



GHSAA

"ITEMS OF INTEREST"

March 2019

Spring Season Brings New Sports, and the Legislative Session

The Spring is a busy time for the GHSAA as we are winding up winter sports and are already well into spring sports. I want to take the time to thank our staff and the many volunteers throughout the state that work so hard to ensure that our student-athletes have great experiences in our playoffs and championship events. The GHSAA held the first ever Esports championship event and it was a big success. I am proud to report that Georgia led the nation in participation in this inaugural season. Special thanks goes out to Penny Pitts Mitchell for an outstanding job in putting together this program as well as coordinating the first Dance and Game Day Cheerleading championships, which were also extremely well received.

The Traditional Wrestling Championships were held in the Macon Coliseum recently and were a huge success by every measure. Attendance was great and the first Girls State Championships were held. This brought a lot of excitement to the arena and we expect it to grow in the coming seasons. Thanks to Don Corr for organizing the event and to Tommy Whittle and Kevin Giddens from the GHSAA office to ensure that everything ran smoothly. Bud Hennebaul and the Atlanta Takedown Association were outstanding once again and we appreciate our partnership with them. We couldn't provide such an outstanding event without their expertise.

The State Swimming and Diving Championships were held at Georgia Tech. We are fortunate to hold our events in one of the best facilities in the nation. Over 2,300 athletes participated and we thank Andy Cowart, sport liaison, and Atlanta Swimming meet directors Franke Marsden and Matt Murphy for conducting this event.

The legislature is in session and there are several bills that will affect the GHSAA should they become law. They are listed below with a brief description with the proposing legislator and I encourage you to go to <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/Search.aspx> to review the bills in their entirety.

SB 86 By Senator Jeff Mullis

Separates public and private schools in regions and playoffs for schools with 640 students or less.

SB 163 By Bruce Thompson

"The Tim Tebow Act," allows home school students to participate in extracurricular and interscholastic activities sponsored by his or her resident school.

SB 60 By P.K. Martin

"Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act," an act to provide guidelines and other relevant materials to inform student-athletes about the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest, provides for informational meetings, establishes return to play policies and requires annual reviews for coaches.

SB 165 By Bruce Thompson

The State Board of Education shall designate a nonprofit organization to govern athletics for public schools. Nonpublic schools may become members. Students will be eligible when enrolled each school year or when they begin to practice prior to enrolling. Where the student lives, with whom the student lives or which school the student attended the previous year shall not be a factor in determining eligibility.

The organization will operate as a representative democracy and will be governed by its by-laws other than what is provided in the bill. The state will be divided into four equal or nearly equal administrative regions.

The executive authority is the board of directors composed of 4 public school representatives, 4 nonpublic school representatives, 2 representatives appointed by the State Board of Education (one from the north, one from the south), 2 local superintendents, 2 local board of education members, and the State School Superintendent or his designee. The duties of this board of directors will be to establish guidelines, policies and regulations as authorized by the by-laws, provide a commissioner for the organization, levy dues, set up percentage of contest receipts to be collected, approve the budget, organize competitions and act as an administrative board in the interpretation of and final decision on all questions and appeals arising from the directing of interscholastic athletics of member schools.

The legislative authority shall be vested in a representative assembly composed of an equal number of member school representatives from each of the 4 administrative regions, 4 local school superintendents, one from each administrative region, 4 local board of education members, one from each administrative region, the State School Superintendent or his designee from the DOE executive staff. The authority of this assembly is limited to consider, adopt or reject amendments to the organization's by-laws.

The organization shall establish a public liaison committee whose duties are to provide for general public input into the decision-making process of the organization and to develop procedures regarding the receipt of public input and the disposition of complaints related to athletic and competition programs. It will conduct hearings in each of the 4 administrative regions annually and conduct an annual evaluation of the organization as a whole and present its findings, conclusion and recommendations to the board of directors, the State School Superintendent, the Senate Youth and Education Committee and the House Committee on Education.

The organization will establish a procedure of due process which ensures each student an opportunity to appeal an unfavorable eligibility ruling.

There is much more detail in this bill, and all others listed, and I encourage you to become familiar with all issues that may affect your association. Thanks for all you do and I wish you and your schools the best in the spring seasons. Feel free to call if I can help you in any way.

– 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 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 -

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 -

Football, Cross Country, & Soccer

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- 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,
Rifery 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 apparel and equipment; **Nfinity**, official cheerleading footwear and apparel (nfinity.com); **CheerSounds**, licensed provider of cheerleading & dance music (cheersounds.com); **Resilite**, official wrestling mat (resilite.com); and **Lasso**, official compression sock that helps prevent injuries (<https://www.lassogear.com>). View a complete list of GHSA licensees at www.ghsa.net/licensing.

STATE CHAMPIONS

WRESTLING - Traditional

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

7A	Camden County High School
6A	Valdosta High School
5A	Woodland-Bartow High School
4A	Woodward Academy
3A	Sonoraville High School
2A	Social Circle School
A	Commerce High School

SWIMMING and DIVING

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

Boys	
7A	Brookwood High School
6A	Johns Creek High School
4-5A	St. Pius
1-3A	Westminster
Girls	
7A	Brookwood High School
6A	Centennial High School
4-5A	Chamblee High School
1-3A	Westminster

DANCE

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

6-7A	Mill Creek High School
4-5A	McIntosh High School
1-3A	Washington High School

GAME DAY CHEERLEADING

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

6-7A	North Gwinnett High School
4-5A	Denmark High School
1-3A	Morgan County High School

Winning a State Championship is an outstanding achievement for the GHSA member schools, their athletes and coaches, and a distinction that should create a great deal of pride in the school community.

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."

State Basketball Semis & Finals Again Will Be Streamed Live

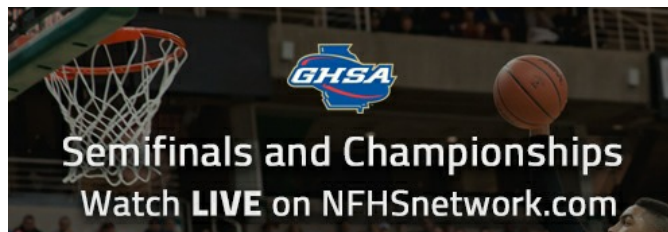
An exciting conclusion to the 2019 GHSA basketball season is expected as the GHSA / Dr. Ralph Swearngin State Basketball Tournament semifinals and finals take place this month with a total of 17 state titles at stake.

The four-day championship round, presented by Georgia Farm Bureau Insurance, will tip off on Wednesday, March 6 with a full day of Class A action. Class A will get started at 2:00 p.m., followed by school boys and girls later that evening. All championship games will be played at the refurbished Macon Centreplex this year.

Thursday's schedule also begins at 2:00 p.m., with the Class 2A and then 3A championships.

Friday's action begins at 11:00 a.m., with the 4A girls and boys finals. Later that evening, the two Class 5A titles will be decided. In between, the 22nd annual AAASP Wheelchair championship will be held.

The action concludes Saturday with the 6A and 7A championships beginning at 1:00 p.m.



2019 GHSA / Dr. Ralph Swearngin State Basketball Championship Facts

When: March 6-9 **Where:** Macon Centreplex
Tickets: \$15 per day at each site

Championship Schedule

Wednesday, March 6

2:00 pm - Girls Class A Private
 4:00 pm - Boys Class A Private
 6:00 pm - Girls Class A Public
 8:00 pm - Boys Class A Public

Thursday, March 7

2:00 pm - Girls Class 2A
 4:00 pm - Boys Class 2A
 6:00 pm - Girls Class 3A
 8:00 pm - Boys Class 3A

Friday, March 8

11:00 am - Girls Class 4A
 1:00 pm - Boys Class 4A
 3:00 pm - AAASP Wheelchair
 6:00 pm - Girls Class 5A
 8:00 pm - Boys Class 5A

Saturday, March 9

1:00 pm - Girls Class 6A
 3:00 pm - Boys Class 6A
 5:00 pm - Girls Class 7A
 7:00 pm - Boys Class 7A

All Semifinal games and Championship Finals are available Live at NFHSNetwork.com/GHSA. A 30-day subscription is \$9.95 for an all-access, unlimited viewing pass on any device. Pre-event tickets for all rounds through the semifinals (not the finals) can be purchased using GoFan.

Semifinal Sites – All Games March 2, 2019

(Admission is \$15 at every site)

Class	Site
A - Public	Valdosta State University
A - Private	University of North Georgia
2A	Georgia College & State University
3A	Ga. Southern Univ. @ Armstrong
4A	Ft. Valley State University
5A	Columbus State University
6A	University of West Georgia
7A	Buford City Arena



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Swimming & Diving State Champions - 2019



7A Boys: Brookwood



7A Girls: Brookwood



6A Boys: Johns Creek



6A Girls: Centennial



4A-5A Boys: St. Pius



4A-5A Girls: Chamblee



A-3A Boys: Westminster



A-3A Girls: Westminster

Dance State Champions - 2019

Congratulations to Mill Creek (6A/7A), McIntosh (4A/5A) and Washington (1A/3A) for winning the first-ever GHSA Dance State Invitational championships.

A total of 50 dance squads performed as coed or all-girls in genres of Jazz, High Kick, Hip Hop and Pom on February 16, 2019 at Mt. Zion High School in Jonesboro.



6A-7A: Mill Creek



4A-5A: McIntosh



A-3A: Washington

Game Day Cheer Champs - 2019

The first GHSA Game Day Invitational, a new competition in cheerleading in partnership with Varsity Brands, Inc, was held February 23 at Putnam County HS.

Congratulations to Morgan County (A-3A), Denmark (4A-5A), and North Gwinnett (6A-7A), along with all teams that were judged on cheer, band chant, and fight song.



6A-7A: North Gwinnett



4A-5A: Denmark



A-3A: Morgan County

'Gold Week' is April 8-13, 2019

Each school day in America, 46 kids are diagnosed with childhood cancer, the leading disease killer of children in America ages 1 to 19, yet less than 4% of federal cancer research funding is allocated to childhood cancers. The Georgia High School Association (GHSA) is partnering with the Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research (Rally) to be "GoldStrong" for childhood cancer awareness during spring sports the week of April 8-13.

GHSA first partnered with Rally to demonstrate their support for National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in September 2016. The organization encouraged Georgia high school students, athletes and parents to be "GoldStrong" during the week of Sept. 12, 2016. The initiative raised more than \$100,000 statewide for childhood cancer research.

"We are honored to partner with the Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research to encourage our schools to bring attention to this worthy cause," said Dr. Robin Hines, GHSA executive director. "The GHSA and its member schools are affected by this disease far too often, and we are excited to do our part to raise awareness and funds for researching childhood cancers. We encourage everyone to support childhood cancer research in April!"

Georgia high school students and parents can fundraise and be "GoldStrong" by wearing gold T-shirts, wristbands and ribbons, in compliance with school uniform and dress codes, throughout the entire month of April. Then, the week of April 8, Georgia high school athletes are encouraged to be "GoldStrong" at home games and meets by wearing gold apparel and accessories that comply with the following GHSA uniform restrictions:

- Soccer, baseball, tennis and lacrosse teams can wear gold jerseys, socks or wristbands at home games.

"We are thrilled to partner with the Georgia High School Association again this spring for teams to be 'GoldStrong' for childhood cancer awareness," said Dean Crowe, Rally founder and CEO. "We love seeing kids empowered to help kids, and that's exactly what these student athletes are doing when their teams are 'GoldStrong' – they are bringing awareness to their peers who are fighting, have fought or have lost their battle with cancer. This is crucial to our mission of raising awareness and funds for childhood cancer research to find better treatments and, ultimately, cures."

For more information on how to get involved with Rally, or to donate, visit RallyFoundation.org or @RallyFoundation on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Suggested "GoldStrong" social media hashtags include #GoldStrong and #RallyOn. Schools can also elect to participate in a Rally 4 Quarters 4 Research fundraiser, a loose change collection, if they desire. For more information, please email Jacob@RallyFoundation.org.

GHSA Reminders:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ITEMS: Anyone wishing to have an item included on the agenda for the spring State Executive Committee meeting must submit the item to the GHSA office by March 15, 2019. The spring State Executive Committee meeting will be held April 15, 2019 at the Marriott Macon City Center.

FOOTBALL SCHEDULES: Coaches and/or Athletic Directors are reminded that 2019 varsity Football Schedules are due in the GHSA office no later than March 1, 2019. If your school has hired a new coach for the 2019 season, please make sure he is made aware of this deadline.

OPEN MEET DEADLINE: Member schools are reminded of the April 1, 2019 deadline to notify the GHSA of entry in Open Meet State Events such as Golf, Swimming & Diving, Volleyball, Lacrosse, Class A Soccer, Wrestling, Riflery, Gymnastics, Esports, Dance and GameDay Cheerleading for the school year 2019-2020.

SPRING CHEERLEADING TRYOUTS: Cheerleading practice/tryouts are limited to a maximum of 10 consecutive days per school between February 1 and the last day students are in school. Once tryouts are complete, no further practices may be held until school is out.

DEAD WEEK: The mandatory "Dead Week" for this year is Sunday, June 30, 2019 through Saturday, July 6, 2019.

GHSA Seeks Host Sites

Each year, many schools contribute to the success of the GHSA programs by hosting a region/area or state event as a service to all member schools. The GHSA office soon will be determining sites for events for the 2019-20 year.

Sites are needed for the following events:

- Region Cheerleading
- Area Wrestling (Traditional and/or Team Duals)
- Sectional Wrestling (Traditional)
- Sectional Track
- Sectional Golf and State Golf

If your school would like to host one of the above events, please notify the GHSA office.

Stay Connected to the GHSA!

All coaches, athletic directors, schools and teams, join the conversation on social media @OfficialGHSA on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Instagram for all the latest association news and live championship updates.



Schedules for 2019 State Literary Meets

The state literary meets for all classifications will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2019. Classes 5A and 7A will be held at Buford High School, classes 3A and 6A at Houston County High School, classes 2A and 4A at Veterans High School, and Class A public and private will be at Georgia Military College. Admission is free to all events.

Classes 5A and 7A - Buford High School

Essay:		
5A & 7A	9:00 am	Room 6302 (Argumentative)
5A & 7A	9:00 am	Room 6308 (Personal)
5A & 7A	9:00 am	Room 6310 (Rhetorical)
Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking:		
5A & 7A	9:00 am	Room 6207 (Draw & Prep)
5A	9:45 am	Room 6204 (Speaking)
7A	9:45 am	Room 6206 (Speaking)
International Extemporaneous Speaking:		
5A & 7A	12:00 pm	Room 6207 (Draw & Prep)
5A	12:45 pm	Room 6204 (Speaking)
7A	12:45 pm	Room 6206 (Speaking)
Dramatic Oral Interpretation:		
5A	9:00 am	Room 301 (Dance)
7A	9:00 am	Media Center
Humorous Oral Interpretation:		
5A	11:00 am	Room 301 (Dance)
7A	11:00 am	Media Center
Duo Oral Interpretation:		
5A	1:30 pm	Room 301 (Dance)
7A	1:30 pm	Media Center
Girls Solo:		
5A	9:00 am	Team Room (505)
7A	9:00 am	Chorus Room (307)
Boys Solo:		
5A	10:15 am	Team Room (505)
7A	10:15 am	Chorus Room (307)
Girls Trio:		
5A	11:30 am	Team Room (505)
7A	11:30 am	Chorus Room (307)
Boys Quartet:		
5A	1:30 pm	Team Room (505)
7A	1:30 pm	Chorus Room (307)

Classes 3A and 6A - Houston County High School

Essay (all at 9:00 am):		
Argumentative	3A (room 301)	6A (room 201)
Personal	3A (room 302)	6A (room 202)
Rhetorical	3A (room 303)	6A (room 204)
Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking:		
3A	9:00 am	Room 310 (Draw & Prep)
3A	9:45 am	Room 319 (Speaking)
6A	9:00 am	Room 216 (Draw & Prep)
6A	9:45 am	Room 215 (Speaking)
International Extemporaneous Speaking:		
3A	12:00 pm	Room 310 (Draw & Prep)
3A	12:45 am	Room 319 (Speaking)
6A	12:00 am	Room 216 (Draw & Prep)
6A	12:45 am	Room 215 (Speaking)
Dramatic Oral Interpretation:		
3A	9:00 am	Room 702
6A	9:00 am	Room 812
Humorous Oral Interpretation:		
3A	11:00 am	Room 702
6A	11:00 am	Room 812
Duo Oral Interpretation:		
3A	1:30 pm	Room 702
6A	1:30 pm	Room 812
Girls Solo:		
3A	9:00 am	Band Room
6A	9:00 am	Theater
Boys Solo:		
3A	10:15 am	Band Room
6A	10:15 am	Theater
Girls Trio:		
3A	11:30 am	Band Room
6A	11:30 am	Theater
Boys Quartet:		
3A	1:30 pm	Band Room
6A	1:30 pm	Theater

Classes 2A and 4A - Veterans High School

Argumentative, Personal & Rehtorical Essay:		
2A & 4A	9:00 am	Media Center
Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking:		
2A	8:30 am	Room 1207 (Draw & Prep)
2A	9:30 am	Room 1201 (Speaking)
4A	10:00 am	Room 1207 (Draw & Prep)
4A	11:00 am	Room 1201 (Speaking)
International Extemporaneous Speaking:		
2A	8:30 am	Room 1207 (Draw & Prep)
2A	9:30 am	Room 1203 (Speaking)
4A	10:00 am	Room 1207 (Draw & Prep)
4A	11:00 am	Room 1203 (Speaking)
Dramatic Oral Interpretation:		
2A	8:30 am	Room 2405
4A	10:30 am	Room 2405
Humorous Oral Interpretation:		
2A	8:30 am	Room 2403
4A	10:30 am	Room 2403
Duo Oral Interpretation:		
2A	8:30 am	Room 2402
4A	10:30 am	Room 2402
Girls Solo:		
2A	9:00 am	Band Room (1601)
4A	9:15 am	Choral Room (1602)
Boys Solo:		
2A	10:15 am	Band Room (1601)
4A	10:30 am	Theater
Girls Trio:		
2A	11:15 am	Band Room (1601)
4A	11:30 am	Theater
Boys Quartet:		
2A	1:15 pm	Band Room (1601)
4A	1:30 pm	Theater

Class A Public and Private - Georgia Military College

Argumentative, Personal & Rehtorical Essay:		
Public & Private	9:00 am	Sibley Cone Library
Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking:		
Private	10:30 am	Rm: 132, Usery Hall (Draw & Prep)
Private	11:00 am	Rm: 109, Usery Hall (Speaking)
Public	11:30 am	Rm: 133, Usery Hall (Draw & Prep)
Public	12:00 pm	Rm: 110, Usery Hall (Speaking)
International Extemporaneous Speaking:		
Public	9:30 am	Rm: 133, Usery Hall (Draw & Prep)
Public	10:00 am	Rm: 110, Usery Hall (Speaking)
Private	12:00 pm	Rm: 132, Usery Hall (Draw & Prep)
Private	12:30 pm	Rm: 109, Usery Hall (Speaking)
Humorous Oral Interpretation:		
Public	9:30 am	Room: 333, Multipurpose Room
Private	9:30 am	Room: 228, Usery Hall
Dramatic Oral Interpretation:		
Public	11:00 am	Room: 333, Multipurpose Room
Private	11:00 am	Room: 228, Usery Hall
Duo Oral Interpretation:		
Public	12:30 pm	Room: 333, Multipurpose Room
Private	12:30 pm	Room: 228, Usery Hall
Girls Solo:		
Public	9:30 am	OCB Legislative Chamber
Private	9:30 am	Goldstein Center Theatre
Boys Solo:		
Public	10:45 am	OCB Legislative Chamber
Private	10:45 am	Goldstein Center Theatre
Girls Trio:		
Public	12:00 pm	OCB Legislative Chamber
Private	12:00 pm	Goldstein Center Theatre
Boys Quartet:		
Public	1:15 pm	OCB Legislative Chamber
Private	1:15 pm	Goldstein Center Theatre

GHSA - March / April Calendar - 2019

March

- 1 Deadline to submit Football Schedules to GHSA office
- 1, 2 Semifinal Round State Basketball Tournament
- 5 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 5 Complete Region/Area Literary
- 6 File reports of Literary winners with GHSA by 9 a.m.
- 6-9 Championship Round State Basketball Tournament
- 16 State Literary Meets
- 16 Complete Area Riflery
- 18 Report Area Riflery results
- 19 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 30 Complete Riflery Sectionals

April

- 1 Deadline for notification of entry in Gymnastics, Lacrosse, Riflery, Soccer, SP Softball, Golf, Swimming, Dance, Esports, Gameday Cheer, Volleyball and Wrestling for 2019-20
- 1 File reports of Riflery Sectionals with GHSA and State Meet Director
- 13 Complete Riflery Semifinals, Area SP Softball and Region Tennis
- 13 File reports of Riflery Semifinals, SP Softball & Tennis winners with GHSA by 9 a.m.
- 15 State Executive Committee Meeting (Macon)

GHSA Sponsors

