



GHSAA

"ITEMS OF INTEREST"

April 2014

It's Been a Great – and Fast – 22 Years with the GHSA

Twenty-two years: seems like a lifetime; seems like just a moment. This will be the last article I write for the GHSA newsletter before I retire, and there is so much I would like to say. It has been my good fortune to serve in the chain of Executive Directors starting with Sam Burke and going through Bill Fordham and Tommy Guillebeau. I certainly appreciate the fact that the GHSA Executive Committee was willing to hire a relatively unknown person to the staff in 1992, and I really am grateful that they allowed me to serve as Executive Director for the past 12 years. I am looking forward to watching the continued progress of the GHSA under the leadership of Gary Phillips.

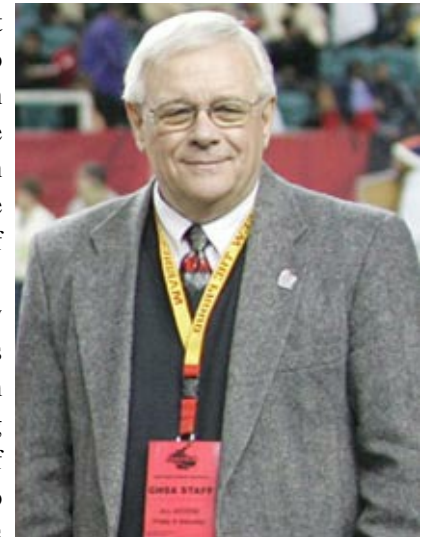
Interscholastic athletics and activities in Georgia just keep getting better with incredibly gifted students guided by talented coaches. It has been a pleasure watching their exploits over these years. The school administrators in this state sometimes take unjustified criticism in the media (and in their communities), but I have found them to be dedicated people facing increasingly difficult tasks. These leaders have been tremendously important in the work of the GHSA. While I understand that stories about students, coaches, or administrators who have made mistakes that became negative stories can be found in the media, those situations are not the norm.

From my first days as Commissioner of Officials of the GHSA, I was surrounded by talented, hardworking staff members. "Back in the day," all the GHSA work was accomplished with five people in the office. Over the years, the expectations of people about the work of the GHSA led to the expansion of the services the GHSA provided – and to the expansion of that staff to 13 people. It still amazes me about how much high-quality work these men and women turn out on a daily basis.

The whole landscape of school-based athletics and activities has gotten more complicated in the past 22 years. Media coverage of high school athletics is a good example. Back in 1992, people were mostly concerned about "prep coverage" in print media. Tommy Guillebeau ventured into the area of live television coverage of championship football games, and that has evolved into the extraordinary programming that GPB has done with football, basketball, and cheerleading productions. In addition to television, the GHSA is involved now with streaming productions in all areas of athletic competitions through the NFHS Network. Many member schools utilize this technology for campus productions of all types, and many of these productions are carried out by students.

Controversy is a constant companion with competitions. There are vocal critics of the GHSA about particular situations that arise from time to time, and even some who criticize everything about the GHSA. While that can be discouraging, sometimes that criticism has led the association to improve its policies and procedures, and that has been positive. There are some things in the body of work of the GHSA that have not been resolved and accomplished in the past 12 years that I have served as the Executive Director. But I am optimistic that the association will continue to move toward these resolutions and accomplishments.

I do want to thank all of the people that I have mentioned in this article – the students, coaches, administrators, Executive Committee members, staff members, media personnel – and yes, even the critics. The high points of the past 22 years far overshadow any disappointments or difficulties. I look forward to visiting high school competitions beginning next fall as a fan – without any of the worries or responsibilities for what happens at those events.



– 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
 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. 32

April 2014

No. 7

**- 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

ERNIE YARBROUGH (extension 27)
 - Associate Director -
 Basketball, Soccer, Softball, Officials Training

DENIS TALLINI (extension 34)
 - Associate Director -
 Lacrosse, Volleyball, Wrestling, Sports Medicine

TOMMY WHITTLE (extension 23)
 - Associate Director -
 Baseball, Football, Literary, One-Act Play

CARROR WRIGHT (extension 39)
 - Associate Director -
 Coach's Liaison, Community Coach Program,
 Compliance/Investigations, Sportsmanship

STEVE FIGUEROA (extension 26)
 - Director of Media Relations -
 Media Coordination for State Events, Newsletter,
 GHSA Constitution & Calendar, Web Site Content, Tennis

PAM THOMPSON (extension 30)
 - Officials' Registrar -
 Officials' Registration, Testing & Online Clinics, Service Awards

TANYA ANDERSON (extension 29)
 - Administrative Assistant -
 Event Sanctioning, School Passes, Directory,
 Online Clinics for Coaches, Trophies & Medals

JULIE JONES (extension 24)
 - Administrative Assistant -
 Community Coach Program, Web Site Content, Entry Notification

SHERI BROOKS (extension 0)
 - Receptionist -
 Hardship Hearings, Fines, School System/Retiree Passes,
 Publication Orders

ROBIN BULLINGTON (extension 33)
 - Office Manager -
 Budgeting and Finances, Dues, Playoff Finances, Staff Procedures

STACEY BASILICI (extension 32)
 - Administrative Assistant -
 Non-transfer Eligibility, Literary & One-Act Play Liaison,
 School Contact Coordinator

GHSA Licensed Products

This month's featured 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 GHSA licensees at www.ghsa.net/licensing.

Attention: Soccer Coaches & Officials

COACHES: Beginning April 14-23 go to the "Soccer" page on the GHSA web site to obtain information concerning the mandatory online instructional Power Point for schools advancing to the 2014 State Tournament. Failure to complete this requirement and submit the necessary information will result in a \$250.00 fine. All participating schools must contact Kay Argo, Officials Assignor (kay_argo@att.net) and Michael Tolmich, Tournament Director (michael_tolmich@gwinnett.k12.ga.us).

OFFICIALS: Beginning April 14-20 go to the "Officials" page on the GHSA web site to obtain information concerning the mandatory online instructional Power Point for officials being considered for assignment to the 2014 State Tournament. Failure to complete this requirement and submit the necessary information will result in being excluded from consideration. Also, you must contact Kay Argo, Officials Assignor (kay_argo@att.net).

STATE CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

BASKETBALL - Boys

AAAAAA	Tift County High School
AAAAA	Miller Grove High School
AAAA	Jonesboro High School
AAA	Morgan County High School
AA	Greater Atlanta Christian School
A (Public)	Wilkinson County High School
A (Private)	St. Francis

BASKETBALL - Girls

AAAAAA	McEachern High School
AAAAA	Tucker High School
AAAA	Redan High School
AAA	St. Pius
AA	Kendrick High School
A (Public)	Randolph-Clay High School
A (Private)	Southwest Atlanta Christian

LITERARY

AAAAAA	South Forsyth High School
AAAAA	Lakeside-Evans High School
AAAA	Columbus High School
AAA	Buford High School
AA	Bremen High School
A (Public)	Seminole County High School
A (Private)	George Walton Academy

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.

NFHS Network Spring Schedule

The NFHS Network, produced by PlayOn Sports, will carry live and on demand coverage of the spring state championships on NFHSNetwork.com/ghsa. The GHSA Gymnastic State Championship will air live on May 2, followed by live action in track & field, soccer, lacrosse and baseball. Subscription rates will apply.



State Basketball Champions - 2014



AAAAAA Girls: McEachern



AAAAA Girls: Tucker



AAAA Girls: Redan



AAA Girls: St. Pius



AA Girls: Kendrick



A (public) Girls: Randolph-Clay



A (private) Girls: Southwest Atlanta Christian



Wheelchair: Houston County

State Basketball Champions - 2014



Photographs of the state championship Basketball teams were provided by Ty Freeman and Walter Pinion.



AAAAAA Boys: Tift County



AAAAA Boys: Miller Grove



AAAA Boys: Jonesboro



AAA Boys: Morgan County



AA Boys: Greater Atlanta Christian



A (public) Boys: Wilkinson County



A (private) Boys: St. Francis

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA

MARRIOTT / Macon City Center - MACON, GEORGIA

Magnolia Ballroom

April 14, 2014 - 9:00 a.m.

Call To OrderDr. Gary Holmes, President
 InvocationDr. Ralph Swearngin, Executive Director
 Roll CallSteve Figueroa, Media Director

- APPOINTMENTS:** Monday - 9:00 am: Dr. Ralph Simpson, Principal, Towers High School
 Appeal of student eligibility - Demetrius Adams-England (eight-semesters)
- Monday - 9:15 am: Alton White, Principal, Jordan High School
 Appeal of student eligibility - Josh Woodard (eight-semesters)
- Monday - 9:30 am: Representatives of Albany H.S., Dougherty H.S., and Worth County H.S., to discuss reclassification concerns.

COMMITTEE PROPOSALS:

Board of Trustees

1. Provide a reduced admission fee for students at playoff games held at a member school. [GHSA staff]
2. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS:
 - a. Members of the Executive Committee must be employed by a school or a school system.
 - b. Two additional females selected as at-large members of the Executive Committee
 - c. Members of the Executive Committee are limited to no more than 10 years of service on the Committee
 - d. Region Secretaries must be employed by a school or a school system.
3. Proposal to grant the Executive Director the authority to waive the 11:30 p.m., curfew for teams of different classifications in special circumstances. [GHSA Staff]
4. Allow regular season competitions between GHSA and GISA schools in all sports that do not use a power rating system. [Region 2-A]
5. Amend By-law 2.63(e3): Add – “The visiting team(s) shall be paid mileage by the host team when this by-law is violated by the host team. [Calhoun H.S.]
6. Amend by-law 4.35: [new] Executive Director is authorized to modify playoff schedules in emergency situations. [GHSA Staff]
7. Proposal to name the GHSA State Basketball Tournament the “GHSA-Ralph Swearngin Basketball Tournament.” [Earl Etheridge]
8. Evaluate the services of the financial advisors handling the GHSA investments. [GHSA staff]
9. Approve the 2014-2015 Budget [GHSA staff]
10. Receive the Finance Report for the 2013-2014 fiscal year. [GHSA staff]

Basketball Committee

1. Page 59 – “State Tournament” – Add the following wording to A1:
 - a. If the day of the game is changed, both schools must agree to play the doubleheader.
 - b. If a doubleheader is scheduled, it must be played on the second playing date for that round. [GHSA staff]
2. Proposal to use the same format for Basketball brackets that is used for Football, Soccer, and Baseball. [Region 4-AAAAA]
3. Proposal for Class AAAAAA only, teams from regions 1-4 would match up against teams from regions 5-8 in the second round [Parkview H.S.]
4. Proposal for Class AAAAAA only: for the third round, all games will be played at one neutral site on a Saturday – boys at one facility and girls at another. [Parkview H.S.]

Cheerleading Committee

1. Proposal to allow COED teams to change to all-female teams up to the second Wednesday in September of each year. [GHSA Staff]
2. Non-students are not allowed to be a part of a sideline cheerleading group either as mascot or “junior cheerleader.” [GHSA Staff]
3. Proposal to change the scoring rubric to apply to all teams regardless of cheerleaders on a team. [GHSA Cheerleading Coordinator]
4. Page 62; E: Proposal to change to a precise number of competitors on a competitive team [Carrollton H.S.]

Eligibility Committee

1. Proposal to amend By-law 1.42 in regard to high school units earned before the ninth grade. [Don Corr]

(over)

AGENDA, continued

2. Proposal to delete all references to "Carnegie Units" and replace with the term "units". [Don Corr]
3. Discussion of future academic changes that might affect GHSA eligibility rules. [GHSA Staff]
4. Discussion on how to educate guidance counselors on GHSA eligibility rules. [GHSA Staff]

Football Committee

1. Conduct coin tosses that are needed to determine home field in playoff football games through conferences calls out of the GHSA office. [Calhoun H.S.]
2. Revise the GHSA tie-breaker procedures. [Region 7-AA]
3. Proposal to change financial distribution of championship revenue [Earl Etheridge] [Marion Co. H.S.]
4. Delete migratory status for 8th grade students who participate in spring practice with one high school and then enter 9th grade at another one. [GHSA staff]

Golf Committee

1. Proposal to modify the structure of Sectional Golf Tournaments in Classes AA through AAAAAA if less than 16 teams qualify. [Columbus H.S.]
2. Proposal to clarify process for individual golfers to advance in post-season play. [Columbus H.S.]

Literary Committee

1. Proposal to implement a procedure for training One Act Play adjudicators. [GHSA State Coordinator]
2. Proposal to revise several regulations about One Act Play and the handling of violations of those rules. [GHSA State Coordinator]
3. Discussion of Literary rules and procedures that may need to be amended at a later date. [GHSA Staff]
4. Section L1 (page 103) Dramatic Interpretation. Changes as follows:
 "A." Change to read: "Separate contests will be held in Humorous and Dramatic in Dramatic Interpretations in all classifications."
 "B.1" Change to read: "The selection should be of good literary value and appropriate to the contest."
 "B.3" [new] A student may participate in only one contest in Dramatic Interpretation.
 Explanation: This becomes a coed contest, and schools may enter their two best performers regardless of gender. [GHSA Staff]
5. Section L2 (pages 103-104) - Essay. Change as follows:
 "A." Change to read: "Separate contests will be held in Argumentative and Personal Essay in all Classifications."
 "B.1c" [new] "Three topics will be selected from personal or life experiences."
 "B.1d" [new] "A student may participate in only one contest in Essay."
 Explanation: This removes gender and allows schools to have their best two writers involved. [GHSA Staff]

6. Section L3 (page 104-105) Extemporaneous Speaking. Change as follows:
 "A." Change to read: "Separate contests will be held in Domestic and International Extemporaneous Speaking in all classifications."
 "B.5" [new] "A student may participate in only one contest in Extemporaneous Speaking."
 Explanation: Not only removes gender but also allows student to be more specific in preparation by knowing from which areas their topics will be selected. [GHSA Staff]
7. Discuss the possibility of adding in the future Duo Oral Interpretation and Rhetorical Essay. [GHSA Staff]

Officials Committee

1. By-law 4.52(b6) [new] "All officiating associations must comply with all laws regarding the E-Verify program." [GHSA staff]
2. By-law 4.52(f) [new] "Officials may register with only one (1) local association per sport during a school year, and officials are not allowed to officiate GHSA events until the registration process has been completed with the GHSA office." [GHSA staff]
3. By-law 4.52(g) [new] "In the event that a local association does not have a sufficient number of eligible officials to work on a specific day/night, officials may be requested from other GHSA-chartered associations. It is the responsibility of the local association assignor in need of additional officials to make the initial contact with the assignor of another association to work out the details of the request. [GHSA staff]
4. Page 59 – Region Tournaments; B3 (new) AND State Tournament; A2 (add at the end): Place the procedure prohibiting officials working back-to-back games in the basketball post-season contests (except for emergency situations). [Earl Etheridge]

Reclassification Committee

1. Proposal to revise the reclassification schedule in regard to "isolated schools" [Region 4-AAAAA]
2. Discussion of possible reclassification formats to be investigated over the next year. [GHSA Staff]

Riflery Committee

1. Proposal to allow school to have five shooters in post-season competitions with the top four scores being counted. [State Coordinator]
2. Proposal to allow Areas to organize their regular-season competitions as they elect in regard to the number of shooters who participate, but only the top four scores will be counted. [State Coordinator]

Softball Committee

1. Proposal to allow Spring Try-outs [Region 7-AAA] [Mill Creek H.S.]

(over)

AGENDA, continued

2. Proposal to allow schools to have an option of spring try-outs OR having a try-out period the week before August 1st. [GHSA coaches in Georgia Dugout Club]

Track & Field Committee

1. Proposal to change competition limits in Cross Country from "contests" to "playing dates" [Brookwood H.S.]

Volleyball Committee

1. Proposal to limit the size of free admissions to "traveling parties" of teams at playoff contests. [GHSA Staff]

Wrestling Committee

1. Proposal to clarify weigh-in procedures for situations

where some competing schools are in session and others are not. [GHSA Staff]

2. Proposal to require coaches to furnish proof at each competition that wrestlers are in compliance with the GHSA Weight Management program. [GHSA Staff]
3. Proposal to require officials to fulfill pre-meet duties as required by NFHS rules. [GHSA Staff]
4. Proposal to clarify weight class restrictions in multiple-day Team Dual meets [GHSA Staff]
5. Proposal to limit the number of matches in which an individual wrestler may compete in a season. [Region 7-AAAAA]
6. Proposal to allow alternates to weigh in at the Sectional Tournaments. [Region 7-AAAAA]

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

1. Executive Director Ralph Swearngin will introduce reports from Skip Yow, Alan Sharp and Gary Phillips.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Election of GHSA President and Vice President.

ADJOURNMENT**SCHEDULE OF SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS - Spring 2014**

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

SATURDAY, April 12

6:00 pm Board of Trustees (Salon A)

SUNDAY, April 13

9:00 am Eligibility Committee (Board Room)
Officials Committee (Salon A)

9:30 am Softball Committee (Salon B)

10:00 am Football Committee (Magnolia C/D)
Riflery Committee (Salon A)

10:30 am Track Committee (Salon A)
Literary Committee (Salon B)

11:00 am Cheerleading Committee (Magnolia C/D)
Golf Committee (Salon B)

SUNDAY, April 13 (continued)

11:30 am Reclassification Committee (Salon B)

1:00 pm Wrestling Committee (Salon A)
Basketball Committee (Salon B)

2:00 pm Full Committee (Salons A&B)
Presentation about physical exams

3:00 pm Retirement Reception to honor Dr.
Ralph Swearngin (Magnolia Ballroom)

4:30 pm Hospitality Room (Grand Salon B)

GHSA - April Calendar - 2014

April

- 1 Deadline to submit notification of entry in Wrestling for 2014-15
- 12 State Riflery Championship
- 14 State Executive Committee Meeting -- Macon
- 19 Complete Region Tennis and Region Track
- 21 Report Region Track results to GHSA Office by 9 a.m.
- 21 Report Region Tennis results to GHSA Office by 9 a.m.
- 23 Complete Area/Region Soccer
- 24 Report Area/Region Soccer winners to GHSA Office by 9 a.m.
- 24 Complete First Round State Tennis (2A - 6A) and Area Tennis (Class A)
- 25 Complete Region Golf
- 25 Report State Tennis winners (Area in Class A) to GHSA Office by 9 a.m.
- 26 Gymnastics Preliminary Meet
- 26 Sectional Track Meets; Complete Region Baseball
- 28 Report Region Golf results to GHSA Office and to State Sites
- 28 Report Region Baseball results to GHSA Office by 9 a.m.
- 28 Report Sectional Track results to GHSA Office by 9 a.m.
- 29 Boys First Round State Soccer (4A, 5A & 6A)
- 29 Complete Second Round State Tennis (First Round for Class A)
- 30 Girls First Round State Soccer (4A, 5A & 6A)

GHSA Sponsors

