



GHSAA

"ITEMS OF INTEREST"

November 2017

Some Important Rule Changes Made at Recent BOT Meeting

The Board of Trustees met this last week and this month's newsletter will review some of the decisions made and summarize some of the topics of discussion. I'll also take the opportunity to review the structure of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee consists of 66 members elected by the member schools in each region and appointed by various organizations such as the Georgia Board of Education, Georgia School Superintendent's Association, Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals, Georgia Athletic Directors Association, the Executive Director of the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association.

In turn, the Board of Trustees are elected by these various groups and serve terms that coincide with the reclassification cycle. In the spring, the Executive Committee voted to meet annually in the spring and to allow the Board of Trustees to vote with the authority of the full executive committee.

The following highlights were either discussed or voted on in the meeting on October 16, 2017.

- Item "g" was added to by-law 2.92 to read "Judgement calls by contest officials are not reviewable or reversible."
- Eligibility requirements were standardized for the sports of cheerleading, softball, and volleyball. To summarize, all athletes must be eligible in order to try out and participate from now on.
- Schools may now choose to enter into a non-region schedule or play a region schedule after two years of the four-year reclassification cycle.
- Schools who chose to "play up" a classification may appeal to return to its proper classification during the mid-cycle adjustment period of the four-year cycle.
- Schools moved up a classification under the 3% attendance zone restriction may appeal during the mid-cycle adjustment period (previously confirmed).
- The Executive Director may approve or deny hardship applications as of January 1, 2018. The appeal procedures continue to be in place, if requested. Please be familiar with the rules for hardships, the situation **MUST** be outside the control of the school, parents and student.
- Online Form B's will be mandatory as of January 1, 2018. An attendance zone for the previous school must be included as well as the new school. Documentation of the bona fide move must be uploaded.
- GHSA passes were discussed. Please be familiar with by-law 4.41, which outlines GHSA pass eligibility. Request passes only for those indicated to perform essential functions for the school.
- The word "student" has been added to the definition of a booster in by-law 1.73 under recruiting/undue influence.

Please be familiar with the GHSA Constitution and By-Laws and feel free to call for clarification when needed. We appreciate your support and the GHSA office looks forward to serving our member schools and student-athletes.

–Robin Hines, Executive Director



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

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- GHSA STAFF -
Areas of Responsibility

ROBIN HINES (extension 41)
 - Executive Director -
 Administration, By-Law Interpretations, Hardship Rulings,
 Football Playoffs, Coaches Education Program

JAY RUSSELL (extension 25)
 - Assistant Executive Director -
 By-Law Interpretations, Transfer Eligibility, Cross Country, Golf, Track

ERNIE YARBROUGH (extension 27)
 - Coordinator of Officiating -
 Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Officials Training

DON CORR (extension 34)
 - Associate Director -
 Soccer, Volleyball, Wrestling, Sports Medicine

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

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

PENNY PITTS MITCHELL (extension 22)
 - Associate Director -
 Cheerleading, Title IX Compliance

STEVE FIGUEROA (extension 26)
 - Director of Information/Media Services -
 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 -
 Coaches Education, Dues, Web Site Content, Entry Notification

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

ROBIN BULLINGTON (extension 33)
 - Office Manager -
 Budgeting and Finances, 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: **Honig's Whistle Stop** (honigs.com) **Cliff Keen** (cliffkeen.com), **Smitty Official's Apparel** (smittyusadyesub.com), Officials/umpires uniforms, apparel and equipment; **Mr Video** videographer / order DVDs for the cheerleading state championships (mrvideoonline.com); **Hartwell Studio Works**, creating unique, dynamic and protectable spirit logos / marks (hartwellstudioworks.com); **Nfinity**, official cheerleading footwear and apparel (nfinity.com) and **Resilite**, official wrestling mat (resilite.com).

Football Power Rating Procedures!

Below is the timetable and procedures for release of the final 2017 Class A Football Power Ratings, appeals and seeding of the playoff brackets, as well as the "At Large" playoff team in Class 7A:

Oct. 30 - All Class A football coaches **MUST** check the power ratings and inform GHSA football coordinator Tommy Whittle immediately if there are any problems or mistakes.

Nov. 4 - Region winners in all classifications must be determined and results entered into the MaxPreps web site by the end of day on the 6th.

Nov. 5 - MaxPreps' final Class A power ratings will be posted on the GHSA web site.

Nov. 6 - Region playoff qualifiers in classes 2-A through 7-A (except for the "At Large" team) must be submitted to the GHSA office by 9:00 a.m.

Nov. 6:

(1) Any Class A school that believes its final power rating is incorrect may file an appeal in writing to GHSA football coordinator Tommy Whittle between 8-11 a.m. You may fax (706-647-2638) or e-mail to twhittle@ghsa.net. The appeal letter must be accompanied by a complete list of results and points earned for each game!

(2) A GHSA Appeals Committee will verify the results (including any appeals), break any ties and determine the Class A playoff brackets.

(3) The results of the appeals and the Class A playoff brackets will be posted by 4:00 p.m., on the GHSA web site.

(4) The "At Large" team in Class 7A also will be determined at this time and the advancing team will be posted to the 7A bracket by 4:00 p.m., on the GHSA web site.

NOTES:

(1) Teams winning a Region championship will be placed in the Class A brackets (public school or private school) first.

(2) Once the brackets are posted, no further appeals will be considered.



Stay Connected to the GHSA!

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

Association news and playoff / championship information are posted daily for interaction with GHSA followers and fans.



GHSA Cheerleading State Championships on November 10-11

The 2017 GHSA Cheerleading State Championships will take place November 10-11 at the Columbus Civic Center.

Admission is \$12 per session and the civic center will be cleared between sessions each day. Please make sure your ticket purchase is for your team's session.

Use of cameras on smartphones, iPads and tablets are approved but NO FLASH photography or video cameras will be permitted!

Fans can watch every session on Friday and on Saturday live exclusively on NFHSNetwork.com/GHSA for \$9.95 all-access pass.

SCHEDULE

Friday, November 10, 2017

- Session 1: Sectionals for Classes 2A, 3A and 4A
Doors open at 8:00 a.m. Session begins at 9 a.m.
- Session 2: Sectionals for Classes 5A, 6A and 7A
Doors open at 1:00 p.m. Session begins at 2:00 p.m.
- Session 3: FINALS for Class A and CoEd
Doors open when Session 2 cleared. Session begins at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 11, 2017

- Session 1: FINALS for Classes 2A, 3A and 4A
Doors open at 8:00 a.m. Session begins at 9:00 a.m.
- Session 2: FINALS for Classes 5A, 6A and 7A
Doors open at 1:00 p.m. Session begins at 2:00 p.m.



2017 GHSA Cross Country Dates, Deadlines and Schedule

- Oct. 10** INITIAL deadline for electronic submission of Region or Area rosters on GHSA MIS site (<https://app.ghsa.net/node>). Changes to rosters may be made until the deadline established by each Region or Area prior to the beginning of the Region/Area Meet.
- Oct. 28** Deadline to complete Region/Area Meets
- Oct. 30** 9:00 a.m., deadline for electronic submission of Region/Area results on GHSA MIS site (<https://app.ghsa.net/node>)
- Oct. 30** 5:00 p.m., deadline for Head Coaches of State Meet qualifying teams to confirm projected seven (7) runners at state meet (<https://app.ghsa.net/node>)
- Nov. 3-4** State Meet at Carrollton High School (www.ghsa.net/ghsa-state-cross-country-championships)

Schedule at Carrollton High School

Friday, Nov. 3, 2017

9:00 am Boys 5A
9:45 am Girls 5A
10:30 am Boys A Private
11:15 am Girls A Private
12 noon Boys 7A
12:45 pm Girls 7A

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2017

8:00 am Boys 2A
8:45 am Girls 2A
9:30 am Boys 3A
10:15 am Girls 3A
11:00 am Boys 4A
11:45 am Girls 4A
12:30 pm Boys 6A
1:15 pm Girls 6A
2:00 pm Boys 1A Public
2:45 pm Girls 1A Public





#MyReasonWhy Campaign Starts Year 2

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and the Georgia High School Association have begun the second year of the #MyReasonWhy campaign, which is designed to showcase the tremendous value that high school sports and activities offer to students.

Through real-life examples, #MyReasonWhy has reaffirmed that high school students involved in education-based activity programs demonstrate a higher level of academic performance and set themselves up for successful careers following high school graduation.

In the #MyReasonWhy campaign, the NFHS, GHSA and the other state high school associations are working to ensure that education-based programs are available for years to come. The goal of this national campaign is to demonstrate why participation in high school sports has increased every year for the past 28 years, and why participation in school-based sports and activities provide students the best opportunities for success.

Last year, more than 500 unique stories were submitted via the campaign website from students, coaches and administrators. Additionally, stories were submitted through social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

The #MyReasonWhy campaign has a fresh look this year and is making it even easier for students and others to share why sports and activities are important to them. Using the #MyReasonWhy hashtag and by visiting the www.MyReasonWhy.com website, the NFHS anticipates a surge in stories from students across the country who are eager to share their experiences.

"We are excited to introduce the second year of the #MyReasonWhy campaign," said Bob Gardner, NFHS executive director. "This campaign has proved to be yet another avenue to spread the message about the values of these programs to young people."

"I applaud the NFHS for implementing this program for students, parents, and school personnel to share personal stories of their reasons for participating in athletics and activities," said Dr. Robin Hines, GHSA executive director. "I am Excited about the #MyReasonWhy campaign in Georgia and hearing from our stakeholders and especially our student-athletes. These stories demonstrate that our student-athletes believe there is value added to their school experience as well as enjoyment."

Nominations Open For Vince Dooley Awards & Positive Athlete Georgia!

Nominations are still open for the 2017-18 Vince Dooley Awards and Positive Athlete Georgia. These programs recognize the character building benefits of GHSA sports and activities participation.

Athletes for a Better World nominations for the 11th Annual Vincent J. Dooley Awards are open until February 28, 2018. The athletic director of each school may designate the Senior Class male and female recipient of the Awards for their school.

For more information and the nomination form, go to: <http://www.abw.org/awards/dooley-award-nomination/>.

Positive Athlete Georgia will be accepting nominations for high school athletes in any grade, in any sport, from any public or private school in the state of Georgia until March 16, 2018.

Last year, almost 5,000 student athletes and coaches from 400 different schools across Georgia were nominated and \$25,000 in college scholarships were awarded. So be sure to nominate your favorite high school athletes and coaches that embody the "Seven Definitions of a Positive Athlete!"

All you have to do to nominate is fill out the form at <http://georgia.positiveathlete.org/nominate-now/>.



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Winning More Than The Game

State Softball Champions - 2017



7A: East Coweta



6A: Creekview



5A: Locust Grove



4A: Northside-Columbus



3A: Calhoun



2A: Rockmart



A (public): Gordon Lee



A (private): Wesleyan

GHSA Board of Trustees Meeting

October 16, 2017

MINUTES

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 10:00 a.m., on October 16, 2017, at the Thomaston-Upson County Civic Center in Thomaston, Georgia, by Glenn White, President. Following is a **condensed** version of the minutes of that meeting. A complete version may be found on the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net).

OLD BUSINESS:

Proposal to amend Article IV, Section 5, Paragraph C-2 of the GHSA Constitution as follows:

C. 2. The Executive Director shall have the authority to grant or deny an application for hardship status.

(**Note:** This is a constitutional change and will require two votes. This is the **second** vote.)

Motion by Long, second by Craft, to **Approve** the proposal

MOTION PASSED (unanimously) NOTE: This goes into effect on **January 1, 2018**.

SUBMITTED PROPOSALS:

Proposal to reduce the number of teams automatically qualifying for the state playoffs from Region 1-7A in the sport of Soccer from four (4) to two (2). The other two state playoff berths would be filled by the highest power rated teams not already making the playoffs from any of the eight regions. (Norcross HS)

Motion by Crews, second by Williams, to **Deny** the proposal

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Proposal to reduce the number of teams automatically qualifying for the state playoffs from Region 1-7A in the sport of Soccer from four (4) to three (3). The other state playoff berth would be filled by the highest power rated teams not already making the playoffs from any of the eight regions. (Region 4-7A)

Motion by Crews, second by Williams, to **Deny** the proposal

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Proposal to restructure the Football calendar, moving the start of practice and the season one week later in 2018 and two weeks later in 2019 to help with heat issues. (Veterans HS)

Motion by Craft, second by Jewell, to **Deny** the proposal

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Proposal to split Class A Soccer into Public and Private divisions for state championships. (Atkinson County HS).

Motion by Finch, second by Craft, to **Approve** the proposal

MOTION FAILS 6-5 (Roll Call #1: **Yes** - Craft, Finch, Crews, Masters, White; **No** - Long, Stringer, Lancaster, Jewell, Williams, Hines)

Proposal to increase the number of Class A Cross Country teams qualifying for the state meet from 32 to 48 (24 each in Public and Private divisions). (Athens Academy)

Motion by Stringer, second by Finch, to **Deny** the proposal

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Proposal to add an item "g" to by-law 2.92 on Page 44 as follows: "Judgement calls by contest officials are not reviewable or reversible." (GHSA office) **Effective Immediately**

Motion by Stringer, second by Masters, to **Approve** the proposal

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Proposal to add the word "student" to the definition of a "booster" in by-law 1.73 on Page 22. (GHSA office) **Effective Immediately**

Motion by Williams, second by Finch, to **Approve** the proposal

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Proposal to standardize academic eligibility requirements for the sports of cheerleading, softball and volleyball by doing the following: Eliminate 1.51-c, Exception #2; Add to Section 2: Cheerleading item H-5-c "Students must meet academic eligibility requirements in order to try out for cheerleading" and Add to Section 15 - Volleyball item E-7 :Students participating must be academically eligible and ..." (GHSA office)

Motion by Masters, second by Finch, to **Approve** the proposal

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

(over)

MINUTES, continued

Proposal to reword by-law 2.16 on page 32 as follows (new wording in italic): "Playing a Non-Region Schedule: A school may choose to play a non-region schedule in football, basketball and/or baseball, and this choice is in effect for *the two-year scheduling period.*" (GHSA office) **Effective Immediately**

Motion by Stringer, second by Finch, to **Approve** the proposal
MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Proposal to reword by-law 4.24 on page 51 as follows (new wording in italic): "A school that transfers to a higher classification must remain in the higher classification until schools are next reclassified on a state- wide basis, *but may appeal to the Reclassification Committee to come back down to its proper classification when adjustments are made after two years of the four-year reclassification cycle.*" (GHSA office) **Effective Immediately**

Motion by Stringer, second by Crews, to **Approve** the proposal
MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Proposal to reword by-law 2.62-e-7 on page 36 as follows (new wording in italic): "Drones shall not be permitted to fly during any GHSA sanctioned event (*Note: This prohibition begins when the gates or doors open and extends until the last spectator has left the field or arena.*)" (GHSA office) **Effective Immediately**

Motion by Finch, second by Jewell, to **Approve** the proposal
MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Proposal to add new item "4" to by-law 2.71-d on page 41 as follows: "The GHSA office may review film to determine participants in a fight situation at a GHSA event, or to determine athletes leaving their bench to go to a fight situation. Note: Penalties may be levied, modified or changed based on this film review." (GHSA office) **Effective Immediately**

Motion by Masters, second by Finch, to **Approve** the proposal
MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Proposal to reword item 2. (e) on page 58 under the Baseball Pitching Restrictions to eliminate the requirement for a registered umpire to be paid to monitor the pitch counts. Instead, the home team will be responsible for providing an adult (21 or over) Pitch Count Monitor who will monitor the pitch counts for both teams, notify the umpire when a pitcher is nearing a threshold and later record the pitch counts on the GHSA MIS web site. (Baseball ad-hoc committee) **Effective Immediately**

Motion by Crews, second by Jewell, to **Deny** the proposal
MOTION PASSED 8-2 (Craft and Stringer voting "no")

Proposal to add wording to item 2. (e) on page 58 under the Baseball Pitching Restrictions to the effect that once a coach is warned that the pitcher is approaching a pitch count threshold, that pitcher shall be allowed to finish the batter. But, upon completion of that batter, the Days of Rest restrictions will only be based on the number of pitches that were thrown PRIOR to reaching the threshold. (Baseball ad-hoc committee) **Effective Immediately**

Motion by Craft, second by Stringer, to **Deny** the proposal
MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Proposal to add wording to item 2. (e) on page 58 under the Baseball Pitching Restrictions to the effect that any pitches that were thrown during a game that was suspended or rained out shall be counted for that pitcher towards any pitching restriction thresholds. (Baseball ad-hoc committee) **Effective Immediately**

Motion by Stringer, second by Craft, to **Approve** the proposal
MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Proposal to reword item 2. (h) on page 58 under the Baseball Pitching Restrictions to add the following under penalties for violating the pitch count restrictions (new wording in italic): "...the offending school shall be fined \$250, the head coach at that level assessed a two-game suspension, *and the game forfeited.*" (Baseball ad-hoc committee) **Effective Immediately**

Motion by Craft, second by Stringer, to **Approve** the proposal
MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Stringer, second by Finch, to direct the GHSA office to remove financial information concerning state playoff events from the GHSA Constitution and to allow Executive Director Robin Hines to negotiate and set the prices of state playoff events depending on the sites being used.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

There being no further business, a motion was made and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.

GHSA - November Calendar - 2017

November

- 3, 4 State Cross Country Meet
- 4 State One-Act Play (Classes A Private, 2A, 5A & 7A)
- 4 Complete Region Cheerleading (Class A & Coed Sectionals)
- 4 End of Football Regular Season
- 10 Earliest date for Wrestling match
- 10 Coed & Class A Cheerleading State Finals (Sectionals 2A through 7A)
- 10, 11 First Round State Football Playoffs
- 11 Cheerleading State Finals (Classes 2A through 7A)
- 11 State One-Act Play (Classes A Public, 3A, 4A & 6A)
- 11 Earliest date for Basketball game
- 14 Hardship/Appeal Meeting
- 17, 18 Second Round State Football Playoffs
- 23 **Thanksgiving Day** - GHSA Office closed 22nd through 24th
- 24, 25 Quarterfinal Round State Football Playoffs

The GHSA Staff Wishes You and Yours The Best of the Season



**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS**



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