



GHSA

"ITEMS OF INTEREST"

March 2016

Value of School-Based Athletics Worth the Problems

By the time this newsletter is fully distributed to all our member schools, corporate partners and other supporters of the Georgia High School Association, winter sports will have reached their conclusion for 2016.

We concluded Team Duals Wrestling in mid-January, Swimming and Diving in early February and the Traditional Wrestling Tournament in mid-February. Literally thousands of student athletes have competed in these championship events. Thousands of spectators have filled venues around the state to watch these events and to cheer on individual athletes and the schools and teams they represent.

Many more fans will have journeyed to the Centreplex in Macon to watch and cheer as another 30 schools compete for the State Championships in boys and girls Basketball. Again, hundreds of young people will be involved in these games – giving their all for their school in a quest for excellence.

Even more fans will observe the action via radio, video streaming and live television broadcasts. This is a time to celebrate high school athletics and their role in the educational process. These good things do not come easily. We can no longer assume high school athletics will continue just as they have been in the past. Important issues must be, and are being, addressed to insure that high school athletics will remain a stable force in the lives of millions of young people across the country.

Much attention is being paid to the health and safety of student athletes, and rightfully so! Risk management is the top priority in every sport played within the GHSA. The games are the safest they have ever been. Many rule changes and association policy changes focus on the safety of the athletes.

Economic pressures impact every aspect of school life – including sports and other competitive activities. Schools are working diligently to maximize resources and to find creative measures to finance their athletic programs.

These topics are but two issues confronting school-based athletics – there are others, as we might understand. We will be more likely to work through these problems if we are convinced of the great value of high school athletics as a part of the total educational framework. All of us must commit ourselves to the true purposes of school-based athletics while looking for ways to grow and develop our programs throughout Georgia.



– Gary Phillips, Executive Director

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

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION Newsletter

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Football Playoffs, Coaches Education Program

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By-Law Interpretations, Transfer Eligibility, Cross Country, Golf, Track

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Online Clinics for Coaches, Trophies & Medals

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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 uniforms, apparel and equipment; **Mr Video** videographer / order DVDs of the cheerleading state championships (mrvideoonline.com); **Hartwell Studio Works**, creating unique, dynamic and protectable spirit logos (hartwellstudioworks.com); and **PowerFit Fitness Equipment / Rubber Floors and More**, fitness equipment and rubber flooring provider (fit-communities.com).

STATE CHAMPIONS

WRESTLING - Traditional

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

AAAAAA	Archer High School
AAAAA	Camden County High School
AAAA	Gilmer High School
AAA	Jefferson High School
AA	Social Circle High School
A	Commerce High School

SWIMMING and DIVING

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

	Boys
AAAAAA	Brookwood High School
A - AAAAA	Westminster
	Girls
AAAAAA	Lambert High School
A - AAAAA	Marist

Winning a State Championship is an outstanding achievement for the GHSA member schools, their athletes and coaches, and a distinction that should create a great deal of pride in the school community.

GHSA Reminders:

DEADLINES FOR NOMINATIONS: The nomination deadline for submitting your students for Positive Athletes Georgia is **March 15**. For more information and nomination forms, please visit the web site or go to <http://www.ghsa.net/sportsmanship>.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ITEMS: Anyone wishing to have an item included on the agenda for the spring State Executive Committee meeting must submit the item to the GHSA office by March 18, 2016. The spring State Executive Committee meeting will be held April 18, 2016 at the Marriott Macon City Center.

OPEN MEET DEADLINE: Member schools are reminded of the deadline to notify the GHSA of entry in Open Meet State Events such as Volleyball, Lacrosse, Class A Soccer, Wrestling, Rifle and Gymnastics for the school year 2016-2017. The deadline for notification in **all** those events is April 1, 2016.

SPRING CHEERLEADING TRYOUTS: Cheerleading practice/tryouts are limited to a maximum of 10 consecutive days per school between February 1 and the last day students are in school. Once tryouts are complete, no further practices may be held until school is out.

DEAD WEEK: The mandatory "Dead Week" for this year is Sunday, July 3, 2016 through Saturday, July 9, 2016.

GHSA Seeks Host Sites

Each year, many schools contribute by hosting a region/area or state event as a service to all members. The GHSA office soon will be determining sites for events for the 2016-17 year.

Sites are needed for the following events:

- Region Cheerleading
- Area Wrestling (Traditional and/or Team Duals)
- Sectional Wrestling (Traditional)
- Sectional Track
- Sectional Golf and State Golf

If your school would like to host one of the above events, please notify the GHSA office.

Championship Basketball on GPB

Georgia Public Broadcasting will televise all 14 games of the GHSA / Dr. Ralph Swearngin State Basketball Championships live from the Macon Centreplex on March 3-5, 2016.

The AAASP Wheelchair championship game (taped) will air on Saturday, March 5 at 9:30 a.m. GPB began its GHSA basketball broadcast tradition in 1998.

The finals also will stream live on GPB.org/sports and NFHSNetwork.com/GHSA.

Semifinal action on February 25-27 included all 28 games live on NFHSNetwork.com/GHSA produced by PlayOn Sports. DVDs of finals and semifinals can be purchased at NFHSNetwork.com/GHSA.

Partners for the GPB TV broadcasts include: Georgia Electric Membership Corporations, Regions Bank, Technical College System of Georgia and Georgia Farm Bureau Insurance.

Basketball State Championship Facts

When: March 3-5, 2016 **Where:** Macon Centreplex
Tickets: \$12 per day at the Macon Centreplex

Schedule

Thursday, March 3

3:00 pm.....Class A Public Girls
 4:45 pm.....Class A Public Boys
 7:00 pm.....Class AAAA Girls
 8:45 pm.....Class AAAA Boys

Friday, March 4

12:00 pm.....AAASP Wheelchair
 3:00 pm.....Class AA Girls
 4:45 pm.....Class AA Boys
 7:00 pm.....Class AAAAA Girls
 8:45 pm.....Class AAAAA Boys

Saturday, March 5

11:00 am.....Class A Private Girls
 12:45 pm.....Class A Private Boys
 3:00 pm.....Class AAA Girls
 4:45 pm.....Class AAA Boys
 7:00 pm.....Class AAAAAA Girls
 8:45 pm.....Class AAAAAA Boys

Television: All Finals Live on GPB-TV (wheelchair game tape delayed until 9:00 a.m., on Saturday, March 5)

Video: Watch Live at NFHSNetwork.com/GHSA / GPB.org/sports.
 Order DVDs at NFHSNetwork.com/GHSA.



AAASP Holds 19th State Tournament

The American Association of Adapted Sports Programs, Inc. (AAASP) will host the 19th Annual Interscholastic Wheelchair Basketball State Championship Tournament in Georgia, which will conclude March 4, 2016 with the finals in Macon.

The championship will be held in conjunction with the Georgia High School Association's State Tournament at the Macon Centreplex.

Feb. 27 - The AAASP Wheelchair Basketball JV Semifinals and Championships will be held at Aaron Cohn Middle School in Midland, GA. Game times: 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m. And the Varsity Semifinals, hosted by Gwinnett County Public Schools, will be held at Hull Middle School in Duluth at 11:00 a.m.

March 4 - The AAASP Wheelchair Basketball Varsity State Championship game will be held in conjunction with the GHSA boys' and girls' finals at the Macon Centerplex at noon. (The game will be shown on a delayed basis on March 5 at 9:00 a.m., on GPB.)

The Varsity championship was won last year by the Houston County Sharks, while the Junior Varsity title went to the West Georgia Wolverines.



Jaxx Field Miracle Promotional Offer

Jaxx Field Miracle, the official field drying agent of the GHSA, is offering teams one (1) free bag for every 10 bags purchased (through 5/1/16).

Visit Jaxx at www.jaxxusa.com and be sure to mention "GHSA" when placing your order to receive your free bag.



Swimming & Diving State Champions - 2016



Class AAAAAA Boys Champion: Brookwood



Class AAAAAA Girls Champion: Lambert



Class A-AAAAAA Boys Champion: Westminster



Class A-AAAAAA Girls Champion: Marist

Photographs of the state championship Swimming and Diving squads were provided by River Oak Photography.

Traditional Wrestling State Champions - 2016



Photographs of the state championship Wrestling teams were provided by Clay Teague.



AAAAAA: Archer



AAAAA: Camden County



AAAA: Gilmer



AAA: Jefferson



AA: Social Circle



A: Commerce

Stay Connected to the GHSA!

For all coaches, athletic directors, schools and teams, the GHSA invites you to follow us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook @OfficialGHSA for all the latest GHSA news and live state championship information.



MaxPreps Baseball Power Ratings

The first power ratings for Class A baseball by MaxPreps will be posted on GHSA.net on March 15, 2016. 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 baseball 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 representative, **Kylie McClarty** at kylie.mcclarty@cbsi.com with any questions.



Get Special GHSA Rates at Choice Hotels

GHSA is proud to remind you of its partnership with Choice Hotels International, one of the largest and most successful lodging franchisors in the world. With more than 6,000 Comfort Inn®, Comfort Suites®, Quality Inn®, Sleep Inn®, Clarion®, Cambria Suites®, MainStay Suites®, Suburban Extended Stay Hotel®, Econo Lodge®, Rodeway Inn® and Ascend Collection® brands worldwide, there is sure to be a hotel on the road to your game.

As a Preferred Hotel Partner of the GHSA all schools, teams, officials, families and friends receive a 15% discount while staying at participating Choice hotels. To take advantage of the discount and make a reservation either:

■ Call the Choice Sports Desk at **877.240.AWAY (2929)** and provide the GHSA Discount Code: **00213510**, or

■ Visit www.choicesportstravel.com, click on "Enter Special Rate ID" and enter the code



CHOICE HOTELS
INTERNATIONAL

Home 'Pink' is OK April 4-9, 2016

In observance of "Cancer Awareness" the GHSA will allow member schools to wear "pink" jerseys at their HOME spring sports events during the week of April 4-9, 2016.

The visiting teams must wear their normal "dark" uniforms, as usual.

Request for School Logos & Colors

The GHSA and NFHS Licensing Program are requesting that schools provide their logos and colors on the secure portal - <http://nfhslicensing.com/logos.html>. This ensures that licensees and retailers of NFHS Licensing have the most accurate brand artwork for school retail products.

The NFHS Licensing Program, which began as the GHSA Retail Licensing program in May 2010, produces quality, high school apparel and products for retail store locations throughout Georgia.

The licensing initiative is similar to existing collegiate programs with high schools receiving annual royalty payments from local sales with products designated by official hang tags. More than 300 schools received royalty payment in 2014-15.

To learn more about the program, go to: <http://www.ghsa.net/ghsa-retail-licensing-program>.



New Mobile Website Launched

A new mobile website for GHSA.net was launched in January. The new digital site features a redesigned pull-down menu with improved navigation and readability. A total of 52% of the traffic on GHSA.net comes from mobile phones (45%) and tablets (7%). The project was designed by MELT Interactive in collaboration with Jim Bullington, GHSA's IT Director.

Schedule for State Literary Meets

The state literary meet for all classifications will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2016. Classes AAAAAA and AAAAA will be at held at Buford High School, Classes AAAA, AAA and AA will be at Veterans High School, and Class A public and private will be at Wesleyan College, hosted by Stratford Academy. Admission is free to all events.

**Classes AAAAA and AAAAAA
Buford High School**

Argumentative Essay:		
5A & 6A	9:00 am	Room 6302
Personal Essay:		
5A & 6A	9:00 am	Room 6308
Rhetorical Essay:		
5A & 6A	9:00 am	Room 6310
Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking:		
5A & 6A	8:30 am	Room 6207 (Draw & Prep)
5A	9:30 am	Room 6208 (Speaking)
6A	9:30 am	Room 6202 (Speaking)
International Extemporaneous Speaking:		
5A & 6A	10:30 am	Room 6207 (Draw & Prep)
5A	11:30 am	Room 6208 (Speaking)
6A	11:30 am	Room 6202 (Speaking)
Dramatic Oral Interpretation:		
5A	9:00 am	Room 301
6A	9:00 am	Media Center
Humorous Oral Interpretation:		
5A	10:45 am	Room 301
6A	10:44 am	Media Center
Duo Oral Interpretation:		
5A	1:00 pm	Room 301
6A	1:00 pm	Media Center
Girls Solo:		
5A	9:00 am	Chorus Room (307)
6A	9:00 am	Team Room (505)
Boys Solo:		
5A	10:15 am	Chorus Room (307)
6A	10:15 am	Team Room (505)
Girls Trio:		
5A	11:30 am	Chorus Room (307)
6A	11:30 am	Team Room (505)
Boys Quartet:		
5A	1:30 pm	Chorus Room (307)
6A	1:30 pm	Team Room (505)

**Classes AA, AAA and AAAA
Veterans High School**

Argumentative, Personal & Rehtorical Essay:		
2A, 3A & 4A	9:00 am	Media Center
Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking:		
2A	8:30 am	Room 1403 (Drawing)
2A	9:30 am	Room 1201 (Speaking)
3A	10:00 am	Room 1403 (Drawing)
3A	11:00 am	Room 1201 (Speaking)
4A	12:00 pm	Room 1403 (Drawing)
4A	1:00 pm	Room 1201 (Speaking)
International Extemporaneous Speaking:		
2A	8:30 am	Room 1212 (Drawing)
2A	9:30 am	Room 1203 (Speaking)
3A	10:00 am	Room 1212 (Drawing)
3A	11:00 am	Room 1203 (Speaking)
4A	12:00 pm	Room 1212 (Drawing)
4A	1:00 pm	Room 1203 (Speaking)

Dramatic Oral Interpretation:		
2A	8:30 am	Room 2405
3A	10:30 am	Room 2405
4A	1:00 pm	Room 2405

Humorous Oral Interpretation:		
2A	8:30 am	Room 2403
3A	10:30 am	Room 2403
4A	1:00 pm	Room 2403

Duo Oral Interpretation:		
2A	8:30 am	Room 2402
3A	10:30 am	Room 2402
4A	1:00 pm	Room 2402

Girls Solo:		
2A	9:00 am	Band Room (1601)
3A	9:15 am	Choral Room (1602)
4A	9:30 am	Theater

Boys Solo:		
2A	10:15 am	Band Room (1601)
3A	10:30 am	Choral Room (1602)
4A	10:45 am	Theater

Girls Trio:		
2A	11:15 am	Band Room (1601)
3A	11:30 am	Choral Room (1602)
4A	11:45 am	Theater

Boys Quartet:		
2A	1:15 pm	Band Room (1601)
3A	1:30 pm	Choral Room (1602)
4A	1:45 pm	Theater

**Class A Public and Private
Wesleyan College (Stratford Academy host)**

Argumentative, Personal & Rehtorical Essay:		
Class A	9:00 am	Room: Taylor 109

Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking:		
Class A	9:00 am	Room: Taylor 218 (Drawing)
Class A	10:00 am	Room: Taylor 226 (Speaking)

International Extemporaneous Speaking:		
Class A	10:15 am	Room: Taylor 218 (Drawing)
Class A	11:15 am	Room: Taylor 226 (Speaking)

Humorous Oral Interpretation:		
Class A	9:00 am	Room: Taylor 123

Dramatic Oral Interpretation:		
Class A	10:30 am	Room: Taylor 123

Duo Oral Interpretation:		
Class A	1:30 pm	Room: Taylor 123

Girls Solo:		
Class A	9:00 am	Olive Swann Porter Building

Boys Solo:		
Class A	10:15 am	Olive Swann Porter Building

Girls Trio:		
Class A	11:45 am	Olive Swann Porter Building

Boys Quartet:		
Class A	1:00 pm	Olive Swann Porter Building

GHSA - March Calendar - 2016

March

- 1 Deadline to submit Football Schedules to GHSA office
- 3-5 Championship Round State Basketball Tournament (all classes)
- 5 Complete Region/Area Literary
- 7 File reports of Literary winners with GHSA by 9 a.m.
- 8 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 12 State Literary Meets
- 19 Complete Area Riflery
- 21 Complete Riflery Semifinals
- 22 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 25 Good Friday, GHSA office closed
- 26 Complete Riflery Sectionals
- 28 File reports of Riflery Sectionals with GHSA and State Meet Director

April

- 1 Deadline to submit notification of entry in Gymnastics, Lacrosse, Riflery, Soccer, Volleyball and Wrestling for 2016-17
- 2 Complete Riflery Semifinals

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