



# GHSA

## *“Items of Interest”*

September 2012

### **GHSA Says Goodbye to Longtime Staff Member, Joyce Kay**

For the first time in eleven years, the GHSA will be losing a staff member. Joyce Kay (pictured at right), Associate Executive Director, will be retiring after 36 years of service to the association. During her tenure in a variety of duties, Joyce has worked with all four GHSA Executive Directors.

Currently she administers the finances of the organization which is a tremendously important and complicated responsibility. Additionally, she oversees Cheerleading and is a member of the National Federation Spirit Rules Committee. If that were not enough, Joyce also coordinates Riflery, One Act Play and Literary competitions.

It is also important to know that she is the “go to person” that all our staff members seek out when we need additional information about what to do or where things are located in the office.

Joyce will be retiring on September 14th, and she will be moving to Seneca, South Carolina, with her husband, Robert. All the GHSA family will miss both of them.

You are cordially invited to a drop-in reception for Joyce on Sunday, September 16th, from 2-4 p.m. This event will be held at the Marriott Macon City Center Hotel in conjunction with the GHSA Executive Committee meeting, and will be open to all who want to wish Joyce a happy retirement.

It is my pleasure to announce that two new staff members have been added. Denis Tallini is fulfilling responsibilities as a GHSA Associate Director in the areas of the GHSA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, Wrestling, Volleyball, and Lacrosse.

Denis is a veteran wrestling official – having worked for over 30 years in both Louisiana and Georgia. He brings a background in exercise science having worked with Wellness Centers in several hospitals and medical centers, and is a member of the Medical Fitness Association. Denis stays active as a nationally ranked javelin thrower at the master’s level of competition.

It is also my pleasure to announce the addition of Robin Bullington as GHSA Business Manager. Robin will be working with all aspects of GHSA budgeting and financing. She will be working closely with our member schools in the area of dues and playoff finances. Robin brings an extensive background in office management and supervision from a variety of business areas.

The GHSA office staff stands ready to serve the needs of our member schools as we begin this new school year.

– **Ralph Swearngin**, Executive Director



**GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION** Newsletter  
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OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday

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**- GHSA STAFF -**  
**Areas of Responsibility**

**RALPH SWEARNGIN** (extension 7)  
 - Executive Director -  
 Administration, Interpretation of GHSA Rules,  
 Hardship Appeals

**GARY PHILLIPS** (extension 6)  
 - Assistant Executive Director -  
 Student Eligibility, Community Coach Program,  
 Cross Country, Track, Golf

**STEVE FIGUEROA** (extension 4)  
 - Director of Media Relations -  
 Press Releases, Media Coordination for State Events, Newsletter,  
 Football Schedules, Constitution, Calendar, Tennis

**DENNIS PAYNE** (extension 23)  
 - Associate Director -  
 Football, Baseball, Swimming

**ERNIE YARBROUGH** (extension 27)  
 - Associate Director -  
 Basketball, Soccer, Softball

**DENIS TALLINI** (extension 34)  
 - Associate Director -  
 Lacrosse, Volleyball, Wrestling, Sports Medicine

**ROBIN BULLINGTON** (extension 33)  
 - Business Manager -  
 Finances, Dues

**PAM THOMPSON** (extension 30)  
 - Officials' Registrar -  
 Officials' Registration, Test Scoring and Records

**TANYA ANDERSON** (extension 2)  
 - Administrative Assistant -  
 Sanctioning of Events, School Passes,  
 Directory, Coaches' Clinic Attendance

**JULIE JONES** (extension 1)  
 - Administrative Assistant -  
 Community Coach Program, Entry Notification

**SHERI BROOKS** (extension 0)  
 - Receptionist -  
 Lifetime Passes, School System Passes,  
 Ejection Reports, Publication Orders

**STACEY BASILICI** (extension 32)  
 - Administrative Assistant -  
 Mailing, Shipping, Filing, Office Assistant

## **GHSA Licensed Products**

This month's featured GHSA licensees are: **Jostens**, official championship jewelry ([jostens.com](http://jostens.com)); **Musco Sports Lighting**, the leader in sports-lighting solutions ([musco.com](http://musco.com)); **FieldTurf**, official artificial turf ([fieldturf.com](http://fieldturf.com)); **Resilite**, official wrestling mat ([resilite.com](http://resilite.com)), and **TeamIP**, official merchandiser and online store ([teamip.com](http://teamip.com)). View a complete list of licensees at [www.ghsa.net/licensing](http://www.ghsa.net/licensing). Become a Fan of the GHSA on Facebook ([Facebook.com/OfficialGHSA](http://Facebook.com/OfficialGHSA)) and Follow us on Twitter ([Twitter.com/OfficialGHSA](http://Twitter.com/OfficialGHSA)).



## **Ron Bradley Inducted into Hall of Fame**

Ron Bradley, whose 49-year coaching career included stops at eight different Georgia schools, was inducted into the NFHS National High School Hall of Fame on July 11 at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee. Bradley (second from left) is pictured above along with GHSA staff members (left to right) Joyce Kay, Ralph Swearngin and Gary Phillips. Bradley retired in 2010 with a record of 1,019-322 in boys basketball and 353-91 in girls basketball.

## **First Power Rankings on September 12!**

The first power rankings for Class A football and softball by MaxPreps will be posted on [GHSA.net](http://GHSA.net) on September 12. The power rankings will be updated each Wednesday for the remainder of the regular season. [MaxPreps.com](http://MaxPreps.com) is the Association's "Official Statistician and Digital Media Partner" and will give GHSA member schools a single location to report Box Score information.

[MaxPreps.com](http://MaxPreps.com) provides schools with a publishing platform for managing and promoting their sports information. MaxPreps data will be recognized as the official source for the in-season statewide statistical leaderboards across all GHSA sports and coaches will have access to the full array of MaxPreps free utilities.

If you have any questions, please call MaxPreps Georgia representative, **Kylie McLarty** at **530-313-9160** or email [kmclarty@maxpreps.com](mailto:kmclarty@maxpreps.com).



**REMINDER: GHSA Membership Dues Must Be Paid On Or Before October 15th!**

## **GHSA Selects Molten Official Volleyball**

The GHSA has selected Molten as the official volleyball for the 2012-15 seasons. The official ball will be Molten's IV58L-3-HS Super Touch. This elite competition ball features a red, white and blue color scheme, premium Japanese bladder cotton with the launch of this partnership, each member school received a complimentary volleyball provided by Molten.



### Retirement Reception for Joyce Kay

There will be a drop-in reception to honor Joyce Kay and her 36-year tenure with the Georgia High School Association. Mrs. Kay, the only person to work with all four GHSA Executive Directors, is retiring in September.

The reception (from 2-4 p.m., on Sunday, September 16th) will be open to the public, and will be held in conjunction with the GHSA fall Executive Committee meeting at the Marriott Macon City Center hotel.

### GHSA Football Games on TV

GHSA broadcast partners Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB) and PlayOn Sports are telecasting many regular season and playoff football games this season.

PlayOn Sports produces Thursday night games for WSB-TV's digital channel 2.2 (Comcast Channel 248 / Charter 127), while GPB is carrying gridiron action on Friday nights. Most games air at 7:30 p.m.

You can get the full schedule of GHSA games on TV and the web by visiting the GHSA web site ([www.ghsa.net](http://www.ghsa.net)).

## High School Sports Participation Increases for 23rd Straight Year

INDIANAPOLIS, IN — Boosted by continued growth in several girls sports, participation in high school sports increased for the 23rd consecutive year in 2011-12, according to the annual High School Athletics Participation Survey conducted by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

Based on figures from the 51 NFHS-member state high school athletic/activity associations, which includes the District of Columbia, sports participation for the 2011-12 school year reached an all-time high of 7,692,520 participants – an increase of 24,565 from the previous year.

An additional 33,984 girls participated in high school sports last year, making the all-time record total 3,207,533. This also marks the 23rd consecutive year for an increase in the number of female participants. Outdoor track and field (468,747), basketball (435,885) and volleyball (418,903) continued to be the top three participatory sports for girls, with volleyball up 9,571 participants from 2010-11.

Soccer (370,975) surpassed fast-pitch softball (367,023) as the fourth most-popular girls sport, up 9,419 from last year,

while cross country (212,262), tennis (180,870), swimming and diving (160,456), competitive spirit squads (108,307) and lacrosse (74,993) completed the top 10.

While girls participation continued to climb, boys participation figures dipped for the first time since the 1992-93 school year, down 9,419 from last year's number of 4,494,406 to 4,484,987. Seven of the top 10 boys sports registered drops in participation, with 11-player football (1,095,993), outdoor track and field (575,628), basketball (535,289), wrestling (272,149), tennis (159,800), golf (152,725) and swimming and diving (133,823) all down from last year.

Participants by state stayed true to last year's order, as Texas and California once again topped the list with 808,806 and 781,912, respectively, followed by New York (389,475), Illinois (346,896), Ohio (333,349), Pennsylvania (317,869), Michigan (308,080), New Jersey (259,219) and Florida (257,282).

The participation survey has been compiled since 1971 by the NFHS. The complete Participation Survey is available on the NFHS Web site at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org).

### TEN MOST POPULAR BOYS PROGRAMS

#### Number of Schools

1. Basketball	18,099
2. Track and Field - Outdoor	16,218
3. Baseball	15,838
4. Football - 11-player	14,241
5. Cross Country	14,155
6. Golf	13,624
7. Soccer	11,600
8. Wrestling	10,407
9. Tennis	9,841
10. Swimming and Diving	7,001

#### Total Participants

1. Football - 11-player	1,095,993
2. Track and Field - Outdoor	575,628
3. Basketball	535,289
4. Baseball	474,219
5. Soccer	411,757
6. Wrestling	272,149
7. Cross Country	248,494
8. Tennis	159,800
9. Golf	152,725
10. Swimming and Diving	133,823

### TEN MOST POPULAR GIRLS PROGRAMS

#### Number of Schools

1. Basketball	17,768
2. Track and Field - Outdoor	16,143
3. Volleyball	15,569
4. Softball - Fast Pitch	14,142
5. Cross Country	13,970
6. Soccer	11,127
7. Tennis	10,058
8. Golf	9,667
9. Swimming and Diving	7,221
10. Competitive Spirit Squads	4,916

#### Total Participants

1. Track and Field - Outdoor	468,747
2. Basketball	435,885
3. Volleyball	418,903
4. Soccer	370,975
5. Softball - Fast Pitch	367,023
6. Cross Country	212,262
7. Tennis	180,870
8. Swimming and Diving	160,456
9. Competitive Spirit Squads	108,307
10. Lacrosse	74,993

## High School Football Scoreboard Show Begins 17th Season

The **Georgia High School Scoreboard Show** presented by Georgia Farm Bureau Insurance kicked off a 17th season on Friday night, August 24th.

The show, hosted by Tommy Palmer, airs from 10:00 p.m., until midnight through November 18. The radio network of over 60+ radio station affiliates, is the second-largest sports network in the state behind only the Atlanta Braves.

The program features up-to-the-minute football scores and game reports on Friday nights for 13 weeks. Sponsors include: Georgia Farm Bureau, Verizon Wireless and Georgia Southern.



**Countdown To Kickoff** also began on August 24th for a fifth season on 27+ radio affiliates from 6-7:00 p.m. Countdown is the statewide "pregame show," hosted by Tommy Palmer, featuring interviews and insights into Friday's top games from expert correspondents throughout Georgia.

Sponsors include: Georgia Farm Bureau and Georgia Southern.

Both programs are produced by Palmer Sports Media, a media partner of the Georgia High School Association. For a list of affiliates go to: [palmermediagroup.com](http://palmermediagroup.com).

## GHSA Salutes 2012 Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Winners

Georgia Electric Membership Corporation (Georgia EMC) is proud to sponsor the Georgia High School Association Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award and announces the 37 GHSA-member high schools that will receive the 2012 award.

The award honors schools that demonstrated exemplary sportsmanship during the 2011-2012 school year.

"Sportsmanship is an essential element in the mission of education-based athletics," said Dr. Ralph Swearngin, GHSA Executive Director. "Good sporting behavior involves many important values that influence the behavior of productive citizens. The GHSA appreciates the efforts of Georgia EMC to recognize schools that have excelled at good sportsmanship."

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. Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Awards are awarded annually to the GHSA-member



high schools by representatives from the EMCs during fall athletic events and school assemblies.

Georgia EMC is a statewide trade association representing the state's 42 EMCs, Oglethorpe Power Corp., Georgia Transmission Corp. and Georgia System Operations Corp.

Through a statewide network, Georgia's EMCs provide electricity and related services to approximately 4.4 million of the state's 9.7 million residents, across 73

percent of the state's land area.

Winners of the 2012 Georgia EMC Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award are as follows:

- 1-A-A-A-A-A - Lowndes High School
- 3-A-A-A-A-A - Windor Forest HS
- 4-A-A-A-A-A - Kennesaw Mountain HS
- 5-A-A-A-A-A - Cherokee High School
- 6-A-A-A-A-A - North Forsyth HS
- 7-A-A-A-A-A - Duluth High School
- 8-A-A-A-A-A - Berkmar High School
- 1-A-A-A-A - Thomas County Central
- 2-A-A-A-A - Richmond Hill HS
- 3-A-A-A-A - Ola High School
- 5-A-A-A-A - Pope High School
- 6-A-A-A-A - Marist School
- 7-A-A-A-A - South Forsyth HS
- 8-A-A-A-A - Winder-Barrow HS
- 1-A-A-A - Monroe High School
- 2-A-A-A - Perry High School
- 3-A-A-A - Cross Creek HS
- 4-A-A-A - Sandy Creek HS
- 5-A-A-A - St. Pius School
- 6-A-A-A - Central, Carroll HS
- 7-A-A-A - Gilmer High School
- 1-A-A - Thomasville High School
- 2-A-A - McIntosh County Acad.
- 3-A-A - SE Bulloch High School
- 4-A-A - Northeast High School
- 5-A-A - Heard County HS
- 6-A-A - Blessed Trinity School
- 7-A-A - Armuchee High School
- 8-A-A - Dawson County HS
- 1-A - Seminole County HS
- 2-A - Charlton County HS
- 3-A - Portal High School
- 5-A - Providence Christian
- 6-A - Mt. Zion, Carroll HS
- 7-A - Glascock County HS
- 8-A - Tallulah Falls HS
- 9-A - Strong Rock Christian

**GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION  
STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
AGENDA**

**Marriott Macon City Center - Macon, Georgia  
Magnolia Ballroom  
September 17, 2012 - 9:00 a.m.**

Call To Order ..... Dr. Gary Holmes, President  
Invocation ..... Dr. Ralph Swearngin, Executive Director  
Roll Call ..... Steve Figueroa, Media Director

**APPOINTMENTS:** Monday - 9:00 am: Mindee G. Adamson, Principal, Druid Hills High School  
Appeal of student eligibility - Freedom A. Augmon (eight-semester)

Monday - 9:15 am: Dr. Lisa Stueve, Principal, North Springs High School  
Appeal of student eligibility - Joshua Nelson (eight-semester)

Monday - 9:30 am: Marc Paglia, Athletic Director, Riverside Military Academy  
Appeal of student eligibility - Dy'ves Jamon Martin (eight-semester)

Monday - 9:45 am: Shannon Kersey, Principal, Alpharetta High School  
Appeal of student eligibility - Julian Alexander Adams (eight-semester)

Monday - 10:00 am: Josh Ingle, Principal, Dade County High School  
Appeal of student eligibility - Colton Chappelle (eight-semester)

Monday - 10:15 am: Tom Upchurch, President Emeritus Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education  
To speak on the upcoming Charter Amendment vote

**COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS:**

**Board of Trustees**

1. Region 2-A proposes that GHSA member schools be allowed to compete with GISA schools during the regular season.
- GHSA Office:
2. If a currently certified faculty-coach at a GHSA school loses his/her teaching position because of a reduction in force action, that school may petition the Executive Director in writing for that individual to continue to coach without going through community coach training.
  3. Region and Area Divisions: A classification in any sport will be considered **regionalized** when a majority of the schools (with a minimum of 5) in all regions participate in that sport. In sports where all classifications are not regionalized, the classes may be divided into area alignments and the classifications may be combined.
  4. Any proposal brought to the Executive Committee and not approved by a sub-committee and/or the full Executive Committee may not be resubmitted for one calendar year after the previous submission unless a substantive change has been made to that proposal.
  5. Review of the 2011-12 audit report.
  6. Discussion of GHSA staffing policies and procedures.

**Eligibility Committee**

GHSA Office:

1. Discussion of current academic eligibility rules that are overly restrictive because of educational innovations and/or program cuts due to economic issues.

**Football Committee**

1. Appointment with Jimmy Dorsey and Jeff Herron to revisit proposal for using shoulder pads in summer camps.

GHSA Office:

2. Discuss revisions in the preseason practice rules:
  - A. When WBGT reaches 87 or higher during a practice, players may continue to wear football pants with pads still in them rather than forcing a switch to shorts.
  - B. WBGT readings should be taken every 30 minutes beginning 30 minutes before the scheduled beginning of practice.
  - C. A "walk through" is defined as a one-hour period of time in which:
    1. No protective equipment may be worn except for helmet
    2. No contact work may occur
    3. No full-speed drills may be held

(over)

**AGENDA, Continued**

- D. During the five acclimatization practices, teams may hold a walk-through as long as there is a one-hour break between the two activities.
- E. A walk-through may not be held on days when two practices are conducted
- F. If a practice is interrupted for a weather-related reason, the "clock" on that practice will stop and will begin again when the practice resumes.
- G. All heat illness policies are in effect for voluntary workouts that are held outside the sport season.

**Golf Committee**

1. Columbus High School proposes the following items to go into effect for the 2013 season:
  - a. An entry fee (payable to the host course) will be charged to each school in the **GHSA Sectional Tournament** in the amount of \$120 for boys teams, \$80 for girls teams and \$20 for individual qualifiers.
  - b. The four lowest scorers from the **Sectional Tournament** whose teams do not qualify will advance to the State Tournament.
  - c. An entry fee (payable to the host course) will be charged to each school in the **GHSA State Tournament** in the amount of \$120 for boys teams, \$80 for girls teams and \$20 for individual qualifiers.

GHSA Office:

2. All Region and Sectional Golf Tournaments will be played at a distance equal to or longer than the required distances for the State Tournament (5,500 yards for girls and 6,500 yards for boys).

**Soccer Committee**

1. Region 5-AAAAA proposes that high school soccer coaches be allowed to coach a club team that has no more than five (5) players on the roster from the high school where the coach coaches and the players attend.

**Swimming Committee**

1. Region 8-AAAAAA proposes that 20 places be scored at the State Swim Meet instead of the present 16. Greg Puckett, President of the Swim Coaches Association, will speak to the issue.

**Tennis Committee**

1. Oconee County High School proposes that regular-season tennis matches between teams not in the same region may be played using a collegiate format of six (6) singles matches and three (3) doubles matches with individual players allowed to play both singles and doubles.
2. LaGrange High School proposes that the current GHSA anti-stacking rules (Page 86, B1 a-c) be replaced by:
  - B. 1. Stacking of one's lineup is strictly prohibited in any regular-season, invitational tournament, region/area tournament, or state tournament match. An obvious attempt to stack a lineup (use a player or doubles team below their relative ability level on the team) may result in the immediate disqualification of the entire team.
    - a. For each **regular-season** match, the coach will choose three players (A, B, and C) to play singles and two pairs of players (D1 and D2) to play doubles that day. The best of A, B, and C must play #1 singles and the weakest must play #3 singles. The best doubles team of D1 and D2 must play #1 doubles.
    - b. It is not stacking to alternate from match to match during the **regular season** the positions of A and B, B and C, or even A and C if the players are of relatively equal ability. Likewise, D1 and D2 could alternate if these teams are of relatively equal ability.
    - c. It is not stacking if players alternate from singles to doubles, and vice versa, from match to match in the **regular season** as long as the singles players being used that day are listed from #1 to #3 according to ability and the best doubles team plays #1 doubles.

**Track/Cross Country Committee**

1. Mill Creek High School proposes that the GHSA holds Sectional Meets in Cross Country similar to the format that is currently being used in Track and Field.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:****NEW BUSINESS:****ADJOURNMENT**

# Rally!

FOUNDATION

## 4 Quarters

## 4 Research

Sign your school,  
team or community  
group up **TODAY!**

**4 QUARTERS 4 RESEARCH** - Once again the GHSA is pleased to present a valuable service opportunity for our schools to help in the battle against childhood cancer. For several years the GHSA has endorsed the Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research as a worthy recipient of funding.

To find out more about this organization you can go to their web site: [rallyfoundation.org/index.php/participate/rally\\_4\\_quarters\\_4\\_research](http://rallyfoundation.org/index.php/participate/rally_4_quarters_4_research)

More than 300 GHSA schools have

held a "4 Quarters 4 Research" fundraiser at one home football game, and more than \$100,000 has been raised for cancer research. The Rally Foundation encourages service clubs, the PTSA, or some other organization to oversee this program during the upcoming

football season. For more information or to sign up your school, you may contact Erin Tankersley as follows:

Erin@rallyfoundation.org or call (404) 847-1270.

– Ralph Swearngin, Executive Director



## GHSA - September / October Calendar - 2012

### September

- 3 Labor Day, GHSA Office closed
- 4 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 17 State Executive Committee Meeting
- 18 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 24 Deadline for notification of entry in Cross Country

### October

- 1 Deadline to notify entry in One Act Play & to set Riflery schedules
- 6 Complete Region Softball
- 8 Report Region Softball winners by 9 a.m.
- 8 Earliest date for Riflery match
- 9 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 10, 11 First Round State Softball Classes 2A-6A
- 12 Deadline date to file Riflery schedules with GHSA office
- 13 Determine Area Volleyball winners
- 15 Report Area Volleyball winners by 9 a.m.
- 15 Deadline for payment of GHSA membership dues
- 17 First Round State Volleyball in 2A, 3A & 4A
- 17, 18 First Round State Softball Class A; Second Round Classes 2A-6A
- 18 First Round State Volleyball in A, 5A & 6A

## GHSA Sponsors

