



Items of Interest - Vol. 43 No. 8

Words from Dr. Tim Scott, GHSA Executive Director

GHSA Reclassification Committee: Progress Update

We appreciate your ongoing commitment to Georgia high school athletics and the vital role you play in ensuring a fair and competitive environment for our student-athletes. As we continue to evaluate and refine our classification structure, we want to update you on the work being done by the GHSA Reclassification Committee.



Committee's Mission & Objectives - The Reclassification Committee is dedicated to ensuring that schools are placed in appropriate classifications based on enrollment, competitive balance, and geographical considerations. Our primary goal is to create a system that fosters fairness, reduces travel strain, and promotes competitive equity across all sports and regions.

Key Areas of Focus

- **Enrollment Data Review** – The committee is analyzing the latest enrollment figures to determine the best approach for realignment.
- **Competitive Balance** – We are assessing past performance data to ensure schools are classified appropriately based on their ability to compete fairly.
- **Geographic Impact** – Reducing excessive travel remains a priority, and we are working to minimize long-distance matchups while maintaining strong competition.
- **Public & Private School Considerations** – Ongoing discussions are being held to address concerns regarding fair competition between public and private schools.

Next Steps in the Process - The committee is meeting regularly to review proposals and gather input from member schools. We encourage all schools to stay engaged and provide feedback as we move closer to finalizing reclassification adjustments for the upcoming cycle.

A formal proposal will be presented to the GHSA Executive Committee in the coming months, followed by opportunities for discussion and potential revisions before final approval. We will continue to provide updates throughout this process to ensure transparency and collaboration with all stakeholders.

Thank you for your dedication to Georgia high school athletics. Your input and participation are crucial as we work to improve the classification system for the benefit of all student-athletes.

Staff & Responsibilities

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LINDA CROWDER - Administrative Assistant - (ext. 21) Organizing Championship Medals, Assist with Cheerleading, Student Leadership, Literary, School System Passes, Finance Reports linda@ghsa.net

Merrie Sherman Joins GHSA as newest Associate Director

After 20 years serving as the Columbus GA Sports Council executive director, Merrie Sherman will accept a new position with the Georgia High School Association.

Sherman led the Sports Council throughout the Chattahoochee Valley, from local high school competitions to international contests like the 2019 International Cup.

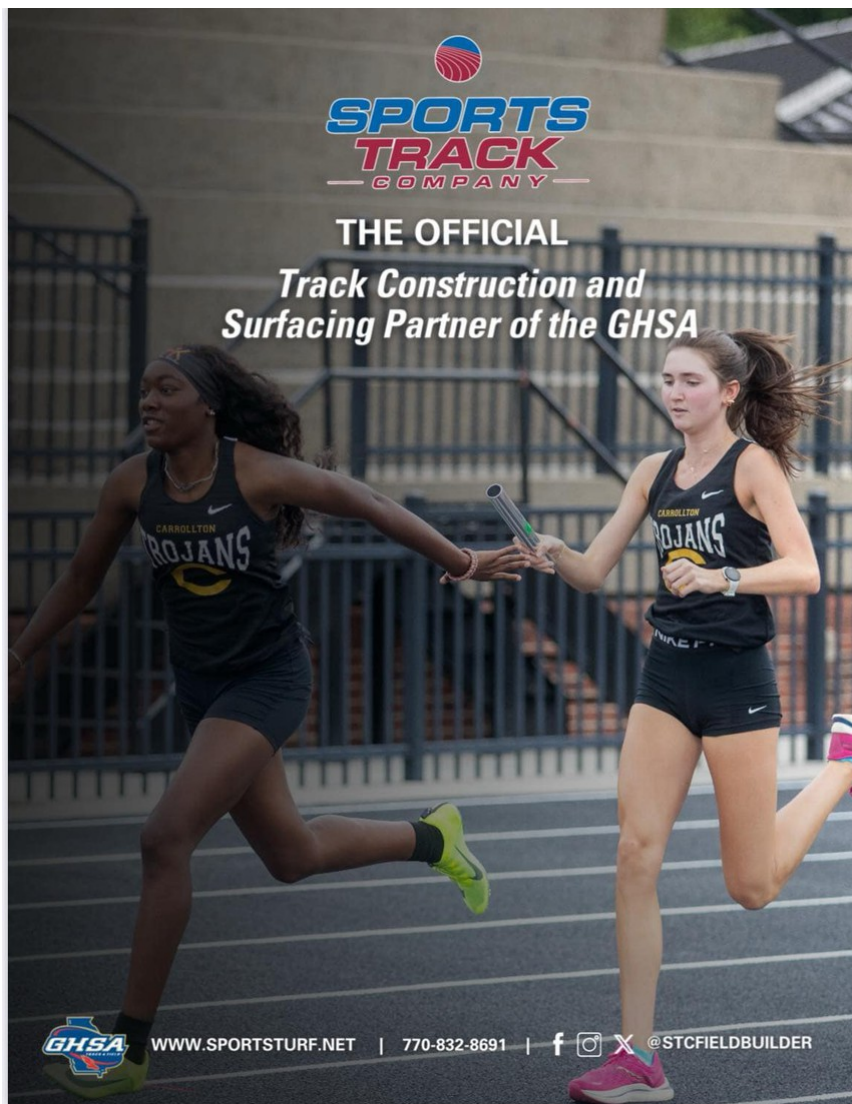
During Sherman's tenure, the Sports Council was instrumental in securing numerous national awards, including:

- 2020 Sports Commission of the Year by the Sports Events and Tourism Association
- 2019 Complex of the Year for South Commons by USA Softball
- 2006 Outstanding Locally Created Event Program by the National Association of Sports Commissions
- 2006 Outstanding Communication Advertising by the National Association of Sports Commissions

The sporting events, facilities and teams that Sherman and her staff have helped attract and maintain, along with the economic impact of visitor dollars spent in Columbus hotels, restaurants and stores, have significantly improved the quality of life for residents in Columbus and the surrounding area over the years.

Sherman will begin working with the GHSA, on July 1st. She will oversee boys and girls' soccer, and softball as an associate director.





GHSA Licensees

This month's featured licensees are: **Jostens**, official championship rings and jewelry (jostens.com), **CheerSounds**, official music provider of cheerleading with premade mixes, make your own mix, and fully custom music. (cheersounds.com); **Musco Sports Lighting**, leader in developing sports-lighting technology solutions (musco.com); **NFHS Network**, School Broadcast Program produces, distributes and monetize your school's own video streaming Web powered by PlayOn Sports. (nfhsnetwork.com/associations/ghsa); **For A Better World & Positive Athlete GA**, student character recognition partner (abw.org & georgia.positiveathlete.org); and **TeamIP**, official merchandiser and online store (teamip.com). **RefReps**, exclusive standardized officiating education partner (refreps.com) View a complete list of GHSA licensees at www.ghsa.net/licensing.

Congratulations to the 2025 GHSA Riflery State Champions

Congratulations to East Coweta, winning the GHSA Riflery State Championship on March 15th at the Ware County Shooting Complex. The purple and gold fired 2,323 team total in the three-position air rifle format followed by Camden County (2,320) and Lumpkin County (2,293).

The individual winner was back-to-back state champ Katlyn Sullivan, Statesboro (467.5) followed by Hancock Aubrey, East Coweta (458.9), and Brynn Foster, Lumpkin County (448.7).



Thanks to Ware County Shooting Complex, Lisa Kelley (meet director), range officials, TeamIP, volunteers, teams, and competitors on a successful championship.

[View Past State Champions.](#)

Merchandise

State championship merchandise available online by [Team IP](#).



Team Winners

1. East Coweta
2. Camden County
3. Lumpkin County



Individual Winners

1. Katyln Sullivan, Statesboro
2. Aubrey Hancock, East Coweta
3. Brynn Foster, Lumpkin County



Managing a sports team is no small task—especially when it comes to fundraising. Whether you're gearing up for new uniforms, travel costs, or an end-of-season banquet, collecting money from players and parents shouldn't be a headache. That's where **Cheddar Up, the Official Payment Partner of GHSA**, comes in.

As a GHSA member, you get a [FREE Cheddar Up Team Plan](#), making it easy to collect payments, run fundraisers, and track every dollar—without the hassle of cash, checks, or spreadsheets.

How GHSA Teams Can Win with Cheddar Up

- **Set Up a Fundraiser in Minutes** – Sell team gear, collect donations, or host an event.
- **Make Payments Easy for Parents** – Accept credit cards, ACH, and cash, all in one secure place.
- **Stay Organized and Stress-Free** – Automate tracking, send reminders, and access real-time reports.
- **Boost Fundraising with QR Codes & Links** – Share a simple link via email, social media, or flyers for seamless contributions.

A Winning Playbook: How the Avon Eagles Boosters Scored Big

For the [Avon Eagles Booster Club](#), supporting over 20 teams across three seasons meant juggling endless payments, order forms, and fundraising events. That all changed when they switched to Cheddar Up.

"Cheddar Up has been a total game-changer. It's so easy to use, helps us stay organized, and makes collecting payments a breeze."

— **Stephanie Kiesel, President, Avon Eagles Booster Club**

Make This Spring Season a Success

Spring sports are in full swing, and now is the perfect time to take advantage of your **FREE Cheddar Up Team Plan**. Whether you need to collect payments or fundraise for your team, Cheddar Up has you covered.

[Get Your Free GHSA Team Plan](#)

[Explore More Fundraising Resources](#)

With Cheddar Up, fundraising is easier, faster, and more effective—so you can focus on the game, not the paperwork.

Congratulations 2024-25 GHSA Basketball State Champions

The 2025 GHSA / Dr. Ralph Swearngin Basketball State Championships, presented by Breda Pest Management, were held March 5-8 at the Macon Centreplex. Congratulations to all state champions: Girls – Holy Innocents' (Private), Fannin Co. (1A Div 1), Wilcox Co. (1A Div. 2), Hardaway (2A), Cherokee Bluff (3A), Creekside (4A), River Ridge (5A) and Newton (6A); Boys – Holy Innocents' (Private), B.E.S.T. Academy (1A Div. 1), Savannah (1A Div. 2), Butler (2A), Sandy Creek (3A), North Oconee (4A), Tri-Cities (5A) and Wheeler (6A); AAASP Wheelchair - Houston County. View complete past [Boys](#) and [Girls](#) basketball state champions.

The BSN Sports Girls 3-Point Contest was won by Reagan Mulligan of River Ridge. Coed 3-point winners were Alex Whitecliff and Chase Turner of Cherokee. Slam Dunk winner was Sam Mobbs of Trion.

Much appreciation goes to the following groups, whose dedication and support made the four-day Championship Week a success: Thank you Macon Centreplex, game officials, GHSA staff, statewide media, PA Announcers, Breda Pest Management (Presenting Sponsor), Georgia Public Broadcasting (TV), GoFan (Ticketing), West Georgia Sports Information Services (Statistics), BSN Sports (3-point/Slam Dunk Contests), Ty Freeman (Photography), TeamIP (Merchandise), ScoreAtlanta (Fan Guide), Wilson (Official Basketball) and all corporate partners. Appreciation for the enthusiastic support from schools' communities.

For fans that purchased a ticket for Southwest vs. B.E.S.T. Academy and need a refund, please email: service@gofan.co. Please mention the game purchased and the order ID (Can be found in confirmation email). If you do not have an order ID, please provide the last 4 of card used for purchase, and total amount of the charge.

March 5

Private Girls – Holy Innocents' 57 Hebron Christian 39
Private Boys – Holy Innocents' 84 North Cobb Christian 45
3A Girls – Cherokee Bluff 66 Baldwin 58
3A Boys – Sandy Creek 39 Cedar Grove 38

March 6

2A Girls – Hardaway 47, Murray Co. 34
2A Boys – Butler 57 Union Co. 49
4A Girls – Creekside 57 Jackson, Atlanta 37
4A Boys - North Oconee 60 Pace Academy 51

March 7

A-D2 Girls – Wilcox Co.72 Washington-Wilkes 48
A-D2 Boys – Savannah 58 McIntosh Co. Academy 52
5A Girls – River Ridge 52 Langston Hughes 47
5A Boys – Tri-Cities 66 Woodward Academy 55

March 8

A-D1 Girls – Fannin Co. 51 Banks Co. 42
A-D1 Boys – B.E.S.T. Academy 62 Southwest 56
AAASP – Houston Sharks 37 Clayton Eagles 34
6A Girls – Grayson 56 Newton 59
6A Boys – Wheeler 61 Newton 56



Private Girls - Holy Innocents'



Private Boys - Holy Innocents'



Class A-D2 Girls Wilcox



Class A-D2 Girls Savannah



Class A-D1 Fannin County



Class A-D1 B.E.S.T. Academy



Class 2A Girls - Hardaway



Class 2A Boys - Butler



Class 3A Girls - Cherokee Bluff



Class 3A Boys - Sandy Creek



Class 4A Girls - Creekside



Class 4A Boys - North Oconee



Class 5A Girls - River Ridge



Class 5A Boys - Tri-Cities



Class 6A Girls - Newton County



Class 6A Boys - Wheeler



Co-Ed 3-Point Contest Winners

- (1st) Alex Whitecliffe & Chase Turner, Cherokee HS
- (2nd) Ca'Miya Hancock & Innocent Piercy, Griffin HS
- (3rd) Ayana Thomas & Holden Hiers, Lowndes HS

Girls 3-Point Contest Winners

- (1st) Reagan Mulligan, River Ridge HS
- (2nd) Saniya Sharper, Archer HS
- (3rd) Taylor Bland, Toombs County

Co-Ed 3-Point Contest Winners

- (1st) Alex Whitecliffe & Chase Turner, Cherokee HS
- (2nd) Ca'Miya Hancock & Innocent Piercy, Griffin HS
- (3rd) Ayana Thomas & Holden Hiers, Lowndes HS



National Donate Life Month honors the selfless organ, eye, and tissue donors and their families, celebrates transplant recipients whose stories continue because of the life-saving gift they received, and provides hope for patients waiting for their second chance at life. Every April, organizations across the United States recognize this important month, and the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) has partnered with LifeLink of Georgia—the organ and tissue procurement organization serving the state—to share the powerful message of organ, eye, and tissue donation. To highlight the lasting impact of donation, GHSA is changing its logo to symbolize how becoming a registered donor allows your story to continue through organ, eye and tissue donation.

Organ, eye, and tissue donation has been a featured cause at GHSA sporting championships during the 2024-2025 school year and will continue in the upcoming year. Right now, more than 104,000 people—enough to fill Truist Park two and a half times—are waiting for a life-saving organ transplant. Tens of thousands more are hoping to receive the gift of a tissue transplant.

You have the power to not only help someone else's story continue, but through becoming a registered organ, eye and tissue donor, your story will continue too. Register as an organ, eye, and tissue donor today by visiting MyStoryContinues.com, when obtaining your driver's license or state ID, or when purchasing a recreational license through the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Many of our schools and communities have been touched by those who have given or received the gift of life, and we stand together with them in their journeys. Please consider making a difference in the critical need for organ, eye and tissue donors by sharing this message in your school and community. Remember, your story can live on through others. To learn more about National Donate Life Month, visit <https://lifelinkfoundation.org/ndlm>

FOR MORE INFO: <https://www.ghsa.net/national-donate-life-month>

2024-2025 AAASPBasketball State Champions - Houston County Sharks



JUNE 25-26, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM | "EAGLES NEST" CLAYTON CTY CENTRAL OFFICE SOUTH

SUMMER CAMP JUNE 25-26, 2025



REGISTER TODAY!

American Association of AdaptED Sports
2025 Wheelchair Basketball Summer Camp
Wednesday June 25 – Thursday, June 26, 2025

CAMP INSTRUCTOR



4x Gold Paralympic Coach
Robb Taylor
Auburn University

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL ATHLETE CAMP
Check-in 8:30am
Camp 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Fee \$75
Ages 9-19
Lunch, camp apparel, and instruction included in student athlete fee.



LEARN MORE AT ADAPTEDSPORTS.ORG | @ADAPTEDSPORTS



Scholarship Opportunity in Metro Atlanta Area for Football Players

The Calvin Johnson Jr. Foundation (CJJRF) is offering **SCHOLARSHIPS** to graduating football student-athletes in **Metro-Atlanta and surrounding areas**. Recipients are selected on the basis of scholastic achievement, leadership on and off the field, academic goals, recommendations and financial need.

The criteria for this scholarship are:

- Attend high school as a 2025 graduating senior in Metro-Atlanta or surrounding areas
- Attending a college/university in Fall 2025 with no more than a partial college football scholarship
- At least a 2.5 grade point average

Scholarship Applications can be found at:

<https://form.jotform.com/250584161556156>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at scholarships@calvinjohnsonjrfoundation.org.

www.calvinjohnsonjrfoundation.com



High School Students: Apply for a Southern Tennis Foundation College Scholarship



Apply for College Scholarships!

The Southern Tennis Foundation will award ten (10) scholarships for the 2025-2026 academic year to support qualified students with their college expenses.

Deadline: April 18, 2025

CLICK HERE FOR APPLICATION:

<https://forms.monday.com/forms/fbba274e3d54e1cb6404d2d85ddc8e53?r=use1>

Application Now Open!

Southern Tennis Foundation Scholarship

Apply by **April 18, 2025**

Minimum Criteria for Selection

- High School Senior
- Current resident of a Southern state for at least one full school year
- Annual Household income of \$125k
- Ranked in the top 500 in USTA Southern in the past two years, OR
- Played on a high school team for two years, OR
- Played Junior Team Tennis, OR
- In an NJTL program for two years

[Click here to apply!](#)



Congratulations to the 2025 Literary State Champions

The 2025 Literary State Championships were held on March 15 at Buford and Warner Robins and March 22 at Bremen and Georgia Military College. Congratulations to the team winners: Buford (6A), Houston County (5A), North Oconee (4A), Calhoun (3A), Columbus (2A), Bremen (A-Div I), and Georgia Military College (A-Div II).

Thanks to host schools, judges, fans, teams, coaches, actors, speakers and singers for these successful state events.

[See past state Literary winners here](#)

[Click here for all the 2025 Results](#)



GMC Prep (A-Div II)



Bremen (A-Div I)



Columbus (2A)



Calhoun (3A)



North Oconee (4A)



Houston County (5A)



Buford (6A)

Webinar Recording: *GHSA-PlayOn Webinar*



Watch our webinar recorded on March 26th to learn about the powerful benefits of the PlayOn suite of products, focusing on the NFHS Network, PlayOn Sites, and VidSwap.

In this webinar we covered:

- **New Features:** Learn about new product features coming to the NFHS Network and GoFan.
- **VidSwap & The NFHS Network:** See the VidSwap platform in action and learn about our new offer for coaching analytics.
- **PlayOn Sites:** Explore how Sites can help you connect with your audience and generate revenue for your school.

GHSA - PLAY ON WEBINAR RECORDING (Wednesday March 26, 2025)

Click Here: <https://playonsports.com/ghsa-playon-webinar-recording>

Drive Revenue With Fundraising

Connect with your community and raise funds effortlessly for your cause.

Tell your story, grow your support, and track your success with easy online donations.



Launch an engaging fundraising page with a user-friendly experience in minutes.



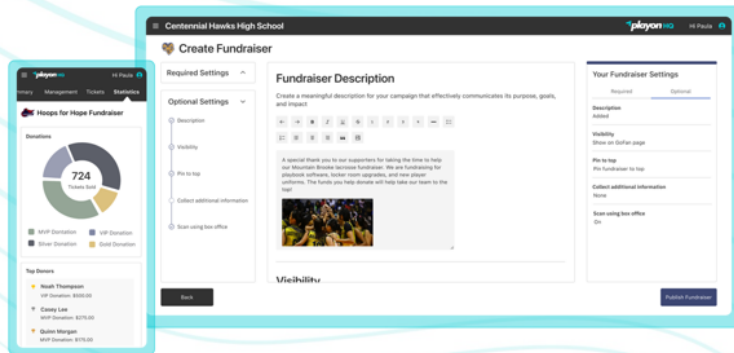
Set up event-based or ongoing fundraisers based on your needs.



Make it easy for potential donors to contribute to your causes.



Streamline donations and receive prompt weekly settlements.



Choice Hotels will offer GHSA members discounts

The Georgia High School Association partners with Choice Hotels, the preferred hotel partner of the GHSA. Choice Hotels will offer GHSA members a discount using the code (00213510) at participating Choice Brand Hotels in the US, on a rooms available basis.

Choice Hotels franchises hotels under the ASCEND®, CAMBRIA®, COMFORT INN®, COMFORT SUITES®, CLARION®, CLARION POINT®, ECONO LODGE®, QUALITY®, RODEWAY INN®, SLEEP INN®, MAINSTAY SUITES® and WOODSPRING SUITES®, brands.

GHSA Promo Code: 00213510

Online booking is available at www.choicesportstravel.com.



Wishing you happy & safe travels.

Dates to Remember

- (1) Deadline for notification of entry for Volleyball
- (4) Bass Fishing Qualifier #4 West Point
- (12) Complete Area Slow Softball & Report Winners to GHSA
- (12) eSports 2025 regular season ends
- (13-14) State Executive Committee in Macon
- (14) eSports Spring playoffs begin
- (16-17) Slow pitch softball State Championship
- (18) GHSA Office Closed
- (18) Complete region tennis and report winners to GHSA
- (19) Complete region baseball/soccer and report winners to GHSA
- (22) State First Round Soccer Girls A, 3A, 5A
- (23) State First Round Soccer Boys A, 3A, 5A
- (23-26) State First Round Baseball



- (23-25) Dr. Lucia Norwood Gymnastics preliminaries and State Championship
- (24) State First Round Soccer Girls 2A, 4A, 6A
- (24) State tennis tournament, complete first round
- (25) State First Round Soccer Boys 2A, 4A, 6A
- (26) Complete Area Lacrosse and Area Track, report winners to GHSA/Milesplit
- (26) eSports State Championship
- (28) Complete Region/Area Golf 4A, 6A and report winners to GHSA
- (28-29) State Lacrosse Tournament - First Round
- (29- April 2) State Baseball Tournament - Second Round
- (29) State Soccer Tournament - Second Round Girls A, 3A, 5A
- (29) State Tennis Tournament - Second Round completed
- (30) State Soccer Tournament - Second Round Boys A, 3A, 5A



Marvin James

April 2025 "Somebody Said It Couldn't Be Done!"

