



GHSA

"ITEMS OF INTEREST"

March 2024

Legislative Update for Items Affecting the GHSA

As of this writing, it is Crossover Day in the General Assembly. Dr. Jimmy Stokes of GAEL wrote a great article on the significance of Crossover Day in the "GAEL Flyer" this week and I encourage you to read it as Dr. Stokes provides a good explanation of the General Assembly's process of how a bill becomes law.

In short, bills that don't cross over from one chamber to the other are considered dead and must be brought up in another session. There are ways that bills or parts of bills can be added to other bills late in the process, so anything can happen up to the last day of the session. We have experienced this in the past, but this has been a very good session up to this point and we have enjoyed great communication and collaboration with our legislators.

There were two bills dropped with significance to the Georgia High School Association. House Bill 1104, sponsored by Omari Crawford, addresses mental health risks for student athletes.

The bill involves mental health screening and the preparticipation physical used by the GHSA meets this requirement with no changes to the physical form.

Awareness of mental health resources for families and students would be provided in informational meetings in the same manner as sudden cardiac arrest prevention information is provided. Coaches must review the information regarding mental health risks for student athletes as well as view a video approved by the GHSA. Representative Crawford was a pleasure to work with and truly has your athletes' best interests at heart.

The second bill is house bill 1276 which is the Georgia High School NIL Protection Act sponsored by Representative Brent Cox. I have been speaking to Representative Cox regarding Name, Image and Likeness for over a year and his passion for this is genuine and is designed to educate families and provide structure to the NIL process in the high school space. He has taken our policy/ guidance and followed it within the bill. There are operational issues regarding agents/ representatives, trust funds and enforcement included that need more work.

He has decided to "slow walk" this legislation to give us time to study the issue this summer to ensure we are taking correct steps. Representative Cox has been great to work with and is a former coach in our state. While NIL won't be addressed in legislation this year, I look forward to working with Representative Cox this summer and fall to make sure future legislation around NIL in the high school space is appropriate for our student athletes, their families and the GHSA.

I'll be sure to keep you updated on any legislative issue that requires action from the GHSA and its member schools.

As always, thank you for all you do for our student athletes and please let me or any of the staff at the GHSA know if we can do anything for you.

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

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



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**- GHSA STAFF -
 Areas of Responsibility**

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



Website: www.gadaonline.net

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

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

STATE CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to the following GHSA State Champions:

DANCE

- | | |
|-------|-----------------------------|
| 7A | - South Forsyth High School |
| 5A-6A | - McIntosh High School |
| 3A-4A | - Starr's Mill High School |
| A-2A | - Stilwell Arts |

SWIMMING & DIVING

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| 7A Girls | - Brookwood High School |
| 7A Boys | - Walton High School |
| 6A Girls | - Lassiter High School |
| 6A Boys | - Johns Creek High School |
| 4A-5A Girls | - Westminster |
| 4A-5A Boys | - Chattahoochee High School |
| A-3A Girls | - Wesleyan |
| A-3A Boys | - Wesleyan |

TRADITIONAL WRESTLING

- | | |
|-------|-------------------------------|
| 7A | - Camden County High School |
| 6A | - South Effingham High School |
| 5A | - Ola High School |
| 4A | - Central-Carroll High School |
| 3A | - Columbus High School |
| 2A | - Rockmart High School |
| A | - Social Circle High School |
| Girls | - Carrollton |

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; **Nfinity**, official cheerleading footwear and apparel (nfinity.com); **Snapphound**, event photo platform empowers schools and to unlock fundraising opportunities. (ghsa.snapphound.com/events); **Gipper**, social media graphics empowers anyone to create effective and compelling content for social media in just a few clicks. (gipper.com); **TinyMobileRobots**, field-painting robot. Technology so easy anyone can reline a field in minutes. Paint numbers, hash marks and logos while consuming at least 50% less paint (tinymobilerobots.com).

Swimming & Diving State Champions - 2024



7A Boys: Walton



7A Girls: Brookwood



6A Boys: Johns Creek



6A Girls: Lassiter



4A-5A Boys: Chattahoochee



4A-5A Girls: Westminster



A-3A Boys: Wesleyan



A-3A Girls: Wesleyan

Dance State Champions - 2024



7A: South Forsyth



5A-6A: McIntosh



3A-4A: Starr's Mill



A-2A: Stilwell Arts

Bass Fishing State Qualifier #3 at West Point Lake on March 16

The third of four qualifying tournaments in Bass Fishing will take place on March 16 at West Point Lake in LaGrange. Below is more information on the event:

Tournament Director:

• Randy Sullivan – TBF/SAF

580.716.4261 or Randy@federationangler.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 open for practice until 5 p.m. on March 15.
- The purchasing of, or bartering for, information or the hiring of fishing guide services will not be permitted after March 5.

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 largemouth and 12 inches on spotted 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 a.m.

Mandatory Registration:

- Friday, March 15, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- Pyne Road Park Mega Ramp, 4481 Roanoke Road, LaGrange, GA, 30240 (Anglers, coaches & captains **must** attend).
- Pretournament meeting immediately following check-in.

Takeoff and Weigh-in on March 16:

- Takeoff: 7:30 a.m.
- Weigh-in: 4:00 p.m.

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

**HIGH SCHOOL
FISHING**

TBF

STUDENT ANGLER FEDERATION

MLF



Basketball State Finals March 6-9 at the Macon Centreplex

The 2024 GHSA / Dr. Ralph Swearngin State Basketball Tournament, presented by Breda Pest Management, will include 17 state championship games, along with a boys Slam Dunk contest and a girls Three-Point contest.

And for the third year in a row, the March 6-9 event will include a CoEd three-point contest featuring two-person teams of a boy and girl from the same high school.

The four-day championship round will tip off on Wednesday, March 6 with four finals. The Class A, Div. 2 girls will get things started at 1:00 p.m., followed by boys at 3:00 p.m. Then the girls and boys play the last two games at 5:00, and 7:00, respectively. All games will be played at the Macon Centreplex again this year.



2024 GHSA / Dr. Ralph Swearngin State Basketball Championship Facts

When: March 6-9 **Where:** Macon Centreplex
Tickets: \$15 per day **ONLY** on [GoFan](#)

Championship Schedule

Wednesday, March 6

- 1:00 pm - Girls Class A, Div. 2
- 3:00 pm - Boys Class A, Div. 2
- 5:00 pm - Girls Class 4A
- 7:00 pm - Boys Class 4A

Thursday, March 7

- 1:00 pm - Girls Class 2A
- 3:00 pm - Boys Class 2A
- 5:00 pm - Coed 3-point contest
- 5:30 pm - Girls Class 5A
- 7:30 pm - Boys Class 5A

Friday, March 8

- 1:00 pm - Girls Class 3A
- 3:00 pm - Boys Class 3A
- 5:00 pm - Girls 3-point contest
- 5:30 pm - Girls Class 6A
- 7:30 pm - Boys Class 6A

Saturday, March 9

- 11:00 am - Girls Class A, Div. 1
- 1:00 pm - Boys Class A, Div. 1
- 3:00 pm - AAASP Wheelchair
- 5:00 pm - Boys Slam Dunk contest
- 5:30 pm - Girls Class 7A
- 7:30 pm - Boys Class 7A

All Championship Finals will stream live on the NFHS Network. A subscription fee will apply for an all-access, unlimited viewing pass on any device.

Literary State Championships at Four Sites on March 16 and 23

The 2024 State Literary Championships will be held on consecutive Saturdays in March at four different high school sites. Admission is free at all locations and the schedule at all four sites begins at 9:00 a.m.

Bremen High School will host the championships in Classes 3A and 6A on March 16, while the Class A, Division 1 and 5A competitions will be held at Warner Robins.

Then on March 23, the Class A, Division 2 and 2A finals will take place at Georgia Military College while Buford High School will host the 4A and 7A competition.

The defending state champions are: Denmark (7A), Houston County (6A), GACS (5A), North Oconee (4A), Bremen (3A), ACE Charter (2A), Bleckley County (A, Div. 1) and Georgia Military College (A, Div. 2).





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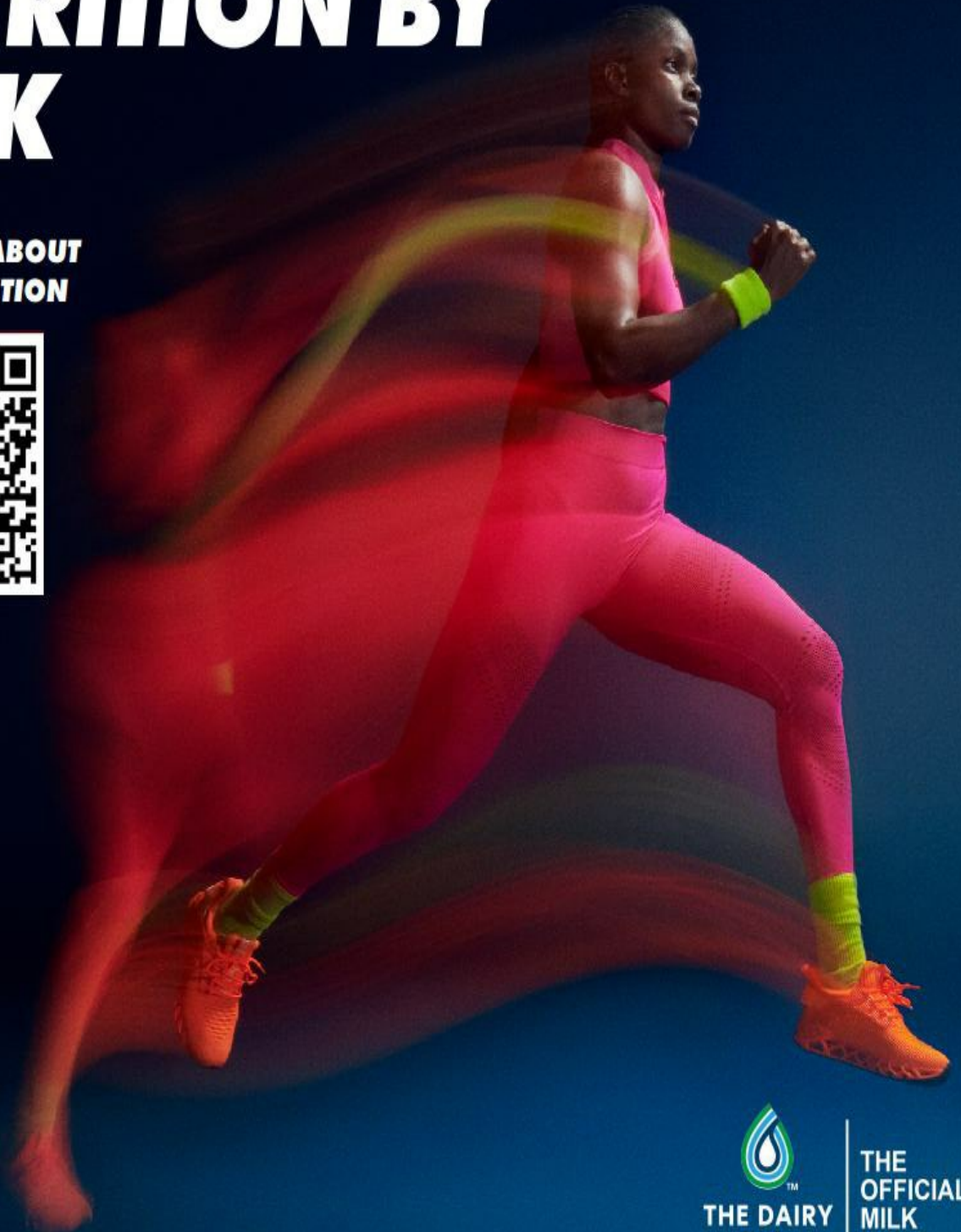
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GHSA - March / April Calendar - 2024

March

- 1 Deadline to submit 2024 Football Schedules to GHSA office
- 1 Deadline for notification of entry in ALL SPORTS for 2024-25 school year
- 1, 2 Semifinal Round State Basketball Tournament
- 5 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting; Complete Riflery Semifinals
- 6-9 Championship Round State Basketball Tournament at Macon Centreplex
- 9 Complete Region/Area Literary
- 11 Report Literary results to GHSA by 9 a.m.
- 16 Riflery State Finals
- 16 State Literary Meet (Classes A-Division 1, 3A, 5A & 6A)
- 19 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 23 State Literary Meet (Classes A-Division 2, 2A, 4A & 7A)
- 29 **Good Friday**, GHSA office closed

April

- 1 GHSA Participation Survey Due
- 6 Complete Area SP Softball
- 10 SP Softball Sectionals
- 11 Complete Region Tennis
- 13 Complete Region Soccer

GHSA Sponsors

