



GHSA

"ITEMS OF INTEREST"

September 2018

Important Information As We Begin An Exciting New School Year!

The beginning of a new school year is the most exciting time in a school community. We have the opportunity of making new friends, welcoming new faculty members and students, and fall sports and activities are met with great anticipation. We are off to a great start and I appreciate the opportunity to travel around our state to attend our contests and am grateful for that opportunity.

High school athletics play an important role in our communities and the pride shown in our teams is uplifting. I say with confidence that Georgia has the best high school athletics and coaches anywhere in the nation and the support you receive from your communities is outstanding. I appreciate what you do for our student athletes in providing first class opportunities for them that will last a lifetime.

We have a lot going on at the GHSA and the following are a "Items of Interest" for your information and some things to help the GHSA serve you more efficiently.

- **Eligibility:** There are 371,215 students currently eligible (Form A) for sports and activities at our 463 member schools. We have processed 2,117 transfer students as well. As you prepare Form Bs, please fill out the forms completely and be sure to provide the public school attendance zones for both the sending and receiving schools. This will ensure a shorter turnaround for you to get your athletes participating.

- **Hardships:** Familiarize yourself with the By-Laws associated with the hardships process. Keep in mind that the hardship claimed must be out of the control of the student, parents and school. As obvious as this sounds, please indicate what is claimed to be the hardship and provide documentation that supports that claim.

- **Football Finals:** will be held at the Mercedes Benz Stadium December 7-8, 2018, but if Atlanta United plays in the MLS Cup on December 7 or 8, 2018 our Football Finals will be moved to December 11-12, 2018 at the MBS.

- **Basketball Finals:** will be held at the Macon Centreplex March 6-9, 2019. We are pleased with the new management and the upgrades at the venue. The events held at the Centreplex last year were very successful and we look forward to this year's event.

- **Esports:** We are launching a GHSA sanctioned Esports league in partnership with PlayVS. There will be two seasons, fall and spring. The fall season will feature "League of Legends," the most played PC game in the world. Your school will be able to build teams of five and compete with other schools remotely through the PlayVS online portal. Today, your school can get started in under 15 minutes by visiting PlayVS.com/schools. The participation fee for each student is \$64.00 and the last day to register is October 28, 2018. If you have any questions or concerns please contact ghsa@playvs.com.

- Penny Mitchell is administering a great group of students who were selected to GHSA's **Student Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC)**. This group of outstanding young people from across our state is providing us with feedback from the student-athlete's perspective. They are focusing on ways to promote good sportsmanship among our schools, coaches, athletes and communities. They are an awesome group of young people and I encourage you to nominate your outstanding student-athletes later this year for next year's group. It's great for the students and the GHSA.

I hope you are off to a great start of the year and we appreciate all you do for the young people of our state. Don't hesitate to call the GHSA office if we can help you in any way. Have a great year!

–Robin Hines, Executive Director



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

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION Newsletter

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No. 1

- GHSA STAFF -
Areas of Responsibility

ROBIN HINES (extension 41)

- Executive Director -
Administration, By-Law Interpretations, Hardship Rulings,
Football Playoffs, Coaches Education Program

ERNE YARBROUGH (extension 27)

- Assistant Executive Director -
Basketball, Softball, Track, Golf & Officials Training

DON CORR (extension 34)

- Associate Director -
Baseball, 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 & Transfer Eligibility, Sportsmanship

PENNY PITTS MITCHELL (extension 22)

- Associate Director -
Cheerleading, Gymnastics, Dance, Esports, Student Leadership, Title IX

KEVIN GIDDENS (extension 25)

- Associate Director -
Cross Country, Soccer, & Football

STEVE FIGUEROA (extension 26)

- Director of Information/Media Services -
Media Coordination, Newsletter, Constitution & Calendar, 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,
Riflery 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); **College Football Hall of Fame**, the perfect destination for family, football and fun! (cfbhall.com); **Hartwell Studio Works**, creating dynamic and protectable spirit logos / marks (hartwellstudioworks.com) and **TeamIP**, official merchandiser and online store (teamip.com).

REMINDER: GHSA Membership Dues Must Be Paid On Or Before October 15th! The Membership Dues Invoice is on the GHSA web site under "forms."

Please complete the form and submit it with your membership dues payment.

NFHS School Broadcast Program Update

The NFHS Network Sports School Broadcast program provides schools access to streaming software and technology platform. The NFHS Network School Broadcast Program is already being used by over 1,500 schools across the country.

Any Georgia school can be part of a program that includes the following:

- Network Benefits – National exposure, post-season coverage, unlimited free video storage.
 - Educational Benefits – Provide your students with the opportunities to produce, announce and broadcast professional events live online.
 - Technology – HD Streaming Capability, Customized Graphics Package, Highlight Creator.
 - Generate Revenue – Schools can generate revenue from fundraising, advertising and subscription sales.
 - Service – A dedicated team comprised of a territory manager and an account manager.
 - Training – NFHS Network has many training tools available including one-on-one training options, online training, and school mentoring.
 - Support – Production Tech support, Subscription Customer Service, and Event Marketing support.
- If you would like more details about the NFHS Network School Broadcast Program, please contact: Matt Abramson at Matt.Abramson@nfhsnetwork.com or 843-324-8694.



**HIGH SCHOOL
HAPPENS HERE**

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."

September is GHSA's Cancer Awareness Month

The Georgia High School Association is once again designating the month of September as it's official fall sports "**Cancer Awareness Month**" to advance the awareness of and help fight several types of this dreaded disease.

In observance of Breast Cancer awareness, the GHSA will allow member schools to wear "Pink" uniforms and/or pink socks, wristbands, etc., at their HOME events during the week of September 3-8, 2018 for all fall sports (football, cheerleading, cross country, fastpitch softball and volleyball).

The American Cancer Society is the leader in the fight against Breast Cancer through research, support groups and other patient services like rides to treatments and free lodging.

If your school is planning an event during this week, please contact

Dennis.Crump@cancer.org to learn what resources are available in your community or visit American Cancer Society / GHSA "Pink Week" site.

September 10-15 will be the fourth annual GHSA "Gold Week" to help raise the awareness of Childhood Cancer. The GHSA is proud to partner with **Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research** to encourage Georgia high schools to "Go Gold" during this week. Again, this is for all fall sports.

Football teams can wear gold jerseys, socks and wristbands at home games, while cross country, volleyball and softball teams can wear matching gold headbands and wristbands at home events. To learn about even more ways to get involved, visit RallyFoundation.org.

And, finally, September 17-22 will be the fifth annual "Blue Week" for

Prostate Cancer in the sport of Football only to alert men about "Know Your Score" with regular prostate testing checkups. Special blue decals and blue wristbands can be worn this week, and the officials will have blue penalty flags to throw. Also the host school can stencil blue ribbons on the playing field for this special contest.

If a school does NOT have a home contest during one of the designated cancer awareness weeks, the school may request to wear or display the special cancer-awareness colors at a home contest during another week in September. Schools should contact the appropriate GHSA sports coordinator with this request.

There will be additional weeks designated by the GHSA as "Pink or Gold Weeks" for winter (January) and spring (April) sports.



ACT and SAT Assessment Dates

Each year, the GHSA office gets requests to alter schedules due to conflicts with ACT and SAT tests. We cannot accommodate those requests. The following chart gives dates of the exams and possible conflicts with GHSA activities. We urge you to inform your athletes and coaches **now** about these dates in order for the athletes to plan their assessments around events in which they are to compete.

ACT ASSESSMENT DATES

September 8, 2018.....	.....None
October 27, 2018.....	.....State Volleyball Quarters, Area/Region Cross Country, Area/Region One Act Play, State FP Softball
December 8, 2018.....	.....State Football Finals
February 9, 2019.....	.....State Swimming Meet, Sectional Traditional Wrestling, Region Basketball Tournaments
April 13, 2019.....	.....Region Tennis, Area SP Softball, Riflery Semifinals
June 8, 2019.....	.....None

ACTIVITY CONFLICTS

SAT ASSESSMENT DATES

October 6, 2018.....	.....Region FP Softball
November 3, 2018....	.....Volleyball Finals, Region/Sectional Cheerleading, State Cross Country, State One-Act Play in A, 4A & 6A
December 1, 2018.....	.....State Football Semifinals
March 9, 2019.....	.....State Basketball Finals
May 4, 2019.....	.....Sectional Track Meets, State Tennis Finals
June 1, 2019.....	.....None

ACTIVITY CONFLICTS

AP EXAM DATES

Week 1 - May 6-10, 2019 .....	.....Baseball, Lacrosse, & Soccer Playoffs, State Track Meets
Week 2 - May 13-17, 2019.....	.....Baseball, Lacrosse & Soccer Playoffs

ACTIVITY CONFLICTS

GHSA Honors 2017-18 Cooperative Spirit Award Winning Schools

Georgia's Electric Membership Cooperatives (Georgia's EMCs) proudly sponsor the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award and are happy to announce the 56 GHSA-member high schools that will receive this latest award.

The award honors schools that showed exemplary sportsmanship during the 2017-2018 school year.

"Congratulations to all of the region winners of the GHSA Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award for 2017-2018," says Dr. Robin Hines, GHSA Executive Director.

"It is an honor for these member schools to be selected by their regions for this award. The characteristics of good sportsmanship are critical to the development of our young people as they transition into productive adults. The GHSA applauds our schools on this accomplishment and appreciates Georgia's EMCs for their support of this outstanding recognition program."

Since 2006, the GHSA and Georgia's EMCs have sponsored the Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award, which reinforces the GHSA philosophy: "Students, athletes, coaches, spectators and all others associated with high school activities programs should adhere to the fundamental values of respect, fairness, honesty and responsibility."

Schools around the state are honored for exhibiting exceptional sportsmanship during competitive events.

Student athletes, fellow students, school staff, parents and event spectators are recognized for the sportsmanship they display.

The award is not only a school honor, but a community honor as well. The GHSA region secretaries select winners based upon the sportsmanship demonstrated throughout the school year.

The Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Awards are presented annually to the GHSA-member high schools in



the 56 regions from the seven classifications by representatives from the EMCs during fall athletic events and school assemblies.

Winners of the 2017-18 Georgia EMC Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award are listed below:

2017-18 Award Winning Schools

Class 7-A

Region 1: Camden County
Region 2: East Coweta
Region 3: North Paulding
Region 4: Roswell
Region 5: North Forsyth
Region 6: Duluth
Region 7: Parkview
Region 8: Archer

Class 6-A

Region 1: Northside-W.Robins
Region 2: Bradwell Institute
Region 3: Grovetown
Region 4: Stephenson
Region 5: Hughes
Region 6: Sprayberry
Region 7: Cambridge
Region 8: Apalachee

Class 5-A

Region 1: Thomas Co. Central
Region 2: Ware County
Region 3: Whitewater
Region 4: Woodland-Henry
Region 5: Arabia Mountain
Region 6: Riverwood
Region 7: Paulding County
Region 8: Johnson-Gaines.

Class 4-A

Region 1: Cairo
Region 2: Upson-Lee
Region 3: Richmond Academy
Region 4: Luella
Region 5: Cartersville
Region 6: LaFayette
Region 7: Marist
Region 8: Madison County

Class 3-A

Region 1: Cook
Region 2: Long County
Region 3: Groves
Region 4: Peach County
Region 5: Westminster
Region 6: Haralson County
Region 7: North Hall
Region 8: East Jackson

Class 2-A

Region 1: Thomasville
Region 2: Toombs County
Region 3: Washington County
Region 4: Westside, Augusta
Region 5: Heard County
Region 6: Douglass, Atlanta
Region 7: Gordon Central
Region 8: Monticello

Class A

Region 1: Seminole County
Region 2: Clinch County
Region 3: Jenkins County
Region 4: Crawford County
Region 5: Our Lady of Mercy
Region 6: Walker School
Region 7: Stratford Academy
Region 8: Providence Christian

2018-19 GHSA Student Athlete Advisory Council

The 2018-19 GHSA Student-Athlete Advisory Council had its first meeting on August 28 at the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame in Macon. The Council is made up of 18 student-athletes from across GHSA's 463 member schools. These students submitted applications last spring and were chosen by a panel who scored their applications based on answers to five questions. Seven of these members are completing their two-year term.

The focus this year for the SAAC is to find ways to improve sportsmanship in their schools and across all member schools. They discussed ways to develop good sportsmanship within their school athletic teams and competitive activities as well as ways to show good sportsmanship to other teams/officials.

They also discussed forming an athletic leadership team within their schools where two members of each athletic team would represent each sport/competitive activity and help teams learn to support each other. Some of these schools already have this in place. Other topics discussed were determining subjects for speakers for the Student Leadership Conference in the spring and working championship events.

For more information on the Student Leadership Advisory Council, contact Penny Pitts Mitchell in the GHSA office at pennypitts@ghsa.net or Tanya Anderson at tanyaanderson@ghsa.net.



2018-19 Student Athlete Advisory Council (clockwise from left): Je'Mazin Roberts (Baldwin), Libby Upton (Model), Chad Cobb (Union Grove), Jackson Norris (Rockmart), Bianca Browne (Woodland-Henry), Ragan Harden (Colquitt County), Justin Harris (Peach County), Ashlynn Anderson (Upson-Lee), Maddie Cronin (Woodward Academy), Caroline Cammack (Norcross), Caroline Schiltz (King's Ridge), Wakana Sato (Starr's Mill), Ella Newsome (West Laurens), Logan Reid (Vidalia), Ellen Conley (Allatoona), Lindsay Tillman (Thomasville), Maylon Cochran (Thomasville), Drew Sheldon (North Atlanta).

First Class A Power Ratings in September

MaxPreps will continue to provide all content to the GHSA to verify Region Standings and manage Class A Power Ratings in Softball, Football, Basketball and Baseball.

The **first power rating** for Football will be Monday, September 10, 2018 and the first for Fastpitch Softball will be Monday, September 17, 2018. All GHSA member schools statewide must submit complete box score results to MaxPreps, regardless of classification.

Please login to MaxPreps to check accuracy of your team's roster and schedule prior to the season. If you have any questions, you are encouraged to contact MaxPreps at 800-329-7324 x1 or visit support.maxpreps.com.



Stay Connected to the GHSA!

For all coaches, athletic directors, schools and teams, join the conversation on social media @OfficialGHSA on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram for all the latest association news and information.

Statewide news, association announcements and playoff information are posted daily for interaction with GHSA followers and fans.



Participation Increases for 29th Consecutive Season

INDIANAPOLIS, IN — Led by an additional 15,009 participants in girls sports programs, the overall number of participants in high school sports increased for the 29th consecutive year in 2017-18, according to the annual High School Athletics Participation Survey conducted by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

The number of participants in high school sports in 2017-18 reached an all-time record high of 7,979,986, according to figures from the 51 NFHS member state high school associations, which includes the District of Columbia. The number of girls participating in high school sports reached an all-time high of 3,415,306, and boys participation also set a new standard at 4,564,680.

While the number of additional participants this year (16,451) was not as substantial as the previous year (94,635), a steady increase in several boys and girls sports extended the streak to a record-breaking 29th year.

Among boys sports, soccer registered the largest gain with 6,128 additional participants. Other boys sports with sizeable gains were cross country (3,824), volleyball (3,767) and golf (2,558). For the second consecutive year, competitive spirit had the largest increase among girls sports with an additional 18,426 participants, followed by swimming and diving (4,797), lacrosse (3,431) and golf (3,176).

With 1,035,942 participants, 11-player football remains the No. 1 participatory sport for boys in high school by a large margin. Outdoor track and field is No. 2 with 600,097 participants, followed by basketball (551,373), baseball (487,097), soccer (456,362), cross country (270,095), wrestling (245,564), tennis (158,151), golf (144,024) and swimming/diving (138,935).

Outdoor track and field continues to lead the way for girls with 488,592 participants, followed by volleyball (446,583), basketball (412,407), soccer (390,482), fast-pitch softball (367,861), cross country (223,518), tennis (190,768), swimming/diving (175,594), competitive spirit (162,669) and lacrosse (96,904).

Despite remaining the top participatory sport for boys, 11-player football dropped for the second consecutive year. The decline in numbers, however, was not as high as 2016, and participation in 6-player and 8-player football continued to trend upward. In 2017, participation in 11-player football was 1,035,942, a two-percent decline of 21,465 from the previous year. The decline from 2015 to 2016 was 27,865, or 2.8 percent.

While there have been some recent reports about schools dropping the sport of football for the 2018 season because of declining numbers, the overall number of schools discontinuing 11-player football before the 2017 season was minimal – a decline of 20 schools from 14,099 to 14,079.

With 14,079 schools sponsoring 11-player football nationally, the loss of 21,465 participants amounts to 1.5 per school. And, although the 11-player numbers were down, the number of schools sponsoring 6-player football increased



from 259 to 317, and school sponsorship of 8-player football increased from 841 to 847. Overall, the number of high schools sponsoring football (combining 6-, 8-, 9- and 11-player) increased by 29 schools – from 15,457 to 15,486.

The overall number of participants in football (6-, 8-, 9- and 11-player) in 2017 was 1,067,970, which includes 2,401 girls playing the various levels of the sport. The 21,465 decline in 11-player participation was evenly distributed across the country with no states reporting significant drops in football numbers.

“There are many positives about the numbers in this year’s sports participation survey,” said new NFHS Executive Director Karissa Niehoff. “First, the upward trek of interest in high school sports continued for the 29th consecutive year. The model of sports within the education-based school system continues to thrive in the United States.

“Second, we are encouraged that the decline in high school football has slowed due, in part, to our efforts in reducing the risk of injury in the sport. While there may be other reasons that students elect not to play football, we have attempted to assure student-athletes and their parents that thanks to the concussion protocols and rules in place in every state in the country, the sport of football is as safe as it ever has been.”

Amazingly, this year’s survey indicated participation by high school students in 65 different sports, as well as 13 adapted sports for students with disabilities. Some of the more popular non-traditional sports were badminton (17,898), archery (10,460) and fencing (4,513), along with two relative newcomers – bass fishing and ultimate frisbee.

The participation survey has been compiled in its current form by the NFHS since 1971 through numbers it receives from its member state associations.

The complete 2017-18 High School Athlete Participation Survey is available at the following web site link: www.nfhs.org/ParticipationStatistics/ParticipationStatistics/



School Broadcast Program Pixellot Proposal

Please provide PlayOn! Sports with the following:

A School Purchase Order and/or signed Participation Agreement for the Pixellot unit(s)

- \$4,950 for one (1) unit
- \$9,500 for two (2) units

Delivery and Pricing:

- Pricing for equipment and software valid through December 31st, 2018
- Price of unit does not include installation
- Delivery in 6-8 weeks after receipt of order
- Payment is due upon delivery of unit

Each Pixellot system will include:



- Pixellot camera head with multiple fixed camera array
- Video Processing Unit (VPU) – includes software for recording, encoding, and streaming video
- Automated scoring integration device – incorporates scoreboard into video graphics
- Accessories kit: audio mixer, standard mounting hardware, cables and connectors

System operating requirements:

- Must maintain an open, hardline **Internet** connection to the Video Processing Unit
- Video Processing Computer must be within **200 feet** of the Pixellot camera installation

NFHS Network Subscriptions

Monthly Pass revenue will be shared as follows:

School receives 10% of Net Revenue from all Monthly Passes (\$9.95) sold

Annual Pass revenue will be shared as follows:

School sets the selling price of the pass and keeps 100% of the difference between the selling price and the \$50 base wholesale price

Seasonal Pass revenue will be shared as follows:

School sets the selling price of the pass and keeps 100% of the difference between the selling price and the \$25 base wholesale price



Scheduling and broadcasting on the NFHS Network:

- School **required to send all athletic schedules** in Excel spreadsheet format to schedules@nfhsnetwork.com
- *Changes to start times must be made within 24 hours and emailed to support@nfhsnetwork.com*

To help with the installation, please send the following information:

Note: Pixellot camera unit will be installed in an elevated location to provide an unobstructed, panoramic view of the court/field

- Stand on the court/field and take pictures of the area where the Pixellot camera unit will be installed
- Stand near the area in which the Pixellot unit will be installed and take pictures of the court or field
- Take a picture of where the VPU will be located in relation to the camera
- Provide approximate height at which the Pixellot unit will be installed and the type of structure it will be mounted on (block wall, column, metal beam, etc.)
- There must be access to hardline **Internet** and **power** at the location of the VPU

GHSA - September / October Calendar - 2018

September

- 3 Labor Day, GHSA Office closed
- 4 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 18 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting

October

- 1 Deadline to notify entry in One Act Play & to change CoEd Status in Cheerleading
- 1 State Executive Committee meeting
- 6 Complete Region Fastpitch Softball
- 8 Report Region Fastpitch Softball winners by 9 a.m.
- 9 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 10-12 First Round State Fastpitch Softball
- 13 Determine Area Volleyball winners
- 15 Report Area Volleyball winners by 9 a.m.; Earliest date for swimming practice
- 15 Deadline for payment of GHSA membership dues
- 17-19 Second Round State Fastpitch Softball Tournament
- 19 Deadline for posting rosters in Cross Country
- 20 First Round State Volleyball Tournament
- 22 Earliest date for Wrestling and Basketball practice
- 23 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 23, 24 Second Round State Volleyball Tournament

GHSA Sponsors

