



# GHSA

## *“Items of Interest”*

April 2007

### **Good Sportsmanship Starts at the Top**

Before my life with the GHSA, a former colleague of mine often used homespun phrases to get across important ideas. One phrase that I remember was, “It’s a funny stick that doesn’t have two ends.” I guess it is easy to fixate on one side of an issue (or end of the stick) and not think about the other side.

For several weeks, my mind has been attuned to problems that have arisen at GHSA events in regard to sportsmanship. The number of red cards in soccer for sportsmanship violations is running far ahead of the past several years. About a dozen veteran soccer officials have decided not to officiate high school matches because of the conduct of spectators at those games. These officials make sacrifices with work and with families to officiate a game they love, but that love wanes when the atmosphere at the games is so hostile. There were reports of certain student sections at the state basketball tournament that exceeded the bounds of acceptable conduct at a school-based event.



Fortunately, however, I found the other end of the stick. I received an email from a baseball coach explaining that his players had been subjected to a variety of abusive remarks from fans situated beyond the outfield fence. The coach did not know this was going on until after the game, so he had to instruct his players how to call this to someone’s attention if it ever happened again. The coach’s instructions were right on target in letting the students know that they needed to turn to authority figures (i.e., umpires and coaches) to solve this kind of problem.

The next morning the Principal of the offended school contacted the Principal of the other school to talk about the matter. The Principal whose fans had been abusive said that he had just become aware of the problem, and he was beginning to investigate. Later he sent a letter to the opposing baseball team. It was more than the standard apology. The letter let those players know that abusive behavior by spectators would not be tolerated at his school. The guilty fans were former students, and they had been banned from future activities at the school.

When school administrators adhere to the basic tenets of sportsmanship that are expected at school-based activities by making players, coaches, and spectators accountable for their behavior, important messages are being sent. The standards for expected behavior at school-based events must be held extremely high regardless of how those standards are compromised in other areas of our society. We must work together to provide the proper environment for our competitive activities.

– **Ralph Swearngin**, Executive Director

**GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION** Newsletter

Issued monthly, September through April, by the Georgia High School Association, P.O. Box 271, Thomaston, GA 30286

Telephone: 706-647-7473 FAX: 706-647-2638  
Web site: www.ghsa.net

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

Vol. 25

April 2007

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

## **GHSAA Online Store**

You are invited to check out the **GHSAA Store** and **Licensees** for a full list of products and services at **www.ghsa.net**.

To preorder or purchase surplus championship t-shirts, please contact **All-Star Outfitters**, the official event merchandise supplier of the GHSA at 770-590-0075 and **www.asoapparel.com**.

## **STATE CHAMPIONS**

### **BASKETBALL - Boys**

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

|       |                              |
|-------|------------------------------|
| AAAAA | Norcross High School         |
| AAAA  | Tucker High School           |
| AAA   | Jordan High School           |
| AA    | Manchester High School       |
| A     | Wilkinson County High School |

### **BASKETBALL - Girls**

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

|       |                                  |
|-------|----------------------------------|
| AAAAA | Collins Hill High School         |
| AAAA  | St. Pius School                  |
| AAA   | East Hall High School            |
| AA    | Greater Atlanta Christian School |
| A     | Hawkinsville High School         |

### **LITERARY**

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

|       |                                  |
|-------|----------------------------------|
| AAAAA | Forsyth Central High School      |
| AAAA  | Northside High School, W. Robins |
| AAA   | Washington County High School    |
| AA    | Buford High School               |
| A     | Lakeview Academy                 |

### **AIR RIFLE**

Congratulations to the following State Champion:

|           |                                 |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| ALL CLASS | Northside High School, Columbus |
|-----------|---------------------------------|

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.

## **Attention Gymnastics Coaches**

Gymnastics coaches are reminded that the Area (qualifying) Meet will be held on Saturday, April 21, 2007, at Lovett School. The championship meet remains on Friday, April 27, 2007 at Westminster School.

## **Attention Tennis Coaches**

The site has been determined for the Semifinal and Final rounds of the upcoming 2007 State Tennis Tournament.

The final two rounds will be played at the **Clayton County International Park's** Tennis Center on May 11 and 12. The schedule of teams to report for the Semifinals and Finals can be found on Pages 81 and 82 of the GHSA Constitution & By-Laws on the GHSA web site ([www.ghsa.net](http://www.ghsa.net)).

And please remember that the **format for the second and third rounds was changed** at the August Executive Committee meeting. Sectional play, as mentioned on Page 81 of the Constitution & By-Laws, has been **eliminated** in favor of a return to play on the courts of the highest-seeded teams.

The first round of play must be completed by April 27, the second round must be completed by May 2 and the third round must be completed by May 8.

### 2007 State Basketball Champions



Class AAAAA Girls: Collins Hill



Class AAAAA Boys: Norcross



Class AAAA Boys: Tucker



Class AAAA Girls: St. Pius



Class AAA Boys: Jordan



All basketball photos by Photographic Arts. See their web site at [schoolpix.biz](http://schoolpix.biz).



Class AAA Girls: East Hall



Class A Girls: Hawkinsville



Class AA Boys: Manchester



Class AA Girls: GACS



Class A Boys: Wilkinson County

**STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**March 19, 2007**

**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 19, 2007, 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.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

The Committee recommended:

Change wording in By-Laws 1.41b and 2.21, to allow a nurse practitioner to conduct physical exams.

**Motion Passed (voice vote)**

Add new By-Law 2.93 (and renumber existing) to read: "All championship contests that end in a tie will have that tie resolved by means of the procedures that are used to resolve ties in preceding rounds of the playoffs."

**Motion Passed Roll Call #1 - Yes - 25; No - 21 Pass - 1 Absent - 3**

Constitution Amendment to Article IV, Section 4 C, to delete appeals in regard to the age rule and to add new paragraph D to read: "There shall be no appeal of eligibility related to age restrictions set forth in the By-Laws." (Note: Delete references to age in Article IV, Section 4, paragraphs C., Section 5, paragraphs B and D)

**Motion Passed (voice vote) CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE - REQUIRES 2ND VOTE**

Add new By-Law 2.62e to read:

"One interscholastic scrimmage is allowed in the sports of Baseball, Basketball, Football, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, and Volleyball.

(a) This scrimmage may be scheduled anytime between the beginning of practice as set by the GHSA and the first regular-season game for each team.

(b) This scrimmage is for varsity teams only, and shall be played with normal timing and/or scoring rules.

(c) Officials shall be used for all scrimmages, and shall be paid normal game fees."

(Note: Notations about scrimmages and jamborees to be edited in the individual sport sections.)

**Motion Passed (voice vote)**

Add new By-Law 2.62 d (reletter existing d) to read: "When member schools compete out-of-state, the host state's adaptations of NFHS playing rules will be enforced, and all GHSA by-laws regarding sportsmanship, eligibility, and playing times will be enforced."

**Motion Passed (voice vote)**

**BASKETBALL COMMITTEE:**

Report presented by Charlie Henderson

The Committee recommended:

First and second round playoff games be played at the site of the higher seed. Quarterfinal games will be played at a central site like the Sectional Tournaments have been played in the past.

**Motion Passed (voice vote)**

**CALENDAR COMMITTEE:**

Report presented by Mark Coleman

The Committee recommended:

Approval of the proposed GHSA Calendars for 2007-08 and 2008-09

**Motion Passed (voice vote)**

## STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, *Continued*

### **ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE:**

Report presented by Glenn White

The Committee recommended:

Add new By-Law 2.37 to read: "Requests to investigate a student's eligibility in regard to the transfer rule must be filed with the GHSA office at least 20 calendar days before the end of the regular season in order for any penalties to be applied before the end of the playoffs."

**Motion Passed (voice vote)**

Add note to By-Law 2.63e to read: NOTE: In individual sports such as Gymnastics, Wrestling, Swimming & Diving, Track & Field, etc., the ineligible athlete forfeits all of his/her points and the team scores are adjusted accordingly.

**Motion Failed**                      **Show of Hands:**                      **Yes - 20**                      **No - 24**

### **FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:**

Report presented by Earl Etheridge

The Committee recommended:

Revise Section A, page 64, to establish the following procedures:

Beginning with the 2008 season, championship games will be played at the Georgia Dome with AA and AAAA games being played on Friday and A, AAA, and AAAAA games being played on Saturday. Standards and procedures for hosting privileges that were previously used for championship games will be utilized for the quarterfinal and semifinal games. Championship games will be played on the second weekend in December.

**Motion Passed (voice vote - unanimously)**

Remove stadium standards required to host a playoff game for the first and second rounds (page 65, E).

**Motion Passed (voice vote)**

Both teams to receive mileage reimbursement when playoff games are played at a neutral site.

**Motion Passed (voice vote)**

### **GOLF COMMITTEE:**

Report presented by Jesse Crews

The Committee recommended:

Allow 9-hole matches to count as half-a-match in the season allotment through the month of March since daylight savings time has been expanded.

**Motion Passed (voice vote)**

### **LITERARY COMMITTEE:**

Report presented by Glenn Tidwell

The Committee recommended:

Allow each region to set its date for Region Literary competition with a deadline date for completion.

**Motion Passed (voice vote)**

### **OFFICIALS COMMITTEE:**

Report presented by Earl Etheridge

The Committee recommended:

Approval of the following plan for officials travel pay:

A. During all regular season and region/area playoff games prior to the 1st round of the State Tournament, officials' associations will be paid travel fees as follows:

1. Single official contests: \$15.00
2. Crew of two contests: \$20.00
3. Crew of three contests: \$25.00
4. Add \$5.00 per official for contests requiring more than three officials

## STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, *Continued*

- B. The fee is neither optional nor negotiable.
- C. The fee is based on a "per crew/per competition day" assessment
- D. The respective officials' associations will distribute the funds in accordance within their association policies and procedures.
- E. Football and Cheerleading are exempt from the travel fee assessment.

**Motion Passed (voice vote)**

The GHSA to honor identification cards from the Georgia Athletic Officials Association for entry into GHSA events.

**Motion Passed (voice vote)**

### **RECLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE:**

Report presented by Earl Etheridge

The Committee recommended:

Amending the Constitution as follows:

Article 3, Section 2, A: The membership of the Association shall be divided into five (5) classifications as follows:

- (1) Schools with an F.T.E. count of 1850 and above will be placed in Class AAAAA.
- (2) Schools with an F.T.E. count of 525 or less will be placed in Class A.
- (3) The remaining schools will be divided evenly into Classes AAAA, AAA, and AA.
- (4) Schools with the same F.T.E. count separated by a percentage break point will be placed in the higher classification.
- (5) For Class A there will be a separate region alignment for football in addition to the alignment used for all other sports.

**Motion Passed (voice vote) CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE - REQUIRES 2ND VOTE**

### **SWIMMING COMMITTEE:**

Report presented by Mike Davis

The Committee recommends:

Allow computer-generated Proof of Performance forms approved by the GHSA as well as hand-scored forms to be submitted to the GHSA office.

**Motion Passed (voice vote)**

### **VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE:**

Report presented by Gary Long

The Committee recommended:

A single non-area varsity match scheduled on a night before a school day may use the best-of-five format. All other formats allowed in the GHSA by-laws are unchanged.

**Motion Passed (voice vote)**

### **WRESTLING COMMITTEE:**

Report presented by Dave Hunter

The Committee recommended:

Require written contracts for all wrestling competitions between member schools in a dual format.

**Motion Passed (voice vote)**

Delete item G. page 92 that states teams may not conduct or enter a dual meet tournament after the school is eliminated from post-season team dual competition, whether at the Area tournament or the State Tournament.

**Motion Passed (voice vote)**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Motion by Fred Price, second by Earl Etheridge, to begin issuing GHSA passes to Community Coaches beginning in 2007-08.

**Motion Passed Roll Call Vote #2      Yes - 26      No - 19**

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

## GHSA Approved & Sanctioned Events - April / May

### **BASEBALL:**

Alpharetta High School, April 1-5, 2007  
 Coffee High School, April 19, 2007  
 Jeff Davis High School, April 9-14, 2007 (JV)  
 Wheeler High School, April 5-7, 2007

### **Out of State:**

Cocoa High School, Cocoa, FL, February 18 - April 22, 2007  
 Hanahan High School, Hanahan, SC, April 2-6, 2007  
 Mission Bay High School, San Diego, CA, April 2-5, 2007  
 Nova High School, Davie, FL, March 31 - April 5, 2007  
 West Orange High, Winter Garden, FL, February 19 - April 22, 2007  
 Westminster Academy, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, April 2-5, 2007

### **GOLF:**

Calhoun High School, April 2, 2007 (Boys)  
 Calhoun High School, April 6-7, 2007 (Boys)  
 Calhoun High School, April 7, 2007 (Girls)  
 Cedartown High School, April 2, 2007  
 Cedartown High School, April 9, 2007 (Girls)  
 Central Gwinnett High School, April 9, 2007 (Girls)  
 Colquitt County High School, April 3, 2007 (Girls)  
 Columbus High School, April 19, 2007 (Boys)  
 Columbus High School, April 21, 2007 (Girls)  
 Carrollton High School, April 9, 2007  
 Etowah High School, April 3, 2007 (Boys)  
 Gordon Lee High School, April 21, 2007  
 Hardaway High School, April 13-14, 2007 (Boys)  
 Heritage High School, April 16, 2007  
 Kell High School, April 18, 2007  
 Lee County High School, April 2, 2007  
 LaGrange High School, April 10, 2007  
 LaGrange High School, April 16, 2007  
 Lovett School, April 2, 2007 (Boys)  
 Northside High School, WR, April 7, 2007  
 St. Pius X, April 11, 2007 (Boys)  
 Statesboro High School, April 16, 2007  
 Tift County High School, April 9, 2007  
 Thomas County Central High School, April 16, 2007  
 Vidalia High School, April 6-7, 2007 (Boys)  
 Windsor Forest High School, April 16, 2007  
 Windsor Forest High School, April 19, 2007  
 Windsor Forest High School, April 23, 2007  
 Woodward Academy, April 17-18, 2007

### **Out of State:**

North Myrtle Beach High School, Little River, SC, April 5-7, 2007

### **GYMNASTICS:**

Westminster School, April 17, 2007

### **LACROSSE:**

Chattahoochee High School, April 13-14, 2007  
 North Forsyth High School, April 20-21, 2007

### **Out of State:**

West Springfield HS, Springfield, VA, March 31-April 5, 2007 (Girls)

### **SOCCER:**

Newnan High School, April 13-14 2007  
 Parkview High School, April 6-7, 2007 (Boys and Girls)

### **TENNIS:**

Hart County High School, April 11-13, 2007  
 Woodward Academy, April 6-7, 2007

### **TENNIS, Continued:**

#### **Out of State:**

Baylor School, Chattanooga, TN, April 13, 2007  
 St. Xavier High School, Cincinnati, OH, April 21, 2007

### **TRACK AND FIELD:**

Bleckley County High School, April 10, 2007 (Boys and Girls)  
 Bleckley County High School, April 12, 2007 (Boys and Girls)  
 Brookwood High School, April 19, 2007 (Boys and Girls)  
 Bryan County High School, April 4, 2007  
 Crawford County High School, April 17, 2007  
 Darlington High School, April 14, 2007  
 Glynn Academy, April 12, 2007 (Boys and Girls)  
 Greenbrier High School, April 13, 2007  
 Greenbrier High School, April 18, 2007  
 Hardaway High School, April 14, 2007  
 Heard County High School, April 14, 2007 (Boys and Girls)  
 Jefferson High School, April 14, 2007  
 Landmark Christian, April 13, 2007  
 Lassiter High School, April 7, 2007  
 Lassiter High School, April 11-12, 2007  
 Lowndes High School, April 14, 2007  
 McEachern High School, April 14, 2007  
 Marietta High School, April 14, 2007  
 Marietta High School, April 21, 2007  
 Marist School, April 12, 2007  
 Monroe Area High School, April 14, 2007  
 Muscogee County Schools, April 11, 2007 (Boys and Girls)  
 Northeast High School/Macon, April 7, 2007  
 Northside High School, April 11, 2007  
 Osborne High School, April 21, 2007  
 Our Lady of Mercy, April 3, 2007  
 Pepperell High School, April 3, 2007  
 Pepperell High School, April 7, 2007  
 S.C.Johnson High School, April 10, 2007  
 S.C.Johnson High School, April 16, 2007  
 Shiloh High School, April 7, 2007  
 Southeast Bulloch High School, April 2, 2007  
 Southeast Bulloch High School, April 11, 2007  
 Spaulding County High School, April 14, 2007  
 Villa Rica High School, April 12, 2007 (Boys and Girls)  
 Washington County High School, April 7, 2007 (Boys and Girls)  
 Wesleyan High School, April 12, 2007  
 Westminster School, April 4, 2007  
 Westminster School, April 11, 2007  
 Westminster School, April 18, 2007  
 Westover High School, April 14, 2007  
 Winder-Barrow High School, April 14, 2007

#### **Out of State:**

Knoxville West High School, Knoxville, TN, April 20-21, 2007 (Boys and Girls)  
 Louisville Male High School, Louisville, KY, April 21, 2007 (Boys and Girls)  
 McCallie School, Chattanooga, TN, April 14, 2007 (Boys and Girls)  
 St. Paul's Episcopal School, Mobile, AL, April 6-7, 2007 (Boys and Girls)  
 Smiths Station High School, Smiths, AL, April 14, 2007 (Boys and Girls)  
 Southern Durham High School, Durham, NC, April 20-21, 2007 (Boys and Girls)  
 Spring Valley High School, Columbia, SC, April 13-14, 2007

#### **NOT Approved:**

Nogales High School, La Puente, CA, April 14-15, 2007  
 Strath Haven High School, Wallingford, PA, April 26-28, 2007

## GHSA - April / May Calendar - 2007

### April

- 1 Deadline for notification of entry in Gymnastics, Lacrosse, Riflery, Slow Pitch Softball, Soccer, Volleyball and Wrestling for 2007-08
- 17 Complete Area/Region Soccer
- 18 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting & Report Area/Region Soccer winners
- 21 Complete Area Gymnastics & Region Tennis
- 23 Report Region Tennis winners
- 24 Girls First Round Soccer in AAAAA & AAAA
- 25 Boys First Round Soccer in AAAAA & AAAA
- 25 Complete Region Girls Track
- 26 File reports of Region Girls Track to GHSA by 9 a.m.
- 26 Girls First Round Soccer in AAA & AA/A
- 27 Boys First Round Soccer in AAA & AA/A & Gymnastics State Finals
- 27 Complete First Round State Tennis, Region Golf & Area Lacrosse
- 30 Report First Round State Tennis winners & File Reports of Region Golf

### May

- 1 Girls Second Round State Soccer
- 1,2 First Round State Lacrosse playoffs

## GHSA Sponsors

