



GHS

"ITEMS OF INTEREST"

February 2024

'This and That' from the Desk of Your Executive Director

I hope everyone had a great Winter break and had a chance to enjoy some extended time with your families. As we quickly move into the new year, I hope it will be the best yet and always remember to take time for yourself and your family.

- The General Assembly is in session and there are several items of interest to keep an eye on. The Senate Youth and Education Committee passed the Boundless Opportunities for Georgia Students Act. This allows students to attend virtual schools hosted by public schools that are outside of their district. It is expected that there will be more discussion and possible additional action regarding school choice this session. Voucher programs will certainly be proposed again this session.
- Another item that we could see is legislation surrounding the issue of Name, Image and Likeness in the high school space. It is early in the process but there is conversation around the issues regarding agents and trusts.
- The GHS



A new record was set with approximately 55,000 in attendance and the games showcased the best high school football in the nation! Playing the games on weekdays was a success and put a spotlight on the event nationally. We are grateful for our partnership with the Falcons and MBS and look forward to next season.

- Mark Weaver has been named the 2023-2024 NFHS Outstanding Theatre Educator for Section 3. Mark teaches theatre at Georgia Military College and we are grateful for his service to the GHS
- Dr. Tim Harris of Buford High School has been named the 2023-2024 Outstanding Speech & Debate Educator. Not only has Dr. Harris created a great program at Buford, he provides leadership and guidance to the GHS in all areas of the Fine Arts and has provided continuous improvement for our state.
- I want to remind you of the opportunity for you to save on your health care. All employees covered by the State Health Benefits Plan who have Anthem Blue Cross or UnitedHealthcare have access to *free* self-care benefits in the *BeWell SHBP Program*. *BeWell* provides health guidance, health challenges to earn award points that are redeemable for a Visa Card or use for co-pays. *BeWell* also offers coaching with trained staff and access to programs to reduce anxiety, lose weight, tobacco cessation, and diabetes management. Log into <https://bewellshbp.com/> and take control of your health.

Thank you for all you do for our student athletes and please call if I, or any of your GHS

– Dr. James R. Hines, Jr., Executive Director

Join the conversation on social media @OfficialGHS on TikTok, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION Newsletter
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**- GHSA STAFF -
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ROBIN HINES - Executive Director - (extension 41)
 Administration, By-Law Interpretations, Hardship Rulings,
 Football Playoffs, Coaches Education Program

ERNIE YARBROUGH - Assistant Executive Director - (ext. 27)
 Championship Events, Officials Coordinator,
 Swimming, Lacrosse

TANYA ANDERSON - Associate Director - (ext. 29)
 Literary, One Act Play, Esports, DragonFly Liaison,
 Cross Country, Track & Field, and Event Sanctioning

DON CORR - Associate Director - (ext. 34)
 Softball, Wrestling, Baseball, Sports Medicine

KEVIN GIDDENS - Associate Director
 Bass Fishing, Football and Soccer Consultant

DARRELL LANE - Associate Director - (ext. 42)
 Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer

PENNY PITTS MITCHELL - Associate Director - (ext. 22)
 Cheerleading, Game Day Cheerleading, Gymnastics, Dance,
 Student Leadership, Title IX

JAY RUSSELL - Associate Director - (ext. 23)
 Football, Flag Football, Golf, Hardship Eligibility

CARROR WRIGHT - Associate Director - (ext. 39)
 Coach's Liaison, Compliance & Transfer Eligibility,
 Sportsmanship

STEVE FIGUEROA - Media Director - (ext. 26)
 Media, Newsletter, Constitution & Calendar, Tennis

ROBIN BULLINGTON - Office Manager - (ext. 33)
 Budgeting and Finances, Playoff Finances, Staff Procedures

JULIE JONES - Administrative Assistant - (ext. 24)
 Coaches Education, Dues, Entry Notification

STACEY JONES - Administrative Assistant - (ext. 32)
 Riflery Liaison, School Contacts & School Passes,
 Directory, Coaches' Clinics, Trophies & Medals

SHERI EUBANKS - Receptionist - (ext. 0)
 Hardship Hearings, Fines, School System/Retiree Passes,
 Publication Orders

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

2023 Flag FB State Champions

Congratulations to the 2023 GHSA Flag Football State Champions. Winning were Pope (7A), Greenbrier (5A-6A) and Southeast Bulloch three-peating in A-4A. Photos of the other Football champions may be found on the next page.



7A (Division 3): Pope



5A-6A (Division 2): Greenbrier



A-4A (Division 1): Southeast Bulloch

GHSA Licensed Products

This month's featured licensees are: **RiverOak Photography**, **Athletic Image** (theathleticimage.com), **Unforgettable Moments** (unforgettablemoment.com), official action photographers; **InsideOut Initiative**, successfully reclaim the educational purpose of sports (insideoutinitiative.org); **Pickle Juice**, official solution for player registration, concession payments & online fundraising. (www.picklejuiceapp.com); **RefReps** (<https://www.refreps.com>), the exclusive standardized officiating education partner; and **GameChanger** (<https://gc.com>), official scorekeeping and team management partner of softball and baseball.

State Football Champions - 2023



7A: Milton



6A: Thomas County Central



5A: Coffee



4A: Perry



3A: Cedar Grove



2A: Pierce County



A, Division 1: Prince Avenue



A, Division 2: Bowdon

Team Dual Wrestling State Champions - 2024



7A: Camden County



6A: South Effingham



5A: Cass



4A: Central-Carroll



3A: Lumpkin County



2A: Rockmart



A: Social Circle



Girls: Carrollton

Traditional Wrestling State Tournament

The 2024 GHSA Traditional Wrestling State Tournament, presented by the US Army, will be held February 15-17 at the Macon Centerplex.

Girls will compete in their own single championship with 14 weight classes and boys' individual state titles will be contested in seven classifications with 14 weight divisions.

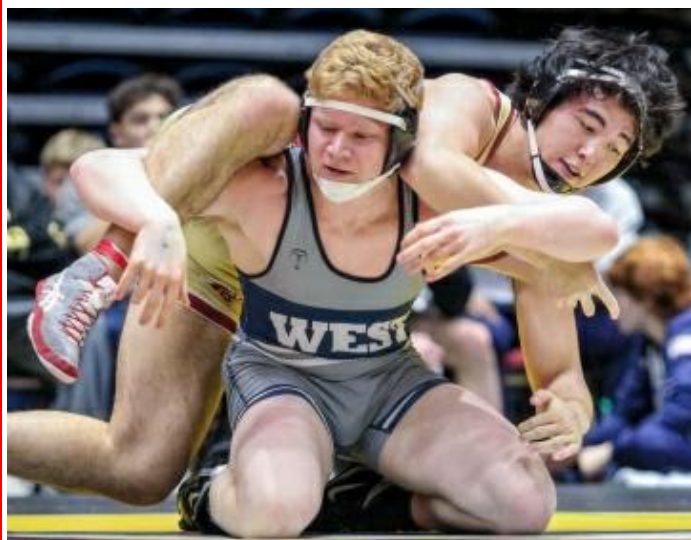
All matches on all mats will be streamed live on [NFHS Network](#) and [TrackWrestling](#).

Tickets are \$15 per day or you can purchase a three-day All Tournament pass for \$35, or a two-day Tournament Pass for \$25 (good for either Thursday & Friday **OR** Friday & Saturday).

All tickets are available on [GoFan](#) only!

The **SCHEDULE** is as follows:

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Classes</u>
Wednesday, February 14		
4:00 pm	Arena Set-Up	
7:00 pm	Mandatory Officials Meeting	
Thursday, February 15		
8:00 am	Weigh-Ins	A, 3A, 5A & 7A
9:00 am	Round of 12	A, 3A, 5A & 7A
After previous	Round of 8	A, 3A, 5A & 7A
1:00 pm	Weigh-Ins	2A, 4A, 6A & Girls
2:00 pm	Round of 12	2A, 4A, 6A & Girls
After previous	Round of 8	2A, 4A, 6A & Girls
Friday, February 16		
8:00 am	Weigh-Ins	A, 3A, 5A & 7A
9:00 am	Round 1 of WBs	A, 3A, 5A & 7A
After previous	Semis & Conso. Quarters	A, 3A, 5A & 7A
1:00 pm	Weigh-Ins	2A, 4A, 6A & Girls
2:00 pm	Round 1 of WBs	2A, 4A, 6A & Girls
After previous	Semis & Conso. Quarters	2A, 4A, 6A & Girls
Saturday, February 17		
7:00 am	Weigh-Ins	All Classes
9:30 am	Conso. Semifinals	All Classes
After previous	Conso. Finals	All Classes
After previous	FINALS	All Classes



Esports Registration Ends Feb. 16

The 2023-24 GHSA **Spring** Esports State Championships, powered by PlayVS, will be held on May 1, 2024 at the University of West Georgia Coliseum.

The **deadline to register** is February 16 and the regular season competition begins on February 19. Information on how to register may be found on the Esports page of the GHSA web site ([www.ghsa.net](#)).

Spring titles will be determined in Rocket League, Madden24, NBA2K24 and Splatoon 3.

Defending champion from the Fall of 2023 were Peachtree Ridge (League of Legends), Brookwood (Smash Bros. Ultimate 5A-7A), Seckinger (Smash Bros Ultimate A-4A) and Trinity Christian (Mario Kart 8).

The finals will be carried live on [UWG Esports Twitch](#). Spectators are welcome to attend the event free of charge.

Important GHSA Reminders:

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 15, 2024. The meeting will be held April 15, 2024 at the Marriott Macon City Center.

FOOTBALL SCHEDULES: Coaches and/or Athletic Directors are reminded that 2024 varsity Football Schedules are due in the GHSA office no later than March 1, 2024. If your school has hired a new coach for the 2024 season, please make sure he is made aware of this deadline.

INTENT TO PARTICIPATE DEADLINE: Member schools are reminded of the March 1, 2024 deadline to notify the GHSA of entry in **All Sports and Activities** for the school year 2024-2025.

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 WEEKS: Reminder that there are again two (2) mandatory "Dead Weeks" this year - Monday, May 27, 2024 through Sunday, June 2, 2024 **AND** Monday, July 1, 2024 through Sunday, July 7, 2024.

GHSA Seeks Host Sites

Each year, many schools contribute to the success of the GHSA programs by hosting a region/area or state event as a service to all member schools. The GHSA office soon will be determining sites for events for the 2024-25 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.

Bass Fishing State Qualifier #2 at Lake Oconee on February 17

The second qualifying tournament in Bass Fishing will take place on Feb. 17 at Lake Oconee in Buckhead. Below is more information on the event:

Tournament Director:

• Kevin Hunt – MLF
270.205.5155 or kevin.hunt@majorleaguefishing.com

High School Fishing Contacts:

• Joey Bray, National Youth Director SAF/TBF
580.716.4251 or Joey@federationangler.com
• Scott Ellison, MLF
270.205.6864 or scott.ellison@majorleaguefishing.com

Practice:

• Competition waters are open for practice until 5 p.m. on Feb. 16
• The purchasing of, or bartering for, information or the hiring of fishing guide services will not be permitted after Feb. 6.

Boat Operation:

• Contestants are not permitted to drive the boat when the combustion engine is in operation. Each boat will be driven by a coach or volunteer driver. Contestants may operate the trolling motor. Coaches and volunteers may provide assistance, including information about locating and catching fish, but are not permitted to fish.

Catch & Size Limit:

• Five bass per team; minimum 14 inches on all bass.

License Requirement:

• A Valid GA fishing license is required for students 16 and older.

Format:

• Each GHSA approved school may enter up to six boats in each regional competition. The top 15 boats from each regional advance to the state Championship. One additional boat will advance from each regional for every 10 boats that compete over a minimum of 100 boats in the regional. Boats advance from the first event in which they qualified. If a boat has already qualified for the state championship, the next eligible boat will advance.

GHSA Contact:

• Kevin Giddens - 229-529-4410 or kevin@ghsa.net

Registration:

• All anglers must pre-register online at HighSchoolFishing.org no later than Monday before the event at 8:00 a.m.

Mandatory Registration:

• Friday, February 16, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
• Sugar Creek Marina, 353 Parks Mill Road, Buckhead, GA 30506
• Anglers, coaches & captains must attend.
• Pretournament meeting immediately following check-in.

Takeoff and Weigh-in on Feb. 17:

• Takeoff: 7:30 a.m.
• Weigh-in: 3:30 p.m.
• At Sugar Creek Marina

Items to Bring:

• Signed liability release
• Personal floatation device
• Valid student ID
• Valid license for state waters to be fished if 16 or older
• Sunscreen & sunglasses
• Rods and reels
• Line cutters & needle-nose pliers
• Lures & tackle
• Rainsuit
• Jersey or shirt representing your school



Slam Dunk, 3-Point Contest Info



The fifth annual GHSA Slam Dunk and Three-Point Shooting Contests, presented by BSN Sports, will be conducted in the coming weeks with finals to be held on March 7-9 at the Ralph Swearngin State Basketball Championships in Macon. This year will see the third Co-Ed (teams of one boy & one girl) three-point shooting competition as well as the original all-girls event. **Full rules, details and links may be found on the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net).**

For further questions, please contact Ernie Yarbrough, Assistant Executive Director: ery@ghsa.net.

BOYS SLAM DUNK CONTEST

- One entry per school.
- Participants must meet all GHSA eligibility standards.
- Special props/ gimmicks are not allowed. Participants may use one individual to assist.
- Video should be 30 seconds or less. Game video will be accepted.
- Slam dunk videos can be uploaded to one of the accepted platforms (YouTube, Vimeo, or Instagram). Videos also may be emailed to marketing@ghsa.net.
- Entries will be accepted starting Wednesday, Jan. 17, through Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024.
- Gold, silver and bronze medals will be presented.

SLAM DUNK KEY DATES

Jan. 17 - Feb. 3: Slam Dunk entries accepted.
Feb. 5 - 16: First Round voting on GHSA.net and social media.
Feb. 19 - 26: Semifinal Round voting among Top 8.
Mar. 9 - Slam Dunk finals at State Championships in Macon.

GIRLS & CO-ED 3-POINT SHOOTING CONTESTS

- One entry per school.
- Participants must meet all GHSA eligibility standards.
- In Co-Ed competition, competitors must be from same school.
- Gold, silver and bronze medals will be presented in each event.

3-POINT KEY DATES

Feb. 11 – Preliminary Round sites: Lowndes, Perry, Statesboro, Stockbridge, Dawson County, Model and The Buzz Rec Center (Canton).
Feb. 18 – Semifinal Round sites: Perry, Stockbridge, Dawson County, and The Buzz Rec Center (Canton).
Mar. 7 – Co-Ed 3-Point finals at State Championships in Macon.
Mar. 8 – Girls 3-Point finals at State Championships in Macon.

GHSA Swimming & Diving Championships Take Place Feb. 6-10

The 2024 GHSA Swimming State Championships will be held Feb. 6-10 at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center.

The State Diving finals be held on February 6, 2024 at the Westminster School, with swimming events taking place at Georgia Tech on February 7, 9 & 10.

All swimming and diving finals will be streamed live on NFHS Network to any device for the one low price of \$11.99 good for 30 days of unlimited viewing.

There are scoring divisions for each meet (6A and 7A in the 6-7A session, and 1-3A and 4-5A in the 1-5A session). Teams will score points against teams in their scoring division only. The top three male and female teams and individuals in each division will be recognized and receive team trophies and medals for their performances.

Tickets are \$15.00 per day and are available ONLY at [GoFan](#). Information about how to buy tickets and spectator parking information may be found on the GHSA web site.



SCHEDULE

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 – Westminster

(All Diving Events beginning with warm-ups at 7:00 a.m.)

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 – Georgia Tech

7:30 am - 9:20 am	1A-5A Swimming Warm-Ups
9:30 am - 1:00 pm	1A-5A Swimming Prelims
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm	1A-3A & 4A-5A Swimming Warm-Ups
6:00 pm - 9:30 pm	1A-3A & 4A-5A Swimming Finals

Prelims will be conducted in two 10-lane courses. The boys events will swim in the west pool (by the main scoreboard) and the girls will swim in the east pool by the diving well). Finals will be swum in two 10-lane courses simultaneously, the 4-5A schools will swim the east pool, the 1-3A schools will swim in the west pool.

Friday, February 9, 2024 – Georgia Tech

7:30 am - 9:20 am	6A Swimming Warm-Ups
9:30 am - 1:00 pm	6A Swimming Prelims
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm	6A Swimming Warm-Ups
6:00 pm - 9:30 pm	6A Swimming Finals

Prelims will be conducted in two 10-lane courses. The boys events will swim in the west pool (by the main scoreboard) and the girls will swim in the east pool by the diving well). Finals will be swum in one 10-lane course, the east pool.

Saturday, February 10, 2024 – Georgia Tech

8:30 am - 10:00 am	7A Swimming Warm-Ups
10:00 am - 1:00 pm	7A Swimming Prelims
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm	7A Swimming Warm-Ups
6:00 pm - 9:30 pm	7A Swimming Finals

Prelims will be conducted in two 10-lane courses. The boys events will swim in the west pool (by the main scoreboard) and the girls will swim in the east pool by the diving well). Finals will be swum in one 10-lane course, the east pool.

For ALL sessions (prelims and finals) teams will have a scheduled arrival time window, early arriving teams will NOT be allowed into the building until their scheduled check-in time.

Dance State Championships Feb. 10

The GHSA will hold the 2023-24 Dance State Championships on Saturday, February 10, 2024.

The event will take place at the Macon Centreplex beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Dance teams can compete as coed or all-girl in genres of Jazz, High Kick, Hip Hop and Pom.

Tickets are \$15.00 and will be sold exclusively on GoFan, no box office sales.

The center will be cleared between the first and second sessions, so be sure your tickets are for the correct session. Doors open at 8:00 a.m.

Session No. 1 begins at 9:00 a.m., and includes competition in the A-2A division and the 3A-4A division.

Session No. 2 begins at 3:00 p.m., and will see champions crowned in the 5A-6A division and the Class 7A division.



Website: www.gadaonline.net

Schedule: <https://www.gadaonline.net/conference-schedule/>

Registration: <https://events.american-tradeshow.com/GADA2024>



Tennis Teams Encouraged to Activate UTR If Not Already Done

As the 2023-24 GHSA Tennis season gets into full swing, the Georgia High School Association is strongly encouraging you to activate your team on UTR Sports if you have not already done so.

While UTR is not a requirement for all schools at this time, the GHSA and UTR have officially begun a formal partnership. This is an opportunity for high school match results to count toward each player's UTR.

UTR High School is free of charge for all GHSA schools, coaches, parents, and players.

The GHSA is encouraging tennis schools to do the following:

Step 1 – The first thing to do is to go to the following link (<https://app.utrsports.net/highschool>) to activate your team page. GHSA teams are available to be claimed on UTR.

Step 2 – Once your school is activated, please enter full current rosters into UTR. All freshman, junior varsity, and varsity players will be on the same team page. Boys and girls teams will be separate.

If a player is not registered with UTR, they need to create their free player profile. A QR code later in this story makes it simple and easy to get your players registered on UTR. Have players scan the QR code at the beginning of practice to create their free UTR profile, or have them go to <https://app.utrsports.net/join> to register.

If you need further assistance with your UTR team page, please contact Jonathan Hicks from UTR. He will help you get all set up. His contact information is listed at the end of this story for any UTR questions.

"GHSA is pleased to be part of the Universal Tennis community, which will be of great interest and benefit to our teams, players, and fans," said GHSA Tennis Coordinator Steve Figueroa.

"The UTR ratings have become increasingly popular with many of our teams over the past few years and we

think this relationship will become more and more important in the future."

For those who do not know, UTR is a global rating system that promotes fair and competitive play across the tennis world. All players, regardless of age, gender, geography, or skill level, are rated on the same scale between 1.00 and 16.50 based on actual match results. UTR provides a real-time view of a player's true skill level. Having a UTR enables you to track your progress, find level-based play, and expand your tennis network to play with people across age, gender, and tennis silo.

Jonathan Hicks

Senior Program Manager

High School | UTR Sports

419-602-0063 (m) | www.utrsports.net

Email: jonathan@universaltennis.com



Players, claim your profile so that coaches can add you to the roster!

Create your Universal Tennis Profile



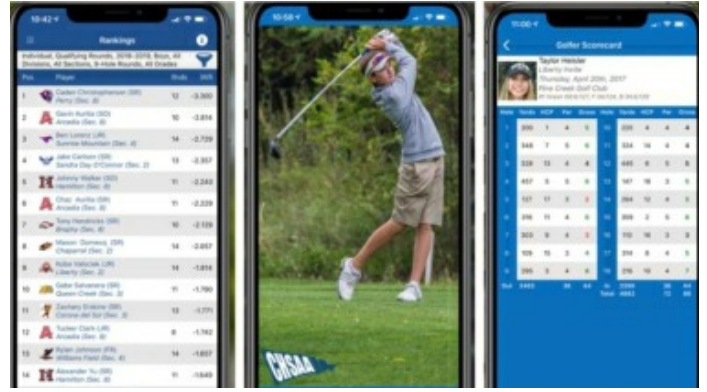
universaltennis.com/join

Reminder that iWanamaker is the Official Online Software for GHSA Golf

As golf season quickly approaches, coaches are reminded that iWanamaker and the GHSA Golf app is the official online event management, player rosters, live scoring, and rankings hub for GHSA Golf.

The iWanamaker platform will be the official event management software for all GHSA regular and postseason tournaments and state-tournament qualifying.

Through its proven Golf Tournament Management Platform (iWanamaker and associated native apps), the platform will also provide ADs, coaches and student-athletes free access to schedules, live leaderboards, player scorecards, rankings and more. Spectators must purchase a ticket to access content and a portion of the ticket revenue is shared with the GHSA and its member schools.



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iWanamaker is proud to be the official golf event management, live scoring and rankings partner of the GHSA and the NFHS (National Federation of High Schools). Wanamaker Corporation has been providing the iWanamaker platform to state high school associations and their member schools since 2013.

More than 20,000 coaches in the US trust the iW platform to run their practices, matches, regular season events and postseason tournaments. The most important feedback we hear from users is that our support for the product is the absolute best! Mainly, because we pick up the phone and we resolve cases in minutes.

Currently, 73% of high school golf in the US uses the iWanamaker connected apps to score events live. At the conclusion of each event, the iW statewide and national rankings are updated automatically. The iW national ranking system is the most inclusive and comprehensive ranking system available, and the iW rankings has caught the attention of college coaches and recruiters all over the United States. Coaches will want to get started now to ensure your student athletes are included in the iW state and national rankings.

To get started, school administrators, coaches, golfers and spectators will want to get the GHSA golf app powered by iWanamaker from the Apple or Google Play App Store and signup if you do not have an account or login if you have an account.

support@iwanamaker.com | 719-984-2379



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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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NOTHING OUTPERFORMS INCLUSION!

While we all want our students to succeed today, what's also valuable is ensuring that inclusion is always at play. When a diverse group of students share one common pursuit, they develop compassion and empathy for their teammates and competitors.

That's the best possible outcome in high school sports—because every team and every student wins!

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GHSA - February/March Calendar - 2024

February

- 1 Deadline for notification of entry in Literary
- 2, 3 Traditional Wrestling Region/Area Tournaments
- 5 Earliest contest date for Soccer, Lacrosse and Track
- 6 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting; State Diving Championships
- 7 & 9-10 State Swimming Meet
- 9, 10 Traditional Wrestling Sectional Tournaments
- 10 Dance State Championship
- 12 First game date for Baseball; First practice date for Slow Pitch Softball
- 13 Complete Area Riflery
- 15 Slow Pitch Softball first contest date
- 15-17 Traditional Wrestling State Tournament
- 17 Complete Region Basketball; First contest date for Golf
- 18 File Region Basketball winners by 9 a.m.
- 20 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 20, 21 First Round State Basketball Tournaments
- 23, 24 Second Round State Basketball Tournament
- 26 Complete Riflery Sectionals
- 27, 28 Quarterfinal Round State Basketball Tournament

March

- 1 Football Schedules due; Deadline for notification of entry in **ALL** sports (2024-25)
- 1, 2 Quarterfinal Round State Basketball Tournament

GHSA Sponsors

