GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

VOL. 120 NUMBER 1

CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS

2026-2027

A Member of the National Federation of State High School Associations

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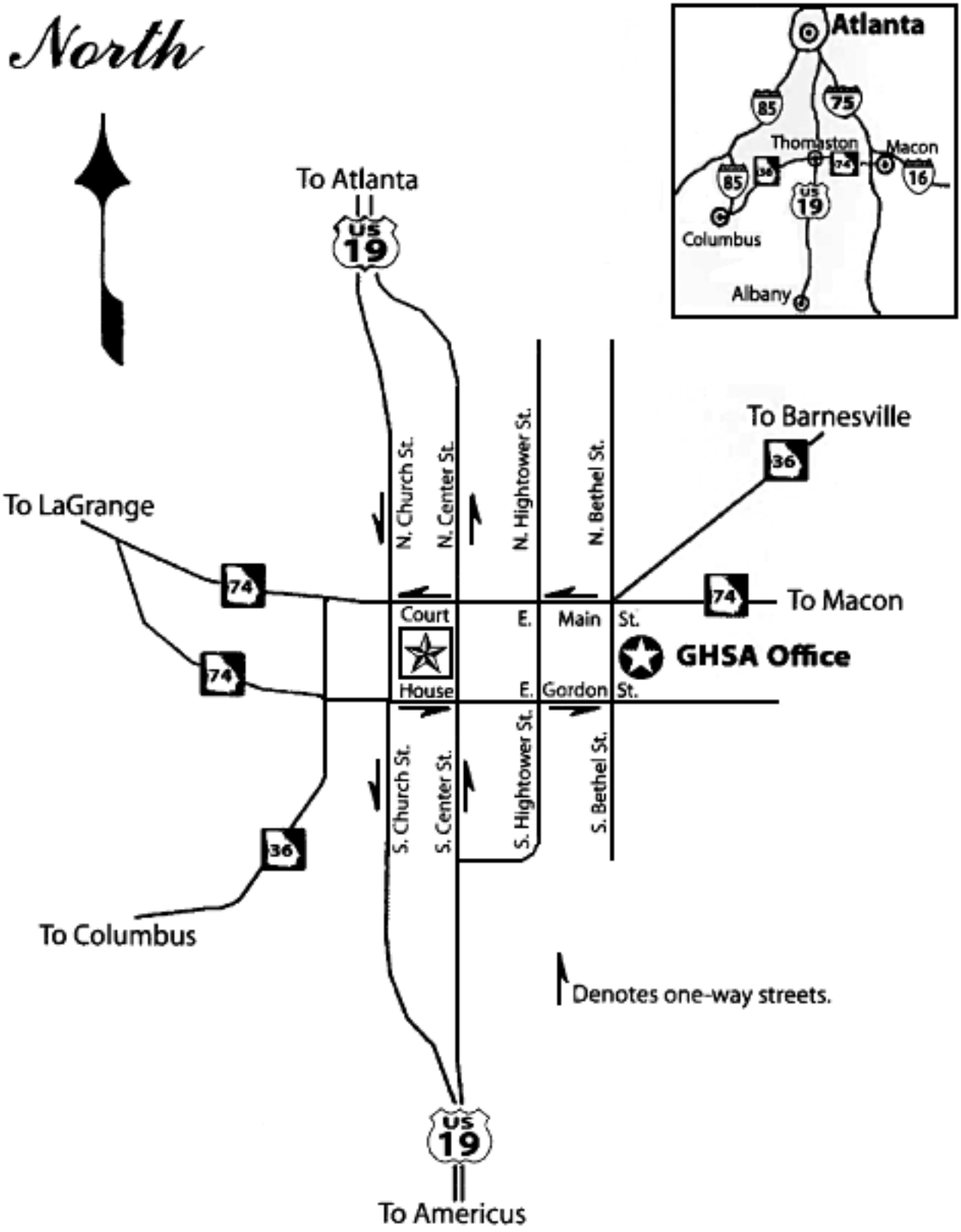

Directions to the Georgia High School Association Office,
151 S. Bethel Street, Thomaston, Georgia

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
Beginning and Ending Dates for 2026-2027

Revised
8/27/2026

ACTIVITY	DATE FOR FIRST PRACTICE	FIRST CONTEST	MAXIMUM GAMES/DATES	PSR MINIMUM GAMES	MAX NON -GHSA GAMES	LAST PLAY DATE	PLAYOFF QUALIFIERS DETERMINED	First Round/ Sectionals	Second Round	Quarterfinals	Semifinals	Finals
Football	Jul 27	Aug 21	10 (7 JV)	9	2	Nov 6	Nov 6	Nov 13	Nov 20	Nov 27	Dec 4	Dec 15-16
Cheerleading	Jul 27	Aug 8	6 (4JV)			Oct 31		Nov 7				Nov 13-14
Game Day	Jul 27	Sep 19				Dec 5						Dec 10-11
Softball (FP)	Jul 27	Aug 1	30 V/21 JV	20	6	Oct 8	Oct 8	Oct 12-15	Oct 19-22			Oct 28-31
Volleyball	Jul 27	Aug 3	18 (13 JV) Dates	30	6	Oct 13	Oct 13	Oct 17	Oct 20-21	Oct 24	Oct 27-28	Oct 29 Oct 31
Cross Country	Jul 27	Aug 10	10 (7 JV)			Oct 31	Oct 31	Oct 31				Nov 6-7
Flag Football	Sep 7	Sep 14	20 V/14 JV	14	4	Nov 14	Nov 14	Nov 18	Nov 18	Dec 1	Dec 3	Dec 8
One Act Play	Jul 27					Oct 31 Nov 7	Oct 31 Nov 7					Nov 14 Nov 21
Literary	Jul 27					Mar 8	Mar 8					Mar 13 Mar 20
Riflery	Jul 27	Oct 19				Feb 11	Feb 12	Feb 25			Mar 4	Mar 20
Swimming/Diving	Oct 5	Oct 19	10 (7 JV)			Jan 26						Jan 30 Diving Feb 3-6, Swim
Dance	Oct 19	Nov 7	6 (4JV)			Feb 6						Feb 19-20
Basketball	Oct 19	Nov 6	25 (18 JV)	22	5	Feb 20	Feb 20	Feb 23-24	Feb 26-27	Mar 2-3	Mar 5-6	Mar 10-13
Wrestling (Duals)	Oct 19	Nov 6	20 (14 JV) Dates Total Duals and Trad			Jan 28	Jan 8-9 Jan 8 G, 9 B	Jan 15				Jan 15-16 Boys Jan 23, Girls
Wrestling (Traditional)	Oct 19	Nov 6	20 (14 JV) Dates Total Duals and Trad			Jan 28	Jan 29-30	Feb 5-6				Feb 10-13 By Class.
Gymnastics	Jan 25	Feb 8	10 (7 JV)			Apr 13						Apr 21 Individual Apr 22-23, Team
Tennis	Jan 25	Feb 8	18 (13 JV) Dates	14	3	Apr 16	Apr 17	Apr 22	Apr 28	May 4	May 7	May 12
Soccer	Jan 25	Feb 8	18 (13 JV)	14	4	Apr 15	Apr 15	Apr 20-23	Apr 27-30	May 3-4	May 6-7	May 11-14
Track & Field	Jan 18	Feb 8	10 (7 JV)			Apr 24	Apr 24	May 1				May 7-8
Lacrosse	Jan 25	Feb 8	18 V/ 13 JV	14	4	Apr 22		Apr 27-28	Apr 30-May 1	May 5-6	May 7-8	May 13-15
Baseball	Jan 25	Feb 15	30 (21 JV)	20	6	Apr 29	Apr 29	May 3-6	May 10-11	May 15 May 17	May 22 May 24	May 28-29 May 31
Golf	Jan 25	Feb 8	12 (8JV) Dates			May 4	Apr 29 (5-7A) May 4, (1-4A, Priv)	May 3-4 (5-7A)				May 17-18

NOTES: Dates are Subject to Change. Dates and more information for Bass Fishing and Esports may be found on the GHSA website (www.ghsa.net)
The "Dead Weeks" for the 2027-2028 school year are Monday, May 31 through Sunday, June 6, 2027 and Monday, June 28 through Sunday, July 4, 2027. The GHSA Office will be closed both weeks.

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CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I - NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION

This organization shall be known as the Georgia High School Association.

ARTICLE II - OBJECT OF THE ORGANIZATION

The objective of the organization shall be the promotion of education in Georgia from a mental, physical, and moral viewpoint, to standardize and encourage participation in athletics, to promote sportsmanship and an appreciation for and study of music, speech, and other fine arts through Region and State competitions.

ARTICLE III — MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1
SCHOOLS ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Georgia High School Association shall consist of public and private high schools in the state of Georgia.

SECTION 2
CLASSIFICATION OF SCHOOLS

A. The Reclassification Committee of the GHSA Executive Committee shall place member schools in classifications and regions based on student F.T.E. figures and geographic proximity, respectively.
B. Member schools will be realigned every two (2) years.
C. The number of classifications and the number of regions will be determined by the Reclassification Committee at the time of each realignment.
D. The number of classifications and regions, together with the assignment of schools therein, shall be submitted to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee, by majority vote, may approve, reject or modify in any way the proposals submitted by the Reclassification Committee.

SECTION 3
STRUCTURE OF REGIONS

A. After reclassification, all regions will meet and submit to the State Office, after the final reclassification vote, a plan for structure of the regions. These plans must spell out subdivisions, if any, for all activities. All regions must have been approved before any scheduling may be finalized.
B. In the event that any member school has a complaint with the structure of a region, it shall so advise the Executive Director and all other schools in the subject region of such complaint in writing within seven (7) calendar days after the region meeting following the final reclassification vote. The Executive Director shall then convene a meeting of the Reclassification Committee to review the present and proposed region structure and to attempt to arbitrate the differences and, failing that, to make a recommendation to the Executive Committee.
   All schools in the subject region shall be advised of the meeting of the Reclassification Committee by the Executive Director and shall have the right to present evidence to the Committee. Any member of the Committee which is a member of the subject region shall be disqualified from participation on the Committee.
C. The Executive Committee shall have full authority to require all or any portion of a subregion to play cross-over games and to align or realign the subject region into new subregions.

SECTION 4
MEMBERSHIP IN ANOTHER ASSOCIATION

A school is not eligible for membership in the Georgia High School Association if it is or becomes a member of an association whose Constitution and/or By-Laws are in conflict with the Constitution and/or By-Laws of the Georgia High School Association.

ARTICLE IV - GOVERNANCE

SECTION 1
STATE OFFICERS

The State Officers of this Association shall consist of a President, a Vice President, and an Executive Director.

SECTION 2
STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A. Membership of the State Executive Committee shall be composed of the State Officers, the State Superintendent of Schools or his/her representative, and one member elected from each region in each classification, plus one member each appointed by the Georgia School Boards Association, the Georgia School Superintendents' Association, the Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals, the Georgia Athletic Directors Association, and the Executive Secretary of the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association. Membership shall also include two female members appointed by the Executive Committee upon recommendation of the Board of Trustees from nominees submitted by each region. Each member shall have the right to vote on all matters pertaining to the operation of the Association.
B. Terms of office for members of the State Executive Committee elected by regions shall coincide with the length of each reclassification cycle.
C. When a member of the State Executive Committee is unable to attend a State Executive Committee meeting, the President of the region shall have power to appoint an eligible member of the region concerned to represent the region at that meeting.
D. The State Executive Committee shall have the authority to appoint smaller committees to address issues related to the operation of the Association and its regulated activities, and to consider proposals made by such committees. The authority of the State Executive Committee shall be plenary in all matters pertaining to the Association and it may accept, reject or modify any proposals made or action taken by any committee, the Board of Trustees, the Appeal Board, the Hardship Committee or the Executive Director.
E. Each member of the State Executive Committee shall have the right to vote on all matters coming before the full State Executive Committee.

SECTION 3
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A. Membership of the Board of Trustees shall be composed of the President, Vice President, and Executive Director, plus one member from each classification (as selected by a vote of the SEC representatives in that respective classification) and a total of four (4) at-large members (three (3) of which shall be appointed by the BOT) that must include at least two (2) females and two (2) private school representatives, and all four must be approved by a vote of the State Executive Committee. The term of office for members of the Executive Committee serving on the Board of Trustees shall coincide with the length of the reclassification cycle.
B. The Board of Trustees shall receive and hold title to all real and personal property of said Association in trust for the benefit of said Association and shall have general custody and administration of such property with power and authority to lease, sell and convey said property of said Association; provided however, said Board of Trustees shall not sell
C. or convey any real property so held by them in trust for said Association without first being authorized to do so by a majority vote of the State Executive Committee of said Association at a meeting duly called for such purpose.
D. The Board of Trustees reviews pertinent issues relative to the successful operation of the organization. The Board of Trustees reviews the recommendation by the Executive Director concerning the budget, recommends committee appointments, evaluates and recommends length of contract for the Executive Director. The Board of Trustees recommends the two at-large female representatives to the Executive Committee.
E. The Board of Trustees shall be authorized and empowered to exercise the powers of the Executive Committee including, but not limited to, the power to amend the by-laws of the association, and to otherwise make decisions relating to the association and its member schools as otherwise allowed to be made by the Executive Committee under the constitution and by-laws of the association.
    1. A majority of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum thereof for the purposes of this Subsection D and action shall be authorized and taken by a majority of the votes cast.
    2. The meeting of the Board of Trustees under this section shall be noticed by the Executive Director or President by any reasonable means and any meeting of the Board of Trustees may be held electronically. In addition, such vote may be taken by telephone polling of the Board of Trustees by the Executive Director if appropriate in the discretion of the President.
    3. Any action taken by the Board of Trustees under this Subsection D shall be subject to affirmation, rejection or modification at the next meeting of the GHSA Executive Committee or thereafter.
F. Upon receiving a referral from the Executive Director of alleged intentional or grossly negligent violations of GHSA by-laws and rules by GHSA member schools or their personnel, the Board of Trustees by majority vote shall have the authority to assess further and additional penalties for such intentional or grossly negligent violations against the member school including, but not limited to, an additional fine of not more than $2,500.00 for each such offense, and/or probation for a period of up to one calendar year in the sport(s) in which the violation occurred, and/or

suspension of the member school from the GHSA for a period of up to one full calendar year. Any additional penalties assessed under this paragraph shall by appealable to the GHSA Executive Committee.

SECTION 4
STATE APPEAL BOARD

A. The State Appeal Board shall be composed of members selected from the full State Executive Committee on a rotating basis.
B. The duties of the State Appeal Board as set forth in Sec. 9 shall be performed by four (4) members of the Board sitting on an alternating basis as selected and notified by the Executive Director.
C. Eligibility appeals in regard to the eight-semester rule will be referred by the Executive Director to the State Executive Committee for a final ruling.
D. There shall be no appeal of eligibility related to age restrictions set forth in the by-laws.

SECTION 5
HARDSHIP COMMITTEE

A.
    1. The Hardship Committee shall be composed of members selected from the full State Executive Committee on a rotating basis.
    2. The duties of the Hardship Committee shall be performed by four (4) members of the Executive Committee sitting on an alternating basis as selected and notified by the Executive Director.

B. The Hardship Committee shall have the authority to set aside the effect of the migratory rule, the courses passed rule, and the accumulation of credits rule upon an individual student when in its opinion the rule works an undue hardship upon that student. The Hardship Committee does not hear cases regarding eight-semester violations, or appeals arising under the By-Laws.
    1. The Hardship Committee shall meet at a location and on dates established by the Executive Director and published in the GHSA Calendar. Requests will be considered to have a rule or rules set aside for benefit of individual students and shall consider such requests at the meetings held for that purpose, but not at any other meetings of the committee. If conditions upon which a request is based develop after April 1, the Executive Director is authorized to set a date for a special meeting to be held at the State Office to consider such case or cases.
    2. The principals of all member schools who have filed requests to have the effect of a rule set aside for individual students shall be notified of the time of the meeting at which such requests will be considered not less than seven (7) calendar days before such meeting.
    3. A request will be considered at a meeting only if complete information concerning the case is filed in writing with the Executive Director at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the date of the meeting and if a representative of the school, along with the student, is present at the meeting to furnish the Hardship Committee with information. Complete information includes a transcript.
    4. The conditions which cause the student to fail to meet the eligibility requirements must have been beyond the control of the school, the student, and/or his parents, and such that none of them could reasonably have been expected to comply with the rule. Ignorance of the rule on the part of any or all of them shall not be considered sufficient cause for setting aside its effects.
    5. The decision of the Hardship Committee shall be decided by a majority vote to set aside the effects of the rule in each individual case, and such decision shall not be considered as setting a precedent for other cases of a somewhat similar nature.
    6. The decision of the Hardship Committee shall be appealable to the Appeals Board by compliance with Sec. 9C & 9D of the Constitution and then to the State Executive Committee by compliance with Sec. 9F of the Constitution.

C.
    1. The Executive Director shall have the authority upon receiving an application by a member school to set aside the effect of any eligibility rule upon an individual student within the jurisdiction of the Hardship Committee and to grant the same without necessity of the appearance of the student or a representative of the school before the Hardship Committee when, in the judgement of the Executive Director, the circumstances regarding the application are such that:
        a. The conditions which cause the student to fail to meet the eligibility requirements are beyond the control of the school, the student, and/or his parents and such that none of them could reasonably have been expected to comply with the rule; and,
        b. The conditions which cause the student to fail to meet the eligibility requirements work an unjust, unfair, and unforeseeable hardship upon the student; and
        c. The facts are clear, undisputed, and supported by appropriate documentation. 2. The Executive Director

shall have the authority to grant or deny an application for hardship status.

2. 2. The Executive Director shall have the authority to grant or deny an application for hardship status.

D.

1. The Executive Director shall have the discretion upon receiving an application by a member school to set aside the effect of any academic eligibility rule upon individual students when, in the judgement of the Executive Director, the following criteria are met:
   a. The conditions which cause the student to fail to meet the eligibility requirements are beyond the control of the school, the student and his parents, and such that none of them could reasonably have been expected to comply with the rule; and
   b. The conditions which cause the student to fail to meet the eligibility requirements work an unjust, unfair and unforeseeable hardship upon the student; and
   c. The facts are clear, undisputed and supported by appropriate documentation and evidence; and
   d. The setting aside of the subject rule would not result in an unfair advantage to the school or student nor compromise the safety of any other student.
2. The decision of the Executive Director shall be appealable under the provisions of Section 9 of the GHSA Constitution and By-Laws.

SECTION 6
REGION OFFICERS

A. Each Region of each Classification shall elect a President, a Vice President, a Secretary-Treasurer, and from one to three committee members. No two of the above shall be from the same school unless the two are President and the Secretary-Treasurer. These officers, together with any member of the State Executive Committee from the region, shall compose the Executive Committee in their region.
B. A member of the State Executive Committee who is not an elected member of his Region Executive Committee shall be an added member of his respective Region Executive Committee. This provision that only one (1) member of the Region Executive Committee may come from the same school will apply only to the members elected by the region, and will not apply when the State Executive Committee member in the region is from the same school as an elected member.
C. The treasurer of each region is required to make an itemized statement of the income and expenditures of all funds to the region. When a new treasurer is elected, any balance must be turned over to the new officer immediately.

SECTION 7
DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The duties of the various officers and committees shall be those usually devolving upon such officers and committees. It is specifically the duty of the State Executive Committee and the Region Executive Committees to seek at all times to educate the school officials under their jurisdiction, and at the same time, to check vigorously any practice or violation of the rules by exercising the full penalty for such violations if it is deemed necessary.

SECTION 8
ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A. A President and a Vice President shall be elected as State Association officers at the spring meeting of the Georgia High School Association for a term that shall coincide with the length of the reclassification cycle.
B. The election and term of office of the Executive Director shall be for a term of one to five years at the discretion of the State Executive Committee and the President and Vice President of the Georgia High School Association and shall be authorized to execute a contract in the name of and for the Georgia High School Association.
C. Only members of the State Executive Committee shall be entitled to vote in elections.
D. Should the President become disqualified by death, resignation, or otherwise, the Vice President shall assume the office immediately and shall act as President until the vacancy is filled.
E. Any vacancy which may occur in the office of President or Vice President shall be filled at the next meeting of the State Executive Committee.
F. Each region in each Classification shall elect at any region meeting, a President, a Vice President, a Secretary-Treasurer, and from one to three region committee members as region officers. Terms of office shall be for two (2) years, and elections shall be held at the beginning of each reclassification cycle. Any vacancy occurring on a Region Committee shall be filled by the Region Committee until the next meeting of the region.
G. The State Executive Committee member from each region shall be elected at any Region meeting when there is a vacancy to be filled. The term of office shall shall coincide with the length of each reclassification cycle. Any vacancy occurring on the State Executive Committee shall be filled by the Region Committee until the next meeting of the region concerned.

SECTION 9
AUTHORITY OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
APPELLATE PROCEDURE

A. The State Executive Director shall be authorized to interpret the rules of the Georgia High School Association and to impose the proper penalty for their violation, including but not limited to, declaring a student ineligible to compete in GHSA activities for a period of time of up to four (4) years. The Assistant Executive Director shall, upon the absence or at the direction of the Executive Director, have all the powers and responsibilities of the Executive Director as provided under this Constitution and the By-Laws of the GHSA. The State Executive Director shall make all arrangements for holding and conducting the State Meets and Tournaments.

B. All questions pertaining to eligibility or any other matters under the rules of the Georgia High School Association must first be submitted to the State Executive Director. If the question concerns a violation of any of the rules of the Georgia High School Association, the State Executive Director shall notify the member schools involved and advise them of the charges and advise them of their right to submit evidence and their right to request a hearing. The State Executive Director, after hearing or examining the evidence of the party or parties concerned, shall render a decision.

C. Should any member school not be satisfied with the decision, appeal may then be made to the State Appeal Board by filing a written notice of appeal to the State Appeal Board through the State Executive Director within seven (7) calendar days of the date of the decision, which notice of appeal shall clearly state the decision appealed and the reasons for such appeal. The State Executive Director shall notify the State Appeal Board and all other parties of the appeal. Provided however, that if the only issue under appeal is to request modification of the penalty imposed by the Executive Director, then the member school may appeal directly to the Executive Committee. Any appeal of the decision of the Executive Director does not suspend the ruling made or penalty assessed pending a ruling on the appeal.

D. Appeal Board meetings shall be set on dates established by the Executive Director and published in the GHSA Calendar.
   1. Any request to the Appeal Board must be in the hands of the Executive Director seven (7) calendar days before the scheduled meeting date.
   2. Any other appeal requested (other than regularly scheduled dates) must be accompanied by a check sufficient to pay the entire estimated expenses of the Appeal Board to defray the cost of bringing the Appeal Board into session.
   3. All requests for appeals must be in writing with the stated reasons for an appeal, and signed by the administrative head of the individual school.
      a. An appeal of an eligibility decision must be based on one or more of the following reasons:
         i. There is substantial new information to be submitted that was not heard by the previous group making the decision that is being appealed.
         ii. There is an allegation that a GHSA rule was misapplied in that ruling.
         iii. There is an allegation that due process was not given in previous considerations.
      b. An appeal of a decision by the Executive Director must be based on one of the following reasons:
         i. There is an allegation that a GHSA rule was misinterpreted.
         ii. There is an allegation that the Executive Director did not afford due process to the school.
      c. All appeals shall set forth the basis for the appeal and the facts supporting the same, and shall be screened by the Executive Director for compliance with this rule prior to scheduling a hearing.

E. The State Appeal Board, after hearing or examining the evidence submitted by the party or parties, may affirm or reverse the decision of the Executive Director. In order to sustain an appeal, the vote of the Appeal Board shall be unanimous.

F. Should any member school not be satisfied with the decision of the State Appeal Board, they may appeal to the State Executive Committee by filing a written notice of appeal to the State Executive Committee through the State Executive Director within seven (7) calendar days of the date of the decision. The notice of appeal shall clearly state the decision being appealed and the reasons for such appeal. Such notice of appeal shall be accompanied by a check sufficient to pay the entire expenses of the State Executive Committee when such appeal is required to be heard at a time other than regularly scheduled meetings of the State Executive Committee.

G. The State Executive Committee, after hearing or examining the evidence submitted by the party or parties concerned, shall render a decision to affirm, reverse, or modify the decision under appeal.

H. No other method of appeal shall be held valid and any appeal must begin with the first step outlined and not eliminate any step until reaching the final court of appeal, the State Executive Committee. When the decision by the State Executive Committee is in favor of the appealing party or parties, the State Executive Committee may charge the expense of the meeting to the Georgia High School Association and reimburse the appealing party or parties.

I. The Executive Director shall have the authority to lengthen or shorten the time for appeals of decisions, if required in his discretion, to accommodate pending schedules, events or other matters.

J. Nothing in the Constitution of the GHSA is intended to give any individual students of GHSA member schools any due process or other rights as only member schools are entitled to any notice or opportunity to be heard in any questions coming before the GHSA. No student of GHSA member schools shall have any rights or benefits under this Constitution as a third party beneficiary or otherwise.

SECTION 10
VOTE

Each school shall have one (1) vote in a Region meeting and each member of the State Executive Committee shall have one (1) vote in the State Executive Committee meeting.

SECTION 11
AMEND CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

A. To amend the Constitution, it shall take a two-thirds vote of the members of the Executive Committee who are present at a regular or properly called meeting at which a quorum is present. Blank ballots, abstentions and pass votes are excluded.
B. To amend the By-Laws, it shall take a majority vote of the members of the Executive Committee who are present at a regular or properly called meeting at which a quorum is present. Blank ballots, abstentions and pass votes are excluded.
C. The effective date of any changes in the Constitution & By-Laws will be the next school year unless otherwise provided by the change.
D. Proposed changes to the Constitution must be adopted at two separate meetings of the Executive Committee to be held not less than 30 calendar days apart.

SECTION 12
BI-ANNUAL MEETINGS

A. The State Executive Committee of the Georgia High School Association shall meet in the spring and fall of each year on such dates as may be designated by the State Executive Director.
B. In addition to these meetings, special meetings may be called by the State President or the Executive Director at any time or place upon giving reasonable notice to the members of the Committee.
C. The Executive Director is required to present an itemized statement of the income and expenditures of all funds to the State Executive Committee.

SECTION 13
VIOLATION OF RULES

A. Each school is required to abide by all rules of the Georgia High School Association as promulgated by the State Executive Committee and interpreted by the Executive Director.
B. The Executive Director is authorized to make such investigation as may be necessary and to judge whether or not a school has violated a rule. When a school is adjudged guilty, the Executive Director is authorized to direct the penalty or penalties, including but not limited to, declaring a student ineligible to compete in GHSA activities for a period of time of up to four (4) years. The Executive Director shall also have the authority to refer allegations of intentional or grossly negligent violations of GHSA by-laws and rules by GHSA member schools or their personnel to the GHSA Trustees for considerations of additional penalties.
C. A school violating any rule, whether it be due to carelessness, willfulness, ignorance or any other cause, may be subject to a fine of not more than two thousand-five hundred dollars ($2,500.00) for each offense, and/or probation in the sports(s) in which the violation has been made, and/or suspension from the Association up to a full calendar year, and/or forfeiture of games and/or contests involved. (NOTE: See Appendix “P” at the end of this publication for a detailed schedule of fines)
D. PROBATION - placing a school on probation permits a school to compete in regular season games and/or contests, but bars that school from competing for any championship during the period of probation.
E. A school which, after investigation, is adjudged guilty of violating the rules of the Georgia High School Association shall pay the costs incidental to such investigation; such cost to be in addition to fines or penalties assessed. Failure to pay the cost shall result in suspension or in lengthening the period of suspension.

SECTION 14
CODE OF ETHICS

The Georgia High School Association recognizes its responsibility with respect to the promotion of honesty, truthfulness, and accuracy in record-keeping and reporting. Therefore, the professional personnel of the member schools are charged with upholding the Code of Ethics adopted by the Professional Standards Commission as accepted and approved by the State Board of Education.

ARTICLE V — GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1
CONTESTS

A. Each region may hold annual contests in literary, athletics, and other forms of contests designed to promote the cause of education and authorized by the State Executive Committee.
B. Such contests must be held on dates to be announced in this Constitution and By-Laws under the rules governing State and Regional meets.
C. Schools shall compete in their own classifications in State and Regional meets.
D. Winners in regional meets may be sent to the State Meet in both athletic and literary events.

SECTION 2
ORGANIZATION PURPOSE

A. The purpose for which the Georgia High School Association is organized is exclusively educational within the meaning of IRC 501 (c) (3) or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.
B. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the Georgia High School Association shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from Federal income tax under IRC 501 (c) (3) or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.
C. In the event of dissolution, the residual assets of the organization will be turned over to one or more organizations which themselves are exempt as organizations described in sections 501 (c) (3) and 170 (c) (2) of the Code or corresponding sections of any prior or future Internal Revenue Code, or to the Federal, State, or local government for exclusive public purpose.

BY-LAWS

The Georgia High School Association recognizes that local boards and/or governing bodies may place more stringent requirements as they deem appropriate. The Association encourages all boards of education and/or governing bodies to extend the same rules and regulations to all extra-curricular activities under their jurisdiction. These rules establish the provisions governing student eligibility to participate in interscholastic activities.

A. The word “student” used in these By-Laws refers either to a boy or girl participant in interscholastic athletics, cheerleading, or literary activities. Therefore, according to correct grammatical usage, since the antecedent “student” can involve persons of both sexes, the masculine pronouns he, his, or him used throughout said By-Laws will refer to either male or female participants.
B. The word “principal” used in these By-Laws refers either to a male or female head of a secondary school. Therefore, according to correct grammatical usage, since the antecedent “principal” can involve or refer to persons of either or both sexes the masculine pronouns, he, him, or his, will refer to a male or female head of a secondary school.
C. The abbreviations GHSA used throughout these By-Laws refers to the Georgia High School Association.
D. Nothing in the By-Laws of the GHSA is intended to give any individual students of GHSA member schools any due process or other rights as only member schools are entitled to any notice or opportunity to be heard in any questions coming before the GHSA. No student of GHSA member schools shall have any rights or benefits under these By-Laws as a third party beneficiary or otherwise.

BY-LAW 1.00 - STUDENT

1.10 - CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY

1.11 Students gain eligibility to practice or compete for the school in which they are enrolled after they have been certified by the principal of that school, after the eligibility forms have been processed by the GHSA office, and after the students have met the standards of:

a. academic requirements
b. age
c. semesters in high school
d. residence in the school's service area
e. transfer rules

Note: Students establishing eligibility as entering 9th graders are automatically eligible for the first semester unless over age.

1.12 The certification of eligibility shall be submitted initially in each sport or activity no later than the date set by the GHSA for the first practice in that sport or activity.

a. This due date does not consider the date of the first contest scheduled.
b. EXCEPTION: Literary, One-Act Play and Riflery certification is due twenty (20) calendar days prior to the first scheduled contest.

1.13 If a student ruled ineligible by the GHSA, competes interscholastically due to the terms of a **court restraining order or injunction** against his/her school and/or the GHSA, and then has the court order vacated, stayed, reversed, or ruled unjustified; the Executive Director shall take one or more of the following actions agains the school involved in the interest of restitution and fairness to the competing school(s):

a. Require that individual and/or team records and performances achieved during participation by the ineligible student be vacated or stricken.
b. Require that team victories be forfeited to the opponent(s).
c. Require that team awards earned by the school or individual awards earned by the ineligible student be returned to the GHSA.

1.20 - ENROLLMENT AND TEAM MEMBERSHIP

1.21 To be eligible to participate and/or try-out for a sport or activity, a student must be enrolled full time in grades 9-12 inclusive at the school seeking eligibility for that student.

a. Enrollment is defined as follows:
    1. Fall Semester: when the student participates in a practice or contest before classes begin, or the student attends classes.
    2. Spring Semester: when the student attends classes.
    3. A student may be enrolled in only one (1) high school at a time.
b. The student must be in regular attendance.
c. The student must be taking courses that total at least 2.5 Units that count toward graduation.
   NOTE: If an eligible student transfers from a school on a block-schedule format to a school using a traditional format (or vice versa) and cannot get a full schedule of classes with equivalent credit, the school may petition the Executive Director for a waiver of this rule for the semester the transfer occurs.
d. All or part of the course load of a student may be taken online through a virtual school as long as the student's grades are being kept at the school in which the student is enrolled. Grades from virtual school courses must be on file at the school by the first day of the new semester for the student to be eligible.

1.22 Students enrolled in grade 9 in a middle or junior high school which is a feeder school to the high school may participate in interscholastic activities for the parent school.

1.23 All-male schools may enlist female students from other schools to be on sideline cheerleading squads as long as the following conditions are met:

a. Each cheerleader must be eligible at the school at which she is enrolled, and must have a signed release from an administrator at that school.
b. Each cheerleader must have a GHSA Pre-participation Physical Evaluation Form on file at the school where she will be cheering as well as at the school at which she is enrolled.

c. Each cheerleader must have insurance coverage comparable to all other participants in GHSA activities.
d. Supervision must be provided by the all-male school for all practices and games.

1.30 - AGE
To be eligible to participate in interscholastic activities, a student must not have reached his 19th birthday prior to May 1st, preceding his year of participation.

1.40 - LIMITS OF PARTICIPATION

1.41 Students must have a certificate of an annual physical examination on file at the school prior to participating in any athletic try-outs, practices, voluntary workouts or games that indicate the students are physically approved for participation.

a. Physical examinations will be good for twelve (12) months from the date of the exam. EXCEPTION: Any physical examination taken on or after April 1 in the preceding year will be accepted until that school ends classes the next Spring or concludes its final Spring sports season (for those participating students).
b. The physical exam must be conducted by a licensed medical physician, doctor of Osteopathic medicine, nurse practitioner or a physician's assistant.
c. The exam must be signed by an M.D., D.O., or by a Physician's Assistant, or an Advance Practice Nurse who has been delegated that task by an M.D., or D.O.
d. The GHSA requires that member schools use the edition of the preparticipation physical evaluation form approved by the American Academy of Pediatrics, et. al., found on the GHSA web site.

1.42 A student has **eight (8)** consecutive semesters or four (4) consecutive years of eligibility from the date of entry into the ninth grade to be eligible for interscholastic competition.

a. A student is not considered to have entered the 9th grade when high school level courses are taken if the student is regularly enrolled in a school in a grade below the ninth grade.
b. Credits earned toward high school graduation which are taken below the ninth grade may be used when considering high school eligibility.
c. The provisions of the eight-semester rule in the case of an individual may be waived by the Executive Director upon presentation of evidence of true hardship beyond the student's control, or by the State Executive Committee upon timely application by a member school for placement on the agenda.

1.43 Sub-varsity competitors must meet all eligibility requirements with the exception of the migratory rule.

1.44 Students in grade 9 and higher may participate on both the varsity and one (1) sub-varsity team in the same sport with the following limitations:

a. Football – a player may not participate in interscholastic competitions more than six (6) quarters per week, beginning with the varsity game.
b. Basketball – a player may not participate in interscholastic competition more than six (6) quarters per calendar day. (Note: Tournaments are exempt from this restriction.)
c. Soccer – a player may not participate in interscholastic competition more than three (3) halves per calendar day. (Note: Tournaments are exempt from this restriction.)
d. Lacrosse – a player may not participate in interscholastic competitions more than six (6) quarters per day.
e. Wrestling – the combination of play dates (wrestling and girls wrestling) in which a student participates may not be greater than the current varsity limit of play dates.
f. All other sports - the combination of games or play days (varsity and sub-varsity) in which the student participates may not be greater than the limit allotted to the varsity in that sport (NOTE: Exceptions may be made by the Executive Director.)

NOTE: Violations of these participation rules in ANY sport will result in a mandatory fine and an automatic forfeiture of the game in which the student exceeded the limit. Additional penalties may be imposed by the Executive Director in extreme circumstances.

1.45 Eighth grade students may participate on a sub-varsity team of a high school provided they attend a feeder school of that high school.

a. Students in grade 8 are never eligible for a varsity event in any activity.
b. Eighth grade students who play on a high school team must meet all middle school requirements as put forth by the State Department of Education.
c. An eighth grade student who is declared ineligible at a middle school or retained for academic reasons, is considered to be ineligible for participation on a sub-varsity high school team.
d. Eighth grade students participating on a sub-varsity team may only participate in 70% of the number of games allotted to the varsity team in that sport. Eighth grade students may not participate in more sub-varsity and middle school contests combined than the number the GHSA allows for varsity competition in that respective sport.

e. Students below the eighth grade are not eligible to participate on any high school team.
f. Students enrolled in grade 8 in a middle school or junior high school which is a feeder school to the member high school may participate in Spring football practice.
g. Students enrolled in grade 8 in a middle school or junior high school which is a feeder school to the member high school may try out for cheerleading, girls flag football, softball, and volleyball at the high school. Eighth grade students at a non-feeder school that has no system high school may participate in cheerleading tryouts at the member high school serving the student's area of residence. Such a student must be pre-enrolled at that member high school, and once pre-enrolled, the student has established eligibility at that high school.
h. Eighth grade students who attend a feeder school for one member high school may NOT participate in any sport or activity practice at a different member high school.
i. All eighth grade students should be reported on Eligibility Form D, available on the GHSA web site.

1.46 The number of contests, start and end dates, and the number of practice days allowed for each sport or activity can be found listed in a calendar at the front of this publication. (NOTE: The season ends for a team when that team is eliminated from the post-season competition or wins the State Championship in that sport.)

1.47 A student's gender is determined as follows:

a. Girls may participate on boys' teams when there is no girls' team offered in that sport or activity by the school (exception: wrestling). Boys may not participate on girls' teams even when there is no corresponding boys' sport or activity. Cheerleading is a coed sport.
b. A student's sex is determined by the sex noted on his/her certificate at birth.
c. The GHSA will attempt to accommodate requests for private restroom or locker/dressing room facilities for students requesting the same at GHSA playoff events or contests provided notice of the request is made as soon as possible to the GHSA office. No student shall be required to utilize the private facilities.

1.48 Advisory Notice - Pregnant Students: In response to the increasing number of pregnant students attending member schools, and the continued participation of these students in GHSA activities, the following advisory notice is being offered:

a. During the first 18 weeks of pregnancy, students, with written consent from a physician, may be allowed to participate in athletic activities except those activities in which a fall or other rapid deceleration is likely to occur.
b. Pregnant students are not allowed to participate in any athletic activities after the 18th week of pregnancy.

1.49 Schools having students participate in athletic activities with artificial limbs must certify that the artificial limb is no more dangerous to participants than a natural limb.

a. A permission form must be filed with the GHSA office.
b. The form may be found in the Miscellaneous section on the GHSA web site.

1.50 - SCHOLASTIC STANDING / SCHOLARSHIP

1.51 To be eligible to participate, practice, and/or try out in interscholastic activities, a student must be academically eligible. A student is required to pass classes that carry at least 2.5 Units counting toward graduation the semester immediately preceding participation. Exception: First semester ninth-grade students.

a. Passing in all GHSA member schools is a grade of seventy (70).
b. Students participating in junior varsity or "B" team competition must meet all scholastic requirements.
c. If an eligible student transfers from a school that uses a block-schedule format to a school using a traditional format (or vice versa) and that student cannot get a full schedule of classes with equivalent credit in the semester of the transfer, the school may petition the Executive Director for a waiver of this rule for the first semester after the transfer occurs.
d. For schools offering courses with yearlong grading, eligibility must be computed for each semester.
    1. At the end of the first semester, the school must determine that the student has a grade of 70% or higher in classes carrying at least 2.5 Units.
    2. The second semester grade will be the grade given for the entire course and shall include the end-of-course test grade.
    3. Remediation programs designed to bring the student's first semester grade up to 70% or higher may be used (in accordance with GHSA guidelines) if the school allows such programs for all students.

1.52 Students gain or lose eligibility on the first day of the subsequent semester. The first day of the Fall semester shall be interpreted as the first date of practice for the first sport.

a. Exception: Students who successfully complete summer school to maintain eligibility become eligible the last day of summer school.
    1. Summer school is an extension of the previous semester and courses may be:

    a. remedial in nature where a previously-taken course is repeated in its entirety with a new grade being given.
    b. enrichment in nature where a new course is taken that results in new credit being earned.
  2. A maximum of two (2) unit credits earned in summer school may be counted for eligibility purposes.
     NOTE: Additional credits may be earned in credit recovery programs or make-up programs after the start of the new semester.
  3. Summer school credits earned in non-accredited home study programs or non-accredited private schools may not be used to gain eligibility. Accreditation recognized under the rule shall be from the Georgia Accrediting Commission (GAC) or a regional accreditation agency (such as SACS) or the Georgia Private School Accreditation Council (GAPSAC).
  4. An independent study course taken in summer school must be regionally accredited and accepted by the school system for graduation credit.
b. Courses completed after the beginning of a new semester may not be used to gain eligibility for that semester. Example: night school classes, correspondence courses, etc.
c. Independent study courses taken during the school year must meet the criteria of 1.52 (a) 4.

1.53 Students must accumulate units towards graduation according to the following criteria:

a. First-year students (entering 9th grade) are eligible academically. Second semester first-year students must have passed courses carrying at least 2.5 units the previous semester in order to participate.
b. Second-year students must have accumulated five (5) total units in the first year, AND passed courses carrying at least 2.5 units in the previous semester.
c. Third-year students must have accumulated eleven (11) units in the first and second years, AND passed courses carrying at least 2.5 units in the previous semester.
d. Fourth-year students must have accumulated seventeen (17) units in the first three years, AND passed courses carrying at least 2.5 units in the previous semester.
e. Students may accumulate the required units for participation during the school year and eligibility will be reinstated at the beginning of the next semester.

ADVISORY NOTICE: CURRICULAR INNOVATIONS

A. BLOCK FOUR PROGRAMS:
  1. The student takes four courses that are worth one (1) unit each and the classes meet twice the number of hours per week as in the standard curricular programs.
  2. To be eligible, a student must earn at least 2.5 units.
  3. Unit requirements are the same in all curricular programs.
B. BLOCK EIGHT PROGRAMS:
  1. The student takes eight courses at some time during the term, and each course is worth one-half unit.
  2. To be eligible, a student must earn at least 2.5 units during the term.
  3. Unit requirements are the same in all curricular programs.
C. HYBRID SCHEDULING:
  1. Definition: A student takes a combination of courses scheduled as block courses, yearlong courses and/or traditional courses.
  2. To be eligible, a student must be enrolled in a combination of courses that carry at least 2.5 units.
  3. To be eligible, a student must have passed a combination of courses the previous semester that carries at least 2.5 units.

1.54 A Dual Enrollment program is defined as a program in which a fulltime student at a GHSA member high school takes one or more courses from a state public or private postsecondary institution and receives credit at the high school (toward graduation) and at the postsecondary institution.

a. Dual enrolled students shall take courses that are approved by the Georgia Department of Education.
b. Courses may be taken in a variety of formats (including distance learning and virtual courses) as long as the courses are approved.
c. Postsecondary semester hour credit shall be converted to high school unit credit as follows:
  1. 1-2 semester hours equates to .5 unit
  2. 3-5 semester hours equates to 1 unit
d. Postsecondary quarter hour credit shall be converted to high school unit credit as follows:
  1. 1-3 quarter hours equates to .5 unit
  2. 4-8 quarter hours equates to 1 unit

1.55 Students involved in approved Dual Enrollment programs shall be eligible to participate in GHSA activities provided that academic eligibility is maintained.

a. Courses taken each semester at the high school and/or postsecondary institution must total at least 2.5 units.
b. Courses passed the previous semester at the high school and/or postsecondary institution must total at least 2.5 units
c. Students will gain or lose eligibility on the first day of each semester at the high school and a college calendar that differs from the high school calendar may cause problems.
d. Students who withdraw or are dropped from a Dual Enrollment program and are returned to the high school only, may encounter eligibility problems.
e. Students involved in Joint Enrollment programs, Early College programs, or Gateway to College programs may not be eligible at their respective high schools.
f. A student who participates on an intercollegiate athletic team may not participate in any GHSA activity.

1.56 Loss of Eligibility: Students assigned to an alternative school or on out-of-school suspension for disciplinary reasons, or adjudicated to YDC, lose their eligibility. Suspension is considered to have ended when the student is physically readmitted to the classroom.

1.57 Failure to Meet Academic Standards: When a school administrator believes that the student has failed to meet the academic eligibility requirements due to conditions that were beyond the control of the school, the student, and/or his parents, and such that none of them could have been expected reasonably to comply with the rule, he may request that the student's case be put on the agenda of the Hardship Committee.

a. Ignorance of the rule(s) on the part of any individual is not sufficient cause to set aside the rule(s).
b. Schools must supply all the materials requested on the Hardship Application Form on the GHSA website.

1.58 Credit Recovery/Make-up Work: Students who have academic deficiencies at the end of a semester may make up those deficiencies in programs that are available to any student in the school. NOTE: Programs allowing students to recover academic credit have a variety of names in various schools.

a. Credit recovery programs are short-term programs that involve a course that has been completed and a grade given. The student is given the opportunity to work on areas of deficiency.
b. Make-up programs occur when a course has not been completed and an “Incomplete” grade has been given. The student is given the opportunity to work on areas of deficiency.
c. Credit recovery and make-up work must be completed by the first day of the first semester and within 15 school days after the beginning of the second semester. The student is ineligible until such time as the work is completed and the required passing grade has been recorded. Exception: If the end-of-course test is not offered before the first day of the first semester or within the 15-school-day window of the second semester, the student may be granted a reasonable extension by the GHSA.
d. The GHSA Executive Director shall be authorized to approve credit recovery or make-up work completed later than the first day of the first semester or subsequent to the 15-school-day window of the second semester if he finds that the
    1. timeframe was not met due to circumstances outside the control of the student, his parent(s), and the school, AND
    2. work was completed as soon as reasonably possible, AND
    3. allowance for such a delay is offered on the same basis to all students in the school.
e. Credit recovery programs operated during the summer shall be completed by the first day of the first semester. Students using those credits to gain eligibility are ineligible until the course is completed successfully. Credit recovery is used for remedial work only, and no new credit courses may be applied under this provision.
f. Students using credit recovery or make-up programs must have their eligibility submitted to the GHSA office on a “Form C.”

1.59 Students with disabilities:

a. A student with disabilities who is enrolled in a special education program which is not physically located at the parent school (example: psycho-education center, regional occupation center, community-based instruction class, etc.) shall be eligible to participate, practice, and/or try out in interscholastic activities at the parent school if IEP (Individual Education Program) requirements are met.
b. Schools with students having to meet only IEP requirements for course credit must establish an accounting process for the number of courses passed each semester, and for the awarding of units. Requirements for the date of entry into the ninth grade and for age apply to students with IEPs without variation.
c. Competitive interscholastic activities administered through local special education programs shall follow Georgia Department of Education guidelines and procedures for special education, and are exempt from GHSA requirements.

1.60 - SCHOOL SERVICE AREAS / TRANSFER / MIGRANT STUDENTS / MIGRATORY WAIVER

1.61 School service areas for member public schools are those attendance boundaries established by local boards of education from which a school normally draws its students. The service area for a member private school is the public

school's attendance zone in which the private school resides. The service area for a startup or converted charter school will be the same as the school from which the charter school draws its students.

1.62 A transfer student who has established eligibility at a former school in grades 9-12 shall be deemed a migrant at the new school for 365 days from the date of transfer unless the following criteria are met:

a. The student moved simultaneously with the entire family unit, and all other persons he/she lived with at the former residence, and that residential unit moved into the service area of the new school with simultaneous enrollment of the student in the new school. This is known as a "bona fide move." (NOTE: A move within the same service area does not constitute a bona fide move.)
b. It must be apparent that the parent(s) and all the persons residing with the student and the student have relinquished the residence in the former service area and have moved to a residence in the new service area with the intention that the move be permanent. The bona fide move is validated when the student's family maintains the new residence for at least one calendar year. A return to the previous service area or a move to a new service area within that year renders the student to be a migrant student.
c. Determination of what constitutes a bona fide change of residency and with the intent that it be permanent depends on the circumstances of each case. The GHSA will consider all relevant facts and circumstances in making that determination. Confirmation of the following factors, although not conclusive, MUST be provided as evidence of relinquishment of the former residence:
    1. All licensed drivers in the household must comply with the Georgia DMV change of address policy and schools must provide copies of updated driver's licenses with the new address.
    2. The former residence must be vacated, all unnecessary utilities terminated and all household goods and furniture must be either moved to the new residence or stored (except as may be necessary to ready the residence for sale).
    3. The former residence must not be used or occupied by any member of the family unit.
    4. The residence, if owned, must either be sold or listed for sale. If the former residence was leased by the family unit, the lease must be cancelled. Copies of any applicable listing agreement, deed, contract for sale, or lease cancellation must be provided.
    5. Change of address notification must be made to all employers and the postal service. The bona fide move is validated when the student's family maintains the new residence for at least one calendar year. A return to the previous service area within that year renders the student to be a migrant student.
d. The student was enrolled in a private school or a magnet school and has a bona fide move from one public school service area to another public school service area. A student in this situation may attend either the public school or a private school serving his area of residence.
e. The student was enrolled in a non-member school in Georgia and, without a bona fide move, transferred to a GHSA member school that serves his area of residence as long as:
    1. It is the initial move of the student from a non-member school to a member school serving his area of residence, AND
    2. The student was enrolled at the high school serving his area of residence in grades 9-12 before attending the non-member school, OR
    3. The student has not yet established eligibility in grades 9-12 at a member school. Eligibility is established the first time the student enrolls in a GHSA member school regardless of service area.
    4. A student who transfers from a GHSA member school to an independent school entering the GHSA in the next school year must be enrolled at the entering independent school by January 31 of the year preceding their becoming a GHSA member school in order to be eligible. NOTE: Rules about joint custody transfers have control over the one-time transfer restriction in this by-law.
    5. *In compliance with the Dexter Mosley Act, schools must file eligibility for home study students and students enrolled in qualifying virtual schools using Transfer Eligibility Form "HS" found on the GHSA web site. Students enrolled in qualifying virtual schools must meet all requirements of the Dexter Mosley Act with the exception of the Declaration of Intent to Home Study.*
f. The student transfers from a non-member home school and the receiving school grants credit so that the student has accumulated sufficient units. At the time such credit is given, the student must also have passed a minimum of at least 2.5 units the previous semester. The student becomes eligible when credit is awarded officially.
g. The student is involved in a foreign exchange program that is approved and published on the "Advisory List of International Educational Travel and Exchange Programs" published by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET). This list is found on the GHSA web site.
    1. The student shall be considered eligible for a maximum period of one calendar year.
    2. The student shall not be a graduate of a secondary school in his home country.
    3. The student must maintain eligibility requirements at the member school.
    4. The foreign exchange program must randomly assign students to schools by a method that insures that no student, school, or other interested party may influence the assignment for athletic purposes. "Direct Placement" foreign exchange students must go through the hardship appeal process to become eligible.
    5. All eligibility forms (Form B) for foreign exchange students must be accompanied by documentation from the CSIET-approved foreign exchange program showing that the student has been placed according to the normal

procedures for that agency.

h. If one of his/her parents or the custodial parent is a certified teacher or administrator teaching in grades 9-12 at the receiving school. This opportunity is available one time only at any given school. (NOTE: Rules about joint custody transfers overrule the one-time transfer restriction in this by-law.)

i. The student has one of the following family related circumstances which shall constitute a waiver of the "bona fide move" rule:
   1. There is a Superior Court Final Order changing permanent physical custody of the student from one parent to the other parent and the student moves to the residence of the parent receiving custody in a new service area and attends the member school serving that service area.
   2. There is a Superior Court Final Order awarding permanent joint physical custody to the parents and the student elects to move from the residence of one parent to the residence of the other parent in a new service area and attends the member school serving that area of residence. Provided, however, that such an election can be made only once during a 12-month period beginning the date of the transfer and the Final Order must have specifically awarded the parents "joint physical custody" of the student. Award of "joint legal custody" shall not suffice for purposes of this paragraph.
   3. There is a death of the custodial parent with whom the student resided and the student moves to live with the other parent in a new service area and attends the member school serving that area of residence.
   4. There is a military transfer of one or both custodial parents that requires a change of residence of the student to a new service area and the student attends the member school serving that area of residence.(NOTE: Eligibility forms for transfer eligibility under paragraphs (1), (2) and (3) above must be accompanied by certified copies of applicable Court Orders. Eligibility forms for transfer eligibility under paragraph (4) above must be accompanied by true and correct copies of verifiable deployment orders.)
   5. Students changing schools due to non-parent custodial changes shall be declared migrant students and ineligible for twelve months from the date of transfer. All cases involving non-parental custody changes may be appealed through the hardship process.
   6. Illegitimate children do not gain eligibility by transfer to the residence of the child's father. In order to gain eligibility, the child must be legitimized by the father pursuant to Georgia law. Signing the birth certificate, paying child support or living with the father is not sufficient to deem the child legitimate. NOTE: Children are considered legitimate under Georgia if born or conceived during the marriage to the mother.

j. Students who are U.S. citizens and who have been enrolled and attended a high school in a foreign country, upon return to the U.S., shall be eligible to participate at a GHSA member school provided the student lives in the new school's service area and is otherwise eligible under GHSA age, eight-semester, academic and other eligibility rules.

k. Students who are transferred from one school attendance area to another school attendance area by a mandate of the local board of education maintain their eligibility.

l. Married students setting up a household (domicile) shall be eligible in the school of their residence provided they meet all other requirements of eligibility.

m. Students at the Atlanta School for the Deaf will be eligible at the school serving their area of residence provided they meet all other eligibility requirements.

n. Students entering a school as an "unaccompanied youth" under the conditions of the McKinney-Vento Act must go through the hardship appeal process to become eligible.

o. If approved by the local board of education, students enrolled in a magnet or specialty school established by the local board of education shall be allowed to participate in GHSA extracurricular activities as a member of the school team for the school which they would ordinarily attend according to local board of education attendance policy. Provided, however, that:
   1. 1. If the magnet/specialty school offers the only activity in which the student elects to participate, the student shall be required to participate as a member of the magnet/specialty school program in that activity.
   2. Students at magnet/specialty schools may not participate in GHSA extracurricular activities at both the magnet/specialty school and the school that the student would ordinarily attend. Those students must elect to participate in GHSA extracurricular activities at only one school per school year. For example, students could not play basketball at the magnet school and football at the home school.
   3. The election of the student to participate in GHSA extracurricular activities for either the magnet/specialty school or the school the student would ordinarily attend shall be binding for the current school year.
   4. Such students shall be required to comply with all GHSA eligibility and other rules. The member school shall be required to provide to the GHSA a copy of the local board of education approval of such participation.
   5. The receiving school will submit students on an MT Eligibility Form. This form is available on the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net).

p. All eligibility appeals arising under by-law 1.60-1.69 shall initially be submitted to the Executive Director (or his/her designee) for decision. Appeals from those decisions may thereafter be made to the Hardship Committee.

1.63 Student Eligibility

a. A "migrant student" is a student who transfers into a GHSA school without a bona fide move or without one of the exceptions listed in by-law 1.62. The student may practice or compete at the sub-varsity level, but may not compete at the varsity level for one calendar year from the date of entry into the new school. In the event that, after transfer, a

student becomes or is later determined to be a migrant student, then the student shall be ineligible to compete at the varsity level for one calendar year from that date.

b. If a student has been ruled eligible to participate by the GHSA, but it is later determined that such eligibility should not have been approved, any ineligibility to participate in future GHSA activities may be assessed as of the date that such ineligibility was determined.
c. A student who, after entering the ninth grade, has made one bona fide move and established eligibility at a new member school, shall be declared a migrant for one calendar year upon a second or successive transfer to another member school. Appeal of the migrant status hereunder may be made utilizing the hardship procedure.

1.64 A student who is not eligible at the former school, and then transfers to a new school, cannot regain eligibility by the transfer. Academically ineligible students cannot gain eligibility by being adjudicated to YDC and subsequently returning to their resident school with earned credit. NOTE: The new school may file a hardship appeal if circumstances warrant.

1.65 Students whose transfers from a member or non-member school to a member school have been approved by the GHSA office within *(20) calendar days of the end of the GHSA regular season play* are not eligible for participation in GHSA sponsored tournaments and/or playoffs in that particular sport for the school year of transfer.

1.66 A student who is not eligible at one school because of suspension or expulsion and then transfers to a member school cannot regain eligibility by such a transfer, for the length of the suspension or one calendar year, whichever is less.

1.67 A **permissive transfer** is defined as an allowance by a local board of education for students and/or their parents to choose a school to attend without regard to the location of residence.

a. A student transferring from member school to member school on a permissive transfer is considered a migrant student.
b. A student transferring to or from a school housing a system-wide, singular academic or vocation program or a magnet program on a permissive transfer is considered a migrant student.
    1. The offering of an individual course or series of courses by one school in a system does not provide inherent justification to grant GHSA eligibility.
    2. Special options offered by a school system that allow students to attend a school outside their area of residence do not provide inherent justification to grant GHSA eligibility.
    3. Any such permissive transfer issue may be brought before the GHSA Hardship Committee.
c. Students transferring under the provisions of Federal or State academic accountability regulations must be processed through the normal hardship appeals process.
d. When a military base is located in two school districts, a student moving onto the base for the first time may choose to attend either school district, and that district will place the student appropriately. Any transfer after the initial placement will be subject to standard eligibility regulations.

1.68 Hardship Applications may be filed by an administrator at a member school when a student does not meet the standards of eligibility outlined in by-laws 1.50 (academic issues) and 1.60 (transfer issues).

a. The GHSA Constitution (Art. IV; Sec. 5; Subsection B4) specifies that the hardship issues must be beyond the reasonable control of the persons involved.
b. The process of appealing a decision of the Hardship Committee is outlined in the GHSA Constitution (Art. IV, Sec. 9, Subsection C & D).
c. In order for a hardship appeal based on a financial hardship to be approved, the new school must provide proof that the family attempted to address the financial problem at the previous school, and that the need-based financial aid was non-existent or insufficient to resolve the problem. Increases in tuition or other costs at a private school do not create an automatic reason to grant the appeal, because such fee increases are considered foreseeable and not unavoidable. Documentation of the financial problem is required.

1.69 When a new school opens, student eligibility shall be determined as follows:

a. When a school district mandates a service area for a new school for all grades enrolled at the new school, all students living within the mandated service area in those grades are immediately eligible. All students living outside the mandated service area who desire to attend the new school are considered migrant students and are ineligible for one year. Hardship appeals may be filed if conditions warrant.
b. When a school district mandates some students to attend the new school, allows some students to stay at their present school, and permits some students to transfer to the new school, the school shall set a deadline for students living in the service area of the new school to decide whether they will move to the new school, or stay at the present school. The decisions exercised at the deadline date are binding. Subsequent changes render the student to be a migrant student with the one-year period of ineligibility. Students who are granted permissive transfers to enroll at the new school from other schools within the system are considered to be migrant students. Hardship appeals may be filed if conditions warrant.

1.70 - RECRUITING/UNDUE INFLUENCE / FOLLOWING THE COACH

1.71 Recruiting and Undue Influence is defined as the use of influence by any person connected directly or indirectly with a GHSA school to induce a student of any age to transfer from one school to another, or to enter the ninth grade at a member school for athletic or literary competition purposes, whether or not the school presently attended by the student is a member of the GHSA.

a. The use of undue influence to secure OR retain a student for competitive purposes is prohibited, and shall lead to penalties being assessed against either school. This violation may cause the student to forfeit eligibility for one year from the date of enrollment, provided however, that such period of ineligibility may be assessed from the date that recruitment/undue influence violation was finally determined to have occurred with regard to the student rather than from the date of enrollment.
b. Evidence of undue influence includes, but is not limited to:
    1. personal contact with coaches, boosters, or other school personnel discussing participating in athletics upon a proposed transfer
    2. gifts of money, jobs, supplies, clothing, or housing incentives
    3. free transportation
    4. free admission to contests
    5. an invitation to attend practices and/or games
    6. a social event (other than an official schoolwide Open House program) specifically geared for prospective athletes
    7. free tuition beyond the allowable standards found in by-law 1.82
    8. a coach asking a prospective student for contact information
c. Complaints or reports of violations of this rule will be investigated and handled on a case-by-case basis. If coaches are found to be in violation of the recruiting rule, a copy of the investigation will be forwarded to the Professional Standards Commission of the Department of Education.
d. A school will be afforded an opportunity to demonstrate it could not reasonably be expected to be responsible for the actions of a booster who is found to have violated the recruiting/undue influence rules.

1.72 Following The Coach: A student athlete transferring from one school to another, or entering the ninth grade for the first time, shall be ruled ineligible for one year if it is proven that:

a. The coach of the receiving school coached an out-of-school team or all-star team on which the athlete played prior to the transfer; OR
b. The coach at the receiving school acted as a private athletic instructor for the transferring athlete, regardless of whether the coach was paid for his services and/or expertise; OR
c. The student participated in a sports camp or clinic run by a member school and/or its coach(es).
d. The player who played for a coach at one school (GHSA member or non-member) and subsequently (within a 12-month period) followed that coach when he/she moved to a GHSA school or changed schools within the GHSA membership. (This is not applicable to dependent children of the coach.)
e. The situations cited in this by-law are considered to be violations even if a bona fide move has occurred. Hardship appeal procedures are available for the demonstration that undue influence has not occurred.

1.73 A booster shall be considered to be an extension of the school and must abide by all rules applied to coaches and other school personnel. The following persons or groups may be considered boosters: members of the school's Booster Club; students; alumni; parents; guardians; or relatives of a student or former student; financial donors; donors of time and effort; personal trainers or coaches renting facilities.

1.80 - FINANCIAL AID

1.81 Any student who receives financial aid or non-GHSA approved gifts from any source and in any form (scholarships, tuition remission, cash, gifts, etc.) arising out of or **received in connection with their participation** in any sport or literary event shall be ruled ineligible. The duration of the ineligibility will last as long as the illegal benefits are being received. This prohibition shall not apply to awards under By-Law 1.90 or to other items approved by the GHSA.

a. If tuition is charged, it must be paid by a parent, legal guardian, or other family member with the exception of payments coming from need-based financial aid.
b. It is not legal for donated funds to be designated for a specific student that are given by non-family members, businesses, churches or other organizations, except for programs specified by state law.
c. Schools may not employ students to work off their tuition costs.
d. The GHSA Executive Director will determine whether the financial aid or gift arose out of or in connection with participation in any sport or literary event.
e. If a school allows a student who has received such financial aid or gifts to participate in competition, the Executive Director shall assess an appropriate penalty.

1.82 Financial aid in the form of free or reduced tuition or other aid must be need-based aid as determined by a national

student aid service or financial aid based on institutional policies for academic performance (classroom record and/or test scores) that is administered by persons not in the athletic department.

1.83 Member schools who award financial aid shall issue a statement to the Executive Director signed by the principal or headmaster of the school giving the following information:

a. number of students enrolled in the school
b. number of students receiving financial aid
c. names of students (or a listing of student identification numbers) receiving financial aid who are involved in GHSA activities
d. certification that the percentage of students who participate in activities and who receive financial aid is the same percentage as the number of students receiving financial aid who do not participate in activities (plus or minus 5%)

1.90 - AMATEUR STATUS/AWARDS

1.91 A student who represents a school in interscholastic athletic competition shall be an**amateur** in that activity.

a. An **amateur athlete** is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the physical, mental, social, and pleasure benefits derived therefrom.
b. Accepting nominal, standard fees or salary for instructing, supervising or officiating in an organized youth sports program or recreation, playground or camp activity, shall not jeopardize an athlete's amateur status.
c. Reasonable compensation derived from private lessons in a sport is permissible.

1.92 An athlete **forfeits amateur status** in a sport by:

a. competing for money or other monetary compensations except for reasonable allowances for travel, meals, and lodging. NOTE: Accepting expense allowances authorized by the United States Olympic Committee for Olympic Development Programs is acceptable for GHSA students.
b. receiving any award or prize of monetary value which has not been approved by the GHSA.
c. capitalizing on athletic performance by receiving money or gifts with monetary value except college scholarships.
d. signing a professional playing contract in any sport, or hiring an agent to manage his/her athletic career.

1.93 Only **awards** approved by the GHSA may be accepted by a high school student-athlete as a result of participation in school or non-school competition in a sport recognized by the GHSA.

1.94 Symbolic awards (i.e. non-cash) presented for winning or placing in GHSA competitions are limited to $400 per year, per student in the aggregate, paid by the local school. These are the only GHSA-approved awards for interscholastic competition. Beyond this, a student may receive one (1) school sweater or jacket presented by the school during his high school career.

1.95 Athletes competing in golf or tennis events are limited to awards as specified in the United States Golf Association Rules of Golf, and the United States Tennis Association Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations, which includes (but not limited to) the following:

a. No cash awards may be accepted.
b. Merchandise awards in tennis may be accepted up to a retail value of $250.00.
c. Merchandise awards in golf may be accepted up to a retail value of $750.00.

1.96 Players attending national camps or all-star events may keep reasonable benefits for housing, meals and transportation. Players may keep only equipment that is commemorative in nature and/or used in the process of the event’s workouts.

1.97 Students may receive consideration for the use of their own name, image and likeness (NIL). Guidance for NIL can be found in Appendix “N” of the GHSA Constitution.

BY-LAW 2.00 - SCHOOL

2.10 - SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP TO GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

2.11 The GHSA is a voluntary association available to any Georgia high school, grades 9-12, that has been authorized to seek membership by the local board of education or similar governing body of control.

a. Member schools agree to conform to the Constitution and By-Laws of the GHSA.
b. Member schools agree to conform to the rules of the region organizations to which they are assigned.
c. Should a conflict arise between state rules and region rules, the state rules always take precedent.

2.12 Procedure for Membership:

a. The local board of education or similar governing body of control must adopt a resolution authorizing membership for the high school.
b. Membership is continued through the original resolution as long as the school is in good standing with the GHSA.
c. April 1 preceding the reclassification alignment process is the deadline date for new and existing private schools to join the GHSA for the next reclassification period. Newly established public schools will have a deadline date of April 1 to join the GHSA for the upcoming school year. No private school with an actual numerical enrollment of less than 150 students in grades 9-12 will be admitted to the GHSA.
d. Converted charter schools whose attendance zones and eligibility requirements do not change retain their membership in the GHSA. Converted charter schools or startup charter schools must apply for membership in the GHSA.

2.13 Dues for Membership:

a. The amount of the dues is set annually by the Executive Committee of the GHSA and includes a portion of the cost of catastrophic insurance.
    1. Dues must be paid prior to October 15 of each year.
    2. Schools failing to meet the dues-payment deadline are not eligible to participate in any contest until membership dues are paid.
b. Dues are prorated according to the school's classification.
NOTE: Schools with a total enrollment of less than 50 students are assessed their insurance fees according to the actual number of participants.
c. *The Dues schedule is as follows:

CLASSIFICATION	PAID BY OCTOBER 15	PAID AFTER OCTOBER 15
7A	$1,240.00	$1,340.00
6A	$1,115.00	$1,215.00
5A	$990.00	$1,090.00
4A	$865.00	$965.00
3A	$740.00	$840.00
2A	$615.00	$715.00
1A	$490.00	$590.00

*Dues and Fees may be waived by the Executive Director.

2.14 If a school or school system initiates litigation against the association and the court rules in favor of the association, the school or school system shall be responsible for paying all court costs and attorneys' fees.

2.15 If the association conducts an investigation of a member school in reference to a possible violation of association rules and the member school is found to be in violation, the school shall be assessed the cost of the investigation in addition to any fines.

2.16 Playing a Non-Region Schedule: A school may choose to play a non-region schedule in football, fastpitch softball, basketball, and/or baseball, and this choice is in effect for the current reclassification cycle.

a. A GHSA member school playing a non-region schedule may not participate in post-season competition in the GHSA or any other association..
b. Results of games with a school playing a non-region schedule may not be used in region standings.
c. Schools playing a non-region schedule in football, fastpitch softball, basketball and/or baseball must inform the GHSA office not less than 30 days prior to the first official playing date for that sport.

2.17 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 two or more classifications, or any portions thereof, may be combined at the discretion of the Executive Director. NOTE: Regions formed by the Reclassification Committee that consist of fewer than five (5) teams may be exempted from this rule.

2.20 - ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

2.21 The administrative head of each school shall have on file in the school office:

a. a certificate of an annual physical examination given by a licensed medical physician, a doctor of Osteopathic medicine, nurse practitioner or a physician's assistant indicating the student is approved for participation in athletic activities before that student may try-out, participate in practice, conditioning drills or summer activities, or participate in interscholastic contests (see By-Law 1.41).
b. a written Emergency Action Plan for athletic practices and games. This plan must include responses to natural disasters, serious illnesses/injuries, and terroristic events, and must have the involvement of local law enforcement agencies, rescue agencies, medical doctors and hospital personnel.
c. The Emergency Action Plan (EAP) should include the following:
    1. The venue-specific EAP should be reviewed and rehearsed annually prior to each sport season. Recommended personnel include local Emergency Medical Services (EMS), school public safety officials, school administrators, on-site medical personnel or school medical staff (team physicians or athletic trainers) and all pertinent coaching staff members.
    2. The venue-specific EAP and AED should be accessible to all involved in a potential emergent situation for practices, games or other athletic events.
    3. All emergency equipment which is available onsite, including Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs), should be listed on the EAP, stored in a safe place, be well-marked and publicized.
    4. The EAP should identify key personnel and their responsibilities to carry out the plan of action with a designated chain of command, including documentation actions that need to be taken post emergency.
    5. The EAP should contain appropriate contact information for the local and/or responding EMS personnel.
    6. The EAP should contain the facility address, GPS coordinates, location and contact information.
    7. A medical timeout is recommended prior to all GHSA sanctioned events to review the EAP.

2.22 The administrative head of each school shall operate all interscholastic contests and activities under direct and complete control of the school administration or designated school personnel. These responsibilities are not to be delegated by the board of education, superintendent, or principal to any person or persons who are not a part of the school's professional staff.

2.23 The administrative head of each school is expected to be a person who believes in fairness and honesty as evidenced by the strict adherence to all rules and regulations in regards to eligibility of contestants representing his/her school.

2.24 The administrative head of each school is expected to employ those persons who exemplify fairness and honesty. Any certificated person who violates rules in regard to student eligibility, or illegal practices, or knowingly misleads a member school and/or the GHSA will have a report of that behavior sent to the Professional Standards Commission.

2.25 The administrative head of each school may submit to the GHSA Executive Committee such recommendations for the improvement of the GHSA as he/she may deem necessary.

a. These recommendations must be submitted to the GHSA Office at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the meeting of the Executive Committee.
b. A proposal brought to the Executive Committee that is denied by either a subcommittee or the full Executive Committee may not be submitted for three (3) regularly-scheduled meetings after the previous submission unless a substantive change has been made to the proposal.

2.26 The member institution has a responsibility to educate student-athletes, coaches, and other appropriate persons on GHSA rules and procedures that could affect them. Further, the member school should monitor its compliance with State Association guidelines.

2.27 Member schools that fail to follow stated procedures and deadlines may be assessed a fine for each violation.

2.28 Schools that need to cancel appointments scheduled with the Hardship Committee or the Appeals Board must do so

at least 24 hours before the appointment. Failure to cancel properly will result in a fine.

2.29 Member schools are expected to fulfill their responsibilities for a sports season once they have committed to play that sport.

a. If a school commits to play a sport at the region meeting that precedes the sport, or on March 1 for Area sports, and then drops out of competition before or during the season, the school will have to play a non-region schedule in that sport the next year.
b. If a school enters the competitive structure that qualifies it to advance in postseason competition, that school is expected to advance if it qualifies. Schools that drop out of competition after qualifying may be penalized with fines or probation.
c. Appeals for emergency circumstances may be filed with the Executive Director.

2.30 - ELIGIBILITY REPORTS FILED BY THE SCHOOL

2.31 Eligibility reports are required for all contestants prior to the calendar date for the first possible practice in any GHSA activity. (EXCEPTION: Eligibility reports for Literary, One-Act Play and Riflery competitions are due twenty (20) calendar days before the first contest.)

a. Students are not allowed to participate in academic, athletic or literary competitions until their eligibility reports have been received and processed by the GHSA Office.
b. Failure to meet the eligibility deadline may lead the GHSA Executive Director to:
    1. Assess a fine to the school that is delinquent.
    2. Suspend the membership of a school that does not file eligibility reports.
    3. Reports not filed properly will be returned to the school for resubmission.

2.32 Schools playing interscholastic contests before filing an eligibility report on one or more participating students may be subject to one or more of the following penalties imposed by the GHSA Executive Director:

a. a fine per game or contest in which one or more participants had no eligibility report filed;
b. forfeiture of any game in which one or more participants did not have eligibility report filed;
c. restriction from competition in any sport if the fines assessed are not paid within fourteen (14) calendar days of notification.

2.33 Supplementary eligibility reports may be submitted at any time on transfer students, students coming out for the team after the initial report, and/or those students who gain eligibility at the beginning of a semester.

2.34 Once a student has been certified eligible by the school and has been processed by the GHSA, eligibility is assumed to be continuing, and no further eligibility report is necessary for that student during the school year unless situations occur that render the student ineligible.

2.35 If a student loses eligibility and regains it during the school year, a new eligibility report should be filed for that student.

2.36 Changes of Eligibility Records: When a school discovers that incorrect information has been given on an eligibility report, the school should contact the GHSA office for procedural instructions.

2.37 Requests to investigate a student's eligibility in regard to the transfer rule must be filed with the GHSA office at least twenty (20) calendar days before the end of the regular season in order for any penalties to be applied before the end of the playoffs.

2.40 - STUDENT RETENTION FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES

2.41 Member schools shall prohibit participation in interscholastic activities by any student who was retained in the eighth grade for competitive purposes. The governing body of each school system shall develop a written policy showing that the system does not allow retention for competitive purposes.

2.50 - QUALIFICATIONS TO COACH

2.51 An athletic head coach must be a professional teacher, a full-time para professional (NOTE: para professionals must take the Head Coaching Class offered through the GHSA coaches education program), or hold a four-year degree while also employed in a teaching or administrative position, meeting the teaching requirements and be employed by only one board of education or similar governing authority within the GHSA membership, regardless of whether or not they are paid for their coaching
(Exception: when all boards of education or similar governing authorities and all principals/headmasters involved sign a consent form on an annual basis he/she may coach at another school system), AND:

a. be employed for 20 or more hours per week on a regular basis in a professional, contracted position and must hold a

teaching certificate or leadership certificate issued by the State of Georgia, OR

b. be employed for 20 or more hours per week on a regular basis as a JROTC instructor in the school's JROTC program, OR
c. be assigned as a student intern in a practice teaching situation under the guidance of a college or university teacher training program, OR
d. be a retired teacher teaching or supervising (NOTE: coaching meets the supervising requirement of this by-law) less than one-half time (forty hours considered full time), OR
e. be a certified teacher or administrator at a member school on medical leave governed by the “Family Medical Leave Act” and/or the “Georgia Teacher Maternity Leave of Absence” policy (see the GHSA web site for the required form).
f. If a currently certified faculty-coach at a member 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 the community coach training.
g. A teacher at a non-member school who is hired to be a coach at a member school must complete the GHSA Community Coach Education program and may not be a head coach. A consent form between the two schools must be completed annually.
h. If a school is in a charter or strategic waiver (IE2) system, the coach (head coach or assistant) must meet the highly qualified requirements outlined in the Georgia Professional Standards Commission’s guidelines.

2.52 Member schools may employ persons who are not professionally certificated teachers as assistant coaches in their athletic programs. These individuals are referred to as “community coaches.”

a. Community Coach is defined as a person who does not have a professional-level certification, who relates in role and function to a professional and does a portion of the professional's job or tasks under the supervision of the professional, and whose decision-making authority is limited and regulated by the professional. Community coaches are not allowed to function without the immediate supervision of an educational professional and may not assume any of the duties of a varsity Head Coach or be named by the school as a varsity Head Coach.
b. Licensed para-professionals and full-time substitute teachers must complete the GHSA Coaches Education Program and testing program to be eligible to coach.
c. All community coaches should be signed to a written “agreement to coach.”
    1. They may coach for only one board of education annually, regardless of whether or not they are paid for their services.
    2. Community coaches may not coach the same sport at more than one school even if there are multiple schools in the system.
d. All community coaches must complete the GHSA Coaches Education Training and Testing Program in “Sport First Aid” and “Principles for Coaches.”
    1. Prospective coaches must be subject to a criminal background check before they are registered for the GHSA coaches education program.
    2. Courses are offered at various times each school year throughout the state.
    3. Prospective coaches are registered with the GHSA office by the school hiring them.
    4. No community coach may do any GHSA coaching until he/she has been notified that the GHSA Coaches Education Program had been completed successfully.
e. It is recommended that the following priority for employment be used:
    1. certified employees in the local system (secondary, middle, elementary, central office, etc.);
    2. retired certificated personnel;
    3. community coaches who have completed the GHSA Coaches Education Program.
f. All community coaches must attend a regular GHSA rules clinic each year for any sport in which they coach beginning with their first year of service or the school will be fined.
g. No person who has coached a non-GHSA team in a sport or activity within the previous 12 months may be hired or utilized by a GHSA member school in that same sport or activity IF any of that GHSA school’s players participated on the non-GHSA team that person coached.

2.53 GHSA member schools must register all coaches in all GHSA governed activities according to the following:

a. An initial directory listing of administrators and coaches must be completed and filed with the State Office by August 1 of each year. Only professionally certificated personnel, or individuals holding a four-year degree who are employed in a teaching or administrative position, are to be included on the initial directory listings.
b. Qualified Community Coaches are to be reported on the “School Staff Roster” on the GHSA web site. Only those persons who have successfully completed the GHSA Coaches Education Program are to be listed. NOTE: Schools must verify the successful completion of the coaches education program BEFORE community coaches are submitted to the GHSA and BEFORE any coaching activities are allowed (forms on the GHSA web site).
c. After August 1, schools will have occasion to add members to their coaching staff. It is the responsibility of the member school to register these additions in a timely manner, using the School Staff Roster on the GHSA web site.
d. Failure to comply with these procedures could result in punitive actions including, but not limited to, fines, forfeitures and other penalties assessed to the member school.

2.54 Every faculty coach, community coach, or student-teaching intern at a member school must complete:

a. a GHSA-sponsored rules clinic if he/she coaches the following sports or activities: cross country, football, softball, volleyball, riflery, literary, esports, one act play, cheerleading (spirit and/or competitive), basketball, lacrosse, wrestling, swimming and diving, track, baseball, golf, soccer and gymnastics.
b. CPR (minimum compression only) and AED training prior to any team activity or within a maximum of 30 days from the start of a team activity and it must be renewed at a minimum of every two years.
c. All coaches must attend/complete a comprehensive training and education program for "Traumatic Head Injuries." The recommendation is the CDC "Heads Up" for coaches.
NOTE: A fine for each coach who does not complete a rules clinic, or who does not complete the required CPR, AED or concussion management training, before the assigned deadline will be assessed to the school.

2.55 A coach on the payroll of one school district, but under contract to another school district for the following year, may help with spring practice at the new school if arrangements are satisfactory with both systems.

2.56 An assistant or head coach at a GHSA member school may register and officiate a sport in which they coach with the following provisions:

a. They may officiate a sub-varsity contest at any GHSA member school.
b. They may officiate at the varsity and/or post-season level, if the game does NOT involve schools in the same classification as the school at which they coach.

2.60 - INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTESTS AND PRACTICES

2.61 All practices (team and individual) and all regular-season interscholastic contests for GHSA-member schools shall be conducted outside the school day of the participants' school.

a. Regional, Sectional, and/or State playoffs are exempt from this rule.
b. The "school day" is defined as: that period of time between when students are required to report to school and the time of dismissal of that school. EXCEPTION: When the host school is not in session on a given day, competitions may be scheduled earlier than normal dismissal time for the host school. However, any school that is in session on that day may not compete in that event before the normal dismissal time of that school.
c. A player who participates in a GHSA sport may not participate in practices that occur during the school day. Practice is defined as any activity that is school-initiated, organized, coordinated or supported.
d. All practices will have a maximum length of 3 hours.
e. A maximum of two (2) practice sessions my be held in the same day. When multiple sessions are held, the maximum practice time is extended to five (5) hours. Sessions must be separated by a three (3) hour rest break in a cool environment and this rest break cannot included weightlifting or conditioning. When a double session practice day occurs, the following practice day must be a single session day. (Football contact guidelines must be followed)
f. Football participants complete the five (5) day acclimatization period that starts five (5) weekdays prior to the first official day of practice of each calendar year.

2.62 The GHSA shall provide rules and regulations for competition among member schools for those competitive activities listed in the GHSA Constitution and By-Laws.

a. Member schools may be allowed to schedule and play GISA and GAPPS (formerly GICAA) member schools provided the principal or athletic director of each agrees in writing, utilizing the standard "GHSA Cross-Play Contract," available on the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net).
    1. GISA and GAPPS schools competing with GHSA schools must comply with all GHSA safety rules and requirements and must be in compliance with Official Code of Georgia Sections 20-2-319.2 relating to pre-participation physical exams and 20-2-324.1 relating to concussion management protocols.
    2. Participants must be in compliance with all eligibility rules of their respective associations.
b. In situations not covered by section (a), member schools shall compete, practice or scrimmage only against other member schools or against schools that are full members of the State Association in their respective states (NOTE: Football games may be scheduled only if the opponent is a full member, without restrictions, of its state athletic association). When competing internationally, member schools may compete only against school teams in that nation that are composed of students of similar ages. International exhibition competitions or scrimmages are not allowed. NOTE: When member schools compete out of state, the host state's adaptations of NFHS playing rules will be enforced, and all GHSA by-laws regarding sportsmanship, eligibility and game times will be enforced.
c. Member schools are permitted to compete against non-member schools in activities not listed in the GHSA Constitution and By-Laws.
d. The GHSA Executive Director has the authority to approve competition between GHSA schools and private schools from states in which membership in the State Association is not allowed. These non-member schools must meet or exceed the State Association standards in order to compete with GHSA schools.
e. A member school shall have no more than one varsity, one junior varsity, and one 9th grade team.

1. Any sub-varsity team is limited to a maximum number of games equal to 70% of the varsity allotment in that sport. EXCEPTION: New schools that have only 9th and 10 grades with JV teams only (no varsity) are allowed to play the number of games allowed for varsity teams.
2. Competition between sub-varsity and varsity teams and/or individuals at the same event is prohibited. An exception may be made by the Executive Director for schools just opening and for schools just starting a particular sport.
3. In the sports of Cross Country, Golf, Swimming, Tennis, Track & Field and Wrestling, a school may use a "split squad" at two regular season events on the same day at the varsity or sub-varsity levels. Both of the contests must be counted against the total number of contests allowed in that sport (Exception: Golf – see Golf section). Individual players may not exceed the total number of contests allowed at the varsity level of that sport.
4. Unattached Competitor: Individual athletes may participate in non-GHSA events in the sports of Cross Country, Golf, Gymnastics, Riflery, Swimming, Tennis, Track and Wrestling as long as they do not represent their school, do not wear the school uniform, and are not coached at the event, or transported to the event, by their high school coach. "House teams" made up of athletes from various schools competing in a GHSA event are not considered to be unattached competitors and are illegal.
5. No athlete will be allowed to compete in a GHSA game or contest (even in post-season play) unless accompanied by certified professional school personnel whose names have been submitted to the GHSA as coaches. Those students chaperoned by someone other than a certified professional will not be allowed to compete.
6. In any GHSA sport, there may be no "open" competitions or exhibition performances that extend participation beyond the three levels of competition (i.e., varsity, JV, 9th grade) mandated in this by-law. The only interscholastic contests in which results are disregarded are scrimmages as defined below.
7. Drones shall not be permitted to fly during any GHSA sanctioned contest. Note: This prohibition begins when the gates or doors open and extends until the last spectator has left the field or arena.
8. Live Animals are prohibited at any indoor GHSA event unless a signed permission letter is acquired from the principal of the school wishing to bring the animal and the principal of the host school (if different). A copy of this letter must be provided to the GHSA office. NOTE: This by-law does not pertain to certified service animals

f. One interscholastic scrimmage (two teams meeting head-to-head) is allowed in the sports of Baseball, Basketball, Football, Flag Football, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball and Wrestling (tri match allowed on days preceding school or quad match on days not preceding a school day).
   1. This scrimmage may be scheduled anytime between the beginning of practice as set by the GHSA and the first regular season game for each team.
   2. This scrimmage is for varsity teams only, and shall be played with normal timing and/or scoring rules except as noted in individual sports sections.
   3. Officials registered with GHSA must be assigned, and the GHSA "Fee Chart" must be followed.
   4. A school may not scrimmage another school that is counting the scrimmage as a regular-season contest.

g. All competitions in sports utilizing a Ratings Formula to seed post-season qualification MUST be played to completion with a winner and a loser being determined.

2.63 Written contracts are required for all baseball, football, basketball, wrestling and fastpitch softball contests, and are strongly recommended in all other interscholastic contests that are scheduled between member schools.

a. Contract forms can be found on the GHSA web site.
b. Contracts are also recommended for all sub-varsity contests.
c. GHSA-member schools are expected to fulfill the conditions of any game contract that has been properly executed.
   1. Exceptions to the contract may be made with the agreement and consent of both schools.
   2. Member schools that fail to fulfill the requirements of a scheduled event may be required to make restitution to the competing school if that school is unable to secure an opponent (This includes multi-school events). The offended school shall petition the Executive Director for the desired restitution.
   3. Schools failing to fulfill a game contract may be suspended in that sport for one (1) full calendar year or the corresponding date of the next calendar year, whichever is greater.
   4. EXCEPTION: The GHSA Executive Director may excuse the failure to fulfill a game contract if, in his opinion, the circumstances causing the failure were outside the control of the school officials.
d. All athletic events hosted by GHSA-member schools (except Cross Country, Golf, Riflery, Tennis and Track) shall be officiated at all levels of competition by officials who are members of associations that are approved by the GHSA. (Exception: situation noted in By-Law 2.95).
   1. Officials' associations and their assigned schools shall include the method of payment in their contract.
   2. It is recommended that the same number of officials be used in regular-season competitions as the number used in playoff competitions in that sport.
e. Forfeiture and Restitution Policy
   1. If a team does not arrive at the game site for any contest without notifying the host opponent of a late arrival, that contest will be forfeited 30 minutes after the scheduled game-time. If the second game or contest was to be played by a different team (EXAMPLE: girl/boy or JV/varsity combination events), then a decision to forfeit that game will be made 30 minutes after the scheduled beginning of the second game.

2. If there are to be multiple games by the same team and the team does not arrive at the game site without notifying the host opponent of a late arrival, all games will be forfeited 30 minutes after the scheduled game-time of the first contest. EXAMPLE: softball or baseball doubleheaders
3. If a school fails to show up for a game or cancels a game within twenty-four (24) hours of the scheduled starting time without an emergency condition or weather-related conditions, that school shall pay a forfeiture fee to the host school equivalent to the cost of the officials. NOTE: If the host school is the violating team, the fee will be paid directly to the officials association. The host school shall reimburse the visiting team(s) for mileage incurred by the visiting team(s) when this by-law is violated by the host team).
4. If a school fails to show up for a game or cancels within twenty-four (24) hours of the scheduled game time without emergency reasons or weather-related reasons for a second time, that school must make restitution again and must show cause to the GHSA Executive Director as to why they should not be placed on probation by the GHSA.

f. The minimum penalty for allowing an ineligible athlete to participate in an interscholastic contest is forfeiture of the game(s). Fines or other penalties may also be imposed. NOTE: If it is determined by the Executive Director that the school has exercised every reasonable precaution and has been deceived regarding the student's data, any or all penalties may be set aside.
g. A team shall forfeit any team standing or points toward team honors when an ineligible student participates in a contest. In sports where individual titles may be won (Cross Country, Literary, Riflery, Swimming & Diving, Traditional Wrestling, Gymnastics, Golf and Track), eligible individuals will keep their placements and opportunities to advance toward individual honors even if a teammate participated while ineligible.

2.64 *Interscholastic events*, other than the Region/*Area* or State elimination series must be approved (sanctioned) by the GHSA Executive Director, subject to the special conditions for athletics and/or other activities.

a. A GHSA-member school shall not enter *an event* which requires sanctioning until *it* has been approved by the GHSA Executive Director.
b. The GHSA Executive Director may assess a fine and/or other penalties against a member school that violates the sanctioning rules.
c. *For events hosted in Georgia,* applications for sanctioning must be submitted to the GHSA thirty (30) days prior to the tournament by a GHSA-member school.
d. *Events* that require *applications for sanctioning from* National Federation *should be submitted to NFHS sixty (60) days prior to the event by the host member school. NFHS Sanctioning fees will increase due to late applications.*
e. The host school for all sanctioned *events* shall pay five percent (5%) of all gross gate receipts *including parking fees charged in lieu of admission,* to the GHSA within fourteen (14) calendar days after the tournament.
    1. *Gross gate receipts are the total gate/admission fees or parking fees collected before expenses are deducted.*
    2. A financial report of the event shall accompany the payment.
f. GHSA approval for *events in Georgia and* in contiguous states is *required* when there are *five* or more schools participating, *unless otherwise noted in specific sports sections. (i.e. Cross Country and Track & Field events must be sanctioned if eight (8) or more schools participate.)*
g. *Events* that require *an application for sanctioning* from the National Federation are:
    1. *Any interstate or international event involving two (2) or more schools which is co-sponsored by or titled in the name of an organization outside the school community (e.g., a college/university, a theme park, a service organization (Kiwanis, Optimist) or an athletic shoe/apparel company)*
    2. *Events in non-bordering states if five (5) or more states are involved*
    3. *Events in non-bordering states if more than eight (8) schools are involved*
    4. *Any event involving two (2) or more schools that involves a team from a foreign country. The host school should complete the international sanction application. This would include any event(s) that involves international traveling teams that play in multiple games in multiple states. (The exceptions to this rule are Canada and Mexico which are considered "bordering states to every U.S. state.")*
h. The GHSA Executive Director has the authority to approve competition between GHSA schools and private schools from states in which membership in the State Association is not allowed. These non-member schools must meet or exceed the State Association standards in order to compete with GHSA schools.
i. Member state championship teams receiving an invitation to nationally-recognized *event* held after the designated sports season has ended must apply to the Executive Director for approval. Such application must be signed by the principal of the school, must be submitted at least fourteen 14 calendar days prior to the beginning of the *event* and must include the following: contact information for the *event manager;* proposed plans for the school to include manner and date of travel; number of hours of instruction to be missed and fees to participate. A decision not to approve may be appealed to the GHSA Board of Trustees, who shall review the information submitted to the Executive Director. No additional information or documentation shall be considered. The vote of the majority of the Trustees shall control.
j. In all sports except Football, a team (subvarsity or varsity) may play multiple games on a single calendar day in a

tournament setting. NOTE: In these instances, the special "quarter/half participation rules" in Basketball, Soccer and *Lacrosse* are waived. When playing multiple games in a single day in Basketball, Soccer and*Lacrosse*, there must be at least a four (4) hour scheduling interval between games.

k. For any *showcase* event in which more than two schools compete (i.e., a basketball showcase or some similar event), the following stipulations are in effect:
   1. A "host school" must be designated for each game even if the games are played at neutral sites.
   2. The host school must provide a Game Manager for *each* game.
   3. The host school must schedule game officials through the local association assigned to it.
   4. These special events will require sanctioning approval from the GHSA office.

l. Participation limits *may be* set for each sport, and they are listed in the specific sport sections in this document

2.65 Available Seating: Member schools shall provide a seat for each ticket sold to any contest regulated by the GHSA.

a. An available seat is defined as twenty-four (24) inches in width.
b. Each school is required to make a determination of the available seats prior to the beginning of the contest.
c. At outdoor events, "standing room" tickets may be sold as long as they are identified as such at the time of the purchase, and as long as there are no problems with safety and security with such an arrangement.

2.66 Weekday Contests:

a. Teams playing any regular season contest when there are classes the next day shall be limited to a travel distance of no more than 100 miles one way as determined using the maps program at www.Yahoo.com.
b. No contest shall be played beyond 11:30 p.m., unless exempted under By-Law 2.93 (c2b) or by procedures found in sections of the by-laws dealing with specific sports. A petition may by filed with the Executive Director to waive the 11:30 p.m., curfew for teams of different classifications or competitions with out-of-state teams when there are special circumstances.

2.67 Practice Policy for Heat and Humidity:

a. Schools must follow the statewide policy for conducting practices and voluntary conditioning workouts (this policy is year-round, including during the summer) in all sports during times of extremely high heat and/or humidity that will be signed by each head coach at the beginning of each season and distributed to all players and their parents or guardians. The policy shall follow modified guidelines of the American College of Sports Medicine in regard to:
   1. The scheduling of practices at various heat/humidity levels.
   2. The ratio of workout time to time allotted for rest and hydration at various heat/humidity levels.
   3. The heat/humidity levels that will result in practice being terminated.
b. Football Only: Acclimatization and Re-Acclimatization (prior to October 1st)
   1. Acclimatization
      a. Football practice may begin five consecutive weekdays prior to the start date for football.
         1. In the first five days of practice for any student, the practice may not last longer than two (2) hours, and the student may wear no other protective football equipment except helmet and mouthpieces. NOTE:
            a. The time for a session shall be measured from the time the players report to the practice or workout area until they leave that area.
            b. During acclimatization practices, teams may hold a walk-through as long as there is at least a three-hour break between the two activities.
   2. Re-Acclimatization – Required for any athlete who misses five (5) consecutive days of practice/games for any reason.
      a. Day 1: 1.5 hours conditioning - helmets only
      b. Day 2: 2 hours practice - helmets only
      c. Day 3: 2.5 hours practice with helmets and shoulder pads
      d. Day 4: 2.5 hours practice with full pads
      e. Day 5: 2.5 hours practice with full pads or play a game
c. A scientifically-approved instrument that measures the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature must be utilized at each practice (prior to October 1) to ensure that the written policy is being followed properly. WBGT readings should be taken at a minimum of every 30 minutes, beginning 30 minutes prior to the start of practice. All WBGT monitors shall be calibrated, at a minimum, every two (2) years or earlier if recommended by the manufacturer.

WBGT	ACTIVITY GUIDELINES AND REST BREAK GUIDELINES
Under 82.0	Normal Activities - Provide at least three separate rest breaks each hour with a minimum duration of 3 minutes each during the workout.
82.0 - 86.9	Use discretion for intense or prolonged exercise; watch at-risk players carefully. Provide at least three separate rest breaks each hour with a minimum duration of 4 minutes each.

87.0 - 89.9	Maximum practice time is 2 hours. For Football: players are restricted to helmet, shoulder pads, and shorts during practice, and all protective equipment must be removed during conditioning activities. If the WBGT rises to this level during practice, players may continue to work out wearing football pants without changing to shorts. For All Sports: Provide at least four separate rest breaks each hour with a minimum duration of 4 minutes each.
90.0 - 92.0	Maximum practice time is 1 hour. For Football: no protective equipment may be worn during practice, and there may be no conditioning activities. For All Sports: There must be 20 minutes of rest breaks distributed throughout the hour of practice.
Over 92.0	No outdoor workouts including walk throughs. If practice has not started, delay the start of practice until a cooler WBGT level is reached.

d. Practices are defined as: the period of time that a participant engages in a coach-supervised, school approved sport or conditioning-related activity. Practices are timed from the time the players report to the practice or workout area until players leave that area. If a practice is interrupted for a weather-related reason (lightning, etc), the “clock” on that practice will stop and will begin again when the practice resumes.
e. Conditioning activities include such things as weight training, wind-sprints, timed runs for distance, etc., and may be a part of the practice time or included in “voluntary workouts.” Conditioning activities are not permitted to be used as punishment.
f. A walk-through is a part of the practice time regulation, and may last no longer than one hour. This activity may not include conditioning activities or contact drills. No protective equipment may be worn during a walk-through, and no full-speed drills, or running activities may be held. Note: A maximum of two (2) practice sessions may be held in the same day. When multiple sessions are held, the maximum practice time is extended to five (5) hours. Sessions must be seperated by a three (3) hour rest break in a cool environment and this rest break cannot included weightlifting or conditioning. When a double session practice day occurs, the following practice day must be a single session day. (Football contact guidelines must be followed).
g. Rest breaks may not be combined with any other type of activity and players must be given unlimited access to hydration. These breaks must be held in a “cool zone” where players are out of direct sunlight.
h. When the WBGT reading is over 86, ice towels and spray bottles filled with ice water should be available at the "cool zone" to aid the cooling process AND cold immersion tubs must be available for the benefit of any player showing early signs of heat illness. In the event of a serious EHI, the principle of “Cool First, Transport Second” should be utilized and implemented by the first medical provider onsite until cooling is completed (core temperature of 103 or less).

2.68 GHSA Concussion Policy and SB 60, Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act

a. GHSA Concussion Policy: In accordance with Georgia law and national playing rules published by the NFHS, any athlete or game official who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be immediately removed from the practice or contest and shall not return to play until an appropriate health care professional has determined that no concussion has occurred. (NOTE: An appropriate health care professional may include: licensed physician (MD/DO) or another licensed individual under the supervision of a licensed physician, such as a nurse practitioner, physician’s assistant, or certified athletic trainer who has received training in concussion evaluation and management).
    1. No athlete or game official is allowed to return to a game or practice on the same day that a concussion (1) has been diagnosed OR (2) cannot be ruled out.
    2. Any athlete diagnosed with a concussion shall be cleared medically by an appropriate health care professional prior to resuming participation in any future practice or contest. The formulation of a gradual return to play protocol shall be a part of the medical clearance.
    3. Any athlete who has been diagnosed with a concussion must fully return to school (if in session) for a full day prior to returning to practice.
    4. Each school will be responsible for monitoring the participation of its coaches in the concussion management course, and shall keep a record of those who participate.
    5. Each school must distribute to every athlete and his/her parent/guardian an information sheet that includes: the dangers of concussion injuries, the signs/symptoms of concussion, and the concussion management protocol outlined in this by-law. This sheet must be signed by the parent/guardian of each athlete and a copy kept on file at the school.
b. Any student-athlete who has sustained and has been diagnosed with a traumatic head injury (concussion), must follow a minimum of a 5-step return-to-play protocol. Recommendation for this RTP is based on an athlete completing the following return-to-sport strategy once they have become “symptom free” as determined by an appropriate healthcare professional. A minimum of 24-48 hours of both physical and cognitive rest must take place once the diagnosis is made:
    Level 1: Activity – “activities of daily living” that do not cause symptoms to re-occur (gradual return to school)
    Level 2: Activity – Light aerobic activity such as walking or stationary bicycle (at a low pace with no resistance)
    Level 3: Activity - Running drills, sport-specific activity without head impact
    Level 4: Activity – Intensity of training drills may be increased. Limited practice with non-contact drills. Progressive

resistance training may begin.
Level 5: Activity – Full medical clearance by a healthcare professional, unrestricted training activities including contact drills may begin
Level 6: Activity – Unrestricted participation to sport
A minimum of 24 hours must take place before progression to the next level.

c. SB 60, Jeremy Nelson and Nick Blakely Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act: In accordance with Georgia law:
    1. Each school must distribute to every athlete and his/her parent/guardian an information sheet that includes: the Early Warning Signs, How to Recognize Sudden Cardiac Arrest, and Learn Hands- Only CPR outlined in this by-law. This sheet must be signed by the parent/guardian of each athlete, each athlete and a copy kept on file at the school.
    2. Each school must hold an informational meeting twice per year regarding the symptoms and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest. At such informational meeting, an information sheet on sudden cardiac arrest symptoms and warning signs shall be provided to each student's parent or guardian. In addition to students, parents or guardians, coaches, and other school officials, such informational meetings may include physicians, pediatric cardiologists, and athletic trainers.

2.69 Legal practice dates are established for each activity (see the calendar at the beginning of this publication), and schools shall not conduct or allow an illegal practice.

a. The beginning of each GHSA school year is designated as August 1st. The end of the GHSA school year is designated as when an individual school ends its classes in the Spring.
b. *Illegal practices are defined as practices involving five or more students participating in any extracurricular activity in the presence of, or under the direct or indirect supervision of any coach of the school (including a community coach). At any given point in time, a member school may conduct up to three (3) separate groups participating in skill-building drills. A group is defined as one (1) coach working with no more than four (4) student-athletes in a sport. Each sport may have up to three (3) groups conducting 4-and-1 workouts simultaneously, provided the groups are located in separate facilities or clearly separate practice areas. Any member school found to be in violation of this by-law shall be subject to any GHSA institutional fines and penalties, including up to a postseason ban.*

    Exception – Competition Cheerleading
    Competition cheerleading programs shall be permitted two (2) groups participating in 6-and-1 workouts simultaneously in separate facilities or clearly separate practice areas. Each group may include one (1) coach working with up to six (6) cheerleaders, which allows for the additional athletes necessary to safely spot stunts.

    1. Any practice occurring after the beginning of the school year and before the opening of the designated season is an illegal practice.
    2. Any practice occurring after the end of the season for that team and before the end of the school year for students in that school is an illegal practice.
    3. During the summer (i.e., between the ending of one school year and the beginning of the next) the only restrictions on practices and competition are that all activities must be strictly voluntary, and two (2) "Dead Weeks" must be observed, as follows: Schools are prohibited from participating in voluntary workouts, camps and/or clinics, weight training or competitions during the week (Monday through Sunday) beginning with Memorial Day in May, AND the week (Monday through Sunday) in which the Fourth of July falls each year.
    4. It is illegal for a team to go to a competitive or instructional camp or clinic during the school year.
        a. If the event is held out of season, it would constitute an illegal practice.
        b. If the event is held in-season, it would involve illegal coaching.
        c. Boys and girls teams in the same sport are considered the same activity.
        d. This prohibition does not apply to the summer months.
    5. Neither coaches, former coaches (including community coaches), nor any other school personnel shall suggest, require, or otherwise attempt to influence students to participate in or practice for a sport outside the GHSA-designated season. (NOTE: This would prohibit requiring any student to participate in one sport in order to be allowed to try-out and/or play another sport at his school).
    6. The following activities are examples of illegal practices:
        a. interscholastic scrimmages or practice competitions not in compliance with By-Law 2.62e;
        b. practices involving alumni or students who presently are not eligible at the member school at any time in the school year;
        c. practices against a non-school team at any time in the school year;
        d. practices of any kind outside the season designated by the GHSA.
        NOTE: Free Style and Greco-Roman Wrestling are considered to be the same sport as Folk Style (high school) Wrestling and are subject to GHSA rules regulating illegal practices.
    7. Coaches are allowed to be spectators (in the stands) or "fellow competitors" at non-school events out of season as long as no coaching occurs.
    8. Schools found guilty of having illegal practices will be subject to penalties that may include a fine, warning,

probation, and/or suspension by the GHSA Executive Director.

c. A GHSA coach (certified teacher or community coach) may not coach a non-GHSA team in a competitive setting during the school year that includes any player(s) who participate in the sport he/she coaches at the member school. EXCEPTION: In a situation in which the child or step-child of the coach is the only player on a non-school team from the coach's school, the coach would be exempted from this rule.

2.70 - SPORTSMANSHIP

2.71 GHSA-member schools are required to conduct all relationships with other schools in a spirit of good sportsmanship.

a. It shall be the responsibility of a member school to use every means at its disposal to impress upon faculty, students, team members, coaches, and spectators the values of sportsmanship in preparation for the management of interscholastic contests. Contest officials have the authority to have any and all individuals removed from the confines of the contest whose behavior has become a distraction and/or hindrance to the administration of the event. This may include, but is not limited to, verbal and visual gestures.
b. The Executive Director shall have the authority to assess penalties against schools and/or coaches for conduct unbecoming a professional educator or coach committed by coaches or other school personnel at GHSA events. Penalties against schools may include fines, probation or suspensions; and penalties against coaches and other school personnel may include suspension from GHSA events.
c. It shall be the responsibility of the home or host school to take the following precautions at all interscholastic athletic events
    1. Take proper steps and precautions to insure crowd and spectator control, including having an administrator (or designee) from the host school to function as "Game Manager" at all GHSA sanctioned events. EXCEPTIONS: Golf and Tennis.
    2. Take steps to insure the comfort and security of all players, coaches, and officials.
    3. Have in place sufficient security personnel to handle any crowd-control problems that might reasonably be expected.
    4. Security escorts must be provided to game officials by the host school at all GHSA sanctioned contests, before, during and following the contest - including to their vehicles.
    5. Provide a safe and secure changing area for contest officials, free from traffic by school staff, students and spectators.
d. Each school must develop a plan to handle fight situations that may occur during an athletic contest.
    1. Attention must be given to keeping substitutes in the bench areas throughout the fight, and to keeping spectators away from the competitive area.
    2. Schools whose substitutes leave the bench area to go to the area of a fight will be fined by the GHSA Executive Director.
    3. All players who are involved in a fight and any substitutes who leave the bench area during a fight or potential fight and are ejected from the current contest, will be subject to the sit-out rule.
    4. *The prohibition against players fighting or being involved in a fight shall continue until all players have left the school property or other venue where the contest takes place.*
    5. *The GHSA office may review video recordings and statements of contest officials, school officials and law enforcement to determine which players were fighting, leaving the bench or otherwise involved in a fight situation. After review of the same, the GHSA may levy, modify or withdraw penalties including fines against member schools and enforcement of the sit-out rule against players fighting, leaving the bench or involved in a fight.*
e. Players and coaches are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship before, during and after a contest, even if the game officials do not have jurisdiction. Behaviors such as taunting, fighting, etc., are forbidden.
f. No coach may remove his/her team from competition before the end of the contest unless it is done in accordance with the playing rules of that sport.

2.72 Any player, coach, or team attendant who is ejected from a GHSA contest shall be suspended from all levels of competition (i.e., varsity or sub-varsity) in any sport or activity (regular season or playoffs) until the period of suspension has expired. NOTE: Ejection penalties must be served at the next contest regardless of whether or not the school has received notice from the GHSA office by that time.

a. Ejections are based on judgment calls by a contest official and are not reviewable or reversible.
b. A coach shall have no role nor be in attendance at pre-contest warm-ups or activities, and shall not be in uniform in attendance at contests until the period of suspension has expired.
c. A player or team attendant may not be on the competitive area nor in the team bench area during any contest until the period of suspension has expired, but is allowed to participate (not in uniform) in Senior Night recognition.
d. The period of suspension resulting from an ejection will expire as follows:
    1. Football: after the individual has been withheld from the next-scheduled game at the level at which the ejection occurred (and all contests at any other level).
    2. Soccer:

a. One-Game Sit-out:
    1. Two yellow cards in the same game
    2. Deliberate handball to prevent a goal
    3. Red card for a foul on a player moving toward his goal in a scoring situation
b. Two-Game Sit-out with Red Card for any of the following: taunting, violent conduct, serious foul play, spitting on another person, foul or abusive language, leaving the bench area for a fight situation.

3. Lacrosse players who are ejected or foul out will sit out as follows:
    a. BOYS: Any player who fouls out for the accumulation of personal foul penalty time will sit out the next scheduled game. Any player or coach ejected for unsporting behavior or violent conduct will sit out the next two games.
    b. GIRLS: Any player receiving a second yellow card is suspended from further participation in the game. She must leave the field and enter the penalty area for two minutes of elapsed playing time and no substitute may take her place during that two-minute period. Any player or coach given a red card for unsporting behavior or violent conduct will sit out two (2) games.
4. Track and Field: after the individual has been withheld from the next scheduled contest. NOTE: All allegations of unsporting behavior must be referred to the “Jury of Appeals” for a final resolution on disqualification. A report must be submitted to the GHSA office in the event of a disqualification.
5. All Other Activities: after the individual has been withheld from the next two (2) scheduled contests at the level at which the ejection occurred.

e. To satisfy the penalty of the sit-out game(s), those games must have been scheduled at the time of the ejection, and must be played to completion.
f. Penalties for ejections of a coach or player for unsporting acts shall be:
    1. First Ejection: Coach - $250.00 fine plus penalties as per each sport’s by-laws. Player: Completion of the “NFHS Sportsmanship Course” online plus penalties as per each sport’s by-laws.
    2. Second Ejection: Coach - $500.00 fine plus penalties as per each sport’s by-laws; and suspension until completion of the “NFHS Sportsmanship Course” online. Player: $200 fine plus penalties as per each sport’s by-laws. NOTE: When a player, coach or team attendant has a second ejection in the same activity during a school year, that individual shall be withheld from competition for twice the time period of a normal suspension.
    3. Third Ejection: Coach - Season suspension plus penalties as per each sport’s by-laws; can not coach in any activity at any GHSA member school until successful completion of “GHSA Principles for Coaching.” Player: Season suspension plus penalties as per each sport’s by-laws.
    4. The Executive Director shall have the authority to levy additional penalties for repeat offenders.
    5. Penalties imposed by the GHSA Executive Director may be appealed as described under Section 9 of Article IV, in the GHSA Constitution.
g. If the ejection occurs in the last game of a season, the penalty carries over to the first game of the next sport in which the student or coach participates (even if the ejectee transfers schools).
h. When a player or coach is ejected from a pre-season scrimmage (i.e., a practice game) in any sport, the school shall be fined a minimum of $250 and there will be no sit-out penalties imposed.
i. Game Incident Reports are due within 24 hours of the contest, and are to be submitted via the GHSA electronic reporting program.

2.73 Any student or coach who intentionally injures, intentionally attempts to injure, or confronts physically another student, coach, official, spectator, or other person immediately before, during, or immediately after any GHSA-sponsored activity, may be fined (coach) or declared ineligible to participate in future GHSA activities by the GHSA Executive Director. NOTE: The notice, hearing, and appellate procedures set forth in the GHSA Constitution shall be applicable to such rulings.

2.74 Coaches, administrators, contest officials or players are not to make comments in the media or on any form of social media that are critical of officials and/or their calls in a game. Penalties that could be imposed by the GHSA Executive Director include fines and/or suspensions.

2.75 The use of fireworks at any GHSA-approved event shall be in strict compliance with the licensing and application procedures of Georgia law and under permit of the probate court in which the event is held.

2.76 Artificial noisemakers are allowed at outdoor events with the exception of air horns, whistles, or other similar devices that simulate the sounds of clock horns or officials’ whistles. At any time that a national playing rule prohibits artificial noisemakers in a sport, that rule will supercede this by-law.

2.77 The officials’ dressing area is “off limits” to school staff, students and spectators one hour prior to game time, during the duration of the contest, and until the contest officials depart the facility.

2.78 Unsporting acts committed by players or coaches will be handled as follows:

a. If the inappropriate behavior occurs after the expiration of a contest, but while the officials still have jurisdiction as referenced in the NFHS rule book, the official may eject the player or coach and published penalties for ejections will apply.

b. If the inappropriate behavior occurs after the officials' jurisdiction has ended, but the official(s) witness the behavior, a Game Report shall be filed with the GHSA office and administrative penalties will be assessed against the school of the guilty parties by the Executive Director.
c. In the case of repeat offenders of unsporting acts, the Executive Director will be authorized to levy penalties against the school of the guilty parties regardless of whether or not an ejection has occurred.

2.80 - MEDIA AND FILMING REGULATIONS

2.81 The host or home school has the right to determine whether or not its regular-season activities may be broadcast, televised, webcast, taped, filmed or photographed for any "commercial" or scouting purposes.

a. Either school involved in the event shall have the right to video tape the event and to copy said tape, but no third party shall have that right, not even the videographer.
b. A visiting school desiring to bring broadcasting personnel must obtain permission to do so from the host school prior to the date of the activity or contest.
c. The host school must execute a written contract with the broadcast entity that complies with the GHSA rules and regulations for broadcasting.

2.82 The region has the right to determine whether or not region tournament (post regular-season) events may be broadcast, televised, webcast, tape recorded, filmed or photographed for any "commercial" purposes.

a. The region should set and assess any fees charged for broadcasting or telecasting region tournament contests or events.
b. The region must execute a written contract with the broadcast entity that complies with the GHSA rules and regulations for broadcasting.

2.83 The GHSA rules and regulations for Regular Season and Region Tournament broadcasting are as follows:

a. The host school shall have the right to approve the amount of space used and the placement of broadcast equipment.
b. The host school (for regular-season events), or the region (for region tournaments) shall be entitled to all revenue from the sale of broadcasting rights unless the contract specifies otherwise.
c. Advertising utilized during the broadcast shall not include alcohol or tobacco products.
d. Commercial announcements shall not occur during playing time.
e. Announcers shall not criticize coaches, officials, or schools, and shall be fair and impartial in their descriptions.
f. The copyright privileges for Regular-Season events belong to and shall remain the property of the host school.
g. The copyright privileges for Region Tournament events belong to and shall remain the property of the region.

2.84 GHSA Media rules and regulations for State Playoff events:

a. Broadcast rights and copyright privileges to all state playoff events (i.e., after region winners have been determined) belong to the Georgia High School Association, and the GHSA has the right to determine if any of these events may be broadcast, televised, webcast, tape recorded, filmed or photographed for any purposes. NOTE: Participating schools may NOT sell tapes of state playoff events or provide copies of tapes to third parties for resale without written consent from the GHSA office.
b. The GHSA shall grant media access at all state playoff events to properly identified representatives of newspapers, radio stations (with broadcast contract) and television outlets ONLY. Proper identification is interpreted to mean an identification card given by the media outlet, or written documentation on the letterhead of the media outlet specifying that the bearer is working for that outlet at the GHSA event.
c. Any media entity wishing to broadcast or telecast (including Internet reproduction) any state playoff event must execute a written contract with the GHSA for that event. Contact the GHSA office for a contract, which shall contain specific rules and requirements.
d. Advertising utilized during a broadcast shall not include alcohol or tobacco products.
e. Announcers shall not criticize coaches, officials, or schools, and shall be fair and impartial in their descriptions.
f. Broadcast fees are listed in a chart that follows. The fees are "per event" except for football, basketball and soccer, which are per game. NOTE: a baseball playoff series is one event; a softball tournament is one event.
g. Television and Video Webcast rights and fees must be negotiated with the GHSA office on a case-by-case basis, except for those stations or schools having long-term contracts with the GHSA.
h. Video production for authorized school "coach's shows" are exempt from these rules and fees. However, schools may only tape, photograph or film events in which their team is participating.
i. NFHS Network is the exclusive post-season video streaming platform of the GHSA. Members of the NFHS Network School Broadcast Program (SBP) do not pay rights fees for post-season playoffs. Non-SBP schools can request to carry a playoff contest subject to GHSA rights fees & NFHS Network schedule. Requests should be sent to Marvin James at marvin.james@ghsa.net. For more information on joining the School Broadcast Program (nfhsnetwork.com/sbp) contact Matt Abramson at matt.abramson@playonsports.com.

2.85 Radio, Audio Internet Broadcast Fees for State Playoff events: Fees are based on the size of the market. Levels are determined as follows - Level 3 = 50,000 population and higher; Level 2 = 25,000 to 49,999; Level 1 = Under 25,000 population. Fees for each level are listed below. NOTE: These fees are for radio and audio only Internet webcasts.

Market Size	Football	Basketball	Baseball/Softball	Other Events
Level 3	$225/game	$125/game	$150/event	case by case
Level 2	$175/game	$100/game	$100/event	case by case
Level 1	$125/game	$75/game	$75/event	case by case

2.86 Television stations or other broadcast entities shall have the right to film portions of GHSA state playoff events in order to air selected highlights in any bona fide newscast. “Bona fide newscast” is defined as a half-hour or hour program that is regularly scheduled and includes news, weather and sports. Entertainment and commercial uses of highlights are not considered bona fide newscasts and are prohibited. Highlights may not exceed one minute per contest, or two minutes total running time in any single newscast without the consent of the GHSA. Highlights may be used, subject to the above guidelines, up to 72 hours after the event.
NOTE: Members of the working press shall be allowed to use digital video cameras at GHSA state playoff events as long as such cameras are being used to obtain still images or video highlights as defined in this By-Law. Site administration shall have the authority to prevent use of such video equipment if it is determined that a video tape of a substantial portion of the event is being made.

2.87 FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY: Flash photography is prohibited at all indoor GHSA state playoff events unless permission is obtained from the GHSA office on a case-by-case basis. Flash photography at outdoor GHSA state playoff events is at the discretion of the onsite game officials.

2.88 Parents and/or fans connected with a member school will be allowed to use video or still cameras from the stands to tape or photograph GHSA state playoff events in which that member school is participating under the following conditions (EXCEPTION: One Act Play, Literary and Cheerleading restrictions remain in place):

a. The cameras must be hand-held and their use cannot interfere with another fan’s view of the event. Site administrators shall have the authority to halt photography if, in their opinion, this rule is being violated.
b. The tapes/photos must be for personal use only and cannot be used for scouting purposes, given to other schools for scouting purposes, used for any commercial/business purpose, or sold for profit. Violation of this rule by a member school will result in penalties from the Executive Director including a fine.
c. Anyone else filming or photographing GHSA state playoff events for any purposes must have approval of the Executive Director.

2.90 - REGULATIONS OF COMPETITIONS

2.91 Sunday Competition: Sunday competition is prohibited for GHSA regular season or playoff contests. Sunday practices are regulated by local school policy.

2.92 Contest Rules: All athletic and literary competitions are to be played according to the rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations, using officially-dressed officials who are registered with the GHSA and assigned to specific member schools by the GHSA office.

a. EXCEPTION: Tennis is played according to the rules of USTA, unless specified by GHSA rules.
b. EXCEPTION: Golf is played according to the rules of the USGA, unless specified by GHSA rules.
c. EXCEPTION: Riflery is conducted according to the “National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rules.”
d. EXCEPTION: Girls Lacrosse is conducted according to the rules of US Lacrosse.
e. The National Federation prohibits the use of video tape to review an official’s decision.
f. No protests are allowed in any GHSA sport or activity unless specified by NFHS rules.
g. Judgement calls by contest officials are not reviewable or reversible.

2.93 Interrupted/Postponed Games: Any GHSA competition may be interrupted due to human, mechanical, or natural causes when it is necessary to protect the safety of players and spectators. The Executive Director shall have the authority to postpone GHSA events and to direct the procedure for rescheduling when deemed necessary.

a. The GHSA requires the host school to provide lightning detectors at all outdoor athletic activities.
    1. When a lightning detector indicates a dangerous situation, the game manager will notify the head official. At that point, the official will suspend play and all participants and fans will go to a place of safety (NOTE: If

officials spot lightning before being notified, they may suspend play).
    2. The contest may resume in accordance with procedures published in the NFHS Rules Book.
b. Postponed games are games that are terminated before they actually begin because of weather problems, emergency situations, or mechanical failures.
    1. The host school should notify the opposing team and officials as early as possible when a contest is postponed.
    2. The host school is responsible for determining whether an event is to be postponed until the time that game rules turn that responsibility over to game officials except when there is a written contract for that game. When there is a contract, there must be an agreement between the competing schools about the postponement
    3. School personnel will agree on the rescheduling of the contest.
c. Suspended and/or Terminated Games - When game officials suspend a game due to weather issues, the following procedures are in place:
    1. For all Baseball, Softball, Lacrosse, Soccer and JV Football contests involving teams of different classifications, there will be up to a two-hour delay (cumulative) before the contest will be terminated. (See the Baseball and Softball Sections to see the procedures involved with terminated games.)
        a. If the Lacrosse, Soccer or JV Football contest is terminated before it has reached the halfway point, the contest is declared a “no contest.”
        b. If the Lacrosse, Soccer or JV Football contest is terminated after it has reached the halfway point, the score at the point of termination is final.
    2. For Lacrosse and Soccer contests involving teams of the same classification, all contests will be played to completion. (Note: The team that is behind may choose not to resume the contest
        a. There will be no mandatory two-hour delay.
        b. The 11:30 curfew will be waived.
        c. Administrators from the competing schools may agree to postpone the contest and resume competition at the point of interruption at a later time.
        d. The team that is behind may choose not to resume the contest at a later date.
    3. All scheduled GHSA varsity football games that have been either interrupted or postponed must be played to completion. Schools must decide when completion will take place in a timely manner. The team behind in the score of an interrupted game has the option not to complete the game and the score will be recorded as it was at the point of interruption.
        a. There will be no mandatory two-hour delay.
        b. The 11:30 curfew will be waived.
    4. Golf and Tennis procedures will be dictated by USGA and USTA rules.
    5. Cross Country and Track and Field will not use the two-hour delay rule.
d. Paying Officials in shortened/postponed games:
    1. In the event a scheduled contest cannot be started due to weather-related conditions, officials who have arrived at the contest site will be paid one-half the contest fee in addition to the travel allowance.
    2. If a game is interrupted by weather or darkness before it becomes a completed game, the officials will be paid one-half the regular game fee.
    3. If a game is an official game at the point of interruption, the officials will be paid full fees.
    4. Beyond these conditions, no officials group(s) may hold the schools responsible for weather-related postponements.

2.94 All championship contests that end in a tie will have that tie resolved by means of the procedures that are used to resolve ties in preceding rounds of the playoffs.

2.95 Absence of Officials: In the unlikely event that game officials do not arrive for a contest, both schools should agree on one of the following procedures:

a. Delay the game until a new set of officials can arrive;
b. Agree to play the game on another date except a Sunday;
c. Use registered officials who might be in attendance at the contest;
d. Use coaches or school personnel from both schools;
e. Use formerly registered officials who might be in attendance at the contest.

2.96 All Star Teams:

a. In accordance with state law, member schools shall not permit their teams or players to participate in “Bowl” or “All Star” games during the GHSA regular season or during GHSA playoffs. Players selected to participate in out-of-season all-star games must adhere to GHSA amateur standing rules, and to NCAA regulations regarding all-star games.
b. The GHSA is not involved in either sanctioning All Star games or overseeing the selection process.
c. Coaches who are going to coach their own underclass players in an all-star game must report this to the GHSA. (NOTE: All provisions of by-law 1.70 concerning recruiting and undue influence remain in effect.)

2.97 Admission Fees for State Playoff Contests are set by the GHSA and are published in the various sports sections of the by-laws or on the GHSA web site.

a. “Babies in arms” are admitted free of charge to all events in the company of a ticket or pass holder.
b. Digital tickets are available exclusively on GoFan (https://gofan.co/app/school/GHSA).
c. There is no admission fee for Golf, Riflery, Literary or One Act Play.
d. College and University coaches may attend GHSA playoff contests free of charge with proper ID.

2.98 Auxiliary personnel such as ballboys/girls or batboy/girls at all State playoff games must be at least 12 years of age.

2.99 All participant uniforms rules and restrictions shall be interpreted in accordance to Georgia law. The GHSA shall not enact or enforce any participant uniforms rule which prohibits religious expression of student athletes other than the rules of particular athletic events as adopted by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

BY-LAW 3.00 - REGION

3.10 - REGION AUTHORITY
Each region, either through its governing board or in general session, shall have the authority to:

3.11 Make rules, which do not violate GHSA regulations, in order to successfully operate the region organization.

3.12 Assess mandatory membership dues in order to operate the region organization.

3.13 Set deadline **entry dates** for all region contests.

3.14 Oversee the operation of **region contests** (post regular-season) by setting:

a. Sites for the contests.
b. Admission fees for those contests.
c. Procedures for trophies and medals.
d. Contest structure for determining a region winner, including a written tie-breaker procedure.
e. An appeals committee to handle appeals in region playoff competitions.
   NOTE: Decisions of the Region Appeals Committee may be appealed to the Executive Director when it is believed that region by-laws have been violated.

3.15 Set and assess fees for region contest entrants to pay expenses for the contest, and to pay the expenses of region representatives to the State contest.

3.16 The region, not the host school, has the copyright privileges to all region tournament (post regular-season) events, and the region should set and assess any fees charged for broadcasting or telecasting region tournament contests or events.

3.17 Pay its Secretary-Treasurer a stipend.

3.20 - REGION RESPONSIBILITIES TO STATE ASSOCIATION
Each region, through its Secretary, shall:

3.21 Certify the winners in all region meets and/or tournaments to the GHSA Executive Director within the time limits specified in the By-Laws for each event.

3.22 Furnish a copy of complete **region results** in every region meet and/or tournament to all region schools.

3.23 Elect a **Region Sportsmanship Award** winner each school year using criteria developed by the region or criteria developed by the GHSA Sportsmanship Committee.

3.30 - REGION FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS TO STATE ASSOCIATION

3.31 The host school of any tournament held within a region is obligated to pay five percent (5%) of the gross receipts **to the GHSA** Executive Director within ten (10) calendar days of the close of the tournament. NOTE **Gross receipts** are defined as total income before any charges such as stadium fees, officials, etc., have been deducted.

3.32 Regions (or Areas) that fail to follow stated procedures or deadlines may be assessed a fine for each violation.

BY-LAW 4.00 - STATE

4.10 - GHSA ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES TO MEMBER SCHOOLS

4.11 The GHSA Executive Committee shall meet bi-annually to review By-Laws, policies and procedures of the Association, and to make additions, deletions, and modifications as necessary.

a. The GHSA Executive Committee and Board of Trustees shall, from time to time, adopt whatever rules of procedure are deemed appropriate. The Chair of the meeting shall be authorized to conduct all such meetings in an orderly fashion subject to any changes in those procedures otherwise adopted by a majority vote of members present and subject to the following:
    1. "Pass" votes are not considered "No" votes
    2. Any Committee member may request a roll-call vote on any question before the Committee without the requirement of a majority vote.
    3. Members of the Executive Committee may propose new or amended rules, by-laws or actions to be taken or considered by the Executive Committee during the new business portion of Executive Committee meetings only if such proposal has first been submitted to the Executive Director for inclusion on the agenda for the meeting not later than five calendar (5) days prior to the date of the Executive Committee meeting. Provided however, that if the Executive Director certifies any proposal that has not been timely submitted to be of an emergency nature or to be necessary for the orderly transaction of the business or activities of the GHSA, then he shall have the authority to bring such proposal to the floor of the meeting for consideration of and action by the Executive Committee.
b. The GHSA Executive Committee shall consider recommendations at its bi-annual meetings from member schools and/or region secretaries that are submitted in writing to the GHSA Office at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the meeting.

4.12 The GHSA Office shall maintain an official record for all dues and fees received from any source, and shall provide for an annual audit of finances by a firm of auditors or a certified public accountant.

4.13 The GHSA Office shall provide all necessary forms on the GHSA web site, including the following forms from which copies are to be made to satisfy the needs of the member schools:

a. Student eligibility forms.
b. Declarations of intent to enter GHSA activities.
c. Forms to secure sanctioning of events.
d. Contracts for events.
e. Financial statements for hosting GHSA events.

4.14 The GHSA Office shall provide an annual calendar that notes:

1. the beginning and end of the season for all activities;
2. dates for Region, Area and/or State Playoff contests and/or tournaments

4.20 - RECLASSIFICATION (For the 2026-28 cycle)

4.21 Every two (2) years, member schools will be assigned a "Reclassification Student Count" and placed in classifications for competition by one of the following procedures:

a. The Reclassification Student Count for Public schools will be based on the FTE count for students in Grades 9-12 provided by the Georgia Department of Education for the fall semester of the second year of the current reclassification cycle.
    1. A school will be considered a single-gender school if either gender composes less than 35% of the school population.
    2. A single-gender school shall have its FTE numbers doubled for the purpose of reclassification.
b. The Reclassification Student Count for Private schools will be based on the actual head count of students in Grades 9-12 at member private schools as determined on October 1 of the second year of the current reclassification cycle.
c. The Reclassification Student Count will be based on projected enrollment numbers for all schools affected by the opening of a new school, the consolidation of existing schools or the redistribution of students within a school system that must be submitted by the system Superintendent no later than October 1 of the second year of the current reclassification cycle.
    1. Projections must be filed for the next two school years and those numbers will be averaged to get the number by which the schools will be classified.
    2. In the event that a school's actual enrollment in the first semester of the new reclassification cycle exceeds the

projection average by 10% or more, or an existing school exceeds the projection by 5% or more AND the additional students would have resulted in the school being in a higher classification, the school shall not be eligible for post-season play in any sport for the entirety of that reclassification cycle.

3. Schools may appeal the loss of post-season competition to the Reclassification Committee and then to the full Executive Committee.

d. The Reclassification Student Count or classification placement of isolated schools will be determined by the Reclassification Committee in accordance with the "Isolation Rule."

4.22 The Reclassification Committee may utilize the following factors in reclassification decision:

a. Consideration of travel time and costs, plus time out of school for students.
b. Consideration of differences in the size of school populations.
c. Consideration of competitive balance of the schools.
d. Consideration of equitable access to playoff slots.
e. Consideration of rivalries and gate-receipt issues.

4.23 The membership of the Association shall be divided into seven (7) classifications as follows:

a. Schools will be placed in classifications (according to their Reclassification Student Count) as follows:
    1. Class 7A: Largest 13% (approximately) of football playing schools. Note: Schools may opt to play up into 7A.
    2. Class 6A: Next Largest 15% (approximately) of football playing schools.
    3. Class 5A: Next Largest 15% (appoximately) of football playing schools.
    4. Class 4A: Next Largest 15% (appoximately) of football playing schools.
    5. Class 3A: Next Largest 15% (appoximately) of football playing schools.
    6. Class 2A: Next Largest 15% (appoximately) of football playing schools.
    7. Class 1A: Lowest 12% (appoximately) of football playing schools.
    8. When football schools opt to move up in classification, only the exact number of football playing schools at the bottom of the next class will be given the option to come down. If any of those schools opt not to come down, the GHSA office will not look further to larger schools in that class.
    9. Non-public schools in Classes 2A, 3A and 4A will play in their assigned regions during the regular season but will then compete in a combined championship bracket of private schools only. Public schools in 2A, 3A and 4A will each have separate championship brackets. All schools in all classifications will be seeded into playoff brackets using the Post Season Ranking Formula as determined by the GHSA office.
b. Out-Of-Zone Multiplier: Every student attending a school from outside that school's district-assigned attendance zone shall be counted as three (3.0) students when it comes to calculating that school's Reclassification Student Count. And that school shall be placed in the classification where the increased count falls.
    1. The designated reclassification attendance zone for all GHSA public schools shall be that attendance zone assigned to the school by its respective school district.
    2. Member non-public and charter schools may select a public school's attendance zone within their county of residence that best reflects their student population to be their designated reclassification attendance zone (for reclassification purposes only, not for transfer eligibility. See Appendix S-R).
    3. Children of certified professionals at the high school (grades 9-12) and military active duty dependent children will not be subject to the Out-Of-Zone Multiplier even if they live outside the school's designated attendance zone.
    4. Students who entered a feeder school of a member high school in grades K-5 and remained continuously enrolled will not be subject to the Out-Of-Zone Multiplier.
    5. All member schools must submit the number of students that will be counted as Out-Of-Zone students by October 1 of the final year of the reclassification cycle.
    6. Single-gender schools will have the Out-of-Zone Multiplier applied only to the actual number of students enrolled in the school and not to their doubled enrollment figure.
    7. If a school is found to be intentionally reporting incorrect numbers, that school will be banned from participating in the state playoffs for two (2) years and must pay a fine of $2,500.
    8. A school shall be allowed to appeal its classification placement to the Reclassification Committee by filing a written appeal with the Executive Director not later than seven (7) days after notification of its classification placement, setting forth in detail why it contends the placement is unfair or unjustified, or why its assigned FTE number is inaccurate.
    9. The Reclassification Committee shall thereafter set a date for the hearing of such appeals. If the Reclassification Committee finds that the placement is unfair or unjustified, the school's placement may be modified by the Reclassification Committee. The decision of the Reclassification Committee may be appealed by the school to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will not consider objections from schools regarding contested classification placements unless those schools have filed timely appeals with the Reclassification Committee.
c. Each classification will have eight (8) regions unless otherwise determined by the Reclassification Committee or the Executive Committee.
d. The Reclassification Committee shall have the authority to assign a different Reclassification Student Count or

classification placement for any school that is geographically isolated within its region in order to resolve difficulties in travel and time out of class. (Football may be exempted from the isolation policy.)

1. An individual school shall be considered to be isolated if the average distance from that school to all other schools in the region is 100 miles or more one way.
2. The decision to place a school in a higher or lower classification will be based on a combination of factors that include travel distances and school population size.
3. If two or three schools in a region are considered to be isolated (even if the average travel distance is less than 100 miles one way), the Reclassification Committee shall be authorized to place those schools in another classification based on travel distances and school population size.
4. If four or more schools in a region are considered to be isolated (even if the average travel distance is less than 100 miles one way), the Reclassification Committee shall be authorized to form a subdivided region in which crossover games with the other subdivision will not be mandatory for region standing.

4.24 When the membership is divided into classifications as called for by the GHSA Constitution, the following process will be used:

a. Schools will be assigned a Reclassification Student Count by the GHSA office.
b. Member schools will be able to review and verify their assigned Reclassification Student Count on the GHSA web site. When there is a major discrepancy between the school's count and the count determined by the GHSA staff, the school may appeal to the Executive Director to reconsider the count. The Executive Director's decision shall be final.
c. When enrollment figures have been verified, schools will be placed in the proper classification and schools will have seven (7) calendar days to file a request to play at a higher classification.
    1. A request to move to a higher classification must be submitted over the signatures of the school's administrative authorities (i.e., the Principal and Superintendent).
    2. A school that transfers to a higher classification must remain in the higher classification until schools are next reclassified on a statewide basis.
d. The GHSA office will initially place schools in regions and the Reclassification Committee will then meet to ratify or modify those placements. The decisions will be sent to the member schools after that meeting.
    1. There will be a mandatory subdivision of each region containing ten (10) or more schools by the Reclassification Committee (Exception: Cheerleading).
    2. The Reclassification Committee may subdivide a region consisting of less than ten schools if there is an extremely large geographic area within that region.
    3. For football, the Reclassification Committee will require crossover games between teams in the subregions to guarantee a minimum of 70% of the season schedule unless there are isolation issues.
    4. For all other sports, subdivided regions must guarantee member schools a minimum number of contests within the region equal to 50% of the season schedule unless there are isolation issues.
    5. Any region subdivided because of geographic considerations may vote to play a full region schedule based on a two-thirds approval of all Principals in the region.
e. Member schools will have seven (7) calendar days after notification of assignment to request a lateral move to another region, by filing that request with the Executive Director.
    1. A request to have a lateral transfer must be submitted over the signatures of the school's administrative authorities (i.e., the Principal and Superintendent).
    2. The request will be heard at a meeting of the Reclassification Committee and representatives from both regions shall be notified of the request, and may attend the meeting to voice their approval or state their concerns about such a move.
    3. A school that receives a lateral transfer must remain in that region until schools are next reclassified on a statewide basis.
    4. At a meeting thereafter, the Executive Committee shall hear any appeals regarding lateral transfers by the Reclassification Committee. Representatives from both regions involved in the appeal shall be notified, and may voice their approval or state their concerns about the appeal.
    5. Thereafter, the Executive Committee will approve, disapprove or modify the final reclassification and region alignment plan. Notwithstanding any other provision hereof, all member schools are notified that at a meeting of the State Executive Committee to finally approve reclassification, isolation status, lateral transfers, and assignment to regions, any member school may be assigned or transferred to different classifications or different regions other than those previously assigned. There shall be no further appeal of such assignment or transfer either by the member school assigned or transferred at such meeting, or by any other school which objects to such assignment or transfer. Member schools desiring to be heard on those issues are directed to be in attendance at the meeting of the State Executive Committee as all action taken in connection with reclassification and region assignment will be final and no further appeal will be allowed.
f. Member schools may begin scheduling contests for the new reclassification cycle as soon as the final vote has been taken, the membership notified, and any region subdivisions finalized.
g. When a majority vote is used in a subdivided region to determine scheduling and the process for selecting teams for post-season play, one or more schools may file a "minority report" with the Executive Director if the approved procedure is alleged to be unfair to all schools in the region. If the Executive Director believes that there is unfairness

with the chosen procedure, the Reclassification Committee will meet and make a final decision on such matters. No further appeal will be allowed.

4.25 The following scheduling policy will be in effect for public schools entering the GHSA at the beginning of the second year of the reclassification cycle:

a. In sports where the region has two-year scheduling, the new school will not be able to play a complete region schedule at the varsity level. In those sports, the school could play a varsity non-region schedule or a JV schedule.
b. In sports having year-to-year scheduling, the new school will have full membership once it has been assigned to the new region by the Reclassification Committee.
c. In sports that have a region tournament to advance to post-season play, the region may allow a new school to accept a low seed in the tournament even though it did not play a complete region schedule. That is a decision made by the region.

4.26 Charter schools that apply for membership after the reclassification process has been completed will be accepted as schools playing sub-varsity schedules and/or non-region varsity schedules for the next reclassification cycle.

4.30 - STATE ASSOCIATION CONTEST/EVENT RESPONSIBILITIES

4.31 The Executive Director shall determine the activities in which a State Tournament, Playoff, and/or Meet are to be held.

a. In order for a new sport to have a state competition to determine a state champion, the sport or activity must show significant growth and financial stability for a period of three (3) years.
b. The GHSA Executive Director will appoint a committee and a sport liaison to monitor the sport.
c. In order to have a State Championship in an Open Meet Event, there must be a minimum of thirty-two (32) teams participating and this will be determined with the “Intent to Participate” form that is submitted to the GHSA office the preceding school year (with the exception of coed cheerleading, which has a later deadline). Schools which submit this form and then withdraw from that sport will be fined.

4.32 The GHSA Executive Director shall determine and provide adequate sites for all State Tournaments, Playoffs, and/or Meets to successfully conduct the event.

a. Tournament sites will not be available to participating teams for practice prior to the tournaments.
b. The GHSA shall have full rights to the use of the GHSA logo at these events, and have full and complete rights to the sale of championship merchandise at the venue. The GHSA will also have the right to display signage of corporate partners and to restrict the use of goods in the competitive area that promote a competitor of GHSA corporate partners.

4.33 The GHSA shall provide team trophies for State Champions and Runners-Up, and individual medals for first and second place winners in all State activities.

a. The number of individual medals provided for team sports and activities is limited as follows:
Baseball.....22 Cross Country....7 Golf.....6 Rifle.....5
Bass Fishing.....6 Esports.....8 Lacrosse.....35 Tennis.....10
Basketball.....20 Football.....56 Soccer.....27 Volleyball.....15
Cheerleading.....22 Flag Football....30 Softball.....24 Wrestling (Dual).....14
Game Day.....30 Dance.....25
b. Schools may purchase additional medals if desired. The form to use to place an order for extra medals is found on the GHSA web site.

4.34 The GHSA shall assign field/court officials for all Area, Sectional, and State competitions (i.e., after the region winner has been determined), and the fees will be as shown in the chart in Appendix F.

a. Baseball - crew of 3 or 4
b. Basketball - crew of 3
c. Cheerleading - 5 scoring judges and 2 safety judges
d. Dance - 4 scoring judges and 2 safety judges
e. Football - crew of 7
f. Game Day - 6 judges
g. Lacrosse - crew of 3
h. Soccer - crew of 4
i. Softball - crew of 3
j. Swimming (TBA)
k. Volleyball - crew of 4
l. Wrestling (TBA)

4.35 The Executive Director is authorized to modify all competition dates, times, sites, officiating requirements and other practical and logistical matters.

4.36 For state playoff events that are held at multiple, centralized sites, when venue expenses exceed 45% of the revenue for that day at that site, the GHSA will pay the excess expenses. For state playoff events hosted by member schools, the school's payment to the GHSA will be waived if the financial report for that event shows a loss, subject to GHSA review.

4.37 Universal Coin Flip: The GHSA office will conduct one "universal" coin flip prior to the Quarterfinal round and again prior to the Semifinal round in all sports to determine the designated home team in all classifications where equal-seeded teams are meeting in that round. This flip will determine whether the top or bottom of the bracket in all such cases would be the host team (subject to other hosting requirements as specified by the GHSA by-laws for each respective sport).

4.40 - STATE PASSES TO GHSA EVENTS

4.41 The GHSA shall issue passes for regular season and post-season events annually to:

a. Elected or appointed Board of Education members
b. The following school system personnel who work directly with interscholastic activities in grades 9-12:
    1. Superintendent
    2. Assistant Superintendents
    3. System-wide Athletic Directors and Assistant Athletic Directors
c. The following school personnel of grades 9-12:
    1. Principal and Assistant Principal(s)
    2. 2 Band Directors
    3. 2 Literary Coordinators
    4. 2 One Act Play Coordinators
    5. 2 Esports Coordinators
    6. Athletic Director(s)
    7. All athletic coaches, including Community Coaches who have successfully completed the GHSA Coaches Education Program and who are registered by a member school as being utilized as a high school coach.
    8. 2 Certified Trainers employed by the school system in grades 9-12 and recommended by the Principal. A copy of their Georgia Athletic Training license must be provided. Passes for additional Certified Athletic Trainers employed by the school system may be requested.
d. GHSA staff members

4.42 Lifetime Passes are available to retired persons of the teaching profession, and/or those retiring from the Georgia Teaching Retirement System, who served at least twenty (20) years in GHSA member school(s), grades 9-12 as a:

a. Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent AND/OR
b. Principal or Assistant Principal AND/OR
c. Athletic Director AND/OR
d. Coach of a sport listed in the GHSA by-laws.
e. A Board of Education member with at least thirty (30) years service.
f. Retired Contest Officials with at least thirty (30) years of active service in the GHSA.
g. GHSA staff member with 20 years or more of service.
    1. Application should include the individual's permanent address and verification of years of service and must be signed off by retiring system's Superintendent.
    2. Application are available under Forms on the GHSA web site.
    3. Years of service to the GHSA as a Region Secretary and/or Executive Committee member shall count towards the requirements to qualify for a GHSA Lifetime Pass.
    NOTE: Individuals must have retired from coaching and teaching before applying for a pass. Should a Lifetime Pass holder return to a member school in a capacity that is eligible for a school pass, the Lifetime Pass must be revoked and placed on a "hold" status and the eligible party must request a school pass. Once the pass holder has fully retired from that school position, they may request the hold be removed and the Lifetime Pass will continue.

4.43 GHSA passes are non-transferrable and may not be used by persons other than the individual to whom it was issued.

a. The individual's name shall appear on the pass.
b. Picture Identification is required for the user of the pass at all GHSA post season events.
c. A pass that is used illegally is to be revoked and the individual to whom the pass was issued forfeits the right to receive a pass in the future.
d. The spouse of a coach, coaching in a State Playoff event shall be admitted to that event upon presentation of their spouse's pass and proper identification.

4.44 In the event a pass is destroyed or lost, the school administrator should notify the GHSA Office in writing, and should

include the payment of $25.00 with a school check to have the pass replaced.

4.45 When a school staff member who was issued a GHSA pass leaves the position that entitles them to that pass, the pass should be revoked immediately.

4.46 At any GHSA regular-season event, the host school must honor the GHSA pass that admits “the bearer and one other person” as well as similar passes from the GISA or the GAPPS (formerly GICAA). For GHSA state playoff events, the host school shall honor only the GHSA pass, valid media credentials and the GHSA Officials Pass.

4.47 School resource officers and other law enforcement personnel in uniform are to be granted free admission to all GHSA events.

4.50 - CERTIFICATION OF ATHLETIC OFFICIALS

4.51 A plan for the certification of athletic officials shall be established by the GHSA office and published in the GHSA Contest Officials Handbook and Accountability Program which includes:

a. published procedures for registration of officials
b. published guidelines for training officials
c. a system for evaluating performances of officials
d. a system of recognition of years of service by officials

4.52 The following items constitute the Athletic Officials Associations Approval Plan for the GHSA:

a. The Executive Director of the GHSA shall determine the number of officials associations to be approved for each activity. The number of associations will be determined by:
    1. The demand for officials in that activity in that geographic area of the state.
    2. The number of associations already in existence in that activity in that area.
    3. The extent to which member schools’ needs are being met by existing associations in that activity.
    4. The assignment of associations for most activities shall be the responsibility of the GHSA office.
    5. Officials’ associations must maintain minimum membership levels in order to be considered “active associations” by the GHSA in certain sports. Those numbers shall be: Baseball (20), Softball (20), Football (30), and Basketball (30).
    6. New officiating associations may be established when it can be demonstrated that the needs of member schools will be met by adding an association.
b. The GHSA Executive Director may, at his discretion, approve additional associations utilizing the following criteria and procedure:
    1. Such associations shall make application to the GHSA requesting approval.
    2. The By-Laws of such an association shall be subject to the approval of the GHSA and must include provisions indicating that the association and its members will be subject to the rules and authority of the GHSA. A current copy of the association by-laws/constitution must be submitted to the GHSA office.
    3. An approved officials association must handle its finances through a central banking account, and should distribute IRS 1099 forms to all members. Every officiating association must have a Federal Tax Identification Number on file with the GHSA office.
    4. An approved association shall require all its members to be registered with the GHSA, and to comply with all requirements of the “GHSA Policies and Procedures Manual.”
    5. All approved associations must comply with all GHSA policies, procedures and reporting deadlines or be subject to fines assessed to the association by the GHSA office.
    6. All chartered officiating associations must comply with the E-Verify program by July 1 of each calendar year.
    7. All GHSA contest officials are required to have a current “background check” on file. Background checks are valid for a five-year period. Each local association is required to keep records of the background checks. Associations assigning contest officials to GHSA sanctioned contests who have not completed this requirement are subject to a monetary fine and possible loss of charter.
c. The GHSA expects every officials association to operate in a manner that does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, disability, religion, national origin or age.
d. Officials associations shall not charge member schools any administrative fees not authorized by the GHSA.
e. All Invoices for officiating fees in all sports shall be paid within 14 days of receipt of the invoice. Failure to do so will result in a 10% late fee being charged to the member school by the assigned local officiating association. Local associations may send invoices for game fees as agreed upon with the member school. NOTE: Member schools are prohibited from paying contest officials at the game site.
f. Officials may register with only one (1) local association per sport during a school year, and officials are not allowed to officiate GHSA events until the registration process has been completed with the GHSA office.
g. In the event that a local association does not have a sufficient number of eligible officials to work on a specific day/night, officials may be requested from other GHSA-chartered associations. It is the responsibility of the local association assignor in need of additional officials to make the initial contact with the assignor of another association

to work out details of the request

h. All GHSA chartered associations and registered contest officials shall comply with the policies and standards referenced in the “GHSA Contest Officials Handbook and Accountability Program.”
i. Officials shall not be assigned in any GHSA sport or activity if they have had any connection in the past 10 years (attended, worked in the system, have children or other relatives in the system, etc.) with the schools they are officiating or judging.
j. All GHSA contest officials shall adhere to the “Uniform Standards” as listed in the “GHSA Contest Officials Handbook and Accountability Program.”

4.53 Contest officials and officials’ associations are independent contractors and not employees of the GHSA or\ its member schools.

4.54 In the event that officials do not show for a scheduled event without notification or emergency situation, a fine shall be assessed to the officials association for twice the amount of the game fees and that amount be divided between the competing schools.

4.55 All decisions of the GHSA Executive Director in regards to officials shall be subject to the appellate procedures as set forth in the GHSA Constitution.

4.56 Universal contest fees shall be charged for all scheduled, regular-season interscholastic contests (including scrimmages). The universal fee schedule shall be as shown in the chart in Appendix F. Schools and officiating associations may not reduce or increase game fees from those listed in this section. Penalties may be imposed for those violating this rule.

4.57 Current-year registered contest officials have the option to purchase a “GHSA Officials Pass” through their local association via the registration process with the GHSA office. If this option is selected, an additional $15.00 will be added to the annual GHSA registration fee. The “GHSA Officials Pass” will allow the legal bearer of the pass his/her admission plus one (1) to all GHSA sanctioned events/activities.

4.60 - SPECIAL GHSA POLICIES

4.61 Gender Equity: The Georgia High School Association shall comply with the requirements of subsections (a) through (f) of Code Section 20-2-314, as those requirements relate to the association's functions of organizing, sanctioning, scheduling, or rule making for events in which public high schools participate. The Georgia High School Association shall, no later than October 1, 2003, and every year thereafter, submit a report to the General Assembly regarding its compliance with paragraph (1) of this subsection. Such report shall address the number, type, and disposition of written requests for the association to organize and administer regional or state events for additional or different sports; written requests for information regarding the types of athletic events for public high school students that the association organizes and administers; and written inquiries and complaints received by the association with respect to gender discrimination in connection with public high school events. The report shall address all such written requests, inquiries, and complaints, regardless of whether such request, inquiry, or complaint is made by letter, e-mail, memorandum, or any other form of written communication. Each report shall cover the time period beginning on July 1 of the previous year and ending on June 30 of the year in which the report is due. In addition, the association shall have in effect a policy requiring notification to persons who make such requests, inquiries, or complaints verbally that such request, inquiry, or complaint will not be included in the association's reporting to the General Assembly regarding compliance with this Code section unless such request, inquiry, or complaint is made in writing.

4.62 Open Meeting/Open Records: The Georgia High School Association shall comply with the requirements of Article 4 of Chapter 18 of Title 50, relating to the inspection of public records, and Chapter 14 of Title 50, relating to open and public meetings, to the extent that such records and meetings relate to the association's activities with respect to public high schools; provided, however, that such association shall not be required to comply with such statutes or to conduct open and public meetings or provide inspection of records where the sole subject of such meeting or record pertains to the academic records or performance of an individual student or the eligibility of an individual student to participate or to continue to participate in sponsored events or contests based on academics; provided. However, where a meeting or record of such association is devoted in part to matters excepted in the preceding proviso, any portion of the meeting or record not subject to such exception shall be open to the public.

4.63 Steroids/Performance Enhancing Drugs: The Georgia High School Association strongly opposes the use of anabolic steroids and other performance enhancing substances by high school student-athletes. The GHSA believes that such usage violates legal, ethical and competitive-equity standards and imposes unreasonable long-term health risks on the user. The GHSA encourages member schools to educate students and coaches about the perils of steroid usage, and the GHSA will distribute educational materials about this issue to member schools.

4.64 Penalties for Violations: In accordance with the GHSA Constitution, the Executive Director is empowered to make a determination as to whether a violation of GHSA rules has occurred, and to assess the appropriate penalty which may include a fine and/or probation. A non-exhaustive list of violations and fines is published in Appendix P of the Constitution

& By-Laws.

4.65 Indemnification: The GHSA shall, to the extent legally permissible, indemnify each person who may serve or who has served at any timeas an officer, committee member, employee or volunteer of the GHSA against all expenses and liabilities, including, without limitation, counsel fees, judgments, fines, excise taxes, penalties and settlement payments, reasonably incurred by or imposed upon such person in connection with any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding in which he or she may become involved by reason of his or her service in such capacity; provided that no indemnification shall be provided for any such person with respect to any matter as to which he or she shall have been finally adjudicated in any proceeding not to have acted in good faith in the reasonable belief that such action was in the best interests of the GHSA; and further provided that any compromise or settlement payment, other than those funded by insurance, shall be approved by a majority vote of a quorum of GHSA Executive Committee who are not at that time parties to the proceeding. The GHSA may maintain insurance, at its expense, to protect any such person against any such liability, cost or expense.

4.66 Executive Oversight Committee:

A. There is hereby established an Executive Oversight Committee comprised of ten (10) members as follows:
    1. One member to be appointed by the Governor;
    2. One member to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;
    3. One member to be appointed by Speaker of the House of Representatives;
    4. Two members to be appointed by the Georgia School Superintendents Association, with one such member representing approximately one-half of the Georgia High School Association members with classifications based on lower student enrollment figures and the other such member representing approximately one-half of the members with classifications based on higher student enrollment figures;
    5. One member to be appointed by the Georgia School Boards Association;
    6. One member to be appointed by a state-wide association of high school athletic coaches with a current membership of not less than 300 Georgia residents and which is recognized by a majority of the Executive Oversight Committee;
    7. One member to be appointed by a state-wide association of high school athletic officials, referees, and umpires with a current membership of not less than 300 Georgia residents and which is recognized by a majority of the Executive Oversight Committee;
    8. Two members to be appointed by the governing body of the Georgia High School Association, with one such member representing approximately one-half of the member schools based on lower student enrollment figures and the other such member representing member schools based on higher student enrollment figures;
B. A quorum of the Executive Oversight Committee shall consist of six (6) members.
C. The Executive Oversight Committee shall elect a chairperson and vice chairperson from among its members.
D. Members of the Executive Oversight Committee shall serve terms of three (3) years (except for the initial terms set forth below) and are eligible to succeed themselves only once. In order to establish a rotation of terms to ensure that a majority of the members' terms do not expire concurrently, the members of the Executive Oversight Committee set forth above in paragraph (A)(1),(2) and (3) shall serve an initial term of one (1) year; the members set forth in paragraph (A) (4), (5) and (6) shall serve an initial term of two (2) years; and the members set forth in paragraph (A) (7) and (8) shall serve initial terms of three (3) years. Thereafter, members of the Executive Oversight Committee shall serve terms of three (3) years. In the event of a vacancy in any seat, the appointing officer or body shall be authorized to appoint a replacement member for the remainder of the term.
E. The authority and duties of the Executive Oversight Committee shall include:
    1. To meet in person or remotely not less than twice each school year;
    2. To meet in person or remotely upon the call of the chairperson or a majority of the Executive Oversight Committee;
    3. To establish policies and procedures for the Executive Oversight Committee;
    4. To conduct any independent audit, review or investigation the Executive Oversight Committee deems necessary, including, but not limited to, the audit, review, or investigation of the classifications of participating schools and travel-related issues of participating schools;
    5. To conduct an annual evaluation of the Georgia High School Association as a whole and present a report of its findings, recommendations, and conclusions to the General Assembly's High School Athletics Overview Committee.
F. Travel and other expenses actually incurred by the Executive Oversight Committee, or any member thereof in the performance of his or her duties, shall be reimbursed by the Georgia High School Association.

BASEBALL

GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Baseball is a state championship event in each classification, and schools are aligned on a regional basis.
B. All games will be played by the rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).
C. The maximum number of games allowed (not including state playoffs) is thirty (30). This limit of 30 games includes any region tournament games. Beginning and ending dates for practice and competition can be found at the front of this publication. **NOTE:** "Arm Acclimation". Student-athletes wishing to try out for the sport of baseball may participate in one week of "Arm Acclimation" beginning on the Monday prior to the 1st day of practice. "Arm Acclimation" includes the use of a glove, catching gear and a baseball under the supervision of a coach. To ensure the safety of all participants, "Arm Acclimation" applies to all players including bullpens.
D. A school shall not allow its baseball team to engage in an interscholastic practice and/or scrimmage game, except for one (1) interscholastic scrimmage consisting of a 7-inning game using a "free substitution" format and umpires registered with the GHSA.
E. All varsity baseball games shall be played with officially-dressed officials who are registered under the GHSA plan for the registration of officials.
   1. The assignment of officials for regular-season games, invitational tournaments, and any sub-region or region playoffs allowed in the 30-game limit will be made by the GHSA office.
      a. The GHSA will assign one or more associations to each school for their games.
      b. The school and the local association(s) will sign a contract for the games that are assigned.
   2. In accordance with By-Law 2.71-c, the host school has the responsibility of providing security escorts for umpires at all regular-season and post-season games.
F. The following items allowed in the NFHS rule book as "State Adoptions" have been adopted by the GHSA:
   1. A game will end anytime that a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed five or more turns at bat. A game will end anytime that a team is 15 or more runs behind and has completed three or more turns at bat.
   2. The suspended game rule will be used:
      a. When a game is stopped before it becomes a legal game (4.5 or 5 innings), it is considered "no contest" and any replay will begin from the first inning.
      b. When a game is stopped after it becomes a legal game and a winner can be determined, it is a completed game.
      c. When a game is stopped after it becomes a legal game and a winner can not be determined, any replay will begin from the point of interruption.
      d. In any terminated game, accumulated pitches will count.
   3. The use of the "courtesy runner" is the only "speed-up rule" that has been adopted. Being a courtesy runner does not count as a game played.
   4. Sub-varsity teams have the option of using free substitution and a batting order of ten (10) players if agreed upon by both coaches before the game. Lineup cards must be presented to the umpire at the plate meeting and the batting order shall remain the same throughout the game.
G. The following interpretations have been approved by the GHSA.
   1. Termination of the game due to weather, unplayable conditions, or mechanical malfunctions:
      a. The umpires may halt play for up to two hours when conditions do not allow play to continue.
         1. The two-hour interruption(s) is cumulative
         2. The game must be terminated when the two-hour time has elapsed. If the first game of a doubleheader is terminated, the second game will be postponed.
         3. The two-hour period does not include time needed to prepare the field for the resumption of play.
      b. Umpires must wait for at least thirty (30) minutes before terminating a game for unplayable field conditions.
   2. **Pitching restrictions:**
      a. **Regular Season Maximum Pitches in One Day**: Varsity 110; sub-varsity 90.
      b. **Regular Season Required Rest Periods:**

Varsity		Sub-Varsity	
1-40 Pitches	0 Days	1-30 Pitches	0 Days
41-60 Pitches	1 Day	31-44 Pitches	1 Day
61-85 Pitches	2 Days	45-64 Pitches	2 Days

86-110 Pitches	3 Days	65-90 Pitches	3 Days

NOTE: During the Regular Season, a pitcher shall not throw more than 110 pitches (90 for sub-varsity) cumulative over a two-day period and cannot pitch more than two consecutive days. The rest period is based on the total pitches thrown during a given two-day period. Pitches thrown during a game that was suspended or rained out shall be counted towards any pitching restriction thresholds.

c. **State Tournament** - During the State Tournament, no pitcher shall be allowed to throw more than **120 pitches over a three-game series**. The "Required Rest Period" chart does not apply.
d. A pitcher at any level (varsity or sub-varsity) shall be allowed to finish the batter when the maximum pitch count limit is reached during an at-bat, but must be replaced immediately when that at-bat ends.
e. A "Day of Rest" is defined as a calendar day. Example: a varsity level pitcher who reaches the 110-pitch limit on a Tuesday would not be allowed to pitch again until Saturday.
f. Tabulation of Pitch Counts - It will be the responsibility of each team to track their own pitch counts throughout the game. And at the conclusion of the game, the head coaches shall meet to approve and agree upon the respective pitch counts for each team. It will then be the responsibility of the home team head coach to enter the agreed-upon numbers into the "PitchKount" electronic tabulation program, **immediately after each game.**
g. In games versus non-GHSA member schools, the GHSA pitching restrictions shall be adhered to, regardless of the pitch count policy of the host school affiliation or state association. When playing non-GHSA or out of state, it is the GHSA member school's responsibility to report the pitch count information in PitchKount.
h. If a school is found to have violated any of the provisions of this policy, the offending school shall be fined $250.00 and the head coach at that level assessed a two-game suspension, and the game forfeited. Any subsequent violation during the same season will result in penalties being doubled and the head coach being required to meet with the Executive Director prior to being reinstated to coach.

H. he use of WBGT for ALL Contests is mandated as follows:
   1. WBGT must be measured 15 minutes prior to start of contest, coaches and umpires must be notified.
   2. If WBGT is equal or above 86.0 F, an ice immersion tub must be present and ready for use.
   3. If WBGT is equal or above 88.0 F, Umpires will take a 3-minute hydration break at the beginning and mid-point of inning 3 and continuing until the conclusion of the game.
I. Contracts are required for all regular-season and playoff contests. Contracted games can not be canceled for any reason other than weather/playing conditions without the approval of the GHSA office. **NOTE:** When rescheduling, region games take priority.
J. Schools must enter team schedules, rosters and weekly game/meet results during the season on MaxPreps and be responsible for updates as needed. This information will support statewide media, event programs, broadcasts partners and GHSA Region Standings. Teams are encouraged to maintain team/individual statistics on MaxPreps.

STATE PLAYOFFS:

A. *The top 32 teams advance to the state playoffs based upon the results of the PSR formula.*
B. *Each region champion will be guaranteed a top-16 seed and will host a first round playoff series.*
C. All rounds of the state playoff involve a best two-of-three series.
   1. *The higher seeded team will host all three games.*
   2. A doubleheader is required on the first day of each round of the playoff series.
   3. The host team will be the home team in the first game, and the visiting team will be the home team in the second game. *The host team will be the home team for a third game.*
   4. The responsibilities of the host team are to:
      a. furnish game balls beyond those furnished by the GHSA
      b. notify the GHSA office as to the arrangements for the series
      c. *in the spirit of sportsmanship provide the visiting team, whenever possible, with the opportunity to take pregame batting practice and provide a schedule for pre-game warmups*
   5. In the event that two schools involved can not agree on the arrangements for the series (dates, times, etc.), the GHSA Executive Director will make a ruling to cover the situation.
   6. In the event that a State Playoff game is suspended prior to becoming a legal game, or if it is suspended after becoming a legal game without a winner being able to be determined, it shall resume from the point of interruption on the next available date. If that date can not be agreed upon by the competing schools, the GHSA Executive Director shall determine the playing date. If a State Playoff games is suspended at a point where a winner can be determined, it shall be considered an official game.
D. The play windows for the State Tournament are listed in the Beginning and Ending Dates published at the beginning of the Constitution. In all cases, the first date of the play window will be a doubleheader, followed by the "if" game on the second date.

E. The finances for the state playoffs are as follows:
   1. Admission fees must be charged for all post-season games - *ticket prices are published on the GHSA website*
   2. Total gate receipts include all ticket sales and radio/television payments (see fees in Broadcast section 2.80).
      a. The fee for a radio broadcast is paid to the host school prior to the game and is added into the gate receipts.
      b. Television contracts are negotiated by the GHSA Executive Director.
      c. Money from concessions and program sales are not part of the gate receipts.
   3. The process of dealing with finances is handled as follows:
      a. Twelve percent (12%) of the gross receipts will be paid to the GHSA.
      b. The umpires will be paid out of gross receipts.NOTE: If the gross receipts are not sufficient to pay the umpires, the host school will pay that cost.
      c. The remaining balance is to be divided with 50% of the proceeds going to the visiting team and 50% to the host team.
         1. The visiting team shall be paid $.80 per mile (one way) for travel.
         2. The host team is responsible for paying local service charges, stadium charges, operating expenses, personnel costs, etc., out of their 50% share.
         3. Admission fee for State Championship Series at a neutral site will be posted on the GHSA web site.
   4. At neutral-site games, each participating team is allowed free admission for a maximum of 25 players and team essential personnel. Coaches will be admitted with a GHSA coaching pass.

BASKETBALL

GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. Basketball is a state championship event in each classification for boys and girls, and schools are aligned on a regional basis. Beginning and ending dates for practice and competition can be found at the front of this publication.
B. All basketball games will be played by the rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations.
C. The number of basketball games allowed (not including regional, sectional and state tournaments) is twenty-five (25) regular season games either in head-to-head competition or in invitational tournaments that have been approved by the GHSA. *The minimum number of games required to be eligible for the post season is twenty-two (22) games that count toward a team's PSR. Please refer to the PSR Appendix for additional details.* NOTE: All basketball schedules and contracts are to be completed by June 1 each year.
D. The following policies exist for basketball games:
    1. Warm-up time between games shall be no less than fifteen (15) minutes. The game clock operator shall start the clock between games when the last player from the previous game leaves the court.
    2. Sub-varsity games shall be played using seven (7) minute quarters. Playing time may be reduced on a night that precedes a school day.
    3. Region and State Tournament games do not have a starting time restriction, but shall be completed no later than 11:30 p.m., on a night that precedes a school day.
E. In accordance with National Federation rule options, when there is a competitive imbalance between teams, the second half of a game may be reduced to six (6) minute quarters, while using normal timing/scoring rules when:
    1. The point differential at halftime is thirty (30) points or greater, and the coach of the trailing team wishes to have the quarters reduced.
    2. The point differential at the beginning of the fourth (4th) quarter is thirty (30) points or greater, the reduction will be invoked automatically.
F. All varsity basketball games shall be played with officially-dressed basketball officials who are registered under the GHSA plan for the registration of officials.
    1. The assignment of officials associations for regular-season games, invitational tournaments, and sub-region and region tournaments will be made by the GHSA office.
        a. The GHSA will assign one or more associations to each school for their games.
        b. The school and the local association(s) will sign a contract for the games that are assigned.
    2. The host school must provide an adult (21 years old or older) to maintain the official scorebook, electronic scoreboard, and 35-second clock at all varsity games.
    3. The host school must provide a safe and secure changing area near the playing court for contest officials, free from traffic by school staff, students and spectators one hour prior to game time, during the duration of the contest(s) and until the contest officials depart the facility.
    4. In accordance with By-Law 2.71-c, the host school has the responsibility for providing security escorts for officials at all regular season games and tournaments.
    5. The host school for a “special event” contest shall contact the GHSA office for the officiating assignments.
    6. All varsity level games shall be officiated by a 3-person crew. Sub-varsity games may be officiated by a 2-person crew.
    7. 35-SECOND CLOCK – The 35-second clock is to be used in all “Varsity Level” games.
        a. The individual designated as the “Shot Clock Operator” shall be approved through the GHSA 35-Second Shot Clock Operator certification.
        b. Schools not in compliance with the 35-second shot clock requirements will be assessed a technical foul to start each game.
G. Schools must enter team schedules, rosters and weekly game/meet results during the season on MaxPreps and be responsible for updates as needed. This information will support statewide media, event programs, broadcasts partners and GHSA Region Standings. Teams are encouraged to maintain team/individual statistics on MaxPreps.
H. Spectators from participating schools shall not be allowed to sit or stand in the first row of seating at court level on either sideline or endline, and a minimum of one (1) school administrator must be in close proximity to the student section.
I. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION:
    1. Cheerleaders at basketball games shall be restricted from the area at the end of the court during the time a game is in progress unless they are more than eight (8) feet from the boundary line of the court.
        a. This includes when cheerleaders are in an “L” shape with part on the sideline and part on the endline.
        b. The host school or tournament director is responsible for enforcing this rule.
    2. The throwing of souvenirs (such as small basketballs, t-shirts, etc.) into the stands is prohibited until after the final basketball game of the day.
    3. During Semifinals and Finals, schools are limited to a maximum of 20 uniformed cheerleaders at court side.

    a. Cheerleaders shall not occupy spectator seating and shall be in designated courtside areas.
    b. Mascots shall be members of the student body.
4. No artificial noisemakers (including megaphones) shall be allowed in the gym during basketball games.
5. Bands shall play only during intervals between periods or during timeouts; the home school is responsible for enforcing this rule.
6. The practice of cutting or removing nets, or hanging on the rim or backboard is prohibited at all GHSA games.
7. For the pregame and second half warmup period and during the time of team introductions, teams can not run around or through the opposing team's half of the court and the midcourt circle area is off limits to both teams. The penalty for violation of this rule will be a technical foul if the officials have taken jurisdiction of the game.
8. All spectators must wear shirts during the games.
9. The host school should provide dressing areas for visiting teams in close proximity to the playing floor. Game managers, in conjunction with game officials, may extend halftime intermission to 15 minutes if the dressing area is not in close proximity to the playing floor.
10. Coaching boxes must be marked on the floor in both bench areas with one line that is 28 feet from the end line of the court.
11. An "X" must be marked on the floor in front of the spot where the scorekeeper sits in order to facilitate the substitution process.
12. Players are prohibited from warming up on the court at halftime intermission of the preceding game.
13. In accordance with NFHS rules, the official scorer is required to wear a black-and-white, vertically-striped shirt.
14. There shall be a minimum warm-up time of 15 minutes between multiple games.

REGION TOURNAMENTS:

A. Each region will decide its method for determining the teams that will advance to the State Tournament.
    1. Four teams from each region will advance to the First Round of the State Tournament in all classifications (boys and girls), even when the region is sub-divided.
    2. No region may use a double-elimination tournament.
    3. The tournament committee or tournament director shall secure the services of competent scorekeeper(s) and clock operator(s). NOTE: No team shall have the privilege of placing its scorekeeper and/or timekeeper at or near the position of the official scorekeeper and clock operator.
B. Officials associations for sub-region and region tournaments will be assigned by the host school's local association. Issues for covering the tournament will be handled by the tournament director and the assigning officer of the selected officials association.
C. Region post-season games (sub-region games and full region games) must have a minimum of two games at each site.

STATE TOURNAMENT

A. In the First Round through the Quarterfinal Round, the higher-seeded teams will host (if equal seeds meet, a "universal" coin flip will determine the host school). In each of the first three rounds, there are two dates of competition.
    1. The girls teams will play on the first night of the designated round, while the boys teams will play on the second night of the round.
    2. In the event that the same school hosts both the boys and girls games, the host school may petition to schedule a doubleheader with the following stipulations:
        a. If a doubleheader is scheduled, it shall be played on the second playing date of that round. If more than two (2) schools are involved, they must all agree on the play date or the schools will play on the gender-designated dates and there will not be a doubleheader.
        b. If the day of the doubleheader is requested to be changed, all participating schools must agree to play the doubleheader on the requested date.
    3. Officials will be assigned by the GHSA office. Officials may not work back-to-back games in the post-season except in emergency situations.
    4. The host team will provide an adult (21 years or older) timer and scorer.
    5. All other GHSA by-laws pertaining to the State Tournament apply to these games except where specified.
    6. SEATING:
        a. All seats are to be general admission, and tickets will be full-price for each day of the tournament.
        b. The host school shall provide 50% of the available seating to spectators from the visiting school(s).
        c. The minimum seating requirements are: 6A & 5A - 1,200; 4A - 1,000; 3A & 2A - 700; A - 500 (with bleachers on both sides).
    7. FINANCES:
        a. *Ticket prices will be published on the GHSA website*
        b. Only GHSA passes and valid press credentials, with a picture ID, will be honored for admission.
        c. In the First Round through the Quarterfinal Round:
            1. The host school will be allowed to deduct expenses up to $500.00 for a single game or $700.00 for a doubleheader.

2. The host school will deduct officials fees of $570.00 for a single game or $1140.00 for a doubleheader.
3. Visiting team(s) will be paid $.80 per mile (one way).
4. For a single game or a doubleheader involving two schools, the net proceeds are split equally between the two schools and the GHSA.
5. For a doubleheader involving three schools, the net proceeds will be divided as follows: 20 per cent to the GHSA; 20 percent to each visiting team and 40 percent to the host school.

d. In the Semifinals and Finals, from net receipts (after all expenses have been paid), the GHSA will receive 40%, and 60% is divided among the participating schools.

8. Semifinal Round games will be played at centralized sites (to be determined).
9. The Final Round games will be played at a centralized site(s), to be determined, and will be known as the "Dr. Ralph Swearngin Basketball Championships." Dates for the semifinals and finals may be found in the Beginning and Ending Dates table at the front of this publication.

B. Until eliminated from the tournament of its respective classification, each team will be entitled to free admission at their site on the date of their game only:
1. A maximum of twenty (20) players and team essential personnel.
2. A maximum of twenty (20) cheerleaders in uniform.
3. Coaches will be admitted with a GHSA coaching pass.
4. The school will be charged by the GHSA office for additional personnel entering at the team gate.
5. Floor passes will be given to the basketball coaches listed on the official roster and a maximum of six auxiliary personnel (managers, statisticians, and trainers).
6. Team Instructions for State Tournament games will be available on the GHSA web site.

C. In the First Round through the Quarterfinal Round, the host team is designated as the home team and will wear white jerseys. In the Semifinal and Final Rounds, the team listed at the bottom of the bracket is designated as the home team, and will wear white jerseys, regardless of the seeding in prior rounds.

D. Upon arriving at the tournament site, the head coach or a designee shall:
1. submit a complete lineup to the official scorer.
2. verify with the opposing coach the color of jerseys being worn.

E. Tournament sites will not be available to participating teams prior to the tournament. EXCEPTION: When the team of the host school is in the tournament.
1. Teams playing in the first game of the day shall have access to the court no earlier than thirty (30) minutes before game time.
2. There will be a minimum of fifteen (15) minutes between tournament games.

F. Each team is responsible for providing its own basketballs for warm-ups, towels, training supplies, and half-time refreshments, unless notified differently by the GHSA office. The GHSA will provide game balls at the Semifinal and Final Rounds.

G. Each school is responsible for the behavior of its coaches, players, and spectators at tournament games. Therefore, the behavior of these groups must be monitored by school administrators, especially (but not exclusively) in the following areas:
1. No artificial noise makers, banners or signs, radios or similar music-producing devices are allowed.
2. Throwing objects on the floor will not be tolerated.
3. Cutting nets, hanging on rims, climbing on backboards is prohibited.
4. Security personnel may ask that spectators refrain from standing the entire game if it blocks the view of other spectators who choose not to stand.
5. Displays of unsportsmanlike conduct directed toward the opposing team or the officials will not be tolerated.
6. Spectators are not allowed on the court at any time prior to, during or following the game. Players are not allowed to go into the spectators' area following the game.
7. Pep bands with a maximum of 15 members and one (1) adult school personnel member may be allowed. If the home team allows its pep band to attend, it shall also allow the visiting school's pep band to attend.

H. Each school in the tournament is allowed to have one video camera filming only its games under the following conditions:
1. The video personnel of the school must film from an area designated by the Tournament Director.
2. The video of the tournament game(s) may not be shown at the school or in the community for admission, nor on cable television (see regulations in Broadcast section 2.80) without authorization from the GHSA.

I. Tournament Officials
1. Officials for State Tournament play will be selected using the following criteria:
   a. District partnership rankings.
   b. Evaluation reports from regular season games.
   c. Nominations from members of the Evaluation Committee.
   d. Evaluations from previous State Tournament games.
2. There will be three (3) officials on the court in all State Tournament games.
3. Official scorekeepers for the Championship Finals will be selected by the GHSA office from a list compiled from recommendations by Region Secretaries.

BASS FISHING

GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. Bass Fishing is a state championship co-ed event open to all GHSA schools in all classifications.
B. Notification of entry in Bass Fishing must be filed with the GHSA office by March 1 for the next school year.
C. The Bass Fishing State Championship will be held in the Spring of each year. The first of four regional qualifier will begin in January of each year.
D. The GHSA is partnering with MLF/TBF to oversee and manage the Regional Qualifiers and State Championship Fishing Tournament.
E. Sites for Competition- the GHSA/MLF/TBF shall make the determination of the region competition sites. Schools interested in hosting may submit a request.
F. There is no limit to the number of students each school can have on their team roster.
G. Each school may enter up to six boats in each regional competition. Schools can enter boats into multiple GHSA regional competitions.
H. The top 15 boats from each regional advance to the state championship. One additional boat will advance from each regional for every 10 boats that compete over a minimum of 100 boats in the regional. Boats will advance to the state championship from the first event in which they qualified. If a boat has already qualified for the state championship, the next eligible boat will advance.
I. There is no limit of State Championship qualifiers from a member school.
J. Each boat may have up to four student contestants, only two of which may be in the boat at any one time, assigned from the team's roster.
K. No student may be assigned to more than one boat.

ELIGIBILITY TO ENTER COMPETITION PLAY AND SUBSTITUTIONS:

A. All participating students must be submitted for eligibility through the GHSA office. Each school shall enter all GHSA eligible students on the electronic roster. This roster may be revised throughout the regular season and shall serve all roster purposes in these rules.
B. All member schools participating must abide by the GHSA policy requiring the HEAD COACH to be a certified employee. All Volunteers and Boat Captains are not required to be certified employees.
C. For more rules, policies, and registration information, please go to ghsa.net/bass-fishing.

CHEERLEADING

GENERAL INFORMATION - SUPPORT/SPIRIT AND COMPETITIVE:

A. Schools may have only one (1) varsity competitive team. Schools may choose to have any number of support/spirit squad(s) that do(es) not compete.
B. All cheerleaders (competitive and non-competitive) must be eligible according to academic standards and the transfer rule and must be declared eligible by the GHSA office on the proper eligibility forms. Non-students are not allowed to be part of a sideline cheerleading group either as mascot or "junior cheerleader."
C. All cheerleaders (competitive and non-competitive) must have a physical examination on file in the school office before they may try out, practice, or perform.
D. All cheer coaches (competitive and non-competitive) must complete a GHSA Rules Clinic or the school will be fined.
E. At basketball games, support/spirit squads may perform stunts and/or tumbling that are allowed by NFHS Spirit rules without mats. NOTE: National Federation rules dealing with safety are to be followed in any cheerleading practice or performance.
F. No "stomping" of any kind is allowed in the stands or seating area of the gymnasium. Stomping is restricted to the floor of the gymnasium.
G. Taunting of any kind will not be tolerated. Aggressive cheers should not be performed under any circumstances.
H. Cheerleading apparel is restricted as follows:
    1. Male uniform for competition cheerleading will be uniform pants and a top which counterparts those worn by the female teammates. Sideline male cheerleaders may include shorts in place of the pants. Tank tops will not be permitted.
    2. Female cheerleaders (sideline & competition) must wear a uniform (skirt or dress) that fully covers the athlete's entire torso. The skirt or dress should cover the briefs, bloomers or any spandex material. Bows should be in school colors.
    3. All athletes on the same team must wear the same uniform when performing at a game or competition. Hair must be secured and must NOT extend below the waist.
I. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION:
    1. Beginning and ending dates for practice and competition can be found at the front of this publication.
    2. Cheerleading teams are allowed to attend camps after the last day of school until July 27th.
    3. Spirit Cheerleading season ends after the last day of basketball season at each respective school. Other activities for cheerleaders after this date can be allowed with a waiver from the GHSA office.
    4. Out-of-season practices may be held in preparation for tryouts only. Once tryouts are complete, no practices may be held until school is out. Practices for tryouts are limited to a maximum of ten (10) consecutive school days per school between February 1 and the last day students are in school. (NOTE: All a school's different level teams must use the same 10-day period.)
    5. Eligibility for try-outs:
        a. Students must be enrolled at a school in order to try out for that school's cheerleading team. A student may be enrolled in only one school at a time. EXCEPTION: See By-Law #1.45 (g)
        b. Enrolled migrant students may try out for a cheerleading team, but may not represent the school at the varsity level during the school year until the migratory sit-out period has ended.
        c. Students must meet academic eligibility requirements in order to try out.

COMPETITION RULES:

A. Cheerleading is a state championship sport in each classification for All-Girl teams.
    1. Schools are aligned on a regional basis for classes 2A through 7A.
    2. Class A will compete at a sectional to determine the top 8 to advance to finals.
    3. Private schools in 2A-4A will compete at a sectional to determine the top 8 to advance to finals.
    4. An open division (all classifications) will be held for coed competition.
    5. All schools are allowed to have only one varsity competition team.
    6. The term "all-girl" refers to all-female teams throughout this section.
B. All cheerleading competitions must be conducted according to the rules of the "National Federation Spirit Rules Book" and the "GHSA Competitive Cheerleading Manual." The GHSA cheerleading manuals are posted on the GHSA web site. The NFHS Spirit Rules Book may be purchased from the GHSA office. Video review will be allowed at the **state championship only.**
    1. ***An Ipad will be located at the top of the judge's table.***
    2. ***Two judges will manage the video-tap to start and end.***
    3. ***Review will take place if a judge sees what he/she thinks may be a deduction in the case of (but, not limited to):***
        1. ***Illegal hand placement on a stunt***

        2. ***Illegal stunt execution***
        3. ***Tumbling questions***
        4. ***Timing review***
        5. ***Illegal basket execution***
        6. ***Out of bounds seen by 1 or more judges***
        7. ***Verification on legality calls on stunts and/or tumbling***
    4. ***The video will not be used:***
        1. ***To make a call after the competition is over.***
        2. ***For DoD questions in stunts or tumbling***
        3. ***For coaches to view before the competition is over.***

C. The maximum number of competitions for a varsity cheerleading team is six (6), plus region/sectional and state competitions. In order to be eligible to compete in Region/Sectional/State, a team must compete in at least three (3) sanctioned competitions during the competitive regular season in the division they declare (All-girl or Coed).
    1. All competitions must be sanctioned by the GHSA by June 1.
    2. GHSA sanctioned Cheerleading competitions may include member schools only or schools from other states who are members of their state association. This excludes non-member high schools and all middle schools.
    3. Cheerleading exhibitions are not allowed at any GHSA sanctioned invitational tournament.
    4. Cheerleading coaches, certified teachers and Community Coaches may not be involved in any way during the school year with a competition not sanctioned by GHSA that involves cheerleaders on their school's team.
    5. Only coaches who meet the criteria of By-Law 2.50 are eligible to assist teams in the competitive setting. Any others assisting a team in any manner at a GHSA competition will be guilty of illegal coaching.
    6. Groups that are not members of the GHSA may NOT perform at any time before, during, or after the competition without approval from the GHSA office.
    7. Officials will be paid for a minimum of twelve (12) high school teams. (See Appendix F for fee schedule).

D. Deadlines for the competitive season are as follows:
    1. Request Sanction of Regular Season Invitational Tournament - June 1
    2. Declaration of All-Girl and Coed - October 1
    3. Register to enter Regular Season Invitational Tournaments - August 1
    4. Cancellation of tournaments that do not make - August 10
    5. Confirmation of tournaments submitted with list of teams competing - August 20
    6. Submit rosters electronically on app.ghsa.net - October 1

E. A competitive cheerleading team is comprised of a maximum of sixteen (16) performers.
    1. A team mascot (if used) is included as one of the 16 performers.
    2. A school may have a roster greater than 16 performers, and may use any combination of eligible cheerleaders in any competition in each specific division.
    3. All team members must be dressed in the appropriate adopted school uniform that displays the school identification (i.e., letter, monogram, mascot symbol, etc.) NOTE: The mascot is exempt from this uniform rule.

F. The competitive area is a 42’x42’ blue cheerleading mat, and the routine must be performed within the boundaries of the competitive area. Mats must have a minimum thickness of 1 3/8 inches.
    1. A full set of cheerleading mats (42’x42’) must be used in all competitions including invitationals, regional, and state competitions. (Directions for proper placement of mats can be found in the GHSA Cheerleading Manual).
    2. Only approved GHSA coaches, competitors and officials are allowed in the competitive area.
    3. Only team members may act as spotters.
    4. Non-competitors (i.e., alternates, coaches) may not assist during the routine.
    5. All mats should be placed on the floor horizontally facing the judges. Center of the mat should be marked with tape. The floor will be considered out-of-bounds.
    6. It is recommended, but not mandatory, that cheerleaders practice stunting on one or more 6'x42' cheerleading mats prior to performing stunts in a team routine.
    7. Middle school and high school events must be considered separate events. Middle schools may not be placed in rotation with high school teams. The arena should be cleared between the two events and reopened for the sale of tickets prior to the beginning of the high school competition.

G. The competitive routine must include both cheer and dance.
    1. Tumbling skills are permitted only within the body of the routine.
    2. Tumbling skills may not be performed as a part of the entrance to or exit from the competitive area.
    3. Poms are the only props allowed in a competitive routine.

H. The length of the routine shall be a maximum of two minutes and thirty seconds (2:30), timed by an official timer.
    1. The routine must begin within thirty (30) seconds of the head judge's signal. Failure to do so shall result in a five-point deduction for delay of the meet.
    2. Teams may begin from any position inbounds, and the time of the routine will begin with the first word, musical sound, or movement of any team member.
    3. The routine ends on the last word, musical sound, or movement of any team member.
    4. If the routine ends with a pyramid, the final dismount is not timed.

5. There is no minimum/maximum time limit for music in the routine.
6. If the routine is longer than the allotted time, a deduction of five (5) points for every fifteen (15) second period or portion thereof will be assessed.

I. Each school is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the music in its routine, and for complying with all copyright laws (NOTE: music must be submitted in the ClicknClear portal.)
   1. The principal must review the music to be used in the school's routine, and must stipulate that the music is in good taste for high school students and acceptable for the morals of their community.
   2. Each school must furnish a high-quality version of their music.
   3. The coach or team representative is responsible for starting and stopping the music during the competition.
   4. Schools are responsible for furnishing their own equipment and music for use in the practice/warm-up area.

J. Winners in the competitions will be determined by the highest point total from the judges. The rules for breaking ties are explained in detail in the Competitive Cheerleading Guide. Ties will be broken by culminating the scores of jumps, tumbling, stunts and pyramids and subtracting the deductions.

K. Prior to any disqualification for a rules violation, the Head Judge must call a conference at the conclusion of competition, and the majority of the judges must agree the violation occurred. Video review may be used for this purpose.

L. Judges' decisions are final.

M. In all competitions, all judges must be registered with the GHSA and must have completed the GHSA training program.
   1. A minimum of five judges and two safety judges will be used at all competitions, plus scorers and timer.
   2. Judges must be secured by the GHSA office.

N. Five percent (5%) of the gross receipts from all invitational competitions shall be paid to the GHSA office.

REGION/SECTIONAL COMPETITION:

A. Each school is allowed to enter one team in the region competition for the all-girl division. There are no region competitions in Class A, nor in the coed division.
   1. Entry notification and roster must be sent to the Region Secretary (or GHSA Office for Class A and Coed) according to deadline dates.
   2. All rosters must be submitted to the GHSA office electronically. NOTE: Substitutions may be made at any time after the roster has been submitted until the last regular season competition.
   3. The principal must approve the music being used.

B. Teams will advance to the state competition as follows:
   1. All teams (2A through 7A) will attend Sectionals in combination with the region competition. The top sixteen (16) teams will advance to the finals.
   2. Depending on the number of private schools in Classes 2A-4A, a private school division may be added.
   3. Class A teams will compete at sectionals which will determine the top 8 teams to advance to finals.

C. A panel of judges to be used at invitationals, region, sectional, and state competitions will consist of seven (7) judges to make up three (3) panels. More than one set of judges may be used if necessary.

D. Twelve percent (12%) of the gross receipts from the region/sectional competition must be paid to the GHSA office.

E. Region/Sectional competitions will be held on Saturday, November 7, 2026. The region secretaries involved with each region shall determine the procedures for finances, awards, number of judges, etc. The school who will determine trophies and competition order for Class A will be determined by the GHSA office. The sites can be found on the GHSA web site.

COED COMPETITION:

A. There will be a separate Open Meet competition (all classifications) for Coed teams.
   1. Having one or more males constitutes a coed team.
   2. Once a team has declared the Coed division of competition, they will not be able to switch to another division without approval from the GHSA.
   3. Coed teams and All-girl teams may not compete against one another in the regular season.
   4. The Coed Sectionals will be held on Saturday, November 7, 2026, at High School. The top sixteen (16) teams will advance to the State Championship.
   5. The Coed State Championship will be held on Saturday, November 11, 2026, at the Macon Centreplex. NOTE: The GHSA office has the authority to make adjustments in the Coed format depending on the number of teams who have declared Coed.

STATE COMPETITION:

A. The Cheerleading State Championships will take place November 13-14, 2026, at the Macon Centreplex. There will be two sessions per day and the arena will be cleared and cleaned between sessions. If attending, please make sure your ticket is for the correct session. The exact schedules for the two days will be published on the Cheerleading page of the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net) prior to the beginning of the event.

B. Flash photography of any kind (cameras, cell phones, iPads, etc.) will not be allowed during the competition.

C. Video review will be allowed during competition.
D. Finances: Net receipts will be divided with the GHSA receiving 40% and 60% divided among the participating schools. Each participating team will be allowed free admission for a maximum of 20 cheerleaders, two coaches and one music person.

GAME DAY COMPETITION RULES

A. Game day cheerleading is a coed state championship sport with championships in classifications A-7A. Schools are allowed to have one (1) varsity team in this competition. The State Championship will be held on December 10-11, 2026 at the Macon Centreplex. Exact information will be published on the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net) prior to the event.
B. The Game Day competition team can be comprised of any combination current sideline and competition cheerleaders at that school, or any eligible student attending that school.
C. The maximum number of Game Day competitions is three (3) in addition to the State Game day competition in February.
    1. All Game day competitions must be sanctioned by the GHSA by July 1.
    2. Judges will be contracted through Varsity and the GHSA Booking agent for Game Day, Kelly Fields.
    3. Cheerleading coaches, certified teachers and Community Coaches may not be involved in any way during the school year with a competition not sanctioned by the GHSA.
D. A team should have a minimum of seven (7) and a maximum of 24 participants.
E. Traditional game day uniform is required.
F. The use of signs, poms, flags, and megaphones are allowed and encouraged for performances. The use of additional props is not permitted.
G. Music
    1. Schools must use recorded marching band music for the fight song and Band Chant categories.
    2. All use of music must by compliant with U.S. Copyright Laws.
    3. Neither The GHSA nor Varsity Spirit is responsible for obtaining any necessary permission or licensing of the recorded music used by a school team during the course of the GHSA Game Day Invitational.
    4. Fight Song /Band Music
        a. If a high school marching band records their school's original fight song, they will need to get the school's permission to use the song and recording.
        b. If a team legally acquires a recording of a band playing a popular recording from an authorized provider (iTunes, Amazon, etc.), the song can be used as long as no edits are made to the music (other than for timing purposes).
        c. A team cannot use a recording of their band playing a popular song (a cover) or other music without the proper permissions or the band becoming a preferred provider.
H. Schools will be judged in the following categories:
    1. Band chant
    2. Situational response
    3. Crowd Leading
    4. Fight Song

CROSS COUNTRY

GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. Cross Country is a team championship sport for boys and girls for all classes, A-6A and Private *(2A-4A)*.
B. The distance for both boys and girls Cross Country will be approximately three (3) miles or five (5) kilometers.
C. All GHSA Cross Country meets will be run in accordance with the rules as published in the National Federation Track and Field and Cross Country Rule Book with any exceptions as may be found in this section.
D. The maximum number of competition dates in Cross Country shall be 10, exclusive of sectional and state competitions.
    1. It is permissible for coaches to use "split squads" during the regular season. However, the use of split squads will count as two (2) of that school's maximum allowed competitions.
    2. Any meets involving eight (8) or more schools must be approved by the GHSA Executive Director in accordance with the process found in By-Law 2.64.
    3. No individual athlete may compete in more than one (1) race per day.
E. All competitors shall have legal uniforms in compliance with GHSA and NFHS uniform rules.
F. The use of WBGT for ALL Cross Country contests is mandated as follows:
    1. WBGT must be measured 15 minutes prior to start of contest and coaches notified.
    2. If WBGT is equal or above 86.0 F, an ice immersion tub must be present and ready for use at finish line.
    3. If WBGT is equal or above 88.0 F, A minimum of two (2) hydration stations must be placed throughout the racecourse as well as at the finish line.
G. Beginning and ending dates for practice and competition can be found at the front of this publication.
    1. There will be no interscholastic practices in Cross Country.
    2. Athletes may run in non-GHSA events as long as they do not represent their school, do not wear the school uniform, and are not coached at the event, or transported to the event, by their high school coach ("unattached runner").
    3. Communication through electronic devices is not allowed during competition.
    4. The State Championship course is off limits beginning August 1 of each year until all state championships are concluded (unless a GHSA sanctioned/scheduled meet is *held* during the regular season on the course and a school participates in the event).

SECTIONAL COMPETITION:

A. The initial team roster of fourteen (14) runners must be submitted on MileSplit GA.
    1. Changes to the roster may be made until the deadline established for Sectionals.
    2. No replacements may be made in the list submitted to the Sectional Meet Director.
    3. Five (5), six (6) or seven (7) of the fourteen (14) athletes may compete as a team in the Sectional Meet to qualify for the State Meet.
    4. Individuals may compete at the Sectional Meet to qualify for the State Meet.
B. All Sectional Meets will be held on Saturday, *October 31*.
    1. Twelve (12) teams in each Sectional Meet will advance to the State Meet.
    2. The first twenty (20) individual finishers from each Sectional in all classes will qualify for the State Meet regardless of whether they are a member of a qualifying team.
    3. Sectional qualifiers must be finalized by electronic submission on MileSplit GA *immediately following* the completion of the Sectional Meet.

STATE MEET:

A. The State Cross Country Meet for all classifications will be held at Carrollton High School on the dates indicated on the Beginning and Ending Dates table at the front of this publication. The running order may be found on the Cross Country page of the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net).
    1. There will be an admission fee posted on the GHSA web site for all spectators.
    2. Awards will be presented at the conclusion of each classification.
B. A minimum of five (5) and a maximum of fourteen (14) runners will be allowed free admission for each team that qualified. Individual qualifiers also will be admitted free. Coaches will be admitted on their GHSA coaching passes.
    1. The first five (5) finishers for each team will count for the total team score.
    2. Each team must begin and end the competition with a minimum of five (5) runners. If, for any reason, a qualifying team does not have five (5) runners, that team will not be allowed to compete in the State Meet.
    3. Each member of a qualifying team, as well as individual qualifiers from each Sectional, is considered to be in contention for individual honors.
    4. Practice times and Team Instructions for the State Meet will be announced on the Cross Country page of the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net) approximately one month prior to the State Meet.

DANCE

GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. Dance is a co-ed state championship sport with as many divisions as deemed necessary by the number of teams competing.
B. Beginning and ending dates for practice and competition may be found at the beginning of this publication.
C. All dancers must be turned in on the proper eligibility forms and ruled eligible by the GHSA office.
D. All dancers must have a physical examination on file in the school office before they may try out, practice, or perform.
E. All dance coaches must complete a GHSA Rules Clinic or the school will be fined.
F. Tryouts may be held in the spring any time after the state competition is completed and before the end of school.Tryouts may be held again after school begins in the fall. Tryout can be held for 10 consecutive days.
    1. Students must be enrolled at a school in order to try out for that school's dance team. A student may been enrolled in only one school at a time.
    2. Enrolled migrant students may try out for a dance team, but may not represent the school at the varsity level during the school year until the migratory sit-out period has ended.
    3. Students must meet academic eligibility requirements in order to try out.
G. Dance teams are allowed to attend camps after the last day of school until July 27th.

COMPETITION RULES:

A. All Dance competitions must be conducted according to the rules of the National Federation Spirit Rules book and the GHSA Dance Competitive Dance Manual. The Dance manual is posted online on the GHSA web page (www.ghsa.net). The NFHS rules book can be purchased from the GHSA office, online at Amazon.com, or from the NFHS site.
B. Schools are allowed to have only one (1) varsity competition team.
C. All teams must consist of at least 7 dancers, but not more than 20 dancers. If the number of competitors falls below the number required to compete in that division, the team will be allowed to compete in the division they have entered with a five-point penalty per dancer below the minimum.
D. A school may have a roster greater than 20 performers, and may use any combination of eligible dancers in any competition in each specific division. A team's second routine must be comprised of at least half +1 participants of the original performers.
E. All team members must be dressed in appropriate uniforms/costumes approved by their school. All NFHS rules for apparel must be applied. No hard jewelry is permitted. Hair must be secured and must NOT extend below the waist unsecured.
F. Dance apparel is restricted as follows:
    1. When standing at attention, apparel must cover the midriff.
    2. Fabric must cover the skin from the bra line to the knees (tights, body liners, pants, etc.).
    3. Dancers must wear footwear that is appropriate for the activity. (see NFHS rulings)
G. The maximum number of competitions for a varsity dance team is six (6), plus the state competition. To qualify for state, a team's selected routine must be scored in at least three (3) GHSA sanctioned competitions before state.
    1. All competitions must be sanctioned by the GHSA by October 1.
    2. GHSA sanctioned Dance competitions may include member schools only or schools from other states who are members of their state association. This excludes non-member high schools and all middle schools.
    3. Dance coaches, certified teachers and Community coaches may not be involved in any way during the school year with a competition not sanctioned by the GHSA that involves dancers on their school's team.
    4. Only coaches who meet the criteria of By-Law 2.50 are eligible to assist teams in the competitive setting. Any others assisting a team in any manner at a GHSA competition will be guilty of illegal coaching.
    5. Groups that are not members of the GHSA may NOT perform at any time before, during, or after the competition without approval from the GHSA office.
    6. Invitational competitions should have a minimum of 12 high school routines participating in the event. Officials will be paid for a minimum of 12 high school teams. (See Appendix F for fee schedule)
    7. Middle school and high school events must be considered separate events. Middle schools may not be placed in rotation with high school teams. GHSA judges may be hired as officials for middle schools or solo, duets, or trio events; however, it is not mandatory.
H. Deadlines for the competitive season are as follows:
    1. Request Sanction of Regular Season Invitational Tournament Oct. 1
    2. Register to enter regular season invitational tournaments Oct. 15
    3. Submit rosters for "Notification of Entry" online Feb. 1
I. The competitive area is the basketball court inside the basketball boundary lines.
    1. Only approved GHSA coaches, competitors, and officials are allowed in the competitive area.
    2. Non-competitors may not assist during the routine.

J. The length of the routine shall be a minimum of one minute, 40 seconds and not exceed two (2) minutes.
    1. The routine must begin within 30 seconds of the cue, “Welcome to the floor, _____ High School.” Failure to do so could result in a five-point deduction for delay of meet.
    2. Teams may begin from any position in bounds, and the time of the routine will begin with the first note of the music. NOTE: Inbounds is determined as the area inside the end lines and side lines of a basketball court.
    3. The routine ends with the last note of the music or choreographed movement.
    4. If the routine is longer or shorter than the allotted time, five (5) points for every 15 seconds will be deducted.
K. Each school is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the music in its routine, and for complying with all copyright laws. (NOTE: music must be submitted and approved in the ClicknClear portal.).
    1. Music should be free of any explicit language or violent implications can result in a disqualification.
    2. Each coach is responsible for providing a high quality version of their own music for the DJ.
    3. Principals have the responsibility of approving the music chosen for performances. Notation is provided on the dance rosters page for each school (found in MIS site)
    4. Delays in music could cause a meet delay deduction of five (5) points.
L. A state champion in each style of dance will be determined.
    1. The following styles of dance will structure the categories: HipHop; High Kick; Jazz/Lyrical and Pom.
    2. An overall winner for each classification will be named for each style. Classifications, depending on size of school, will be determined based on number of teams who have entered in each classification and/or genre.
    3. Prior to any disqualification or noticeable deduction for a rules violation, the Head Judge must call a conference at the conclusion of competition, and the majority of the judges must agree the violation occurred.
M. Judges’ decisions are final.
N. In all competitions, all judges must be registered with the GHSA and must have completed the GHSA training program.
    1. A minimum of 4 judges, including 1 tech judge will be used at all competitions.
    2. Judges must be secured by the GHSA office.
    3. 5% of the gross receipts from all invitational competitions shall be paid the GHSA office.

STATE COMPETITION:

A. The State Championship will be held at a site to be determined. In each session, teams will rotate by divisions. A total of five (5) judges will be used per division.
B. No flash photography of any kind will be allowed during the competition.
C. Video replay will be used to review deductions if necessary.
D. Finances: Net receipts will be divided with the GHSA receiving 40% and 60% divided among the participating schools. Each participating team will be allowed free admission for a maximum of 24 dancers, 2 coaches and 1 music person.

ESPORTS

GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. Esports is a state championship co-ed event open to all GHSA schools in all classifications.
B. There will be a fall season and a spring season each year, with specific dates published on the GHSA web site.
C. GHSA will select games for GHSA championships each season, and each game's championship will be determined by a single-elimination tournament.
D. Each school may have multiple teams, and players may participate in multiple games. Esports Coaches must complete an annual Rules Clinic.
E. Eligibility reports are required for all participants.
    1. Participants must be academically eligible as specified in by-law 1.50 and cannot be a migrant student as defined in by-law 1.60.
    2. Eligibility reports must be received in the GHSA office at least 20 calendar days prior to the first contest.
F. Pre-participation physicals will not be required for GHSA Esports.
G. All matches and game rules will be governed by PlayVS. In addition to PlayVS rules, schools must follow GHSA by-laws, which will take precedence over PlayVS procedures. All Esports participants are reminded they must follow GHSA by-law section 1.90 concerning Amateur Status/Awards.
H. PlayVS will specify equipment needed for competition in each game. In general, coaches should have access to the communication platform utilized by PlayVS.
I. Sportsmanship of coaches and players will be monitored by PlayVS and the GHSA.
J. Rosters will be managed during registration for the games with PlayVS.
K. All practices and matches must be conducted in the physical presence of a certified coach. Students may not play GHSA Esports from home. Coaches will be required to check in for each match using the PlayVS platform.
L. Forfeitures without timely communication beforehand may be grounds for fines and/or other penalties.
M. The State Coordinator for Esports is *Kent Morrow (kent.morrow@ghsa.net)*.

FLAG FOOTBALL

GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Girls' Flag Football is a state championship event organized on an Area basis in five (5) divisions with eight (8) areas in each division, playing during the late Fall each year. Schools must indicate their desire to play Flag Football on the "Intent to Participate" by March 1 each year. NOTE: Classification and georgraphic location are factors used to create playing area and division placement.
B. The maximum number of games allowed (not including the State Tournament) shall be 20 at the varsity level and 14 at the sub-varsity level.
   1. Host schools shall schedule a minimum of two (2) games each playing date.
   2. Teams shall not play more than (2) games each playing date.
   3. Varsity level teams are allowed to play (1) scrimmage/jamboree play date after the first official practice date, and prior to the first regular season game of either participating school.
   4. Beginning and ending dates are listed on the GHSA Calendar and in the front of this publication.
   5. Try-outs may be held on five (5) days anytime after May 1 and prior to the final day of school attendance with the following restrictions:
      a. The five (5) days are not required to be consecutive and schools may use a non-school facility.
      b. Limited to current enrolled students maintaining athletics eligibility for the subsequent school year (grades 9-11), and current year 8th graders (rising 9th graders).
      c. The 5th and final day of the tryout period may be used as an official jamboree event with a minimum of three (3) schools participating.
C. Schools must enter team schedules, rosters and weekly game/meet results during the season on MaxPreps and be responsible for updates as needed. This information will support statewide media, event programs, broadcasts partners and GHSA Region Standings. Teams are encouraged to maintain team/individual statistics on MaxPreps.
D. **PLAYING RULES** – Official Girls Flag Football playing rules may be found on the GHSA web site.
E. **HEADGEAR** - All players are required to wear soft-shell protective headgear or headbands during GHSA-sanctioned flag football competition. Any such equipment must meet the following minimum standards:
   1. Safety Performance Standard - All headgear must:
      a. Be independently tested and verified by a recognized third-party laboratory; and
      b. Achieve a 5-Star Safety Rating as determined by the Virginia Tech Helmet Lab.
   2. Product Liability Insurance Requirement - All manufacturers of approved headgear must:
      a. Carry a minimum of $5,000,000 USD in active product liability insurance coverage; and
      b. Provide proof of such coverage upon request to GHSA.
   3. Commercial Availability & Accessibility - Approved headgear must:
      a. Be readily available for purchase at scale; and
      b. Be distributed through multiple recognized retail or team sales channels to ensure equitable access for all member schools.
   4. Non-Proprietary Language
      a. No specific brand name, trademark, or proprietary product shall be referenced or mandated within GHSA rules.
      b. All approved equipment shall be referred to generically as "soft-shell headgear" or "protective headband."
   5. Coverage & Fit - All headgear must:
      a. Provide full circumferential coverage of the head, including the forehead, temples, and occipital region; and
      b. Be properly fitted and secured according to manufacturer specifications.
F. **STATE TOURNAMENT**
   1. *The (32) teams* advancing to the State Tournament *will be determined by the PSR System.*
   2. In the first and second rounds, the higher seed in each of the four-team quadrants will host two games to be played on the same date.
   3. In the quarterfinal and semifinal rounds, *the higher seed will host a single game.* In the event of equal seeds matching up, a universal coin toss will determine the host school in each quadrant.
   4. The championship finals for each division will be played at a neutral site to be determined by the GHSA Executive Director.

FOOTBALL

REGULAR SEASON:

A. Football is a state championship sport in each classification, and schools are aligned on a Region basis.
   1. In the reclassification year (see Article III of the GHSA Constitution), all regions will meet after reclassification has been finalized by the Executive Committee and after any sub-divisions have been finalized and cross-over games have been arranged.
      a. No schedule is valid until the plans of all regions have been approved.
      b. *Plans for determining the Region Champion for the playoffs must be drawn by the respective regions before the football season begins.*
      c. All contracts should be drawn to coincide with the two-year reclassification period and show the day, date, time, opponent and game site.
   2. Each school must file its football schedule with the GHSA Executive Director no later than March 1, each year.
      a. The schedule must show the day, date, time, opponent, and game site.
      b. The GHSA Executive Director must be notified concerning any changes made to the schedule after the submission date.
      c. Any changes made for a region game must be made prior to the date for beginning football practice.
         1. Any change of opponent after that date will cause the game not to count as a sub-region or region game.
         2. Limitations regarding schedule changes shall also be construed to prevent a school from canceling a game when such a game could affect the region and/or sub-region standings.
         3. A change in date or time with the same opponent is not considered a change affecting region or sub-region status.
      d. Contracts with officials for varsity games must be signed by June 1 each year, and copies of the schedules must be submitted to the proper official's association(s).
      e. Each school must have a signed contract for its football scrimmage, and a school may be fined for failure to comply with that contract.
      f. There may be a $250 penalty for schools that change their football schedules after June 1. (NOTE: Appeal procedures are available.)

B. All schools are **REQUIRED** to enter all game results into the GHSA MIS site immediately following their respective contest. This is imperative as it will impact *all classifications* in the Post Season Ranking System. Schools are to enter team schedules, rosters and weekly game results during the season on MaxPreps as well and be responsible for updates as needed. This information will support statewide media, event programs, broadcasts partners and GHSA Region Standings. Teams are encouraged to maintain team/individual statistics on MaxPreps.

C. All GHSA football games must be played according to the rules as published by the National Federation of State High School Associations, and any other rules found in this section.

D. The number of football games allowed (excluding state playoffs) is ten (10).
   1. No varsity football game may be played on a night preceding a school day without specific authorization from the GHSA Executive Director.
   2. Only one football game may be played per week (the schedule week is a traditional week - Sunday through Saturday) by the same level team (varsity/sub-varsity) except in the case of make-up games due to special circumstances that have been approved by the Executive Director.
   3. Football players playing on both the varsity and one sub-varsity team are limited to six quarters of competition in any seven (7) calendar day period beginning with the date of the varsity game. The penalty for violation of this rule will be forfeiture of the game in which the violation occurred and a $1,000.00 fine.
   4. The football season ends for a team or individual when that team, having completed its regular-season schedule, is eliminated from playoff competition or wins the State Championship.
   5. All JV games will be played with 10-minute quarters. If there is an 8th grade student(s) on the JV team, then 8-minute quarters must be played.
   6. Schools may play 10 Mini Games at the JV level, instead of seven (7) regular games, the combination of which cannot exceed the current 28 quarters allowed for sub-varsity play. Each Mini Game will be one-half of a regular game. Four (4) schools would meet at one site, with two schools playing a half and then the other two schools playing a half. Officials would be paid the regular fee for a single game.
   7. Any football contest MUST have an on-site WBGT monitor and take measurements 15 minutes prior to the start of the contest and again during halftime. The following requirements for hydration breaks must be followed:
      a. Kick-off WBGT equal or above 87.0 F – referees will take a mandatory hydration break at or near the 6-minute mark of each quarter lasting three (3) minutes (change of possession or touchdown and PAT). All participants must remove their helmets and no coaches are permitted on the field at this time. It is recommended that players who are actively engaged in the competition and come to the sideline remove their helmets and hydrate until such time that they re-enter the field of play.

b. Kick-off WBGT equal or above 90.0 F – referees will take a mandatory hydration break at or near the 4-minute and 8-minute mark of each quarter lasting 3 minutes (change of possession or PAT). All participants must remove their helmets and no coaches are permitted on the field at this time. It is recommended that players who are actively engaged in the competition and come to the sideline remove their helmets and hydrate until such time that they re-enter the field of play.

8. Regulation of 7-on-7 Contests Clarification of Terminology: 7-on-7 play between 2 or more teams where there are NOT any officials present will be viewed as a "PRACTICE" and therefore will fall under the GHSA Interscholastic Contests and Practices (Section 2.60) and the Practice Policy for Heat and Humidity (Section 2.67) along with the following guidelines:
   a. Teams that participate in back-to-back play periods lasting a maximum of 60 minutes, must be followed by a 30-minute break in a shaded area before resuming activity.
   b. It is recommended that medical personnel (athletic trainer or EMT) be present during said practice session.
   c. 7-on-7 play between 2 or more teams in the presence of officials will constitute a "CONTEST" and therefore will follow guidelines listed below:
      1. WBGT Temperature will be taken and recorded prior to the start of all contests.
      2. The host school will notify the Head Official and both Head Coaches of the WBGT reading prior to the start of the contest.
      3. Hydration breaks will be implemented when the WBGT is equal or above 90.0 F. Referees will take a mandatory three-minute hydration break at the 10-minute mark of each contest.
      4. Ice immersion tub on-site and ready for use when WBGT is equal or above 86.0 F.
      5. Medical Time-out taken prior to start of contest to discuss procedures for possible heat exhaustion or heat stroke treatment.
      6. Teams that participate in back-to-back play periods lasting a maximum of 60 minutes, must be followed by a 30-minute break in a shaded area before resuming activity.
      7. It is recommended that medical personnel (athletic trainer or EMT) be present on each field during all contests.

E. Football practice may begin five consecutive weekdays prior to *July 27th* (NOTE: Schools are reminded of the special Heat and Humidity Acclimatization restrictions listed in By-Law 2.67-b pertaining to football).
   1. In the first five days of practice for any student, the practice may not last longer than two (2) hours, and the student may wear no other protective football equipment except helmet and mouthpieces. NOTE:
      a. The time for a session shall be measured from the time the players report to the practice or workout area until they leave that area.
      b. During acclimatization practices, teams may hold a walk-through as long as there is at least a two-hour break between the two activities.
   2. Beginning *July 27th,* any student may practice in full pads and may practice a maximum of two (2) times in a single calendar day under the following stipulations:
      a. A student must have participated in five conditioning practices wearing no other protective football equipment except helmet and mouthpieces before being allowed to practice in full pads.
      b. In a single calendar day:
         1. No single session may last longer than three (3) hours.
         2. If two (2) practices are held, the TOTAL time shall not exceed five (5) hours.
         3. There must be at least a three-hour time of rest between sessions if two (2) sessions are held.
         4. There may not be consecutive days of two-a-day practice sessions. All double-session days must be followed by a single-session day or a day off.
         5. A walk-through may not be held on days when two practices are conducted.
      c. These procedures are derived from recommendations created by the Inter-Association Task Force for Preseason Secondary School Athletics Participants in the paper "Preseason Heat-Acclimatization Guidelines for Secondary School Athletes."
   3. Full contact should be limited during practices as well as during activity outside of the traditional fall practice. (Note: No limitation is placed on activities defined below as "AIR, BAGS or CONTROL" contact.
      a. For purposes of this by-law, the following definitions shall apply: AIR - Players run a drill unopposed without contact; BAGS - Players run a drill against a bag or another soft-contact surface; CONTROL - Players run a drill at assigned speed until the moment of contact and one player is pre-determined the "winner" by the coach. Contact remains above the waist and players stay on their feet; THUD - Players run a drill at competitive speed through the moment of contact with no pre-determined "winner." Contact remains above the waist; players stay on their feet and a quick whistle ends the drill; LIVE ACTION - Players run a drill in game-like conditions and is the only time that players are taken to the ground; FULL CONTACT - Contact which meets the definition of Live Action or Thud.
      b. Pre-Season & Spring Practice & Summer Contact Camps:
         1. Full contact shall be allowed in no more than 2 consecutive practice days per week.
         2. Full contact during practice shall be limited to not more than 45 minutes per day.
         3. Full contact during practice shall be limited to not more than 135 minutes per week; and
         4. During any twice-daily practice, only one session per day shall include full contact.

5. In Summer Contact Camps, the only form of Full Contact allowed is Thud.
6. Schools will be limited to attending no more than two (2) padded Team Contact Camps per summer: one in June for two days during a three consecutive day period, and one in July for two days during a three consecutive day period (no more than four (4) days total). There must be at least four (4) participating schools or the camp cannot be held.

c. Regular & Post Season Practice:
1. Full contact during practice shall be allowed in no more than three (3) practice days per week.
2. Full contact during practice shall not be allowed on more than two (2) consecutive days.
3. Full contact during practice shall be limited to not more than 30 minutes per day.
4. Full contact during practice shall be limited to not more than 90 minutes per week.

d. Written Practice Plans: A written practice plan in compliance with this by-law shall be prepared in advance by the head coach prior to every practice and maintained by the school for a period of at least twelve (12) months. Such practice plans shall be made available to the GHSA upon request.

e. Violations: The penalty to be imposed upon any member school found to have violated this by-law in any substantial manner shall be as follows:
1. First Offense: A fine of not less than $500 nor more than $2,500 per violation at the discretion of the Executive Director.
2. Second Offense: The school shall be placed on probation and shall not be eligible to participate in post season play.

4. From the end of school in the spring until the first day of preseason practice, players may wear no other protective football equipment except helmets and mouthpieces for all voluntary workouts and passing league games. Institutional heat policies are also in effect for voluntary workouts supervised by school personnel.
5. All applications for team summer camps at GHSA schools or other facilities must be submitted to the GHSA office by May 1, and all subsequent correspondence to complete the application must be completed by May 15. Coaches for these players must verify that the participants have had acclimatization practices for five days immediately preceding the camp.
6. Equipment in summer (contact) camps is limited to helmets and mouthpieces, shoulder pads, and compression style shorts (girdles) that have thigh pads and/or girdle pads. NO FOOTBALL PANTS OR KNEE PADS CAN BE WORN AT ANY TIME DURING SUMMER.

F. All varsity football games shall be played with a minimum of five (5) officially dressed field officials who are registered under the GHSA plan for registering officials. The officiating crew also shall have an electric clock operator whose only duty is to operate the game clock.
1. In all games, the host school must provide some type of dressing facilities for officials at or near the game site that can also be used to hold the pre-game conference.
2. During the regular season, the host school is responsible for providing a crew to work the sideline chains. These individuals must be responsible adults.
3. In accordance with By-Law 2.71-c, the host school is responsible for providing security escorts for the officials at all regular season and playoff games.

G. The following regulations are in place for GHSA football games.
1. All GHSA football games will have a twenty (20) minute halftime unless both school administrators agree in writing by Thursday of game week to shorten the halftime period to fifteen (15) minutes, or unless NFHS weather-condition rules supersede.
2. Artificial noisemakers, except airhorns and whistles, are legal at football games unless the host school has a policy excluding other artificial noisemakers that may hinder on-field communication. The Illegal noisemakers are to be confiscated when visible and/or used.
3. Bands / artificial noisemakers that hinder communications are not to play during live-ball situations. NOTE: This includes the situation in which there is no timeout, and the teams are in a huddle.
a. If, during a football game, a team claims interference with communications due to band noise and or artificial noisemakers, the Referee shall give a warning to one or both head coaches and the bands / noisemakers must cease playing.
b. If there is a second offense by the same school's band / artificial noisemakers, a delay of game penalty will be administered.
c. The third offense results in an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty imposed against that school's team.
4. During the state playoff series, a crew of seven (7) field officials will be used.
5. Fans shall not be allowed to enter the playing field either before the game or at halftime to form a tunnel for players to run through.
6. In the regular season, a school may utilize a visible 25/40-second clock as long as the time is visible on both ends of the field and the clock is operated by a paid game official.
7. Football stadiums may never be completely dark during the use of any flashing stadium lights. The ability to see from one endline to the opposite endline must be maintained at all times before, during and after the game, until the officials have left the competition area.

H. Spring Football Practice for each school year may be held from February 1 until the end of the school year, consisting of 10 practices spaced over 13 consecutive school days. (Note: Spring and fall scrimmage games and jamborees are considered to be extensions of practice as far as eligibility rules are concerned.)

1. Schools must choose by February 1 each year as to whether they will have spring football practice.
    a. If a school conducts spring practice, all preseason practice schedules remain the same (See item D. 3(b) for a listing of contact limitations).
    b. If a school chooses not to conduct spring practice, the team will be allowed to hold an additional (second) scrimmage game or controlled scrimmage against another school, or a jamboree with three teams playing a half against the other two teams, in the fall.
    c. Schools hiring a new coach may appeal to the Executive Director to change an earlier decision.
2. Schools that have scrimmage game/games canceled or suspended by inclement weather will have the following options:
    a. Play on another night during the same calendar week (defined as Sunday to Saturday.) Sunday play is not allowed.
    b. Play during another week when the school does not have another scrimmage or regular season game scheduled. (Note: No scrimmage game may be played after a school's first varsity contest.)
3. Schools which participate in Spring Practice are allowed to play a spring game/scrimmage with another school, or a jamboree with three teams playing a half against the other two teams, in place of their last (10th) practice of the spring (Note: Restrictions under by-law 2.62 (f-2) & (f-3) will apply). Schools may use an OTA format in lieu of a scrimmage/jamboree if they so choose. This format may utilize up to 4 schools but must have the same time restraints as a traditional scrimmage/jamboree.
4. A football coach on the payroll of one school district, but under contract to another school district for the following year, may help with spring football at the new school, if the arrangement is satisfactory with both systems.
5. Students enrolled in grade 8 in a middle school or junior high school that is a feeder school to the high school may participate in Spring Practice at that high school.
6. No student (eighth grade or above) may participate in more than ten (10) days of Spring Practice and may participate for no more than one (1) school.

I. In case of a game being terminated in the first half (suspended game), By-Law 2.93-c must be followed. NOTE: All varsity football games must be played to completion. Any interrupted game must be replayed from the point of interruption. The school that is behind in the score may choose not to continue the game and the score will be recorded as it was at the point of interruption. NOTE: Teams will not be allowed to play two football games in the same week, except when making up a suspended game with the permission of the Executive Director.

J. During warmups before the game and at halftime there shall be a division of the field, and neither team shall enter the other team's portion of the field. That division shall be as follows:
    1. Before the game: each team shall occupy the space from their own 45-yard line to the endline of their goal line. Neither team shall occupy the area between the 45-yard lines. EXCEPTION: When kicking, each team shall have the area between the opponent's 45-yard line and kicking team's end zone in the side zone area on the same side of the field as their bench. Kickers shall kick toward their end zone.
    2. Re-entering the field before the game and at halftime: each team shall have the portion of the field between their bench and the near edge of each goal post - i.e., field divided lengthwise.

K. Overtime is mandated for all games between schools due to the implementation of the Post Season Ranking System.
    1. See procedures below:
    2. Overtime games are exempt from the 11:30 p.m. GHSA curfew.

L. When there is a competitive imbalance between teams, the coach of a team trailing by 30 points or more at halftime may choose to play the second half with a running clock. Quarters will remain at 12 minutes.
    1. If the coach does not exercise the option of the running clock, the third quarter will be played with regulation timing.
    2. If the point differential reaches, or remains, 30 or more points during the third quarter, the clock will still run according to rule for the remainder of the third quarter, but the fourth quarter will have a running clock mandated.
    3. A running clock means the clock will be stopped only:
        a. after a touchdown and until the ball is kicked off.
        b. during deliberations for penalty administration.
        c. during charged timeouts or official's timeouts
    4. A game that is reduced in time by use of a running clock shall constitute a "completed" game to meet other by-law considerations.

GHSA OVERTIME PROCEDURE

1. There will be a 3-minute intermission between the end of regulation play and the coin toss to start the overtime procedure.
2. The captains will meet for the coin toss, and the winner may choose one of the following:
    a. Be on offense first
    b. Be on defense first
    c. Choose the end of the field on which to play

3. The ball is placed on the 15-yard line and the offense keeps the ball until:
    a. The ball is turned over on downs (NOTE: The team on offense can gain a first down.)
    b. The defense gains possession of the ball (ball is dead immediately)
    c. The offense scores a touchdown or field goal
    d. The offense misses a field goal
4. After the first offensive team completes its possession, the opposing team gets its opportunity from the 15-yard line.
5. If the game remains tied after each team has had an offensive possession, there will be a 2-minute intermission and the team that lost the first coin toss has the first option for the second possession.
6. For each additional overtime period (i.e., an offensive possession by each team) the original coin toss options are alternated.
7. Beginning with the second overtime period, a team must attempt a 2-point try after a touchdown.
8. Subsequent to the first two series from the 15-yard line, if the game remains tied, the ball will be placed on the three-yard line and teams will alternate two-point conversions until the tie is broken.
9. Each team is allowed one timeout per overtime period. Timeouts may NOT be carried over from regulation play.

REGION PROCEDURES:

A. To qualify for championship consideration in a region or sub-region, a school must play a minimum number of games with schools in its region as determined by the region and the GHSA Reclassification Committee.
    1. In any region or sub-region in which there are six (6) or less schools, if each school plays two (2) games, both games will count as region games. In any other case where two (2) schools have played more than once during the regular season, only the first game scheduled shall count in the region standings.
    2. Any school playing a non-region or non-sub-region schedule (i.e., not in consideration for a region championship) will not have its games count for or against any opponent.

B. The GHSA Executive Director, upon presentation of evidence to show that a school cannot secure the required number of games in a region or sub-region, may authorize each school to substitute any number of games in any classification or region to qualify for championship consideration. NOTE: A request for substitution of game(s) must be submitted prior to September 1.

C. *In All Classes, Regions will determine their respective Region Champion who will automatically qualify for the post season and host a first round playoff game.*
    1. *Each region will formulate a tie-breaker procedure to determine the Region Champion.*
    2. In case there is a tie between teams and the region does not have a different written tie-breaker plan, the following procedures will be used (NOTE: The use of mini-games to break ties is no longer allowed):
        a. If two teams tie, and one of the teams has defeated the other in a regular schedule region game, the winner shall have the higher placement. Three or more tied teams shall first be considered in sets of two-way ties. NOTE: If three or more teams are tied, use head-to-head record among the tied teams to break ties for seeding. Only utilize points to break ties among teams when the ties are a perfect triangle, with each team having the same record among the tied teams.
        b. If two teams tie and the tied teams split or have not played each other in a region game (no round robin), the team with the greater sum of winning margin using the following Point System, shall have the higher placement.
        c. If more than two teams remain tied after applying “a” above, the following Point System shall be used to eliminate all but two teams. Tabulate the sum of the winning margins of each team’s region games as indicated in the following:
        POINT SYSTEM:

            1. If the margin of victory is more than 13 points, only 13 points shall count.
            2. Losses shall be tallied as 0 (zero) points.
            3. Forfeited games: Offended teams shall receive 13 points when tabulating the sum of the winning margins for breaking region ties.
        d. After tabulating the sum of the winning margins, all teams except the two (2) with the greater sums shall be eliminated, and the selection process shall begin again with paragraph “a” above.
        e. If teams remain tied after the above procedures are applied, the playoff representatives shall be determined by a coin toss. The coin toss, supervised by the REGION OFFICERS, shall be used to eliminate all but two (2) teams, and then the process shall begin again with paragraph “a” above.
        f. In the event the region is eligible for more than one playoff representative, each subsequent playoff representative shall be chosen by reapplying the procedure above.
        g. All regions will use the adopted procedures for breaking ties that occur in the order of standings when round robin schedules are completed.

D. *In All Classes the remaining Playoff Qualifiers (non-Region Champions) will be determined by the GHSA Post Season Ranking Formula (PSRF). Refer to Appendix "PSR".*

STATE PLAYOFFS:

A. All rounds of games after the end of the regular season are considered part of the state playoff structure.
   1. *In ALL Rounds except the Finals, the higher-seeded team according to PSR will host. (Note: In the first round, all Region Champions will host a first round playoff game).*
   2. In ALL Rounds except the Finals, game date and time will be set by mutual agreement. If that agreement is not possible, the GHSA Executive Director will finalize the arrangements. If an administrator does not attend the meeting at which the playoff contract is negotiated, the coach shall be authorized by the principal to negotiate and sign a binding contract.
   3. In ALL Rounds except the Finals, one half of all permanent and temporary seats shall be offered to the visiting team, and it is the responsibility of the home team to regulate the seating so as to guarantee designated seating to the visiting team's supporters.
   4. In ALL Rounds except the Finals, there should be adequate parking space with a recommendation of one (1) space for every four (4) spectators.
   5. In ALL Rounds except the Finals, security shall be provided at the site in the ratio of at least one officer per 500 spectators.
   6. In ALL Rounds except the Finals, facilities for officials to dress, shower, and/or hold meetings shall be made available at the site or nearby.
   7. It is mandatory to have emergency medical personnel at the site of all football playoff games.
   8. *Playoff ticket prices are published on the GHSA website* (NOTE: Only babies in arms do not need a ticket.):
      a. Through the semifinal round, high school level students of the participating schools may purchase presale tickets at a discount of $2 off regular price. Students may purchase one (1) ticket each from their schools at this discounted price.
      b. Certified staff members who work at the participating schools ONLY will be allowed free admission through the semifinal round with proper identification.

B. In order to host a Semifinal Round playoff game, a school must meet the following site requirements:
   1. Permanent seating requirements:
      a. One seat equals 24 inches in width. Exception: each theatre style seat (with back and arm rests) will count as one seat regardless of the width of the seat.
      b. All seats must be at least 15 feet from playing field.
      c. Total seating capacity for each class is as follows:
         Class A ,2A, Private.....2,000 seats Class 3A .....2,500 seats
         Class 4A & 5A.....3,000 seats Class 6A.....3,500 seats Class 7A.....4,000 Seats
      d. Each principal of a school in the playoffs shall certify that the school stadium meets or does not meet football playoff requirements. If a principal certifies such information falsely, then $2,000.00 of such school's share of the gate receipts of the contest held in the non-complying stadium shall be paid to the opposing team.
      e. The GHSA will mediate with both teams involved when there are concerns about the safety of a venue in regard to seating limitations.
      f. The higher-seeded team in the Semifinal Round will be the host team. If they do not have a stadium that meets GHSA minimum standards, they may secure a suitable site.
      g. The higher-seeded team may use portable seating to bring its home stadium seating capacity up to the GHSA minimum in order to host the game as long as (NOTE: Any portable seating brought in for games in earlier rounds also must meet these specifications):
         1. The seating meets the standards of the industry and is installed by professional installers.
         2. All seats provide clear sight lines to the field of play.
         3. No costs for the temporary seating are taken out of game receipts.
         4. Seating requirements for a semifinal game may be waived upon written agreement of the principals of the competing schools that the host's stadium will be adequate and with the approval of the GHSA Executive Director.
      h. *In ALL Classes the higher seeded team according to PSR will host.*
         1. *The higher seeded team will have the opportunity to bring its stadium up to specifications as outlined in item "g" above, or to secure a suitable stadium (if their stadium doesn't meet GHSA specifications.)*
         2. *The higher seeded team will have until 4:00 p.m., on the Monday before the game to commit to bringing their stadium up to specifications or to secure a suitable site.*
         3. *If the higher seeded team cannot secure a suitable site, or bring theirs up to specifications, the opponent will then be awarded the home game, assuming their stadium meets requirements.*
         4. *If neither school meets or exceeds GHSA standards, and the higher seeded team can't find a suitable stadium or bring its stadium up to the specifications, the Executive Director will designate a neutral site.*
         5. *Above seating requirements apply to all Classifications for semifinal games.*
      i. The GHSA will provide a supervisor at all semifinal games.

2. The stadium shall have adequate working space in the press box as follows (NOTE: the first priority for access to the press box after the clock operator and the PA announcer is the working media):

   Classes A, 2A, 3A, Private: 30 linear feet

   Classes 4A, 5A: 40 linear feet

   Classes 6A, 7A: 50 linear feet

C. All Championship Round games will be played *December 15 &16 (*tentative dates) at Mercedes-Benz Stadium. These games will be known as the "GHSA/Tommy Guillebeau Football Championships."
   1. The expense and revenue shares by classification will be as follows:

      7A - 17.5%, 6A - 15%, 5A - 15%, 4A - 13.5%, 3A - 12%, 2A- 9%, 1A- 9%, Private- 9%
   2. A "Video Review" system will be used in all championship games, the procedure for which will be published on the GHSA web site.
   3. The exact schedule for the championship games will be published on the GHSA web site.

D. Financial Procedures:
   1. Total game receipts will include all revenue from ticket sales plus any payments for radio or television broadcasting and will not include money from the sale of programs and concessions.
   2. All band chaperones and other support personnel must have tickets.
   3. The division of game receipts will be handled as follows:
      a. From the gross receipts:
         1. Twelve percent (12%) will be sent to the GHSA Office along with a financial report. Each Football Financial Report Form shall include the number of spectators admitted with a GHSA pass, along with a copy of the sign-in sheets listing the names and numbers of the passes used.
         2. The visiting team shall receive reimbursement for travel expenses in the amount of $5.00 per mile (one way) taken from the game receipts and guaranteed by the host school. NOTE: If the game is played at a neutral site, both teams will be reimbursed for mileage.
         3. FOR ALL ROUNDS OF THE PLAYOFFS: The game officials will invoice GHSA and GHSA will pay the officials.
         4. The HOST school shall receive a fee of 7% of the gross gate receipts.
      b. After items in Section "a" have been paid, the remainder shall be divided equally between the two teams.
      c. Local service charges, stadium charges, lights, cost of operating personnel, etc., are not to be deducted prior to the division of funds and are considered a part of the expenses of the host school.
   4. Broadcasting procedures are handled as follows:
      a. The GHSA office will process radio contracts in all rounds of the playoffs. The fee schedule and regulations for radio broadcasts may be found in the Broadcast section 2.80.
      b. Outlets wishing to televise or webcast football games must contact the GHSA office for contract terms

E. Game officials will be assigned by the GHSA Office in all playoff rounds. Officiating crews shall include seven (7) field officials, clock operators, and three (3) chain crew members.

GOLF

GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. Golf is a state championship event for boys and girls held on an Area basis in Classes A through 7A. For the next two-year reclassification cycle a separate 2A, 3A and 4A Private State tournament will be held. Each Public class in 1A through class 7A will be divided into four Areas by combining two Regions. Area assignments can be found on the Golf Home Page at www.ghsa.net. An Area Coordinator should be assigned by the two combined Regions to schedule and direct the area golf tournament. An Area Coordinator should be assigned to schedule and direct the area tournaments. The Private school division will be divided into four Areas. These Areas should select an Area Coordinator as well.

B. All GHSA golf matches shall be conducted in accordance with the "Rules of Golf" as published by the United States Golf Association (USGA). Please refer to the GHSA Postseason HARD CARD for the Rules of Play for competition. Exceptions specific to all GHSA competitions include:
   1. Players may use push/pull carts in regular season and post season matches. Motorized carts or caddies are not permitted.
   2. Range finders and GPS devices will be allowed in match and tournament play with the following stipulations:
      a. In each grouping (2-4 players), if any player uses a "range finder" then all players will have access to the distance information.
      b. Any player using a device who does not share the distance information with other players in his grouping, when asked, will be subject to disqualification for a serious breach of etiquette.
      c. Single function GPS devices that measure distance are allowed. Any device that performs multiple functions may be used for distance only. Use of any other functions will lead to disqualification.
      d. Smart Phones/Watches that include yardage book applications may be used during play. Any use of these devices is limited to scoring as well as what is covered under the USGA rules that govern "artificial devices." Air Pods are prohibited.
   3. The use of spectator carts will be based upon their availability at each course. Only spectators with a legitimate handicap will be allowed to rent a cart when there is a limited availability.

C. School Rosters must be submitted electronically on the GHSA MIS system by April 15, 2027. A school may list up to 10 golfers for the Postseason. Lineup changes/substitutions may be made at the Area/Sectional/State level but only using those golfers listed in MIS.
   1. In addition, each School Roster is ***required*** to input in iWanamaker (the GHSA golf app) by April 15, 2027. Results from Area/Sectional/State Tournaments must be verified and finalized both in iWanamaker as well as the GHSA MIS system. Schools are ***required*** to use iWanamaker during the regular season as well.
   2. Golfers not submitted by the deadline are ineligible to compete in the postseason.
   3. Entering an ineligible player in a postseason event is punishable by disqualification.

D. The number of matches allowed (excluding region, sectional and state tournaments) is twelve (12) playing dates.
   1. A 9-hole match played prior to the last play date will count as 1/2 playing date.
   2. Schools may use one (1) Saturday during the regular season as a playing date that does not count as one of their twelve (12) allowed play dates.

E. Beginning and ending dates for practice and competition can be found at the front of this publication.
   1. There will be no interschool practice or scrimmages in golf.
   2. Schools may participate in a maximum 4 regular season tournaments (4 or more schools) per gender beginning no earlier than 1 PM on a school day. These tournaments must be sanctioned and approved by the GHSA. All matches / tournaments in addition to these 4 conducted on a school day are not allowed to commence until school is dismissed.

F. A maximum of two (2) golf coaches may confer with their golfers anywhere on the course with the exception of the greens, so long as there is no delay in play. Note: Conversations with or suggestions from any other person is prohibited (First violation: warning. Second violation: 2-stroke penalty. Third violation: disqualification).

G. In the event that a match ends in a tie during the regular-season or post-season competition, a "team sudden-death playoff" will be used.
   Boys:
   1. All six (6) players will play the first playoff hole
   2. The first foursome will include the top two players from each team, the second foursome will include the 3rd and 4th players from each team, and the final foursome will include the other two players.
   3. The best four (4) scores of each team will count.
   4. If the teams are still tied, all players will proceed to the next playoff hole.
   Girls:
   1. All four (4) players will play the first playoff hole in A , 2A, 3A, 4A and Private; all five (5) players will play in 5A-7A.
   2. The first foursome will include the No. 1 and No. 2 players from each team, the second foursome will include the No. 3 and No. 4 players from each team, and in 5A-7A the last twosome will include the No. 5 players from each

team.
3. The best two scores of each team will count in classes A, 2A, 3A, 4A and Private; the best three scores will count in classes 5A through 7A.
4. If the teams are still tied, all players will proceed to the next playoff hole. NOTE: Any ties for Individual championship in Area and/or State must be played off using a “sudden death” format.

H. It is permissible for coaches to use “split squads” during the regular season. If both squads are playing in the same event, it will count as only one (1) of the school’s maximum allowed competitions. However, if the split squads are playing in two different events, it will count as two (2) of that school’s maximum allowed competitions.
I. A maximum score of 10 per hole will be used in all competitions, regular-season and GHSA post-season.
J. All golf coaches must complete the GHSA/GSGA online rules clinic for golf or the school will be fined. Dates for the clinic may be found on the GHSA web site.

AREA TOURNAMENTS:

A. Each Area Tournament will be an 18-hole event.
   1. The Area Director is responsible for communicating details of the Area Tournament to both Region Secretaries that form the Area who will (in turn) communicate to all schools in their respective regions. GHSA will maintain no record of where or when the Area Tournaments are scheduled to be played.
   2. Boys: A team may enter up to six (6) players with the top four scores counting. Girls: Classes 5A through 7A: A team may enter up to five (5) girls with the three best scores counting. In Classes A-4A and Private: A team may enter up to four (4) girls with the best two scores counting.
   3. In Classes 5A-7A, the following advancement criteria from the Area Tournament to the State Tournament will apply:
      a. Each Team Area Champion and Runner-Up will receive an automatic bid to the State Championships.
      b. Each Team that finishes in 3rd and 4th Place will advance to a Classification Sectional.
      c. The Area Tournament Director will electronically submit the Area results to app.ghsa.net and iWanamaker no later than 9:00 a.m. on April 27, 2027.
   4. In Classes A through 4A, the top three public school teams in the respective Area tournaments will advance to the State Championships along with the top individual on a non-qualifying team in each area. Private schools in 2A-4A will be placed in four separate Areas with three teams from each Area advancing to the Private State Tournament along with the top individual on a non-qualifying team from each area.
      a. Ties for the final qualifying slot(s) must be played off.
      b. The Area Tournament Director will electronically submit the Area results to app.ghsa.net and iWanamaker no later than 9:00 a.m. on May 4, 2026.
B. Each Area Tournament will have a team competition and an individual competition.
   1. The lowest Individual score not automatically qualifying for the Classification Sectional or the State Championships as a member of a full team will advance to the State Championships.
   2. In the case of a tie for a qualifying slot, the tied competitors must play it off.
   3. Schools that do not have a regular girls' or boys' team may enter individuals in the Area Tournament to compete for individual advancement to the State Tournament.
C. Each school will pay an entry fee to participate in the Area Tournament as follows:
   1. ***Recommended Pricing*:** Boys' teams all Classes: $150.00: Girls teams Classes 5A-7A: $125.00. Girls Teams Classes 2A-4A and Private: $100. All Individuals: $25.00.
   2. The checks are to be made payable to the golf course to help cover costs.

CLASSIFICATION SECTIONAL (5A-7A Only):

A. Each Sectional Tournament will be an 18-hole event.
   1. Details of the tournament will be sent to schools by the Sectional Director.
   2. Boys: A team may enter up to six (6) players with the top four scores counting. Girls: A team may enter up to five (5) girls with the three best scores counting.
   3. The following advancement criteria from the Sectional Tournament to the State Tournament will apply: Each team that finishes in 1st through 4th Place will advance to the State Championships.
   4. Ties for the final qualifying slot(s) must be played off.
   5. The Sectional Tournament Director will submit electronically to the GHSA the Sectional Golf Results (app.ghsa.net) and iWanamaker. The deadline for this submission is May 6, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.
B. Each Sectional Tournament will have a team competition and an individual competition.
   1. The lowest 2 Individual scores not automatically qualifying for the State Championships as a member of a full team will advance to the State Championships.
   2. In the case of a tie for a qualifying slot, the tied competitors must play it off.
C. Each school will pay an entry fee to participate in the Sectional Tournament as follows:
   1. **** Recommended Pricing**:* Boys' teams: $150.00; Girls teams: $125.00. Individuals $25.00
   2. The checks are to be made payable to the golf course to help cover costs.

STATE TOURNAMENT:

A. The State Golf Tournaments in all classifications will be held on the dates designated in the Beginning and Ending Dates table at the front of this publication.
   1. All State Tournaments shall be 36-hole events. Note: In the case that one of the rounds is canceled due to inclement weather, etc., the tournament will be an 18-hole event.
   2. Details of the state tournaments will be sent to the schools involved by the respective tournament directors or the GHSA office.
   3. Substitutions from the Area/Sectional Tournaments to the State Tournament must be submitted to the Tournament Director no later than 6:00 p.m., the evening before the State Final.
   4. Substitutions after the first day of the State Tournament must be submitted to the Tournament Director no later than 8:00 a.m., on the morning of the second round.
B. All State Tournament sites will be marked and prepared by the Tournament Director and the host club's golf professional. The Georgia State Golf Association will provide officials for the State Tournament to answer questions regarding the Rules of Golf.
C. The recommended playing distances for all Area, Sectional, and State Tournaments: Boys - 6,500 yards; Girls - 5,500 yards (on Par 72 courses). Adjustments may be made for Par 70 or Par 71 layouts.
D. Each school will pay an entry fee to participate in the GHSA State Tournament as follows:
   1. ***Recommended Pricing:*** Boys' teams: $300.00; Girls teams Classes 4A-6A: $250.00. Girls Teams A-3A and Private: $200. All Individual qualifiers: $50.00.
   2. The checks are to be made payable to the golf course to help cover costs.
E. A listing of the State Tournament sites will be posted on the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net).

Host schools may not be able to negotiate these prices. If the costs exceed the recommended amount, this is acceptable.

GYMNASTICS - GIRLS

GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. Girls gymnastics is a state championship event open to schools in all classifications. There will be two championship divisions: A-4A and 5A-6A.
   1. Competition in all meets will be held in the following events:
      a. Balance Beam
      b. Uneven Parallel Bars
      c. Vault
      d. Floor Exercise
      e. All-Around (competition in preceding four events)
   2. The order of competition will be determined by block style.
   3. Open scoring will be used. (Note: the Capital Cup warm-up format is allowed, but schools will be expected to pay an extra $10.00 per judge if using this format.)
   4. Beginning and ending dates for practice and competition can be found at the front of this publication.
B. The GHSA gymnastics meets will be played according to the rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations with such GHSA modifications as may be found in this section.
C. Each school desiring to participate in gymnastics must file its intent by March 1 of the preceding year by filing the form found on the GHSA web site.
D. The number of regular-season gymnastics meets allowed is 10, including any invitational tournaments.
   1. The state elimination series does not count in these meets.
   2. An invitational tournament is defined as a competition involving more than three teams.
   3. All invitational tournaments must be approved by the GHSA Executive Director.
   4. Only two meets per week may be scheduled.
   5. All teams and gymnasts (except when prevented by injury) must participate in a minimum of three (3) GHSA sanctioned varsity meets during the regular season to be eligible to participate in the state Preliminary Meet. If an injury occurs, a doctor's statement with the date and type of injury and the release date to participate must be presented prior to the Preliminary Meet. Scan and email the doctor's statement to the penny@ghsa.net.
   6. Schools may organize and conduct invitational tournaments to assist in meeting the three (3) meet requirement.
      a. These tournaments may be held outside the school, but must be run by school personnel and must be sanctioned by the GHSA. (Note: schools hosting a meet are responsible for paying the judges.)
      b. Scores should be submitted to Penny Mitchell by the tournament director as soon as possible to determine rankings to be posted on the GHSA web site.
E. There will be no interscholastic practice and/or scrimmages.
F. No exhibitions are permitted during seasonal or invitational meets.
G. In accordance with NFHS rules, the GHSA limits the number of participants a school may enter in a meet as follows:
   1. For regular season meets, the limit is five (5) participants per event.
   2. For invitational meets during the regular season, the limit is four (4) participants per event, unless approved by the tournament director.
   3. For post-season meets, the limit is four (4) participants per event (including the All-Around competition).
H. All gymnastics coaches are required to complete an online GHSA rules clinic as specified in the GHSA By-Laws.
I. Tiebreaker Procedure when using three (3) or more judges.
   1. Gymnast's scores are determined by dropping the high and low scores and averaging the two middle scores when 4 judges are used. When 2 or 3 judges are used, all scores will be averaged. All scores shall fall within the range determined by the Chief Judge's score.
   2. In the event of a tie, an average of all three (3) or four (4) judges' scores will be used.
   3. If a tie still remains, the score of the Chief Judge will be used.
   4. If, after the above steps, a tie still remains, the tie stands.

The "Dr. Lucia B. Norwood GHSA State Championship" Finals will be held on April 22-24, 2027 at Buford High School. The GHSA Coordinator is Penny Pitts Mitchell in the GHSA office (email: penny@ghsa.net)

A. In the State Meets, expenses are paid from the gross gate receipts, including the cost of officials, and the balance is sent to the GHSA Office.
B. In the State Meets, a maximum of 10 athletes and two coaches will be given free admission.

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Wednesday, April 22, 2027

A. The Individual Championship for each division will be held on Wednesday evening.

B. The only gymnasts who qualify as individuals will compete in this portion of the championship.

C. The top ranked individuals in each event will qualify for this portion of the championship: Vault, Bars, Beam, Floor and All- Around

D. Individuals will be ranked using the average of the individuals top three (3) scores throughout the season on each event. This process is the same method presently used for team rankings.

STATE MEET

Thursday, April 23, 2027

A. The A-5A Team Championship will be held Thursday evening.

B. The top eight ranked teams will compete.

C. There will be no preliminary competition.

Friday, April 24, 2027

A. The 6A-7A Team Championship will be held Friday evening.

B. The top eight ranked teams will compete.

C. There will be no preliminary competition.

LACROSSE

GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. Lacrosse is a classified event with three (3) state championship divisions: Class 6A, Class 5A, and Classes 1A-4A. NOTE: Geographic location may determine division placement regardless of classification.
B. All Lacrosse games will be played according to the rules published by the National Federation with such GHSA modifications as may be found in this section.
C. Notification of entry in Lacrosse must be filed in writing with the GHSA office no later than March 1, for the upcoming school year so that teams may be placed in Areas for competition.
D. The number of Lacrosse games allowed (not including state tournaments) shall be eighteen (18). If a region/area chooses to hold a region/area tournament, those games must be included as part of the 18-game total allowed. *To be eligible for the post season, teams must play a minimum of 14 games to count toward their PSR. Please refer to the PSR Appendix for additional information.* Beginning and ending dates for practice and competition can be found at the front of this publication.
E. All GHSA Lacrosse games shall be played with a minimum of two officially-dressed officials who are registered under the GHSA plan for registration of officials.
F. For evening games, a single game must begin no later than 7:30 p.m., and a doubleheader must begin no later than 6:00 p.m. If the host school does nor offer a warm-up location for the visiting team, there must be a minimum 30-minute warm-up period between games for both teams. If a warm-up location is provided, then a minimum 20-minute interval between games in required.
G. Sub-varsity games will be limited as follows:
    1. Boys and girls will play four 10-minute quarters.
    2. No overtimes will be played in sub-varsity competition.
H. When there is a competitive imbalance between two teams in a contest, the game will be shortened as follows: If a team is more than ten (10) goals down at any time, the remainder of the game will be played with a running clock that will stop only for timeouts and injuries in both boys and girls competitions.
I. Games that are tied at the end of regulation will be handled according to the procedures outlined in the appropriate rule book as follows:
    1. BOYS: Any game that ends in a tie will be resolved by playing a sudden victory overtime period as outlined in Rule 3-4 of the NFHS Boys Lacrosse Rules Book.
    2. GIRLS: For all regular season games in girls lacrosse that end in a tie, overtime will be played according to sudden victory overtime rules (Rule 4-7) published by US Lacrosse and endorsed by the NFHS. This format will also be used in all tournaments where advancement is necessary.
J. The use of WBGT for ALL contests is mandated as follows:
    1. BOYS: WBGT must be measured 15 minutes prior to start of contest, coaches and officials must be notified.
        a. If WBGT is equal or above 86.0 F, an ice immersion tub must be present and ready for use.
        b. If WBGT is equal or above 88.0 F, Referee's will take a 3-minute hydration break at or near the midway point of each 12-minute period (ball out of bounds/foul assessed or goal scored). Teams to the bench area during hydration break, no coaches permitted on field.
    2. GIRLS: WBGT must be measured 15 minutes prior to start of contest, coaches and officials must be notified.
        a. If WBGT is equal or above 86.0 F, an ice immersion tub must be present and ready for use.
        b. If WBGT is equal or above 88.0 F, Referees will take a 3-minute hydration break at or near the midway point of each half (ball out of bounds/foul assessed or goal scored). Teams to the bench area during hydration break, no coaches permitted on field.
K. Teams arriving late for a scheduled contest by thirty (30) minutes or more shall forfeit the game,and shall be responsible for payment of the officials unless prior arrangements are made in a timely manner. Consideration will be given to emergency situations over which the traveling school has no control. The host school has the responsibility of notifying the officials of any changes in the schedule.
L. Schools must enter team schedules and game results during the season*in the GHSA MIS System,*MaxPreps and be responsible for updates as needed. *Deadlines for submitting schedules and game results* ***MUST*** *be met, all schools, regardless of classification, are* ***REQUIRED*** *to enter all game results into the GHSA MIS System immediately following their games.* This information will support statewide media, event programs, broadcasts partners and GHSA Region Standings. Teams are encouraged to maintain team/individual statistics on MaxPreps.
M. Stadiums/fields may never be completely dark during the use of any flashing stadium lights. The ability to see the entire field must be maintained at all times before, during and after the game, until the officials have left the competition area. This is a safety concern.

AREA COMPETITION:

A. Each Area shall have a written tie-breaker procedure in order to seed teams for the playoffs.

B. An Area may choose to use the GHSA tie-breaker procedure:
   1. Winning percentage against all teams in the Area.
   2. Head-to-head competition among the teams that are tied.
   3. Goals allowed in head-to-head competition between teams that are tied.
   4. Goal differential in head-to-head competition between teams that are tied (maximum of 10 goals per game).
   5. Goals allowed in all Area games.
   6. Goal differential in all Area games (maximum of 10 goals per game).
   7. At any point in the process where ties can be broken so that only two teams remain tied, consideration of head-to-head competition will be invoked. If the tie is completely broken for all teams involved at any step in the process, the tie-breaker process is completed.

C. If the Area is subdivided, then the same tie-breaker procedure should be used for both subdivisions.

POST-SEASON COMPETITION:

A. If championship games end in a tie, the rulebook procedure for breaking a tie is followed (see Lacrosse Section I).

B. Seeding and Bracket *will be determined by the PSR. Please refer to Appendix PSR of the GHSA Constitution and By-Laws for additional details.*

C. *Ticket prices will be published on the GHSA website*

D. Finances:
   1. The GHSA will receive 12% of the gross gate receipts.
   2. Officials will be paid by the host schools out of the gate receipts.
   3. The visiting team's mileage will be paid at .80 per mile one way.
   4. Any remaining receipts will be shared by the participating teams.
   5. Host school(s) will be responsible for security, facility fees, maintenance costs, etc., and these expenses will not be taken out of gate receipts.
   6. At neutral-site games, each participating team is allowed free admission for a maximum of 25 players and team essential personnel. Coaches will be admitted with a GHSA coaching pass.

E. In order to host a state playoff game, the host school must be able to provide the following:
   1. seating for 700 attendees (calculated at 24 inches per seat) Note: GHSA may waive this stipulation with approval of the visiting school.
   2. adequate restroom facilities for the size of the crowd;
   3. a dressing room or locker room for the visiting team.

LITERARY

GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. Literary is a Fine Arts and Academic event that produces State Champions in classifications*1A-7A*
   1. The Literary events include the following:
      a. Literary Interpretation: Solo Dramatic, Solo Humorous and Duo (Dramatic or Humorous)
      b. Essay: Personal, Argumentative and Literary Analysis
      c. Extemporaneous Speaking: Domestic and International
      d. Music: Male Vocal Solo, Female Vocal Solo, Trio and Quartet
   2. Eligibility reports are required for all Literary contestants.
      a. Contestants must be academically eligible as specified in By-Law 1.50 and cannot be a migrant student as defined in By-Law 1.60.
      b. Eligibility reports must be received in the GHSA Office at least twenty (20) calendar days prior to the first contest.
B. The rules and regulations of the GHSA as developed and enforced by state and region personnel and as published in the GHSA Constitution and By-Laws shall govern the operation of all Literary meets. NOTE: It is important that all rules be followed precisely in all competitions leading up to the state competition.
C. In Literary, a student may represent their school in not more than two (2) individual events and one group event, or two (2) group events and one individual event. A school may have only one entry per contest. NOTE: There may be a conflict in schedule when a student is in two events.
D. Schools are encouraged to avoid using the same performance selections in consecutive years.
E. In Literary, audiences WILL BE ALLOWED in the competition room (if space allows) for all events EXCEPT Essay writing and Extemporaneous Speaking preparation.
F. Photography, video recording, and audio recording ARE NOT ALLOWED at any GHSA Literary or One Act Play event.
G. Decisions related to rules' violations can be made only by judges (acceptable criteria are met) or tabulators (timing infractions) in collaboration with the Meet Director.
H. Literary is an inclusive competition. Students with academic accommodations are allowed to compete and receive their accommodations, *provided each submits appropriate documentation (see below) to GHSA during the registration process and no later than the registration deadline.*
   1. *Accommodations will be allowed in the two academic events: Essay and Extemporaneous Speaking (preparation only).*
      a. *In Essay and Extemporaneous Speaking, the existing criteria and expectations will be used to adjudicate the student's work.*
      b. *In Extemporaneous Speaking, accommodations related to extended time apply only to the 30-minute preparation period; all speeches must adhere to the 7-minute time limit.*
   2. *The following items must be uploaded during the registration process:*
      a. A copy of the student's official education plan (504 or IEP) - the plan should be active and used by the student in the classroom on a daily basis as well as on local and standardized assessments.
      b. A written request for the accommodation from the member school's administration
   3. The following rules will apply for students who receive technology-based accommodations:
      a. The school must provide a device and a printer.
      b. The contestant must arrive 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the competition time to ensure that all technology is set up and functioning properly.
      c. The device cannot be connected to the Internet.
      d. The word processing program must not have spell check or grammar check capabilities (suggestions: TextEdit on a Mac or Notepad on a PC).
      e. The device will need a wired connection to a printer.*This includes all necessary adapters or dongles required to connect directly to a printer.*
      f. The school must provide the writing device (laptop), printer, ink, all power and connection cables, and paper for the printer.
      g. *The contest supervisor may inspect the device and the software settings prior to the start of the event to ensure compliance.*
   4. *Accommodations not acknowledged and uploaded during the registration process cannot be granted.*
I. Each school wishing to enter Literary must notify the Region Secretary by the deadline date.
   1. The Literary roster must be electronically filed at app.ghsa.net by February 1 of each year.
      a. Schools are encouraged to list alternates when submitting their roster. Only students listed on the submitted roster will be allowed to participate.

        1. If necessary, schools may shift students to different categories, provided that the students were listed on the original roster submission.
    2. Region Literary Meets may be held on any date after *February 15, 2027*, provided they are completed by *March 6, 2027*.
    3. State Literary Meets will be held on the date indicated in the Beginning and Ending Dates table at the front of this publication. Schedules will be posted on the GHSA web site
J. *All literary coordinators and coaches shall complete the coaching clinic by the established deadline.*
K. *All literary judges shall complete the judging clinic and present their completion certificate to the meet coordinator prior to judging*

REGION INFORMATION:

A. The first-place winner from every region in each Literary event qualifies for the State Meet.
    1. When the first-place winner in a region cannot compete in the State Meet, the next person or group in the order of finish may replace the original winner.
        a. The school whose winner will not compete must notify the Region Secretary so the replacement can be identified and informed.
        b. The Region Secretary must notify the GHSA Office about any changes in contestants.
        c. In group events (Duo Interpretation, Trio, and Quartet), one student may be substituted between region and state, provided that substitute was listed either as a competitor or an alternate on the original entry form.
        d. The deadline to make any changes is noon on the Thursday prior to the State Meet unless special circumstances exist.
    2. In a Region Meet where there is a tie in any event involving more contestants than the region is entitled to enter in the State Meet, the judges should deliberate and determine a winner. If, because of very unusual circumstances, two students or groups of students are allowed to represent a Region at State Literary for the same position, only one of these c*an place in the Top 4 and earn team points* at the State Meet.
B. The GHSA Office will furnish each Region Secretary with a copy of score sheets that will be used in region competitions.
    1. The same score sheet used in region competition will be used at the State Meet.
    2. The GHSA score sheet includes:
        a. Space for the tabulator to note the amount of time allotted for the event and the amount of time used by the contestant if over or under time.
        b. Space for the rank of the contestant to be clearly noted
        c. Space for the name of the selection(s) performed
        d. The number of possible points available
        e. Space for written comments that reflect why points were deducted from presentations.
    3. Individual copies of the score sheet may be obtained from the GHSA Office or the GHSA web site.
C. Miscellaneous Regulations:
    1. During competitions, contestants should be identified by order of appearance numbers ONLY.
    2. A director/coach is expressly prohibited from conducting during a musical contest at the region and state competitions.
    3. Digitally created music downloaded from the Internet may be used so long as all copyright laws have been met. It is the school's responsibility to make sure all copyright laws have been met. When digitally-created music is used, schools should provide proof of purchase or website documentation if retrieved from public domain websites.
    4. Host sites shall provide a warm-up room(s) for music contestants. Keyboards may be provided in the warm-up rooms, but are not required. Schools requiring a keyboard for warming up should consider bringing their own.
    5. Each school having one or more students participating must have a school representative at the Region and State Meets.
    6. Judges will rank the contestants based on the point totals of each contestant.
        a. Winners will be chosen by adding up the rankings of each judge.
        b. There can be no tied rankings or point totals on any judge's score sheet. NOTE: Judges shall not score a presentation below 70 except in very unusual circumstances.
        c. In the event of a tie between contestants when the rankings are tallied, point totals will be used to break the tie.
        d. All decisions are final. Mistakes due to mathematical errors or decisions made contrary to GHSA rules that are discovered before or after the decision of the judges shall be corrected.
        e. Judges will render their decisions without conferring. When necessary, judges may sit together to view a single piece of music, but they may not confer with one another.
    7. The presiding official at each event shall not (by word, gesture, or any other expression) indicate approval or disapproval of the performance of the contestant.
    8. For timed events:

    a. An adult timekeeper MUST be present at all region and state events. Timekeepers should be at least two years removed from high school graduation.
    b. The timekeeper shall not be a judge.
    c. The adult timekeeper will show time cards upon request, record times, and provide them to the event coordinator or tabulator at the end of the competition.
9. Point totals for determining the Region Champion and the State Champion in Literary are as follows: 1st Place = 7 team points; 2nd Place = 5 team points; 3rd Place = 3 team points; 4th Place = 1 team point.
    a. If contestants finish in a tie (equal ranking points and numerical points), the points shall be divided equally among the contestants who are tied.

STATE INFORMATION:

A. The State Literary Coordinator is Tim Harris (e-mail: tim.harris@bufordcityschools.org).
B. The GHSA will provide:
    1. A competent person at each State Literary Meet to discuss the rules with the judges prior to the contest.
    2. Two competent judges to adjudicate each competition.
    3. Written copies of the rules for each competition.
C. Completed score sheets at the State Meet are submitted by the judges to the chairperson of each contest.
    1. The chairperson will place the score sheets in a properly marked envelope, seal it, and turn it in to the GHSA representative.
    2. The envelope will be opened by the GHSA representatives who will tabulate the results and announce the winners.
    3. In the event of error by the judges (i.e., mathematical errors, having tie scores, etc.) the score sheets will be returned to the judges for correction.
    4. Ties in the State Meet shall stand, and the points shall be divided equally among those who are tied.
    5. All judges' decisions are final. Protests are not allowed.
D. Schedules for the State Meet will be posted on the GHSA web site.

LITERARY INTERPRETATION

A. Separate contests will be held in Solo Dramatic Interpretation, Solo Humorous Interpretation and Duo Interpretation (dramatic or humorous) in all classifications.
B. This contest is designed to showcase a performer's ability to interpret narrative literature .
    1. Contestants may perform selections from prose, poetry, or dramatic literature.
        a. Selections should be narrative in nature and must be sourced from a published book, play, musical, or online written source.
        b. The following are not permitted: unpublished original pieces, selections from television or movie scripts, content from video games or social media platforms, or content from other visual media sources (such as YouTube).
            i. Coaches will verify during the notification of entry process that the presentations meet the established criteria and have not been copied from any visual media source.
    2. Contestants will be judged on how well they communicate the meaning, tone, and emotional depth of narrative literature through vocal and physical techniques.
        a. Each performance should include *a slate*, an introduction that provides the title, author, and context of the presentation. NOTE: The introduction may be embedded into the performance; it does not have to be given at the beginning.
        b. The material must be memorized and delivered without the use of a manuscript.
        c. The performance space should be completely vacant - CHAIRS ARE NOT ALLOWED. Additionally, costumes, props, music, and recorded sound effects are not allowed. NOTE: Props, as defined in The Stage and the School (1999, p. 600), are "all the stage furnishings, including furniture and those things brought onstage by the actors."
            i. Performers should use pantomime for most physical actions. (For example, a pair of glasses becomes a prop when removed as part of the presentation.)
        d. Movement, physical contact, and eye contact are allowed.
    3. In solo interpretation (dramatic and humorous), contestants *shall* portray a minimum of two characters. In duo interpretation, roles and characters *shall* be balanced between the two performers.
    4. A student may participate in only one individual contest in Literary Interpretation, but may also participate in the group event of Duo. (Please refer to Rule C in General Information above.)
C. Each contestant's interpretation must be a minimum of five (5) minutes and no more than ten (10) minutes in length. A five-second buffer will be allowed on either side of the scale.
    1. Any performance that does not meet the timing requirements will be scored, but cannot be ranked.
    2. The time allotment includes the introduction.
    3. The adult timekeeper will show time cards upon request, record times, and provide them to the event coordinator or tabulator at the end of the competition.

    a. *Should a timekeeper request information from a contestant in order to complete the timekeeping document, the delivery of that information SHALL NOT be timed.*

D. If the order of performance is not assigned by the GHSA, contestants shall draw for order of presentation upon reporting to the site of the competition.
   1. Contestants who are not present at the time of the drawing, will have their position drawn for them.
   2. Contestants who have conflicts with other Literary events should consult with the GHSA prior to the contest and may have early or late presentation positions designated for them.
   3. The first place winner in each Region competition shall advance to the State competition.
   4. One (1) substitution will be allowed in Duo between the Region Meet and the State Meet. (Please refer to Rule A1c in Region Information above.)

E. There shall be two (2) judges assigned to *all competitions* at the Region and State levels.
   1. Judges shall use GHSA score sheets and shall follow scoring directions provided by the GHSA office
   2. The following criteria will be considered in the judging:
      a. Selection of material and preparation
      b. Vocal techniques
      c. Physical techniques
      d. Overall communication

ESSAY

A. Separate contests will be held in Argumentative Essay, Personal Essay and Literary Analysis in all classifications. A student may compete in only one (1) of the essay categories.

B. This is an on-the-spot writing contest in which contestants are provided with topics on which to write.
   1. The GHSA Office shall select at least three (3) topics for the contests in Argumentative Essay and Personal Essay, and two (2) topics in the Literary Analysis contest.
      a. Argumentative Essay topics will be selected from current events discussed in the media through the end of January prior to the competition. The most successful responses will include ample evidence that supports the line of reasoning; sources may be mentioned, but citations are not required.
      b. Personal Essay topics will be short prompts designed to elicit creative and descriptive narrative responses.
      c. Literary Analysis topics will be excerpts from prose or poetry along with a prompt that directs students to use evidence, support and commentary to develop a defensible interpretation of the excerpt.
   2. For the Region competition, the GHSA Office will send the topics to the Region Secretary (or their designee) in sealed envelopes, and the seal will be broken for the first time in the presence of the contestants at the competition site.
   3. For the State competition, the GHSA Office will send topics to the State Literary hosts in sealed envelopes, and the seal will be broken for the first time in the presence of the contestants at the competition.
   4. Topics used at State Literary will be different from those used at Region Literary.

C. Contest Rules:
   1. Contestants will compete at the same time in a group setting.
   2. Contestants will have one (1) hour to write their essay. Contestants must stop writing when time is called.
   3. Contestants may NOT use a dictionary or other reference materials during the competition.
   4. *Essays shall be written in English*
   5. Essays shall be written on lined paper in blue or black ink.
   6. Contestants must provide their own paper and pens.
   7. This is an on-the-spot writing contest. Any evidence of pre-written, memorized of plagiarized compositions will result in disqualification.
   8. The first place winner in each Region competition shall advance to the State competition.

D. *There shall be two (2) judges assigned to all competitions at the Region and State levels.*
   1. *Judges shall use GHSA score sheets and shall follow scoring directions provided by the GHSA office.*
   2. The essays shall be judged on the following:
      a. Thesis & Line of Reasoning (20%)
      b. Content & Development (20%)
      c. Analysis & Support (20%)
      d. Organization & Structure (20%)
      e. Style & Sophistication (20%)

EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING

A. Separate contests will be held in Domestic and International Extemporaneous Speaking in all classifications.

B. This is a speaking contest in which contestants are provided with a selection of topics dealing with current national and international issues that have been discussed in periodicals since September 1, of the current year that have been compiled by the GHSA Office. In late January, the GHSA will distribute three (3) general areas that topics will be chosen from in both Domestic and International Extemporaneous Speaking The most successful responses will

directly attack the question provided in an organized, well-structured speech that includes ample evidence, mentions sources, and demonstrates engaging delivery; a reference to counterargument is suggested, but not required.

1. Contestants will be allowed to use one notecard (*of any size, but no larger than 5x7*) during the speech. NOTE: Contestants who use more than one notecard or something other than a notecard will be scored, but will not be ranked.
2. Thirty (30) minutes before the contest is scheduled to begin, the student who is to speak first shall draw three (3) topics and select one (1) on which to speak. The remaining two (2) topics are returned.
3. Contestants will draw for topics at seven-minute intervals in the order of presentation.
4. The presiding official of the contest shall record the contestant's name, contestant's school, position for presentation, and topic drawn.
5. A student may compete in only one of the two Extemporaneous Speaking events

C. The procedure for the contest shall be as follows:

1. *When the students are all present, the room monitor will collect and hold any phones, smart watches or other internet enabled devices the contestants have brought into the room.*
2. After each student has drawn a topic, that student will be escorted to a room where they will have 30 minutes to prepare a speech in brief, outline form.
   a. Students should not compose and read an entire speech from their notecard.
   b. Students cannot leave the prep room during their 30-minute prep time.
   c. *The room monitor should ensure that students do not have internet access. If a contestant is suspected of accessing the internet during the preparation time, the room monitor should inform the meet coordinator.*
      1. *Any competitor who is found to have accessed the internet during the preparation time will be disqualified.*
3. Contestants may not receive assistance from another person, but may use any paper copy materials that have been brought to the site as well as self-contained computers or laptops. (Cell phone and/or smart phone use and Internet access ARE NOT allowed and will result in disqualification. Cell phones must be left outside the prep room or with the monitor). Contestants may make use of a computer or laptop to store and to retrieve subject matter only. NOTE: If the Internet is needed to retrieve stored material, this retrieval will not be allowed.
4. At the end of the preparation time, the contestant will be escorted to the presentation area and the contestant shall give a copy of the selected topic to a judge.
5. Each contestant shall be allotted seven (7) minutes in which to deliver the speech.
   a. *All speeches shall be delivered in English.*
   b. The adult timekeeper will show time cards upon request, record times and provide them to the event coordinator or tabulator at the end of the competition.
   c. Contestants that exceed the time limit (7 minutes) will be scored, but will not be ranked. A five second buffer will be allowed for before the infraction is enacted.
6. The first place winner from each Region competition shall advance to the State competition.

D. *There shall be two (2) judges assigned to all competitions at the Region and State levels.*

1. *The judges shall use GHSA score sheets and shall follow scoring directions provided by the GHSA office*
2. The judges shall take into consideration the following components:
   a. Thesis & Content (20%)
   b. Development & Support (20%)
   c. Organization & Structure (20%)
   d. Language & Delivery (40%)

E. If the order of performance is not assigned by the GHSA, contestants shall draw for order of presentation upon reporting to the site of the competition.

1. Contestants shall report to the drawing area at the designated time set for the contest.
2. Contestants who are not present at the time of the drawing, will have their position drawn for them.
3. Contestants who have conflicts with other Literary events should consult with the GHSA prior to the contest, and may have early or late presentation positions designated for them.

TRIO & QUARTET

A. Trio and Quartet are singing competitions held in all classifications.

1. The singing parts for these events are as follows:
   a. Trio - Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto
   b. Quartet - Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Bass 1, Bass 2
2. Two selections shall be sung from memory.
   a. Both selections shall be appropriate for a small group of singers.
      i. For Trio, both selections should be specifically arranged for SSA and should conform to copyright law.
      ii. For Quartet, both selections should be specifically arranged for TTBB and should conform to copyright law. Barbershop arrangements are allowed.
   b. Both selections must be copyrighted, published pieces, and not arrangements of instructional or choral

pieces.
        i. Please limit divisi (i.e., limit to cadences, isolated measure, etc.).
    c. One selection must be one of the following:
        i. Chorale
        ii. Madrigal
        iii. Art song
        iv. Folk song
        v. Spiritual song
            a. For further information, please refer to the chart at the end of the music section.
    d. One selection must be a cappella.
    e. Any group that does not perform selections that meet the above stated criteria will be scored, but will not be ranked.
3. *One legal copy of the music to be performed shall be presented to the judges*
    a. *If possible, schools may present the judges an additional copy of the music so that each judge may have his or her own copy to view.*
    b. *Schools are encouraged to number the measures in the music.*
    c. Refer to Rule C3 under Region Information above to review expectations related to the presentation of music.
4. The performance should match the instrumentation of the arrangement of the music presented to the judges. (For example, a cappella arrangements should be performed a cappella. Accompanied arrangements should be performed with appropriate accompaniment. Points may be deducted in the "Choice of Music" category for failure to comply.)
    a. Live piano accompaniment is the only form allowed. Recordings are not allowed.
    b. Schools are responsible for arranging their own accompanist. An accompanist is not provided.
    c. Any group that does not present music to the judges will be scored, but will not be ranked.
5. Each group shall be allotted eight (8) minutes to perform their selections. Any group that exceeds the time limit (8 minutes) will be scored, but will not be ranked. A five-second buffer will be allowed before the infraction is enacted.
    a. In music events, the introduction is not timed. Timing starts on the first musical note whether sung or played by the accompanist. Timing ends at the end of the second selection; timing does not stop between songs.
6. An adult is expressly prohibited from conducting during any musical contest at the Region or State levels.
7. One (1) substitution will be allowed in Trio and Quartet between the Region Meet and the State Meet. (Please refer to Rule A1c in Region Information above.)

B. If the order of performance is not assigned by the GHSA, contestants shall draw for order of performance upon reporting to the site of the competition at the scheduled time.
    1. Contestants who are not present at the time of the drawing, will have their position drawn for them.
    2. Contestants who have conflicts with other Literary events should consult with the GHSA prior to the contest, and may have early or late presentation positions designated for them.

C. *There shall be two (2) judges assigned to all competitions at the Region and State levels.*
    1. *Judges shall use GHSA score sheets and shall follow scoring directions provided by the GHSA office.*
    2. Judging criteria are as follows:
        a. Musical Knowledge: Pitch Accuracy, Rhythm Accuracy (20%)
        b. Vocal Technique: Tone, Diction (20%)
        c. Musicianship: Tempo/Style, Phrasing, Dynamics (30%)
        d. Other Observations: Ensemble, Stage Presence, Choice of Music (30%)

VOCAL SOLO

A. Separate contests will be held for males and females in vocal Solo.
B. Two selections shall be sung from memory:
    1. One selection must be one of the following from the standard repertory:
        a. Art Song
        b. Oratorio Aria
        c. Operatic Aria
        d. Folk Song
        e. Spiritual
            i. For further information, please refer to the chart at the end of the music section.
            ii. Any contestant that does not perform selections that meet this stated criteria will be scored, but will not be ranked.
    2. Both selections should be from appropriate solo literature and not arrangements of instructional or choral pieces. All music selected should conform to copyright law.
    3. *One legal copy of the music to be performed shall be presented to the judges.*

a. *If possible, schools may present the judges an additional copy of the music so that each judge may have his or her own copy to view.*
b. *Schools are encouraged to number the measures in the music.*
c. Refer to Rule C3 under Region Information above to review expectations related to the presentation of music.

4. The performance should match the instrumentation of the arrangement of the music presented to the judges. (For example, a cappella arrangements should be performed a cappella. Accompanied arrangements should be performed with appropriate accompaniment. Points may be deducted in the "Choice of Music" category for failure to comply.)
   a. Live piano accompaniment is the only form allowed. Recordings are not allowed.
   b. Schools are responsible for arranging their own accompanist. An accompanist is not provided.
   c. Any contestant that does not present music to the judges will be scored, but will not be ranked.
5. Each soloist shall be allotted eight (8) minutes to perform their selections. Any contestant that exceeds the time limit (8 minutes) will be scored, but will not be ranked. A five-second buffer will be allowed before the infraction is enacted.
   a. In music events, the introduction is not timed. Timing starts on the first musical note whether sung or played by the accompanist. Timing ends at the end of the second selection; timing does not stop between songs.
6. An adult is expressly prohibited from conducting during any musical contest at the Region or State levels.
7. Soloists are not allowed to use any type of instrument or prop.

C. If the order of performance is not assigned by the GHSA, contestants shall draw for order of performance upon reporting to the site of the competition at the scheduled time.
   1. Contestants who are not present at the time of the drawing, will have their position drawn for them.
   2. Contestants who have conflicts with other Literary events should consult with the GHSA prior to the contest, and may have early or late presentation positions designated for them.

D. *There shall be two (2) judges assigned to all competitions at the Region and State levels.*
   1. *Judges shall use GHSA score sheets and shall follow scoring directions provided by the GHSA office.*
   2. Judging criteria are as follows:
      a. Musical Knowledge: Pitch Accuracy, Rhythm Accuracy (20%)
      b. Vocal Technique: Tone, Diction (20%)
      c. Musicianship: Tempo/Style, Phrasing, Dynamics (30%)
      d. Other Observations: Artistry, Stage Presence, Choice of Music (30%)

Reference for Required Vocal Music Literature		
STYLE	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
Art Song	A classical vocal piece composed for solo voice with accompaniment often inspired by poetry requiring expressive interpretation, precise diction, and dynamic contrast	Die Forelle (Schubert)
Chorale	A harmonized, hymn-like piece with rich, sustained chords and smooth vocals, often associated with sacred or classical music traditions that emphasize blended vocal harmonies.	Jesu, Meine Freude (JS Bach)
Folk Song	A traditional song passed down through oral tradition, often reflecting the culture and history of a specific region or people characterized by simple melodies and rhythmic patterns	Shenandoah (American Folk Song)
Madrigal	A secular, polyphonic vocal composition that originated in the Renaissance and early Baroque period characterized by complex counterpoint, word painting, and independent vocal lines that weave together harmonically	Now in the Month of Maying (Morley)
Operatic Aria	A solo vocal piece from an opera that typically reflects a character's deep emotions and require both vocal skill and character portrayal	"O mio babbino caro" from Gianni Schicchi (Puccini)
Oratorio Aria	A solo vocal piece from an oratorio usually based on sacred or Biblical themes typically performed in concert forms that emphasize musicality and clarity	"But Who May Abide" from Messiah (Handel)
Spiritual	A religious folk song with deep historical roots in African American musical traditions often using call-and-response, syncopated rhythms, and emotional intensity to express themes of faith, resilience, and hope	Swing Low, Sweet Chariot (African American Spiritual)

ONE ACT PLAY

GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. One Act Play is a Region and *State* event in classifications *1A-7A*.
   1. Region winners must be determined by the date indicated in the Beginning and Ending Dates table at the front of this publication, and the Region Secretary must file the winner of the Region competition electronically at GHSA MIS immediately following the Region competition.
   2. The focus of GHSA One Act Play is acting. *Technical elements should support the performance, not dominate it*.
   3. No admission may be charged at any Region or State One Act Play competition
   4. No photography, *videography* or audio recording is *permitted* during any performance.
   5. The facilities used for State competitions will not be available for practice or walk through prior to the competition day.
   6. The GHSA State One Act Play Coordinator and Director of Adjudicator Training is Dean Slusser *(ghsaoneacts@gmail.com).*

ENTRY AND ELIGIBILITY:

A. *Entering the Competition:*
   1. *Rehearsals (working on show material) for One Act Play may begin on or after the designated first date of practice.*
   2. One Act Play Directors and *Coaches* must complete an annual online One Act Play Coaches Clinic or the school will be fined.
   3. *Schools* must electronically submit notification of entry at GHSA MIS*by* October 1 *each school year.*
   4. *Principals must approve the selected play before entry is finalized.*
B. Eligible Participants:
   1. *Only eligible students may appear on stage during the performance*
   2. *Ineligible individuals may assist only as outlined in Section G*
C. Schools may *perform* a play or musical.
   1. The performance may be an excerpt or abridgement of a longer*work if approval is granted by the publisher.*
   2. *Schools* may not compete *with a production that was performed* or work-shopped *during* the previous school year or *the* previous two summers.
   3. *Musical entries must use licensed, non-vocal accompaniment tracks; soundtracks from original productions may not be used*.
   4. *If live musicians are used the following rules apply:*
      a. *Eligible student musicians may appear on stage, inside the go-lines.*
      b. *Musicians that are ineligible individuals must be placed outside the go-lines.*
   5. *Schools are responsible for the following:*
      a. *Paying any royalties associated with the performance.*
      b. *Obtaining written permission for cuts and or edits to copyrighted works.*
      c. *Obtaining written permission from their administration and host administration to use simulated weapons.*
      d. *Confirming royalty responsibility and uploading permission to edit documentation and simulated weapons approval into GHSA MIS during the notification of entry process.*

JUDGES AND OFFICIALS:

A. Each competition (Region and State) shall include three GHSA-certified judges
   1. Regions shall share their process for selecting judges with the participating schools.
   2. *Judges shall score and rank each play using the official GHSA scoring rubric.*
   3. *Final placements are determined by combining the two best ranks for each play; the lowest rank for each play is dropped.*
      a. *Points are used to break ties in the combined rankings.*
         i. *If the combined rankings are tied, use the scores from the two best ranks for each school to break the tie.*
         ii. *If the tie is not broken, add the points from the 3rd judge.*

4. *Judges shall not discuss scores or performances until all score sheets have been submitted to the tabulator.*
5. *Judges may discuss possible All-Star cast considerations between performances.*
6. Judges shall avoid contact with participating directors and students on competition day.
7. At each competition (Region and State) the event coordinator shall appoint one lead judge to resolve rules questions or concerns during the contest.

B. *Each competition (Region and State) shall include an adult timekeeper who will keep the official time for each production and report the times to the tabulator.*
   1. *There shall be four timed elements:*
      a. *Five minutes (5:00) to move materials into the wings*
      b. *Fifteen minutes (15:00) for the pre-performance walk-through*
      c. *Fifty-five minutes (55:00) for the set-up, performance, and strike*
      d. *Five minutes (5:00) to remove materials from the wings*

C. *Each competition (Region and State) shall include a tabulator. The tabulator, with the assistance of the lead judge, shall:*
   1. *Apply any time penalties and adjust rankings if necessary.*
   2. *Calculate all ranks and scores using the tabulation tool in the GHSA MIS portal.*
   3. *Provide a copy of the tabulation sheet to each director after the results have been announced.*

COMPETITION DAY PROCEDURES:

A. The Region Secretary (or his or her designee) is responsible for coordinating the Region competition.
B. The GHSA, in conjunction with each host school, is responsible for coordinating the State competition.
C. Plays should be announced by performance order number and title only. School names should not be announced.
   1. Performance order should be established in advance of competition day, using a method agreed upon by the participating schools in each Region.
   2. At the State competition, performance order is determined by a standard yearly rotation.
D. Each school shall be granted a 15-minute walk-through immediately before their performance time.
   1. During the walk-through period, schools may walk the stage, check sound and light levels, rehearse set-up and strike, and place spike tape.
   2. All materials must be behind the go-lines when the walk-through ends.
   3. If items are still being moved when the time expires, the official 55-minute performance time will begin immediately
E. The following timing rules apply to all participants:
   1. Each school has up to 5 minutes to move their materials from the designated storage area into the backstage area behind the go-lines.
   2. Each school has 15 minutes for walk-through preparation, returning all materials behind the go-lines before the end of the 15-minute period. Spike tape may be placed during this time.
   3. Each school has 55 minutes to set the stage (starting from behind the go-lines), perform their play, and strike the stage (returning all materials to behind the go-lines and clearing the stage of any debris or spike tape).
      a. Note: Timing does not stop until all actors, set pieces, props, debris, and spike tape have been fully removed from the playing area.
   4. Each school has up to 5 minutes to clear the backstage area following their performance.
F. Schools are penalized 2 points per judge for every 15 seconds or portion thereof beyond the established times listed above.
   1. *The timekeeper will time each element and record time used.*
   2. *The tabulator will apply any penalties to the judges' scores and adjust rankings accordingly. If the adjusted rankings result in a tie, the school in violation of the timing rule would take the lower rank.*
G. Stage & Technical Rules
   1. *The site host must tape go-lines at the stage right wing, the stage left wing, mid-stage, and upstage.*
      a. *Directors will choose which line (mid-stage or upstage) designates their starting and ending location.*
      b. *All set pieces must be inside the go-lines while they are being used in the production. If set pieces remain outside the go-lines while being used during the performance, the performance may not be ranked in the Top 4.*
   2. *The host school should provide, at a minimum, a standard festival lighting plot with 9 distinct acting areas: down left, center, and right; mid left, center, and right; and up left, center, and right. The areas should be clearly labeled on the light board.*
      a. *Participating schools (including the host school) cannot use pre-programmed light cues on the host lighting board.*
      b. *Host schools may provide but are not required to provide cyc lighting or follow spots.*
      c. *Competing schools may bring their own lighting and other specials (such as projectors, instruments), but*

they must be able to operate them independently of the host school's systems and set and strike the equipment within the allotted times. They can only be moved into position for performance and plugged in during the 15-minute walk-through.

3. *The host school should provide a basic system for sound playback that is accessible to all schools.*
    a. *Competing schools, including the host, that wish to use microphones must provide their own sound set-up that can be operated independently of the host facility's sound board. (This set-up, as allowed by the host, may be patched into the host facility's sound board.)*
    b. *Sound equipment may be moved into position for performance and plugged in during the 15-minute walk-through.*
4. *The host facility should provide a dressing room schedule at least two weeks prior to the competition.*
5. *Only free-standing set pieces may be used.*
    a. *Nothing may be attached to the curtains, walls, draperies, or any other equipment of the host school.*
    b. *Sets should be designed to allow for smooth transitions between plays.*
6. *Schools must provide their own props, costumes, and any other special effects.*
    a. *No flame of any kind may be used.*
    b. *Simulated weapons may be used provided the school has permission from their administration and permission from the host facility/school administration.*
        i. *Each school must upload their simulated weapons permission letters during the initial registration process.*
        ii. *Host facilities should inform all participants of their site's simulated weapons policy in advance of competition day so that schools can plan accordingly.*
7. *Ineligible individuals, including directors, MAY NOT assist inside the go lines with setup, performance and strike.*
8. *Ineligible individuals, including directors, may assist only in the backstage area or in the light/sound booth during the 55-minute performance time.*
9. *Ineligible individuals, including directors, may assist inside the go-lines during the 15-minute walk-through time.*
10. *Ineligible individuals, including directors, may assist inside the go-lines with load in and load out, before and after the timed performance.*

AWARDS:

A. The following awards shall be presented at the Region and State competitions:
    1. *Recognition determined by judges' ranks and scores:*
        1. 4th Place, 3rd Place, Runner Up and Champion
    2. *Awards determined by judges' deliberation*:
        1. All-Star Cast (up to 2 per school)
        2. Technical Excellence (up to 3 per competition)
        3. *Outstanding Performers (up to 2 per competition)*
B. The State schedule for All Classes shall be:

Region 7: 8:40 - Move to wings 9:00 - Curtain

Region 8: 10:00 - Move to wings 10:20 - Curtain

Region 1: 11:20 - Move to wings 11:40 - Curtain

Region 2: 12:40 - Move to wings 1:00 - Curtain

BREAK

Region 3: 2:25 - Move to wings 2:45 - Curtain

Region 4: 3:45 - Move to wings 4:05 - Curtain

Region 5: 5:05 - Move to wings 5:25 - Curtain

Region 6: 6:25 - Move to wings 6:45 - Curtain

RIFLERY

GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. Air riflery is a state championship co-ed event open to GHSA schools of all classifications.
   1. Each school desiring to participate in riflery must file its intent by March 1, of the preceding school year by filing the form found on the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net).
   2. Following notification of entry, each school will be assigned to an Area for competition that will be overseen by an Area chairperson. Teams will be notified of Area assignments when the total number of teams entering is determined.
   3. Contestants in riflery must be certified as being eligible through the GHSA Office. All rifle team athletes must have a sports physical on file at the school.
   4. Beginning and ending dates for practice and competition can be found at the front of this publication.
   5. GHSA Riflery team members may be used by JROTC programs in JROTC program competitive events. Athletes used by both GHSA Riflery programs and JROTC program competitive events must be currently enrolled in JROTC and be entered as a JROTC unit and not as a school team. They may not enter competitions or tournaments unless there is a JROTC competition category.
   6. All rifle coaches must complete the GHSA online rules clinic for riflery or the school will be fined. Dates for the clinic may be found on the GHSA website.

B. Competitions will be Open Class, which permits use of Precision or Sporter Class equipment using Precision air rifle rules. The latest edition of the “NATIONAL STANDARD THREE-POSITION AIR RIFLE RULES” (published by the National Three-Position Air Rifle Council, Camp Perry, P. O. Box 576, Port Clinton, OH 43452 - also available on website: http://thecmp.org/air/national-standard-three-position-air-rifle-rules/) will govern all GHSA matches except the following:
   1. The regular season, Sectional, and Semifinal course of fire will be the team event 4x3x10. Matches should be shoulder to shoulder.Teams may compete in up to two (2) regular season postal matches if extenuating circumstances prevent a should to shoulder match. The Area chair must be notified and approve the postal match before it is shot. Area chairs will notify the Associate Director. Team members will be distributed equally between relays if more than one relay is used. Teams may petition for additional postal matches if the underlying or additional extenuating circumstance continue. The Area chairperson must be notified and report the request to the Associate Director who will determine if the additional request will be granted.
   2. Except at the State Championship, Sectional, Semifinal and tie-breaker competitions, the coach may assist team members (without disturbing other athletes), during preparation, changeover and sighting periods, but may not physically assist the athletes in loading, cocking or adjusting the sights. After each of these periods, the coach must be behind the firing point.
   3. The "two scorers" referred to in National Standard Rule 8.5 will consist of a scorer from each team if outside scorers with no interest in the outcome are not used.
   4. The amount of protest period time (Rule 8.2) should be established by each Rifle Area prior to start of season or agreed upon by both coaches prior to the beginning of the match.
   5. The following safety regulations are mandatory for ALL competitions, training and practices: An adult, approved by the school, must be present at all times that students have access to rifles. Clear Barrel Indicators (CBIs) will be in all rifles when not firing. They will be inserted in the rifle when taken out of storage or cases. The CBI must visibly extend beyond both ends of the barrel when installed. The CBIs may be removed only during preparation and sighting, record firing, changeover (after athlete is in a firing position), and sighting times. They will be reinserted after each position stage and the rifle must be grounded. CBIs must be inserted anytime someone goes forward of the firing line or removes their rifle from the firing line. CBIs may be removed after the Range Officer gives the “You may discharge air downrange” command, then must be inserted after discharging air and left inserted until air rifles are placed in gun cases.
   6. Approved scoring methods are manual or electronic as listed in the National Three Position Air Rifle Rules. The host school determines which to use.

C. Each Area shall draw up schedules for each team in the Area.
   1. Each Area schedule must be filed with the GHSA Office.
   2. The home or host schools should fax or e-mail team and individual scores to the area chairperson by the beginning of the next day (noon or earlier) after completion of the match.
   3. Four competitors’ scores comprise a team’s score. Five may be used in post-season GHSA competition with the top four (4) scores counting as the team score. Areas may organize regular-season competitions as they elect in regard to the number of team members involved as long as only the top four (4) scores count as the school’s team score. The four (4) competitors whose scores shall make up the 'counting scores' should be selected prior to the start of the match. Five athletes may also be chosen with the top four scores counting towards total score.
   4. If a team has less than four competitors, it must forfeit the match (receiving a loss and the other team receiving a win). If both schools agree to compete with the forfeiture in place, the team scores do not count, but the

individual scores from both teams will count as GHSA official individual scores and there will be no additional penalty besides the forfeiture. Forfeitures must be communicated with the opposing team before the scheduled match start. Forfeitures without extenuating circumstances will result in fines, with the fines increasing for each forfeiture without extenuating circumstances. The GHSA will decide if extenuating circumstances warrant no fine. Decisions may be appealed to the Executive Director.

5. Standings will be determined by won-loss results. A team may compete against only one other team in a given regular season match. Ties will be broken using National Standard Rule 8.6. If tie breaking rules are exhausted and the match is still tied, the match will be scored as a tie and each team credited with one-half win and one-half loss. In cases of identical won-loss records, the results of their season competition against each other will determine standings. If still tied then a shoot-off match will be held.
6. Before the start of the regular season, each Area will establish structure for determining Area winners and Sectional seedings. The Area will also appoint an appeals committee to handle protests and appeals in area competitions. NOTE: Decisions by the Area Appeals Committee may be appealed to the Associate Director for Riflery when it is believed that Area procedures have been violated. Desisions of the Associate Director may be appealed to the Executive Director.
7. Area competition must be completed by February 11, 2027. Final Area standings must be reported to the Associate Director no later than noon on February 12, 2027.

RESULTS REPORTING:

A. Area chairpersons should enter weekly results in regular season and Sectionals into MIS by noon Monday of the following week.
B. Results of Semifinals and tie-breakers (if required to determine the two invitational Championship teams) must be entered into MIS by the day following the competition.

SECTIONAL COMPETITION:

A. The ~~first~~ top six teams in each Area will advance to the Sectionals to be fired on February 25, 2027, or earlier if agreed upon by both Area chairpersons involved. The higher-seeded team will host.The Area chairperson of the top three seeded teams in his/her area will coordinate the matches and enter the results into MIS the not later than noon February 26, 2027. Sectional and Semifinal brackets can be found in Appendix B.

SEMIFINAL COMPETITION:

A. The thirty (30) teams winning the Sectional competition will advance to the State Semifinal competitions to be fired on March 4, 2027 <u>or earlier</u> if agreed upon by both Area chairpersons involved. The higher-seeded team will host. The Area chairpersons will coordinate the matches. All chairpersons will ~~report~~ enter the results into MIS no later than noon March 5, 2027.
B. Area chairpersons will submit a list of individual qualifiers at this time. Qualifying scores include individual athletes during the regular season, sectionals, or semifinals. An athlete does not have to be a counting member of a team provided the qualifying score (292) was shot during a qualifying regular season match.
C. Only athletes who are part of the five-member team during sectionals and semifinals may qualify as an individual.
D. TEAMS AND ALL QUALIFYING INDIVIDUALS MUST BE REPORTED FOR THEM TO COMPETE IN THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

STATE COMPETITION:

A. The fifteen (15) teams winning the Semifinal competitions and the two (2) teams with the highest losing scores in the Semifinals qualify to compete at the State Championship. Any ties to determine the two additional teams to advance to the championship (identical high losing scores) will be broken with another match to be fired on March 10, 2027 <u>or earlier</u> if agreed upon by Area chairpersons involved. The higher-seeded team will host. If teams have the same seeding, a coin toss will determine the host site. Area chairpersons must report results of these tie-breaking matches to the State Coordinator and to the GHSA office not later than noon March 11, 2027.
B. Competing team members at the Championship also compete for the individual competition. All other GHSA competitors firing 292 or better in a regular season GHSA Area match or in the Sectionals, Semifinals or tie-breaker also qualify for the state individual competition if their team does not qualify. Schools with more than five competitors with the 292 or better qualification may use five of these competitors as a team plus their additional qualifiers may compete for the individual championship. Finals procedures will be used in determining the state individual standings, but will have no effect on team standings.
C. The State Riflery Championship will be held on March 20, 2027. The GHSA Associate Director for Riflery is Kent Morrow - 678-471-9359; email: kent.morrow@ghsa.net.

SOCCER

GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. Soccer is a state championship event for boys and girls played in the Spring season.*Schools in classes 2A through 7A are aligned in Regions. Class A will be an Area sport in soccer.*
B. All soccer matches will be played according to the rules published by the National Federation, and all National Federation recommendations for “State Adoption” have been adopted by the GHSA. Sub-varsity matches are limited to 35-minute halves.
C. The number of soccer matches allowed (not including state tournaments) shall be eighteen (18)*and the PSR minimum number of games to qualify is fourteen (14) . Please refer to the PSR Appendix for additional information.* If a region chooses to play a region tournament, those matches must be included as part of the 18-game total allowed. Beginning and ending dates for practice and competition can be found at the front of this publication.
D. All GHSA varsity soccer matches shall be played with one or more officially-dressed officials who are registered under the GHSA plan for the registration of officials.
E. The use of WBGT for ALL Contests is mandated as follows:
   1. WBGT must be measured 15 minutes prior to start of contest, coaches and officials must be notified.
   2. If WBGT is equal or above 86.0 F, an ice immersion tub must be present and ready for use.
   3. If WBGT is equal or above 88.0 F, Referees will take a 3-minute hydration break at or near the midway point of each half (ball out of bounds/foul assessed or goal scored). Teams to the bench area during hydration break, no coaches permitted on field.
F. Teams arriving late for a contest by thirty (30) minutes or more shall forfeit the match, and shall pay the officials unless prior arrangements are made in a timely manner, and both teams agree to start the game late or reschedule it. Consideration will also be given to emergency situations over which the traveling school has no control. The host school has the responsibility of notifying the officials of these changes.
G. A student may not participate in more than three (3) halves of soccer per day except in a tournament setting, when a player may play two full matches in a calendar day.
H. All soccer matches, regardless of classification(s) must be played to completion with no ties. For all region and post season matches, the overtime procedure described in item "E" later in this section will be invoked. For all non-region regular season matches that end in a tie after 80 minutes of regulation, these matches will go straight to penalty kicks. For this, start at sub-letter "C" under section "E" of the Overtime Procedure.
I. In accordance with the National Federation allowance for a state adoption (Rule 7-1-5), when there is a competitive imbalance between the teams, the match will be shortened as follows:
   1. If a team is seven (7) or more goals down at the midpoint of the first half, that will be considered the end of the half, and the teams will play a twenty (20) minute second half.
   2. If a team is seven (7) or more goals behind at halftime, the second half will be restricted to twenty (20) minutes.
   3. When a team trails by ten (10) or more goals at halftime, the game will be terminated.
J. Matches that are interrupted by weather or mechanical difficulties will be replayed from the point of interruption unless the team that is behind chooses not to complete the match.
K. In accordance with GHSA By-Laws, soccer coaches will be required to attend a GHSA rules clinic. Failure to do so will result in a fine for the school for each coach who does not attend.
L. Schools must enter team schedules, rosters and weekly game/meet results during the season on the*GHSA MIS System* and be responsible for updates as needed. *Deadlines for submitting information must met. All schools, regardless of classification, are REQUIRED to enter all game results into the GHSA MIS site immediately following their respective contest. This is imperative as it will affect all classifications in the Post Season Ranking System.* This information will support statewide media, event programs, broadcasts partners and GHSA Region Standings. Teams are encouraged to maintain team/individual statistics on MaxPreps.
M. Scrimmage (Bylaw 2.62 F) -One interscholastic scrimmage (two teams meeting head-to-head) is allowed in the sports of Baseball, Basketball, Football, Flag Football, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball and Wrestling (tri match allowed on days preceding school or quad match on days not preceding a school day).
   1. This scrimmage may be scheduled anytime between the beginning of practice as set by the GHSA and the first regular season game for each team.
   2. This scrimmage is for varsity teams only, and shall be played with normal timing and/or scoring rules except as noted in individual sports sections.
   3. Officials registered with GHSA must be assigned, and the GHSA “Fee Chart” must be followed.
   4. A school may not scrimmage another school that is counting the scrimmage as a regular-season contest.

REGION/AREA COMPETITION:

A. When a *Region/Area* has not adopted its own tie-breaker method, the following Tie-Breaking Procedure will be used

for seeding purposes:

1. Record against all teams in the Region/Area.
2. Winning team in head-to-head competition between schools that are tied.
3. Goals allowed in head-to-head competition between schools that are tied.
4. Goal differential in head-to-head competition between schools that are tied (maximum of three (3) goals per game).
5. Goals allowed in all Region/Area games
6. Goal differential in all Region/Area games (maximum of three (3) goals per game). Note: When figuring “goals allowed” and “goal differential” in matches decided by penalty kicks, the winning team will have one (1) goal added to its game score and the losing team will have no goals added regardless of the number of penalty kicks that were made by either team.
7. In any step of the tie-breaking process if a three-way tie is broken so that all ties are broken, that step determines the placements. If two teams remain tied after a step is completed, revert back to head-to-head record to break the tie. If the tie cannot be broken, move to the next step.

B. If Regions/Areas sub-divide, then the same tie-breaking procedures (A1 through A7) should be used.

C. For Region/Area and State competition, if the score is still tied at the end of the second overtime period, the penalty kick procedure will be used to determine the winner.

D. Financial procedures for all Region/Area playoffs will be determined by the Region/Area. The host school is responsible for payment of officials. The admission fees for State playoffs begin immediately after Region/Area winners are determined.

E. **OVERTIME PROCEDURE**:

1. The overtime will consist of two (2) ten-minute periods, which will be played to their entirety.
2. A coin toss shall take place to determine which team will put the ball in play for the first overtime period.
3. If the score remains tied following the overtime periods, a “shootout” of penalty kicks will determine the winner.
4. The head referee shall choose the goal at which the penalty kicks will be taken.
5. Each coach will select any five (5) eligible players (including goalkeeper) to take the kicks.
6. A coin toss shall be held with the team winning the toss having the choice of kicking first or last.
7. Teams will alternate kickers, and there is no follow up on the kicks.
8. The defending team may change goalkeepers prior to each kick.
9. Following five kicks from each team, the team with the greater number of successful kicks will be given one (1) point and declared the winner.
10. If the same number of penalty kicks are successful for each team, each coach will select five (5) different eligible players who will kick in a “sudden victory” situation. Each team will have an opportunity to kick in each round of the sudden victory procedure.
11. If there is no “sudden victory” winner after five (5) kicks, the process will be repeated until a winner is determined.

STATE COMPETITION:

A. *In all Classes, each Region/Area will determine a Region Champion who will automatically qualify for the post season and host a first round game.*

1. *In All Classes, the remaining qualifiers (non-Region Champions) for the Post Season will be determined by the Post Season Ranking Formula. Refer to Appendix "PSR" in the GHSA Constitution for detailed information.*
2. Region/Area winners must be determined by the date indicated on the Beginning and Ending Dates table at the front of this publication.
3. It is the responsibilities of the host team to furnish game balls beyond those furnished by the GHSA
4. In the event that two schools involved cannot agree on the arrangements for the series (dates, times, etc.) the GHSA Executive Director will make a ruling to cover the situation.
5. Prior to the final round, the higher *PSR ranked* team will host, unless the competing teams have the same *ranking*. In that case, *PSR protocol will be followed.*
6. All Championship games will be played on the dates indicated on the Beginning and Ending Dates table at the front of this publication. Admission prices and exact schedules and sites will be posted on the GHSA web site prior to the finals.
7. At neutral-site games, each participating team is allowed free admission for a maximum of 25 players and team essential personnel. Coaches will be admitted with a GHSA coaching pass.
8. In the Finals, the team on the bottom of the official GHSA bracket will be the designated “home” team for purposes of uniform requirements only. Regardless of prior seeding, the team on the bottom of the bracket shall wear dark jerseys and socks for the game.

B. Finances:

1. The GHSA will receive 12% of the gross gate receipts for a single game and 20% for doubleheaders..
2. Host schools will pay the Officials Association directly for the first and second rounds of the playoffs. Please see Fee Chart for Playoff Fees. (Please see Soccer Financial Forms)
3. A pre-set amount for game officials fees will be sent to the GHSA office for the Quarterfinal and Semifinal

rounds, along with 12% of gross gate receipts, and the GHSA office will be responsible for paying the officials.

4. The visiting team shall be paid $.80 per mile (one way) for travel.
5. After these three expenses are paid the schools involved will share the remaining gate receipts equally.
6. The host school is responsible for security, facility fees, maintenance costs, etc., and these expenses shall not be taken out of gate receipts.

C. Admission must be charged at all playoff games. Ticket prices are posted on the website.

D. In order to host a state playoff game, the following site requirements must be met:

1. Seating requirements (seats at 24 inches each):*Private, A, & 2A: 750*; 3A: 1,000; 4A: 1,500;*5A, 6A, & 7A: 2,000*
2. Adequate restroom facilities must be provided
3. Dressing area must be provided for the visiting team and the officials.
4. The playing area must be configured in such a way that spectators must enter through an admission gate.
5. The field must be sufficiently lighted to allow for night play for all semifinal and championship matches.
6. Championships matches will be held at neutral sites.

E. In the post-season tournaments, it is necessary to have team benches located on the same side of the field. This will be true even in situations where fans are kept on opposite sides of the field. Preferably, fans will be on one side of the stadium while Team Benches will be on the opposite side of the field.

SOFTBALL

GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. Fast Pitch Softball is a state championship event organized *as* a Region basis in *all* classifications. Beginning and ending dates for practice and competition can be found at the front of this publication.
B. All softball games will be played by the rules as published by the National Federation of State High School Associations.
C. The maximum number of softball games allowed (not including state tournament games) shall be: thirty (30) games either head-to-head competition or in invitational or region tournaments. *The PSR minimum number of games to qualify is twenty (20). Please refer to the PSR Appendix for additional information.*
   1. Region tournaments shall be structured so that no school will play more than eight (8) games in that tournament.
   2. Schools may not enter any softball tournament other than the region tournament or state elimination series unless such tournament has been approved by the GHSA Executive Director.
   3. Sub-varsity teams are allowed to play 70 percent of their respective varsity team's regular season games. Sub-varsity teams shall not schedule a tournament after they have reached their 70 percent game restriction.
   4. Contracts are required for all GHSA member school fastpitch softball games, including invitational tournaments.
D. All varsity softball games shall be played with officially-dressed officials who are registered under the GHSA plan for the registration of officials. The assignment of officials for regular-season games, invitational tournaments, and sub-region and region tournaments will be made by the GHSA office.
   1. The GHSA will assign one or more associations to each school for their games.
   2. The school and the local association(s) will sign a contract for the games that are assigned.
E. The use of WBGT for ALL Fastpitch Softball Contests is mandated as follows:
   1. WBGT must be measured 15 minutes prior to start of contest, coaches and umpires must be notified.
   2. If WBGT is equal or above 86.0 F, an ice immersion tub must be present and ready for use.
   3. If WBGT is equal or above 88.0 F, Umpires will take a 3-minute hydration break at the beginning and mid-point of inning 3 and continuing until the conclusion of the game.
F. The following rule "State Adoptions" have been approved for GHSA play in softball:
   1. The game will end when:
      a. a team has completed three turns at bat and is fifteen (15) runs behind.
      b. a team has completed four turns at bat and is twelve (12) runs behind.
      c. a team has completed five or more turns at bat and is eight (8) runs behind.
   2. The courtesy runner rule has been adopted. NOTE: Participation as a courtesy runner does not constitute entry into the game, and does not count as a game played.
   3. The use of a double first base is recommended.
   4. The suspended game rule will be used.
      a. When a game is stopped before it becomes a legal game, it is considered to be "no contest" and any replay will begin from the first inning.
      b. When a game is stopped after it becomes a legal game and a winner can be determined, the game is completed.
      c. When a game is stopped after it becomes a legal game and a winner can not be determined, any replay will begin from the point of interruption.
      d. Exception: If a State Tournament game is suspended at any point, it shall resume from the point of interruption on the next available date. If that date can not be agreed upon by the competing schools, the GHSA Executive Director shall determine the playing date.
   5. Termination of the game due to weather, unplayable conditions, or mechanical malfunctions:
      a. The umpires may halt play for up to two (2) hours when conditions do not allow play to continue.
         i. The two-hour interruption(s) is cumulative
         ii. The game must be terminated when the two-hour time period has elapsed. If the first game of a doubleheader is terminated, the second game will be postponed.
         iii. The two-hour period does not include time needed to prepare the field for the resumption of play.
      b. Umpires must wait for at least 30 minutes before terminating a game for unplayable field conditions.
   6. In any softball game, if a team does not show up within 30 minutes of the scheduled game time, a forfeit shall be declared unless the delay is unavoidable and the visiting team notifies the home team. In emergency situations, the game may be started late, or may be rescheduled.
   7. In order to be used, the tie-breaker procedure shall be agreed upon by both teams during the pregame meeting with the umpires. If implemented, the procedure shall begin in the 10th inning (and any subsequent half-inning). Exception: In Invitational Tournament games with a "time limit" policy, the tie-breaker procedure would start in the subsequent inning after time had expired. All Varsity games must be played until a winner is determined.
   8. Only game-essential personnel are permitted within the confines of the team's dugout and shall be held to the

same level of accountability as the coaching staff and players.

9. Sub-varsity games may have a time limit instead of playing seven innings as long as the guidelines are agreed upon before the start of the game.
10. Varsity games played in invitational tournaments may have time limits as follows:
    a. No game may be less than five innings regardless of the time limit (4.5 innings if home team is ahead.)
    b. No time limit may be less than 90 minutes.
11. Host schools are required to post the current USA SOFTBALL list of "Non-Approved" bats in both dugouts during GHSA sanctioned games.

G. Teams may have spring try-outs that are limited to a maximum of five consecutive school days between May 1 and the last day students are in school. Students must be academically eligible and enrolled at the school they are trying out for, or be an 8th grader at a feeder school for that school. Students currently in the 7th grade (rising 8th graders) may not participate in spring tryouts.

H. Schools must enter team schedules, rosters and weekly game/meet results during the season*in the GHSA MIS System* and be responsible for updates as needed. This information will support statewide media, event programs, broadcasts partners and GHSA Region Standings. *Deadlines for submitting information must met. All schools, regardless of classification, are REQUIRED to enter all game results into the GHSA MIS site immediately following their respective contest. This is imperative as it will affect all classifications in the Post Season Ranking System.* Teams are encouraged to maintain team/individual statistics on MaxPreps.

I. ***NFHS Pitcher One Way Communication:*** *Pitchers will now join catchers as the only players in high school softball permitted to receive one-way electronic communication from the dugout.*

1-9-6 EXCEPTION *- One-way electronic communication may be utilized by coaches to communicate from the dugout to the pitcher and/or catcher while the team is on defense. Previously, one-way electronic communication was permitted only to the catcher.*
This change reflects the continued evolution of technology within sport and provides coaches with an additional method to efficiently communicate defensive strategy and game management information. By expanding the exception to include the pitcher, coaches can deliver information directly to the two primary defensive leaders on the field, reducing the need for multiple signals and improving the pace and flow of the game.
This remains a permissive rule, allowing schools and teams to determine whether they wish to utilize one-way electronic communication technology. Teams may continue to use traditional communication methods, such as hand signals, wristbands, and/or play cards.
Regardless of the electronic devices capabilities, under this exception they must only be utilized for one-way communication from the dugout to the pitcher and/or catcher. Players are not permitted to use these devices to transmit information back to coaches or other team personnel. All other provisions regarding the use of electronic devices remain in effect. Pitchers may only use wrist devices; ***ear pieces and communication devices attached to the belt will not be permitted for pitchers.***

J. *Scrimmage (Bylaw 2.62 F) -One interscholastic scrimmage (two teams meeting head-to-head) is allowed in the sports of Baseball, Basketball, Football, Flag Football, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball and Wrestling (tri match allowed on days preceding school or quad match on days not preceding a school day).*
    1. *This scrimmage may be scheduled anytime between the beginning of practice as set by the GHSA and the first regular season game for each team.*
    2. *This scrimmage is for varsity teams only, and shall be played with normal timing and/or scoring rules except as noted in individual sports sections.*
    3. *Officials registered with GHSA must be assigned, and the GHSA "Fee Chart" must be followed.*
    4. *A school may not scrimmage another school that is counting the scrimmage as a regular-season contest.*

FAST PITCH REGION TOURNAMENTS:

A. The dates, times and sites will be determined by each Region and must be submitted to the Region Secretary.
B. The final play date is *Thursday, October 8*.
C. Region post-season games (play-in games, sub-region games, region tournament games) must have a minimum of two (2) games played on each field, each day, with the exception of a championship game.

FAST PITCH STATE TOURNAMENT:

A. *In all Classes, Regions will determine a Region Champion who will automatically qualify for the post season and host a first round game*
B. *In All Classes, the remaining qualifiers (non-Region Champions) for the Post Season will be determined by the Post*

Season Ranking Formula. Refer to Appendix "PSR" in the GHSA Constitution for detailed information.

C. For the First and Second Rounds, teams will play a best-of-three series at the site of the higher seed.

D. Dates for the 1st Round of the State Tournament: *October 12 -13 - A, 2A, 3A,& Private October 14 -15 -4A, 5A, 6A, & 7A*

Dates for the 2nd Round of the State tournament: *October 19 -20 - A, 2A, 3A,& Private October 21 -22 - 4A, 5A, 6A, & 7A*

1. There will be a doubleheader on the first day and an “if” game on the second day.
2. The host team will be the “home” team for the first game of the series and the visiting team will be “home” team for the second game. The higher-seeded team will be the home team for a third game, if necessary.
3. Teams that win the Second Round series will advance to the Elite Eight of the State Tournament.

E. The Elite Eight of the State Tournament will be a double-elimination tournament held in Columbus, Georgia on *October 28-31, 2026.*

F. **FINANCES:**

1. Admission fees must be charged for all post-season games: *Fees will be posted on the GHSA website*
2. Admission fee for State Championship Series at a neutral site will be posted on the GHSA web site. NOTE: All First Round, Second Round and and Elite Eight admission fees MUST be purchased through GoFan.
3. The GHSA will receive 12% of the gross gate receipts at all state playoff games. If schools are not able to cover the required costs with gate receipts, this fee will be waived if validated by the GHSA office.
4. In the First and Second Rounds, the umpires will be paid out of gross receipts (Note: If the gross receipts are not sufficient to pay the umpires, the host school will pay that cost.)
5. The visiting teams shall be paid $.80 per mile (one way) for travel.
6. During the State Playoffs and Elite Eight, each team is allowed free admission for a maximum of 25 players and team essential personnel. Schools desiring more than this number must pay the admission price or submit names on the “Excess Team Entry Form.” Coaches will be admitted with their GHSA coaching passes.
7. During the State Playoffs and Elite 8 Tournament in Columbus, teams are responsible for their own travel and housing expenses.

G. All umpires will be assigned by the GHSA.

H. Times posted with the brackets are approximate. Teams should be ready to take the field for play at the time indicated for each game.

1. The top team in each bracket uses the first base dugout unless a team is playing consecutive games on the same field.
2. The home team will be determined for each game with a coin toss.
3. Lineups should be submitted to the official scorer at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled starting time.
4. Teams may not use game fields for batting practice.
5. All teams advancing to the Elite Eight of the State Tournament are required to be present and in uniform at the Opening Ceremonies. Failure to comply with result in a $250.00 fine to the school.

I. The outfield fence will be set at 200’ from home plate for the State Tournament in Columbus.

J. *Double first base will be used for the State Tournament in Columbus.*

K. All teams advancing to the Championship Finals shall be required to have all team bats inspected upon check-in at the championship venue.

1. Bats that pass inspection will have an approved sticker placed on the bat.
2. Bats that do not pass inspection will be confiscated and *available for the Coach to pick up at the conclusion of that team’s final game.*
3. Bats found to be used in a game that do not have the approved sticker shall be confiscated and the offending player and head coach shall be restricted to the dugout for that game.

SWIMMING AND DIVING

GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. Swimming and Diving is a classified event with four (4) state championships *(classes 7A, 6A, 5A, and the combined divisions of classes A-4A)*.
   1. Boys and girls compete for separate championships in each class.
   2. Beginning and ending dates for practice and competition can be found at the front of this publication.
   3. The maximum number of contests for swimming is ten (10) exclusive of the state meet.
   4. For divers, the maximum number of dual meet competitions is as follows:
      a. Six-dive format: ten (10) competitions AND/OR
      b. Eleven-dive format: five (5) competitions
   5. It is permissible for coaches to use "split squads" during the regular season. However, the use of split squads will count as two (2) of that school's maximum allowed competitions.

B. The National Federation Swimming Rules shall be the official rules for all GHSA competitions with the exception of any special regulations found in this section.

C. It is the responsibility of each athlete and/or coach to ensure the backstroke ledge is installed properly for use, and removed after the start to avoid interference with the swimmer during their race. Teams are responsible for the installation, adjustment and removal of the ledge for their swimmers, this will be the responsibility of a coach or teammate. Officials and meet management are not responsible for the installation, adjustment and removal of the ledge Consequences of a team's failure to do this will be the responsibility of that team.

D. In those school systems where facilities are limited and one coach is hired to coach more than one high school team, or coaches from several schools use the same facility, the gathering of these students for practice purposes will not violate GHSA regulations. Competitions between schools during these practice sessions must be avoided unless they are counted within the number of allowable contests.

E. Each school with a participating student(s) must have a school representative present at all GHSA meets.

F. Schools must enter team schedules, rosters and weekly game/meet results during the season on MaxPreps and be responsible for updates as needed. This information will support statewide media, event programs, broadcasts partners and GHSA Region Standings. Teams are encouraged to maintain team/individual statistics on MaxPreps.

G. ORDER OF EVENTS: (boys events precede girls events)

1. 200-yard Medley Relay	7. 100-yard Freestyle
2. 200-yard Freestyle	8. 500-yard Freestyle
3. 200-yard Individual Medley	9. 200-yard Freestyle Relay
4. 50-yard Freestyle	10. 100-yard Backstroke
5. 1 Meter Diving	11. 100-yard Breaststroke
6. 100-yard Butterfly	12. 400-yard Freestyle Relay

STATE MEET (GENERAL INFORMATION):

A. In order to participate in the State Swimming and Diving Meet:
   1. A participant must qualify at a meet governed by National Federation and GHSA rules.
   2. Qualifying times are listed at the end of this section, and entry deadlines must be met.
   3. Proof of Performance (POP) for swimming events must be verified by two GHSA coaches who are in attendance at that meet
   4. Participating schools will be required to pay $30.00 per entrant.
      a. fees are payable to Atlanta Swimming.
      b. fees are due on the first day of swimming competition.
      c. Fees not paid within one week are subject to 100% late fee.

B. All eligible relay swimmers must be listed on the entry form. It shall not count as an entry unless the competitor actually competes in the event. Any individual listed on the entry form may swim in the prelims, swim-offs, and/or finals provided he does not exceed the permitted entry limit for the meet.

C. Qualifying standards for the State Meet will be established by the GHSA Executive Director.

D. A coaches' meeting will be held at the site preceding the diving competition.

E. Only the coaches/faculty members listed on the entry form will have access to the pool deck.

F. Rules and Restrictions for Meet Entries:
   1. A school may enter only one (1) relay team per event.
   2. A school may not have more than four (4) entries in an event in which the contestants compete as individuals.
   3. A contestant may enter a maximum of four (4) events, no more than two (2) of which are individual events.

G. No team points will be allowed to a swimmer or relay team if the qualifying standard for that event is not met or bettered in either the prelims or the finals. No team points will be awarded to divers if they do not equal or better the qualifying point total for six (6) dives.
H. Reservation of seating space for spectators is not allowed.
I. The State Diving Championships will be held at The Marist School, while the State Swimming Championships will be held at the Campus Recreation Center on the campus of the Georgia Institute of Technology on dates listed in the Beginning and Ending Dates Chart found at the front of this publication. The schedule for competition will be published on the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net).
J. Team championships will be determined by scoring twenty (20) places as noted in the National Federation Swimming Rule Book. The top ten (1-10) qualifiers will compete in the championship heat, and the next ten (11-20) will compete in consolation heat "B."
K. The lead-off 50-yard Freestyle split in the 200-yard Freestyle Relay, and the lead-off 100-yard Freestyle split in the 400-yard Freestyle Relay will be considered for State records in their respective events. NOTE: If the relay team is disqualified for any reason, the lead-off time will not count for qualifying or for a state record.
L. Admission fee for the GHSA State Swimming and Diving Championship*will be published on the GHSA website* Free admission will be allowed for the following:
    1. Swimmers and divers qualified and entered in the State Meet;
    2. Coaches that are listed on the Swimming and Diving Coaches list;
    3. Four girls and four boys designated as substitutes by the coach on the team list;
    4. Two team attendants or trainers as listed on the team roster;
    5. Those normally allowed free admission, such as with GHSA passes, will continue to be admitted by signing the pass list.

STATE MEET (ELIGIBILITY/PROCEDURES):

DIVING

A. A diver may become eligible for the State Meet using a 6-dive sheet or an 11-dive sheet.
    1. 6-DIVE FORMAT: This format is slightly different than the normal 6-dive dual meet format as defined in the NFHS Rules Book. If the 6-dive format is utilized and submitted, the first dive will continue to be from the group as specified by the NFHS and in the NFHS Rules Book. The first dive will maintain its assigned degree of difficulty, unless it is more than 1.8, in which case it will receive no more than 1.8 degree of difficulty. Dives 2-6 shall be one dive from each of the five (5) groups (forward, backward, reverse, inward, and twisting). The degree of difficulty of dives 1-6 when totaled shall be equal to or greater than 11.5 for girls and 12.0 for boys. The score to be achieved must be 190 points or more for both boys and girls.
    2. 11-DIVE FORMAT: If the 11-dive format is utilized and submitted, it shall be on the official 11-dive sheet. For girls, the minimum degree of difficulty for optional dives shall be 11.5 when totaled, and the score to be achieved must be 300 points or greater. For boys, the minimum degree of difficulty for optional dives shall be 12.0 when totaled, and the score to be achieved must be 300 points or greater. NOTE: The official 11-dive Checklist as well as the 6-Dive and 11-Dive Forms can be found on the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net).
B. In both the 6-dive and 11-dive formats, the meet must be scored by at least, but not limited to, three (3) judges. The official dive sheet that is submitted must be completed with all necessary signatures and information provided, such as phone, and e-mail information for the coach and diver, within one (1) week of the performance.
C. Proof of Performance:
    1. Only one Proof of Performance (POP) dive sheet per diver may be submitted by uploading it onto the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net). The deadline date for submission may be found on a chart later in this section.
    2. If the diver's POP is accepted and approved, the coach will be notified at the email address provided when uploading the sheet. If the POP dive sheet is in any way incorrect, the coach will be notified and one (1) additional POP may be submitted, if desired.
    3. Dive sheets with electronically generated scores will not be accepted unless submitted from www.DiveMeets.com.
D. State Meet Dive Sheets:
    1. The format and criteria required for the state dive sheet is slightly different than that listed in Section 4 - Choice of Dives that is detailed in the current NFHS Rules Book for championship meets. Divers will compete in a 6-Dive meet format at the State Championship meet with the following requirements:
        a. One (1) voluntary dive of the diver's choice with its true degree of difficulty followed by five (5) optional dives, one from each of the five (5) groups. The degree of difficulty of dives 1-6 when totaled shall be equal to or greater than 11.5 for girls and 12.0 for boys. The minimum score total to be achieved to earn points for the team must be 190 points or more after six (6) dives for both boys and girls.
        b. The 10 highest-scoring finishers from the preliminary event will move on to the finals and perform their six (6) dives again. Divers will be permitted to change dives, not dive order, for the finals so long as all sheet requirements are met.
        c. Scores from the preliminaries and finals will be cumulative.
    2. A diver will be automatically entered in the State Meet upon submission of the actual dive sheet on

www.DiveMeets.com by the deadline and approval of the dive sheet by the GHSA.

3. The deadline for changing a dive sheet may be found on a chart later in this section.

E. If a school has more than four (4) divers per gender that have been deemed eligible after official approval of the POP dive sheet, the school may submit a maximum of four (4) and only four (4) dive sheets per gender by the deadline.
F. The Meet Director for the State Diving Meet will have jurisdiction over the method of announcing the diving.
G. If possible, the championship venue(s) shall provide two (2) hours of practice time to State Meet participants the week of the State Meet.
H. Boys will dive first in the odd-numbered years, and girls will dive first in the even-numbered years.
I. For questions or concerns about State Meet eligibility and procedures, contact the State Diving Coordinator, Vicky Sanchez Tuymer, (vtuymer@hotmail.com).
J. The diving information found on the GHSA web site supersedes all other sources of information.

SWIMMING:

A. Coaches shall submit all Proof of Performances on the Georgia High School Swimming Coaches Association (GHSSCA) web site found at www.ghssca.org. All eligible relay swimmers must be listed on the site. It shall not count as an entry unless the swimmer actually competes in the event. Detailed submission instructions are also available on the site. At the end of the dual meet season, the web site will be closed to accepting new submissions and time will be given for coaches to make their final entry decisions. The coach must make the actual entry for the swimmer to compete in the State Meet on the GHSSCA web site by 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2027.
B. Qualifying times and Deadlines are as follows:

BOYS	EVENT	GIRLS
1:51.00	200 yard Medley Relay	2:07.00
1:55.00	200 yard Freestyle	2:07.00
2:12.00	200 yard Individual Medley	2:24.00
23.50	50 yard Freestyle	26.50
58.00	100 yard Butterfly	1:05.00
52.00	100 yard Freestyle	58.50
5:20.00	500 yard Freestyle	5:50.00
1:40.00	200 yard Freestyle Relay	1:53.00
1:00.00	100 yard Backstroke	1:06.00
1:07.00	100 yard Breaststroke	1:15.00
3:44.00	400 yard Freestyle Relay	4:12.00

DEADLINES:

SUBJECT	DATE / TIME
Dive - POP	Within 1 week of performance
Swim - POP	Within 1 week of performance
Dive - Last POP	Tuesday, January 26, 11:59 pm
Swim - Last POP	Tuesday, January 26, 11:59 pm
Dive - Dive sheet for State	Wednesday, January 27, 4:00 pm
Swim - Actual meet entry	Wednesday, January 27, 4:00 pm
Dive - Changes on State sheet	Wednesday, January 27, 4:00 pm

TENNIS

GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. Tennis is a team state championship sport for boys and girls that is based on Region play in all classifications. Beginning and ending dates for practice and competition can be found at the front of this publication.
B. All state tournament matches will be 2 of 3 full sets with NO-AD scoring. The difference between NO-AD scoring and Regular scoring only occurs when the score of the game becomes “deuce.” At deuce, one game point will be played to decide the winner of the game. The receiver of the serve may decide which side of the court to receive the game-deciding serve.
C. All tennis matches will be played according to tennis rules published by the U.S. Tennis Association (USTA) unless otherwise specified by the Georgia High School Association.
    1. The rules of the USTA Handbook relating to lateness for a match will apply to GHSA matches.
    2. There will be continuous play except that a GHSA certified coach from that school may talk to their player(s) as they change ends of the court after a game, but the player(s) must stay on the court.
    3. In regular season play and in the Region tournament, the 8-game Pro Set format is allowed if both coaches are in agreement. 8-Game Pro Set: First player to win 8 games by a margin of 2 games (ie, 8-5, 8-6, 9-7) wins the set - if score gets to 8-8, the tie-breaker as outlined in this section is used. In Regular season matches, Regular season Tournaments, and in the Region tournament if both coaches agree, Regular Scoring may be used.
    4. Any GHSA tennis match that is interrupted, such as by weather or darkness, and can not be completed that day should be resumed (if it is to be made up) from the exact point of interruption at a future date agreed upon by the competing schools.
D. Teams are restricted to no more than eighteen (18) varsity play dates excluding Region and State tournaments. The 18 play dates are for the complete team (singles and doubles). There will be no singles tournaments allowed.
    1. Each play date of an invitational tournament counts toward the maximum of 18 play dates.
    2. Matches may be played earlier, starting at 1 pm, with a maximum of 4 times per season.
    3. No school shall enter any invitational tournament unless it has been approved by the GHSA Executive Director.
    4. It is permissible for coaches to use “split squads” during the regular season. However, the use of split squads will count as two (2) of that school’s maximum allowed play dates.
    5. There shall be no interscholastic practices and/or scrimmages.
E. The format for all GHSA tennis matches during the regular season, region tournaments and state playoffs shall be three (3) singles matches and two (2) doubles matches played on composition (hard) surfaces unless the competing schools agree to play on a non-composition surface prior to the match. With prior agreement of both coaches, JV squads may use a format of two (2) singles matches and one (1) doubles match. NOTE: No GHSA match at any level may be played where there are fewer than three (3) points available and any pre-match forfeitures must take place at the lowest level. No. 1 singles and No. 1 doubles may never be forfeited before a match begins.
    1. An individual player may play in either one (1) singles match or one (1) doubles match ONLY.
    2. Substitution is not permitted once a match is engaged under USTA definition. If any injury occurs during play that prevents a player from completing the match, that player defaults and the opponent is awarded the victory.
    3. Teams have the option to play a 10-point tiebreaker (see USTA rules for playing process) in lieu of a full third set during the regular-season and Region tournament by agreement of the two coaches during the regular-season and by a majority vote of the Region coaches in the Region tournament. Note: All State Playoff matches must be best of three full sets. Note: All State Playoff matches must be best of three full sets with NO-AD scoring.
    4. Teams may play up to three (3) matches in a day IF a 10-point tiebreaker is used in lieu of a full third set in all three matches.
F. 7-Point Tie-Breaker for Singles (Team A vs B)
    1. This is used when the score is tied 6-6 (or 8-8 in Pro-Set) in any set (1st, 2nd, or 3rd).
    2. Player A serves the first point from the right service area.
    3. Player B serves the second and third points from the left and right service areas respectively.
    4. Player A serves the fourth and fifth points - again alternating the service areas.
    5. Player B serves the next two points and ends of the court are changed between these two points.
    6. Player A serves the eighth and ninth points.
    7. After this, the serve is alternated on every two points.
    8. If the tie-breaker ends with a 6-6 score, the players change ends of the court and alternate serves until one player is ahead by two (2) points - which gives that player a set victory of 7-6.
    9. Players switch ends of the court after every six (6) points and at the end of the tie-breaker.
G. F. 7-Point Tie-Breaker for Doubles (Team A & B vs C & D)
    1. Player A serves the first point from the right service area.
    2. Player C serves the second and third points - alternating the service areas.
    3. Player B serves the fourth and fifth points.
    4. Player D serves the sixth and seventh points, and ends of the court are changed between the points.

5. After this, play continues with the same service rotation until one team has either won seven (7) of the first twelve (12) points, or a team established a two-point margin after twelve (12) points have been played.
6. Teams change ends of court after every six (6) points and at the end of the tie-breaker.

H. Schools must enter team schedules, rosters and weekly game/meet results during the season on MaxPreps and be responsible for updates as needed. This information will support statewide media, event programs, broadcasts partners and GHSA Region Standings. Teams are encouraged to maintain team/individual statistics on MaxPreps.

REGION COMPETITION:

A. Playoff Qualifiers and Seedings will be determined by the GHSA Post Season Ranking Formula (PSRF). Refer to Appendix PSR in the Constitution and By -Laws for formulas, explanations and examples.
   1. The top 4 Region representatives shall be determined no later than April 16, 2027.
   2. The top four Region teams must be submitted to the GHSA no later than 9:00 a.m., on April 17, 2027.
   3. Five percent (5%) of the gross gate receipts (if admission is charged) will be sent to the GHSA, and then the Region will decide how to handle expenses and disbursements.

B. At the end of the regular season and prior to any post-season play, each coach will submit to the Region tournament director and enter electronically on the GHSA MIS web site an official playoff roster listing the singles players as Nos. 1, 2, and 3 and the doubles teams as Nos. 1 and 2, in proper order of ability (based on the integrity of the coach). This roster will be the lineup used in ALL tournament play thereafter, unless an alternate is used under the restrictions listed below. NOTE: If no Region tournament is held, the official playoff roster must be entered electronically at the end of the regular season and prior to the start of the state tournament.
   1. Stacking of one's lineup is strictly prohibited in any regular-season match, invitational tournament or state tournament match. An obvious attempt to stack a lineup (i.e., 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 & C) to play singles and two pairs of players (D1 & D2) to play doubles that day. The best player of A, B and C must play the No. 1 position in singles and the weakest must play No. 3 singles. The best doubles team of D1 and D2 must play No. 1 doubles (Note: Points may only be forfeited beginning with the lower positions and working upward unless an injury or illness occurs after a match has begun).
      b. It is not stacking to alternate from match to match during the regular season the positions of A and B, B and C, and even A and C if the playes 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 during the regular season as long as the singles players being used that day are listed from No. 1 to No. 3 according to relative ability, and the best doubles team being used that day plays at No. 1 doubles.
   2. Designate up to six (6) alternates on the official playoff roster to be used under the following conditions:
      a. Alternates should not be better in ability than ANY of the players listed on the playoff roster in the positions of Nos. 1, 2, or 3 singles OR Nos. 1 or 2 doubles.
      b. Alternates may be used in either singles or doubles competitions, but the same player may not be used for both in the same round of competition.
      c. Substitutions made after the official playoff roster has been submitted must be made at the lowest level of singles play with all others moving to the higher level of competition. In doubles competition, the coach has the option to place the alternate in the open slot or to place the alternate on the No. 2 doubles team and move a player from the No. 2 doubles team to the No. 1 doubles team, if the original vacancy is on the No. 1 team. A player may never be used in a position lower than his original position. NOTE: A substitution violation results in the loss of that line and not the forfeiture of the entire team match.
      d. If the original contestant(s) resumes play, everyone moves back to their original positions listed on the submitted playoff roster.
      e. A player listed as a singles player on the official playoff roster shall not switch over to doubles competitions in any later round, or vice-versa.
   3. A serious injury, illness, suspension or other conflict MAY warrant a waiver of the anti-stacking restrictions listed above. Such waivers will be considered on a case-by-case basis upon receipt of proper documentation to the GHSA office, including a letter signed by the school's principal.
   4. A school objecting to an opponent's lineup must provide documentation (newspaper articles, scorebooks, and written confirmation from other coaches) of any stacking violations.

STATE TOURNAMENT:

A. The State Tournament is considered a continuation of the Region Tournament.
   1. Tournaments will be held for both boys teams and girls teams in each classification.
   2. Trophies shall be presented to the champions and runners-up in each classification - both boys and girls.
   3. In order to host a State Tournament match beyond the region level, the host school must have available a minimum of two (2) courts. Four (4) courts is preferable.
   4. The First 3 Rounds of the State Tournament will take place on the "home" courts of the higher seeded teams. The First Round must be completed no later than April 22, 2027 the Second no later than April 28, 2027 and

Third Round by May 4, 2027.

5. In each round of the state playoffs, the following will apply:
    a. Coaches will contact each other and set up a mutually agreeable time and date.
    b. If an agreement on time and date cannot be reached, the Executive Director will set the time and date.
    c. In situations where fewer than five (5) courts are available per team match, the order of play must be as follows: No. 1 singles, No. 1 doubles, No. 2 singles, No. 2 doubles, No. 3 singles.
    d. The home team is responsible for reporting the winners and scores to the GHSA office by 9:00 a.m., the day after the match.
6. The State Semi-Finals will be held for both boys and girls in all classifications will be held at the location of the team with the higher seed. ALL home teams must charge for admission, at $15.00 per person. The finals will also charge admission at $18.00 per person, conducted by the GHSA office. The finals for classifications A, AA and AAA will be held at the John Drew Smith Tennis Center in Macon on May 12, 2027 with a rain make up day on May 13. The finals for classes 4A, 5A, 6A, 7A and Private will remain at Rome Tennis Center at Berry College on May 12, 2027. The exact schedule will be posted on the GHSA web site prior to the tournament. Rain Make-up is scheduled to be May 13, 2027.

B. All team matches shall be the best three of five (3 singles/2 doubles) lines. The scoring for each line shall be 2 of 3 full sets with NO-AD scoring.
    1. A team winning three (3) of the five matches (3 singles/2 doubles) shall be the winner.
    2. A team match is concluded as soon as three (3) points have been won, unless both coaches agree to finish all five lines.

C. Each team shall furnish five (5) cans of high-quality, heavy-duty tennis balls in the First 3 Rounds of the State Tournament.
    1. New balls will be used in the first team match.
    2. After the team match, the losing team will keep the balls used in that match, and the winning team takes the unopened cans of balls to the next round of competition.
    3. At the State Finals, the GHSA will supply the tennis balls.

D. In the First 3 Rounds of the State Playoffs, the host school shall provide a designated “site manager” to make rulings concerning sportsmanship, lateness, or other rules violations that might occur during the match. This person should be a certified USTA official, when possible, hired and paid for by the host school. In instances where a USTA official cannot be secured, a school administrator must be the replacement. For the Semifinals and Finals The GHSA will provide the site managers and officials.

TRACK AND FIELD

GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. Track and Field is a team championship event for boys and girls that is based on Region and Area competitions.*2A-4A* Private schools will compete in Areas to qualify for Sectionals. There will be separate Sectionals, and a State division for *2A-4A* Private schools. Beginning and ending dates for practice and competition can be found at the front of this publication.

B. All GHSA Track and Field meets will be run in accordance with the rules published in the National Federation Track and Field and Cross Country Rule Book with any exceptions and/or adoptions noted in this section. (NOTE: Knowledge of and compliance to all exceptions is the responsibility of the head coach.)

C. Track and Field meet requirements:
   1. There will be no interscholastic practices or exhibition meets in Track and Field.
   2. The maximum number of meets that may be scheduled is twelve (12), but no individual student may compete in more than ten (10) meets (excluding the Region/Area, Sectional and State Meets).
   3. Track and Field teams may compete in one (1) indoor meet, and this meet will not count as a part of the ten (10) meets allowed per athlete provided the meet is after the date for practice to begin and prior to the date to begin regular competition.
   4. It is permissible for coaches to use “split squads” during the regular season. However, the use of split squads will count as two (2) of that school’s maximum allowed competitions.

D. Any meet involving eight (8) or more schools must be approved by the GHSA Executive Director in accordance with the process described in By-Law 2.64.

E. A competitor shall not compete in more than four (4) events, including relays. Contestants officially become competitors when they report to the clerk of the course or field-event judge for an event in which they are entered. A contestant shall not be entered in more than four events, excluding relays. If a contestant is entered in more than the allowable number of events, meet management shall scratch the contestant from the excess event(s) by following the listed Order of Events.
   A contestant may officially participate in:

   1. Four individual events - *May be listed on any number of relay events but compete in*NO Relay events.
   2. Three individual events - May be listed on any number of relay events but compete in only one relay event.
   3. Two individual events - May be listed on any number of relay events but compete in only two relay events.
   4. One individual event - May be listed on any number of relay events but compete in only three relay events.
   5. NO individual events - May be listed on any number of relay events and compete in all four relay events.

F. The following regulations apply to the Pole Vault event:
   1. All GHSA schools competing in the pole vault event must meet the minimum NFHS regulations on the vaulting area, the plant box, the vault box collar, the vaulting standards and padding, the crossbar and the landing pads and padding on any hard surfaces. Schools not able to meet these regulations are not allowed to practice or compete in the pole vault event at the non-complying site
   2. Those schools wishing to host a pole vault competition must file annually the “Pole Vault Facility Certification” form found on the GHSA MIS site. A listing of approved schools will then automatically post to the GHSA web site.
   3. In compliance with NFHS rules, school administrators and coaches must verify that all vaulters and poles meet event requirements. A “Pole Vault Verification Form” (found on the GHSA web site) is to be submitted before each competition.

G. The GHSA will fully comply with the NFHS Rule 4-3-1. All competitors shall have legal uniforms. The*top* and bottom, or one-piece uniform, must be a school-issued or school-approved Track and Field uniform. Team uniforms must clearly identify the competitors, at a glance, as being a member of a certain team. All relay teams must wear uniforms clearly indicating through predominant color, school logo and color combination of all outer garments worn as a uniform, that members are from the same team. Note: The official should be able to observe that all members are from the same team.
   The ultimate responsibility for uniforms compliance lies with the coach. Coaches should inspect any/all garments competitors wear to make sure they are in compliance with GHSA and NFHS uniforms rules.

H. Electronic devices may only be used in unrestricted areas and coaching boxes, providing the location does not interfere with progress of the meet as determined by the meet referee.
   1. Electronic devices shall not be used to transmit information to the competitor during the race or trial.
   2. Electronic devices shall not be used for any review of an official's decision.

I. Athletes are not permitted to wear any type of audio or video recording devices during a race, trial or while in restricted areas.

J. In the Region/Area and State meets, eight (8) places shall be scored, with point totals counting as follows:
   First Place = 10 points Second Place = 8 points

Third place = 6 points Fourth Place = 5 points
Fifth Place = 4 points Sixth Place = 3 points
Seventh Place = 2 points Eighth Place = 1 point
NOTE: When there is a tie, the points will be divided equally among the contestants who are tied.

REGION/AREA COMPETITION:

A. Deadlines for posting the Region/Area list of entries will be a Region/Area decision.
   1. All entries must be submitted on MileSplit GA.
   2. Posting entries on sites other than MileSplit GA does NOT fulfill the GHSA requirement for electronic submission.
   3. Coaches may alter the list of entries until the deadline established by each Region/Area for their meet.
   4. All Region Secretaries/Area Coordinators should communicate their deadline for entries before the "Scratch Meeting" that precedes the Region/Area Meet.
B. The time schedule for the Region/Area Meet shall be given to each competing school prior to the start of the meet.
   1. Events to be contested for Boys and Girls Track (18 events):

RUNNING EVENTS	FIELD EVENTS
4x800m Relay	Discus (Girls 2.20 lb./1kg.) (Boys 3.53 lb./1.6 kg.)
Girls 100m Hurdles (33")/Boys 110m Hurdles (39")	High Jump
100m Dash	Long Jump
4x200m Relay	Pole Vault
1600m Run	Shot Put (Girls 8.81 lb./4 kg.) (Boys 12 lb./5.443 kg.)
4x100m Relay	Triple Jump
400m Dash	
300m Hurdles (Girls 30" / Boys 36")	
800m Run	
200m Dash	
3200m Run	
4x400m Relay	

   2. Each school may have three (3) entries in each individual event and one (1) entry in each relay event.
   3. Relay teams entered in the Region/Area Meet may list a maximum of eight (8) runners.
      a. The relay names remain the SAME throughout the State Meet Series (Region/Area/Sectional/State Meets) and are the ONLY eligible participants for qualifying relay teams throughout the State Meet Series.
      b. NO replacements may be made in the Relay list of runners advancing from the Region/Area Meet to the Sectional Meet to the State Meet.
      c. Any four (4) competitors listed on a Region/Area Meet relay event entry may run in that event in any round of advancement (Region/Area, Sectionals, State Meet Semifinals and Finals), and in any order desired.
   4. In Shot Put, Discus, Long Jump, and Triple Jump, the giving of qualifying and final trials is optional. NOTE: The Region/Area Games Committee may institute a process in which each contestant has four (4) attempts and only the best attempt counts.
   5. It is recommended that all Regions/Areas conduct the boys and girls competitions on the same dates in order to comply with the GHSA deadline for completion of Region/Area competitions.
C. When there is a tie in any event involving more contestants than the Region/Area is entitled to enter in the Sectional Meet, the contest must continue or be re-held until the representatives to the Sectional Meet are determined, and no points be given for the continued or re-held contest. For possible replacement purposes, all events must determine clear 5th and 6th place finishers in all classes.
D. Any awards are the responsibility of the Region or Area.

SECTIONAL COMPETITION:

A. Basic Information
   1. The top four (4) finishers in each event from each Region Meet will advance to a Sectional Meet.
   2. The top eight (8) finishers in each event from each Area Meet will advance to a Sectional Meet.
   3. Boys and Girls Sectionals in each classification will take place on the same date at the same site (see schedule of Sectionals on the GHSA web site).
   4. For Running Events, there will be qualifying heats only - no running finals will be held.
      a. There will be two heats in each event, excluding the 800,1600 and 3200 Meter Runs and the 4x800 Meter Relay. The first place finisher in each heat and the next six (6) fastest times from either heat will advance to the State Final.
      b. For the 800 Meter, 1600 Meter and 3200 Meter Runs and 4x800 Meter Relay, there will be one heat and the top eight (8) finishers in each race will advance to the State *Meet*.

5. Field event competition in the horizontal jumps and throws will be two flights with 4 total jumps and throws with no finals. The top eight (8) will advance to the State *Meet*.
6. Vertical events will only continue until the qualification of the top eight (8) qualifiers.
7. For replacement purposes, ALL events must determine clear 9th and 10th place finishers.
8. Relay teams competing at the Sectional Meet must have been listed on the initial roster.
    a. NO replacements may be made in the relay list of runners advancing from the Sectional Meet to the State Final.
    b. Any four (4) competitors listed on a Sectional Meet relay event entry may run in that event in any round of advancement (Sectionals, State Meet), and in any order desired.

B. Sectionals will be conducted approximately one (1) week prior to the earliest State Final.
C. All replacements from the Region/Area meets for the Sectionals must be submitted on MileSplit GA. The Region Secretary, Region Meet Director or Area Meet Director may make confirmed changes and/or corrections. The deadline for all changes is 12:00 noon on Wednesday, April 28, 2027.
D. A listing of Sectional Sites may be found on the Track and Field page of the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net).

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP MEETS:

A. The State Championship Meets will be held on the dates listed in the Beginning and Ending Dates table at the front of this publication. Exact sites and schedules will be posted on the GHSA web site prior to the event.
    1. If weather conditions alter the schedule, night sessions may be held.
B. The top finishers as described from each Sectional Meet will qualify for the State Meet in all classes.
    1. When a qualifier cannot compete in the State Meet, the next competitor in the order of finish will be selected as a replacement.
    2. All replacements for the State Meet must be submitted on MileSplit GA. The Sectional Meet Director may make changes/corrections to the list of State Meet Qualifiers. The deadline for all changes is 12:00 noon on *Tuesday*, May 4, 2027.
    3. It is the responsibility of EACH COACH to review the school's entries on MileSplit GA and immediately notify the Sectional Meet Director if corrections need to be made.
C. Each contestant is requested to bring his/her own shot and discus.
    1. Any contestant may use any shot or discus after it has been checked for weight and legality at the field.
    2. Rings for the shot and discus are concrete; therefore, rubber soled shoes must be worn.
    3. The NFHS Track and Field Rule Book will be strictly enforced in regard to the time between jumps and throws.
D. At the State Meets (boys and girls), 34.92-degree throwing sectors will be used. Schools, Region/Area hosts and Sectionals hosts must have the 34.92-degree sectors in place for the Region/Area and Sectionals meets.
E. The tracks and runways that are used for all State Meets shall be all-weather tracks.
    1. Spikes on track shoes must not exceed the specified length(s) at each State Meet: NOTE: Shoes may be inspected before contestants are allowed on the track.
    2. Spikes that have been cut off by individuals must be filed to a sharp point. Blunt spikes will not be allowed.
    3. Only the starting blocks furnished at the track may be used in the State Meets.
F. Admission price for each of the State Meets may be found on the GHSA web site.

ADAPTED DIVISION

WHEELCHAIR TRACK & FIELD:

1. All high school students with a permanent, physical disability may be eligible to participate on their school's Track & Field team. These students will have the opportunity to compete in the 200, *400* and 800 meter wheelchair races and shot put and *discus*. There will be *2 classes in discus* and 2 classes in shot put based upon the disability.
2. Students who participate must meet all GHSA eligibility requirements.
3. All athletes qualified for the wheelchair competition must compete in either a standard wheelchair, a throwing chair or a specially designed racing chair.
4. Students will be members of the school's Track & Field team and may compete at all the school's meets, including Sectionals (regardless of the number of wheelchair competitors). The athletes must compete in their school's team uniform.
5. The top eight (8) qualifiers over the entire season in each event, including Sectionals, will advance to compete at the State Track & Field Meet.
6. Wheelchair racers must use a racing wheelchair, gloves and a bicycle helmet that meets ANSI standards.
7. In Shot Put, Boys Class 1 will use an 8.81lb./4.0 kg. shot while boys Class 2 will use a 6 lb. shot. Girls in Classes 1 and 2 will use a 6 lb. shot.
8. *In Discus, Boys and Girls Class 1 will use a 1 kg. discus while Boys and Girls Class 2 will use a .75 kg. discus*
9. Coaches must complete a required training course conducted by AAASP.
10. All times and distances are to be reported to resultsga@adaptedsports.org by the coaches.
11. For more information, contact Robyn Hootselle at 678-283-4424 or see the AAASP web site www.adaptedsports.org.
12. Information about all AdaptED Sports programs may be found on the ghsa.net web site by entering this link:

ghsa.net/adapted-team-sports-information

AMBULATORY TRACK & FIELD

1. An ambulatory student-athlete must have a permanent orthopedic, neuromuscular, visual, or other physical disability. Permanent orthopedic impairment and/or visual impairment shall be verified by a licensed physician and maintained on permanent file at the school.
2. All high school students with a permanent, physical disability may be eligible to participate on their school's Track & Field team.
3. Students who participate must meet all GHSA eligibility requirements.
4. Students shall be members of the school's Track & Field team and shall have the opportunity to compete at the school's regular season meets (regardless of the number of adapted competitors). The athletes must compete in their school's team uniform.
5. There are two (2) divisions *of* competition in Ambulatory Track & Field events: *Boys and Girls*. The Track events *are* 100m, 200m and 400m. Field events *are* shot put and discus.
6. The top eight (8) qualifiers over the entire track season (including Sectionals) in each event will advance to compete at the State Track & Field Meet and must meet standards listed below. Maximum number to qualify per class (division), per event shall not exceed the number of qualifiers allowed for *non-adapted* athletes - eight (8). Number of events allowed is five (5).
7. Ambulatory Division Qualification Standards:

Event	Boys	Girls
100	:25	:30
200	:55	1:10
400	2:00	2:10

Shot Put: Boys- 4M-4K; Girls- 4.4M-6lbs

Discus: Boys- 19M-1.5K; Girls- 10M-1K

8. All times and distances are to be reported to resultsga@adaptedsports.org by athletes' coaches.
9. For more information, contact Robyn Hootselle at 678-283-4424 or see the AAASP web site www.adaptedsports.org.

VOLLEYBALL

REGULAR SEASON:

A. Volleyball is organized on a Region or Area basis with seven (7) state championships. Beginning and ending dates for practice and competition can be found at the front of this publication.
B. The National Federation Volleyball rules committee has given each state its option about the number of games that determine a match.
    1. Region/Area matches shall be best-of-three unless ALL teams in the Region/Area agree (prior to the start of the season) to play best-of-five. Championship matches in the Region/Area Tournament may be best-of-five, and all post-season play after Region/Area Tournaments shall be best-of-five.
    2. In all competitions, the deciding set shall be played to fifteen (15) points.
C. Notification of entry in Volleyball must be filed in writing with the GHSA State Office no later than March 1, for the next school year. Schools will be assigned by the GHSA Executive Director to a region or geographic area for competition, and then will be notified of that assignment.
D. Schools must enter team schedules, rosters and weekly game/meet results during the season on MaxPreps and be responsible for updates as needed. This information will support statewide media, event programs, broadcasts partners and GHSA Region Standings. Teams are encouraged to maintain team/individual statistics on MaxPreps.
E. Playing dates:
    1. Schools have a maximum of 18 playing dates regardless of whether or not it is a tournament format or head-to-head competition (each day of a tournament equals one playing date). Region/Area and State playoffs are not counted as part of the allotted playing dates.
    2. An invitational tournament is defined as five (5) or more schools competing in a single or double elimination format that leads to a champion being declared. The use of pool play is acceptable.
    3. The maximum number of days for an invitational tournament is two (2) days.
    4. No school shall enter any tournament unless it has been approved by the GHSA Executive Director.
F. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION:
    1. In accordance with National Federation rules, the use of artificial noisemakers shall be prohibited.
    2. Display of signs (larger than 8.5 x 11 inches) in the stands is not allowed during regular season or post season competition.
    3. Competitors must stay in uniform while in the competitive area.
    4. All varsity Region/Area Volleyball matches shall be officiated by at least two (2) officially-dressed volleyball official who are registered under the GHSA plan for the registration of officials.
        a. The host school must provide certified Line Judges (18 years old or older) who have completed the Line Judge Course at learn.ghsa.net at all Region/Area varsity matches.
        b. The host school must provide an adult (21 years old or older) to maintain the official scorebook and libero tracker sheet at all Region/Area varsity matches, who have completed the scorekeeper and libero tracker course at learn.ghsa.net.
    5. Each school will have a contract with an officials association for regular season matches, play days and invitational tournaments. The host school will be billed by the official's association for all of the officiating fees for these games, including travel.
    6. In accordance with National Federation rules, teams may use multi-colored balls in the regular season and post-season competitions.
    7. One coach (head or assistant) may stand in the libero replacement zone to coach his/her team during play.
    8. Schools may have tryouts that are limited to a maximum of five consecutive school days between May 1 and the last day students are in school. Students participating must be academically eligible and enrolled at that school or an 8th grader at a feeder school for that school.

REGION/AREA INFORMATION:

Each Region/Area may determine its procedure for selecting *their champion. Each Region/Area champion will be guaranteed a top-16 seed and will host a first round playoff match*. The Region/Area may use regular season records and not have a Region/Area Tournament. The Region/Area may choose to have either a single-elimination (best 3 of 5) or a double-elimination (best 2 of 3) tournament with schools seeded on the basis of their Region/Area records - or may allow schools to play a non-Region/Area schedule and then be seeded into the Region/Area Tournament. That choice must be submitted to the Region or GHSA Volleyball Area Coordinators before the first competition date of the regular season.

1. All finances (including officials' game fees and travel) will be the responsibility of the Region/Area.
2. Region ticket prices are set by the Region. Area ticket prices are to be set at $6.00.
3. The GHSA will receive 5% of the gross gate receipts.
4. Results of each Region/Area Tournament must be entered in the GHSA MIS system within 24 hours of the completion of the event, but no later than 9:00 a.m., Monday immediately following the Region/Area Tournament.

STATE PLAYOFFS:
The State Volleyball playoffs will consist of five (5) rounds of dual matches. The first three (3) rounds will be held at the site of the higher-seeded team, with the semifinals and championships to be held at neutral sites.

1. All playoff matches will be a best-of-five, single-elimination format and played on:
    a. A full court that is free of overhead obstructions (including an overhead scoreboard).
    b. A court that is equitable in spacing on both sidelines and endlines.
    c. A court that is free of obstructions coming into play such as walls, bleachers, benches, etc.
    d. A court that provides adequate lighting.
2. The seeding for the playoffs will be *based upon the results of the PSR formula.*
3. Finances for all classes through the Quarterfinal Round will be handled as follows:
    a. *Ticket prices are TBD and will be published on the GHSA web site*
    b. The GHSA will receive 12% of the gross gate receipts.
    c. Officials' fees will be taken from the gross gate receipts and paid by the host school.
    d. The visiting team will be paid mileage at the GHSA-approved rate.
    e. Any residual funds will be split between the teams.
    f. The host school will be entitled to all concession funds.
4. Finances for the Semifinal and Championship matches shall be handled as follows:
    a. Ticket prices are TBD and will be published on the GHSA web site.
    b. The gate receipts will be sent to the GHSA office.
        1. GHSA will retain 12% of the gross receipts.
        2. GHSA will pay the officials.
        3. Any funds remaining will be disbursed to the competing teams.
5. The number of free admissions for "traveling parties" of participating teams at playoff contests shall be a maximum of 20 players and team essential personnel. Coaches will be admitted with GHSA coaching passes.
6. Line Judges will be supplied by the various officials' associations for all post-season matches.
7. Pep bands with a maximum of 15 members and one (1) adult school personnel member may be allowed. If the home team allows its pep band to attend, it shall also allow the visiting team's pep band to attend.
8. A maximum of twenty (20) cheerleaders in uniform will be allowed.

WRESTLING

GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. *Wrestling will be a state open meet with 7 Classifications 1 through 7 for Dual Meet State Competition for Boys. The Girls will be divided into two Divisions for Dual Meet State Level Competition. Each Classification for Boys and Division for Girls will be divided into 8 Regions (Boys) 1A through 7A and Areas (Girls) Divisions 1 and 2. Divisions 1 through 5 for Boys and Girls Divisions 1 and 2 for Traditional competitions. The five Divisions for Boys and two Divisions for Girls Traditional wrestling teams will be divided into 8 Areas to compete in Area Tournaments. Areas each, while classes 3A through 6A will be divided into eight (8) Regions each), a State Traditional Tournament and the State Traditional Finals. There will also be separate competitions in Team Dual Wrestling. Beginning and ending dates for practice and competition can be found at the front of this publication.*

B. The National Federation Wrestling Rules shall be the official rules for Georgia schools with the exception of any special regulations found in this section.

C. Notification of entry in Wrestling must be filed with the GHSA office no later than March 1 for the next school year. Schools in Classes A and 2A will be assigned to a geographic area by the GHSA Executive Director, and then will be notified of that assignment. Schools in Classes 3A through 6A will compete in their assigned Regions.

D. Free Style and Greco Roman wrestling are considered to be the same sport as Folk Style (high school) wrestling and are subject to GHSA rules concerning illegal practices.

E. A school may enter its wrestling team in competition for twenty (20) playing dates, not including post-season competition. A school may enter its girls wrestling team in competition for twenty (20) playing dates, not including post-season competition. Wrestling is a Dual Gender sport. NOTE: After December 31, no new wrestling competitions may be scheduled unless approved by the GHSA Executive Director.
   1. An invitational tournament is defined as five (5) or more schools competing in a single or double elimination format that leads to a champion being declared. The use of pool play is acceptable. The maximum number of days for an invitational tournament is two (2) dates.
   2. A student may not wrestle more than six (6) matches per day. No student shall wrestle in more than 10 matches in a period of two consecutive days. Forfeits do not count toward the match limit.
   3. Contestants must have 30 minutes rest between matches.
   4. A wrestler may wrestle in both a varsity and a sub-varsity match on the same day as long as that wrestler does not exceed the maximum number of matches allowed for that day.
   5. It is permissible for coaches to use “split squads” during the regular season. However, the use of split squads will count as two (2) of that school’s maximum allowed competitions.
   6. All girls vs. girls Dual and Traditional results should be entered into TrackWrestling.

F. Beginning and ending dates for practice and competition can be found at the front of this publication.
   1. A school shall not allow its team to engage in any interscholastic exhibition, practice, and/or scrimmage match, except for one (1) interscholastic scrimmage consisting of a Tri-match on a school night or a Quad-match on a non-school night format with officials registered with the GHSA.
   2. A practice shall involve only eligible students in the member school and their approved coaches. Participation by outside individuals constitutes an illegal practice.
   3. Wrestling matches in practice must be conducted in adherence with National Federation and GHSA rules, and will involve only eligible team members.
   4. Schools having contestants in the State Tournament may provide a teammate of comparable size to practice for the State Tournament.
   5. There will be no Spring practice for Wrestling.

G. Weight classifications shall be as follows:
   106 lbs. 132 lbs. 157 lbs. 190 lbs.
   113 lbs. 138 lbs. 165 lbs. 215 lbs.
   120 lbs. 144 lbs. 175 lbs. 285 lbs.
   126 lbs. 150 lbs.
   Girls weight classes when girls are wrestling girls shall be as follows:
   100 lbs. 120 lbs. 140 lbs. 170 lbs.
   105 lbs. 125 lbs. 145 lbs. 190 lbs.
   110 lbs. 130 lbs. 155 lbs. 235 lbs.
   115 lbs. 135 lbs.

   1. When there are consecutive days of team competition, there shall be a one (1) pound additional allowance granted each day for all wrestlers (up to a maximum of two (2) pounds for any weigh-in). In order to be granted this one (1) pound additional allowance, a minimum of 48 hours advance notice is required for the opponent(s). NOTE: There shall be no consecutive day weight allowance granted for teams/athletes which compete the day before any post-season championship series tournament.

2. The GHSA does not approve any practice that endangers the health and safety of wrestlers. Crash dieting, the use of diuretics and other drugs for rapid weight reduction, the use of a sweat box, any type of vinyl or plastic sweat suit or bag, hot showers, whirlpool, or any other type of artificial heat device for rapid weight reduction is prohibited.
3. Effective for ALL weekday meets and tournaments, all weigh-in procedures of the National Federation (Rule 4-5) will apply.
4. In tournament competitions (regular season dual and invitational, and the State Championship series), wrestlers shall not have an option to weigh-out at the conclusion of the first day of competition. All weigh-ins shall take place prior to the start of competition each day.
5. All contestants may engage in legal weight loss activities on site until weigh-ins begin. Once weigh-ins begin, activities that promote weight loss/dehydration or weight gain are prohibited. Contestants shall not leave the designated weigh-in area unless permission is granted by the school administrator or meet director.
6. Only two (2) certified coaches (affiliated with the school of the athlete on the mat) will be allowed at mat side during regular season tournaments and at the Region/Area Tournament, State Tournament and State Finals.

H. Coaching requirements:
1. All coaches are required to complete the GHSA/NFHS Wrestling Rules Clinic which includes the policies and procedures for the “Wrestling Weight Management Program” presented online via the GHSA web site.
2. Failure to abide by the above requirements will result in fines assessed against the school.
3. Prior to all competitions, coaches must present a properly-dated weigh-in roster (created no more than three (3) calendar days prior to the event) to the head official, demonstrating that the Weight Management Program is being followed.

I. All wrestling matches shall be held with officially-dressed wrestling officials who are registered under the GHSA plan for the registration of officials.
1. Before each meet, the referee shall perform skin checks and sign a verification form.
2. The referee shall also check for items outlined as pre-meet duties for officials in the NFHS Wrestling Rules Book.

J. Appropriate health-care professionals shall be available at all wrestling tournaments.

K. Communicable Skin Disorders:
1. The GHSA strongly recommends that wrestling mats be left unrolled during the competitive season, and be disinfected a minimum of three (3) times per week with a medically-approved cleansing solution.
2. In the event an athlete develops a skin disorder or skin lesion that is considered contagious, the school must complete and provide the “Physician's Release for Wrestler to Participate” form. No other form of documentation will be accepted at the site of the competition. The release form is to be presented by the coach at the weigh-in or prior to competition. NOTE: The form and information can be found on the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net).

L. When a coach is charged with a flagrant misconduct penalty, that individual must go to a location outside the “sight and sound” of the competitive area, and can have no interactions with wrestlers or any other team personnel (removal from premises).

WEIGHT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM:

A. All GHSA wrestling schools will participate in the mandatory and binding “Weight Management Program.”
B. Schools must enter weigh-in results in the computerized weight management program (OPC) within 48 hours of each weigh-in or before the next scheduled contest (whichever comes first). An athlete’s weight descent plan ends on the Last Play Date indicated on the Beginning and Ending Dates table at the front of this publication; it is not necessary to enter Region/Area Traditional tournament weights into the OPC.
C. The “Wrestling Weight Management Coaches Handbook,” which contains details of program guidelines and forms, will be posted on the GHSA web site.
D. Schools must have all scales used for wrestling weigh-ins certified annually by the Georgia Department of Agriculture (Fuels and Measures; 404-656-3605).

TEAM DUAL WRESTLING

All Dual Meet results MUST be entered in Maxpreps for end of season seeding

GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Team Dual Wrestling will be a state open meet with separate competitions in all six classifications and two Girls Divisions (D1 and D2). NOTE: The seeding/bracketing committee will seed/bracket teams before the State Dual Championship.
B. National Federation and GHSA rules governing Traditional wrestling are in effect for Team Dual Wrestling.
C. GHSA weight certification policies will apply to Team Dual Wrestling.
D. Athletes may not wrestle at a weight class lower than allowed by the “Weight Loss Plan” of the GHSA Weight Management Program for that date.
E. All wrestlers must weigh-in at each weigh-in of a multiple-day event, and they must weigh-in at the same weight

class each time.
    1. A wrestler is only eligible for two weight classes during a multiple-day team advancement tournament.
    2. The weight classes for which a wrestler is eligible to compete are determined on the first day's weigh-in, and cannot change during the remainder of the event.
F. Teams may weigh-in all eligible and weight class-certified wrestlers.

REGION/AREA TOURNAMENTS:

A. A school must have a minimum of eight (8) wrestlers and have seven (7) weight classes covered to participate in a Region/Area Dual Tournament.
B. Each Region/Area may determine its procedure for selecting and ranking its top two (2) teams for the state playoffs by the date indicated in the Beginning and Ending Dates table at the front of this publication.
C. Girls D1 and D2 will have wrestle a preliminary meet to determine the State Dual Tournament participants.
D. Schools which do not qualify for the State Dual Tournament may schedule individual matches and/or tournaments on the dates of the State Duals Championships.

STATE TOURNAMENTS:

A. Two (2) teams from each Region/Area will advance to the double-elimination Team Dual State Tournament. The Team Dual State Championships for all classes and Girls will be held at a site or sites to be determined on the dates indicated in the Beginning and Ending Dates table at the front of this publication. (See the GHSA web site for final information).
B. The teams advancing to the state tournament must be designated to the GHSA office immediately after the Region/Area has determined the teams, but all must be designated by the date indicated in the Beginning and Ending Dates table at the front of this publication.
C. The GHSA will assign and pay all officials for State Championships.
D. Trophies and medals will be provided by the GHSA and will be presented to the State Champion and the Runner-up in each classification.
E. Each school participating in the State Dual Championship will be allowed free admission for a maximum of 28 wrestlers and team essential personnel. Coaches will be admitted with a GHSA coaching pass.
F. Admission fee for State Tournaments and State Championships at all sites will be posted on the GHSA web site.
G. In the event the State Dual Tournament ends in a tie, the winner shall be determined using the National Federation tie-breaking system published in the Wrestling Rules Book (rule 9-2-2).
H. All weigh-ins for the State Dual Tournament will be in accordance with the NFHS Rule 4-5. Exact times will be determined by tournament administration.

TRADITIONAL WRESTLING

REGION/AREA TOURNAMENTS:

A. Region/Area tournaments in classes A through 6A and Girls may be held on the dates indicated in the Beginning and Ending Dates table at the front of this publication. Those hosting Region/Area Tournaments are encouraged to hold a one-day tournament whenever possible. NOTE: Hosts are required to run the tournament through TrackWrestling.
B. Classes A through 2A and Girls will be divided into Areas with consideration to geographic proximity and to the number of schools involved. The top four (4) wrestlers in each weight class from each Region/Area Tournament (classes A through 6A) and the top four (4) wrestlers in each weight class from each Girls Area will advance to the State Tournament.
C. A listing of all traditional Region/Area Tournament sites can be found on the GHSA web site.
D. Officials are to be secured and paid by the Region/Area.
E. All finances will be handled by the Region/Area, including all expenses, payment of officials and distribution of receipts.
F. Region ticket prices are set by the Region. Area ticket prices are $10.00 per day, or a total tournament ticket for two-day events may be sold for $17.00. The GHSA will receive 5% of the gross gate receipts.
G. Scoring for wrestlers failing to report, failing skin checks, not weighing in or not making weight will follow NFHS guidelines for forfeitures.
H. JV Region/Area Tournaments may be held as long as they are completed by the last play date of the season. The JV tournament date(s) will count toward the maximum number of playing dates allowed. JV Region/Area tournaments do not need GHSA sanctioning.

STATE TOURNAMENTS:

A. All State Tournaments will be held on the dates indicated in the Beginning and Ending Dates table at the front of this publication.
B. Schools in all classifications and Girls will be assigned to State Tournament sites. A listing of all State Tournament sites can be found on the GHSA web site.
C. The top eight (8) wrestlers in each weight class in boys and top four (4) wrestlers in each weight class in girls from

each State Tournament will advance to the State Championship Finals. NOTE: The State Tournaments are qualifying tournaments only, therefore no team scoring will be used. However, penalties which normally result in team point assessments will have the team point(s) deducted at the start of the State Championship Finals.

D. Officials in all classes and Girls will be assigned and paid by the GHSA.
E. All replacements for wrestlers who qualified for the Sectional Tournaments and State Tournaments should be reported to the GHSA office by noon on the Wednesday immediately following the Region/Area Tournament and Sectional Tournaments.
F. Admission fee for State Tournaments at all site will be posted on the GHSA web site.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS:

A. The Traditional State Finals will be held at the Arena at Southlake on the dates indicated in the Beginning and Ending Dates table at the front of this publication.
B. Reports of wrestlers advancing to the State Finals must be transmitted electronically to Track Wrestling no later than 10:00 p.m., on the date the State Tournament is completed. Specific reporting instructions will be forwarded to each State Tournament Director.
C. All replacements for wrestlers who qualified for the State Finals should be reported to the GHSA office by noon on the Wednesday immediately following the State Tournament. A wrestler who cannot wrestle (for any reason) at the State Tournament may be replaced by an alternate (from the same State Tournament) prior to the Wednesday preceding the State Finals.
D. Wrestlers must wrestle in the Region/Area and State Tournaments at the weight certified in accordance with all provisions of the GHSA Wrestling Weight Management Program.
    1. All weigh-ins for the State Championship Finals will be in accordance with the NFHS Rule 4-5.
    2. Exact weigh-in times will be determined by tournament administration.
E. Admission fee for State Championship site will be posted on the GHSA web site.
F. Each school participating in the State Finals will be allowed free admission for all wrestlers who qualify for the tournament and any wrestlers and wrestlerettes who volunteer to work the tables at the State Championships.
G. Schools having athletes qualified for the State Finals must electronically submit the “Roster of Admissions Form” found on the GHSA MIS website. The deadline to submit this form is noon on the Tuesday immediately following the State Tournament. Only persons listed on this form will be admitted without charge.
H. The State Finals will be scored to co-fifth (5th) places.
I. Full wrestlebacks (double elimination) will be allowed in all classifications. Cross-bracketing shall be used for wrestlebacks.
J. Each school will be assessed $10.00 per participating wrestler to cover the rental and cleaning of the state championship site.

APPENDIX 'A'

ALLIANCE OF GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION AND AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ADAPTED SPORTS PROGRAMS

Since 2001, the GHSA has been involved in an alliance with the American Association of Adapted Sports Programs. This is a growing relationship in which both organizations are working together for the benefit of physically disabled and visually impaired students.

The Georgia High School Association and the National Federation of State High School Associations have long held the philosophy that participation in competitive activities is an integral part of the educational experiences of high school students.

While the GHSA has accommodated participation of disabled students in several sports and activities, we have not ventured into the area of facilitating participation of physically disabled students in adapted sports.

The GHSA recognizes that AAASP is the premier organization administering adapted sports, and the GHSA wishes to partner with AAASP by providing competitive activities for our physically disabled students in addition to lending our resources to their endeavors. Under the leadership of Tommie Storms and Robyn Hootselle, this organization provides tremendous opportunities in the area of adapted sports.

AAASP oversees competitions in wheelchair basketball, wheelchair track, wheelchair handball, power hockey, wheelchair football and beep baseball throughout the state of Georgia. Additionally, AAASP personnel travel throughout the United States helping schools establish and maintain athletic programs for physically disabled students.

It is important for school personnel to understand the opportunities available for disabled athletes, and to share that understanding with students in their schools. It is also important that coaches appreciate the value of athletics in the lives of disabled students, and the particular techniques involved in coaching disabled athletes.

AAASP stands ready to assist school personnel in their endeavors. For more information, please use the following contacts:

AAASP
P.O. Box 451047
Atlanta, GA 31145
Phone (404) 294-0070
Website www.adaptedsports.org
Information about all Adapted Sports programs may be found on the ghsa.net web site by going to the following link:
ghsa.net/adapted-team-sports-information

Appendix B - State Playoff Brackets

2026-2027 GHSA Class A State Baseball Championship

In the first four rounds, the higher seeded team will host. In any round where both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team for Game One in a neutral-site final). Exceptions to the scheduled dates may be made with the approval of the Executive Director.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AA State Baseball Championship

In the first four rounds, the higher seeded team will host. In any round where both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team for Game One in a neutral-site final). Exceptions to the scheduled dates may be made with the approval of the Executive Director.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAA State Baseball Championship

In the first four rounds, the higher seeded team will host. In any round where both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team for Game One in a neutral-site final). Exceptions to the scheduled dates may be made with the approval of the Executive Director.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAA State Baseball Championship

In the first four rounds, the higher seeded team will host. In any round where both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team for Game One in a neutral-site final). Exceptions to the scheduled dates may be made with the approval of the Executive Director.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAA State Baseball Championship

In the first four rounds, the higher seeded team will host. In any round where both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team for Game One in a neutral-site final). Exceptions to the scheduled dates may be made with the approval of the Executive Director.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAAA State Baseball Championship

In the first four rounds, the higher seeded team will host. In any round where both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team for Game One in a neutral-site final). Exceptions to the scheduled dates may be made with the approval of the Executive Director.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAAAA State Baseball Championship

In the first four rounds, the higher seeded team will host. In any round where both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team for Game One in a neutral-site final). Exceptions to the scheduled dates may be made with the approval of the Executive Director.

2026-2027 GHSA Private State Baseball Championship

In the first four rounds, the higher seeded team will host. In any round where both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team for Game One in a neutral-site final). Exceptions to the scheduled dates may be made with the approval of the Executive Director.

2026-2027 GHSA Class A Boys State Basketball Championship

In the first three rounds, the higher seeded team will host. In the Quarterfinals, if both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school. In the Semifinal and Final rounds, when playing at a neutral site, the team on the TOP of the bracket will be designated as the home team and will wear white jerseys.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AA Boys State Basketball Championship

In the first three rounds, the higher seeded team will host. In the Quarterfinals, if both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school. In the Semifinal and Final rounds, when playing at a neutral site, the team on the TOP of the bracket will be designated as the home team and will wear white jerseys.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAA Boys State Basketball Championship

In the first three rounds, the higher seeded team will host. In the Quarterfinals, if both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school. In the Semifinal and Final rounds, when playing at a neutral site, the team on the TOP of the bracket will be designated as the home team and will wear white jerseys.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAA Boys State Basketball Championship

In the first three rounds, the higher seeded team will host. In the Quarterfinals, if both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school. In the Semifinal and Final rounds, when playing at a neutral site, the team on the TOP of the bracket will be designated as the home team and will wear white jerseys.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAA Boys State Basketball Championship

In the first three rounds, the higher seeded team will host. In the Quarterfinals, if both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school. In the Semifinal and Final rounds, when playing at a neutral site, the team on the TOP of the bracket will be designated as the home team and will wear white jerseys.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAAA Boys State Basketball Championship

In the first three rounds, the higher seeded team will host. In the Quarterfinals, if both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school. In the Semifinal and Final rounds, when playing at a neutral site, the team on the TOP of the bracket will be designated as the home team and will wear white jerseys.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAAAA Boys State Basketball Championship

In the first three rounds, the higher seeded team will host. In the Quarterfinals, if both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school. In the Semifinal and Final rounds, when playing at a neutral site, the team on the TOP of the bracket will be designated as the home team and will wear white jerseys.

2026-2027 GHSA Private Boys State Basketball Championship

In the first three rounds, the higher seeded team will host. In the Quarterfinals, if both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school. In the Semifinal and Final rounds, when playing at a neutral site, the team on the TOP of the bracket will be designated as the home team and will wear white jerseys.

2026-2027 GHSA Class A Girls State Basketball Championship

In the first three rounds, the higher seeded team will host. In the Quarterfinals, if both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school. In the Semifinal and Final rounds, when playing at a neutral site, the team on the TOP of the bracket will be designated as the home team and will wear white jerseys.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AA Girls State Basketball Championship

In the first three rounds, the higher seeded team will host. In the Quarterfinals, if both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school. In the Semifinal and Final rounds, when playing at a neutral site, the team on the TOP of the bracket will be designated as the home team and will wear white jerseys.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAA Girls State Basketball Championship

In the first three rounds, the higher seeded team will host. In the Quarterfinals, if both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school. In the Semifinal and Final rounds, when playing at a neutral site, the team on the TOP of the bracket will be designated as the home team and will wear white jerseys.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAA Girls State Basketball Championship

In the first three rounds, the higher seeded team will host. In the Quarterfinals, if both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school. In the Semifinal and Final rounds, when playing at a neutral site, the team on the TOP of the bracket will be designated as the home team and will wear white jerseys.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAA Girls State Basketball Championship

In the first three rounds, the higher seeded team will host. In the Quarterfinals, if both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school. In the Semifinal and Final rounds, when playing at a neutral site, the team on the TOP of the bracket will be designated as the home team and will wear white jerseys.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAAA Girls State Basketball Championship

In the first three rounds, the higher seeded team will host. In the Quarterfinals, if both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school. In the Semifinal and Final rounds, when playing at a neutral site, the team on the TOP of the bracket will be designated as the home team and will wear white jerseys.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAAAA Girls State Basketball Championship

In the first three rounds, the higher seeded team will host. In the Quarterfinals, if both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school. In the Semifinal and Final rounds, when playing at a neutral site, the team on the TOP of the bracket will be designated as the home team and will wear white jerseys.

2026-2027 GHSA Private Girls State Basketball Championship

In the first three rounds, the higher seeded team will host. In the Quarterfinals, if both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school. In the Semifinal and Final rounds, when playing at a neutral site, the team on the TOP of the bracket will be designated as the home team and will wear white jerseys.

2026-2027 GHSA Division 1 State Flag Football Championship

In the first three (3) rounds, the higher seed in each of the four-team quadrants will host two games to be played on the same date.
A universal coin toss will determine the host schools for the second or quarterfinal rounds when teams of equal seeds are left in the same quadrant.

2026-2027 GHSA Division 2 State Flag Football Championship

In the first three (3) rounds, the higher seed in each of the four-team quadrants will host two games to be played on the same date.
A universal coin toss will determine the host schools for the second or quarterfinal rounds when teams of equal seeds are left in the same quadrant.

2026-2027 GHSA Division 3 State Flag Football Championship

In the first three (3) rounds, the higher seed in each of the four-team quadrants will host two games to be played on the same date.
A universal coin toss will determine the host schools for the second or quarterfinal rounds when teams of equal seeds are left in the same quadrant.

2026-2027 GHSA Division 4 State Flag Football Championship

In the first three (3) rounds, the higher seed in each of the four-team quadrants will host two games to be played on the same date.
A universal coin toss will determine the host schools for the second or quarterfinal rounds when teams of equal seeds are left in the same quadrant.

2026-2027 GHSA Division 5 State Flag Football Championship

In the first three (3) rounds, the higher seed in each of the four-team quadrants will host two games to be played on the same date.
A universal coin toss will determine the host schools for the second or quarterfinal rounds when teams of equal seeds are left in the same quadrant.

2026-2027 GHSA Class A State Football Championship

The State Championships are played at the Mercedes Benz Stadium. Therefore, it is a neutral site. The HOME TEAM (Dark Jerseys) is predetermined as the team in the BOTTOM of the Bracket. The VISITING TEAM (White Jerseys) is the team in the UPPER part of the Bracket.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AA State Football Championship

The State Championships are played at the Mercedes Benz Stadium. Therefore, it is a neutral site. The HOME TEAM (Dark Jerseys) is predetermined as the team in the BOTTOM of the Bracket. The VISITING TEAM (White Jerseys) is the team in the UPPER part of the Bracket.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAA State Football Championship

The State Championships are played at the Mercedes Benz Stadium. Therefore, it is a neutral site. The HOME TEAM (Dark Jerseys) is predetermined as the team in the BOTTOM of the Bracket. The VISITING TEAM (White Jerseys) is the team in the UPPER part of the Bracket.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAA State Football Championship

The State Championships are played at the Mercedes Benz Stadium. Therefore, it is a neutral site. The HOME TEAM (Dark Jerseys) is predetermined as the team in the BOTTOM of the Bracket. The VISITING TEAM (White Jerseys) is the team in the UPPER part of the Bracket.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAA State Football Championship

The State Championships are played at the Mercedes Benz Stadium. Therefore, it is a neutral site. The HOME TEAM (Dark Jerseys) is predetermined as the team in the BOTTOM of the Bracket. The VISITING TEAM (White Jerseys) is the team in the UPPER part of the Bracket.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAAA State Football Championship

The State Championships are played at the Mercedes Benz Stadium. Therefore, it is a neutral site. The HOME TEAM (Dark Jerseys) is predetermined as the team in the BOTTOM of the Bracket. The VISITING TEAM (White Jerseys) is the team in the UPPER part of the Bracket.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAAAA State Football Championship

The State Championships are played at the Mercedes Benz Stadium. Therefore, it is a neutral site. The HOME TEAM (Dark Jerseys) is predetermined as the team in the BOTTOM of the Bracket. The VISITING TEAM (White Jerseys) is the team in the UPPER part of the Bracket.

2026-2027 GHSA Private State Football Championship

The State Championships are played at the Mercedes Benz Stadium. Therefore, it is a neutral site. The HOME TEAM (Dark Jerseys) is predetermined as the team in the BOTTOM of the Bracket. The VISITING TEAM (White Jerseys) is the team in the UPPER part of the Bracket.

2026-2027 GHSA Division 1 Boys State Lacrosse Championship

In ALL Rounds (except neutral-site Finals), the higher seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team in a neutral-site Final).

2026-2027 GHSA Division 2 Boys State Lacrosse Championship

In ALL Rounds (except neutral-site Finals), the higher seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team in a neutral-site Final).

2026-2027 GHSA Division 3 Boys State Lacrosse Championship

In ALL Rounds (except neutral-site Finals), the higher seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team in a neutral-site Final).

2026-2027 GHSA Division 1 Girls State Lacrosse Championship

In ALL Rounds (except neutral-site Finals), the higher seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team in a neutral-site Final).

2026-2027 GHSA Division 2 Girls State Lacrosse Championship

In ALL Rounds (except neutral-site Finals), the higher seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team in a neutral-site Final).

2026-2027 GHSA Division 3 Girls State Lacrosse Championship

In ALL Rounds (except neutral-site Finals), the higher seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team in a neutral-site Final).

2026-2027 GHSA State Riflery Playoffs

Area 9 - Team 6
Area 1 - Team 1
Area 6 - Team 5
Area 3 - Team 2
Area 5 - Team 4
Area 4 - Team 3
Area 8 - Team 6
Area 10 - Team 1
Area 2 - Team 5
Area 7 - Team 2
Area 1 - Team 4
Area 9 - Team 3
Area 3 - Team 4
Area 6 - Team 3
Area 10 - Team 6
Area 8 - Team 1

Area 7 - Team 6
Area 2 - Team 1
Area 9 - Team 4
Area 1 - Team 3
Area 6 - Team 4
Area 3 - Team 3
Area 5 - Team 1
Area 4 - Team 6
Area 10 - Team 5
Area 8 - Team 2
Area 2 - Team 4
Area 7 - Team 3
Area 1 - Team 5
Area 9 - Team 2
Area 5 - Team 6
Area 4 - Team 1

State Championship
March 20, 2027

Sectionals - Feb 25	Semifinals - March 4	Semifinals - March 4	Sectionals - Feb 25

Area 8 - Team 5
Area 10 - Team 2
Area 7 - Team 4
Area 2 - Team 3
Area 9 - Team 5
Area 1 - Team 2
Area 6 - Team 6
Area 3 - Team 1
Area 4 - Team 5
Area 5 - Team 2
Area 10 - Team 4
Area 8 - Team 3
Area 2 - Team 6
Area 7 - Team 1
Area 3 - Team 5
Area 6 - Team 2

Area 4 - Team 2
Area 5 - Team 5
Area 8 - Team 4
Area 10 - Team 3
Area 7 - Team 5
Area 2 - Team 2
Area 1 - Team 6
Area 9 - Team 1
Area 3 - Team 6
Area 6 - Team 1
Area 4 - Team 4
Area 5 - Team 3

1st Highest Losing Semifinalist

2nd Highest Losing Semifinalist

The higher seeded team will host. If teams in the Semifinals are equal seeds, the highest Sectional score will host.

2026-2027 GHSA Class A Boys State Soccer Championship

In ALL Rounds (except neutral-site Finals), the higher seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team in a neutral-site Final).
In the Finals, the team on the bottom of the official GHSA bracket will be the designated â€œhomeâ€• team for purposes of uniform requirements only. Regardless of prior seeding, the team on the bottom of the bracket shall wear dark jerseys and socks for the game.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AA Boys State Soccer Championship

In ALL Rounds (except neutral-site Finals), the higher seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team in a neutral-site Final).
In the Finals, the team on the bottom of the official GHSA bracket will be the designated â€œhomeâ€• team for purposes of uniform requirements only. Regardless of prior seeding, the team on the bottom of the bracket shall wear dark jerseys and socks for the game.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAA Boys State Soccer Championship

In ALL Rounds (except neutral-site Finals), the higher seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team in a neutral-site Final).
In the Finals, the team on the bottom of the official GHSA bracket will be the designated â€œhomeâ€• team for purposes of uniform requirements only. Regardless of prior seeding, the team on the bottom of the bracket shall wear dark jerseys and socks for the game.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAA Boys State Soccer Championship

In ALL Rounds (except neutral-site Finals), the higher seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team in a neutral-site Final).
In the Finals, the team on the bottom of the official GHSA bracket will be the designated â€œhomeâ€• team for purposes of uniform requirements only. Regardless of prior seeding, the team on the bottom of the bracket shall wear dark jerseys and socks for the game.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAA Boys State Soccer Championship

In ALL Rounds (except neutral-site Finals), the higher seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team in a neutral-site Final).
In the Finals, the team on the bottom of the official GHSA bracket will be the designated â€œhomeâ€• team for purposes of uniform requirements only. Regardless of prior seeding, the team on the bottom of the bracket shall wear dark jerseys and socks for the game.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAAA Boys State Soccer Championship

In ALL Rounds (except neutral-site Finals), the higher seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team in a neutral-site Final).
In the Finals, the team on the bottom of the official GHSA bracket will be the designated â€œhomeâ€• team for purposes of uniform requirements only. Regardless of prior seeding, the team on the bottom of the bracket shall wear dark jerseys and socks for the game.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAAAA Boys State Soccer Championship

In ALL Rounds (except neutral-site Finals), the higher seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team in a neutral-site Final).
In the Finals, the team on the bottom of the official GHSA bracket will be the designated â€œhomeâ€• team for purposes of uniform requirements only. Regardless of prior seeding, the team on the bottom of the bracket shall wear dark jerseys and socks for the game.

2026-2027 GHSA Private Boys State Soccer Championship

In ALL Rounds (except neutral-site Finals), the higher seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team in a neutral-site Final).
In the Finals, the team on the bottom of the official GHSA bracket will be the designated â€œhomeâ€• team for purposes of uniform requirements only. Regardless of prior seeding, the team on the bottom of the bracket shall wear dark jerseys and socks for the game.

2026-2027 GHSA Class A Girls State Soccer Championship

In ALL Rounds (except neutral-site Finals), the higher seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team in a neutral-site Final).
In the Finals, the team on the bottom of the official GHSA bracket will be the designated â€œhomeâ€• team for purposes of uniform requirements only. Regardless of prior seeding, the team on the bottom of the bracket shall wear dark jerseys and socks for the game.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AA Girls State Soccer Championship

In ALL Rounds (except neutral-site Finals), the higher seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team in a neutral-site Final).
In the Finals, the team on the bottom of the official GHSA bracket will be the designated â€œhomeâ€• team for purposes of uniform requirements only. Regardless of prior seeding, the team on the bottom of the bracket shall wear dark jerseys and socks for the game.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAA Girls State Soccer Championship

In ALL Rounds (except neutral-site Finals), the higher seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team in a neutral-site Final).
In the Finals, the team on the bottom of the official GHSA bracket will be the designated â€œhomeâ€• team for purposes of uniform requirements only. Regardless of prior seeding, the team on the bottom of the bracket shall wear dark jerseys and socks for the game.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAA Girls State Soccer Championship

In ALL Rounds (except neutral-site Finals), the higher seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team in a neutral-site Final).
In the Finals, the team on the bottom of the official GHSA bracket will be the designated â€œhomeâ€• team for purposes of uniform requirements only. Regardless of prior seeding, the team on the bottom of the bracket shall wear dark jerseys and socks for the game.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAA Girls State Soccer Championship

In ALL Rounds (except neutral-site Finals), the higher seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team in a neutral-site Final).
In the Finals, the team on the bottom of the official GHSA bracket will be the designated â€œhomeâ€• team for purposes of uniform requirements only. Regardless of prior seeding, the team on the bottom of the bracket shall wear dark jerseys and socks for the game.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAAA Girls State Soccer Championship

In ALL Rounds (except neutral-site Finals), the higher seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team in a neutral-site Final).
In the Finals, the team on the bottom of the official GHSA bracket will be the designated â€œhomeâ€• team for purposes of uniform requirements only. Regardless of prior seeding, the team on the bottom of the bracket shall wear dark jerseys and socks for the game.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAAAA Girls State Soccer Championship

In ALL Rounds (except neutral-site Finals), the higher seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team in a neutral-site Final).
In the Finals, the team on the bottom of the official GHSA bracket will be the designated â€œhomeâ€• team for purposes of uniform requirements only. Regardless of prior seeding, the team on the bottom of the bracket shall wear dark jerseys and socks for the game.

2026-2027 GHSA Private Girls State Soccer Championship

In ALL Rounds (except neutral-site Finals), the higher seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team in a neutral-site Final).
In the Finals, the team on the bottom of the official GHSA bracket will be the designated â€œhomeâ€• team for purposes of uniform requirements only. Regardless of prior seeding, the team on the bottom of the bracket shall wear dark jerseys and socks for the game.

2026-2027 GHSA Class A State Fast Pitch Softball Playoffs

Team 32
Team 1
Position A
Team 17
Team 16

Team 24
Team 9
Position B
Team 25
Team 8

STATE TOURNAMENT
Oct. 28 - 31
Columbus

Team 30
Team 3
Position E
Team 19
Team 14

Team 22
Team 11
Position F
Team 27
Team 6

Oct. 12-13 | Oct. 19-20 | Oct. 19-20 | Oct. 12-13

Team 28
Team 5
Position C
Team 21
Team 12

Team 20
Team 13
Position D
Team 29
Team 4

Team 26
Team 7
Position G
Team 23
Team 10

Team 18
Team 15
Position H
Team 31
Team 2

FIRST & SECOND ROUND INFORMATION: Higher-seeded team will host best-of-three format.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AA State Fast Pitch Softball Playoffs

Team 32
Team 1
Position A
Team 17
Team 16

Team 24
Team 9
Position B
Team 25
Team 8

STATE TOURNAMENT
Oct. 28 - 31
Columbus

Team 30
Team 3
Position E
Team 19
Team 14

Team 22
Team 11
Position F
Team 27
Team 6

Oct. 12-13 | Oct. 19-20 | Oct. 19-20 | Oct. 12-13

Team 28
Team 5
Position C
Team 21
Team 12

Team 20
Team 13
Position D
Team 29
Team 4

Team 26
Team 7
Position G
Team 23
Team 10

Team 18
Team 15
Position H
Team 31
Team 2

FIRST & SECOND ROUND INFORMATION: Higher-seeded team will host best-of-three format.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAA State Fast Pitch Softball Playoffs

Team 32
Team 1
Position A
Team 17
Team 16

Team 24
Team 9
Position B
Team 25
Team 8

Team 30
Team 3
Position E
Team 19
Team 14

Team 22
Team 11
Position F
Team 27
Team 6

STATE TOURNAMENT
Oct. 28 - 31
Columbus

Oct. 12-13 | Oct. 19-20 | Oct. 19-20 | Oct. 12-13

Team 28
Team 5
Position C
Team 21
Team 12

Team 20
Team 13
Position D
Team 29
Team 4

Team 26
Team 7
Position G
Team 23
Team 10

Team 18
Team 15
Position H
Team 31
Team 2

FIRST & SECOND ROUND INFORMATION: Higher-seeded team will host best-of-three format.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAA State Fast Pitch Softball Playoffs

STATE TOURNAMENT
Oct. 28 - 31
Columbus

Oct. 14-15	Oct. 21-22			Oct. 21-22	Oct. 14-15
Team 32					Team 30
Team 1		Position A		Position E	Team 3
Team 17					Team 19
Team 16					Team 14
Team 24					Team 22
Team 9		Position B		Position F	Team 11
Team 25					Team 27
Team 8					Team 6
Team 28					Team 26
Team 5		Position C		Position G	Team 7
Team 21					Team 23
Team 12					Team 10
Team 20					Team 18
Team 13		Position D		Position H	Team 15
Team 29					Team 31
Team 4					Team 2

FIRST & SECOND ROUND INFORMATION: Higher-seeded team will host best-of-three format.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAA State Fast Pitch Softball Playoffs

Team 32
Team 1
Position A
Team 17
Team 16

Team 24
Team 9
Position B
Team 25
Team 8

Oct. 14-15 Oct. 21-22

STATE TOURNAMENT
Oct. 28 - 31
Columbus

Team 30
Team 3
Position E
Team 19
Team 14

Team 22
Team 11
Position F
Team 27
Team 6

Oct. 21-22 Oct. 14-15

Team 28
Team 5
Position C
Team 21
Team 12

Team 20
Team 13
Position D
Team 29
Team 4

Team 26
Team 7
Position G
Team 23
Team 10

Team 18
Team 15
Position H
Team 31
Team 2

FIRST & SECOND ROUND INFORMATION: Higher-seeded team will host best-of-three format.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAAA State Fast Pitch Softball Playoffs

Team 32
Team 1
Position A
Team 17
Team 16

Team 24
Team 9
Position B
Team 25
Team 8

Oct. 14-15 Oct. 21-22

STATE TOURNAMENT
Oct. 28 - 31
Columbus

Team 30
Team 3
Position E
Team 19
Team 14

Team 22
Team 11
Position F
Team 27
Team 6

Oct. 21-22 Oct. 14-15

Team 28
Team 5
Position C
Team 21
Team 12

Team 20
Team 13
Position D
Team 29
Team 4

Team 26
Team 7
Position G
Team 23
Team 10

Team 18
Team 15
Position H
Team 31
Team 2

FIRST & SECOND ROUND INFORMATION: Higher-seeded team will host best-of-three format.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAAAA State Fast Pitch Softball Playoffs

FIRST & SECOND ROUND INFORMATION: Higher-seeded team will host best-of-three format.

2026-2027 GHSA Private State Fast Pitch Softball Playoffs

STATE TOURNAMENT
Oct. 28 - 31
Columbus

Team 32
Team 1
Position A
Team 17
Team 16

Team 24
Team 9
Position B
Team 25
Team 8

Team 30
Team 3
Position E
Team 19
Team 14

Team 22
Team 11
Position F
Team 27
Team 6

Oct. 12-13 | Oct. 19-20 | Oct. 19-20 | Oct. 12-13

Team 28
Team 5
Position C
Team 21
Team 12

Team 20
Team 13
Position D
Team 29
Team 4

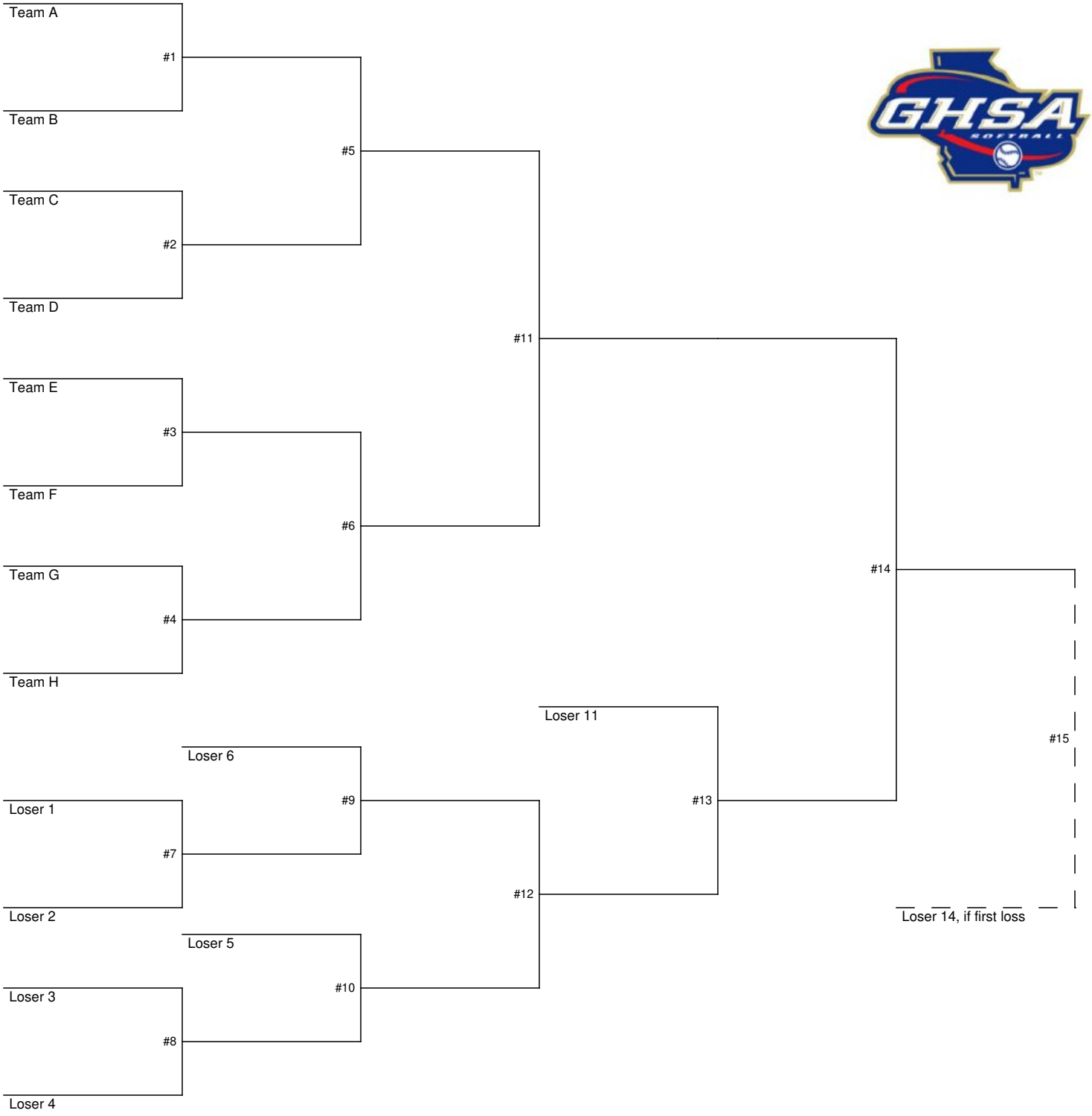
Team 26
Team 7
Position G
Team 23
Team 10

Team 18
Team 15
Position H
Team 31
Team 2

FIRST & SECOND ROUND INFORMATION: Higher-seeded team will host best-of-three format.

2026-2027 GHSA Class A State Fast Pitch Softball Tournament

Columbus Softball Complex, Oct. 28 -31, 2026

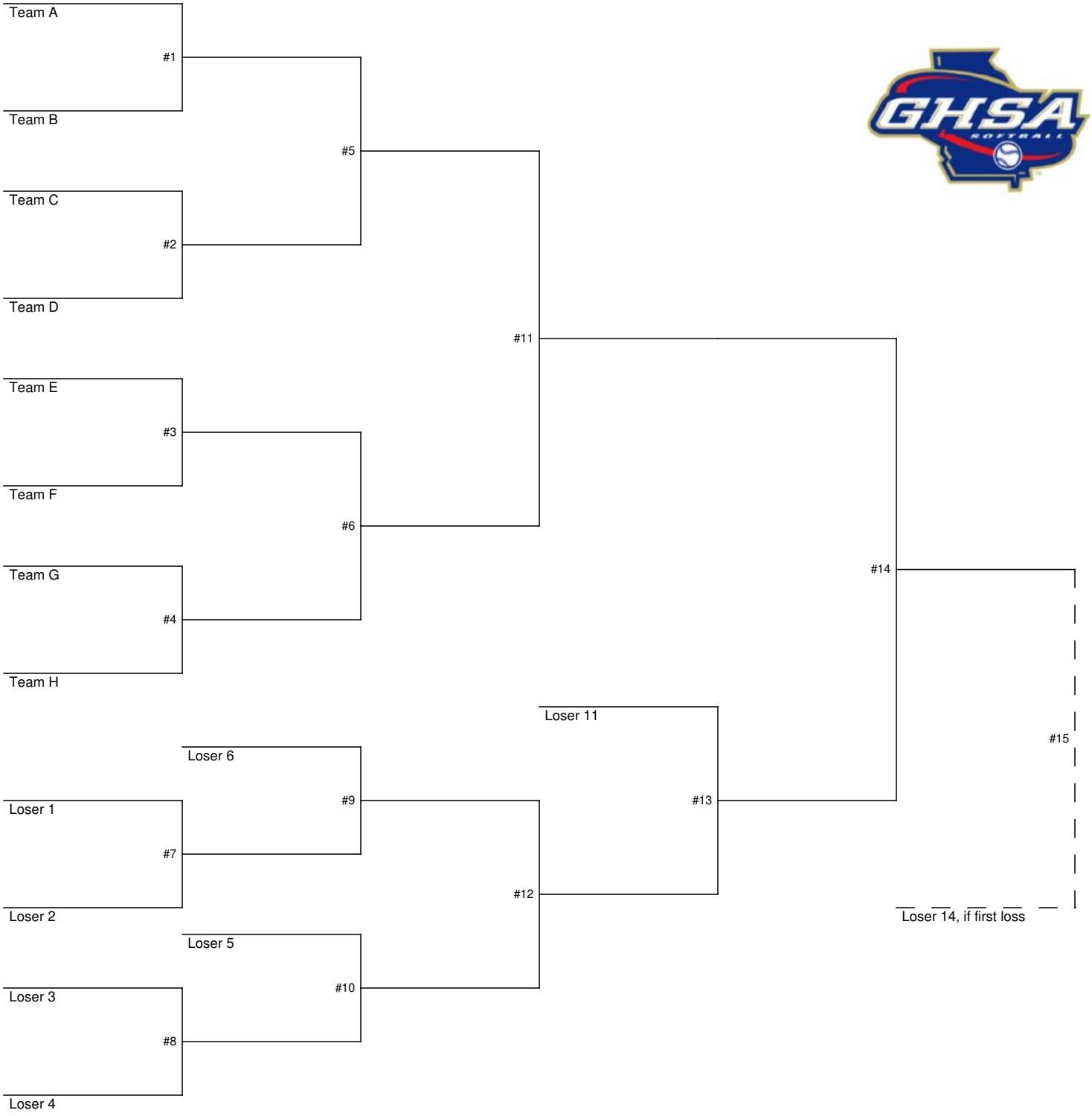


Champion

Runner-Up

2026-2027 GHSA Class AA State Fast Pitch Softball Tournament

Columbus Softball Complex, Oct. 28 -31, 2026

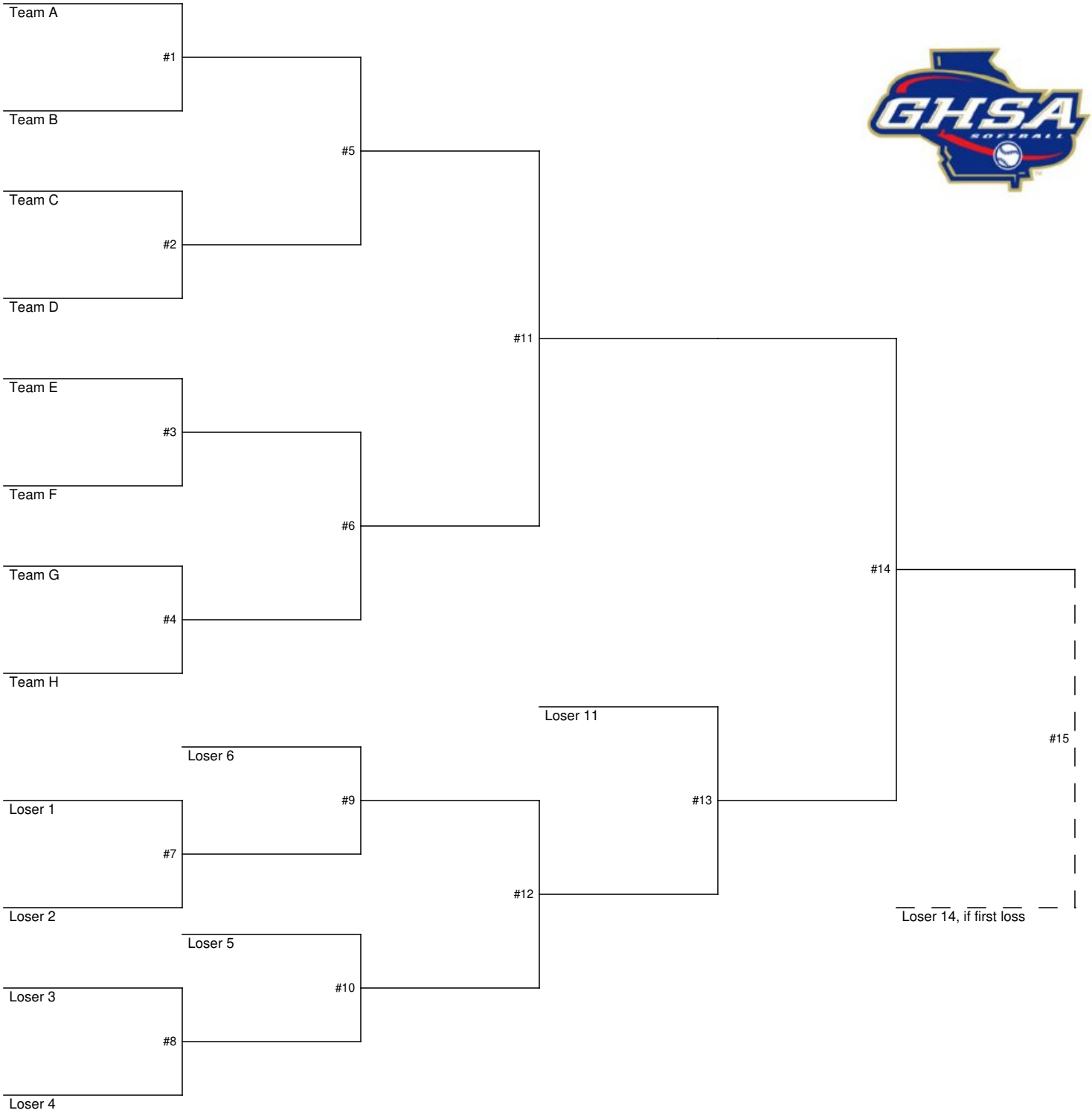


Champion

Runner-Up

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAA State Fast Pitch Softball Tournament

Columbus Softball Complex, Oct. 28 -31, 2026

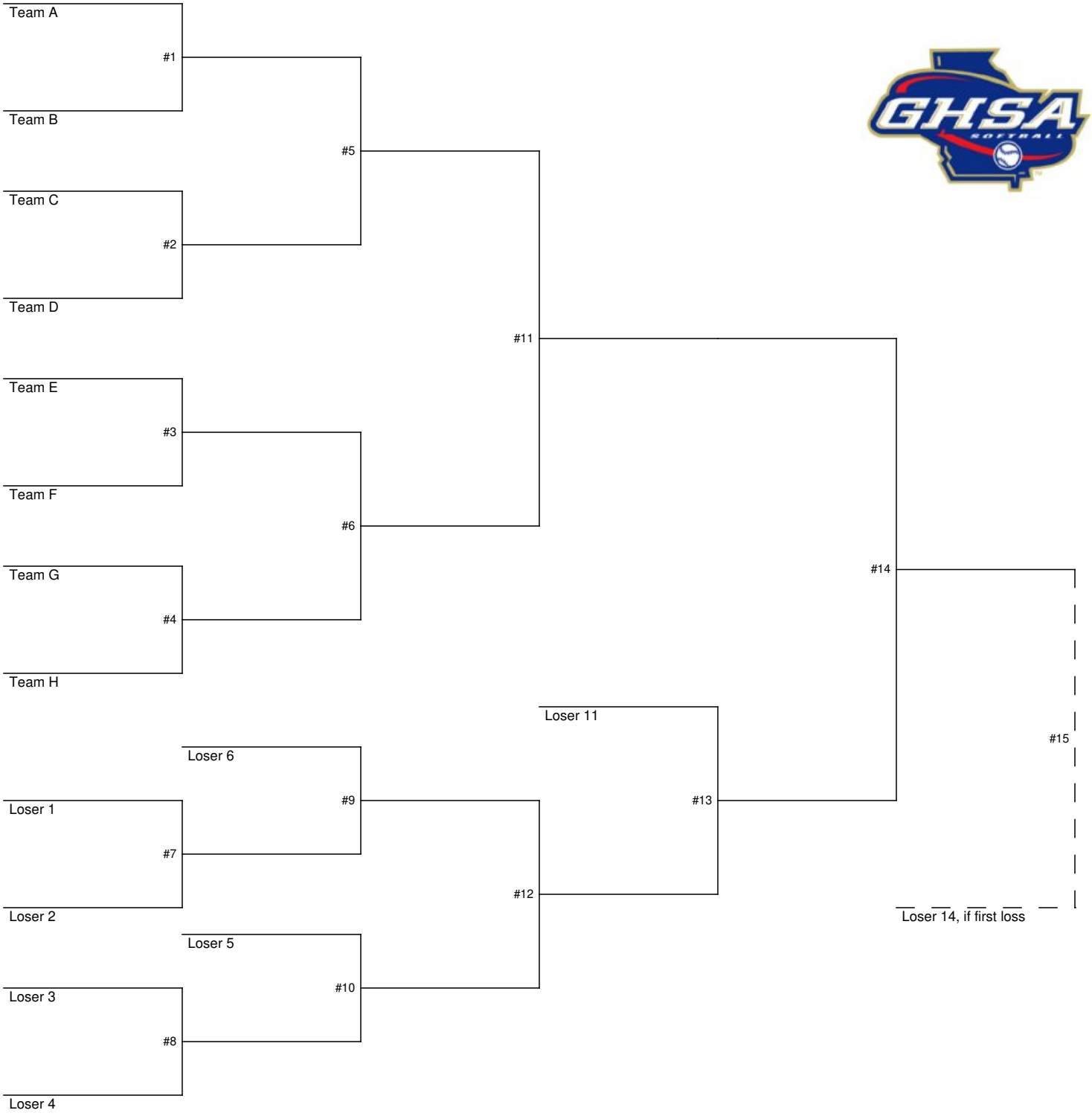


Champion

Runner-Up

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAA State Fast Pitch Softball Tournament

Columbus Softball Complex, Oct. 28 -31, 2026

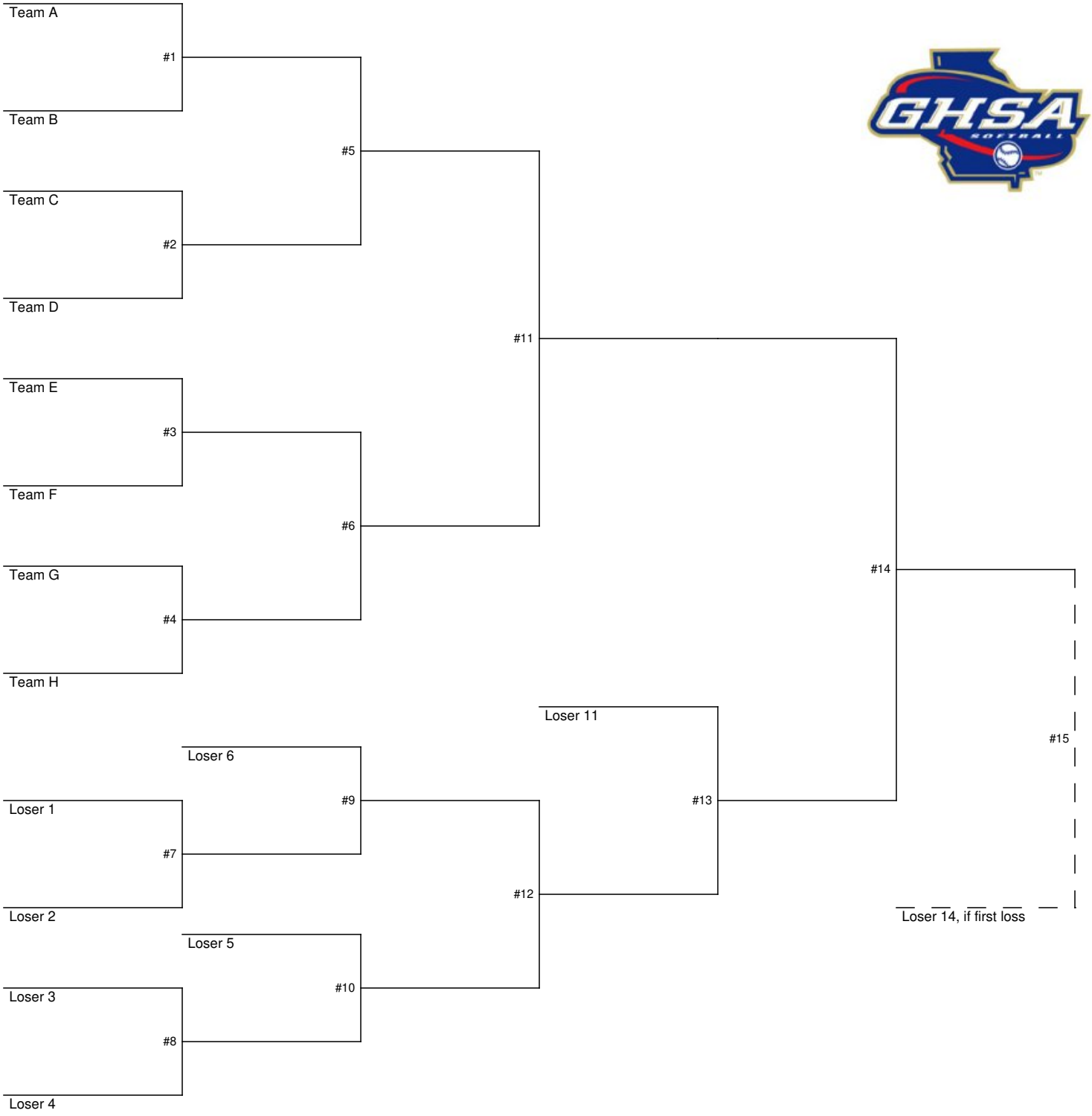


Champion

Runner-Up

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAA State Fast Pitch Softball Tournament

Columbus Softball Complex, Oct. 28 -31, 2026

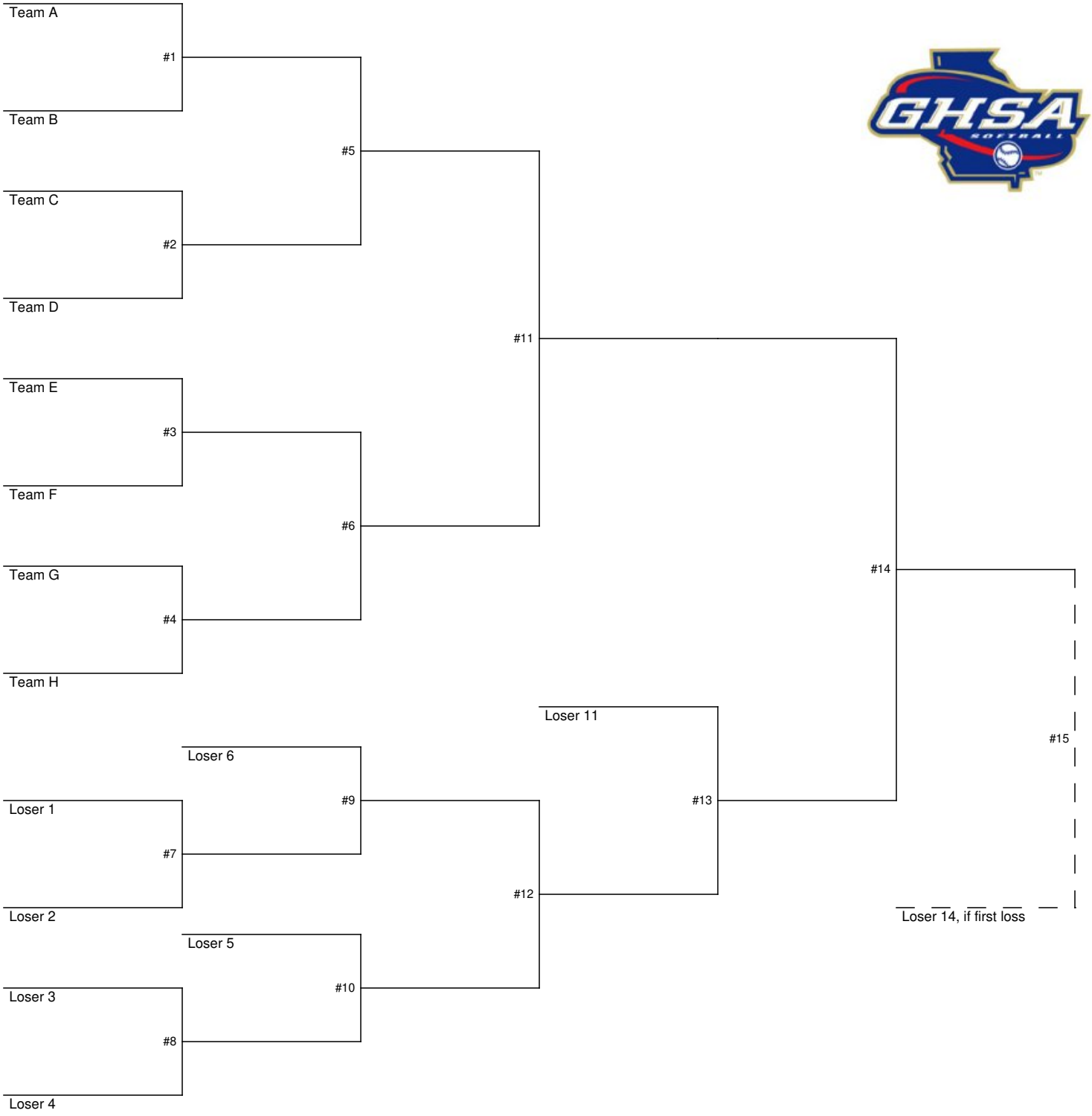


Champion

Runner-Up

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAAA State Fast Pitch Softball Tournament

Columbus Softball Complex, Oct. 28 -31, 2026

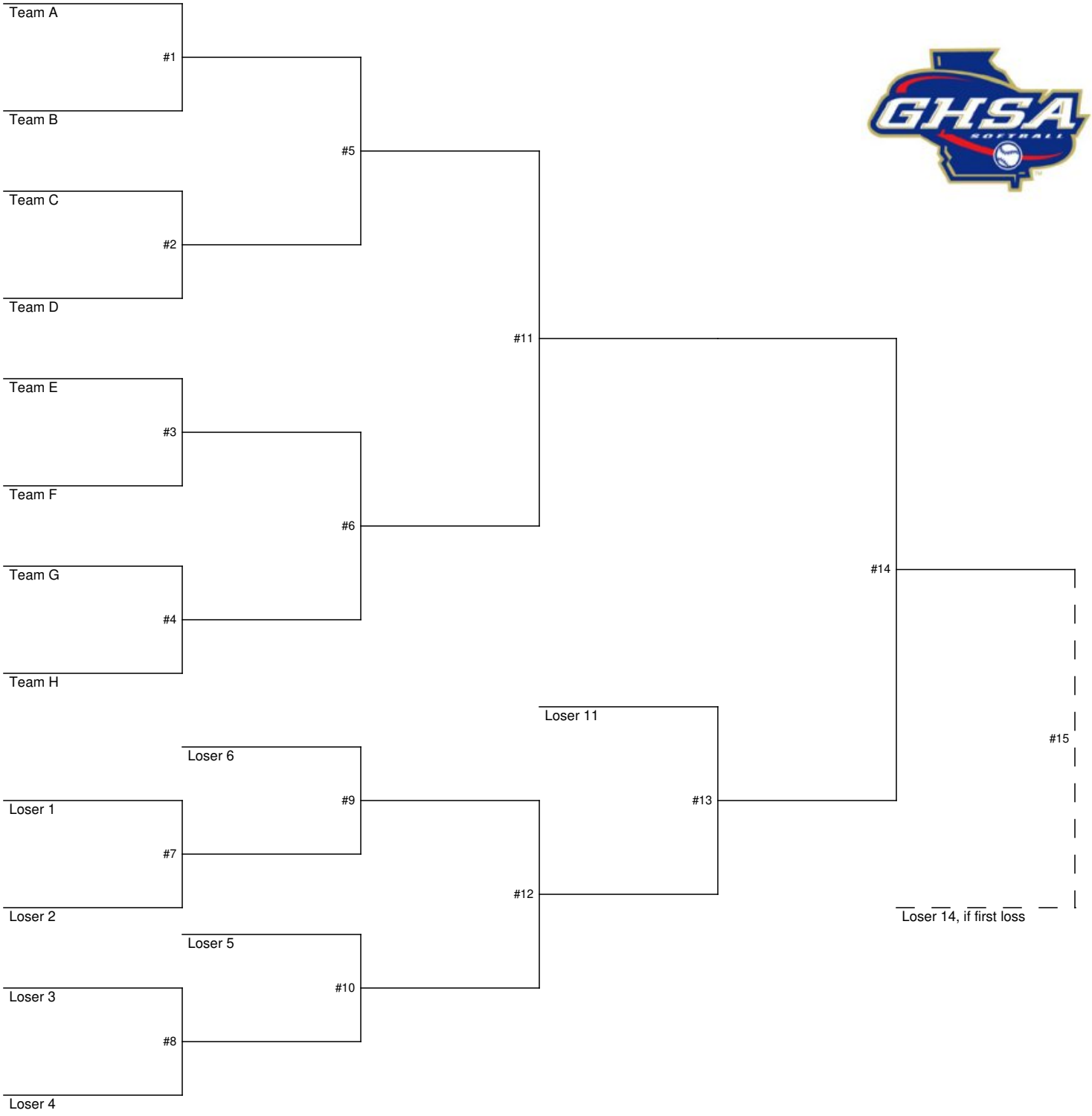


Champion

Runner-Up

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAAAA State Fast Pitch Softball Tournament

Columbus Softball Complex, Oct. 28 -31, 2026

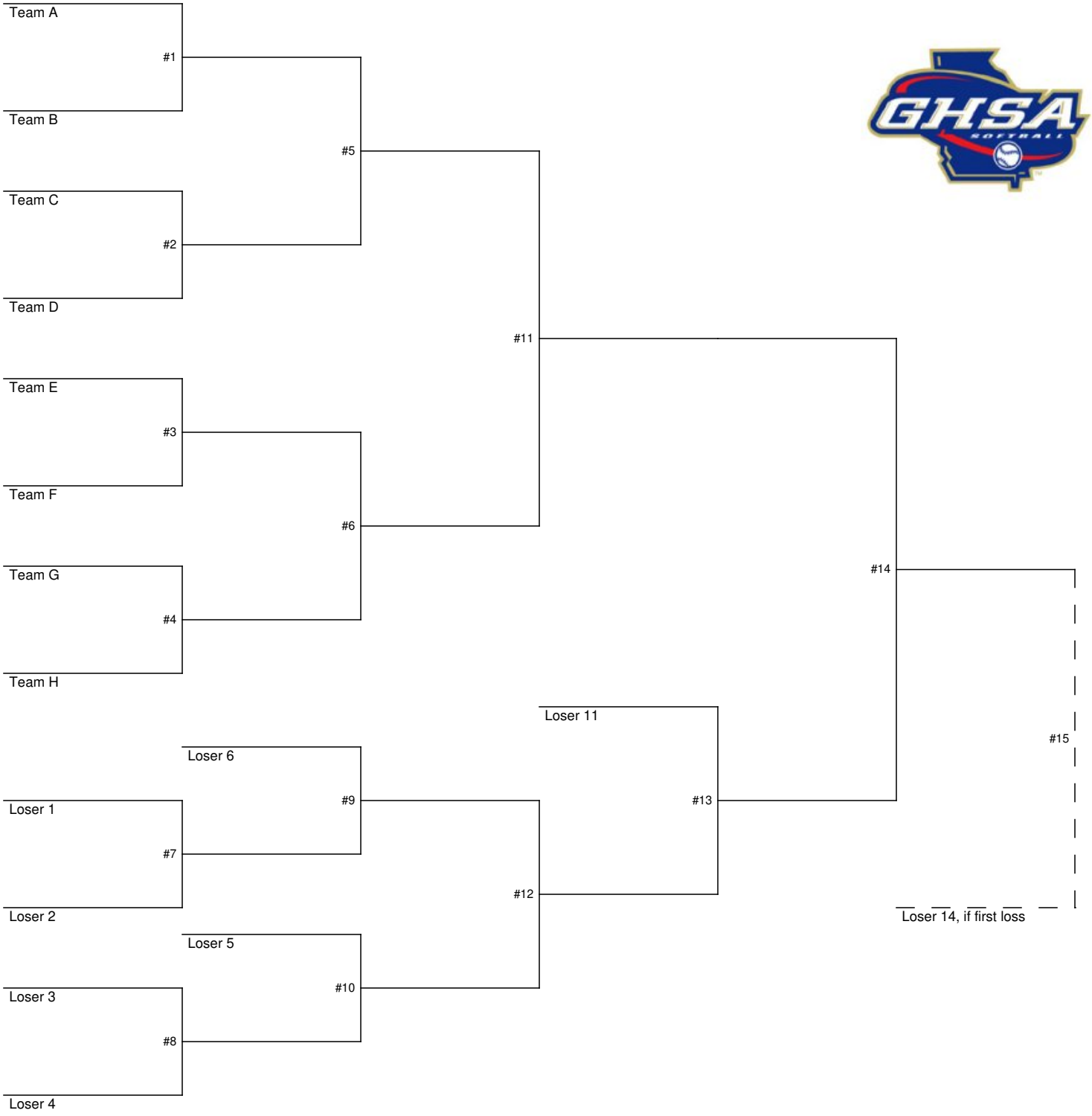


Champion

Runner-Up

2026-2027 GHSA Private State Fast Pitch Softball Tournament

Columbus Softball Complex, Oct. 28 -31, 2026



Champion

Runner-Up

2026-2027 GHSA Class A Boys State Tennis Championship

In the first three rounds, the higher-seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AA Boys State Tennis Championship

In the first three rounds, the higher-seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAA Boys State Tennis Championship

In the first three rounds, the higher-seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAA Boys State Tennis Championship

In the first three rounds, the higher-seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAA Boys State Tennis Championship

In the first three rounds, the higher-seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAAA Boys State Tennis Championship

In the first three rounds, the higher-seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAAAA Boys State Tennis Championship

In the first three rounds, the higher-seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school.

2026-2027 GHSA Private Boys State Tennis Championship

In the first three rounds, the higher-seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school.

2026-2027 GHSA Class A Girls State Tennis Championship

In the first three rounds, the higher-seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AA Girls State Tennis Championship

In the first three rounds, the higher-seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAA Girls State Tennis Championship

In the first three rounds, the higher-seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAA Girls State Tennis Championship

In the first three rounds, the higher-seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAA Girls State Tennis Championship

In the first three rounds, the higher-seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAAA Girls State Tennis Championship

In the first three rounds, the higher-seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school.

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAAAA Girls State Tennis Championship

In the first three rounds, the higher-seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school.

2026-2027 GHSA Private Girls State Tennis Championship

In the first three rounds, the higher-seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school.

2026-2027 GHSA Class A/AA State Volleyball Championship

In all rounds (except neutral-site Semifinals and Finals), the higher seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team in a neutral-site Final).

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAA State Volleyball Championship

In all rounds (except neutral-site Semifinals and Finals), the higher seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team in a neutral-site Final).

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAA State Volleyball Championship

In all rounds (except neutral-site Semifinals and Finals), the higher seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team in a neutral-site Final).

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAA State Volleyball Championship

In all rounds (except neutral-site Semifinals and Finals), the higher seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team in a neutral-site Final).

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAAA State Volleyball Championship

In all rounds (except neutral-site Semifinals and Finals), the higher seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team in a neutral-site Final).

2026-2027 GHSA Class AAAAAAA State Volleyball Championship

In all rounds (except neutral-site Semifinals and Finals), the higher seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team in a neutral-site Final).

2026-2027 GHSA Private State Volleyball Championship

In all rounds (except neutral-site Semifinals and Finals), the higher seeded team will host. If both teams are the same seed, a "universal" GHSA coin flip will determine the host school (or the designated home team in a neutral-site Final).

APPENDIX ‘C’

GHSA STATE OFFICERS 2026-27

President	**Jim Finch, Monroe County Schools, Forsyth**
Vice President	**Curt Miller, Oconee County High School, Watkinsville**
Executive Director	**Tim Scott, GHSA Office, Thomaston**

Region	Region Secretaries
1-AAAAAAA	Josh Akers, Lowndes High School, Valdosta
2-AAAAAAA	Elizabeth Sanders, Carrollton High, Carrollton
3-AAAAAAA	Jonathan Brown, Hillgrove High School, Powder Springs
4-AAAAAAA	Dr. Sam Nichols, Archer High School, Lawrenceville
5-AAAAAAA	Jeremy Adams, Cherokee High School, Canton
6-AAAAAAA	Byron Orr, Forsyth County Schools, Cumming
7-AAAAAAA	Mike Cammack, Norcross High School, Norcross
8-AAAAAAA	Travis Techo, Mill Creek High School, Hoschton
1-AAAAAA	Jake Darling, Effingham County High School, Springfield
2-AAAAAA	Jody Dean, Houston County School System, Perry
3-AAAAAA	Jason Carrera, Mcintosh High School, Peachtree City
4-AAAAAA	P. Blair Barksdale, Midtown High School, Atlanta
5-AAAAAA	Don Corr
6-AAAAAA	Tonya Sebring, Ball Ground
7-AAAAAA	Ben Sutter, Roswell High School, Roswell
8-AAAAAA	Jeff Segars, Loganville High School, Loganville
1-AAAAA	Justin Mcdonald, Wayne County High School, Jesup
2-AAAAA	Beau Edwards, Henry County Schools, Mcdonough
3-AAAAA	Bill Stikes, Griffin-spalding County Schools, Griffin
4-AAAAA	Dwayne Davis, Mundy's Mill High School, Jonesboro
5-AAAAA	Reginald Curry, Jackson High School, Atlanta, Atlanta
6-AAAAA	Douglas Trey Henson, Centennial High School, Roswell
7-AAAAA	John Howard, Woodland High School, Cartersville
8-AAAAA	Nathan Turner, Forsyth County School System, Cumming
1-AAAA	Rex Wade, Iii, Bainbridge High School, Bainbridge
2-AAAA	Bill Stikes, Griffin-spalding County Schools, Griffin
3-AAAA	Jeff Clayton, West Laurens High School, Dexter
4-AAAA	Michelle Ahmad, Luella High School, Locust Grove
5-AAAA	Alana Allen, Douglass High School, Atlanta
6-AAAA	Sam Borg, North Hall High School, Gainesville
7-AAAA	Billy Roper, Adairsville High School, Adairsville
8-AAAA	Randy Gambrell, Jefferson High School, Jefferson

1-AAA	Craig Fitts, Hamilton
2-AAA	Eric Woods, Callaway High School, Hogansville
3-AAA	Robbie Spires, Pierce County High School, Blackshear
4-AAA	Wade Marchman, Burke County High School, Waynesboro
5-AAA	Tony Watkins, Holy Innocents', Atlanta
6-AAA	Wendy Golston, Carver High School, Atlanta
7-AAA	Meredith Barnhill, Paulding County School District, Acworth
8-AAA	Cecil Marett, Hart County High School, Hartwell
1-AA	Jarrett Luke, Berrien High School, Nashville
2-AA	Jeff Clayton, East Laurens High School, East Dublin
3-AA	Emma Sharp, Woodville-tompkins High School, Savannah
4-AA	Adam Kowalczyk, Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School, Augusta
5-AA	Naomi Thompson, Southwest Atlanta Christian Academy, Atlanta
6-AA	Shane Lasseter, Heard County High School, Franklin
7-AA	Nic Hann, Gordon Lee High School, Chickamauga
8-AA	Randy Gambrell, Jefferson High School, Jefferson
9-AA	Andrew Tulowitzky, The Walker School, Marietta
1-A	John Pinson, Baconton Charter School, Baconton
2-A	Scott Ray, Lanier County High School, Lakeland
3-A	Justin Chester, Portal High School, Portal
4-A	David Coffey, Hawkinsville High School, Hawkinsville
5-A	Mandy Elder, Georgia Military College, Milledgeville
6-A	Gabe Theiss, Schley County High School, Ellaville
7-A	Tiffiny Pippins, Elite Scholars Academy, Jonesboro
8-A	Chris Ingle, Lake Oconee Academy, Greensboro

State Executive Committee 2026-27

Region	Committee Member
1-AAAAAAA	Cleveland Edwards, Colquitt County High School, Norman Park
2-AAAAAAA	Lee Heaberlin, East Coweta High School, Sharpsburg
3-AAAAAAA	Don Baker, Cobb County Schools, Marietta
4-AAAAAAA	Jason Holcombe, Gwinnett County Public Schools, Suwanee
5-AAAAAAA	Andy Dorsey, Paulding County High School, Dallas
6-AAAAAAA	Nathan Turner, Forsyth County School System, Cumming
7-AAAAAAA	Jason Dopson, Brookwood High School, Snellville
8-AAAAAAA	Daniel Garrett, Dacula High School, Dacula
1-AAAAAA	Steve Waters, Glynn County Schools, Brunswick
2-AAAAAA	Jason Brett, Houston County High School, Warner Robins
3-AAAAAA	Jason Carrera, Mcintosh High School, Peachtree City
4-AAAAAA	Paris Burd, Dekalb County School District, Stone Mountain
5-AAAAAA	Jeff Wallace, Hiram High School, Hiram
6-AAAAAA	Peter Giles, Kell High School, Marietta
7-AAAAAA	Lamarr Glenn, Fulton County Schools, Atlanta
8-AAAAAA	Brad Hayes, Jackson County High School, Hoschton
1-AAAAA	Marcus Diggs, Evans High School, Evans
2-AAAAA	Robert Wilson, Henry County Schools, Mcdonough
3-AAAAA	Paul Fitz-simons, Central High School, Carrollton
4-AAAAA	Andre Byrd, Stockbridge High School, Stockbridge
5-AAAAA	Myss Jelks, Dekalb County School District, Stone Mountain
6-AAAAA	Derek Waugh, Marist School, Atlanta
7-AAAAA	Darrell Demastus, Cartersville City Schools, Cartersville
8-AAAAA	Lewis Pulliam, Johnson High School, Gainesville
1-AAAA	Jessica Thomas, Dougherty High School, Albany
2-AAAA	Andrew Calhoun, Troup County School System, Lagrange
3-AAAA	Reggie Wilkes, Long County High School, Ludowici
4-AAAA	Brian Gwyn, Hampton High School, Hampton
5-AAAA	Rendell Jackson, Atlanta Public Schools, Atlanta
6-AAAA	Paul Standard, Gilmer High School, Ellijay
7-AAAA	Hal Lamb, Calhoun High School, Calhoun
8-AAAA	Eli Connell, Monroe Area High School, Monroe
1-AAA	Kendall Mills, Muscogee County School District, Columbus
2-AAA	Kevin Grooms, Bibb County School District, Macon
3-AAA	Jesse Crews, Appling County High School, Baxley
4-AAA	Myron Newton, Butler High School, Augusta
5-AAA	Nyere Coy Brown, Kipp Metro Atlanta Schools, Atlanta
6-AAA	Brian Montgomery, Dekalb County School District, Stone Mountain
7-AAA	Brent Mashburn, Sonoraville High School, Calhoun

8-AAA	Eric Sutulovich, Stephens County High School, Toccoa
1-AA	Jeremy Rayburn, Thomasville High School, Thomasville
2-AA	Von Lassiter, Bleckley County High School, Cochran
3-AA	Ron Duncan, Screven County High School, Sylvania
4-AA	Crystal Langston, Johnson Magnet High School, Augusta
5-AA	Kandice P. Mitchell, Drew Charter School, Atlanta
6-AA	Davis Russell, Bremen High School, Bremen
7-AA	Michael Langston, Gordon Lee High School, Chickamauga
8-AA	Jason Gibson, Banks County High School, Homer
9-AA	David Lowery, Fellowship Christian School, Roswell
1-A	John Pinson, Baconton Charter School, Baconton
2-A	Winston Peterson, Clinch County High School, Homerville
3-A	Adam Robertson, Emanuel County Institute, Twin City
4-A	Eli Dupree, Wheeler County High School, Alamo
5-A	Don Norton, Johnson County High School, Wrightsville
6-A	Harley Calhoun, Schley County High School, Ellaville
7-A	Joshua Moore, Best Academy, Atlanta
8-A	Chris Ingle, Lake Oconee Academy, Greensboro
GHSA President	Dr. Jim Finch, Monroe County Schools, Forsyth
GHSA Vice President	Curt Miller, Oconee County, Watkinsville
GACA	Dr. Craig Davis, Georgia Athletic Coaches Association, Jesup
GADA	Joe Sanfilippo, Sautee Nacoochee
GDOE	Richard Woods, Georgia Department Of Education, Atlanta
GSBA	David Colvard, Georgia School Boards Association, Inc., Lawrenceville
GSSA	Dr. Eric Holland, Georgia School Superintendents Association, Rome
GASSP	Stacy Bennett, Richmond Hill High School, Richmond Hill
At Large	Scarlett Grantham, Parkview High School, Lilburn
At Large	Regina Montgomery, Lithonia
At Large	Kevin Petroski, Athens Academy, Athens
At Large	Ricky Turner, Blessed Trinity, Roswell

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION COMMITTEES 2026-27

Board of Trustees		
(Class 7A) Jason Dopson	(Class 2A) Jeremy Rayburn	(At Large) Ricky Turner
(Class 6A) Steve Waters	(Class A) Harley Calhoun	(President) Jim Finch
(Class 5A) Robert Wilson	(At Large) Regina Montgomery	(Vice Pres.) Curt Miller
(Class 4A) Eli Connell	(At Large) Kevin Petroski	

Baseball Committee	Basketball Committee	Cheerleading/Dance Committee
Jason Brett	Don Baker	Jason Brett
Paris Burd	Andre Byrd	Nyere Brown
Andrew Calhoun	Craig Davis	Rendell Jackson
Cleveland Edwards	Lamarr Glenn	Von Lassiter
Kevin Grooms	Eric Holland	Jeremy Rayburn
Jeremy Rayburn	Adam Robertson	Davis Russell
Adam Robertson	Eric Sutulovich	Nathan Turner
Ricky Turner	Reggie Wilkes	

Eligibility Committee	Football Committee	Flag Football Committee
Jason Carrera	Craig Davis	Paris Burd
David Colvard	Jason Dopson	Andy Dorsey
Jason Dopson	Andy Dorsey	Jason Gibson
Eli Dupree	Brian Gwyn	Scarlett Grantham
Brian Gwyn	Brad Hayes	Myss Jelks
Jason Holcombe	Brian Montgomery	John Pinson
Von Lassiter	Don Norton	Eric Sutulovich
Brent Mashburn	Davis Russell	Jessica Thomas
Winston Peterson	Paul Standard	
Richard Woods		

Golf Committee	Gymnastics Committee	Lacrosse Committee
Jesse Crews	Stacy Bennett	Peter Giles
Darrell Demastus	Rendell Jackson	Brad Hayes
Cleveland Edwards	Curt Miller	Jason Holcombe
David Lowery	Brian Montgomery	Crystal Langston
Steve Waters	Paul Standard	Don Norton
Reggie Wilkes	Nathan Turner	Lewis Pulliam
		Derek Waugh

Literary/One Act Play Committee	Officials Committee	PSR Committee
Jason Brett	Jesse Crews	Eli Connell
Jason Dopson	Darrell Demastus	Marcus Diggs
Chris Ingle	Eric Holland	Daniel Garrett
Myss Jelks	Jessica Thomas	Peter Giles
Kevin Petroski	Nathan Turner	Scarlett Grantham
Jeremy Rayburn	Steve Waters	Kevin Grooms
Reggie Wilkes		Michael Langston
		Winston Peterson
		Jessica Thomas

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION COMMITTEES 2026-2027
(Continued)

Reclassification Committee	Riflery Committee	Soccer Committee
Andrew Calhoun	Harley Calhoun	Don Baker
Harley Calhoun	Brad Hayes	Peter Giles
Eli Connell	Lee Heaberlin	Von Lassiter
Jason Dopson	Hal Lamb	Kendall Mills
Cleveland Edwards	Michael Langston	Don Norton
Jim Finch	Kendall Mills	Lewis Pulliam
Lamarr Glenn		
Scarlett Grantham		
Chris Ingle		
Rendell Jackson		
Curt Miller		
Kandice Mitchell		
Brian Montgomery		
Regina Montgomery		
Myron Newton		
Kevin Petroski		
Davis Russell		
Ricky Turner		
Steve Waters		
Derek Waugh		
Robert Wilson		

Softball Committee	Sportsmanship Committee	Swimming/Diving Committee
Don Baker	Stacy Bennett	Stacy Bennett
Paul Fitz-simons	Nyere Brown	Andre Byrd
Kevin Grooms	David Colvard	Eli Connell
Chris Ingle	Craig Davis	Ron Duncan
Kandice Mitchell	Marcus Diggs	Jim Finch
Jessica Thomas	Eli Dupree	Eric Holland
Jeff Wallace	Jason Gibson	Regina Montgomery
	Von Lassiter	Myron Newton
	Joshua Moore	Joe Sanfilippo
	Joe Sanfilippo	
	Jeff Wallace	

Tennis Committee	Track/Cross Country Committee	Volleyball Committee
Paris Burd	Harley Calhoun	Stacy Bennett
Andre Byrd	Lee Heaberlin	Paul Fitz-simons
Jason Carrera	Chris Ingle	Daniel Garrett
Hal Lamb	Rendell Jackson	Rendell Jackson
David Lowery	Kendall Mills	Crystal Langston
Brent Mashburn	Kandice Mitchell	Brian Montgomery
Joshua Moore	Regina Montgomery	Jeff Wallace
Derek Waugh	Myron Newton	
	Robert Wilson	

Wrestling Committee
Andrew Calhoun
Darrell Demastus
Ron Duncan
Lamarr Glenn
Jason Holcombe
John Pinson
Eric Sutulovich

APPENDIX ‘E’

ELIGIBILITY REPORT INSTRUCTIONS

Items to which specific attention should be directed are:

1. GHSA Eligibility Form A and Form B, instructions, and other eligibility forms are provided to all member schools on the GHSA website.
2. The report submitted to the State Office becomes a permanent record. Care should be taken to have the information fully correct and complete. An error could seriously affect the eligibility of a student and penalize a school.
3. Online submission certifies that all data is correct and accurate.
4. Boys and girls may be listed on the same Form A, and more than one activity may be listed on the same Form A.
5. Once a student has been certified eligible in a given school year, it is not necessary to re-file that student in subsequent activities unless region rules specify differently. The GHSA office maintains that once a student has been reported and declared eligible for the school year, no further report is necessary for that student during the school year UNLESS his/her eligibility has been interrupted. There is no longer any need to submit a Form B for a previously-cleared transfer student. Transfer students are never listed on a Form A.
6. An eligibility report must be filed prior to the calendar date for the first possible practice in any activity. Supplemental filings may be made throughout the season. (EXCEPTION: Eligibility reports for Literary, One-Act Play and Riflery competitions are due twenty (20) calendar days before the first contest.)
7. CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY (Non-Transfer Students) - FORM A
   A. All non-transfer students will be filed online on the GHSA MIS web site.
   B. NAME: List students in alphabetical order by date of entry - ninth grade (9-10-11-12). Give the full name with the last name listed first.
   C. DATE OF BIRTH: Give the month, day, and year of the student's birth. A student whose 19th birthday was prior to May 1 of the preceding school year, is over age and not eligible to participate. You will be assisting the student if you require a birth certificate to be presented to you for verification of age.
   D. DATE STUDENT ENTERED 9th GRADE: Complete the month, day, and year the student took the first 9th grade class at any school. This is not necessarily the date the student first entered your school. A student will not be eligible for participation for more than eight (8) semesters from the date the student entered the ninth grade.
   E. TOTAL UNITS EARNED PREVIOUS SEMESTER: Show the total number of units the student earned the previous semester. In order to be eligible, (beginning with the second semester of 9th grade) the student must have earned at least 2.5 units or their equivalent the semester immediately preceding participation. Place an “E” in the Units Earned column and Total Units Accumulated column for entering ninth grade students.
   F. TOTAL UNITS ACCUMULATED: Show the total number of units the student has accumulated thus far in his high school career. To be eligible, the student must accumulate units that count towards graduation as follows:
      END OF FIRST YEAR: 5 Units
      END OF SECOND YEAR: 11 Units
      END OF THIRD YEAR: 17 Units
      Students who lose eligibility for not meeting the unit requirements at the beginning of the year may regain eligibility during the school year by accumulating the units required at the end of the semester and by passing the required number of subjects the previous semester. REMINDER: Eligibility is lost or regained on the first day of the new semester.
   G. ELIGIBILITY STATUS: This column is for GHSA use only.
8. CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY - TRANSFER STUDENTS - FORM B
   A. TRANSFER STUDENTS: FORM B MUST BE ENTERED ONLINE ON THE GHSA MIS WEB SITE. If a student has transferred to your school during the past twelve (12) months after entering 9th grade (and has not been cleared previously) complete and submit a Form B for that student. If the transfer student has been in your school one full calendar year, do not file a Form B. NOTE: Transfer students who do not meet eligibility guidelines for migrant students are eligible to participate at the sub-varsity level ONLY, provided they meet academic standards.
   B. ACADEMIC DATA: This is the same information that is required for non-transfer students on Form A.
   C. YEARS ATTENDED: List all previous schools the student attended beginning with the 9th grade.
   D. ADDRESS (PRESENT/PREVIOUS): Give full street addresses and DO NOT use post office box numbers.
   E. LIVES WITH/LIVED WITH: Use the full name(s) of the parents, step-parents, guardians, etc. With blended families it is sometimes confusing when complete names are not given.
   F. DATE STUDENT ENROLLED: Be precise as to the date the student entered your school.
   G. EXCEPTIONS: Certain situations allow a student to be eligible without a bona fide change of address. See By-Law 1.60.
      FOR THE CURRENT YEAR (2023-24):

        1. A student whose birth date was prior to May 1, 2004, is over age and is not eligible.
        2. A student who entered 9th grade prior to August of 2020, has exceeded eight (8) semesters and is not eligible.
9. CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY - FORM C
    A. STUDENTS WITH INTERRUPTED ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY: Form C must be entered online. A student gains or loses eligibility on the first day of each semester. If the student is not eligible because he has an “Incomplete” in one or more classes, or if the student is in a Credit Recovery Program at the beginning of second semester, the student has 15 school days to become eligible. That student may not practice or compete in the interim. (see By-Law 1.58). Students who have had their academic progress interrupted need to be filed on a Form C, even if their eligibility form has been submitted previously. Be certain that the relevant portions of this form are filled out completely.
    B. FILING PROCEDURES:
        1. The upper half of the Form C is to be completed just like a Form A. The numbers in the “Units Earned Previous Semester” column and the “Total Units Accumulated” column should reflect the progress made in the 15-schoolday period.
        2. The lower half of the Form C is to be completed according to the particular issue for the student. One portion is completed if the student was making up “Incompletes,” and the other is completed if the student was involved in a “Credit Recovery Program.” If the course work is not made up in the allotted 15-school-day period for the second semester, the student is ineligible for that semester. The Principal still has the option of filing a “Hardship Application” if there are special circumstances that prevented the completion of the coursework in the 15-school-day period.
10. MT (magnet transfer) Forms must be entered online.
11. HS (home study transfer) Forms must be entered online. Directions may be found on the “forms” page under Resources on the GHSA web site.
12. All hardships must be entered online with supporting documents uploaded.

Appendix F - Game Fee Chart for 2026-2028

Sport/Contest	Varsity	Sub-Varsity	State Playoffs
Baseball	Crew of Two: $85.00 Crew of Three: $75.00	$69.00	Rounds 1-3: $140.00 Semifinals & Finals: $155.00
Basketball	Crew of Three: $79.00 Shot Clock: 1/2 game fee	Crew of Two: $64.00	Rounds 1-3: $170.00 Semifinals & Finals: $185.00
Cheer/Dance	$12.50/Judge per performance $10.00/Judge per performance Minimum 12 Teams	Same as Varsity	Pre Finals: $185.00 Finals: $210.00
Tackle Football	Crew of 6: $136.00 Clock/Chain: 1/2 Game Fee	$79.00/Official	Rounds 1-3: $175.00 Semifinals & Finals: $190.00 Clock/Chain: $90.00
Flag Football	$51.00	Same as Varsity	Rounds 1-2: $65.00 Rounds 3-4: $70.00 Finals: $75.00
Gymnastics	$75.00		$95.00
Lacrosse	Crew of Three: $93.00 Crew of Two: $103.00	$79.00/Official	Rounds 1-3: $120.00 Semifinals & Finals - $145.00
Soccer	$93.00/Official	$79.00/Official	Rounds 1-3: $480.00/Crew Semifinals & Finals: $500.00/Crew
Softball	(Fast Pitch) $83.00/Umpire (Slow Pitch) $62.00/Umpire	$58.00/Umpire	(FP) Rounds 1-2: $115.00 (FP) Elite Eight: $125.00 (SP) All Rounds: $80.00
Swimming	$64.00: 22 Events or Less Add $2.75 Per Heat or Diver		Finals: $130.00
Volleyball (per match)	Best of Three: $64.00 Best of Five: $84.00 (Line Judge: 1/2 game fee)	Best of Three: $48.00 Best of Five: $74.00 (Line Judge: 1/2 game fee)	Rounds 1-3: $110.00 Semifinals & Finals: $125.00 (Line Judge: 1/2 game fee)
Wrestling (per match)	Dual Match: $93.00 Tri or Quad Match: $85.00 Individual Match $6.00/Match	Dual Match: $72.00 Individual Match: $5.50/Match	Dual Matches: $95.00 Traditional: $6.50/Match

Regular Season Travel Fees: (1) Official: $30.00 (2) Officials: $40.00 (3) Officials: $50.00 (4+) Add $7.00 per official.

NOTE: Travel fees are based on a “per crew/per competition day” basis. Regular season travel fees for travel of more than 100 miles are doubled. Travel fees may be negotiated for invitational and region tournaments., but are otherwise non-negotiable. Travel Fees for State Tournament contests are a “flat fee” of $25.00 per official per assignment.

APPENDIX ‘N’

GUIDELINES REGARDING NAME, IMAGE AND LIKENESS (NIL)

The GHSA does not specifically prohibit students from engaging in certain commercial activities as individuals. These activities, commonly referred to as name, image and likeness (NIL), will not put a student’s amateur status at risk provided the student meets all the requirements for maintaining amateur status in compliance with GHSA by-law 1.92-c and providing there is no violation of by-laws prohibiting influencing a student to attend or remain at a member school under GHSA by-law 1.70 (Recruiting/Undue
Influence/Following The Coach).

A student-athlete may benefit from the use of their name, image and likeness (NIL) in compliance with
GHSA by-law 1.92-c provided:

- The compensation is not contingent on specific athletic performance or achievement.
- The compensation is not provided as a incentive to enroll or remain enrolled at a specific school.
- The compensation is not provided by the school or any person acting as an agent for the school.

The following guidelines are in effect for NIL activities:

- Intellectual property - No “marks” may be used including, but not limited to, school logos, school name, school uniforms, school mascot, or any trademarked GHSA logo or acronyms.
- No school apparel or equipment shall be worn, which includes school name, school uniforms, school logo, school mascot or any apparel displaying trademarked GHSA logos or acronyms.
- No member school facility may be used for the purpose of name, image and likeness activities.
- No activities in conflict with a member school’s local school district policy may be endorsed. (Examples include, but are not limited to, tobacco products, alcohol products and controlled substances.)
- Students and their families should seek professional guidance as to how NIL activities could impact collegiate financial aid and/or tax implications, among other issues.
- Within seven (7) calendar days after entering into any type of NIL contract/agreement, a student, or the student’s parents/guardians, must notify the Principal or Athletic Director of the student’s school of entering into that agreement.

AMENDMENT TO APPENDIX “N” OF THE GHSA BYLAWS

Appendix N of the GHSA Bylaws is hereby amended as follows:

By adding thereto the following language to the guidelines in effect for NIL activities:

No student-athlete may be a member of nor receive compensation or any other benefit from a Collective or NIL Club. A Collective is defined as any group organized or existing for the purpose of compensating or benefiting an individual student athlete or a group of student athletes of a member school. NIL Clubs are defined as a group of student athletes organized or existing for the purpose of soliciting funds or other benefits from fans, members or other sources, managing or promoting NIL activities of student athletes or otherwise providing funds or other benefits to an individual student athlete or group of student athletes.

Booster Clubs are not considered Collectives or NIL Clubs if such Booster Club is operated under the supervision of a member school and provides monetary or other benefits to school athletic facilities, school athletic equipment, school team meals or other school team benefits rather than to an individual student athlete or group of student athletes.

Student athletes violating this guideline may be subject to loss of eligibility to compete in GHSA activities and any member school which knowingly allows any student athlete to violate these guidelines may be subject to fines, forfeiture of contests, probation and being declared ineligible to compete in post season GHSA contests or activities.

APPENDIX 'P'

GHSA FINES STRUCTURE FOR RULES VIOLATIONS

In accordance with Section 13 of Article IV of the Constitution of the Georgia High School Association, member schools are required to abide by all the rules of the Association.
The Executive Director of the Association is empowered to make a determination as to whether a violation of GHSA rules has occurred, and to assess an appropriate penalty that may include:

1. a fine of not more than $2,500.00 per offense, and/or
2. probation in the sport(s) in which the violation occurred, and/or
3. suspension from the Association for up to a full calendar year, and/or
4. forfeiture of games and/or contests.

Pursuant to such authority, the Georgia High School Association, by and through its Executive Director and with the approval of the GHSA Executive Committee, implements and publishes the following ranges of fines for certain designated offenses. Such fines are in addition to the other penalties set forth above. The amount of such fines and the imposition of other penalties shall be determined by the Executive Director upon consideration of the facts and circumstances of the violation and shall include, but not be limited to, the following factors:

1. Whether the violation was the result of carelessness, willfulness, or ignorance.
2. The length of time the violation continued.
3. Whether the offense was self-reported or resulted from a complaint by another school, and the extent of cooperation by school officials in the investigation of the violation.
4. The number of violations involved.
5. The result of the violation (i.e.:
    a. injury to a person
    b. financial gain of the offending school or financial loss to another school and the amount thereof
    c. damage to the reputation of the GHSA
    d. whether the violation substantially contributed to winning or losing a game or contest
6. Whether the school involved has had similar or other violations within the past three (3) years.
7. Any other factors deemed by the Executive Director to merit a more or less severe fine and/or penalty.

The list of violations set forth in this listing in not all-inclusive, and if a violation of rules occurs which is not listed herein, then the Executive Director shall have the authority to assess penalties that he deems appropriate.

In addition to the listed fines and penalties, the Executive Director may issue a severe warning to a member school which places the school on notice that further violations of GHSA rules will result in increased fines and/or penalties.

ELIGIBILITY VIOLATIONS

VIOLATION	RANGE OF FINES
Allowing a player to participate in a game without having an eligibility form filed with the GHSA [By-law 2.32]	$50.00 - $500.00
Allowing a player to try-out, practice, or compete without having a standardized physical examination form on file at the school. [By-laws 1.41 and 2.21]	$250.00 - $1,000.00
Allowing a "migrant" student to participate in a varsity contest. [By-laws 1.62-1.69]	$200.00 - $500.00
Allowing an ineligible student to try-out, practice, or compete. [By-laws 1.51 - 1.53, 1.56 and 1.58]	$200.00 - $1,000.00
Allowing a student who is not eligible by the age rule or the 8-semester rule to try-out, practice, or participate. [By-law 1.30 and 1.42]	$300.00 - $1,000.00
Violation of the "sit-out rule" following an ejection. [By-law 2.72]	$200.00 - $1,000.00

Violation of the 8th-grade participation rule. [By-law 1.45]	$250.00 - $750.00

SPORTSMANSHIP VIOLATIONS

VIOLATION	RANGE OF FINES
Have a coach or player ejected from a competition. [By-law 2.72]	$250.00 - $500.00
Substitutes leave the bench area to go to the area of a fight during a contest. [By-law 2.71]	$250.00 - $1,000.00
Players, coaches or administrators behave in an unsporting manner before or after a contest. [By-law 2.71(b)&(e) & 2.78]	$250.00 - $1,000.00
Coach or player confronting (or making contact with) official(s) or committing other unsporting acts. [By-law 2.73, 2.77 & 2.78]	$250.00 - $1,000.00
Having players involved in a multi-player fight before, during, or after a game. [By-law 2.71(d)]	$500.00 - $1,000.00
Coach or administrator removing team from a competition outside of what is allowed in playing rules. [By-law 2.71(f)]	$500.00 - $1,000.00
Violation of video taping rules [By-law 2.88]	$500.00 - $1,000.00
Make comments to the media that are critical of officiating [By-law 2.74]	$250.00 - $ 500.00

ADMINISTRATIVE VIOLATIONS

VIOLATION	RANGE OF FINES
Hold an illegal practice (i.e., during school hours, out of season, etc.) or violation of practice safety rules [By-laws 2.61, 2.62. 2.67 and 2.69]	$500.00 - $2,500.00
Participate in an illegal or an unsanctioned competition. [By-laws 2.62, 2.64, 2.66 and 2.91]	$200.00 - $1,000.00
Allow an unauthorized person to coach [By-laws 2.51 and 2.52]	$250.00 - $1,000.00
Failure to follow GHSA procedures and deadlines [By-laws 2.27, 2.31 and 2.53]	$50.00 - $250.00
Failure to keep an appointment for an eligibility appeal [By-law 2.28]	$100.00
Allowing a player to exceed the participation limit for that sport: [By-law 1.44] Football All other sports	 $1,000.00 $200.00 - $1,000.00
Failure to exert reasonable institutional control (with players, coaches, spectators, facilities, etc.) [By-laws 2.22-2.24, 2.26 and 2.71]	$250.00 - $2,500.00
Failure to meet conditions of game contracts and agreements [By-laws 2.29 and 2.63] (NOTE: This could also involve restitution to offended school)	$250.00 - $2,500.00
Failure of coaches to attend GHSA sport rules clinics and for missing deadlines for the rules clinic. Will also revoke the coach's GHSA pass deadline. (Fall deadline August 15th, Winter deadline November 10th, Spring deadline February 9th) When a coach misses a deadline, they have until midnight on the 10th day following the rules clinic to complete the clinic. If the rules clinic is not completed by the deadline, the coach cannot coach that sport and their GHSA pass will remain revoked for the duration of the time until the clinic is completed. If any school is found to be allowing a coach to coach without completing the clinic after the deadline, the school will be issued a lack of institutional control fine per case[By-law 2.54]	$200.00
Allowing a non-student to try out, practice or compete. [By-law 1.21]	$250.00 - $2,000.00

ETHICS VIOLATIONS

VIOLATION	RANGE OF FINES

School personnel/boosters involved in recruiting a student for athletic purposes and/or using undue influence to gain or retain a student. [By-laws 1.71 - 1.73]	$1,000.00 - $2,500.00
Misrepresenting facts on a GHSA document. [By-laws 2.23 and 2.24]	$500.00 - $2,500.00
Misrepresenting facts during a GHSA investigation. [By-laws 2.23 and 2.24]	$500.00 - $2,500.00

MISCELLANEOUS VIOLATIONS

VIOLATION	RANGE OF FINES
Violation of financial aid rules [By-laws 1.81 - 1.83]	$1,000.00 - $2,500.00
Violation of amateur standing rules {By-laws 1.90 - 1.96]	$500.00 - $2,000.00
Region failing to follow GHSA procedures and deadlines [By-laws 3.20 and 3.30]	$100.00 - $500.00

APPENDIX 'PSR'

POST SEASON RANKING FORMULA

1. Core Post Season Ranking Formula

The GHSA Post Season Ranking Formula (PSR) is calculated using three weighted components:

PSR=(WPx0.35)+(OWPx0.35)+(OOWPx0.30)

Where:

- WP = Winning Percentage
- OWP = Opponents' Winning Percentage
- OOWP = Opponents' Opponents' Winning Percentage

2. Winning Percentage (WP)

Formula

WP=Weighted WinsActual Contests Played

Weighted Win Values

Contest Type	Win Value
Home Win	1.0
Away Win	1.0
Neutral Site Win	1.0
Non-GHSA Opponent Win	0.9

Additional Notes

- Maximum non-GHSA wins counted = 20% of scheduled contests
- Any wins beyond the 20% limit become: 0" (No Contest)"

3. Opponents' Winning Percentage (OWP)

Formula

OWP=Opponent WP (excluding games vs team)Number of Opponents

Key Rule

When calculating an opponent's WP:

- Remove all contests played against the team being evaluated.

4. Opponents' Opponents' Winning Percentage (OOWP)

Formula

OOWP=Opponent OWPNumber of Opponents

Key Rule

- The team being evaluated IS included in the opponent's OOWP calculation.

5. Full PSR Example

Assume:

- WP=0.800000
- OWP=0.650000
- OOWP=0.700000

Step 1 — Apply Weighting

WPContribution=0.800000x0.35=0.280000
OWPContribution=0.650000x0.35=0.227500
OOWPContribution=0.700000x0.30=0.210000

Step 2 — Add Components

PSR=(0.280000)+(0.227500)+(0.210000)=0.717500

6. GHSA Tiebreaker Order

If schools finish with identical PSR totals:

1. Head-to-Head Result
2. Highest WP
3. Highest OWP
4. Highest OOWP
5. Coin Toss

7. Region Champion Seeding Principle

Formula Concept

- Region Champions are guaranteed a home playoff game.
- Region Champions are seeded first by PSR order.
- Remaining playoff teams are then seeded strictly by PSR ranking.

8. Example Seeding Logic

Example — 5 Region Champions

Seed Assignment

#1 Region Champion (PSR #1)

#3 Region Champion (PSR #3)

#8 Region Champion (PSR #8)

#9 Region Champion (PSR #9)

#16 Region Champion (PSR #18)

Remaining teams fill all open seeds strictly by PSR ranking order.

9. Minimum Contest Requirements

Sport	Minimum Contests
Football	9
Flag Football	14
Softball	20
Volleyball	30 Matches
Basketball	22
Baseball	20
Lacrosse	14

Sport	Minimum Contests
Soccer	14
Tennis	14

10. Important Operational Rules

Sports using PSR for playoff seeding (baseball, basketball, flag football, football, lacrosse, soccer, softball, tennis, volleyball) must play all games/matches to completion with no ties.

Non-GHSA Contest Limitation

Maximum allowable non-GHSA wins counted:

Maximum Counted Non-GHSA Wins=0.20xScheduled Contests

Forfeit Rule

A forfeited contest:

- counts in the PSR formula
- OR may be replaced by a makeup contest
- schools must choose before the makeup contest is played

11. Important Definitions

Term	Definition
WP	Team success
OWP	Strength of opponents
OOWP	Strength of opponents' schedues
PSR	Combined playoff ranking metrics

12. Strategic Interpretation

The PSR system rewards:

- Winning consistently
- Playing strong GHSA schedules
- Opponents who also win consistently
- Strong regional competition depth

The formula reduces emphasis on:

- classification bonuses
- margin of victory
- subjective ranking systems

OWP Explained:

In the Georgia High School Association Post Season Ranking Formula (PSR), the “OWP excluding games vs. team” rule is designed to prevent a team from artificially helping or hurting its own strength-of-schedule rating.

The GHSA definition states:

“Opponents’ Winning Percentage (OWP) … is calculated by taking the average of the WP’s for each of the team’s opponents with the requirement that all contests against the team in question are removed from the equation.”

Here is what that means in practice.

Basic Concept

OWP measures how strong your schedule was by looking at how well your opponents performed.

But when calculating each opponent's winning percentage, the games they played against YOU are removed.

That avoids circular logic.

Example

Assume Team A played Team B twice.

Team B's full record

- 8-2 overall
- Two losses came against Team A

If GHSA used Team B's full record:

- Team B WP = 8/10 = .800

But that would reward Team A twice:

1. Team A already gets credit for beating Team B
2. Team A would ALSO inflate its OWP because those wins weakened Team B's record

So GHSA removes the games against Team A.

Team B record excluding Team A games

- Remove the two losses to Team A
- Team B becomes 8-0

Now:

- Adjusted WP = 1.000

That adjusted number is what counts in Team A's OWP.

Why GHSA Does This

The exclusion:

- Prevents double-counting
- Makes schedule strength more independent
- Rewards teams for scheduling strong opponents rather than merely beating them

This is similar to the old NCAA RPI methodology used in basketball and baseball.

Full OWP Process

For Team A:

1. Take every opponent on Team A's schedule
2. Compute each opponent's WP
3. Remove games played against Team A from each opponent's record
4. Average all adjusted WPs

Formula conceptually:

OWP=Opponent Adjusted WPNumber of Opponents

Important Detail: Repeat Opponents

In GHSA PSR, opponents are counted per game, not just once.
So if:

- You play Team B twice
- Team C once

Then Team B's adjusted WP is entered twice into the average.

The GHSA example explicitly states:

“Team A has played Team B twice and Team B WP would be counted twice.”

So:

OWP=(Team B adjusted WP)+(Team B adjusted WP)+(Team C adjusted WP)3

Strategic Effect in GHSA PSR

Because OWP is 35% of the formula:

PSRF=(WPx0.35)+(OWPx0.35)+(OOWPx0.30)

scheduling strong opponents matters significantly.

A team can improve playoff seeding by:

- Playing opponents who win a lot of games
- Even if those opponents lose to you

Since your games against them are removed, beating them does not reduce their contribution to your OWP.

That is one reason strong schedules are heavily incentivized under the GHSA PSR model.

For your team:

- **Your WP (Winning Percentage)**

Your actual games count normally.

If you beat an opponent:

- it counts as a win in your WP
- it counts as a loss in their WP

Formula:

WP=Wins(Wins+Losses)

Your OWP (Opponents’ Winning Percentage)

When GHSA evaluates your opponents for strength of schedule, it removes the games they played against YOU.

So:

- your win over them is removed
- your loss to them is removed

Only their games versus everyone else remain.

Example

Your team (Team A)

Record:

- 8-2

Opponent (Team B)

Full record:

- 6-4

One of Team B’s losses was to Team A.

For YOUR WP

You keep the win.

Your WP:

WP=810=0.800

For YOUR OWP

GHSA adjusts Team B's record by removing the game against you.

So Team B becomes:

- 6-3 instead of 6-4

Adjusted Team B WP:

Adjusted WP=69=0.667

That 0.667 is what goes into YOUR OWP calculation — not .600.

Why This Matters

Without the adjustment:

- every time you beat a team,
- you would lower your own schedule strength.

GHSA removes your direct impact so OWP reflects:

- how strong your opponents were against everybody else.

The GHSA Office has built a platform in the MIS system that implements the following requirements:

- Every Class 1A - 7A, each school enters their schedule in the MIS system (Schedule will be locked before 1st game).
  - Each school enters their teams schedule on the MIS platform for all contests; Contests against non GHSA member schools will be calculated using winning percentage only.
  - **All postponed contests should be rescheduled.**
  - Canceled contests will need approval from the GHSA office to reschedule a replacement opponent.
  - Forfeited contests count in a schools formula and the appropriate points should be applied (If a school chooses to accept the forfeited contest points, any additional scheduled game played will not be calculated into the schools formula).
  - However, if a school chooses to not accept the forfeited contest points, the additional makeup contest will be calculated into the schools formula. The school must choose which option to accept before the makeup contest is played.
- All contests against GHSA member schools will be used to calculate the schools PSR regardless of classification. Schools will not earn additional points for playing schools in higher classifications.
- All member schools must enter their scores in the MIS system for the schedule entered in the system (scores will be locked after being submitted).

APPENDIX ‘R’

CLASSIFICATION & ALIGNMENT FOR 2026-2027

(**NOTE:** These are Region Organizations for Football, but all member schools are included.)
NR - Indicates school playing Non-Region football schedule** - Indicates school NOT playing varsity football

Total All Classes 457 Schools, 415 Football

AAAAAAA (52 Schools, 50 Football)

1-AAAAAAA (5 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Camden County	2828	2850
Colquitt County	2552	2572
Lowndes	3059	3153
Richmond Hill	2762	2806
Valdosta	2322	2422

2-AAAAAAA (5 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Carrollton	1875	2307
Douglas County	1950	2454
East Coweta	2932	3020
Northgate	2204	2320
Westlake	1903	2531

3-AAAAAAA (7 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Campbell	3246	4008
Harrison	2184	2464
Hillgrove	2235	2597
Kennesaw Mountain	1623	2481
McEachern	2122	2310
North Atlanta	2393	2575
Pebblebrook	2368	2748

4-AAAAAAA (5 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Archer	2963	3077
Grayson	3743	3937
Newton	2572	2834
Rockdale County	2223	2707
South Gwinnett	2671	2749

5-AAAAAAA (8 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Cherokee	2808	2904
Etowah	2283	2313
Marietta	2449	2639
North Cobb	2415	3075
North Paulding	3022	3114
Paulding County	2048	2380
Walton	2656	2670
Wheeler	2309	3283

6-AAAAAAA (8 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Alliance Academy ** (Projected)	1201	3127
Denmark	2609	3045
Forsyth Central	2447	3095
Innovation Academy **	1439	4317
Lambert	3207	3723
North Forsyth	2284	2428
South Forsyth	2735	3333
West Forsyth	2600	2996

7-AAAAAAA (7 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Berkmar	2776	2800
Brookwood	3802	4098
Duluth	2497	2707
Norcross	2151	2259
North Gwinnett	3053	3137
Parkview	3176	3358
Peachtree Ridge	3034	3112

8-AAAAAAA (7 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Buford	2040	2392
Central Gwinnett	2279	2753
Collins Hill	2485	2555
Dacula	2413	2455
Discovery	2597	2665
Mill Creek	2741	2873
Seckinger	2500	2796

AAAAAA (64 Schools, 64 Football)

1-AAAAAA (8 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Bradwell Institute	1828	1884
Brunswick	1919	1989
Effingham County	2166	2210
Glynn Academy	1863	1971
Greenbrier	1997	2057
Grovetown	2229	2255
Lakeside, Evans	1822	2032
South Effingham	1884	1982

2-AAAAAA (7 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Coffee	1842	1854
Houston County	2101	2177
Lee County	1812	1824
Northside, Warner Robins	1997	1999
Thomas County Central	1572	1850
Tift County	2055	2097
Veterans	1998	2058

3-AAAAAA (9 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Creekside	1753	1855
Hughes	2048	2064
Lovejoy	1973	2047
McIntosh	1737	1839
Morrow	2154	2174
Newnan	2191	2249
Northside, Columbus	1354	1856
Tri-Cities	1765	1999
Woodward Academy	1072	2086

4-AAAAAA (9 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Alcovy	1921	1939
Chamblee	1862	2178
Decatur	1887	1989
Dunwoody	1914	1932
Heritage, Conyers	1666	1894
Lakeside, DeKalb	2181	2327
Meadowcreek	2455	2503
Midtown	1747	1829
Shiloh	2070	2122

5-AAAAAA (8 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Alexander	1770	1980
Chapel Hill	1549	2027
East Paulding	1879	1969
Hiram	1392	1642
New Manchester	1957	2233
Osborne	2707	3269
South Cobb	1968	2188
South Paulding	1861	2161

6-AAAAAA (8 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Creekview	2034	2074
Kell	1565	1831
Lassiter	2007	2221
Pope	1793	1915
River Ridge	1842	1928
Rome	1925	2083
Sequoyah	2063	2181
Woodstock	1901	2011

7-AAAAAA (7 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Alpharetta	1948	2004
Gainesville	2079	2137
Johns Creek	1791	1821
Lanier	1887	1915
Milton	1949	1987
Riverwood	1734	1872
Roswell	1949	1983

8-AAAAAA (8 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Apalachee	1821	1849
Cedar Shoals	1508	1514
Clarke Central	1909	1961
Habersham Central	2058	2068
Jackson County (Projected)	1875	1903
Loganville	1886	1992
Mountain View	2100	2140
Walnut Grove	1531	1635

AAAAA (61 Schools, 61 Football)

1-AAAAA (8 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Benedictine	832	1282
Evans	1744	1812
Groves	1383	1535
Jenkins	1254	1476
Richmond Academy	1213	1467
Statesboro	1717	1731
Ware County	1542	1546
Wayne County	1526	1526

2-AAAAA (7 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Eagles Landing	1511	1533
Jones County	1579	1579
Locust Grove	1570	1696
Ola	1527	1619
Perry	1629	1659
Union Grove	1554	1684
Warner Robins	1771	1785

3-AAAAA (7 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Central, Carroll	1324	1466
Griffin	1435	1457
Harris County	1695	1721
LaGrange	1405	1483
Lithia Springs	1418	1622
Starrs Mill	1334	1474
Whitewater	1325	1397

4-AAAAA (9 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Arabia Mountain	1161	2913
Drew	1780	1866
Dutchtown	1762	1806
Eastside	1555	1597
Forest Park	1645	1687
Jonesboro	1672	1768
M. L. King	1381	1449
Mundys Mill	1619	1725
Stockbridge	1391	1395

5-AAAAA (8 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Banneker	1545	1711
Cross Keys	1587	1587
Druid Hills	1448	1570
Jackson, Atlanta	1622	1740
Lithonia	1466	1556
Mays	1226	1500
Southwest DeKalb	1244	1770
Tucker	1683	1753

6-AAAAA (8 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Blessed Trinity	844	1508
Cambridge	1612	1704
Centennial	1579	1591
Chattahoochee	1715	1771
Marist	804	1220
Northview	1555	1609
Sprayberry	1632	1800
St. Pius X	997	1731

7-AAAAA (7 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Allatoona	1477	1653
Cartersville	1454	1686
Cass	1474	1488
Cedartown	1379	1397
Dalton	1688	1752
Villa Rica	1654	1758
Woodland, Cartersville	1445	1513

8-AAAAA (7 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
East Forsyth	1558	1706
Flowery Branch	1243	1521
Jefferson	1352	1422
Johnson, Gainesville	1235	1415
Madison County	1474	1498
North Oconee	1470	1516
Winder-Barrow	1761	1795

AAAA (61 Schools, 60 Football)

1-AAAA (9 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Bainbridge	1151	1173
Cairo	1179	1179
Columbus	1132	1142
Dougherty	1150	1234
Hardaway	1017	1135
Monroe	1159	1227
Shaw	1071	1191
Spencer	1050	1134
Westover	1277	1285

2-AAAA (8 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Baldwin	1189	1189
Howard	1189	1315
Mary Persons	1373	1385
Peach County	1112	1198
Spalding	1171	1237
Troup County	1273	1333
Upson-Lee	1149	1149
Westside, Macon	1006	1302

3-AAAA (7 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Harlem	1366	1386
Liberty County	1186	1308
Long County	1265	1265
New Hampstead	1037	1121
Southeast Bulloch	1121	1139
West Laurens	1224	1258
Windsor Forest	1120	1200

4-AAAA (9 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Fayette County	1250	1278
Hampton	1112	1146
Luella	1258	1294
McDonough	1268	1338
Mt. Zion, Jonesboro	1227	1263
North Clayton	1116	1128
Riverdale	1232	1256
Sandy Creek	1173	1273
Woodland, Stockbridge	1224	1284

5-AAAA (9 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Clarkston	1384	1384
Douglass, Atlanta	1275	1361
Greater Atlanta Christian	632	1348
North Springs	1120	1258
Pace Academy	481	787
Salem	1143	1203
Stephenson	1235	1331
Stone Mountain	1217	1301
Westminster	819	1259

6-AAAA (6 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Chestatee	1180	1226
Dawson County	1216	1220
Gilmer	1140	1140
North Hall	1094	1204
Pickens	1127	1131
White County	1110	1130

7-AAAA (6 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Adairsville	1164	1210
Calhoun	1247	1335
Heritage, Catoosa	1208	1246
Northwest Whitfield	1101	1171
Ridgeland	1265	1287
Southeast Whitfield	1346	1374

8-AAAA (7 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Cherokee Bluff	1204	1374
East Hall	1220	1262
East Jackson	1081	1133
Hoschton ** (Projected)	1150	1150
Monroe Area	1177	1221
Oconee County	1232	1276
West Hall	1222	1262

AAA (62 Schools, 61 Football)

1-AAA (6 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Carver, Columbus	859	1013
Crisp County	966	992
Jordan	1017	1089
Kendrick	788	854
Sumter County	1025	1029
Worth County	829	855

2-AAA (8 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Callaway	901	953
Central, Macon	962	1394
Jackson	982	982
Lamar County	875	907
Northeast	798	878
Pike County	1063	1063
Rutland	924	954
Southwest	858	892

3-AAA (8 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Appling County	964	968
Beach	962	986
Brantley County	926	950
Islands	711	965
Johnson, Savannah	683	891
Pierce County	983	1003
Tattnall County	971	973
Toombs County	893	945

4-AAA (7 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Burke County	1102	1110
Butler	876	964
Cross Creek	1048	1136
Hephzibah	952	1078
Thomson	907	907
Washington County	850	860
Westside, Augusta	1021	1099

5-AAA (8 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Haralson County	900	902
Holy Innocents	548	984
KIPP Atlanta Collegiate	923	1213
Lovett	634	958
North Cobb Christian	444	952
Temple	875	935
Therrell	997	1043
Wesleyan	493	863

6-AAA (9 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Carver, Atlanta	1070	1126
Cedar Grove	1022	1042
Columbia	842	842
Hapeville	571	1047
McNair	833	837
Miller Grove	1057	1057
Redan	1013	1013
South Atlanta	926	982
Towers **NR**	792	792

7-AAA (8 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Coahulla Creek	1026	1108
LaFayette	1094	1122
Murray County	924	926
North Murray	878	890
Ringgold	992	1064
Rockmart	904	928
Sonoraville	1037	1067
Union County	871	895

8-AAA (8 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Barrow **	1092	1092
Elbert County	881	883
Franklin County	981	983
Hart County	1041	1055
Hebron Christian	499	1015
Lumpkin County	1048	1058
Morgan County	1033	1041
Stephens County	1102	1108

AA (85 Schools, 65 Football)

1-AA (7 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Bacon County	596	620
Berrien	795	807
Brooks County	471	485
Cook	908	924
Fitzgerald	809	809
Jeff Davis	773	777
Thomasville	700	734

2-AA (7 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
ACE Charter	550	696
Bleckley County	673	751
Dodge County	781	781
Dublin	579	633
East Laurens	671	707
Swainsboro	763	763
Vidalia	671	773

3-AA (9 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Bryan County	490	500
Calvary Day School	383	823
Metter	472	500
Savannah	547	599
Savannah Arts Academy **	789	799
Savannah Christian	399	831
Screven County	543	545
St. Vincents Academy **	592	832
Woodville-Tompkins **	692	692

4-AA (11 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Aquinas	242	362
Davidson Fine Arts **	387	387
Glenn Hills	802	822
Jasper County	841	841
Jefferson County	605	611
Johnson, Augusta	307	307
Josey	591	651
Laney	673	835
Putnam County	839	841
Social Circle	627	809
Technical Career Magnet **	254	254

5-AA (14 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Ben Franklin Academy **	100	102
Coretta Scott King Academy **	388	388
Drew Charter School **	490	562
Eagles Landing Christian	255	407
Greenforest Christian **	43	43
Landmark Christian	308	416
Paideia **	466	772
Southwest Atlanta Christian **	85	145
Stilwell Arts **	520	538
Trinity Christian	471	693
Utopian Academy	323	829
W. D. Mohammed **	63	163
Washington	782	842
Whitefield Academy	379	595

6-AA (8 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Armuchee	508	556
Bremen	725	791
Coosa	638	688
Darlington	442	604
Heard County	654	682
Model	701	835
Mt. Zion, Carroll	502	544
Pepperell	618	632

7-AA (9 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Chattooga	724	726
Christian Heritage	208	344
Dade County	528	528
Dalton Academy **	582	594
Fannin County	835	837
Georgia-Cumberland Academy **	323	323
Gordon Central	836	866
Gordon Lee	382	572
Lakeview-Ft. Oglethorpe	820	862

8-AA (7 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Athens Academy	325	539
Banks County	787	787
Commerce	567	647
Oglethorpe County	665	693
Prince Avenue Christian	318	524
Providence Christian	298	666
Rabun County	614	628

9-AA (13 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Atlanta International **	445	649
DeKalb School of the Arts **	302	774
Fellowship Christian	423	761
Galloway **	269	663
Kings Ridge	284	522
Mount Vernon	513	893
Mt. Bethel Christian	215	627
Mt. Paran Christian	440	786
Mt. Pisgah Christian	299	639
St. Francis	200	578
THRIVE Christian ** (Projected)	155	435
Walker	398	806
Weber School **	299	699

A (72 Schools, 54 Football)

1-A (15 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Baconton	284	290
Baker County **	78	116
Calhoun County	112	112
Early County	465	477
Miller County	227	257
Pataula Charter **	163	257
Pelham	368	456
Quitman County **	93	93
Randolph-Clay	189	189
Scintilla Charter Academy **NR**	270	556
Seminole County	374	434
Southwest Georgia STEM	144	240
Spring Creek **	80	96
Stewart County **	112	112
Terrell County	272	272

2-A (7 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Atkinson County	416	442
Charlton County	448	454
Clinch County	357	395
Echols County **	235	255
Irwin County	471	477
Lanier County	456	464
Mitchell County	318	348

3-A (8 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Claxton	430	442
Emanuel County Institute	290	322
McIntosh County Academy	358	358
Montgomery County	251	263
Portal	300	346
Savannah Classical **	81	81
Savannah Early College **	117	345
STEAM Academy **	89	89

4-A (7 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Dooly County	300	306
Hawkinsville	367	385
Telfair County	390	392
Treutlen	307	329
Turner County	288	288
Wheeler County	241	273
Wilcox County	348	368

5-A (9 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Georgia Military College	297	405
Georgia School for Innovation **	225	337
Glascock County	170	174
Hancock Central	183	183
Jenkins County	308	320
Johnson County	273	299
Twiggs County	222	226
Wilkinson County	299	299
Wilson Academy	209	427

6-A (11 Schools)

School	FTE	Reclass
Central, Talbotton	118	118
Chattahoochee County	469	481
Crawford County	447	457
Furlow Charter **	172	172
Macon County	302	304
Marion County	383	399
Rainey-McCullers **	271	287
Schley County	366	424
Taylor County	340	368
Webster County **	61	73

7-A (7 Schools)		
School	**FTE**	**Reclass**
Atlanta Classical **	185	185
B.E.S.T Academy	332	338
Bowdon	442	464
Elite Scholars Academy **	413	419
Greenville	203	209
Manchester	400	410
Northwest Classical Academy **	159	455
Trion	349	423

8-A (8 Schools)		
School	**FTE**	**Reclass**
Greene County	413	419
Lake Oconee Academy	346	346
Lincoln County	362	394
Taliaferro County **	55	73
Towns County **NR**	269	269
Warren County	169	169
Washington-Wilkes	362	364
Woody Gap **	10	10

NOTE: The first enrollment figure shown beside each member school is the FTE count in grades 9-12, while the second is the Student Reclassification Count after applying the 3.0 multiplier to out-of-district students.
** - Schools not playing varsity football.
NR - Schools playing a non-region schedule in football.

APPENDIX ‘S’

STUDENT TRANSFER SERVICE AREAS FOR NON-PUBLIC & CHARTER MEMBER SCHOOLS

(The Student Transfer Service Area for non-public and charter member schools is the same as the public school service area in which the non-public or charter school resides.)

SCHOOL	SERVICE AREA
ACE Charter	Howard HS
Alliance Academy for Innovation	Forsyth Central HS
Aquinas	Richmond Academy
Athens Academy	Oconee County HS
Atlanta Classical Charter	North Atlanta HS
Atlanta International	North Atlanta HS
Baconton Charter	Mitchell County HS
Ben Franklin (Boarding)	Druid Hills HS
Benedictine	Jenkins HS
Blessed Trinity	Roswell HS
Calvary Day School	Jenkins HS
Christian Heritage	Dalton HS
Darlington	Rome HS
Drew Charter	Jackson-Atlanta HS
ELCA	Eagles Landing HS
Fellowship Christian	Roswell HS
Fulton Leadership Charter	Tri-Cities HS
Furlow Charter	Sumter County HS
Galloway	North Atlanta HS
Genesis Innovative Academy	Douglass HS
Georgia Cumberland Academy	Calhoun HS
Georgia Fugees Academy	Tucker HS
Greater Atlanta Christian	Meadowcreek HS
Greenforest Christian	Columbia HS
GSIC Charter	Hephzibah HS
Hapeville Charter	Banneker HS
Hebron Christian	Dacula HS
Holy Innocents'	Riverwood HS
King’s Ridge Christian	Cambridge HS
KIPP Atlanta Charter	Douglass HS
Lake Oconee Academy	Greene County HS
Landmark Christian	Creekside HS
Lovett	North Atlanta HS

SCHOOL	SERVICE AREA
Marist	Chamblee HS
Mt. Bethel	Sprayberry HS
Mt. Paran Christian	Kennesaw Mountain HS
Mt. Pisgah Christian	Centennial HS
Mt. Vernon School	North Springs HS
North Cobb Christian	North Cobb HS
NW Classical Ac. (2024-25)	North Cobb HS
Pace Academy	North Atlanta HS
Paideia	Druid Hills HS
Pataula Charter	Calhoun County HS
Prince Avenue Christian	North Oconee HS
Providence Christian	Berkmar HS
St. Francis	Cambridge HS
St. Pius X	Cross Keys HS
St. Vincent's Academy	Savannah HS
Savannah Christian	Groves HS
Savannah Classical	Savannah HS
Savannah Country Day	Windsor Forest HS
Scintilla Charter Academy	Valdosta HS
SW Atlanta Christian	Therrell HS
SW Georgia STEM	Randolph-Clay HS
Spring Creek Charter	Bainbridge HS
STEAM Academy Charter	Statesboro HS
THRIVE Christian Academy	Tucker HS
Trinity Christian	East Coweta HS
Utopian Academy	Morrow HS
Walker School	Marietta HS
W.D. Mohammed	McNair HS
Weber School	North Springs HS
Wesleyan School	Norcross HS
Westminster	North Atlanta HS
Whitefield Academy	Pebblebrook HS
Wilson Academy	Stone Mountain HS
Woodward Academy	Tri-Cities

APPENDIX ‘S-R’

STUDENT RECLASSIFICATION AREAS FOR NON-PUBLIC & CHARTER MEMBER SCHOOLS

(The Student Reclassification Area for non-public and charter member schools is a public school service area chosen by the non-public or charter school for reclassification purposes only. It must be in the county in which the school resides.)

SCHOOL	RECLASS AREA
ACE Charter	Howard HS
Alliance Academy for Innovation	Forsyth Central HS
Aquinas	Richmond Academy
Athens Academy	Oconee County HS
Athens Christian	Cedar Shoals HS
Atlanta Classical Charter	North Atlanta HS
Atlanta International	North Atlanta HS
Baconton Charter	Mitchell County HS
Ben Franklin (Boarding)	Druid Hills HS
Benedictine	Jenkins HS
Blessed Trinity	Roswell HS
Calvary Day School	Jenkins HS
Christian Heritage	Dalton HS
Darlington	Rome HS
Drew Charter	Jackson-Atlanta HS
ELCA	Union Grove HS
Fellowship Christian	Roswell HS
Fulton Leadership Charter	Tri-Cities HS
Furlow Charter	Sumter County HS
Galloway	North Atlanta HS
Genesis Innovative Academy	Douglass HS
Georgia Cumberland Academy	Calhoun HS
Georgia Fugees Academy	Tucker HS
Greater Atlanta Christian	Meadowcreek HS
Greenforest Christian	Columbia HS
GSIC Charter	Hephzibah HS
Hapeville Charter	Banneker HS
Hebron Christian	Dacula HS
Holy Innocents'	Riverwood HS
King’s Ridge Christian	Cambridge HS
KIPP Atlanta Charter	Douglass HS
Lake Oconee Academy	Greene County HS
Landmark Christian	Creekside HS
Lovett	North Atlanta HS

SCHOOL	RECLASS AREA
Marist	Chamblee HS
Mt. Bethel	Sprayberry HS
Mt. Paran Christian	Kennesaw Mountain HS
Mt. Pisgah Christian	Centennial HS
Mt. Vernon School	North Springs HS
North Cobb Christian	North Cobb HS
NW Classical Ac. (2024-25)	North Cobb HS
Pace Academy	North Atlanta HS
Paideia	Druid Hills HS
Pataula Charter	Calhoun County HS
Prince Avenue Christian	North Oconee HS
Providence Christian	Berkmar HS
St. Francis	Cambridge HS
St. Pius X	Chamblee
St. Vincent's Academy	Savannah HS
Savannah Christian	New Hampstead HS
Savannah Classical	Savannah Arts Academy
Savannah Country Day	Windsor Forest HS
Scintilla Charter Academy	Valdosta HS
SW Atlanta Christian	Therrell HS
SW Georgia STEM	Randolph-Clay HS
Spring Creek Charter	Bainbridge HS
STEAM Academy Charter	Statesboro HS
Stilwell School of the Arts	Mount Zion HS, Jonesboro
Tallulah Falls (Boarding)	Habersham Central HS
THRIVE Christian Academy	Tucker HS
Trinity Christian	East Coweta HS
Utopian Academy	Morrow HS
Walker School	Marietta HS
W.D. Mohammed	McNair HS
Weber School	North Springs HS
Wesleyan School	Norcross HS
Westminster	North Atlanta HS
Whitefield Academy	Pebblebrook HS
Wilson Academy	Stone Mountain HS
Woodward Academy	Tri-Cities HS

Appendix Z - Results & Records of State Playoff Events from 2025-26 School Year

Print Version Coming Soon