-A - Bainbridge High School
- 2-A-A-A-A-A - Jones County High School
- 3-A-A-A-A-A - Ware County High School
- 4-A-A-A-A-A - Ola High School
- 5-A-A-A-A-A - New Manchester HS
- 6-A-A-A-A-A - Mays High School
- 7-A-A-A-A-A - Forsyth Central HS
- 8-A-A-A-A-A - Flowery Branch HS
- 1-A-A-A-A - Crisp County High School
- 2-A-A-A-A - Howard High School
- 3-A-A-A-A - Statesboro HS
- 4-A-A-A-A - Locust Grove HS
- 5-A-A-A-A - Columbus High School
- 6-A-A-A-A - Chamblee High School
- 7-A-A-A-A - Pickens High School
- 8-A-A-A-A - Chestatee High School
- 1-A-A-A - Beach High School
- 2-A-A-A - Pike County High School
- 3-A-A-A - Washington County HS
- 4-A-A-A - Coretta Scott King Acad.
- 5-A-A-A - Sonoraville High School
- 6-A-A-A - Cedar Grove High School
- 7-A-A-A - Fannin County HS
- 8-A-A-A - Morgan County HS
- 1-A-A - Berrien High School
- 2-A-A - Long County High School
- 3-A-A - Westside-Augusta HS
- 4-A-A - Putnam County HS
- 5-A-A - Heard County High School
- 6-A-A - Wesleyan School
- 7-A-A - Murray County HS
- 8-A-A - Oglethorpe County HS
- 1-A - Seminole County HS
- 2-A - Charlton County HS
- 3-A - Wheeler County HS
- 4-A - Marion County High School
- 5-A - Strong Rock Christian
- 6-A - Walker School
- 7-A - Lincoln County High School
- 8-A - Hebron Christian

High School Sports Participation Increases for 24th Straight Year

INDIANAPOLIS, IN — Participation in high school sports increased for the 24th consecutive year in 2012-13 and passed the 7.7 million mark for the first time, according to the annual High School Athletics Participation Survey conducted by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

Based on figures from the 51 NFHS-member state high school associations, which includes the District of Columbia, sports participation for the 2012-13 school year reached an all-time high of 7,713,577 participants – an increase of 21,057 from the previous year.

An additional 15,190 girls participated in high school sports last year, moving the girls all-time record to 3,222,723 and marking the 24th consecutive year for an increase in the number of female participants. After its first decrease in 20 years last year, boys participation started on the upswing again with an additional 5,867 participants. The boys total of 4,490,854 is second all-time to the 4,494,406 in 2010-11.

"While we recognize that many schools are experiencing challenges with funding high school sports programs, we are encouraged that schools are responding to the challenges and that more and more students are involved in high school sports," said Bob Gardner, NFHS executive director. "Playing sports within the school setting continues to be the desire of more than 55 percent of students enrolled in our nation's high schools."

Eight of the top 10 girls sports registered increases in participation in 2012-13, led by competitive spirit squads (8,201), outdoor track and field (4,172), and swimming and diving (3,536). Lacrosse, cross country, volleyball, soccer and tennis also had additional female participants, while basketball and fast-pitch softball had minor declines.

Five of the top 10 boys sports showed increases in participation, led by outdoor track and field (5,044), swimming and diving (4,354), and basketball (3,387). Cross country and baseball also registered gains among top 10 sports.

Eleven-player football remains the top sport for boys with 1,086,627 participants in 2012-13, although the number of players has decreased slightly each of the past four years, including a drop of 9,366 from 2011-12 to 2012-13.

In terms of combined participation, track and field, and swimming and diving registered the best overall gains. Track and field had an increase of more than 9,100 participants when combining girls and boys, while swimming and diving was up almost 8,000 participants.

Girls sports outside the top 10 that recorded increases in participants and could be emerging sports for females are bowling (25,450 participants in 2012-13), ice hockey (9,447), wrestling (8,727) and flag football (7,019).

A sizeable increase in "adapted sports" participation also contributed to the rise in 2012-13 figures. With seven states offering these programs for students with disabilities in 14 sports, the number of participants rose almost 3,000 to 8,747.

The top 10 states by participants remained in the same order as last year, with Texas and California topping the list with 798,333 and 777,545, respectively. The remainder of the top 10 was New York (389,475), Illinois (339,944), Ohio (327,919), Pennsylvania (315,492), Michigan (304,438), New Jersey (270,423), Florida (243,397) and Minnesota (230,421).

The participation survey has been compiled since 1971 by the NFHS through numbers it receives from its member associations. The complete Participation Survey is available on the NFHS Web site at www.nfhs.org.

TEN MOST POPULAR BOYS PROGRAMS

Number of Schools		Total Participants	
1. Basketball	17,856	1. Football - 11-player	1,086,627
2. Track and Field - Outdoor	16,001	2. Track and Field - Outdoor	580,672
3. Baseball	15,632	3. Basketball	538,676
4. Cross Country	14,148	4. Baseball	474,791
5. Football - 11-player	14,048	5. Soccer	410,982
6. Golf	13,415	6. Wrestling	270,163
7. Soccer	11,626	7. Cross Country	249,200
8. Wrestling	10,488	8. Tennis	157,247
9. Tennis	9,730	9. Golf	152,584
10. Swimming and Diving	7,001	10. Swimming and Diving	138,177

TEN MOST POPULAR GIRLS PROGRAMS

Number of Schools		Total Participants	
1. Basketball	17,493	1. Track and Field - Outdoor	472,939
2. Track and Field - Outdoor	15,962	2. Basketball	433,120
3. Volleyball	15,565	3. Volleyball	420,208
4. Softball - Fast Pitch	15,067	4. Soccer	371,532
5. Cross Country	13,918	5. Softball - Fast Pitch	362,488
6. Soccer	11,351	6. Cross Country	214,369
7. Tennis	10,005	7. Tennis	181,116
8. Golf	9,568	8. Swimming and Diving	163,992
9. Swimming and Diving	7,249	9. Competitive Spirit Squads	116,508
10. Competitive Spirit Squads	4,847	10. Lacrosse	77,258

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA

MARRIOTT / Macon City Center - MACON, GEORGIA
Magnolia Ballroom

September 16, 2013 - 9:00 a.m.

Call To Order Dr. Gary Holmes, President
 Invocation Dr. Ralph Swearngin, Executive Director
 Roll Call Steve Figueroa, Media Director

APPOINTMENTS: Monday - 9:00 am: Denise Warnock, Principal, Swainsboro High School
 Appeal of student eligibility - Bryan J. Martin (eight-semesters)

Monday - 9:15 am: Sheila Beckham, Principal, Oconee County High School
 Appeal of student eligibility - Byron Mitchell (eight-semesters)

Monday - 9:30 am: Gary Townsend, Principal, Drew High School
 Appeal of student eligibility - Phillip Harris (eight-semesters)

Monday - 9:45 am: Mike Cloy, Athletic Director, Johns Creek High School
 Appeal of student eligibility - Victor Meffert (eight-semesters)

Monday - 10:00 am: Donnie Griggers, Principal, Harrison High School
 Appeal of student eligibility - Promise Olaleye (eight-semesters)

Monday - 10:15 am: Joseph Horton, Athletic Director, North Cobb High School
 Appeal of student eligibility - Eric M. Nzuki (eight-semesters)

Monday - 10:30 am: Grady York, Athletic Director, North Gwinnett High School
 Appeal of student eligibility - Corey Manis (eight-semesters)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Board of Trustees

1. Review the 2013-2014 audit and financial report (GHSA Office)
2. Evaluate the procedures used for the GHSA Reserve Fund. (GHSA Office)
3. Determine the interview procedures to be used in the Executive Director search process.
4. By-law 4.41d (New 5): Individual with 20 years or more of service on the GHSA staff will be eligible for a Lifetime Pass. (GHSA Office)
5. Develop an "expense averaging" process when multiple neutral sites are used for championship events. (GHSA Office)
6. Proposal to survey member schools about the development of Wheelchair Tennis competitions. (GHSA Office)

Baseball Committee

1. Allow two weeks of arm conditioning prior to the first date for practices in Baseball. No bats of any kind allowed. (Region 6-AAAAAA)
2. Add an additional week of preseason practice for Baseball – making it four weeks before the first date of competition. (Region 6-AAAAAA)

Eligibility Committee

1. Proposal to amend by-law 1.42 in regard to the number of high school graduation credits that a student may earn in middle school before entering high school by establishing a cap on the number of units earned (GHSA Office & Don Corr)
2. Proposal to remove "Carnegie" from all notations about units used for student eligibility. (Don Corr)

(over)

AGENDA, Continued**Eligibility Committee, Continued**

3. Proposal to amend By-law 1.62 by adding the following note at the end: "Rules about joint custody transfers overrule the one-time transfer restriction in this by-law." (GHSA Office)
4. Proposal to amend By-law 1.62(h) by changing "meet all other requirements of eligibility" to "live in the school's service area and are eligible according to the age, 8-semester, and academic rules." (GHSA Office)
5. Amend the wording of By-law 1.68 to match the wording in the Constitution. (GHSA Office)
6. New By-law 1.96 to address benefits allowed at national camps and all-star events. (GHSA Office)

Football Committee

1. Establish a penalty for schools that change their football schedules after June 1st. (GHSA Office)
2. Discuss problems that arose at summer football camps where GHSA procedures were not followed. (GHSA Office)
3. Proposal to amend Class A Power Rating due to the late cancellation of a member school's football schedule. (GHSA Office)
4. Change the bye week for Class A football teams in the post-season playoffs. (GHSA Office)

Golf Committee

1. All State Golf Tournaments will be 36-hole events for all classifications and genders. (Columbus High School)
2. Entry fees will be assessed for teams and individuals to cover both days. (Columbus High School)
3. Change the playing distances required for all Regional Golf Tournaments. [**Effective Immediately**] (GHSA Office)
4. Change the qualifying school for advancement to post-season competitions. [**Effective Immediately**] (GHSA Office)
5. Change the number of individual qualifiers that will advance out of the Region Tournament. [**Effective Immediately**] (GHSA Office)

Gymnastics Committee

1. The top 12 teams and the top 24 individual gymnasts will qualify for the State Qualifying Meet based on regular season competitions. [**Effective**

Immediately] (GHSA Coordinator)

Literary Committee

1. Mandate a progressive program of judges' training for One Act Play competitions. [**Effective Immediately**] (GHSA Coordinator & GHSA Office)

Officials Committee

1. Mandate the use of Arbiter as the official GHSA computer program for officiating business beginning July 1, 2014. Strongly recommend that local associations use Arbiter as soon as possible. (GHSA Office)
2. Increase the registration fees for officials by \$2.00 per official. (GHSA Office)
3. Discussion of statewide training procedures (Earl Etheridge)
4. Discussion of the procedures used by the Evaluation Committees in various sports. (Earl Etheridge)

Reclassification Committee

(**Note:** proposals come from ideas discussed at a summer work session)

1. Maintain the six classification structure currently used with the same division of Class A public and private schools.
2. Classify schools on student populations for grades 9-12.
3. Assist isolated schools with the development of a "pod system" that will allow schools to play schools of other classifications in their geographic area and then qualify for playoffs in their classification region.
4. Petition the GHSA staff to survey member schools (public and private) about the number of students who reside outside the school's service area.
5. Create a task force to study the results of the survey of students living outside the school service area to determine if there is a need to deal with that situation in future reclassification procedures.

Softball Committee

1. Proposal to allow time limits to be used at varsity invitational tournaments. (GHSA Office)

(over)

AGENDA, Continued**Swimming & Diving Committee**

1. Proposal to increase admission fees for the 2014 GHSA State Meet to \$12.00 per day. (Meet Managers & GHSA Coordinator)
2. Proposal to mandate an online clinic for Swimming & Diving Coaches about administrative procedures for qualification for the State Meet. (GHSA Coordinator and GHSA Office)

Wrestling Committee

1. Proposal to allow alternates from the Area Tour-

2. naments to weigh-in at the Sectional Tournament in case a qualifier is unable to compete. (Region 7-AAAAA)
2. Proposal to change the Traditional Tournament to determine individual champions but no team scoring, and have 4 classifications in the Traditional Tournament. (GHSA Office)
3. Discuss information accumulated concerning the number of matches in which an individual may wrestle in a season as requested by the Wrestling Committee.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

1. Audit and Financial Report 2013-14

NEW BUSINESS:**ADJOURNMENT****SCHEDULE OF SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS - FALL 2013**

(Meetings Will Be Held at the Marriott Macon City Center Hotel)

SATURDAY, September 14

6:00pm Board of Trustees (Vintage Private Dining Room)

11:00am Wrestling Committee (Magnolia C/D)
Softball Committee (Magnolia B)

11:30am Baseball Committee (Magnolia B)

SUNDAY, September 15

9:00am Eligibility Committee (Conference Room)
Officials Committee (Magnolia A)

1:00pm Football Committee (Magnolia C/D)

2:00pm Reclassification Committee (Magnolia C/D)

10:00am Golf Committee (Magnolia C/D)
Swimming Committee (Magnolia B)

4:30pm Hospitality Room Opens (Salon B)

10:30am Gymnastics Committee (Magnolia B)
Literary Committee (Magnolia A)

GHSA - September / October Calendar - 2013

September

- 2 Labor Day, GHSA Office closed
- 3 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 16 State Executive Committee Meeting
- 17 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 23 Deadline for notification of entry in Cross Country

October

- 1 Deadline to notify entry in One Act Play & to set Riflery schedules
- 7 Earliest date for Riflery match
- 8 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 11 Deadline date to file Riflery schedules with GHSA office
- 12 Complete Region Softball
- 12 Determine Area Volleyball winners
- 14 Report Region Softball winners by 9 a.m.
- 14 Report Area Volleyball winners by 9 a.m.
- 15 Deadline for payment of GHSA membership dues
- 16 First Round State Volleyball in 2A, 3A & 4A
- 16, 17 First Round State Softball Classes 2A-6A
- 17 First Round State Volleyball in A, 5A & 6A
- 21 Earliest date for swimming practice

GHSA Sponsors

