



# GHSAA

## "ITEMS OF INTEREST"

November 2020

### **Despite COVID Issues, Transfer Eligibility Remains a Hot Topic**

There are championships taking place at this time of the fall in Fastpitch Softball, Cross Country and Volleyball and to reach this point certainly bears mentioning. While we have grown used to activities and achieved a general level of normalcy, it is with a sense of accomplishment that we should take a look back at how far we have come in the last eight months. There were times that many were calling to postpone or cancel fall sports, but your association moved slowly to return to the activities we all know are so important for our young people. The results of your vigilance are seasons full of memories and life lessons you have provided for your students. While we still have work to do, congratulations for your efforts are appropriate at this time in our school year.

There is no doubt that COVID-19 has been the center of attention this year and I have often jokingly stated that I longed for the "good old days" where people just fussed and complained about eligibility and transfers. Well, it seems that we can do more than one thing at a time and transfers in our state have become close to the top of all topics in reference to the GHSAA.

So far this year we have processed 2,631 transfers, which is fairly consistent with previous years. We expect 6,000-7,000 transfers once we have completed winter and spring seasons. We have processed 470 hardship applications, which I believe is tracking ahead of a normal year. The increase may be attributed to COVID-19 and specifically loss of jobs and income among our families. As you consider submitting a hardship application, please consider whether or not the claimed hardship is within the control of the parent, student or school. Member schools decide to file a hardship and your discernment is much appreciated. If you know it's not a hardship, don't file it!

Finally, transfers have become a regular topic of conversation from our local schools, media outlets, legislators and social media. While I feel it is inappropriate for me to discuss individual cases, I will say that if a student is approved on a transfer application, it is because the information provided by the member school satisfies what the by-law requires. I also understand that while we have processed close to 3,000 transfers, 99% of the conversation revolves around a handful of students. The legal opinion of transfers and our by-laws generally state that if you are denying eligibility due to the lack of a bona fide move, then you should grant eligibility if a bona fide move is made. Under our by-laws as they are today, it would be possible to be ineligible at one school and eligible later at another member school. I will provide a couple of examples.

Example 1: A student lives in attendance zone "A" and moves into attendance zone "B" without the entire family unit (or who he/she lived with at the previous school). This would not be a bona fide move and the student would be ruled ineligible for one calendar year for varsity competition. If the entire family unit later moves into attendance zone "B," that move would not have been made simultaneously with the transfer (which the by-laws require), so the student would remain a migrant. Finally, the student moves from attendance zone "B" with the entire family unit into attendance zone "C" simultaneously with a transfer into the public or private school that serves the district. The student has then made a bona fide move under GHSAA by-laws and would therefore be ruled eligible at the newest school.

Example 2: A student moves into attendance zone "A" and provides the receiving school documentation that would allow the school to validate that a bona fide move has been made. It is later determined that false information was provided and, in fact, a bona fide move had not been made. Under the by-laws, the student is then deemed to be a migrant for one calendar year from that date at that school. If the student then were able to make a bona fide move to attendance zone "B" and the public or private school that serves this attendance zone validates that such a move has occurred, the student would be eligible at the new school under our current by-laws.

In both of these situations, there are many who feel a subsequent move after being ruled ineligible at one school should not enable a student to be ruled eligible at a second school. I am counted in this group. I understand that there are numerous situations where this can legitimately occur and our goal should be to allow participation as long as it's fair to all involved. I plan to present a by-law proposal that will rule students making that second move ineligible for varsity competition for one calendar year regardless of whether a bona fide move was made to the second school. I also understand there are unintended consequences with such a rule change and circumstances that would support a second move. In those cases, a hardship application may be submitted and must prove the reason for that second move is outside of the control of the student, parent or school.

Eligibility is difficult and complicated at best and there will always be issues that will arise and we will do our best to level the playing field for all. That is what we will attempt at this time and hopefully approval of such a rule change will provide a solution and the hardship process will provide those students an opportunity who deserve one. Following the intent of the rule is important and finding ways around that intent is problematic.

Thank you for all you do for our young people in Georgia and please don't hesitate to contact me or anyone at the GHSAA office if we can assist you with anything.

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



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

**GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION** Newsletter  
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## GHSA Licensed Products

This month's featured licensees are: **Honig's Whistle Stop** ([honigs.com](http://honigs.com))  
**Cliff Keen** ([cliffkeen.com](http://cliffkeen.com)), **Smitty Official's Apparel** ([smittyusadyesub.com](http://smittyusadyesub.com)),  
 Officials/umpires uniforms, apparel and equipment; **Nfinity**, official cheerleading footwear and apparel ([nfinity.com](http://nfinity.com)); **Print Mascot**, Printing plastic cards, magnets, decals, & apparel. Request free sample kit. ([www.PrintMascot.com](http://www.PrintMascot.com)); **Snapphound**, event photo platform. ([ghsa.snapphound.com/events](http://ghsa.snapphound.com/events)); and **VNN**, Website software that helps high school athletic departments promote their programs online. ([vnnsports.net](http://vnnsports.net)).



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**NFHS  
 NETWORK**

**ALL GAMES  
 ALL ROUNDS  
 LIVE**

<https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/associations/ghsa>



## GHSA Preferred Shot Clock Package

Don't miss your shot to get everything you need for Basketball season. The GHSA approved shot clocks for high schools (with a three-year phase-in period beginning this season) and has now partnered with Daktronics to offer special pricing on a GHSA preferred shot clock package. The package includes two shot clocks, controller, two receivers and a start/stop switch for \$2,900 (freight charges not included).

### Already a Daktronics Customer?

You could be able to save even more. Contact your local Daktronics rep, Scott Berardi, to get a personalized quote based off your existing equipment:

[Scott.Berardi@daktronics.com](mailto:Scott.Berardi@daktronics.com) or 404-290-3266

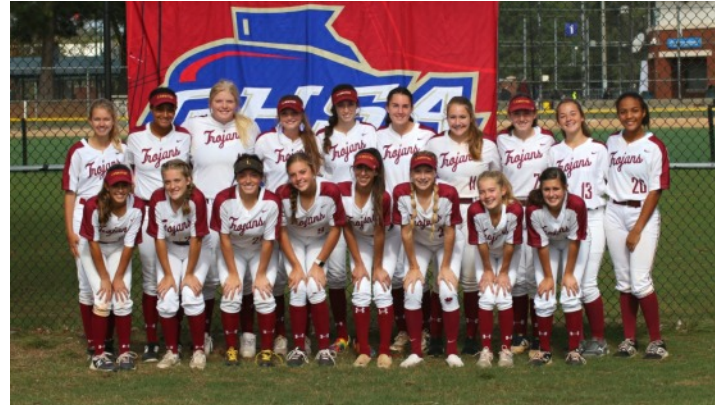
If you choose to work with BSN Sports, please contact your BSN Sports Sales Pro or Lu Nunnally at [lun@bsnsports.com](mailto:lun@bsnsports.com). Lu will direct you to the BSN manager and/or rep in your area.



# State Fastpitch Softball Champions - 2020



**7A:** East Coweta



**6A:** Lassiter



**5A:** Jones County



**4A:** Heritage-Catoosa



**3A:** Ringgold



**2A:** Heard County



**A (public):** Gordon Lee



**A (private):** Mt. Paran



# NFHS Network to Stream Volleyball Finals Live on Nov. 7

The NFHS Network will stream live coverage of the GHSA Volleyball State Championships, presented by Mizuno, on Saturday, November 7 from the Champions Center at Lakepoint Sports Complex in Cartersville.

**ALL tickets (\$10.00) must be purchased online on GoFan at**

<https://gofan.co/app/school/GHSA>. No tickets will be sold at the site. Information about how to order tickets can be found on the GHSA web site.

If you can't be there in person, you can watch all the action at <https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/associations/ghsa>.

Subscribing to the Network is just \$10.95 for a 30-day period or \$69.99 for an annual pass. DVDs and Digital Copies can also be ordered on [NFHS Network.com](https://www.nfhsnetwork.com).

Webcast partners include: Georgia Farm Bureau Insurance, Mizuno and Molten.



## VOLLEYBALL STATE FINALS November 7, 2020

### Court #8

- 11:00 am - 1A Private
- 1:30 pm - Class 3A
- 4:00 pm - Class 5A
- 6:30 pm - Class 7A

### Court #17

- 12 noon - 1A/2A Public
- 2:30 pm - Class 4A
- 5:00 pm - Class 6A

**NOTE: Special COVID-19 modifications for this event may be seen on the GHSA web site ([www.ghsa.net](http://www.ghsa.net)).**



Scan QR Code to reach the Mizuno Volleyball homepage

## State Championship Special

Use code **GHSA25** for 25% off all Mizuno Volleyball and Training items + Free Shipping



Molten is the Official Volleyball of the Georgia High School Association

## School Broadcast Program Policy

All schools participating in the NFHS Network School Broadcast Program (SBP) have the rights to broadcast live (or delayed) any regular season contest involving their school with approval of the host home school.

If both schools are members of the NFHS Network SBP, then both schools may live-stream. We ask home game host schools to best accommodate these live-stream requests with respect to space limitations of the host facility.

If the NFHS Network is broadcasting regular season games that involve schools in the NFHS Network, then the school may also live-stream the event over its own NFHS Network SBP.

All schools participating in the NFHS Network SBP may live-stream any contest their team is participating in during the state playoffs (all sports) with the following exceptions: Cheerleading Sectionals, Football Semifinals, Basketball Semifinals and all neutral-site state final events.

If a member school NFHS Network SBP is broadcasting a state playoff event and a third-party producer wishes to live-stream the event, the member school gets preference. (This is usually coordinated with GHSA & NFHS Network to avoid such conflicts).

State Championships live-streams will be handled by NFHS Network in the following sports for 2020-21: Volleyball, Competition Cheerleading, Football, Swimming & Diving, Team Dual & Traditional Wrestling, Basketball, Soccer, Lacrosse, Track & Field and Baseball.

No fee is assessed member-school NFHS Network School Broadcast Programs. The GHSA will provide all NFHS Network member-school SBP programs a letter of permission for all post-season events and playoff contests if needed.

We require all commercial and other broadcast groups, radio and internet audio, and delayed video groups to request a letter of permission and pay a rights fee in advance before those affiliates are allowed to gain permission. This includes other member school programs not participating in the NFHS Network SBP.



## Cross Country State Meet Info

The 2020 GHSA Cross Country State Championships, presented by Atlanta Track Club, will be held November 6-7 at the Carrollton Course.

Digital tickets (\$5.00) are available at [GoFan](#), but fans also will be able to buy tickets at the site on race day.

Live results will be available online by Perfect Timing Group ([www.ptgrouponline.com](http://www.ptgrouponline.com)).

### Important Dates

- Nov. 2** 9:00 a.m., deadline for electronic submission of Region/Area results on GHSA MIS site (<https://app.ghsa.net/node>)
- Nov. 2** 5:00 p.m., deadline for Head Coaches of State Meet qualifying teams to confirm projected seven (7) runners at state meet
- Nov. 6-7** State Meet at Carrollton High School

### Schedule at Carrollton High School

#### Friday, Nov. 6, 2020

9:00 am Boys 3A  
9:45 am Girls 3A  
10:30 am Boys 4A  
11:15 am Girls 4A  
12 noon Boys 6A  
12:45 pm Girls 6A

#### Saturday, Nov. 7, 2020

8:00 am Boys 5A  
8:45 am Girls 5A  
9:30 am Boys A Private  
10:15 am Girls A Private  
11:00 am Boys 7A  
11:45 am Girls 7A  
12:30 pm Boys 2A  
1:15 pm Girls 2A  
2:00 pm Boys A Public  
2:45 pm Girls A Public



## GHSA SPORTSMANSHIP STATEMENT

Please insure that the following statement is read as a public address announcement prior to the start of every GHSA sanctioned contest:

"The GHSA and its member schools have made a commitment to promote good sportsmanship by student/athletes, coaches, and spectators at all GHSA sanctioned events.

Profanity, degrading remarks, and intimidating actions directed at officials or competitors will not be tolerated, and are grounds for removal from the event site.

Spectators are not allowed to enter the competition area during warm-ups or while the contest is being conducted.

Thank you for your cooperation in the promotion of good sportsmanship at today's event."

The NFHS Voice

## High School Sports Postseason Competition Returns

By Dr. Karissa L. Niehoff, NFHS Executive Director

"Going to State" is the mantra of high school sports teams as their seasons begin. While the opportunity to simply participate is the biggest thrill, playing in a state championship contest is a close second.

In a normal year, the chance to play in a state championship is usually dependent upon the team's success during the regular season. Unfortunately, in the COVID-19 world, "opportunity" has had more to do with the virus than a team's prowess.

Fortunately, that opportunity has finally returned on a large-scale basis for the first time since March, when 34 of the 51 NFHS member associations were unable to complete their state basketball tournaments, followed by the cancellation of spring sports in all states.

Among the state tournaments that have been completed this fall are boys soccer in North Dakota, South Dakota and Idaho; girls soccer in South Dakota, Utah and Idaho; girls volleyball in Mississippi, Oklahoma and Tennessee; and cross country in Alaska, Colorado, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Utah. In some of these events, there were more precautions than in a normal year, but the chance for a state title was back!

Recently, girls volleyball tournaments concluded in Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho,



Kansas, New Hampshire and Utah, and 19 others are set to finish in November.

The NFHS Football Completion Chart shows that 30 of the 35 states that were able to continue with football this fall amid the pandemic will conduct state championships, with the other five states ending postseason play at the regional or sectional levels.

Most of the state football championships will be held in November and December, with North Dakota crowning the first champion on November 13 and Texas the last January 14-16.

The remaining states have plans to start football and other traditional fall sports during the winter or spring months.

While some student-athletes in traditional fall sports will have to wait a bit longer for their opportunity, we are pleased that, slowly but surely, the highlights of actual high school sports competition – and

state championships – will be making headlines rather than the latest list of cancellations due to the Coronavirus.

Many of the state associations that will be staging football championships in the coming weeks will be faced with limitations on the number of spectators. While we hope fans will be permitted, the NFHS Network ([www.NFHNetwork.com](http://www.NFHNetwork.com)) is a great alternative in most states.

Unfortunately, the outlook is not as bright for our 51 member state associations. Since these associations are heavily dependent on revenue from state tournaments, those that were unable to host state basketball tournaments and all spring sports events, and now with the potential of loss of gate receipts from fall events, are facing severe financial challenges.

The leaders of our state associations have done a phenomenal job of balancing the need for these vital programs against the safety concerns related to the Coronavirus. Their No. 1 goal has been keeping programs alive so that students continue to have the opportunity to participate.

Now, it is time for leaders in communities throughout our nation to support and assist these 51 associations to ensure they have the means to continue operations – and continue to provide these once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for high school students.

## Nominations Still Open for 14th Annual Vince Dooley Awards

**DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 28, 2021**

Athletes for a Better World announces the 14th Annual Vincent J. Dooley Awards and Scholarships for the 2020-2021 school year. The athletic director of each school may designate the Senior Class male and female recipient of the Awards for their school, and their recipients may also compete for a four-year, \$1,000 a year, scholarship.

For more information and the Nomination Form, please go here: <http://www.abw.org/awards/dooley-award-nomination/>

Each year, every high school in Georgia is invited to select one male and one female senior athlete to receive the Dooley Award. The award recipients are chosen for their distinguished character, teamwork, and citizenship. All award recipients are reviewed by a selection committee, who choose 10 boys and 10 girls as finalists. The Dooley Scholarship is then presented to one male and one female athlete.

All recipients are invited to attend a banquet in Spring 2020 to receive their awards. If you have questions, please contact Brad Catherman at [bcatherman@abw.org](mailto:bcatherman@abw.org).

### Adopt 'The Code' for your team or school:

Because I am a role model and have the opportunity and responsibility to make a difference in the lives of others, I commit to this Code. I will take responsibility and appropriate actions when I fail to live up to it.

#### **As an individual:**

- I will develop my skills to the best of my ability and give my best effort in practice and competition.
- I will compete within the spirit and letter of the rules of my sport.
- I will respect the dignity of every human being, and will not be abusive or dehumanizing of another either as an athlete or as a fan.

#### **As a member of a team:**

- I will place team goals ahead of personal goals.
- I will be a positive influence on the relationships on the team.
- I will follow the team rules established by the coach.

#### **As a member of society:**

- I will display caring and honorable behavior off the field and be a positive influence in my community and world.
- I will give of my time, skills, and money as I am able for the betterment of my community and world.



# Special Modifications for Basketball and Cheerleading

With first contest dates rapidly approaching for the sports of Basketball and Competitive Cheerleading, now is a good time to review the special COVID-19 modifications and recommendations the GHSA has issued for these seasons. The first competition date for Cheerleading is November 7, while Basketball teams may begin playing games on November 20. Please also see the individual sports pages on the GHSA web site ([www.ghsa.net](http://www.ghsa.net)) for any additional modifications or changes as they are made.

## CHEERLEADING COMPETITIONS

The considerations outlined here are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging social distancing, limiting participation in administrative tasks to essential personnel and allowing for appropriate protective equipment.

### 1. Host school responsibility (considerations)

The host school should:

- Provide hand sanitizer for all teams attending.
- Limit the number of teams allowed to compete in each session.
- Enforce social distancing requirements in spectator areas. (this is facilitated by limiting the number of teams per session)
- Sanitize the mats or athlete's shoes in each warmup area and main competitive floor after each team exits.
- Sanitize all officials' tables between sessions.

### 2. Player equipment

- Face masks/coverings are allowed in the warmup areas and/or the main competitive floor for all athletes.
- Athletes use their own water bottles during warmups and after the competition.
- Team members should arrive dressed and ready for competition. Dressing rooms should not be available.
- All staff working the warm up areas should wear masks.

### 3. Signing in

- Upon arrival, masks are recommended for teams entering and moving around the building.
- Masks or plastic barriers are recommended for hosts checking the teams in.
- Teams will be taken to the cafeteria or individual classrooms for holding and waiting for warmups. In either scenario, the area must be sanitized before new teams are allowed to enter at the start of the next session. (teams could be asked to stay on or near their bus, if the host school chooses)

### 4. Main competition floor

- Teams should put water bottles in their bags while they are competing.
- Team huddles before taking the floor are not recommended.
- "On deck" and "in the hole" areas should be spaced as far apart as possible to maintain social distancing regulations.
- Coaches' chairs must be sanitized at the end of each routine.
- Wearing masks for officials is recommended.
- Wearing masks or face coverings for athletes is also mandatory.
- DJ's are encouraged to wear face masks/coverings/gloves.
- All coaches and athletes should use hand sanitizer before and after routine.

### 5. Awards

- Teams should stay separated from other teams while awards are being announced. One athlete or coach with recommended face covering/mask should pick up the trophy.
- Teams should leave the host school as soon as their session has ended.

### 6. Concessions/hospitality rooms

- Food at concession stands should be packaged.
- Boxed lunches should be available rather than open food for hospitality rooms.
- Multiple hand sanitizer bottles should be available at both places.
- Masks for workers in concession stands and in hospitality areas are highly recommended.

## BASKETBALL GAMES

The modifications outlined here are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging social distancing, limiting participation in administrative tasks to essential personnel and allowing for appropriate protective equipment.

### 1. Pregame Meeting Protocol

Limit attendees to the referee and the head coach from each team with each coach standing on the outside of the center circle on each side of the division line.

All individuals maintain a social distance of six feet or greater at the center circle.

Suspend handshakes prior to and following Pregame Conference.

### 2. Team Bench Suggestions

Limit the number of bench personnel to observe social distancing of six feet or greater.

Place team benches opposite the spectator seating if possible. If not, create separation between the team bench and spectator seating behind the bench.

Additional chairs or rows may be added to allow bench personnel to observe social distancing of 6 feet or greater, not beyond the end-line or the coach's box.

Create additional team bench(s) behind the courtside bench to ensure social distancing.

Personnel not in the game should adhere to any required local/state face covering requirements while on the bench.

### 3. Officials Table

The host should sanitize the table before the game and at halftime. Place officials table sufficiently away from the sideline to allow for additional space for substitutes.

Limit seats at the official table to essential personnel (including home team scorer and timer and shot clock operator, if used) with a recommended distance of 6 feet or greater between individuals. Other personnel (visiting scorer, statisticians, media, etc.) should be located in an alternate location.

Table personnel should adhere to any required local/state face covering requirements.

### 4. Pre and Post Game Ceremony

Suspend the pregame introduction handshakes.

Suspend post game protocol of shaking hands. Teams shall line up along the free throw line near their respective bench area and nod/wave in a sportsmanship gesture.

Officials shall stand at the division line across from the benches during pregame introductions.

### 5. Basketball Rules Interpretations

- Ball given to officials in the locker room, where it is sanitized as recommended by the manufacturer and not used for warmups or at halftime.

- The host school should ensure that the ball is sanitized during timeouts and between quarters. See the recommended sanitizing process by Wilson on the GHSA web site.

- Sanitizer should be provided by the host team at the table.

Cloth face coverings are permissible for players.

Consider requiring coaching staff and other bench personnel to wear face coverings while on the bench.

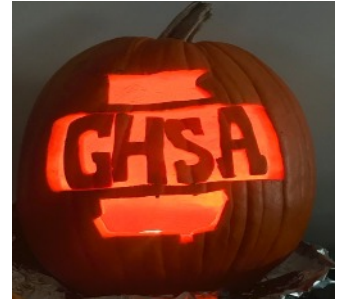
Eliminate the jump ball and award the ball to the visiting team to start the game with the first alternating possession for the throw in.

To start an overtime period, use a coin toss to determine which team is awarded the ball.

**GHSA - November/December Calendar - 2020**

**November**

- 2 Deadline to file Riflery schedules with GHSA
- 6, 7 State Cross Country Meet
- 7 Volleyball State Finals
- 7 Earliest date for Cheerleading and Dance events
- 10 Hardship/Appeal Meeting
- 13 Earliest date for Wrestling match and Basketball game
- 21 End Football Regular Season
- 26 **Thanksgiving Day** - GHSA Office closed 25th through 27th
- 27, 28 First Round State Football Playoffs



**December**

- 4, 5 Second Round State Football Playoffs
- 5 Determine Flag Football State Playoff qualifiers
- 8 Hardship/Appeal Meeting
- 9 First Round Flag Football Playoffs

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



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**



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