



"ITEMS OF INTEREST" for October 2024 Vol. 43 No. 2



It is hard to believe we are moving to the beginning of October! Two months of the school year are complete. Seems like yesterday that we began with many firsts such as kicking off for the first time, throwing the first pitch in a game, making the first serve, running the first race, scoring the first touchdown, and hitting the first home run. We are closing in on the playoffs in fast-pitch softball and volleyball, beginning October 16th. Cross-country finals will be here before you know it and One-Act play competition is almost ready for showtime! The Fall is an exciting time and the sports and activities offered by our member schools greatly contribute to a successful school year. I want to thank our school communities for the great work that you do for our young people. As I travel around the state, I am always impressed by the

atmosphere for contests you create and the great experiences you provide your students.

At the GHSA office, your staff is hard at work managing activities, planning quality championships, and serving our member schools. There are a few things currently at the forefront that I would like to share with you.

Football Championships at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium: We are very excited to host Girls Flag Football and Tackle Football in Mercedes-Benz Stadium. Football Championships at MBS December 16 – 18, 2024. The stadium is awesome and I believe it is the best venue in the United States and anywhere. The teams that make it to the finals are sure to have an experience they will never forget. Everyone who attends will be impressed with the stadium and the experience it will provide. I encourage you to make your plans to be there. Our schedule is as follows

Monday, Dec. 16

GFFB Div. 1 @ 12:00 PM

GFFB Div. 2 @ 2:00 PM

TFB A-2 @ 4:00 PM

TFB 4A @ 7:00 PM

Tuesday, Dec. 17

GFFB Div. 3 @ 11:00 AM

TFB A-1 @ 1:00 PM

TFB 2A @ 4:00 PM

TFB 5A @ 7:00 PM

Wednesday, Dec. 18

GFFB Div. 4 @ 11:00 AM

TFB Private 1-3 @ 1:00 PM

TFB 3A @ 4:00 PM

TFB 6A @ 7:00 PM

Fastpitch Softball Championships: We are excited to host the Fastpitch softball championships at South Commons Softball Complex, in Columbus, Georgia, from October 30-November 2 2024.

Cross Country Championships: We are excited to host our State Cross Country Championships at Carrollton High School on November 8 beginning at 9 AM & November 9 beginning at 8 AM.

Carrollton High School has hosted GHSA State Cross Country for more than 30 years. This event has many volunteers who work so hard to offer the best possible championship experience for the 3200 athletes who compete on their well-maintained course at the State Meet.

Volleyball Championships: We are excited to host the State Volleyball Championships on November 2 & 4 at Lakepoint in Emmerson, Georgia.

One Act Play Championships: We are excited to host the One Act Play Championships at the following locations: November 16 at Cambridge HS, Carrollton HS, Denmark HS and Tift County HS. November 23 at Alexander HS, Monroe County Performing Arts Center and Houston County HS

Cheer Championships: We are excited to host the Cheer State Championships at the Macon Coliseum. Our schedule is as follows:

Saturday

Nov. 9, 2024

TBA

Region/sectionals

Friday

Nov. 15, 2024

10:00 AM

2A & 4A

Friday

Nov. 15, 2024

3:00 PM

Private and A

Saturday

Nov. 16, 2024

10:00 AM

3A & 5A

Saturday

Nov. 16, 2024

3:00 PM

6A & Coed

For more information, head over to our website at <https://www.ghsa.net/> click on **Sports & Activities**, then select any of the activities listed to get more information. Tickets for all state events are ONLY on GoFan. Finally, the GHSA is YOUR organization and our staff is in place to serve our member schools. If there is ever anything we can do for you, don't hesitate to give us a call or send an email.

Tim Scott

Executive Director

GHSA GIVES BACK TO MEMBER SCHOOLS



For the fifth consecutive year, we will be waiving dues and catastrophic insurance for our member schools. Because YOUR association is in such strong financial standing, we have distributed checks to 455 schools totaling \$670,880. We are delighted to provide this member share to your athletic departments. We remain committed to maintaining this positive

trend in the future. Thank you for all that you do for our student-athletes!

GHSA STAFF & RESPONSIBILITIES

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Hurricane Helene Impacts GHSA Fall Schedules

The impact of Hurricane Helene closed out September with hundreds of game changes (football, softball, volleyball, cross country, and cheerleading competitions) including postponements and cancellations from our GHSA member schools. Executive Director, Tim Scott, spoke with WSB-TV out of Atlanta about the changes made the week of September 23rd.

On October 1st, due to the severe damage in several areas of the State, the GHSA decided to change the original football playoff schedule by adding a week to the regular season. Our thoughts

and prayers are with families in impacted areas across the Peach State.

To view the official release on GHSA football rescheduling, click here: <https://www.ghsa.net/ghsa-adjusts-football-season-after-hurricane-helene-damage>

Fastpitch Softball elected to push back the last day of the regular season from October 10th to the 12th. That move will adjust the first and second rounds of the state playoffs to new dates of October 16-19 and October 22-25 respectively. For more info, contact don.corr@ghsa.net

Volleyball, Cheerleading, and Cross Country schedules won't be affected.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please email:

darrell@ghsa.net (Volleyball)

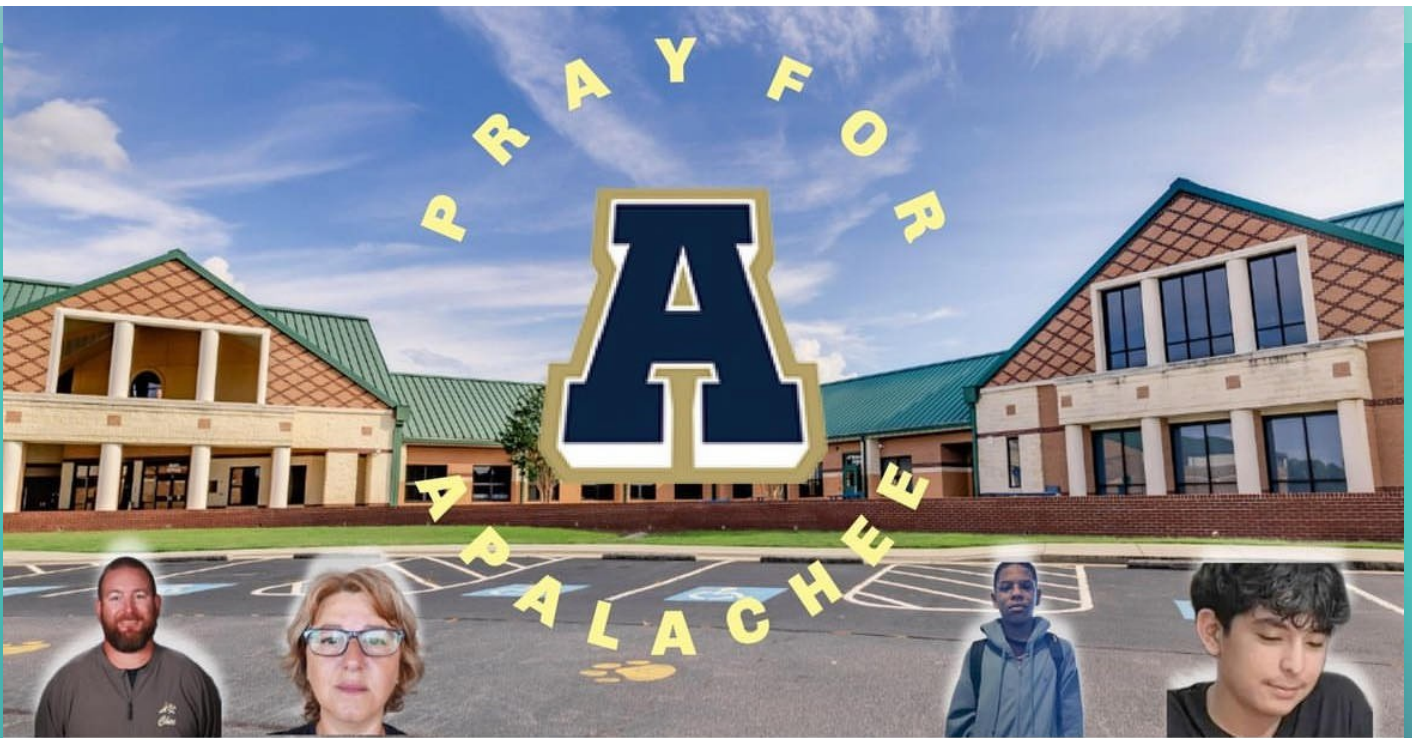
penny@ghsa.net (Cheerleading)

tanyaanderson@ghsa.net (Cross Country)

How Hurricane Helene Affected GHSA Athletic Schedules



Thoughts and Prayers are with the "Apalachee Wildcats" community



Richard Aspinwall. Cristina Irimie. Mason Schermerhorn. Christian Angulo.

The GHSA and fellow membership schools continue to extend our thoughts and prayers toward the Barrow County School System and the broader Barrow Community after a tragic school shooting in early September. Students, Mason Schermerhorn and Christian Angulo along with teachers Christina Irimie and football coach, Richard Aspinwall, passed during the shooting. Several other students and staff were also injured during the tragic event on September 4th. Please continue to support and encourage this community during this time. We also wish the Wildcats the best of luck as they reacclimate themselves back to their sports activities.

Mental Health is Health

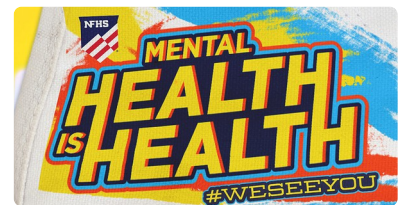
Mental health is health. PERIOD.

If we care about our bodies, we should care about our minds too.

Both deserve care.
Both deserve attention.
Both deserve treatment.

NO stigma. NO shame.

#WeSeeYou



Upson-Lee Senior Runner Focuses on Mental Health

Upson-Lee senior, Lexi Greene is excited to finish her final season running Cross Country for the Knights in Thomaston. Greene is one of the top girl runners in the Central Georgia area. Her best season was a top-20 finish as a sophomore while winning the region crown and earning a school record for the second-fastest 2-mile time. Coming off injuries during her junior campaign, Lexi is excited to run this season at her own pace and encourages others to do the same!



<https://youtu.be/irV4mbzCR2Y>



GHSA Schools earn New Running Gear

Brooks Running recently announced their 32 national Cross Country Team Grant recipients. These schools received shoes and apparel for up to 50 runners and \$1,000 to help with expenses. We are excited to share Georgia had 6 recipients.

Upson- Lee High School

Elite Scholars Academy

McDonough High School

Booker T. Washington Highschool

Jenkins County High School

Windsor Forest High School

Brooks will be conducting another grant opportunity this coming spring to award track and field programs. We highly encourage you to forward the information to your member school athletic directors and track and field constituents once this information becomes available.



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Wilson

OFFICIAL BALLS



FOOTBALL
GST 1003
WTF1003B

BASKETBALL
NCAA EVO NXT
WZ1003301XB7
WZ1003301XB6

GOLF
DUO
WGW P35400

TENNIS
US OPEN EXTRA DUTY
WRT106200

BASEBALL
A1010 HST
WTA1010BHS1SST

SOFTBALL
A9011
WTA9011BSST

APPROVED ALTERNATIVES



NEW

FOOTBALL
OMEGA
WFI005301

BASKETBALL
EVOLUTION
WTB0900

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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Fall Sports Officials Appreciation Week

GHSA Fall Sports Officials Appreciation Week will take place **September 30 - October 5, 2024** and we would like to encourage all state associations to participate. It is a great community project for school student councils, spirit groups or other groups that serve as ambassadors to your school and community. Here are some ideas that have worked throughout the country:



- Officials' appreciation week banners and signage on the fence, wall, etc., surrounding the contest playing area.
- Gift cards/cookies/donuts/other items presented to the crew by both the home and visiting team.
- Photos of the officiating crew with both teams and coaches prior to the start of the game (or at the end, depending on timing).
- Read a PSA at the start of the game, thanking the crew for working the contest.
- Student escort of the crew onto the field/court/pitch.
- "Thank you" cards, signed by the team and coaching staff.
- Special appreciation signage in the officials' locker room.
- Recorded "thank you" messages from student-athletes and coaches to officials, posted on social media.
- These are just some examples of what schools can do – the possibilities are endless!
- Send photos of your school's participation to; ery@ghsa.net

GHSA wants to be a part of your "CAREER DAY"!

Attention all GHSA member schools! We want to be a part of your "Career Day" event. Please invite us so we can promote sports officiating as an option for students once they graduate. We'll also show you the benefits while offering scholarship opportunities for training. Contact ery@ghsa.net



OCTOBER IS
HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES MONTH

National Coaches, Advisors and Sponsors Week
September 29 - October 5

National Officials, Performing Arts Activities and State High School Associations Week
October 6 - 12

National Sportsmanship, Fan Appreciation, and Public Address Announcers Week
October 13 - 19

National Community Service and Youth Awareness Week
October 20 - 26

 **PLAY. PERFORM. COMPETE. TOGETHER.**

Former NFL Player Returns to GHSA to Coach



The Northside - Warner Robins football game is one of the biggest rivalries in the state, originating in 1964. On the north side of Warner Robins, there's a familiar face on the sidelines that was once a dominant force in uniform. Fifteen years ago Abry Jones was an Under Armor All-American helping push the Eagles dynasty to higher heights. After graduation, Jones went to Georgia and had an amazing playing career between the hedges, which earned him a chance to play in the NFL for nearly ten seasons. Now retired at 32, the 6-foot-4 former NFL lineman is back coaching at his alma

mater. "It's the closest thing you can get to the Super Bowl in high school", says Jones. "I mean the whole town is behind it, everyone is talking about it. You walk around the city and people ask you

what are you going to do on Friday night? It's the first time you become a mini-celebrity in the city so I loved it." Jones is helping coach the defensive line as a community coach, under second-year head coach Ben Bailey.

Warner Robins won the contest, 34-12 to extend their streak to 8 wins in a row. Jones, however was undefeated in the series as a player, going 4-0 from 2005-2008.

NFL Veteran returns to coach at GHSA Alma Mater



Volleyball State Playoffs Begin Oct. 15-16

The 2024 GHSA State Volleyball playoffs begin Oct. 17-18, culminating with the State Championships, presented by Mizuno, on Friday and Monday, November 2 & 4 at the Champions Center in Lakepoint Sports Complex in Cartersville. All matches will be video-streamed live on the NFHS Network. Tickets are available **ONLY** at [GoFan](#). No tickets will be sold at the gate. Molten is the official volleyball of the GHSA. Tickets are \$15 per day (\$20 for a two-day pass) and will be available **ONLY** at GoFan. Molten is the official volleyball of the GHSA.



NFHS Network Extended Phone Support Hours

NFHS has been listening to feedback from schools nationwide and made exciting updates to its phone support program. As a reminder, NFHS Network member schools can call customer support phone numbers to speak with someone to resolve an issue. The goal is to serve schools as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Key Details

NFHS Network Phone Support Number: (404) 334-7988

NFHS Network Phone Support Hours:

- Monday & Wednesday: 10 AM to 8 PM ET
- Tuesday & Thursday: 10 AM to 12 AM ET
- Friday: 10 AM to 2 AM (next day) ET



NFHS Network Phone Support Purpose: The NFHS Network phone support number is for school staff with program or troubleshooting questions. Fans should continue to email us at customerservice@nfhsnetwork.com.

We will continue to explore adjusting the hours as we gather feedback and scale the inbound phone support program.

This season, make the pledge:

- To be a positive role model
- To not lose your cool
- To remember why you're here

High school sports demand better.

Always #BenchBadBehavior at our athletic events!

BenchBadBehavior.com



Important Information For GoFan This Playoff Season



- Please note that GoFan will upload ALL playoff games into GoFan HQ for the host school
- Please note that all games will be hidden initially to allow for edits to date, time, etc. by host schools
- Games can be made visible by the hosting school at any time

using GoFan HQ

- If host school does not make games live by Monday, the game will automatically be made live for sale

Support Avenues

- In case you have questions concerning help with GoFan, or need assistance logging into GoFan HQ-

Schools should use schoolsupport@gofan.co, or use the "GoFan School Support" link at the bottom of the page.

Emergency support line for schools only- 770-910-3695

Fans should reach out to service@gofan.co

The first link is to sign up and start the setup/onboarding process!

- NEED HELP? Use our knowledge base website - GoFan School Support Link

GHSA - October Calendar - 2024

- (1) Deadline for notification of entry in One Act Play
- (2) Earliest date for Flag Football game
- (3) Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- (6,7) State Executive Committee Meeting
- (9) First Practice date for Swimming & Diving
- (12) Complete Region Fastpitch Softball
- (13) Report Region Fastpitch Softball winners by 9 a.m.
- (14) Determine Region/Area Volleyball winners
- (16) Report Region/Area Volleyball winners by 9 a.m.
- (16-19) State Fastpitch Softball Tournament Super Regionals
- (17) Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- (17, 18) First Round State Volleyball Tournament
- (21) Second Round State Volleyball Tournament
- (23) Earliest date for Basketball, Dance & Wrestling practice
- (23) Earliest date for Riflery & Swimming contests
- (24-25) Quarterfinals State Volleyball Tournament
- (25-28) State Softball Tournament - all classes
- (28) Semifinals State Volleyball Tournament
- (28) Complete Region Cross Country and One Act Play
- (30) Report Cross Country and One Act Play winners by 9 a.m.

GHSA SPONSORS



Marvin James, GHSA Media Director

Contact

