

# **GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

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VOL. 100

NUMBER 1

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## **CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS 2006-2007**

*A Member of the National Federation of  
State High School Associations*



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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 MEMBERSHIP BY SIZE

A. The membership of the Association shall be divided in five (5) classifications as follows:

(1) 15% AAAAA, 21% AAAA, 21% AAA, 21% AA, 22% A

(2) Schools with the same F.T.E. count separated by a percentage break point will be placed in the higher classification.

NOTE: See Reclassification schedule listed in By-Law #4.15.

B. Such classifications shall be effective for a two (2) year period.

C. Each classification will have eight (8) regions, unless otherwise needed.

### SECTION 3 CLASSIFICATION — HOW DETERMINED

A. In reclassification years, the Executive Director shall secure the F.T.E. count of member schools and assign each school to a classification. Each member school shall be notified of their proposed classification.

B. Classification of public schools shall be based on F.T.E. membership (active enrollment) using the average of the first two counts secured from the Department of Education based on grades 9-12. This count is based on figures for the nine (9) months immediately preceding reclassification.

Note: Classification for the school years 2006-07, 2007-08 is based on the reports of the school year 2004-05. Classification for the school years 2008-09, 2009-10 will be based on the reports of school year 2006-07.

Note: For schools being consolidated at a classification period, the combined F.T.E. membership figure of the consolidated schools shall be used to determine the classification of the consolidated schools.

C. Classification of private schools shall be based on enrollment information furnished by schools for grades 9-12 for the nine (9) months immediately preceding reclassification. Those enrollment numbers shall be multiplied by a factor of 1.5 to determine reclassification figures, provided however, that no school shall be moved up more than one classification due to application of the 1.5 factor.

D. Grades (9-10-11-12) shall be used as the base to determine classification figures.

- E. Unless the school has at least 35% membership of each sex, it will be considered a single sex school. In this case the F.T.E. membership SHALL BE DOUBLED TO DETERMINE THE CLASSIFICATION FIGURES.
- F. New schools will be assigned classification upon projected system F.T.E. membership for the school grades 9-12. Where the new school has 9th and 10th grade only, projected figures for feeder schools 7th and 8th grades apply. Where the new school has 9th grade only, projected figures for feeder schools 6th, 7th and 8th grades apply. Where a member school will lose students due to the opening or consolidation of other schools, such member schools losing students will be assigned classification upon projected system F.T.E. membership for the applicable grades as set forth above.
- G. Once a school has confirmed its F.T.E. membership with GHSA, the membership figures may not be changed, (unless there is a mathematical error in computation by the GHSA).
- H. Whenever a new member school is created either through its establishment or through the consolidation of two or more schools, the Superintendent shall file a report with the GHSA office at the time that FTE numbers are being collected that projects the enrollment of that school for the next three years. In the event that the school's enrollment exceeds the projection by 20 percent or more during the first reclassification cycle, the school will be required to play a non-region schedule.

#### **SECTION 4 TRANSFER TO A HIGHER CLASSIFICATION**

- A. A member school desiring transfer from a lower to a higher classification must submit a request in writing to the State Office within thirty (30) days after the notice of proposed reclassification has been made.
- B. A school that transfers to a higher classification must remain in the higher classification until schools are reclassified on a statewide basis.
- C. A request to move from a lower to a higher classification must be made over the signature of the school's administrative authorities, i.e., the Principal and Superintendent.

#### **SECTION 5 PROPOSED REGION ASSIGNMENT**

- A. After the time for requesting transfer to higher classification has expired, the Reclassification Committee shall thereafter meet to consider such requests and to assign member schools to proposed regions.
- B. Each member school shall be notified of proposed region assignments.

#### **SECTION 6 TRANSFER TO A DIFFERENT REGION**

- A. A member school desiring transfer of membership to another region must submit a request to the State Office within thirty (30) days after the notice of proposed region alignment has been made.
- B. A school that transfers to a different region by application must remain in the region to which transferred until schools are reclassified on a statewide basis.
- C. A request to move from one region to another must be made over the signatures of the school's administrative authorities, i.e., the Principal and the Superintendent.

#### **SECTION 7 FINAL PROPOSED REGION ALIGNMENT**

- A. After the time for requesting transfer to a different region has expired, the Reclassification Committee shall thereafter meet to consider such requests and to finalize the proposed assignment of member schools to regions.
- B. Each member school shall be notified of the final proposed region alignment.

**SECTION 8  
CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF  
REGION ALIGNMENT BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- A. The Executive Committee shall thereafter meet to approve and/or revise the final proposed region alignments as submitted by the Reclassification Committee and to make final region assignments. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to consider requests to transfer to a different region which were brought before the Reclassification Committee in a timely manner.
- B. Each member school shall be notified of final region assignments.

**SECTION 9  
REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF  
REGION ASSIGNMENT BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- A. Any member school whose final region assignment is changed by the Executive Committee, may request reconsideration of that change by submitting a request in writing to the State Office within ten (10) days after the notice of final region assignment has been made.
- B. Each member school will be notified of any revision of final region assignment.

**SECTION 10  
STRUCTURE OF REGIONS**

- A. After reclassification years, 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 five (5) 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. When there are three or more schools in a region that are determined by the Reclassification Committee to be geographically isolated from the rest of the region, the isolated schools have the right to request a subdivision of the region. If the schools in that region can not agree on a suitable subdivision, the Reclassification Committee will determine the alignment.
- D. In the event there are no complaints regarding region structure or in the event such complaints are subsequently withdrawn, the structure as proposed shall stand approved without the need for a meeting of the Executive Committee.
- E. 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 11  
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. The term of office shall be for three (3) years. 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 be arranged or so staggered that the terms of approximately one-third of the total number of members shall expire each year. Each term of office shall be for three (3) years.
- C. After the reclassification process, if movement of schools results in two Executive Committee members representing the same region, the region will vote on their selection. If there is only one Committee member, that representative will complete the term on the Committee.
- D. 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.

**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 and one at-large member elected by the Executive Committee. The term of office for members of the Executive Committee serving on the Board of Trustees shall be for three (3) years.
- 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 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.
- C. 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, and recommends length of contract for the Executive Director. The Board of Trustees recommends the two at-large female representatives to the 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 age and the eight-semester rule may be referred by the Executive Director to the State Executive Committee for a final ruling.

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**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 age, normal semesters, four years of participation, 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 five working 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 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 must be unanimous 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. 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 not have the authority to deny an application for hardship status and shall be required to either grant the application or to schedule the application for hearing by the Hardship Committee.
- 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, age, and eight semester 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.
- 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. The even numbered regions shall elect in the even numbered calendar years, and the odd numbered regions shall elect in the odd numbered calendar years. 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 be for a period of three (3) years. Any vacancy occurring on the State Executive Committee shall be filled by the Region Committee until the next meeting of the region concerned.

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**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. 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 five (5) 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.
- 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 five (5) 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.
  4. If no appeals are filed with the Executive Director, the meeting date will be abolished via telephone at least two (2) days before the scheduled date of the meeting.
- 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 five (5) 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. Members of the Hardship Committee and the Appeal Board will not be eligible to vote (those members who have heard a specific case) as a member of the Executive Committee when an appeal goes before the full Executive Committee.

**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 days apart.

**SECTION 12  
ANNUAL MEETING**

- A. The State Executive Committee of the Georgia High School Association shall meet in the fall and spring 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 an eligibility rule. When a school is adjudged guilty, the Executive Director is authorized to direct the penalty or 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 one thousand (\$1,000.00) 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.
- 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.

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**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.

### 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 rulesNote: Students establishing eligibility as entering 9th graders are automatically eligible for the first semester.
- 1.12 The **certification of eligibility** shall be submitted initially in each sport or activity no later than twenty (20) days before the date set by the GHSA for the first contest 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, Debate, and Riflery certification is due twenty (20) 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 against 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 (*including summer activities*), a student must be enrolled in grades 9-12 inclusive at the school seeking eligibility for that student.
  - (a) Enrollment is defined as starting when a student is registered for classes and determined to be academically eligible, or when a student participates in an official (per GHSA calendar) try-out or practice session. A student may be enrolled in only one school.
  - (b) The student must be in regular attendance.
  - (c) The student must be taking at least five (5) subjects (or the equivalent) that count toward graduation.  
NOTE: 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, 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 in order 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.

### 1.30 - 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 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 for the following GHSA school year.
  - (b) The physical exam must be conducted by a licensed medical physician or doctor of Osteopathic medicine, or a physician's assistant.
  - (c) The exam must be signed by a doctor, but the doctor's stamp is acceptable if it is in script, and if information appears elsewhere on the form identifying him/her as a medical doctor.
  - (d) The GHSA requires that member schools use the latest edition of the preparticipation physical evaluation form approved by the American Academy of Pediatrics, et. al., found in the "GHSA Forms Notebook."
- 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 a 9th grade course is taken if:
    - (1) the student is regularly enrolled in a member's feeder school in a grade below the ninth, **AND**
    - (2) the course is taken as an advanced course, **AND**
    - (3) the principal of the school attended by the student certifies to the GHSA that the subject and course(s) meet the criteria set forth above.
  - (b) Credits earned toward high school graduation which are taken below the ninth grade may be used when considering high school eligibility.
- 1.43 **Sub-varsity competitors** must meet all eligibility requirements with the exception of the migratory rule. At the sub-varsity level, schools may schedule only 70% of the games allotted to the varsity teams.
- (a) 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.
  - (b) Subvarsity teams cannot compete against varsity teams. An exception may be made by the Executive Director for schools just opening and for schools just starting a particular sport.
- 1.44 Students in grade 9 and higher may participate on **both the varsity and sub-varsity teams** in the same sport with the following limitations:
- (a) Football – a player may not participate in interscholastic competition more than six (6) quarters per week. The week starts with the varsity game. Violations of this participation rule will result in a mandatory fine of \$1,000.00 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.
  - (b) Basketball – a player may not participate in interscholastic competition more than five (5) quarters per calendar day.  
**EXCEPTION:** Subvarsity teams are allowed to play two (2) full games at the same level in tournaments on non-school days with at least a four-hour interval between games.
  - (c) Soccer – a player may not participate in interscholastic competition more than three (3) halves per calendar day.
  - (d) All other sports - the combination of games (varsity and sub-varsity) in which the student participates may not be greater than the number of games allotted to the varsity in that sport.

- 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.
- Students in grade 8 are never eligible for a varsity event in any activity.
  - 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.
  - An eighth grade student who is declared ineligible at a middle school, is considered to be ineligible for participation on a subvarsity high school team.
  - Eighth grade students participating on a sub-varsity team may only participate in 60% of the number of games allotted to the varsity team in that sport.
  - Students below the eighth grade are not eligible to participate on any high school team.
  - 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. These students must be pre-enrolled at that member high school, and once pre-enrolled, the student has established eligibility at that high school.
  - 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 cheerleader at the high school. Eighth grade students at a non-feeder school that has no system high school may participate in cheerleader 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.
- 1.46 The number of contests and the number of practice days allowed for each sport or activity is noted in the sections devoted to particular sports in this book.
- 1.47 **Girls** may participate **on boys' teams** when there is no girls' team offered in that sport by the school. Boys are not allowed to play on girls' teams even when there is no corresponding boys' sport. NOTE: Cheerleading is a co-ed sport.
- 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:
- 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.
  - Pregnant students should not be 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 permission form must be filed with the GHSA office.
  - The form may be found in the Miscellaneous section of the "GHSA Forms Notebook."

## 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 five (5) Carnegie unit subjects counting toward graduation, or their equivalent, the semester immediately preceding participation.
- Exception: First semester ninth grade students.
- Passing in all GHSA member schools is a grade of seventy (70).
  - If a student is taking a multiple-period subject such as a vocational course for a full morning or afternoon it may be counted for more than one subject. The number of subjects counted will be equivalent to the number of units given.
  - Students participating in junior varsity or "B" team competition must meet all scholastic requirements.
  - 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.
  - For schools that have courses with yearlong grading, eligibility must be computed for each semester. End-Of-Course-Test results will be applied to the second semester grade for yearlong courses. Example: A student passes a course for the year - including EOCT. When the grades are broken down per semester, the student had a 74% for the first semester, and a 68% for the second semester. For the student to be eligible, the system must have a policy that figures passage of the EOCT into the percentage for the second semester.*

- 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.
    - (2) A maximum of two (2) Carnegie unit credits earned in summer school may be counted for eligibility purposes.
    - (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 district 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 Carnegie 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 at least five (5) courses** the previous semester in order to participate.
  - (b) **Second-year students** must have **accumulated four (4) total Carnegie units** in the first year, **AND passed at least five (5) courses** in the previous semester.
  - (c) **Third-year students** must have **accumulated ten (10) Carnegie units** in the first and second years, **AND passed at least five (5) courses** in the previous semester.
  - (d) **Fourth-year students** must have **accumulated sixteen (16) Carnegie units** in the first three years, **AND passed at least five (5) courses** in the previous semester.
  - (e) Students may accumulate the required Carnegie units for participation during the school year and eligibility will be reinstated at the beginning of the next semester.

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**ADVISORY NOTICE: CURRICULAR INNOVATIONS****A. BLOCK FOUR PROGRAMS:**

1. The student takes four courses that are worth one (1) Carnegie unit each and the classes meet twice the number of hours per week as in the standard curricular programs.
2. Schools must apply to the State Department of Education before implementing this program.
3. When submitting eligibility reports to the GHSA, the number of courses passed must be doubled. **(For Example: A student passing all four courses will be reported as passing eight courses.)**
4. To be eligible, a student must pass three (3) courses and these will be reported as six (6) courses on the eligibility report.
5. Carnegie 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 Carnegie unit.
2. Schools must apply to the State Department of Education before implementing this program.
3. To be eligible, a student must pass at least five (5) courses during the term.
4. Carnegie unit requirements are the same in all curricular programs.

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- 1.54 A student enrolled in a **joint-enrollment program** between his parent school and a vocational-technical school, an alternative school, or a college, shall be eligible to represent the parent school in interscholastic activities provided he:
- (a) is enrolled at the parent school and that school received state funds based on his enrollment. If enrolled in a private school, he must be a full tuition-paying student.
  - (b) is carrying work in the school which he is attending equivalent to at least five (5) unit-subjects, and has passed at least five (5) the preceding semester.
  - (c) is a student in a state-approved joint enrollment program in which he will receive credit at the parent school for five (5) high school courses during the high school semester.
  - (d) must receive credit at the parent school for work done at the alternative school, vocational-technical school, or college.

- (e) must not have participated in interscholastic activities in the vocational-technical school, alternative school, or college.
- 1.55 Students participating in **post-secondary options programs** shall be eligible to participate at the parent school provided academic eligibility is maintained.
- (a) Students shall receive credits at the parent school based on the following:
- (1) 7.5 quarter hours at the college level = 1 Carnegie Unit
  - (2) 5.0 semester hours at the college level = 1 Carnegie Unit
- NOTE: To participate, a student must be enrolled at a college for 18.75 quarter hours or 12.5 semester hours.
- (b) Students in post-secondary options programs will gain or lose eligibility on the first day of the subsequent semester of the parent school.
- (c) Questions arising from this program should be referred to the GHSA Executive Director.
- 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 **Appeal Board**.
- (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 in the "GHSA Forms Notebook."
- 1.58 **Make-Up Work:** Students who have academic deficiencies at the end of a semester may **make-up work** in a credit recovery program or something similar provided that:
- (a) Make-up work will be accepted on the same basis as make-up work is accepted for all other students in the school.
- (b) Make-up work for each semester is completed within fourteen (14) school days after the start of the next semester.
- (c) The student is ineligible until such time as the make-up work is completed and the required passing grade(s) is recorded.
- (d) The GHSA Executive Director shall be authorized to approve make-up work completed later than fourteen (14) school days after the start of the next semester if he shall find that:
- (1) such make-up work was not completed within fourteen (14) school days due to circumstances outside the control of the student, his parent(s), and the school, AND
  - (2) such make-up work was completed as soon as possible, AND
  - (3) such make-up work is commonly accepted on the same basis for all other students in the school.
- (e) Credit recovery programs operated during the summer or in intersessions shall be completed within 14 days of the beginning of the new semester. Students using that credit to gain eligibility are ineligible until the course is completed successfully. Credit recovery is used for remedial work only. No new credit courses can be applied under this provision.
- 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 Carnegie units for the on-track provision of the eligibility rules. Requirements for the date of entry into the ninth grade and for age apply to students with IEPs without variation.

#### 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 school service area for a member private school is the county in which the private school is located. The school 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 **immediately eligible** at the new school if:
- (a) The student moved simultaneously with the entire parental unit or persons he/she resided with at the former school, and the student and parent(s) or persons residing with the student live in the service area of the new school. This is known as a “**bona fide move.**”
    - (1) The student may choose the public or private school serving that area.
    - (2) It must be apparent that the parent(s) or the persons residing with the student and the student have relinquished the residence in the former service area and have occupied a residence in the new service area.
    - (3) Relinquishment of the former residence may be met by one of the following procedures: selling the residence; having the residence listed with a Real Estate Agent for sale at a fair market value; having a contract with a buyer; having a lease agreement at a fair market value; or abandoning the house and shutting off unnecessary utilities. When a family claims multiple residences, the residence for which they apply for a homestead exemption will be declared the primary residence.
    - (4) *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 residence within that year renders the student to be a migrant student. All hardship appeal processes are available.*
  - (b) 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.
  - (c) The student was enrolled in a **non-member private school in Georgia or was boarded at a school out of state** and, without a bona fide move, transferred to a GHSA-member school that serves his area of residence as long as:
    - (1) The student was enrolled at the high school serving his/her area of residence in grades 9-12 before attending the non-member school, OR
    - (2) The student has not yet established eligibility at grades 9-12 at a member school serving his area of residence, OR
    - (3) the student has previously established his attendance at a school other than the school serving his area of residence, and chooses to return to that school, AND
    - (4) it is the initial move of the student from a non-member school to a member school serving his area of residence.
  - (d) The student transfers from a non-member home school and the receiving school grants credit so that the student has accumulated sufficient Carnegie units to be "on-track" for graduation. At the time such credit is given, the student must also have passed a minimum of five (5) courses the previous semester. The student becomes eligible when credit is awarded officially.
  - (e) 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).
    - (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 assign students to schools by a method that insures that no student, school, or other interested party may influence the assignment for athletic purposes.
  - (f) The student maintains eligibility if one of his/her parents or the custodial parent is a certified teacher or administrator at the receiving school.
  - (g) The student has one of the following family-related situations that produces a **waiver of the bona fide move rule**:
    - (1) There is a Superior Court awarded **change of permanent custody** and the student moves to the residence of the parent receiving custody.
      - (a) The student must attend the member school serving that area of residence.
      - (b) A copy of the court order must accompany the eligibility forms.
      - (c) NOTE: Temporary guardianship papers issued by a Probate Court are not valid for eligibility.
    - (2) There is a Superior Court final order awarding permanent **joint custody** to the parents and the student moves to a residence of his or her parent outside the service area of the previous school.
      - (a) This waiver may be made one time during a calendar year.
      - (b) A copy of the court order must accompany the eligibility forms.
    - (3) There is a **death of a custodial parent** and the student moves to live with the other natural parent in a new school service area.  
NOTE: A copy of the death certificate shall be submitted with the eligibility papers.
    - (4) There is a military transfer of one or both custodial parents that creates a change of residence that is not a bona fide move. NOTE: A copy of the deployment order shall be submitted with the eligibility form.

- (h) Students who are U.S. citizens **returning from a foreign country** shall be eligible as long as they meet all other requirements of eligibility.
- (i) 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.
- (j) **Married students** setting up a household (domicile) shall be eligible in the school of their residence provided they meet all other requirements of eligibility.
- (k) 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.
- (l) The migratory rule (See 1.63) will be waived **one time** for **students entering the following boarding schools:**
- |                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Ben Franklin Academy     | Rabun Gap School      |
| Georgia Military College | Tallulah Falls School |
- Exception: Students from foreign countries not on an approved foreign exchange program are not eligible.
- 1.63 A student who transfers enrollment from one GHSA school to another without a corresponding move by his parents into this new school service area shall be declared a **“migrant student,”** and shall be required to be in attendance at the new school for one calendar year from the date of enrollment in the new school.
- (a) A migrant student may practice with the varsity, but may not play in varsity competition.
- (b) A migrant student may play on sub-varsity teams.
- 1.64 A student who is not eligible because of GHSA rules at the former school, and then transfers to a new school, cannot regain eligibility by the transfer. Ineligible students cannot gain eligibility by being adjudicated to YDC and subsequently returning to their resident school with earned credit.
- 1.65 Students whose transfers from member school to member school have been approved by the GHSA office after the end of regular season play or during post-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.
- (c) Students transferring under the provisions of “No Child Left Behind” and the failure to make “Adequate Yearly Progress” must be processed through the normal Hardship Appeal procedures. Such students must demonstrate that they have been materially affected by the issue(s) that caused the former school to be placed on the “Need to Improve” list.
- 1.68 **Hardship Applications** may be filed to attempt to establish eligibility in the following situations:
- (a) A student who changes schools because of a **temporary custody transfer** from a parent to a guardian, or from one guardian to another (See Article IV, Section 5, in the GHSA Constitution).
- (b) A student whose transfer is based upon his being **emancipated**, an orphan, a child from a broken home, a **ward of the DFACS**, or a **ward of a Court** (See Article IV, Section 5, in the GHSA Constitution).
- 1.69 When a new school opens, student eligibility shall be determined as follows:
- (a) When a school district mandates an attendance area for a new school for all grades enrolled at the new school, all students living within the mandated attendance area in those grades are immediately eligible. All students living outside the mandated attendance 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 attendance 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

- 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.
- The use of undue influence to secure or retain a student for competitive purposes is prohibited, shall cause that **student to forfeit eligibility** for one year from the date of enrollment, and shall lead to other penalties being assessed against the **school** doing the recruiting as allowed by the GHSA Constitution.
  - Evidence of undue influence includes, but is not limited to, personal contact by coaches and sponsors in an attempt to persuade transfer, gifts of money, jobs, supplies, clothing, free transportation, admission to contests, invitation to attend practices and/or games, or free tuition.
  - 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.
- 1.72 A student athlete transferring from one member school to another shall be ruled ineligible for one year because of "undue influence" if:
- it is determined that the coach of the receiving school coached an out-of-school team on which the athlete played; OR
  - 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
  - Articles (a) and (b) shall be enforced even in the event the student made a bona fide move into the receiving school's service area.

### 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. This prohibition shall not apply to awards under By-Law #1.90 or to other items approved by the GHSA.
- 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.
  - 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.
- 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:
- number of students enrolled in the school
  - number of students receiving financial aid
  - names of students (or a listing of student identification numbers) receiving financial aid who are involved in GHSA activities
  - 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 competition shall be an **amateur** in that activity.
- An **amateur athlete** is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the physical, mental, social, and pleasure benefits derived therefrom.
  - 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.
  - Reasonable compensation derived from private lessons in a sport is permissible.
- 1.92 An athlete **forfeits amateur status** in a sport by:
- 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 fame 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 \$250 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.

## INTERPRETATIONS, 1.00 SECTION

### BY-LAW 1.10 - CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY

- **SITUATION:** A student athlete and his parents have a move of residence from the service area of School A to School B, and meet all eligibility requirements. When may he participate in interscholastic activities at School B?

**INTERPRETATION:** The student is eligible as soon as he is enrolled at School B and certified as being eligible by the GHSA. Academic eligibility must be certified before the student may try out or practice.

### BY-LAW 1.20 - ENROLLMENT AND TEAM MEMBERSHIP

#### 8TH GRADE PARTICIPATION

- **SITUATION:** May eighth-grade students participate on sub-varsity teams at a member school?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes. Eighth-grade students in a feeder school for a member school may participate on any sub-varsity team, but never on a varsity team.

- **SITUATION:** An eighth-grade student desires to try out in the Spring for the cheerleading team at a member school. Is this legal if the school the student is attending is a feeder school for the member school?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes. Also, an eighth grade student in a private school that does not offer classes at the ninth grade level and above may try out for cheerleading at the public or private school serving that student's area of residence. Such a tryout must be preceded by a pre-enrollment at that GHSA school. The tryout establishes the student's eligibility at that school. NOTE: This procedure also applies to participation in spring football practice.

#### TRYOUT REQUIREMENTS

- **SITUATION:** A tenth-grade student who is on a cheerleading team at a member school anticipates moving to another part of the state over the Summer. May the student try out for the new school before the move is made?

**INTERPRETATION:** No. A student may not practice or try out at a member school until that student is properly enrolled at the new school. A student may be enrolled in only one school at a time.

### BY-LAW 1.30 - AGE

- **SITUATION:** A student becomes 19 years of age on April 30, prior to his fourth year in high school. May the student participate in the fourth year?

INTERPRETATION: No. May 1 is the cut-off date.

## BY-LAW 1.40 - LIMITS OF PARTICIPATION

### EIGHT SEMESTER RULE

- SITUATION: A student entered a member school eight (8) semesters ago. He was injured and missed one-half of the first semester of his senior year (7th semester). During the first six semesters, he has accumulated seventeen (17) units, and in the 8th semester he passed five courses and gained an additional 2.5 units. Is he eligible to participate the following Fall in his 9th semester?

INTERPRETATION: No. There are no provisions to allow for a student to participate beyond eight (8) semesters. His case could be presented to the GHSA Executive Committee for request to waive the eight semester rule (By-Law #1.42) by Hardship application.

### NON-SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

- SITUATION: A student is a member of a high school basketball team and a church-league basketball team whose seasons run concurrently. Is this permissible?

INTERPRETATION: Yes. There is no state regulation prohibiting “dual participation” on the part of a student. The high school coach could not be involved in the non-school program, however. A local school could impose a rule prohibiting dual participation.

### GIRLS ON BOYS TEAMS

- SITUATION: A girl wants to be on the high school wrestling team made up of boys. If she meets eligibility requirements, may she do so?

INTERPRETATION: Yes. Girls may participate on boys teams when there is no girls team in that sport at that school.

- SITUATION: A female student desires to try out for the boys' baseball team. May she do this?

INTERPRETATION: Yes, she is allowed to try out since there is no girls' baseball team.

- SITUATION: A male student desires to play on a girls volleyball team. Is this legal?

INTERPRETATION: No. The Federal Title IX legislation and the Georgia Equity in Sports Act both specify that the traditionally represented gender in athletics (males) may not play on teams designed for the traditionally under-represented gender (females).

### SUB-VARSITY AND VARSITY PARTICIPATION

- SITUATION: A junior varsity basketball player participates in a JV game on Tuesday afternoon. May he also participate in the varsity game that night?

INTERPRETATION: Yes, but the student may not participate in more than five (5) quarters that day.

- SITUATION: A junior varsity football player plays in a JV game on Thursday. May he also play in the varsity game on Friday?

INTERPRETATION: Yes, but the student may not participate in more than six (6) quarters in a calendar week. The week begins with the day of the varsity game.

- QUESTION: In sports other than football, basketball, and soccer, what are the restrictions on students participating on both sub-varsity and varsity teams?

ANSWER: The total number of regular-season games and tournaments a student participates in on a sub-varsity team and the varsity team may not exceed the number of games and tournaments allotted to the varsity team in that sport. **Example**: A sport allows 18 varsity games plus two tournaments. A student could legally

play in 10 JV games, 8 varsity games, 1 JV tournament, and 1 varsity tournament.

- **SITUATION:** At an invitational cheerleading tournament, a AAAAA school enters its varsity team in the competition for its classification, and enters its JV team in the competition for varsity teams of smaller schools? Is this legal?

**RULING:** No. Varsity teams must compete against varsity teams and non-varsity against non-varsity teams in all GHSA activities. The eligibility conditions are different in the two levels of competition, and it is possible to manipulate the limits on competition by allowing this to occur. New schools and schools just beginning a sport may petition the Executive Director for a waiver of this rule.

## **BY-LAW 1.50 - SCHOLASTIC STANDING/SCHOLARSHIP**

### **POST-SECONDARY OPTIONS**

- **SITUATION:** During the first semester of his senior year, a student is enrolled for three courses (subjects) leading toward graduation at a member school, and one course for 5 hours of credit at a local college that will be accepted by his home school for graduation credit. If the student passes all the courses for which he is enrolled and has accumulated the proper number of Carnegie units, is he eligible to participate in golf during the second semester?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes. If the student is enrolled in post-secondary options, the course at the college level is equated at 7.5 quarter hours equals 1 Carnegie unit or 5 semester hours equals 1 Carnegie unit. The student must earn 2.5 Carnegie units or more each semester.

### **VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL OPTIONS**

- **SITUATION:** A senior is enrolled at a member school, but is attending a vocational-technical school for five hours each day, and is receiving credit for those courses at the member school. Is he eligible to participate in athletics at the home school?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes. A student enrolled at a member school and attending a vocational-technical school taking a minimum of five (5) subjects may participate if the member school accepts the credit earned toward graduation at the vocational-technical school.

### **ADVANCE PLACEMENT**

- **SITUATION:** May a student take a college or junior college class and receive credit for this work which may be counted toward scholastic eligibility?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes. Such a class may be counted toward academic eligibility, provided that the student's high school accepts the credit and counts it toward graduation. The student still must pass a minimum of 2.5 Carnegie units at the end of the semester. College credits are equated as 7.5 quarter hours equal 1 Carnegie unit or 5 semester hours equal 1 Carnegie unit.

### **ELIGIBILITY ENDS**

- **SITUATION:** A student who is eligible at the beginning of basketball season only passes four (4) classes in the first semester which ends on December 17th. Is this student eligible to play in a basketball tournament December 20-23?

**INTERPRETATION:** The student loses eligibility on the first day of the second semester. If the tournament is played before the start of the new semester, he is eligible to play by GHSA standards.

### **ELIGIBILITY BEGINS**

- **SITUATION:** A student who is academically ineligible for the second semester passes all courses that semester and has accumulated the proper number of units. May this student participate in practices that occur before the beginning of classes in the Fall?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes. The beginning of the first semester is interpreted as the first day of the first sport, or the first day of classes – whichever comes first.

- **SITUATION:** A student passes four (4) courses the last semester of the eighth grade. Is this student eligible the first semester of the ninth-grade year?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes. Every student entering the ninth grade for the first time begins with a “clean slate.”

#### **WITHDRAWN PASSING**

- **SITUATION:** A student withdrew, passing, from school after 65 days of attendance in the Fall semester. He did not attend school again until the first day of the succeeding Spring semester. Is he academically eligible?

**INTERPRETATION:** No. “Withdrawn Passing” is not considered to be passing work for the semester, therefore, this student is ineligible.

#### **SUMMER SCHOOL RULES**

- **SITUATION:** A student needs a science course for graduation purposes that is not taught during Summer School. The student and principal agree on an independent study course monitored by a coach. May this course be used for eligibility purposes?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes, as long as the course is regionally accredited and accepted by the school district for graduation credit.

- **SITUATION:** How many units may a student earn in Summer School for the purpose of gaining academic eligibility for the Fall?

**INTERPRETATION:** A maximum of two (2) Carnegie units of credit earned in Summer School may be counted for eligibility purposes.

#### **ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL RULES**

- **SITUATION:** The principal of a member school assigned a student to attend an alternative school for the next six (6) weeks for disciplinary reasons. May the student participate on the football team during the six weeks he will be attending the alternative school?

**INTERPRETATION:** No. Students assigned to an alternative school for reasons of misconduct or who are in out-of-school suspension may not participate until they have returned physically to the regular classroom.

#### **OUT-OF-STATE RULES**

- **SITUATION:** A student transfers to a member school from another state where scholastic eligibility rules are less restrictive than Georgia. The student is academically eligible by the standards of the state from which he transfers, but lacks sufficient credits to be eligible by GHSA standards. As a transfer student, is he eligible academically?

**INTERPRETATION:** No.

#### **ANNUAL GRADING**

- **SITUATION:** A member school is part of a system that gives complete units of credit on an annual basis rather than giving credits toward graduation on a semester basis. A student in that school passes six (6) subjects the first semester, and only four (4) subjects the second semester. When the student's grades are averaged, the student passes all six courses for the year. Is the student eligible for the Fall semester?

**INTERPRETATION:** No. The grading period for figuring eligibility is the semester. Students participating in extra curricular activities must pass five subjects in the semester immediately preceding participation.

#### **MULTI-UNIT COURSES**

- **SITUATION:** A student is enrolled for four (4) regular courses, and one vocational course that carries the equivalent of two (2) Carnegie units. If the student fails the vocational course, is the student eligible the next semester?

**INTERPRETATION:** No. Since the vocational course carries the equivalent of two (2) Carnegie units and since the student passed only four subjects, he would not be eligible for the next semester.

#### **MAKE-UP WORK**

- **SITUATION:** A student taking five (5) subjects leading toward graduation receives an “Incomplete” in one of those courses. When the student returns to class on the first day of the next semester, is he eligible to practice or play?

**INTERPRETATION:** No. If the school allows make-up work for all students and the student makes up the “Incomplete” to a passing grade within fourteen (14) days of the beginning of the new semester, the student could become eligible. The student is not eligible while the work is being made up.

#### **TRYOUT ELIGIBILITY**

- **SITUATION:** Cheerleader tryouts for the following year are to be held in the Spring (second semester). A student who passes only four (4) subjects during the first semester would like to try out. Is this permissible?

**INTERPRETATION:** No. Students who are academically ineligible are not allowed to practice or try out. This also applies to Spring football practices.

#### **ACCUMULATING UNITS**

- **SITUATION:** A 9th-grade student passes four (4) subjects in the first semester and is ineligible for second semester. The student passes five subjects in the second semester, giving him an accumulation of 4.5 Carnegie units for the year. Is the student eligible to participate in the Fall semester?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes. The student must have accumulated the proper number of Carnegie units at the end of the 9th grade year (first year), which means he must have accumulated four (4) units.

- **SITUATION:** At the beginning of the 11th-grade year (third year of eligibility), a student has only accumulated 8 Carnegie units and is declared ineligible for the first semester. If the student passes all six (6) courses, and accumulates 3 units during the first semester, is the student eligible at the beginning of the second semester?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes. Since the student has accumulated 11 Carnegie units at the beginning of the second semester of the third year of eligibility, he is eligible. A student may gain the units during the school year, and becomes eligible the first day of the next semester.

#### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES**

- **SITUATION:** A student is enrolled for three (3) Advanced Placement courses and two regular classes in the first semester, and all courses are counted toward graduation. If the student fails one of the AP courses, is he eligible to participate second semester?

**INTERPRETATION:** No. There are no allowances made for course difficulty in the rule of passing five (5) courses the previous semester.

#### **BLOCK-FOUR PROGRAMS**

- **SITUATION:** A member school has adopted the Block-Four Program in which students take four (4) courses each semester and receive 1 Carnegie unit for each course passed. How many courses does a student in this school have to pass in order to be eligible for interscholastic activities?

**INTERPRETATION:** The students will have to pass three (3) courses each semester to be eligible. Since each course meets twice the required time, each course should be doubled when reported on the eligibility form. **EXAMPLE:** A student passing 3 out of 4 courses will be recorded on the eligibility form as passing six (6) courses. The unit requirements remain the same as with any system of courses.

- **SITUATION:** A school is on the Block-Four Program and, additionally, requires a student to take a Physical Education course that earns .5 Carnegie unit. A student passes two (2) courses in the Block-Four setup plus the PE class. Is the student eligible?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes. The two courses in the Block-Four setup count as four (4) 1/2 unit courses, and the PE class gives the student the fifth course needed to be eligible.

- **SITUATION:** A student in a Block-Four setting only passes one class in the Spring Semester. The student passes three (3) classes in a traditional Summer School Program. Is the student eligible for Fall participation?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes. The one Block-Four class counts as two (2) 1/2 unit courses and the three (3) in Summer School gives the five (5) courses needed to be eligible.

### **BLOCK-EIGHT PROGRAMS**

- **SITUATION:** A member school has adopted the Block-Eight Program in which students take eight courses over the semester and each one passed accumulates one-half Carnegie unit. How many courses do students at this school have to pass in order to be eligible for interscholastic activities?

**INTERPRETATION:** The students will have to pass five (5) courses each semester to be eligible. The unit requirements remain the same as with any system of courses.

### **BY-LAW 1.60 - SCHOOL SERVICE AREAS/TRANSFER STUDENTS/ MIGRANT STUDENTS/MIGRATORY RULE WAIVERS**

#### **SCHOOL SERVICE AREAS**

- **QUESTION:** What is a public school's service area?

**ANSWER:** A school service area is the geographic boundary established by local boards of education that determine the public school a student must attend. NOTE: The service area is also referred to in this book as the "attendance area" and "area of residence."

- **QUESTION:** What is the service area designation for private schools?

**ANSWER:** The service area for a private school is the county in which the campus is physically located. This restriction only affects students who transfer into the school after beginning their high school careers at other schools.

- **SITUATION:** A 10th grade student moves to a county that has four school service areas (A, B, C, and D), and a city school system (service area E). The student and his parents reside in the service area of School "A," but the student decides to enter School "E." Is the student eligible in the new school?

**INTERPRETATION:** No. When a student and his parents move to a new service area, the student established eligibility at the school that serves his area of residence. When the student and his parents "elected" to attend a school outside his area of residence, the student may not compete at the varsity level for one year.

#### **FIRST-TIME ENROLLMENT**

- **SITUATION:** A county has a school for students living in the county, and a separate school for students living in the city. The local boards of education allow students to choose whichever school they wish to attend (with or without tuition payments). A student and his parents live in the city, and the student is enrolled for the first time in ninth grade at the county school. Will he be able to participate in interscholastic activities?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes. On a first-time entrance into the ninth grade, a student may enroll in the school of his choice if the local board of education gives approval. Once that choice is made, any other transfers must be accompanied by a corresponding move by the student and his parents. If the student transferred back to the school that serves his area of residence, the student would be ineligible for varsity competition for one year.

#### **BONA FIDE MOVE DEFINED**

- **QUESTION:** What is meant by the term "bona fide move?"

**ANSWER:** A "move" is defined as the actual physical relocation of all immediate family members residing in the previous residence, with the intent to reside indefinitely, and to terminate all occupancy at the previous residence.

### THE TRANSFER RULE

- **SITUATION:** A student attends School "A" while living in that school's attendance area. He and his parents move into the service area of public School "B," and the student enrolls in School "B." Is the student eligible to participate in interscholastic activities?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes. This is a classic example of a legitimate transfer.

- **SITUATION:** A student and his parents reside in the service area for a county school. The student enters the ninth grade at a non-member private school. At the end of the ninth-grade year, the student wishes to transfer from the non-member school to the high school that serves his area of residence. Will the student be eligible at the member school?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes. A student may transfer from a non-member school to a member school serving his area of residence one time in his high school career as long as all other eligibility criteria are met.

- **SITUATION:** A student begins ninth grade at the school that serves his area of residence. With one month to go in the school year, the student transfers to a non-member private school. At the beginning of the tenth-grade year, the student enrolls at a member school that does not serve his area of residence. Is this student immediately eligible at the new school?

**INTERPRETATION:** No. The student is now a migrant student because he transferred to a school without living in that service area. If the student had transferred back to the member school at which he began the ninth-grade, he would have been eligible.

- **SITUATION:** A student who attended ninth and tenth grade in a non-member home school enrolls at the public school that serves his area of residence. That school specifies that students from home schools must be tested in order for the course work to be accepted. May this student participate in athletics before the testing is done?

**INTERPRETATION:** No, because eligibility cannot be determined until the course work is accepted.

### CHOICE OF PUBLIC OR PRIVATE MEMBER SCHOOLS

- **SITUATION:** A tenth-grade student and his parents reside in the service area of School "A" and attends that school. The parents and the student have a bona fide move into the service area of public School "B" and private School "C." Does the student have a choice about which school he may attend and remain eligible?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes. When a student (attending any member school) moves into a new service area, he may choose to attend the public school that serves his new area of residence, or a private school that has been assigned his new area of residence.

- **SITUATION:** A tenth-grade student at member private School "C" resides in the service area of public School "A," and then moves into the service area of public School "B," which is still in the service area of School "C." Does the student have a choice in attending public School "B" or selecting a new private school that includes the service area of School "B" in its service area?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes. When a student (attending any member school) moves into a new service area, he may choose to attend the public school that serves his new area of residence, or any private school that has been assigned his new area of residence.

- **SITUATION:** A twelfth-grade student has been at a member school since entering the ninth-grade. When his parents move into the service area of another school, the student wants to stay at his original school. May he remain at the school and retain his eligibility?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes. Once a student has established eligibility at a school, he retains eligibility at that school as long as he is allowed by the local board of education to attend that school, and as long as he meets academic requirements.

- **SITUATION:** A school system grants a permissive transfer for a student to leave the school that serves his area of residence to go to a school that offers a course he cannot get at his home school. Is this a mandated transfer, and is the student eligible at the new school?

**RULING:** This is a permissive transfer and does not carry GHSA eligibility. The receiving school would have to file for a hardship in order for this student to have any chance of being eligible immediately.

- **SITUATION:** A student begins ninth grade at a magnet school, and (a) does not make grades high enough to stay in the magnet program and returns to his home school, or (b) decides to return to a regular study program at the school that serves his area of residence. Is the student eligible?

**RULING:** In both cases, the student is not eligible. Decisions to enter into or exit from a magnet school involve personal choices and/or permissive transfers, and do not carry GHSA eligibility. The inability of the student to meet the achievement standard was under the control of the student.

- **SITUATION:** A school district opens a new school and (a) mandates a service area for students going to the new school, or (b) gives students options about where they may attend. How does this affect eligibility for athletes?

**RULING:** In (a), students mandated to attend the new school are immediately eligible. In (b), the system should set up a deadline date for students to make their choices. Students may either stay or move to the mandated school and have eligibility if the deadline is met. Any decisions made after the deadline renders the student to be a migrant student.

### **MIGRANT STUDENT RULE**

- **SITUATION:** A student enrolls in School "A," is certified eligible, and participates in athletic contests. Then it is discovered that the student's parents do not live in the service area of School "A." After the school forfeits all contests it won when the student played, what is the status of this student's eligibility if:
  - (a) the student remains in School "A," and the parents do not move into the service area of School "A?"
  - (b) The student remains in School "A," and the parents move into the service area of School "A?"
  - (c) the student transfers to the school that serves his area of residence?

**INTERPRETATION:**

- (a) The student is ineligible for a period of one (1) year from the date of entry to School "A."
- (b) The student becomes eligible on the date the parents move into the service area of School "A."
- (c) The student is ineligible for one (1) year from the date of entry to the school of his service area.

- **SITUATION:** A student who has been living with his mother in another state moves in with his grandparents and enters a member school. The grandparents go to a Probate Court and get a Letter of Temporary Guardianship. Will this student be eligible for interscholastic activities?

**INTERPRETATION:** No. This student is considered a migrant student. The student may practice and may play in sub-varsity contests if academic requirements are met, but he will be ineligible for varsity competition for one calendar year. Guardianship is not recognized for eligibility purposes.

- **SITUATION:** A school system has a policy that the children of teachers may attend the school where the parent teaches regardless of where the family lives. A teacher is hired who has a tenth-grade student and the family lives outside the service area of that school. If the student attends the school where the parent teaches, will he be immediately eligible?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes, as long as the parent is a certified teacher or administrator at the receiving school.

- **SITUATION:** A ninth-grade student transfers from one member school to another member school without a bona fide move. May he participate on the JV basketball team if he has met all academic requirements?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes. The student is a migrant student and migrant students may practice and may play on a sub-varsity team during the year that he is ineligible for varsity competition.

### **SUSPENDED OR EXPELLED STUDENT**

- **SITUATION:** A student is expelled from a member private school for behavioral problems. The student and his parents move to a different service area and the student enrolls in a member public school. Is the student eligible to participate in interscholastic activities?

**INTERPRETATION:** No. The student will not be eligible until the time frame of the suspension at the first school is complete or one calendar year – whichever is shorter.

#### **UNFINISHED HOME**

- **SITUATION:** A family has purchased a new home in a school district other than the one where the student has been attending school. However, the new home will not be available for occupancy until six weeks after the start of the semester. In the meantime, the new local board of education allows the student to begin attendance in anticipation of the family move when the home is available. When will the student be eligible at the new school?

**INTERPRETATION:** The student will be eligible immediately upon the date the parents physically occupy the residence in the new district.

- **SITUATION:** A family has purchased a new home in a school district other than the one where the student has been attending school. However, the new home will not be available for occupancy until six weeks after the start of the semester. The parents desire the student to begin and complete the semester at the original school, before transferring to the new school. How will this affect the student's eligibility?

**INTERPRETATION:** The GHSA By-Laws permit students to complete the current semester in a given district if their parents move from that district after school has commenced. Therefore, the student in this case may remain in his original district for the remainder of the semester and be eligible in respect to residence. If the student continues to attend school in that district in the succeeding semesters, he will continue eligibility. If he begins the next semester and then decides to transfer to the school in his area of residence, he would be ineligible for varsity competition for one (1) year.

#### **RECRUITING/UNDUE INFLUENCE**

- **QUESTION:** What factors are involved in the determination of “undue influence?”

**ANSWER:** In addition to the specific statement of the By-Laws, “undue influence” shall be determined by considering the following issues as factors:

- (a) personal contact by a coach, teacher or administrator
- (b) offer or award of any part of the student's tuition, books, and/or fees based on athletic performance or potential
- (c) other privileges or considerations not accorded to other students similarly situated
- (d) a coach at the receiving school coached the transferring student on a non-school team
- (e) a coach at the receiving school gave the transferring student private athletic instructions

#### **AMATEUR STATUS AND AWARDS**

- **SITUATION:** A team wins the state championship and school and community people put on a banquet honoring this accomplishment. The athletes and their parents are provided the meal at no expense, and the following awards are given:
  - (a) a gift certificate for a dinner at a local restaurant to be used by the individual player at his convenience
  - (b) a jacket, sweater, and/or shoes in school colors with lettering that proclaims the state championship
  - (c) a plaque commemorating the accomplishment
 Is this legal?

**INTERPRETATION:** The free meal at the banquet is not a violation, nor is the plaque that was given. All other items must fit under the \$250 per student, per year allowance. NOTE: A school may provide one jacket to each athlete who letters in the student's high school career.

- **SITUATION:** A school wins the state championship and desires for the players to have a commemorative award. May the school buy rings for the players?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes, symbolic awards (i.e., non-cash) presented for winning or placing in GHSA competitions are limited to \$250.00 per year, per student in the aggregate, paid for by the local school.

- **SITUATION:** A student who wins a non-GHSA tennis tournament is offered (a) a cash prize of \$100.00, or (b) a merchandise certificate worth \$250.00 in tennis equipment and/or apparel. How will these awards affect the student's amateur status?

**RULING:** The GHSA follows the rules of the United States Tennis Association. USTA rules forbid the acceptance of money but do allow the acceptance of merchandise not to exceed \$250.00.

- **SITUATION:** A student wins her flight in a non-GHSA golf tournament and is offered (a) a cash prize of \$150.00, or (b) a set of irons valued at \$600.00. How will these awards affect the student’s amateur status?

**RULING:** The GHSA follows the rules of the United States Golf Association. USGA rules forbid the acceptance of money, but do allow the acceptance of merchandise not to exceed \$750.00.

## BY-LAW 2.00 - SCHOOL

### 2.10 - SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP TO GHSA

- 2.11 **The Georgia High School Association 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 of reclassification years 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 through 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 based on school size within classifications.  
NOTE: Schools with a total enrollment of less than 50 students are assessed their insurance fees according to the actual number of participants.
- (c) Dues for the 2006-07 school year are:

CLASSIFICATION	PAID BY OCTOBER 15	PAID AFTER OCTOBER 15
AAAAA	\$715.00	\$815.00
AAAA	\$580.00	\$680.00
AAA	\$510.00	\$610.00
AA	\$390.00	\$490.00
A	\$290.00	\$390.00

2.14 **Playing a Non-Region Schedule:**

- A school may choose to play a non-region schedule in football, basketball, and/or baseball, and this choice is in effect for the entire reclassification period.
- (a) A school playing a non-region schedule may not participate in post-season competition.
  - (b) Results of games with a school playing a non-region schedule may not be used in region standings.

2.15 **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. If that is not the case, the classification (or combination of

classifications) will be divided into Areas in that sport.

## 2.20 - ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.21 The administrative head of each school shall have on file in the school office a certificate of an **annual physical examination** by a licensed medical physician, a doctor of Osteopathic medicine or a physician's assistant indicating the student is approved for participation in athletic activities before that student may try-out, participate in practice or conditioning drills, or participate in interscholastic contests (see By-Law 1.41).
- 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.
- (a) 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 staff.
- (b) These responsibilities shall include the handling of all finances, including capital outlay, the purchase of equipment and supplies, and the employment and payment of salaries to all personnel connected with the activity.
- 2.23 The administrative head of each school shall 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 shall 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 shall submit to the GHSA Executive Committee such **recommendations for the improvement of the GHSA** as he/she may deem necessary. These recommendations must be submitted to the GHSA Office at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting of the Executive Committee.
- 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 will be assessed a minimum fine of \$50.00 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 \$100.00 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 April 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 in any GHSA activity twenty (20) days prior to the date allowed for the first contest in each activity.
- (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 \$25.00 fine to the school that is delinquent.
- (2) Suspend the membership of a school that does not file eligibility reports.
- (c) Reports not filed properly will be returned to the school for resubmission.
- 2.32 Schools **playing interscholastic contests before the filing of 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 of \$25.00 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 ten (10) 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.

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 following procedures shall be followed:

- (a) **To change the date of ninth grade entry:**
  - (1) Submit a new eligibility report form on which you have written "Corrected Copy" AND a certified copy of the student's transcript
  - (2) NOTE: a visiting examiner may be used to verify the data
- (b) **To change the date of birth:**
  - (1) Submit a new eligibility report form on which you have written "Corrected Copy" AND a certified copy of the student's birth certificate
  - (2) NOTE: a visiting examiner may be used to verify the data
- (c) **To correct other errors:**
  - (1) Submit a new eligibility report form on which you have written "Corrected Copy"
  - (2) Give the date of the original eligibility submission

## 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 grades six, seven, or eight 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.

2.42 If a student is retained in grades six, seven or eight because the student did not satisfy grade promotion testing (e.g., CRCT), the school/school district must submit the following items to the Executive Director:

- (a) A summary of the local governing board's policy of testing, promotion, and retention
- (b) A copy of the student's test scores indicating the testing deficiency

2.43 If a student is retained in grades six, seven, or eight, the school system must be prepared to present the following items to prove the **retention was for educational reasons**:

- (a) A copy of the local governing board's promotion and retention policies outlining the reasons that a student may be retained with passing grades
- (b) A transcript of the student's school record
- (c) A written request from the parent(s) outlining the reasons for requesting the retention. NOTE: A teacher, counselor, principal, or headmaster representing the school may initiate the request with written approval from the parent(s).
- (d) Reports from two (2) professional sources outside the school that justify the retention for non-competitive reasons. For example: Statements from a medical doctor, psychologist, psychometrician, etc.
- (e) Written support of the parent's request from education professionals:
  - (1) two (2) teachers (other than an athletic coach) who have taught the student
  - (2) principal or headmaster
  - (3) superintendent or school board president

2.44 As an option, a school may elect to **present** the case file to the GHSA Executive Director and the GHSA Executive Committee member from the school's region for determination of future eligibility **prior to the beginning of the retentive year**. A student's eligibility begins the semester the student enter 9th grade.

2.45 The GHSA Executive Director (and staff) and the GHSA Executive Committee member from the school's region may **review** the case file to see if the system's policy has been violated.

**2.50 - QUALIFICATIONS TO COACH**

- 2.51 An athletic coach must be a professional teacher **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 services (note: 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 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 "GHSA Forms Notebook" for required form).
- 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**" or "**lay coaches.**"
- (a) Community Coach (lay coach) is defined as a person who may have less than 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 a professional.
  - (b) Licensed para-professionals 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." They may coach for only one board of education annually, regardless of whether or not they are paid for their services.
  - (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.
- 2.53 GHSA member schools must **register** all coaches in all GHSA governed activities according to the following:
- (1) 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 are to be included on the initial directory listings.
  - (2) **Qualified** Community Coaches are to be reported on the "List of Community Coaches' (Lay Coaches) form. Only those persons who have successfully completed the **GHSA Coaches Education Program** are to be listed on this form. 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 in "GHSA Forms Notebook").
  - (3) 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. (A supplemental staffing form has been provided in the "GHSA Forms Notebook").
  - (4) 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, and student-teaching intern at a GHSA member school must attend a GHSA-sponsored rules clinic** if he/she coaches the following sports: football, softball, volleyball, riflery, cheerleading (spirit and/or competitive), basketball, wrestling, swimming and diving, track, baseball,

soccer and gymnastics. NOTE: A \$50.00 fine per coach who does not attend a clinic will be assessed to the school.

- 2.55 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 practice** at the new school if arrangements are satisfactory with both systems.

## 2.60 - INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTESTS AND PRACTICES

- 2.61 All **practices** (team and individual) and all interscholastic **contests** for GHSA-member schools shall be **conducted outside the school day of the participants' school**.
- Regional, Sectional, and/or State **playoffs are exempt** from this rule.
  - 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 the host school. **EXCEPTION:** When the host school is not in session on a given day, competitions may be scheduled earlier than normal dismissal time for that school. However, any school that is in session on that day may not compete in that event before the normal dismissal time of the host school.
- 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.
- Member schools shall **compete against other member schools** or against schools who are affiliated with the State Association in their respective states **only**.
  - Member schools are **permitted to compete against non-member schools** in activities not listed in the GHSA Constitution and By-Laws.
  - 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.
  - A member school shall have no more than one varsity, one junior varsity, and one 9th grade team.
    - 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 with grades 9 and 10 only with JV teams only may play varsity number allowed.
    - Sub-varsity competitors must meet all eligibility rules with the exception of the migratory rule.
    - In the sports of Cross Country, Golf, Swimming, Tennis and Wrestling, a school may use a "split squad" at two regular season events on the same day at the varsity of sub-varsity levels. Both of the contests must be counted against the total number of contests allowed in that sport. Individual players may not exceed the total number of contests allowed at the varsity level of that sport.*
- 2.63 **Written contracts are required** for all football and basketball contests, and are strongly **recommended** in all other interscholastic contests that are scheduled between member schools.
- Contract forms can be found in the "GHSA Forms Notebook."
  - Contracts are also recommended for all sub-varsity contests.
  - GHSA-member schools are expected to fulfill the conditions of any game contract that has been properly executed.
    - Exceptions to the contract may be made with the agreement and consent of both schools.
    - Member schools who fail to fulfill the requirements of a scheduled event may be required to make **restitution** to the competing schools after a hearing by the GHSA Executive Director.
    - Schools failing to fulfill a game contract shall be **suspended** in that sport for one (1) full calendar year or the corresponding date of the next calendar year, whichever is greater.
    - 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.
  - Forfeiture and Restitution Policy**
    - 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, then a decision to forfeit that game will be made 30 minutes after the scheduled beginning of the second game.  
EXAMPLE: girl/boy or JV/varsity combination events.
    - 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
    - If a school fails to show up for a game or cancels a game within four (4) 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.

- (4) If a school fails to show up for a game or cancels within four (4) 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.
- (e) 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.

2.64 **Tournaments or multiple-meets**, other than the Region 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 a tournament which requires sanctioning until that tournament has been **approved by the GHSA Executive Director**.
  - (1) The GHSA Executive Director may assess a fine and/or other penalties against a member school that violates the sanctioning rules.
  - (2) Approval will not be granted for any tournament, meet, or other contest to qualify for and/or determine a **national high school championship**. The GHSA strongly discourages participation in events that qualify a team representing a member school for a national championship during the Summer.
  - (3) **Tournament participation limits** are set for each sport, and they are listed in the specific sport sections in this document.
- (b) All **applications for sanctioning** must be submitted to the GHSA thirty (30) days prior to the tournament by a GHSA-member school.  
NOTE: Tournaments that require National Federation sanctioning are an exception to this rule.
- (c) The host school for all sanctioned tournaments shall **pay five percent (5%)** of all gross gate receipts **to the GHSA** within ten (10) days after the tournament.
  - (1) Total gate receipts before expenses are paid equals the gross receipts.
  - (2) A financial report of the event shall accompany the payment.
- (d) GHSA approval for **tournaments in contiguous states** is needed when there are four or more schools participating.
- (e) Approval for **tournaments in Georgia** is needed when:
  - (1) it is a tournament involving four or more schools OR
  - (2) it is a tournament in which awards are given.
- (f) Tournaments that require **approval from the National Federation** with a processing fee of \$100.00 (NOTE: All NFHS sanctioning forms must be submitted to the State Association ninety (90) days prior to the event.) are:
  - (1) any interstate tournament in which more than eight schools participate, and at least one participant is from a non-contiguous state OR
  - (2) any interstate tournament that involves schools from five or more State High School Associations, and at least one of them does not border on the State of the sponsoring school OR
  - (3) any international tournament (except competition with Canadian and Mexican high schools) OR
  - (4) any interstate tournament involving two (2) or more schools which is co-sponsored by or titled in the name of an organization outside the high school community (e.g., a university, a theme park, an athletic company).
- (g) 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.

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:** Only one day and/or night preceding a school day per week may be used for a contest or activity with a starting time of 6:00 pm or later.

- (a) Regional, Sectional, and/or State playoffs are exempt from this rule.

- (b) The GHSA Executive Director has the authority to set aside this rule upon request when there are extenuating circumstances.
  - (c) Teams playing any regular season contest on a night preceding a school 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](http://www.Yahoo.com).
- 2.67 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.
- 2.68 All athletic events hosted by GHSA-member schools (except Cross Country, Riflery, Swimming, Tennis and Track) shall be officiated at all levels of competition by **officials** who are members of associations that are approved by the GHSA.
- (a) Officials and their associations are **independent contractors**, and are not employees of the member schools or the GHSA.
  - (b) In Soccer, Volleyball and Wrestling, **when competing schools cannot agree on officials** for regular-season games, the principals should send in a written request for the GHSA office to assign the officials.
    - (1) This shall be done for both years of the reclassification period.
    - (2) The visiting team shall pay the mileage fees for the assigned officials, and the home team will pay the game fees.
- 2.69 **Legal practice dates** are established for each activity (see each Sport Section), and schools shall not conduct or allow an **illegal practice**.
- (a) The **beginning of each school year** is designated as the first date of practice for the earliest GHSA sport or the beginning of preplanning for a school, whichever comes first.
  - (b) **Illegal practices** are **defined** as practices involving three 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, only one (1) coach in a sport may work with up to two (2) athletes in skill-building drills. 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.
    - (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 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 is that all activities must be strictly voluntary.
    - (4) It is illegal for a team to go to a competitive or instructional camp or clinic during the school year other than in-season events developed for that team alone. If the event is held out of season, it would constitute an illegal practice. If the event is held in-season, it would involve illegal coaching. Boys and girls teams in the same sport are considered the same activity. This prohibition does not apply to 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 an extracurricular activity outside the GHSA-designated season.
    - (6) The following activities are **examples of illegal practices**:
      - (a) interscholastic scrimmages or practice competitions at any time in the school year
      - (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 community recreational teams 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 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 fines of up to \$1,000.00, warning, probation, and/or suspension by the GHSA Executive Director.

## 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 conduct and management of interscholastic contests.
- (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 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. 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.
  - (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** a minimum of \$250.00 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 will be **ejected** from the current contest and will be subject to the sit-out rule.
- 2.72 Any **player, coach, or team attendant** who is **ejected** from a GHSA contest for a sportsmanship violation shall be suspended from competing in all levels of competition in that sport or activity (during regular season or playoffs) until the period of suspension has expired.
- (a) Ejections are based on judgment calls by an 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 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.
  - (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.
    - (2) **Soccer:**
      - (a) One-Game Sit-out:
        1. Two yellow cards in the same game
        2. Yellow-Red cards for taunting
        3. Deliberate handball to prevent a goal
        4. 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: violent conduct, spitting on another person, foul or abusive language, leaving the bench area for a fight situation.
    - (3) **Lacrosse** players who are ejected will sit out as follows:
      - (a) BOYS: Any player ejected for accumulation of personal fouls will sit out one (1) game. Any player or coach ejected for unsportsmanlike behavior or violent conduct will sit out two (2) games.
      - (b) GIRLS: Any player ejected for accumulation of two (2) yellow cards in one game will sit out one (1) game. Any player or coach given a red card for unsportsmanlike behavior or violent conduct will sit out two (2) games.
    - (4) **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) 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 the normal suspension.
  - (g) In the event that a player, coach, or team attendant is **ejected three (3) or more times** in the same activity during the school year for a sportsmanship violation, the individual will be withheld from competition until:
    - (1) The member school presents a written response to the circumstances involved in that individual's unsportsmanlike behavior, AND
    - (2) The GHSA Executive Director establishes a penalty which may include suspension in all GHSA activities for up to twelve (12) months.
    - (3) Penalties imposed by the GHSA Executive Director may be appealed as described under Section 9 of Article IV, in the GHSA Constitution.

- (h) If the ejection occurs in the last game of the season, the penalty carries over to the first game of the next season. If the student is a senior, the penalty carries over to the next sport in which the student participates.
- 2.73 Any student who **intentionally injures or intentionally attempts to injure** another student, coach, official, spectator, or other person immediately before, during, or immediately after any GHSA-sponsored activity, may be 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, or players are not to make **comments to the 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 The officials' dressing area is "off limits" to coaches and administrators for the discussion of game decisions either at halftime or after the game. Officials should be granted a one-hour time limit before the game, the length of halftime, and 30 minutes after the game, where the facilities are secured.
- 2.77 Parents and/or fans connected with a member school will be allowed to use home video cameras to tape GHSA state playoff events in which that member school is participating under the following conditions (Exception: One Act Play, Cheerleading and Debate restrictions will remain in place):
- The cameras must be hand-held and the taping cannot interfere with another fan's view of the event. Site administrators shall have the authority to halt any taping if, in their opinion, this rule is being violated.
  - The tapes must be for personal use only and cannot be used for scouting purposes, given to other schools for scouting purposes, used for any commercial purpose, or sold for profit. Violation of this rule by a member school will result in penalties from the Executive Director including a fine of \$1,000.00.

## 2.80 - BROADCAST RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 2.81 The host or home school has the **right to determine** whether or not its **regular-season** activities may be **broadcast**, televised, tape recorded, or filmed for any "commercial" purposes.
- 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.
  - 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.
  - 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, tape recorded, or filmed.
- The region should set and assess any **fees** charged for broadcasting or telecasting region tournament contests or events.
  - 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:
- The host school shall have the right to approve the amount of **space** used **and the placement** of broadcast equipment.
  - 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.
  - Advertising** utilized during the broadcast shall not include alcohol or tobacco products.
  - Commercial announcements** shall not occur during playing time.
  - Announcers** shall not criticize coaches, officials, or schools, and shall be fair and impartial in their descriptions.
  - The **copyright** privileges for Regular-Season events belong to and shall remain the property of the host school.
  - The **copyright** privileges for Region Tournament events belong to and shall remain the property of the region.

- 2.84 GHSA Broadcast rules and regulations for **State Playoff events**:
- 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 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.
  - 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.
  - Television** rights and fees must be negotiated with the GHSA office on a case-by-case basis, except for those stations having long-term contracts with the GHSA.
  - Video production for authorized school “coach’s shows” are exempt from these rules and fees.
- 2.85 **Radio Broadcast Fees for State Playoff events:** *Fees are based on the size of the radio 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.*

<b>Market Size</b>	<b>Football</b>	<b>Basketball</b>	<b>Baseball/Softball</b>	<b>Other Events</b>
Level 3	\$225/game	\$125/game	\$150/event	\$50/event
Level 2	\$175/game	\$75/game	\$100/event	\$50/event
Level 1	\$125/game	\$50/game	\$75/event	\$50/event

- 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.
- 2.87 **STILL PHOTOGRAPHY:** Members of the working press shall be allowed to use digital video camera at all GHSA state playoff events as long as such cameras are being used to obtain still images. 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. 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.

## 2.90 - 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 or another State Association.
- Exception: Tennis is played according to the rules of USTA.
  - Exception: Golf is played according to the rules of the USGA.
  - Exception: Riflery is conducted according to the rules of National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rules.
  - Exception: Girls Lacrosse is conducted according to the rules of US Lacrosse.
- NOTE: The National Federation prohibits the use of video tape to review an official’s decision.
- 2.93 **Postponed, Suspended, or Terminated Contest:** 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.
- The GHSA requires lightning detectors at all outdoor athletic activities beginning in the 2006-07 school year.*
    - When a lightning detector indicates a dangerous situation, the game manager will notify the head official. At that point, play will be suspended and all participants will go to a place of safety (NOTE: If officials spot lightning before being notified, they may suspend play).*
    - When the detector indicates that it is safe to resume play, the contest may resume in accordance with procedures published in the NFHS Rules Book.*
  - Postponed games** are games that are postponed before they actually begin.

- (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.
  - (3) After administrators agree on the rescheduling of the postponed contest, the host school must notify the GHSA Office.
- (c) **Suspended games** - The official in charge may suspend a game for up to one hour when interrupted by events beyond his control; provided however, that the one-hour limitation shall not apply to football games between schools of the same classification. The one-hour interruption is cumulative with the exception of time between periods. The game shall be terminated after the one-hour (cumulative) delay. If it is not a complete game, administrators of the schools involved (or their designees) should decide about replaying the game. Agreement must be reached within forty-eight hours and the GHSA notified.  
NOTE: In **softball and baseball**, the suspended game rule is used in regular-season and post-season games in which the game has become a complete game and a winner cannot be determined. (See Softball and Baseball Section)
- (d) **Terminated Games** - Games terminated after one-hour delay shall count as “no contest” if less than half the game is complete or there is a tie. Games terminated after one half has been completed shall be considered a completed game and the team leading in the score shall be declared winner. GHSA shall be notified of the termination.  
NOTE: All GHSA activities except varsity football games between schools in the same classification will be terminated at 11:30 p.m.  
NOTE: Football games played between schools from the same classification, and Region soccer matches, 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.
- (e) **Paying Officials** in shortened/postponed games:
- (1) If a scheduled game can not be started due to weather-related conditions, officials who come to the game site will be paid travel if their contracts call for a 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.
- 2.95 **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) *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 games must adhere to GHSA amateur standing rules, and to NCAA regulations regarding all-star games.*
  - (b) During the school year, individual athletes may compete in non-GHSA events provided they do not represent their school (or were chosen for the event because of school-related achievements), do not wear the school uniform, and are not coached by their high school coach. This “unattached competitor” regulation applies specifically to those activities having a strong individual component, such as cross country, riflery, track, tennis, golf, gymnastics, swimming and wrestling. The unattached competitor’s GHSA school coach may not transport the athlete to the event or coach the athlete at the event.
- 2.97 **Admission Fees for State Playoff Contests:** Admission fees for all state playoff games and/or tournaments are \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students-high school and under-**for pre-sale only, when applicable**. When pre-sale is not applicable, all fees at gate will be \$7.00. NOTE: Babies in the arms of an adult are admitted without charge.  
EXCEPTIONS:
- (a) For football, the following admission fees will be in place for the playoffs: first round - \$8.00; second and third rounds - \$10.00. There will be no discounted presale tickets for any round.
  - (b) The admission fees for the Semifinal Football games at the Georgia Dome will be \$15.00 for everyone. The ticket prices for the championship games will be negotiated by the schools involved.
  - (c) The fee for the Basketball Semifinals and Finals will be \$10.00.

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

## INTERPRETATIONS, 2.00 SECTION

### BY-LAW 2.40 - STUDENT RETENTION FOR ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES

- **SITUATION:** A student is retained in the 8th grade until January because; (a) he did not pass the promotion test until the fall semester, or (b) his parents did not feel he was ready for high school in August. How will affect the student's GHSA eligibility?

**RULING:** Students who are not admitted to the ninth grade in the fall because they did not pass a promotion test may have eligibility granted in January if the high school files a copy of the school system's promotion policy and a copy of the student's test scores. If the retention was for any other reason, the filing process is outlined in by-law 2.42. Regardless of the reason for the retention, the student's 8-semester calendar to participate in GHSA activities begins with the January entrance if the retention is approved by the GHSA.

### BY-LAW 2.50 - QUALIFICATIONS TO COACH

- **SITUATION:** A certified teacher is hired part-time in the local school. May he/she be hired to coach cheerleaders?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes, if the certified person is employed for twenty (20) hours or more per week on a regular basis in a professionally contracted position, and holds a valid teaching certificate.

- **SITUATION:** A certified teacher is employed by a public school system and desires to coach at a private school. Is this permissible?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes, as long as the chief administrator from each school involved signs the appropriate form agreeing to such an arrangement.

- **SITUATION:** A non-certified coach who has completed the GHSA Community Coach requirements is under a coaching agreement with a school system. May this community coach be shared by more than one school in this school system.

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes, as long as this arrangement is approved within that school system. A community coach may not be under an agreement with more than one school system in any one school year.

- **SITUATION:** A licensed para-professional is hired to work full-time. May she be hired to: (a) be the coach of the varsity cheerleading team, or (b) assist the varsity cheerleading coach?

**INTERPRETATION:** If the para-professional successfully completes the GHSA training program for a community coach, that individual may be an assistant coach, but never a head coach.

- **SITUATION:** A coach for a member school takes a year off for maternity leave. May that coach continue to coach even though there are no teaching responsibilities?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes.

### RETIRED TEACHER

- **SITUATION:** A teacher-coach, who has been teaching thirty (30) years, retires and is re-hired by the local school board to supervise the athletic program half-time and coach. Is this acceptable?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes. The retired teacher/coach may be hired up to 49% of full-time and be eligible to coach.

- **QUESTION:** What is the definition of "retired?"

**ANSWER:** An individual who draws retirement funds each month from a teacher retirement fund administered by the state, local board of education, or an independent school is a retired person.

**BY-LAW 2.60 - INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTESTS AND PRACTICES**

- **SITUATION:** When do out-of-season practice restrictions begin?

**INTERPRETATION:** The beginning of the GHSA school year is the earliest date of the first practice for any GHSA sport, or the first day of classes – whichever comes first. On that date, all restrictions about camps, clinics, and participation of coaches go into effect.

- **SITUATION:** A student participates in a Fall baseball league offered in the community (while school is in session), and the high school coaches assists with the practices of this team.

**INTERPRETATION:** This is a violation of GHSA rules for coaching out-of-season.

- **SITUATION:** May a school open its gym during the school year for students to participate in basketball, volleyball, or wrestling outside the sport seasons for these activities, and may students on those school teams participate?

**INTERPRETATION:** The gym may be open for all students in the school, and students involved in the sports mentioned may participate, but no coach in that sport may be present during these times.

- **SITUATION:** May a faculty member officiate basketball scrimmages before or after school outside of the published basketball season?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes, as long as the faculty member is not a basketball coach at that school.

- **SITUATION:** May a coach in any extracurricular activity conduct voluntary, individual instruction with a student outside a team or competitive setting and outside the designated season for that activity?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes, even if the instruction is in the activity that the coach coaches during the designated activity season as long as the instruction is voluntary and is outside a team or competitive setting. At any given point in time, only one coach in a particular sport may be working with one or two athletes in skill-building drills.

- **SITUATION:** A cheerleading coach desires to bring in a representative of a national cheer organization to hold a clinic for the cheerleaders: (a) during the season, or (b) just after Spring try-outs. Is this legal?

**INTERPRETATION:** This is a violation in either case. In (a), the violation is for illegal coaching; in (b), the violation is for out-of-season practice. Such a clinic is legal during the Summer.

- **SITUATION:** May a faculty member organize, but not require, a voluntary out-of-season weight-lifting program?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes, but students must not be required to attend as a requirement for making the team. Coaches shall use caution not to suggest that participation in such a program is mandatory, or that their failure to participate could adversely affect their opportunity to make the school team. Such weight-lifting program must be open to all students in the school, and physical examinations for each participant must be on file at the school. The program shall not be sport-specific.

- **SITUATION:** A softball coach is asked to coach a traveling team that plays its schedule in the Spring and Summer months. There is one player from the coach's school team on the traveling team. May the coach accept the duty without violating GHSA rules?

**INTERPRETATION:** If the coach coached the traveling team before school was out for the students, there would be a violation. There is no violation during the Summer.

- **SITUATION:** A GHSA wrestling coach wants to take a group of his wrestlers to a "Free Style" tournament during the month of April, is this legal?

**RULING:** No. Wrestling is wrestling regardless of whether it is "folk style," "free style," or Greco-Roman style. GHSA out-of-season practice rules are in effect for all types of wrestling.

- **SITUATION:** A certified teacher who coaches at a member school gives instruction and/or coaches in a Summer program that continues into Fall semester. What are the restrictions on the coach?

**INTERPRETATION:** The Summer activity is unrestricted as long as the students' participation is voluntary. After school begins in the Fall, the following conditions must be met:

- (a) If the students are in the school where the teacher coaches, no more than two can meet with the coach at any point in time out of season.
- (b) If the student is from a school other than the one at which the teacher coaches, the student must voluntarily attend any instruction session or competition with the Summer activity without any direct or indirect influence from the school the student attends.
- (c) If any student transfers to the school where the teacher coaches, it would be prima facie evidence of undue influence and penalties could be administered.

**NOTE:** This interpretation applies to Community Coaches as well as to certified teachers who coach.

- **SITUATION:** May a basketball team have a scrimmage game against a team of the alumni or of the faculty of that school for fund-raising purposes?

**INTERPRETATION:** No, all participants in a practice must be eligible students currently enrolled in the school. This would be a violation in-season or out-of-season.

- **SITUATION:** May a school soccer team scrimmage a local recreation soccer team?

**INTERPRETATION:** No, all participants in a practice must be eligible students currently enrolled in the school. Interscholastic scrimmages are allowed in certain sports.

- **SITUATION:** At an invitational golf tournament, the host school ends its school day at 3:15 p.m. Other schools participating end their school days at times ranging from 2:30 to 3:45. What is the earliest this tournament may begin?

**INTERPRETATION:** 3:15 – The GHSA rule is that regular season competitions may not begin before school is out for the host school.

- **SITUATION:** A school has a teacher's workday on a Friday, and the students are not in school. May the school host a golf tournament that begins at 10:00am that day?

**RULING:** Yes. The golf tournament may be scheduled at that time, and any schools that are also not in session that day may participate. If a team's school is in session, they may not participate until the normal dismissal time of the host school.

#### **BY-LAW 2.70 - SPORTSMANSHIP**

- **SITUATION:** A baseball coach is ejected on Friday, and sits out the next scheduled game on Monday. The Monday game is called because of rain in the middle of the fifth inning with the home team trailing. Does this game satisfy the "sit-out rule?"

**INTERPRETATION:** No, since the game was called before it was considered a completed game, the coach may not count it as a sit-out game.

- **SITUATION:** A school has several players and most of its substitutes on its baseball team ejected for a fighting incident. At the time of the next scheduled game, the school does not have enough players to field a team, and they forfeit to their opponent. Does this satisfy one game of the sit-out rule?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes. The acceptance of a loss in a forfeiture is equated to playing a game to its completion.

- **SITUATION:** A football coach, who works with both the junior varsity and the varsity squads, is ejected from a JV game on Thursday afternoon. What are the conditions for his "sit-out" game?

**INTERPRETATION:** The coach must sit out the next game at the level at which he was ejected and any games in between. In this case, the coach could not coach at the varsity game on Friday nor at the next scheduled JV game.

## 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** 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 has the copyright privileges to all region tournament (post regular-season) events, not the host school, 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.

### 3.30 - 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 five (5) days of the close of the tournament.
- 3.32 The school hosting or sponsoring all region or area playoffs in **Soccer** shall pay twelve percent (12%) of the gross receipts to the GHSA Executive Director within five (5) days after such contest is played.
- 3.33 **Gross receipts** are defined as total income before any charges such as stadium fees, officials, etc., have been deducted.
- 3.34 Regions (or Areas) that fail to follow stated procedures and deadlines may be assessed a minimum fine of \$50.00 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 meetings shall be conducted according to the latest edition of "Roberts Rules of Order" except:
    - (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.
  - (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) days prior to the meeting.
    - (1) If the recommendation will affect less than all GHSA member schools, the recommendation shall note the schools that are affected.
    - (2) Schools affected by specific recommendations shall be mailed a copy of the written recommendation.
    - (3) Schools affected by specific recommendations shall be given the opportunity to present information to the committee about the proposed change.
- 4.12 The GHSA Office shall provide an official receipt 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 a "GHSA Forms Notebook" which will include 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:
- (a) the beginning and end of the season for all activities
  - (b) dates for Region, Area and/or State Playoff contests and/or tournaments
  - (c) dates, times, and sites for GHSA Rules Clinics

#### **4.15 - RECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE**

- 4.16 When the membership is divided into classifications as prescribed by the GHSA Constitution (Article III, Sections 2 and 3) the following timetable will be observed:
- (a) The first and second FTE counts from the State Department of Education will be averaged by the GHSA staff, and the enrollments submitted by private schools will be added to the list in early Spring of the reclassification year.
  - (b) The list of member schools with their FTE counts will be sent to each school for verification. When there is a major discrepancy between the school's enrollment count and the SDOE count, the school may appeal to the GHSA for reconsideration of the count.
  - (c) When enrollment figures have been verified, schools will be placed in classifications in accordance with the percentages specified in the GHSA Constitution. After being notified of placement in a classification, a school will have (thirty) 30 days to file a request to play at a higher classification.
  - (d) The Reclassification Committee will meet in the month of June to place schools into regions and subregions. The decisions of the Reclassification Committee will be sent to the membership after the meeting.
    - (1) There will be a mandatory subdivision by the Reclassification Committee of each region with ten (10) or more schools (EXCEPTION: Cheerleading).
    - (2) The Reclassification Committee may subdivide a region consisting of less than ten (10) 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 percent of games.
    - (4) For all other sports, subdivided regions must guarantee member schools a minimum number of contests within the region equal to 50 percent of the contests allowed.
  - (e) Following the initial placement of schools into regions, each new region shall meet to audit the population numbers of its member schools.
    - (1) If the numbers are accurate, a written notice of approval shall be sent to the GHSA office.
    - (2) If there are discrepancies in the numbers, a written notice of appeal shall be sent to the GHSA office for a hearing by the Reclassification Committee (which will be heard at the scheduled meeting to hear appeals for lateral moves).
  - (f) Member schools will have thirty (30) days to appeal to the Reclassification Committee in order to request a lateral move to another region. There will be an appeal meeting in July, and representatives from both regions will be notified of the appeal, and may attend the meeting to voice their approval or their concerns about such a move. The decisions made by the Reclassification Committee will produce the alignment that will be presented at the Fall meeting of the full Executive Committee.

- (g) At the Fall meeting, the Executive Committee shall hear any appeals from members who were denied a lateral move by the vote of the Reclassification Committee. Representatives from both regions involved in the appeal will be notified, and may voice their approval or concerns of the appeal. After hearing these appeals, the Executive Committee shall vote on the final region alignments, and there are no more avenues of appeal after this vote.
- (h) 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.

4.18 The Reclassification Committee will 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.

**4.20 - STATE ASSOCIATION CONTEST/EVENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

4.21 The GHSA shall determine the activities in which a **State Tournament, Playoff, and/or Meet** are to be held.

- (a) In order 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 sixteen (16) teams participating and this will be determined with the "Intent to Participate" form that is submitted to the GHSA office by April 1 of the preceeding 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 \$500.00.

4.22 The GHSA Executive Director shall determine and provide adequate **sites for all State Tournaments, Playoffs, and/or Meets** to successfully conduct the event. Tournament sites will not be available to participating teams for practice prior to the tournaments.

4.23 The GHSA shall provide school **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 .....	18	Football .....	44	Softball .....	18
Basketball .....	15	Lacrosse ...	22	Tennis .....	7
Cheerleading ...	16	Soccer .....	22	Volleyball ...	12
- (b) Schools may purchase additional medals if desired. The form to use to place an order for extra medals is found in the "GHSA Forms Notebook."

4.24 The GHSA owns, controls, and exercises all decision-making authority with respect to **broadcast rights for all playoff games** after the regions have determined their playoff representatives.

- (a) The GHSA has the authority to determine appropriate fees and conditions.
  - (1) All checks in payment for such fees shall be made payable to the host school, and should be figured as part of the gross receipts of the event.  
EXCEPTION: Stations with long-term contracts with GHSA.
  - (2) All requests for permission to televise playoff events or contests should be directed to the GHSA Office.
- (b) The GHSA has the authority to select broadcasters.

4.25 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 schedule in By-Law #4.46.

- (a) Baseball - crew of 3
- (b) Basketball - crew of 3
- (c) Cheerleading - 5 scoring judges and 2 safety judges
- (d) Football - crew of 6
- (e) Soccer - crew of 3
- (f) Softball (fast pitch and slow pitch) - crew of 3
- (g) Swimming (TBA)
- (h) Volleyball - crew of 2
- (i) Wrestling (TBA)

#### 4.30 - STATE PASSES TO GHSA EVENTS

- 4.31 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) 1 Band Director
    - (3) 1 Literary Coordinator
    - (4) 1 Debate Coordinator
    - (5) 1 One Act Play Coordinator
    - (6) Athletic Director(s)
    - (7) All athletic coaches except community coaches, unless the community coach is a full-time employee of the school system
    - (8) 2 Certified Trainers employed by the school system in grades 9-12 and recommended by the Principal
  - (d) **Retired persons** of the teaching profession who served at least twenty (20) years in member high school(s), ten (10) of which must have been served in Georgia, grades 9-12 as a:
    - (1) Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent AND/OR
    - (2) Principal AND/OR
    - (3) Athletic Director AND/OR
    - (4) Coach

NOTE: Individuals who have retired from coaching, but not from teaching, and who have met all requirements for a Lifetime Pass, may apply for the pass before retiring from the school system.
  - (e) **GHSA staff members**
- 4.32 A **Retiree's pass** will be issued by special application from the school system from which the individual retired.
- (a) Application should include the individual's permanent address and verification of years of service.
  - (b) Application forms are available upon request from the GHSA Office.
  - (c) 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.
- 4.33 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 be typed 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 confiscated 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.
- 4.34 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.
- 4.35 When a school staff member who was issued a GHSA pass leaves the position that entitles them to that pass, the pass should be voided and returned to the GHSA Office.
- 4.36 At any GHSA event, the host school must honor the GHSA pass that admits "the bearer and one other person." For GHSA state playoff events, the host school may honor only the GHSA pass, and valid media credentials.
- 4.37 School resource officers and other law enforcement personnel in uniform are to be granted free admission to all GHSA events.

#### 4.40 - CERTIFICATION OF ATHLETIC OFFICIALS

- 4.41 A plan for the **certification of athletic officials** shall be established 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
- 4.42 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 officials associations in that activity.
    - (4) The assignment of officiating associations for ALL GHSA activities shall be the responsibility of the GHSA office. In Football, all schools in a region will be assigned the same group(s) of officiating associations for Region games.
  - (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.
    - (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) An approved association must comply with all GHSA **reporting deadlines**.
    - (6) An approved association, and any of their individual members, shall be subject to **penalties** of fines and/or suspensions for failure to comply with GHSA rules and regulations.
  - (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.
- 4.43 Officials associations shall not charge member schools any **administrative fees** in addition to contest fees.
- 4.44 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.
- 4.45 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.
- 4.46 **Universal contest fees** shall be charged for all scheduled, regular-season interscholastic contests (including football scrimmages) except Jamborees. 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.

#### 4.50 - COMMITMENT TO 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.

**4.60 - OPEN MEETING / OPEN RECORDS POLICY**

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.

**4.70 - POLICY ON STEROIDS**

The Georgia High School Association strongly opposes the abuse 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.

**INTERPRETATIONS, 4.00 SECTION**

- **SITUATION:** A school that is hosting a GHSA State Championship event wants to sell GHSA merchandise and/or school merchandise at the event. Is that legal?

**RULING:** No. Broadcast rights and merchandising rights for regular season events rest with the host school. When state playoffs begin, those rights belong to the GHSA. Any merchandise using the name or the marks of the GHSA or mentioning the State Championship must be sold by GHSA-approved merchandisers.

- **SITUATION:** A school that is hosting a GHSA playoff event wants free admission for all people who normally are given free admission at regular season events. Is this permissible?

**RULING:** No. At GHSA playoff events only those people holding GHSA passes or valid media passes are allowed free admission.

# ATHLETICS

(NOTE: State Playoff Brackets for ALL sports can be found in Appendix B at the end of this document)

## SECTION 1 BASEBALL

### GENERAL INFORMATION:

- A. Baseball is a state championship event in each classification, and schools are aligned on a regional basis.
- B. All baseball games will be played by the baseball rules as published by the National Federation of State High School Associations.
- C. The maximum number of baseball **games** allowed (not including state playoffs) is twenty-six (26).
- D. The season shall begin with practices commencing no earlier than February 12, 2007, and the first competition being scheduled no earlier than February 26, 2007.
  - 1. A school shall not allow its baseball team to engage in an interscholastic practice and/or scrimmage game, *except for one (1) interscholastic scrimmage defined as follows:*
    - (a) *a 7-inning game using a "free substitution" format*
    - (b) *played on the Friday or Saturday preceding the first possible date of competition*
    - (c) *rain-outs will not be made up*
    - (d) *umpires will be paid at regular-season rates*
  - 2. The baseball season ends for a team or individual at the end of the regular season, or when that team is eliminated from the region or state playoffs, or wins the State Championship.
- 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 26-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 National Federation 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, pitching innings 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.
- 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 one hour when conditions do not allow play to continue.
      - (1) The one-hour interruption(s) is cumulative
      - (2) The game must be terminated when the one-hour time has elapsed. If the first game of a doubleheader is terminated, the second game will be postponed.
      - (3) The one-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.

2. Pitchers are limited to a maximum of:
  - (a) ten (10) innings in a calendar day
  - (b) fourteen (14) innings in four (4) consecutive calendar days
  - (c) Entry into the ballgame as a pitcher constitutes an inning pitched. After the initial inning pitched by that individual, one pitch constitutes an inning pitched.
  - (d) innings count when pitched in a terminated game that is a no-contest

**STATE PLAYOFFS:**

- A. Four teams from each region will advance to the state playoffs and must be determined by May 5, 2007. Regions must determine their four winners within the 26-game playing limit.
- B. When a region does not have a tie breaker method in place, the following procedure will be used for seeding purposes:
  1. Percentage of head-to-head wins against tied teams
  2. Least number of runs allowed between tied teams
  3. Least number of runs allowed overall region play
  4. Mini-game of five (5) innings
  5. In any step of the tie-breaking process if a tie involving more than two teams 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.
- C. All rounds of the state playoff involve a best two-of-three series.
  1. The higher seeded team, or the team designated as the host team on the predetermined brackets (if the teams are equal seeds), will host all three games.
  2. A doubleheader is required on the first day of each round of the playoff series.
  3. At the championship round, the Executive Director may grant a format exception if the two teams are from the same vicinity and travel is not a factor.
  4. 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. There will be a coin flip to determine the home team if the series goes to a third game.
  5. At the end of each day's competition, the host school will phone or fax the results to the GHSA office, or a designated location.
  6. 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
  7. 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.
- D. The time-frame for the state playoff is as follows:
  1. Round 1: DH on May 11, If game on May 12, rain day on May 14
  2. Round 2: DH on May 16, If game on May 17, rain day on May 18
  3. Round 3: DH on May 22, If game on May 23, rain day on May 24
  4. Round 4: DH on May 28, If game on May 29, rain day on May 30
  5. Finals: DH on June 1, If game on June 2, rain day on June 4
- E. The finances for the state playoffs are as follows:
  1. Admission fee must be charged for all state playoff games (i.e., after the Region winners have been determined). The fee is \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students high school and under **for pre-sale only**. When student pre-sale is not applicable all fees at gate will be \$7.00. In baseball, the \$7.00 fee covers the doubleheader games.
  2. Total gate receipts include all ticket sales and radio/television payments (see fee schedule 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 in to 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) Admission must be charged for all Playoff games.
    - (b) Ten percent (10%) of the gross receipts will be paid to the GHSA.
    - (c) 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.
    - (d) The remaining balance is to be divided with 60% of the proceeds going to the visiting team and 40% to the host team.
      - (1) Mileage to the visiting team is covered in their 60% share of receipts. No extra mileage is paid.

- (2) The host team is responsible for paying local service charges, stadium charges, operating expenses, personnel costs, etc., out of their 40% share.
- (3) By agreement of the schools involved, the 60-40% split may be set aside and another arrangement substituted.

## SECTION 2 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.
- B. All basketball games will be played by the basketball rules as 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.
  1. After a school's basketball schedule has been submitted to the GHSA Office, no game may be added to that schedule without the approval of the Executive Director.
  2. A school shall permit its basketball teams to enter only invitational tournaments that have been approved by the GHSA Executive Director.
- D. The season shall begin with practices no earlier than October 30, 2006, and the first competition no earlier than November 18, 2006.
  1. A school shall not allow interscholastic practices or scrimmages, *except for one (1) interscholastic scrimmage defined as follows:*
    - (a) *played within seven days preceding the first possible date of competition, but not on a Friday or Saturday*
    - (b) *a regulation-timed game for varsity teams only*
    - (c) *girls and boys teams may play the same day, or on different days*
    - (d) *officials will be paid at regular-season rates*
  2. The basketball season ends for a team or individual at the end of the regular season, or when that team is eliminated from the regional, sectional, or state playoffs, or wins the State Championship.
- E. The following limitations exist for basketball games played on a day and/or night before a school day:
  1. Only one (1) day and/or night preceding a school day per week may be used for playing basketball.  
EXCEPTION: region, sectional and state tournaments
  2. A student may dress or play on only one day and/or night preceding a school day per week.
  3. Sub-varsity teams may play on only one day preceding a school day per week, and the games must start no later than 6:00 p.m., for a two-game set.
  4. The first game of a regular-season varsity boys/girls doubleheader on a day and/or night preceding a school day must begin no later than 6:00 p.m.
    - (a) Warm-up time between the girls and boys games is set at fifteen (15) minutes.
    - (b) The host school will start the clock between games when the last players from the first game have left the floor.
  5. Invitational tournaments with games on a day and/or night preceding a school day must begin the next-to-last game no later than 6:00 p.m.
- F. Sub-varsity teams are allowed to play two (2) full games at the same level in tournaments on a non-school day with at least a four hour interval between games.
- G. MERCY RULE: In accordance with National Federation rule options, the second half of a game may be reduced to six (6) minute quarters, while using normal timing/scoring rules when:
  - (a) The point differential at halftime is forty (40) points or greater, and the coach of the trailing team wishes to have the "Mercy Rule" imposed.
  - (b) The point differential at the beginning of the fourth (4th) quarter is thirty (30) points or greater, the "Mercy Rule" will be invoked automatically.
- H. 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 some type of dressing facilities for officials at the game site which can be used to hold the pregame conference without interruptions.
3. 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.

**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 of them 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. No artificial noise-makers (including megaphones) shall be allowed in the gym during basketball games.
4. School bands shall not play while the game is in progress; the home school is responsible for enforcing this rule.
5. The practice of cutting or removing nets, or hanging on the rim or backboard is prohibited at all GHSA games.
6. For the pregame and 2nd half warmup period and during the time of team introductions, the 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.
7. All spectators must wear shirts during the 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 all sub-region and region tournaments will be assigned by the GHSA Office.
  1. It is recommended that the same number of officials be used in sub-region/region tournaments as used in the State Tournament.
  2. Issues for covering the tournament will be handled by the tournament director and the assigning officer of the selected officials association.
- C. Subregion and/or region tournament dates and game times must be submitted to the GHSA office no later than January 15, 2007. If the sites are to be determined by region standings, that information shall be submitted to the GHSA office within 24 hours of the site determination.

**STATE TOURNAMENT (First Round, Sectionals and Finals):**

- A. First round games (boys and girls) will be hosted by the first and second place finishers in each region. The third and fourth place finishers will travel.
  1. For 2006-07 first-round games, girls games will be played on Friday and boys games on Saturday. There will be no doubleheaders unless the same two schools are competing and both school agree. NOTE: This would necessitate a change in financial arrangements.
  2. Officials will be assigned by the GHSA office.
  3. The host team will provide the timer and scorer.
  4. FINANCES:
    - (a) Ticket prices will be \$5.00.
    - (b) The host school is allowed \$500.00 for expenses.
    - (c) Deduct \$330.00 to pay the officials
    - (d) The visitor team will be paid \$.60 per mile (one way).
    - (e) Net proceeds are split equally between each of the two schools and the GHSA.
  5. All other GHSA by-laws pertaining to the State Tournament apply to First Round games except where specified.

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- B. Until eliminated from the tournament of its classification, each team will be entitled to free admission at the tournament site in which they participate:
1. a maximum of twenty (20) players, managers, and other bench personnel
  2. a maximum of sixteen (16) cheerleaders
  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).
- C. The bottom team in the bracket is HOME TEAM, and will wear light-colored jerseys. The top team in the bracket is the VISITING TEAM, and will wear dark-colored jerseys. EXCEPTION: In all First Round games, the host team will be designated as the home team and will wear light colored jerseys.
- 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 twenty (20) minutes before game time.
  2. Teams playing in the second and subsequent games of the day may have access to the court during the halftime of the preceding game until the teams in that game return to the court.
  3. There will be fifteen (15) minutes between tournament games for teams to warmup.
- 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.
- 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 bands, artificial noise makers, banners or signs, radios or other 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.
- H. Each school in the tournament is allowed to have one video camera filming only its games under the following conditions:
1. A GHSA Video Agreement Form must be signed and submitted to the Tournament Director. Forms can be found in the "GHSA Forms Notebook."
  2. The video personnel of the school must film from an area designated by the Tournament Director.
  3. 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 broadcast regulations below and in Broadcast section 2.80).
- I. Tournament Finances:
1. All seats are general admission, and tickets will be full-price for each day of the tournament.
    - (a) Admission fee for the First Round is \$5.00 per day. Admission fee for the Sectionals, Semifinals and Finals is \$10.00 per day.
    - (b) Only GHSA passes and valid press credentials, with a picture ID, will be honored for free admission.
  2. Radio broadcasts:
    - (a) See the fee schedule and broadcast regulations in Broadcast section 2.80.
    - (b) Contact Tournament Director of host site for setup procedure.
    - (c) Broadcast fees are payable to the tournament director at the site prior to the game; checks are to be made payable to the GHSA.
    - (d) Fees become a part of the total gate receipts of the tournament.
  3. Requests to **telecast** from a station not involved in a long-term contract with the GHSA must be negotiated with the GHSA office.
  4. From net receipts (after all expenses have been paid), the GHSA will receive 40% and 60% is divided among the participating schools.

- J. Tournament Officials
1. Officials for State Tournament play will be selected using the following criteria:
    - a. Nominations from the local association.
    - 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 State Tournament will be selected by the GHSA office from a list compiled from recommendations by Region Secretaries.

### SECTION 3 CHEERLEADING

#### GENERAL INFORMATION - SUPPORT/SPIRIT AND COMPETITIVE:

- A. Schools may choose to have:
- (1) support/spirit squad(s) that do(es) not compete
  - (2) support/spirit squad(s) and one varsity competitive team
- 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.
- 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 cheerleading coaches (support/spirit and competitive) must attend a GHSA Rules Clinic or the school will be fined \$50.00 per coach not attending.
- E. The season begins with practices commencing no earlier than August 1, 2006.
1. Cheerleading teams are allowed to attend camps after the last day of school until August 1st.
  2. The first date for competition is August 19. The competitive cheerleading season ends for a school when that school is eliminated from the region or state competition, or wins the state championship.
  3. Spirit Cheerleading season ends after the last day of school.
  4. Out-of-season practices may be held in preparation for tryouts only. Once tryouts are complete, no practices or conditioning may be held until school is out. Out-of-season practices/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.
  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.

#### COMPETITIVE RULES:

- A. Cheerleading is a state championship sport in each classification for non coed teams and schools are aligned on a regional basis. There is also an open division (all classifications together) for coed competition. NOTE: The term "non coed" 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."  
NOTE: National Federation rules dealing with safety are to be followed in any cheerleading practice or performance. 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.  
NOTE: One GHSA Competitive Cheerleading Manual is provided to each school at the coaches rules clinics. Additional copies may be purchased for \$5.00 each.
- C. The maximum number of competitions for varsity cheerleading is six (6), plus region and state competitions.
1. All competitions must be sanctioned by the GHSA by May 5.
  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. No competition may lead to a national championship.
  5. Cheerleading coaches may not be involved in any way with a competition during the school year involving cheerleaders on their school's team that is not sanctioned by the GHSA.
  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.
- D. Deadlines for the competitive season are as follows:
1. Request Sanction of Regular Season Invitational Tournament - May 5, 2006
  2. Declaration of either Coed or Non Coed competitive team - June 1, 2006
  3. Register to enter Regular Season Invitational Tournaments - August 5, 2006
  4. Submit "Notification of Entry" and rosters - October 1, 2006
  5. Determine region winner for Non Coed - November 4, 2006
  6. Sectional Competition for Coed - November 4, 2006
  7. Sectional Competition for Non Coed - November 10, 2006
  8. Championship for Coed Division - November 11, 2006
  9. Championship for Non Coed Division - November 11, 2006
- E. A competitive cheerleading team is comprised of a maximum of sixteen performers.
1. A team mascot (if used) is included as one of the sixteen performers.
  2. A school may have a roster greater than sixteen 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 adopted school uniform that displays the school identification (i.e., letter, monogram, mascot symbol, etc.) EXCEPTION: The mascot is exempt from this 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.
1. A full set of cheerleading mats (42'x42') must be used in all competitions including invitationals, regional, and state competitions.
  2. Only coaches, competitors, and officials are allowed in the competitive area.
  3. Only team members may act as spotters.
  4. Non-competitors 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.
- 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. Pom-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.
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 tape/CD of their music.  
NOTE: It is recommended that each school bring an identical back-up tape/CD.
  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. Competitive routines shall be judged according to the following criteria:
1. Cheerleading Fundamentals
    - (a) Jumps - 10 points
    - (b) Tumbling - 10 points
    - (c) Partner Stunts - 10 points
    - (d) Pyramids - 10 points
  2. Required Components
    - (a) Dance - 10 points
    - (b) Cheer/Chants - 10 points
  3. Overall Execution
    - (a) Showmanship and Spirit - 10 points
    - (b) Transition and Spacing - 10 points
    - (c) Technique - 10 points
    - (d) Knowledge of Routine and Execution - 10 points
  4. Deductions will be made for the following:
    - (a) NFHS Rules Violations (Rules 1-11,1-2)(minor) - -5 points
    - (b) NFHS Rules Violations (Rules 3-14) (major) - -10 points
    - (c) Falls (each time) - -5 points
    - (d) Tumbling outside routine (each time) - -5 points
    - (e) Boundary violations (each time) - -5 points
    - (f) Improper uniforms - -5 points
    - (g) Delay of meet - -5 points
    - (i) Time infractions (overtime) - -5 points for each 15 seconds or portion thereof
    - (j) Sportsmanship - -10 points
  5. Disqualifications will be made for the following:
    - (a) Illegal substitution (ineligible member or non-team member)
    - (c) Too many members on a competitive squad
    - (d) Unauthorized props
- K. Winners in the competitions will be determined by the highest point total from the judges after the highest score and the lowest score have been dropped.
1. In case of a tie, all judges' scores will be totaled.
  2. If a tie still remains after all scores have been totaled, all judges will determine the ranking of the tied teams to break the tie.
- L. 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.
- M. **Judges' decisions are final. GHSA does not allow protests in any activity.**
- N. 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 certified school personnel by contacting the assigning officer of a local judges' association.
- O. Five percent (5%) of the gross receipts from all invitational competitions shall be paid to the GHSA office.

#### **REGION COMPETITION:**

- A. Each school is allowed to enter one team in the region competition for the non coed division. There are no region competitions for the coed division.
1. Schools must declare entry into either the Coed Division or Non Coed Division prior to June 1.
  2. Entry notification and roster must be sent to the Region Secretary (or GHSA Office for Coed) according to deadlines listed previously.  
NOTE: Substitutions may be made at any time after the roster has been submitted to the Region Secretary.
  3. The principal must sign the statement on the "Region Competitive Cheerleading - School's Contestant List" approving the music being used.
- B. Teams from each region competition will advance to the state competition as follows:
1. First place team from each Region in Class AAAAA, AAAA, AAA, and AA, will advance directly to the State competition.

2. The top two teams from each Region in Class A will advance directly to State competition.
  3. The second, third, and fourth place teams from each Region in Class AAAAA, AAAA, AAA, and AA, will compete in a Sectional Tournament with eight (8) teams from each Classification advancing to State competition.
- C. A panel of judges to be used at invitationals, region, sectional, and state competitions will consist of five judges and two safety judges. More than one panel of judges may be used if necessary.
- D. Five percent (5%) of the gross receipts from the region competition must be paid to the GHSA office.
- E. Region competitions will be held on Saturday, November 4, 2006. The region secretaries involved with each area shall determine the procedures for finances, awards, number of judges, etc. GHSA has determined the sites as follows:

South Georgia (at Worth County)

- 1-AAAAA
- 1-AAAA
- 1-AAA
- 1-AA
- 1-A
- 2-A

Middle Georgia (at Toombs Co.)

- 3-AAAAA
- 3-AAAA
- 3-AAA
- 2-AA
- 3-AA
- 4-AA
- 3-A

East Georgia (at Apalachee)

- 8-AAAA
- 8-AAA
- 6-AA
- 8-AA
- 7-A
- 8-A

North Georgia (at Woodland)

- 4-AAAAA
- 5-AAAAA
- 5-AAAA
- 6-AAA

West Georgia (at Columbus State)

Host: Shaw HS

- 4-AAAA
- 2-AAA
- 5-AA
- 4-A

South Metro (at Starr's Mill)

- 2-AAAAA
- 2-AAAA
- 6-AAAA
- 4-AAA
- 5-AAA
- 5-A

NW Georgia (at Gordon Central)

- 7-AAAA
- 7-AA
- 6-A

NE Georgia (at North Gwinnett)

- 6-AAAAA
- 7-AAAAA
- 8-AAAAA
- 7-AAA

Coed Sectionals: Shiloh High School

**COED COMPETITION:**

- A. There will be a separate Open Meet competition (all classifications) for coed teams. Schools will be allowed only one varsity competitive team and must designate either the Coed Open Meet Division or the Non Coed region competition prior to June 1 each year.
1. Having one or more males constitutes a coed team.
  2. Once a team has declared their division of competition, they will not be able to switch to the other. *NOTE: When a coed team consists of only one male, and loses that one male, the team will still be required to compete in the coed division, unless a waiver is granted by the GHSA for a hardship reason.*
  3. Coed teams and non coed teams may not compete against one another in the regular season (except in the situation listed in #2).
  4. The Coed Sectionals will be held on Saturday, November 4, 2006, at Shiloh 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, 2006, at the Columbus Civic Center. *NOTE: The GHSA office has the authority to make adjustments in the coed format depending on the number of teams declared coed.*

**STATE COMPETITION:**

A. The state competition series will be held at the Columbus Civic Center with the Non Coed Sectionals on Friday, November 10, and the Coed and Non Coed Championships on Saturday, November 11, 2006.

**B. SECTIONALS: Friday, November 10, 2006, Columbus Civic Center**

1. First Session: Classes AA and AAA will begin at 9:00 a.m.
2. Second Session: Classes AAAA and AAAAA will begin at 1:00 p.m.

In each competitive session, the routines will alternate classifications.

Example: In the First Session, Class AA leads off, a Class AAA team will perform second, and the two classifications would continue to alternate. In the second session, Class AAAA will perform first, then a Class AAAAA team will perform, with a continued alternation. Top eight (8) teams from each Classification will advance to State Finals.

<u>ORDER</u>	<u>REGION</u>	<u>TEAM</u>
1	Region 6	Team 4
2	Region 7	Team 4
3	Region 8	Team 4
4	Region 1	Team 4
5	Region 2	Team 3
6	Region 3	Team 3
7	Region 4	Team 3
8	Region 5	Team 3
9	Region 6	Team 2
10	Region 7	Team 2
11	Region 8	Team 2
12	Region 1	Team 2
(Intermission)		
13	Region 2	Team 2
14	Region 3	Team 2
15	Region 4	Team 2
16	Region 5	Team 2
17	Region 6	Team 3
18	Region 7	Team 3
19	Region 8	Team 3
20	Region 1	Team 3
21	Region 2	Team 4
22	Region 3	Team 4
23	Region 4	Team 4
24	Region 5	Team 4

**C. FINALS: Saturday, November 11, 2006, Columbus Civic Center**

1. First Session: Classes AA and AAA and A will begin at 9:00 am.
2. Second Session: Coed, Classes AAAA, AAAAA will begin at 2:00 pm.

In each competitive session, the routines will alternate classifications.

Example: In the first session, Class AA will perform first, then a Class AAA team, then a Class A team, with a continued alternation. In the second session, Coed will lead off, than a Class AAAA team, then a Class AAAAA team, with a continued alternation.

<u>ORDER</u>	<u>COED</u>	<u>AAAAA,AAAA,AAA,AA</u>	<u>A</u>
1	Sectional - Team 16	Sectional - Team 8	Region 6 - Team 2
2	Sectional - Team 14	Sectional - Team 6	Region 7 - Team 2
3	Sectional - Team 12	Sectional - Team 4	Region 8 - Team 2
4	Sectional - Team 10	Sectional - Team 2	Region 1 - Team 2
5	Sectional - Team 8	Region 6 - Team 1	Region 2 - Team 1
6	Sectional - Team 6	Region 7 - Team 1	Region 3 - Team 1
7	Sectional - Team 4	Region 8 - Team 1	Region 4 - Team 1
8	Sectional - Team 2	Region 1 - Team 1	Region 5 - Team 1
9	Sectional - Team 1	Region 2 - Team 1	Region 6 - Team 1

10	Sectional - Team 3	Region 3 - Team 1	Region 7 - Team 1
11	Sectional - Team 5	Region 4 - Team 1	Region 8 - Team 1
12	Sectional - Team 7	Region 5 - Team 1	Region 1 - Team 1
13	Sectional - Team 9	Sectional - Team 1	Region 2 - Team 2
14	Sectional - Team 11	Sectional - Team 3	Region 3 - Team 2
15	Sectional - Team 13	Sectional - Team 5	Region 4 - Team 2
16	Sectional - Team 15	Sectional - Team 7	Region 5 - Team 2

- D. Flash cameras will not be allowed during the competition.
- E. A panel consisting of five judges and two safety judges each (selected by the GHSA) per classification, shall judge the state competition.
- F. Finances:
  - 1. Admission cost will be \$10.00 per day.
  - 2. Net receipts (after expenses have been paid) will be divided with the GHSA receiving 40% and 60% divided among the participating schools.

**SECTION 4  
CROSS COUNTRY**

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- A. Cross Country is a team championship sport for boys and girls that is held on region basis in each classification.
- 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 meets in Cross Country shall be ten (10), exclusive of region 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 four (4) or more schools must be approved by the GHSA Executive Director in accordance with the process found in By-Law 2.64.
  - 3. Any meets in which awards are given must be approved by the GHSA Executive Director.
- E. The first date of practice is August 7, 2006, and the first meet may be held no earlier than August 21, 2006.
  - 1. There will be no interscholastic practices in Cross Country.
  - 2. The Cross Country season ends for a team when that team has been eliminated from region or state competition, or wins the State Championship.
  - 3. The Cross Country season ends for an individual runner when that individual has been eliminated from region or state competition, or wins the State Championship.
  - 4. Athletes may run in non-GHSA events as long as they do not represent their school, do not wear school uniform, and are not coached at the event by their high school coach ("unattached runner").
  - 5. The following items are not allowed during competition:
    - (a) jewelry
    - (b) hair beads of any type
    - (c) sunglasses
    - (d) Electronic devices

**REGION COMPETITION:**

- A. Notification of entry in Cross Country must be filed, using the form provided in the "GHSA Forms Notebook," with the Region Secretary no later than September 25, 2006.
- B. The team roster of twelve (12) participants must be submitted to the Region Secretary and the Region Meet Director by October 23, 2006.
- C.
  - 1. Four teams in each region will qualify for the State Meet.
    - a. Region qualifiers must be determined by November 4, 2006.
    - b. Region qualifiers must be sent to the GHSA Office within 48 hours of the completion of the Region Meet; but not later than 8 a.m., on November 6, 2006.

2. The first six (6) individual finishers from each region will qualify for the State Meet regardless of whether they are a member of a qualifying team.
- D. Cross Country rosters should list twelve (12) contestants. No replacements may be made in the list submitted to the Region Meet Director. Any seven (7) of the twelve (12) may run in the Region or State.

**STATE MEET:**

- A. The State Cross Country Meet (for all classifications) will be held at Carrollton High School on November 11, 2006.
1. **There will be a \$5.00 admission fee for all spectators.**
  2. The Meet Director will be Craig Musselwhite of Carrollton High School - Phone: 770-832-2120, ext. 632 - Fax: 770-214-2079
  3. The schedule will be as follows:
 

8:30 am	-	Boys AAAAA
9:00 am	-	Girls AAAAA
10:00 am	-	Boys AAA
10:30 am	-	Girls AAA
11:30 pm	-	Boys AAAA
12:00 pm	-	Girls AAAA
1:00 pm	-	Boys AA
1:30 pm	-	Girls AA
2:30 pm	-	Boys A
3:00 pm	-	Girls A
  4. Awards will be presented at the conclusion of each classification.
- B. A minimum of five (5) and a maximum of seven (7) entrants are allowed for each team that qualified.
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 region, are considered to be in contention for individual honors.
  4. The state cross country course at Carrollton is ~~closed~~ to any individual or team practice until Friday, November 10, 2006, after 3:30 p.m. (the afternoon prior to the state meet).

**SECTION 5  
FOOTBALL****REGULAR SEASON:**

- A. Football is a state championship sport in each classification, and schools are aligned on a regional 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 ranking and breaking ties of the four region representatives for playoffs must be drawn.
    - (c) All contracts should be drawn to coincide with the two-year reclassification period and show the day, date, time, opponent, game site, and officials.
  2. Each school must file its football schedule with the GHSA Executive Director no later than March 1, of 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 cancelling 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 officials association(s).

- B. 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.
- C. The number of football games allowed (excluding state playoffs) is ten (10).
1. The date for the first game shall be no earlier than September 1, 2006.
  2. No varsity football game may be played on a night preceding a school day without specific authorization from the GHSA Executive Director.
  3. Only one football game may be played per week by the same team except in the case of the GHSA Tie-Breaker Playoff.
  4. Sub-varsity football games played on a day and/or night before a school day have a curfew of 9:00 p.m.
  5. Football players playing on both the varsity and one sub-varsity team are limited to six quarters of competition in any seven (7) day period beginning with 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.
  6. 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.
  7. 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.
- D. The season shall begin with practice in full pads no earlier than August 7, 2006.
1. *The preseason practice schedule shall be as follows:*
    - (a) **AUGUST 2-4 - Practice in helmets, shoulder pads, mouthpieces, shoes, and shorts *only*. NOTE: No girdle pads or leg pads are allowed.**
    - (b) **BEGINNING AUGUST 7 - Practice in full pads.**
  3. From the end of spring practice until the first day allowed for practice in full pads before school begins, teams shall not practice in full pads and shall not participate in full contact drills or scrimmages. Teams may wear helmets during 7-on-7 "passing leagues" as long as they are worn by both teams.
- E. **ONE (1) VARSITY SCRIMMAGE** will be allowed prior to the start of the regular season. *NOTE: There will be no jamborees nor interscholastic sub-varsity scrimmages.*
1. *The scrimmage may take place on any date after the date of practice with full pads and shall be a 48-minute scrimmage game (using normal timing rules) between two teams only.*
  2. Officials will be paid a regular game-fee using a maximum of six (6) officials.
- 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 pregame 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 items allowed in the National Federation rule book as "State Adoptions" have been adopted by the GHSA.
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.
  2. Bands 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, the Referee shall give a warning to one or both head coaches and the bands must cease playing.
    - (b) If there is a second offense by the same school's band, an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty will be imposed against that school's team.
  3. During the state playoff series, a crew of six (6) field officials will be used.
  4. 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.
- H. Spring Football Practice for each school year may be held on ten (10) consecutive school days from February 1 until the end of the school year, *spaced over 13 consecutive school days.*
1. 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
  2. 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. These students must be pre-enrolled at that member high school, and once pre-enrolled, the student has established his/her eligibility at that high school.

- I. In case of a game being called in the first half (suspended game), By-Law 2.93-c must be followed.  
NOTE: Football games played between schools from the same classification 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. 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 endzone.
  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 - ie, field divided lengthwise.
- K. The GHSA Overtime Procedure will be used whenever **two schools from the same classification are tied** at the end of regulation play.  
EXCEPTION: State Championship Game.
  1. This procedure involves giving both teams opportunities to score from the 15-yard line until the tie is broken.
  2. Schools from differing classifications may use the overtime procedure if agreement is reached and communicated to the Referee before the beginning of the game.
  3. Overtime games are exempt from the 11:30 p.m. GHSA curfew.
- L. MERCY RULE: At the end of the first half of play, if a team is trailing by 30 points or more, the coach of the trailing team 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 of 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 coin toss options are alternated.
7. Beginning with the third overtime period, a team must attempt a 2-point try after a touchdown.
8. Each team is allowed one timeout per overtime period. No timeouts may be carried over from regulation play.
9. Penalty enforcement is handled the same way in overtime as in 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 stands.
  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 can not 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. Four (4) representatives from each region will enter the post-season playoffs.
1. Each region will determine the way to designate the four representatives and their placement in the region (i.e., first place, second place, third place and fourth place).
  2. In case there is a **tie between two teams** and the region does not have a different written tie-breaker plan, the following tie-breaking procedures will be used:
    - (a) If the teams played during the regular season, the winner of the game will have the higher placement.
    - (b) If the tie can not be broken with head-to-head competition, then the percentage of wins in all games with teams in the same classification in Georgia will be considered with the higher percentage team having the higher placement.
      - (1) Region games are added into this consideration.
      - (2) Wins are divided by the total number of games.
    - (c) If the tie remains after both "a" and "b" have been considered and both teams have qualified for a playoff spot, the region will determine the placement of the teams that are tied.
    - (d) If the tie remains after both "a" and "b" have been considered and there is a playoff spot for only one team, the two teams that are tied will meet in a GHSA Tie-Breaker Game.
      - (1) The schools shall meet at a site selected by the GHSA Executive Director for a playoff on the Monday night after the end of the regular season.
      - (2) The two teams will play a GHSA Tie-breaker Mini-game, and the winning team will have the higher placement.
  3. In case there is a tie between three or more teams and there are spots for all the teams in the playoffs, the region shall decide the seeding of the tied teams.
  4. In case there is a tie between three or more teams and there are not spots in the playoff for all three teams, the following tie-breaking procedures will be used.
    - (a) At any point in this process where a tie 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. EXAMPLE: Teams A, B and C are tied for the 3rd and 4th playoff positions. No team has beaten the other two in head-to-head competition. When going to winning percentage against all teams in the classification, Team A is 75 %, Team B is 67% and Team C is 60%. The tie, therefore, has been broken and there is no need to go back to any head-to-head consideration. If Teams B and C had been tied with winning percentages of 67%, then head-to-head consideration would have been used to break that tie.
    - (b) If the teams that are tied have played during the regular season game and one team has defeated the others; the undefeated team has the highest placement.
    - (c) If the tie can not be broken with head-to-head competition, then the percentage of wins in all games with teams in the same classification in Georgia (including region games) will be considered with the higher percentage team having the higher placement.
    - (d) If the tie remains after both steps "b" and "c" have been considered, the two teams that are tied will meet in a GHSA Tie-breaker Mini-game.

**GHSA TIE-BREAKER MINI-GAME PROCEDURE**

1. The schools shall meet at a site selected by the GHSA Executive Director for a playoff on the Monday night after the end of the regular season.
2. The games will consist of two five-minute halves. The play begins for the first half with a free kick, and standard game rules and scoring are used.
3. There will be a two-minute intermission between the two halves. Play begins for the second half with a free kick.

4. Each team will be given two (2) timeouts in the first five (5) minutes and one timeout in the second five (5) minutes. Unused timeouts in the first five minutes can be carried over to the second five minutes.
5. If the score is tied at the end of two overtime periods, the teams will go to the GHSA 15-yard overtime procedure rather than determining the outcome by advancement yardage.
6. A coin toss will determine the order of play.
  - a. When three teams are tied for one open spot, the team winning the toss gets a bye - and then plays the winning team of the first Tie-Breaker game.
    - Example: Team "C" gets a bye
    - Team "A" plays Team "B"
    - Team "C" plays the winner of game 1
    - Winner of game 2 qualifies for the playoffs
  - b. When three teams are tied for two open spots, the following format will be used.
    - Example: Team "C" get a bye
    - Team "A" plays Team "B" and the winner qualifies
    - Team "C" plays the loser of game 1 and the winner qualifies
    - If Team "C" wins game 2, the regular season winner between Team "C" and the winner of game 1 will have the higher placement
  - c. When four teams are tied for one open spot, the pairings will be determined by draw and the following format will be used.
    - Example: Team "A" plays Team "B" in game 1
    - Team "C" plays Team "D" in game 2
    - Winner of game 1 plays winner of game 2
    - Winner of game 3 qualifies
  - d. When four teams are tied for two open spots, the pairings will be determined by draws and the following format will be used.
    - Example: Team "A" plays Team "B" in game 1 and the winner qualifies
    - Team "C" plays Team "D" in game 2 and the winner qualifies
    - The winner of the regular season game between the two winning teams will have the higher placement
- E. When teams play a mini-game tiebreaker on a Monday, their first round playoff game will be scheduled for the following Saturday unless both schools agree to play on Friday.

#### STATE PLAYOFFS:

- A. All rounds of games after the end of the regular season are considered part of the state playoff structure.
  1. In the First and Second Rounds, the higher seeded team will host.
  2. In all rounds except the Semifinals, 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. *For Quarterfinal and Final Round games:*
    - (a) *The higher seeded team will be the host team. If they do not have a stadium that meets GHSA minimum standards, they may secure a suitable site.*
    - (b) *If both teams have the same seeding, the following procedure will be used:*
      - (1) *If both sites meet or exceed GHSA standards, a coin toss will determine the host site.*
      - (2) *If only one site meets or exceeds GHSA standards, that school will host.*
      - (3) *If neither site meets or exceeds GHSA standards, the Executive Director will designate a neutral site.*
  4. *Responsibilities for Championship Games:*
    - (a) *The GHSA shall provide:*
      - (1) *Game tickets, ticket sellers and ticket takers*
      - (2) *GHSA Pass Gate personnel*
      - (3) *A designated Game Manager, Press Box Supervisor, and P.A. Announcer*
      - (4) *Game officials and auxiliary officials*
      - (5) *Game programs and program vendors; Licensed Vendors for commemorative merchandise*

- (b) *The Host School shall provide:*
- (1) *A stadium with permanent seating and press box that meets or exceeds GHSA standards*
  - (2) *A stadium with adequate mens and womens restroom facilities and adequate concession stands and workers for the anticipated crowd size*
  - (3) *Administrators or their designates to assist the GHSA Game Manager*
  - (4) *A scoreboard operator (not the game clock)*
  - (5) *Adequate police security outside and inside the stadium*
  - (6) *A properly marked field*
  - (7) *Adequate dressing facilities for the size of the teams – with adequate security*
  - (8) *Adequate dressing facilities for the officiating crew*
  - (9) *Custodial staff before, during and after the game*
  - (10) *A suitable site for GHSA vendors to set up*
- (c) *Miscellaneous Issues:*
- (1) *The host school shall retain all revenue from the concessions and parking (if applicable).*
  - (2) *No host-school merchandise may be sold at the event.*
  - (3) *No special rituals may be used by the host team that are not available to the visiting team.*
  - (4) *In the event that restroom facilities and/or concession stand facilities are not adequate, a school must take steps to add temporary facilities or the game will be moved to another location.*

- B. All Semifinal Round games will be played December 8 and 9, in the Georgia Dome.
1. The admission fee will be \$15.00 each day, and there will be no discounted presale tickets.
  2. Admission will be allowed with a Dome ticket or a GHSA pass **only**. EXCEPTION: Valid media credentials
  3. The expense and revenue shares by classification will be as follows:  
AAAAA-27%, AAAA-24%, AAA-20%, AA-16%, A-13%
  4. The schedule of games for the semifinals will be:  
Class AAA: 9:00 a.m., and noon on Friday  
Class AA: 3:00 p.m., on Friday and 3:00 p.m. on Saturday  
Class AAAA: 6:00 p.m., and 9:00 p.m., on Friday  
Class A: 9:00 a.m., and noon on Saturday  
Class AAAAA: 6:00 p.m., and 9:00 p.m., on Saturday
- C. The championship game in each class will be played on Saturday, December 16, unless changed by mutual agreement of the schools involved and with the approval of the GHSA Executive Director or changed due to the television contract. NOTE: The Class AAAA state championship game will be played Friday, December 15, 2006, while the Class AAAAA state championship game will be played on Saturday, December 16, 2006.
- D. In case a State Championship game ends in a tie, the two teams will be declared co-champions.
- E. In order to host a playoff game, a school must meet the following site requirements:
1. Permanent seating requirements:
    - (a) One seat equals 24 inches in width
    - (b) All seats must be at least 15 feet from playing field
    - (c) Total seating capacity for each class is as follows:  
Class A 2,000 seats  
Class AA 2,500 seats  
Class AAA 3,000 seats  
Class AAAA 4,000 seats  
Class AAAAA 6,000 seats  
NOTE: The visiting team may waive these requirements during the First or Second Rounds. Any portable seating added after the minimum permanent seating rule has been met must provide an unobstructed view of the field.
    - (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 noncomplying stadium shall be paid to the opposing team. NOTE: If the visiting team waives the requirement, the schools may play in that stadium. If there is no waiver, the host school will have to find a suitable venue.
    - (e) Region Secretaries shall collect seating information from each school in their region and file it with the GHSA office by August 15th each year. The form shall include the number of permanent seats on the home and on the visitor's side.
  2. 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.
  3. There should be adequate parking space with a recommendation of one (1) space for every four (4) spectators.

4. The stadium shall have adequate working space in the press box as follows:
 

Class A	30 linear feet
Class AA	30 linear feet
Class AAA	30 linear feet
Class AAAA	40 linear feet
Class AAAAA	50 linear feet
  5. Security shall be provided at the site in the ratio of one officer per 500 spectators.
  6. 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.
- F. Financial Procedures:
1. Total game receipts will include all charges made plus any payments for radio or television broadcasting, and will not include money from the sale of programs and concessions. NOTE: See By-Law # 2.97 for admission prices.
  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 \$4.50 per mile (one way) taken from the game receipts and guaranteed by the host school.
      - (3) The game officials shall be paid.
    - (b) After the items in Section "a" above 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) Stations wishing to televise football games must contact the GHSA office for contract terms, fees and conditions.
  5. Financial arrangements for the semifinal games held in the Georgia Dome are designated by the GHSA Executive Committee.
- G. Game officials will be assigned by the GHSA Office in all playoff rounds. Officiating crews shall include six (6) field officials, clock operator, and chain crew.

## SECTION 6 GOLF

### REGULAR SEASON:

- A. Golf is a state championship event in each classification for boys and for girls held on a region basis. In addition to the team competition, there will be an individual low-medalist competition.
  1. Boys Teams: A team may consist of six players, with the best four scores counting as the team score.  
Girls Teams: A team may consist of four players, with the best two scores counting as the team score.
  2. Girls will use the tee boxes designated for ladies in both regular-season and post-season competition.
- B. All GHSA golf matches shall be conducted in accordance with the "Rules of Golf" as published by the United States Golf Association (USGA). 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. *Players may NOT use electronic devices that compute playing distances during competition.*
- C. Notification of entry in golf competition is filed with the Region Secretary by April 16, 2007, and the form is found in the "GHSA Forms Notebook." A school may list the allowed number of team members, plus up to two alternates. Substitutions on the golf team may be made at the Region and State level using only those players listed on the entry form submitted to the REGION SECRETARY.
- D. The number of golf matches allowed (excluding region and state tournaments) is twelve (12) playing dates.  
NOTE: A 9-hole match will count as 1/2 playing date but only until daylight savings time begins.

- E. The season begins with practices commencing no earlier than February 5, 2007, and the first competition being held no earlier than February 19, 2007.
1. There will be no interschool practice or scrimmages in golf.
  2. The season shall end for a team or individual when that team or individual is eliminated from the region or state tournament, or wins the State Championship.
  3. A golf match may not begin prior to the end of the school day with the exception of the region or state tournament.
- F. *Coach-golfer conferences may occur between each green and the next tee box so long as there is no delay in play.*
- 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 scorers 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.
- NOTE: At the Boys AAAAA 36-hole State Tournament, the following deviation will be made: the top three (3) golfers for each team will tee off on first hole, followed by the next three (3) for each team. Before the beginning of the Tournament, the coach shall designate the top three (3) golfers.
- Girls:**
1. All four (4) players will play the first playoff hole.
  2. The first twosome will include the top player from each team, the second twosome will include the 2nd place scorer from each team, and the final foursome will include the other players.
  3. The best two scores of each team will count.
  4. If the teams are still tied, all players will proceed to the next playoff hole.
- H. *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.*

#### **REGION TOURNAMENT:**

- A. Each region tournament will be an 18-hole **team** event.
1. Details of the tournament will be sent to schools by the local tournament director.
  2. Boys: A school may enter up to six players, and the best four scores count for region competition.  
Girls: A school may enter up to four players, and the best two scores count for region competition.
  3. Boys: The region champions and runner-up teams will advance to the state tournament.  
Girls: The region champions and runner-up teams will advance to the state tournament.
  4. Upon completion of the region tournament, the coach of each advancing team must submit the team's order of play for the State Tournament. This entry, along with the team's "Contestants List," must be sent to the GHSA office by 9:00 a.m., on April 30, 2007. Lineup changes must be submitted to the GHSA office no later than noon the Thursday before the State Tournament (May 3, 2007).
  5. Regions are not required to use the State Tournament regulations for approximate playing yardage. However, the use of these distances better qualifies the golfers for the State Tournament.
- B. Each region tournament will have individual medalist competitions in addition to the team competition.
1. The low-scoring medalist in each region (boy and girl) advances to the state tournament even if not on a team qualifying from that region.
  2. Schools who do not have a regular girls golf team may enter one girl in the region tournament to compete for low-medalist honors for girls.
  3. Any girl on a girls golf team is automatically in competition for low-medalist honors for girls.

#### **STATE TOURNAMENT:**

- A. The State Golf Tournaments in all classifications will be held on May 7, 2007.
1. The AAAAA Boys State Tournament is a 36-hole, one-day event.
  2. All other State Tournaments are 18-hole events.
  3. The format of the state tournaments will be determined each year by the GHSA Executive Director at the same time the tournament sites are selected.
  4. Details of the state tournaments will be sent to the schools involved by the respective tournament directors.
  5. *The approximate playing yardage for each championship shall be 6,500 yards for boys and 5,500 yards for girls.*

- B. The Georgia State Golf Association will provide each school meet director and host club professional the information on how to mark and prepare a golf course for competition; however, the responsibility for performing those duties will rest with the tournament meet director or host professional. The GSGA will provide officials for the State Tournament to answer questions regarding the rules of Golf.
- C. The sites for the 2007 State Golf Tournaments will be:
1. Boys:
    - AAAAA TBD  
Host: TBD
    - AAAA TBD  
Host: TBD
    - AAA Waynesboro Country Club, Waynesboro  
Host: Burke County High School & Burke County Chamber of Commerce
    - AA TBD  
Host: TBD
    - A TBD  
Host: TBD
  2. Girls:
    - AAAAA TBD  
Host: TBD
    - AAAA TBD  
Host: TBD
    - AAA Goshen Plantation Golf Club, Augusta  
Host: Burke County High School & Burke County Chamber of Commerce
    - AA The Creek at Hard Labor, Rutledge  
Host: Morgan County High School
    - A TBD  
Host: TBD

## SECTION 7 GYMNASTICS - GIRLS

### GENERAL INFORMATION:

- A. Girls gymnastics is a state championship event open to schools in all classifications.
1. Competition in all meets will be held in the following events:
    - (a) Balance Beam
    - (b) Uneven Parallel Bars
    - (c) Vaulting
    - (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.
- B. The GHSA gymnastics meets will be played according to the rules published by the National Federation with such GHSA modifications as may be found in this section.
- C. Each school desiring to participate in gymnastics must file its intent by April 1 of the preceding year by filing the form found in the "GHSA Forms Notebook."
- D. The number of gymnastic meets allowed is ten regular-season meets plus one invitational tournament.
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. In accordance with By-Law 2.66, only one night before a school day per week may be used for competitions beginning at 6:00 p.m. or later
  6. 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 in order to be eligible to participate in the state qualifying meet.

- E. The season shall begin with practices commencing no earlier than January 15, 2007, and the first competition being held no earlier than February 5, 2007.
  - 1. There will be no interscholastic practice and/or scrimmages.
  - 2. The season ends for a team and an individual when that team or individual is eliminated from the state series or wins the State Championship.
- F. All gymnastics coaches are required to attend a GHSA rules clinic as specified in By-Law 2.54.

#### **PRELIMINARY MEETS:**

Preliminary (qualifying) meets will be held April 20, 2007 (sites & format to be determined).

#### **STATE MEET**

- A. The State Meet will be held on Friday, April 27, 2007, at a site to be determined.
  - 1. The GHSA Coordinator for Gymnastics is Dr. Lucia Norwood.
  - 2. The admission fee for the State Meet is \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students high school and under **for pre-sale only**. If pre-sale is not applicable, all fees at the gate will be \$7.00.
- B. A spring floor will be used in the State Meet.
- C. A school must qualify at the GHSA qualifying round to advance to the State Meet. Any school wishing to compete in the GHSA qualifying round must make notification of entry to the GHSA Office by April 1 of the previous school year.
- D. In all preliminary meets and the state meet, expenses are paid from the gross gate receipts, including the cost of officials, and the balance is sent to the GHSA Office.

### **SECTION 8 LACROSSE**

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- A. Lacrosse is a state championship event for boys and girls and is open to schools in all classifications.
- B. All Lacrosse games will be played according to the rules published by the National Federation (boys) or US Lacrosse (girls) 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 April 1, for the upcoming school year so that teams may be placed in Areas for competition.
- D. The number of Lacrosse games allowed will be 18 (head-to-head or tournament competition) not including Area and other post-season competition.
- E. The season shall begin with practices commencing no earlier than February 5, 2007, and the first competition shall be scheduled no earlier than February 19, 2007.
  - 1. One (1) scrimmage date will be allowed prior to the start of the regular season. The scrimmage may take place on any day after the date of the first practice.
    - (a) The scrimmage shall be no longer than 40 total playing minutes.
    - (b) The scrimmage will not count toward the participants' records.
  - 2. The season shall end when a school, having completed its regular-season schedule, is eliminated from post-season competition or wins the state championship.
- F. All GHSA Lacrosse games shall be played with either one or two officially-dressed officials who are registered under the GHSA plan for registration of officials.
- G. In accordance with By-Law 2.66, only one night before a school day per week may be used with competitions beginning at 6:00 p.m. or later.
  - 1. For evening games, a single game must begin no later than 7:30 p.m.
  - 2. For evening games, a double-header must begin no later than 6:00 p.m.

- H. Sub-varsity matches will be limited as follows:
  - 1. Boys will play four 10-minute quarters.
  - 2. Girls will play two 20-minute halves.
  - c. No overtimes will be played in sub-varsity competition.
  
- I. When there is a competitive imbalance between two teams in a contest, the game will be shortened as follows:
  - 1. If a team is ten (10) or more goals down at halftime, the second half will be played with a running clock that will stop only for timeouts.
  - 2. If a team is ten (10) or more goals down at any point in the second half, the game will be played from that point with a running clock that will only stop for timeouts.
  - 3. If the team that is behind in the second half draws within ten goals, the game will resume to normal clock operation.
  
- J. Games that are tied at the end of regulation will be handled according to the procedures outlined in the National Federation Rule Book as follows:
  - 1. BOYS: Any game that ends in a tie will be resolved by playing a sudden death overtime period as outlined in Rule 3-4. Each overtime period will begin with a face-off.
  - 2. GIRLS: Regular season games that are tied at the end of regulation play will end in a tie. No overtime periods will be played in the regular season. In a tournament or playoff game, two (2) overtime periods of three (3) minutes each will resolve any game that ends in a tie. If the score is still tied at the end of the second overtime, a sudden death overtime period will be played where the first team to score a goal will be declared the winner. Each overtime period will begin with a draw.
  
- 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.

#### **POST-SEASON COMPETITION:**

- A. Each Area will select its two representatives for the state tournament by April 27, 2007, based on regular season play. The state tournament will be completed by May 12, 2007.
  
- B. If championship matches end with a tie score, the rulebook procedure for breaking that tie is followed (see Lacrosse Section J).
  
- C. Admission must be charged for all playoff games and the admission fee is \$7.00.
  
- D. Finances:
  - 1. The GHSA will receive 12% of the gross gate receipts.
  - 2. Officials will be paid out of the gate receipts.
  - 3. Any remaining receipts will be shared by the participating teams.
  - 4. Host school(s) will be responsible for security, facility fees, maintenance costs, etc., and these expenses will not be taken out of gate receipts.
  
- E. *In order to host a state playoff match, the host school must be able to provide the following:*
  - 1. *seating for 700 attendees (figured at 24 inches per seat)*
  - 2. *adequate restroom facilities for the size of the crowd*
  - 3. *a dressing room or locker room for the visiting team*
  
- F. The GHSA Coordinator for Lacrosse is Jay Watts, Westminster School (404-609-6276 or e-mail at [jaywatts@westminster.net](mailto:jaywatts@westminster.net)).

#### **SECTION 9 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 April 1, of the preceeding school year by filing the form found in the "GHSA Forms Notebook."
  - 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 squading when the total number of teams entering have been determined.
3. Contestants in riflery must be certified as being eligible through the GHSA Office.
  4. The first date for riflery practice is August 14, 2006, and the first date of competition is October 2, 2006. The end of riflery season is May 31, 2007.
  5. Schools may enter invitational competitions using small bore (.22) rifles.
  6. JROTC programs may use school rifle team members in JROTC program competitive events. The athletes must be currently enrolled in JROTC and be entered as a JROTC unit and not as a school team.
  7. Individual rifle athletes may compete in non-GHSA events as long as they do not represent their school, do not wear a school uniform, and are not coached by their high school coach ("unattached competitor").
- B. The latest edition of the "NATIONAL STANDARD THREE-POSITION AIR RIFLE RULES" (cost \$2.00, published by the National Three-Position Air Rifle Council, Camp Perry, P. O. Box 576, Port Clinton, OH 43452 - also available on website: <http://www.odcmp.com/3p.htm>) for precision air rifle will govern all GHSA matches except the following:
1. The course of fire will be the team event 4x3x10. All matches will be shoulder to shoulder. Postal matches will not be accepted. Team members will be distributed equally between relays if more than one relay is used.
  2. Except at the State Championship and Sectional competitions, the coach may assist team members (without disturbing other shooters), but may not physically assist the shooters in loading, cocking or adjusting the sights.
  3. The "pair" referred to in National Standard Rule 8.2 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 9.1) 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. 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 when the preparation and changeover phases begin. They will be reinserted after each position stage. CBIs must be inserted anytime someone goes forward of the firing line or removes the rifle from the firing line.
- 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 next day after completion of the match.
  3. Four competitors comprise a rifle team and will be used for post season competition. Areas may organize their competitions as they elect in regard to the number of team members involved as long as the top four (4) scores count toward the school's team score.
  4. 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 8.4. 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 if necessary.
  5. Before the start of the regular season, the 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 playoff competitions. NOTE: Decisions by the Area Appeals Committee may be appealed to the Executive Director when it is believed that region procedures have been violated.
  6. Area competition must be completed by March 9, 2007.

**SECTIONAL COMPETITION:**

- A. The first four teams (four member teams) in each Area will advance to the Sectionals to be fired on March 15, 2007, or earlier if agreed upon by both Area chairpersons involved. The Area chairperson of the top two seeded teams in his/her area will coordinate the matches and report the results to both the State Director and to the GHSA Office not later than March 16, 2007. The sixteen (16) teams winning the Sectionals qualify for the State Championship competition. Sectional schedule is as follows:

Area 1 #1 (home) vs Area 3 #4	Area 1 #2 (home) vs Area 3 #3
Area 2 #1 (home) vs Area 5 #4	Area 2 #2 (home) vs Area 5 #3
Area 3 #1 (home) vs Area 1 #4	Area 3 #2 (home) vs Area 1 #3
Area 4 #1 (home) vs Area 6 #4	Area 4 #2 (home) vs Area 6 #3
Area 5 #1 (home) vs Area 2 #4	Area 5 #2 (home) vs Area 2 #3
Area 6 #1 (home) vs Area 4 #4	Area 6 #2 (home) vs Area 4 #3
Area 7 #1 (home) vs Area 8 #4	Area 7 #2 (home) vs Area 8 #3
Area 8 #1 (home) vs Area 7 #4	Area 8 #2 (home) vs Area 7 #3

**STATE COMPETITION:**

- A. Area chairpersons must report Sectional winners and **all** individual qualifiers by March 16, 2007, to both the State Director and to the GHSA Office. Teams and all qualifying individuals must be reported for them to compete in the State Championship. Each of the participating schools teams will enter a four member team with all shooters' scores to count for the total team score. These four individuals also qualify for the state individual competition. All other GHSA competitors firing a 290 or better in a regular season GHSA Area rifle match or in the Sectional also qualify for the state individual competition if their team does not qualify. Schools with more than four competitors with the 290 or better qualification may use four of these competitors as a team plus their additional qualifiers may compete for the individual championship.
- B. Finals procedures will be used in determining the state individual standings but will have no effect on team standings. Finals will begin approximately 30 minutes after the end of the regular state competition.
- C. The State Riflery Championship will be held on March 24, 2007, at Fort Benning. The GHSA State Coordinator and State Meet Director for Rifley is Major Larry Pendergrass (retired) - 770-922-7871; home address: 3593 Limberlost Trail, Stockbridge, GA 30281; email address: [riflesix@comcast.net](mailto:riflesix@comcast.net)

**SECTION 10  
SOCCER**

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- A. Soccer is a state championship event for boys and girls played in the Spring season with the following classification structure: Class AAAAA, AAAA, AAA, AA/A
- B. All soccer games 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.
- C. Notification of entry in AA/A Soccer must be filed in writing with the GHSA Office no later than April 1, for the upcoming school year so that teams may be placed into Areas for competition. All other classifications are structured according to regions.
- D. The number of soccer games allowed (not including state tournaments) shall be eighteen (18). If a region/area chooses to play a region/area tournament, those games must be included as part of the 18-game total allowed.
- E. The season shall begin with practices commencing no earlier than January 29, 2007, and the first competition being scheduled no earlier than February 12, 2007.
  - 1. There shall be no interscholastic practices or scrimmages with the exception of a preseason jamboree.
  - 2. The season shall end when a school, having completed its regular-season schedule, is eliminated from post-season competition or wins the State Championship.
- F. **A PRESEASON ROUND ROBIN JAMBOREE** may be played on either of the two weekends (Fridays or Saturdays) prior to the GHSA designated first game date of the season. A school may participate in only one Jamboree. This will be the only type of interscholastic practice or scrimmage that is allowed.
  - 1. A jamboree shall include four (4) teams only.
  - 2. Each team will play a 30-minute half against the three (3) opponents.
  - 3. Participants have the right to make modifications in the rules of play to suit the training needs of the participants.
  - 4. It will be considered a preseason event and will not count against the participants' records.
  - 5. Host team may charge admission and gate receipts will be equally divided among the participating schools. Concessions and parking receipts belong to the host school.
  - 6. Officials associations will be paid \$150.00 for a jamboree.
- G. All GHSA varsity soccer games shall be played with one or more officially-dressed officials who are registered under the GHSA plan for the registration of officials.
- H. In accordance with By-Law 2.66, only one night before a school day per week may be used with competitions beginning at 6:00 p.m. or later.
  - 1. For evening games, a single game must start no later than 7:30 p.m.
  - 2. For evening games, a double-header must start no later than 6:00 p.m.

- I. Teams arriving late for a contest by thirty (30) minutes or more shall forfeit the game, 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.
- J. A student may not participate in more than three (3) halves of soccer per day.
  - 1. B-Team matches are limited to 35-minute halves.
  - 2. 8th-grade team matches are limited to 25-minute halves.
- K. During regular season competition played between teams of different classifications, there will be no overtime procedure invoked when regulation play ends with a tie score, unless both coaches agree and inform the game officials prior to the start of the game. During regular season competition between schools in the same classification, and during region and state playoff competition, the overtime procedure listed below will be invoked:
  - 1. The overtime will consist of two (2) five-minute periods.
  - 2. If the score remains tied following the overtime periods, a "shootout" of penalty kicks will determine the winner.
  - 3. A coin toss shall take place to determine which team will put the ball in play for the first overtime period.
- L. In accordance with the National Federation allowance for a state adoption (Rule 7-2), when there is a competitive imbalance between the teams, the game will be shortened as follows:
  - 1. If a team is ten (10) 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 ten (10) or more goals behind at halftime, the second half will be restricted to twenty (20) minutes.
  - 3. When a team is fifteen (15) or more goals behind in the second half, the game will be terminated.
- M. 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 \$50.00 fine for the school for each coach who does not attend.

#### **REGION/AREA COMPETITION:**

- A. Region or Area Tie-Breaking Procedure (to use for seeding purposes):
  - 1. Record against all teams in the 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 Area games
  - 6. Goal differential in all Area games (maximum of three (3) goals per game).
  - 7. Percentage of wins in all games with teams in the same classification.
  - 8. 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 Region/Areas sub-divide into Sub-Regions/Sub-Areas, then the same tie-breaking procedures (B1 through B7) should be used substituting the word "Sub-Area" for "Area."
- C. For 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 with the exception of the State Championship game in which case there will only be two five-minute overtime periods with no penalty kicks. If the score is still tied after two overtime periods there will be State co-champions.
- D. Financial procedures for all Area/Region playoffs will be determined by the Area/Region. The host school is responsible for payment of officials out of the gate receipts. The admission fees for State playoffs begin immediately after Area winners are determined.
- E. **PENALTY KICK PROCEDURE:**

The teams will go into a penalty kick "shootout" immediately after the two (2) five-minute overtime procedure has taken place, if a tie score still exists.

  - 1. The head referee shall choose the goal at which the penalty kicks will be taken.
  - 2. Each coach will select any five eligible players (including goalkeeper) to take the kicks.
  - 3. A coin toss shall be held with the team winning the toss having the choice of kicking first or last.
  - 4. Teams will alternate kickers, and there is no follow-up on the kicks.
  - 5. The defending team may change goalkeepers prior to each kick.

6. Following the five (5) kicks from each team, the teams with the greater number of successful kicks will be given one (1) point and declared the winner.
7. 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. NOTE: Each team will have an opportunity to kick in each round of the "sudden victory" situation.
8. If there is no "sudden victory" after the five (5) kicks, keep repeating the process until a winner is determined.

#### STATE COMPETITION:

- A. Four teams from each Region/Area in each classification (AAAAA, AAAA, AAA and AA/A) will advance to the state tournament.
  1. Region/Area winners must be determined by April 17, 2007.
  2. It is the responsibilities of the host team are to furnish game balls beyond those furnished by the GHSA
  3. 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.
  4. In all rounds, the higher seeded team will host, unless the competing teams have the same seeding. In that case, the (H) printed on the bracket will designate the host team.
- B. Finances:
  1. The GHSA will receive 12% of the gross gate receipts.
  2. A pre-set amount for game officials fees will be sent to the GHSA office, along with the 12% of gross gate receipts, and the GHSA office will be responsible for paying the officials.
  3. The visiting team shall be paid \$.60 per mile (one way) for travel.
  4. After these three expenses are paid the schools involved will share the remaining gate receipts equally.
  5. 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. Beginning immediately after Area winners are determined, fees for state playoff games are \$7.00 for adults, and \$5.00 for students high school and under, for pre-sale only when applicable. When pre-sale is not applicable, all fees at the gate will be \$7.00.
- D. In order to host a state playoff game, the following site requirements must be met:
  1. Seating requirements (seats at 24 inches each):  
A: 700, AA: 700, AAA: 700, AAAA: 1000, AAAAA - 1400
  2. Adequate restroom facilities must be provided
  3. Dressing area must be provided for the visiting team
 Host sites for State Championships (boys and girls) are subject to approval of the GHSA Executive Director.
- 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.

### SECTION 11 SOFTBALL Slow Pitch and Fast Pitch

#### GENERAL INFORMATION:

- A. Softball is a state championship event in both slow pitch and fast pitch.
  1. **SLOW PITCH** softball is organized on an Area basis in one Classification for all teams.
  2. **FAST PITCH** softball is organized on a Region basis in five Classifications of AAAAA, AAAA, AAA, AA, and A.
- B. All softball games will be played by the slow pitch or fast pitch rules as published by the National Federation of State High School Associations.
- C. Notification of entry in slow pitch softball must be filed in writing with the GHSA Office no later than April 1, for the upcoming school year, so that teams may be placed into Areas for competition.
  1. Schools are allowed to field both a slow pitch and a fast pitch team, but participants may not play on the school's slow pitch team and the fast pitch team in the same season.
  2. The slow pitch season and the fast pitch season run concurrently.

- D. The number of softball games allowed (not including region or state tournaments) shall be: 16 games plus one (1) tournament; OR 14 games plus two (2) tournaments; OR 12 games plus three (3) tournaments.
1. Invitational tournaments shall be structured so that no school will play more than seven (7) 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.
- E. The season shall begin with practices commencing no earlier than August 1, 2006, and the first competition being scheduled no earlier than August 14, 2006.
1. A school shall not allow its softball team to engage in an interscholastic practice and/or scrimmage game.
  2. An interscholastic practice game is an eligibility violation.
  3. The softball season ends when a school completes its regular season schedule, is eliminated from post-season competition, or wins the State Championship.
- F. All varsity softball games shall be played with officially-dressed umpires who are registered under the GHSA plan for the registration of officials.
1. The assignment of officials 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.
- G. In accordance with By-Law 2.66, only one night before a school day per week may be used with competitions beginning at 6:00 p.m., or later.
- H. The following rule "State Adoptions" have been approved for GHSA play in softball:
1. In **SLOW PITCH** softball, the use of the "extra player" is allowed.
  2. In **SLOW PITCH** softball, the 11" softball will be used as well as all field adjustments that are mandatory with that ball.
    - (a) bases are set at 65' apart
    - (b) the pitching plate is set at 50' from home plate
  3. In **FAST PITCH AND SLOW PITCH** softball, the game will end when:
    - (a) a team has completed three turns at bat and is 15 runs behind.
    - (b) a team has completed five or more turns at bat and is 10 runs behind.
  4. In **FAST PITCH** softball, 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.
  5. In any softball game, the use of a double first base is allowed.
  6. In any softball game, 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.
  7. Termination of the game due to weather, unplayable conditions, or mechanical malfunctions:
    - (a) The umpires may halt play for up to one (1) hour when conditions do not allow play to continue.
      1. The one-hour interruption(s) is cumulative
      2. The game must be terminated when the one-hour time period has elapsed. If the first game of a doubleheader is terminated, the second game will be postponed.
      3. The one-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.
  8. 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 unavoidable *and the visiting team notifies the home team*. In emergency situations, the game may be started late, or may be rescheduled.
  9. In Fast Pitch Softball, the tie-breaker procedure for extra-inning games will be used. Procedure: At the beginning of the eighth inning (and all subsequent half-innings), the player who was the last batter in the previous inning is placed on second base and regular rules apply thereafter. The game continues until a winner is determined.

#### REGION / AREA TOURNAMENTS:

- A. FAST PITCH: Each region will determine its teams advancing to the Sectional Tournament no later than October 14, 2006, with the top four teams advancing to the sectionals in each classification. Teams advancing to the sectionals must be submitted to the GHSA office no later than October 16, 2006.

- B. SLOW PITCH: Areas winners must be determined no later than October 21, 2006. There are no Sectional Tournaments in slow pitch. The top two teams from each Area will advance to the State Tournament
- C. The dates, times and sites for Region/Area tournaments will be determined by each Region/Area and must be submitted to the GHSA office no later than October 2, 2006.
- D. Admission charges for Area tournaments will be set by schools in that Area, and 5% of the gross gate receipts will be sent to the GHSA.

#### STATE TOURNAMENTS (SECTIONALS AND FINALS):

- A. Fast Pitch Sectional tournaments will be held on October 20 and 21, 2006. The state finals will be held on October 26-28, 2006, at the Columbus Sports Complex in Columbus, Georgia.
  - 1. All state tournaments will have a double-elimination format.
  - 2. Four (4) teams from each Fast Pitch Sectional Tournament will advance to the state finals.
  - 3. **SLOW PITCH** and **FAST PITCH** finals will be held at the same site.
- B. Finances for the state tournaments are handled as follows:
  - 1. The admission price per day is \$7.00 for adults, and \$5.00 for student high school and under for pre-sale only if applicable.
  - 2. Each team is allowed free entrance for up to 20 players, managers and bench personnel. Schools desiring more than this number to be admitted, must pay the admission price. Only GHSA and valid media passes will be honored.
  - 3. Teams are responsible for their own travel and housing expenses, but housing will be arranged by the Columbus Sports Council.
  - 4. The GHSA will receive 12% of the gross gate receipts at all state tournaments. The remainder of the gate receipts will be used to pay expenses, and then the schools involved will share any remaining receipts according to the number of games played in the tournaments.
- C. All umpires and scorers will be provided by the GHSA.
- D. 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 fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled starting time.
  - 4. Teams may not use game fields for batting practice.
- E. Fences will be set at uniform distances in all state tournaments.
  - 1. In **SLOW PITCH**, outfield fences will be set at 250' from home plate.
  - 2. In **FAST PITCH**, outfield fences will be set at 200' from home plate.

### SECTION 12 SWIMMING AND DIVING

#### GENERAL INFORMATION:

- A. Swimming and Diving is a classified event with two state championships (AAAAA and the combined AAAA/AAA/AA/A).
  - 1. Boys and girls compete for separate championships in each class.
  - 2. The first date for swimming practice is October 23, 2006, and the first date for competition is November 13, 2006.
  - 3. The maximum number of contests for swimming is ten (10) exclusive of the state meet.
  - 4. Only one meet may be held per week on a night preceding a school day. A night meet is defined as beginning at 6:00 p.m., or later.
  - 5. The swimming season ends for a team or individual when that team or individual either does not qualify for the state meet or has completed competition at the State Meet.
  - 6. *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. 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.
- D. Each school with a participating student(s) must have a school representative present at all GHSA meets.
- E. ORDER OF EVENTS: (boys events precede girls events)
  - 1. 200-yard Medley Relay
  - 2. 200-yard Freestyle
  - 3. 200-yard Individual Medley
  - 4. 50-yard Freestyle
  - 5. 1 Meter Diving
  - 6. 100-yard Butterfly
  - 7. 100-yard Freestyle
  - 8. 500-yard Freestyle
  - 9. 200-yard Freestyle Relay
  - 10. 100-yard Backstroke
  - 11. 100-yard Breaststroke
  - 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.
- 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 both the diving competition and the swimming 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 may be 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 eleven (11) dives.
- H. Reservation of seating space for spectators is not allowed.

- I. The State Diving Championships will be held on February 7-8, 2007, and the State Swimming Championships will be held on February 8-10, 2007 at The Westminster Schools, Atlanta.

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:**

Wednesday, February 7	1:00 p.m.	Diving – AAAA/AAA/AA/A
Thursday, February 8	10:00 a.m.	Diving – AAAAA Prelims – AAAAA
Friday, February 9	5:00 p.m.	Prelims – AAAA/AAA/AA/A
Saturday, February 10	1:00 p.m.	Finals – AAAAA
	6:00 p.m.	Finals – AAAA/AAA/AA/A

- J. Team championships will be determined by scoring sixteen (16) places as noted in the National Federation Swimming Rule Book. The top eight (1-8) qualifiers will compete in the championship heat, and the next eight (9-16) will compete in the consolation heat.
- 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 is \$7.00 per day, or, 2 days for \$10.00, 3 days for \$15.00, 4 days for \$20.00.
- M. 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 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 Rule 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 Rule 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 5 groups (forward, backward, reverse, inward, and twisting). The degree of difficulty of dives 2-6 when totaled shall be equal to or more than 10.4 for both boys and girls. The score to be achieved must be 200 points or more.
  - 2) 11-DIVE FORMAT: If the 11-dive format is utilized and submitted, it will 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 270 points or more. For boys the minimum degree of difficulty for optional dives shall be 12.0 when totaled and the score to be achieved must be 270 points or more.
- B. In both the 6-dive and 11-dive formats, the meet must be scored by a least, but not limited to 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.
- C. A Proof of Performance for diving must be turned in to the GHSA office within one week of the performance.
1. No computer generated forms will be accepted.
  2. If the Proof of Performance is accepted, the diver's name will appear on the GHSA web Site.
  3. If the proof Of Performance is not accepted or approved the diver may submit a second Proof of Performance sheet to the GHSA Office within 14 days of being notified that the first submission was not accepted or approved. If the second submitted Proof of Performance sheet is not accepted, no further Proof of Performance sheet will be allowed or accepted.

- D. To prepare for the diving competition, the 11-dive sheet to be used in the state meet must be submitted for the eligible diver to the GHSA office by 4 p.m. on Monday, January 29, 2007. This sheet must be completed with the signatures, phone number and e-mail address of the coach. A diver will automatically be entered in the State Meet upon receipt of the actual diving sheet by the deadline, and approval of the actual diving sheet by the GHSA. Prior to Tuesday, February 6 changes to the diving sheet may be e-mailed only once to [dive\\_changes@hotmail.com](mailto:dive_changes@hotmail.com) by the diver or the school official. If more changes are to be made, they must be made at the championship venue by 6 p.m. Tuesday, February 6, 2007. No changes will be made after that time.
- E. If a school has more than four (4) divers per gender that have been deemed eligible after official approval of the POP sheet, the school may submit a maximum of four (4) and only four (4) diving 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. The Westminster diving pool will be available for diving practice from 4-6 p.m., Tuesday, February 6.
- H. Boys will dive first in the odd-numbered years (2007, 2009), and the girls will dive first in the even-numbered years (2008, 2010).

**SWIMMING:**

- A. Coaches shall submit all of their Proof of Performances on the Georgia High School Swimming Coaches Association (GHSSCA) web site found at [www.ghssca.com](http://www.ghssca.com). 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 web 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.
- B. Qualifying times are as follows:

<b>BOYS</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>GIRLS</b>
1:52.00	200 yard Medley Relay	2:08.00
1:56.00	200 yard Freestyle	2:08.00
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	5:40.00
1:41.50	200 yard Freestyle Relay	1:54.00
1:00.00	100 yard Backstroke	1:06.00
1:08.50	100 yard Breaststroke	1:16.00
3:46.00	400 yard Freestyle Relay	4:14.00

**DEADLINES:**

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>
Dive – POP	Within 1 week of performance	
Swim – POP	Within 1 week of performance	
Dive – Last POP	Monday, January 29	4:00 p.m.
Swim – Last POP	Monday, January 29	4:00 p.m.
Dive – Dive sheet for State	Monday, January 29	4:00 p.m.
Swim – Actual meet entry	Wednesday, January 31	4:00 p.m.
Dive – Changes on State sheet	Tuesday, February 6	6:00 p.m.

**SECTION 13  
TENNIS****GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- A. Tennis is a team championship sport for boys and girls that is based on region play in all classifications.
- B. 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 Georgia Tennis Association Handbook relating to lateness for a match will apply to GHSA matches.
  2. There will be continuous play except that a coach may talk to players as they change ends of the court after a game, but the players must stay on the court.
  3. In regular season, the 8-game Pro Set format is allowed. The host coach shall notify all opponents of the format to be used at least 24 hours before the competition. 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.
- C. Tennis teams are restricted to no more than eighteen (18) varsity matches excluding region and state tournaments. The 18 matches are for the complete team (singles and doubles). There will be no singles tournaments allowed.
1. Each match played in an invitational tournament or multiple match counts toward the maximum of eighteen (18).
  2. No school shall enter any invitational tennis tournament unless such tournament has been approved by the GHSA Executive Director.
  3. In accordance with By-Law 2.66, only one night before a school day per week may be used with competitions beginning at 6:00 p.m. or later.
  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. The first date of practice is January 29, 2007, and the first contest may be held no earlier than February 12, 2007.
1. There shall be no interscholastic practices and/or scrimmages.
  2. The tennis season ends for a team when that team is eliminated from play in a post-season tournament, or wins the State Tournament.
- E. The format for all GHSA tennis matches shall be three (3) singles matches and two (2) doubles matches.
1. A player may play in either one (1) singles match or one (1) doubles match.
  2. No player is permitted to play in both a singles and a doubles match.
  3. Substitution is not permitted once a match has begun. If any injury occurs during play that prevents a player from completing the match, that player defaults and the opponent is awarded the victory.
- F. 12-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. 12-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.

**REGION COMPETITION:**

- A. Each region will determine how it will choose its top four (4) teams.
1. The top 4 region representatives shall be determined no later than April 21, 2007.
  2. The results must be submitted to the GHSA by 9:00 a.m. on April 23.
  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. Beginning at the region/sub-region tournament, based on the integrity of the coach, each coach will submit to the tournament director a roster listing the best singles players as 1, 2, and 3 in the proper position and the best doubles players in the 1 and 2 positions. This roster will be the lineup used in **all** tournament play thereafter.
1. Designate four (4) alternates.
    - (a) 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.
    - (b) Substitutions after sub-region or region competition must be made at the lowest level of single's play with all others moving to the higher level of competition. *In double's 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 up to the No. 1 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.*
    - (c) If original contestant(s) resumes play, everyone moves back to their original positions listed on the submitted roster.
  2. A player listed as a single's player shall not switch over to double's competition, or vice-versa.

**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. All State Tournament matches must be played on composition (hard) surfaces unless the competing schools agree to play on a non-composition surface prior to the matches.
  5. The **first round** of the State Tournament will take place on the "home" courts of the higher seeded teams and must be completed no later than April 28, 2007.
    - (a) Coaches will contact each other and set up an agreeable time and date.
    - (b) In the event an agreement on time and date cannot be reached, the GHSA 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 shall 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 noon the day after the match.
  7. On May 4-5, 2007 the **Second Round and Quarterfinal Round** will be held for both boys and girls for all classifications at four **Sectional** Sites around the state.  
The order of competition at each Sectional site is as follows:  
Friday, May 4, **Girls** in Classes AAAAA, AAAA, AAA, AA and A:
    - (1) 9:00 a.m. Class AAA and AAAA girls report to site
    - (2) 10:00 a.m. Class AAAAA girls report to site
    - (3) 10:45 a.m. Class A girls report to site
    - (4) 11:30 a.m. Class AA girls report to site
 Saturday, May 5, **Boys** in Classes AAAAA, AAAA, AAA, AA and A:
    - (1) 9:00 a.m. Class AAA and AAAA boys report to site
    - (2) 10:00 a.m. Class AAAAA boys report to site
    - (3) 10:45 a.m. Class A boys report to site
    - (4) 11:30 a.m. Class AA boys report to site
  8. On May 11-12, 2007 the **State Semifinals and Finals** will be held for both boys and girls for all classifications at a site to be determined.  
The order of competition is as follows:  
Friday, May 11, Class AAAAA and AAAA:
    - (1) 9:00 a.m. Class AAAAA girls and boys report to site
    - (2) 10:00 a.m. Class AAAA girls report to site
    - (3) 10:45 a.m. Class AAAA boys report to site

Saturday, May 12, Class AAA, AA, and A:

- (1) 9:00 a.m. Class A girls and boys report to site
  - (2) 10:00 a.m. Class AA girls report to site
  - (3) 10:45 a.m. Class AA boys report to site
  - (4) 11:30 a.m. Class AAA girls report to site
  - (5) 12:15 p.m. Class AAA boys report to site
- B. All team matches shall be the best three of five (3 singles/2 doubles) matches, with the 12-point tie-breaker being used.
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.
- C. Each team shall furnish five (5) cans of high-quality, heavy-duty tennis balls.
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. In the final match, the winner will be given the choice of the balls used in that match or the can of unopened balls.

#### SECTION 14 TRACK AND FIELD

##### GENERAL INFORMATION:

- A. Track and Field is a team championship event for boys and girls that is based on region competition in all classifications.
- B. All GHSA Track 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.
- C. Track meet requirements:
1. The maximum number of meets for Track is ten (10), excluding Region and State Meets.
  2. Track teams may compete in one (1) indoor meet, and this meet will not count as a part of the ten (10) meets allowed provided the meet is after the date for practice to begin and prior to the date to begin regular competition.
  3. *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.*
  4. In accordance with By-Law 2.66, only one night before a school day may be used with a meet starting at 6:00 p.m. or later.
- D. The dates for Track and Field are as follows:
1. First date for practice: Girls - January 22, 2007; Boys - January 29, 2007.
  2. First date for competition: Girls - February 12, 2007; Boys - February 19, 2007.
  3. There will be no interscholastic practices or exhibition meets in Track.
  4. The Track season ends for a team or individual when that team or individual is eliminated from competition in Region or State Meets, or wins the State Meet.
  5. Individual 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/competitor").
- E. Any meet involving four (4) or more schools must be approved by the GHSA Executive Director in accordance with the process described in By-Law 2.64 e.1.
- F. A contestant in Track and Field may enter a maximum of **both relays, and any one (1) of the combinations listed below**. Competitors not on one or both relay teams are still restricted to one of the following combinations:
1. three (3) field events
  2. two (2) field events and one (1) running event
  3. one (1) field event and two (2) running events
  4. relay teams for a school may be composed of any eligible student from that school, but after qualifying in the Region meet, there may be no change in the contestants of that team.

- G. 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 vaulting standards, the crossbar and the landing pads. Schools not able to meet these regulations are not allowed to practice or compete in the pole vault event.
  - 2. A listing of approved schools has been established for the pole vault. Annually, those schools making changes in their pole vault equipment and/or facilities **MUST** report the changes to the GHSA office.
  - 3. *In compliance with National Federation (NFHS) rules, coaches must verify that all vaulters and poles meet event requirements. A "Pole Vault Verification Form" (found in the GHSA Forms Notebook) is to be submitted before each competition.*
- H. All competitors shall have legal uniforms. In relay races, each team member shall wear the same color and design of school uniform (singlet and shorts, speedsuits). Any visible shirt worn under the track jersey, and other visible apparel worn under the shorts, must be unadorned and of a single (same) color. Uniforms must be exactly the same per event. (EXAMPLE: all team members throwing the discus must have on the exact same uniform. All relay team members must have on the exact same uniform. But the discus and relay uniforms may be slightly different from each other.)
- I. Athletes may not complete while wearing:
  - 1. Jewelry.
  - 2. Hair beads of any type.
  - 3. Sunglasses.
- J. *Electronic devices, including but not limited to disc players, tape players, cell phones, pagers, walkie talkies, are not permitted on the infield or in any of the competition areas.*
- K. Where non-standard hurdles are used, a contestant who knocks down more than three (3) hurdles is disqualified.

**REGION COMPETITION:**

- A. Notification of intent to enter the boys and/or girls Region Track Meet must be filed in writing with the Region Secretary. The list of entries must be filed with the Region Secretary no later than ten (10) days prior to the Region Meet. Coaches may alter the list of entries up until the "Scratch Meeting" that precedes the Region Meet. No changes may be made after the Scratch Meeting.
- B. The time schedule for the Region Meet shall be given to each school that is competing in the meet prior to the start of the Meet.
  - 1. The Schedule for Boys Track (16 events) is in the following order:
 

400m Relay	3200m Run
1600m Run	1600m Relay
400m Dash	Shot Put (12 lb./5.443 kg.)
100m Dash	High Jump
110m High Hurdles (39")	Long Jump
800 m Run	Pole Vault
200m Dash	Discus (3.53 lb./1.6 kg.)
300m Intermediate Hurdles (36")	Triple Jump
  - 2. The Schedule for Girls Track (16 events) is in the following order:
 

400m Relay	300m Low Hurdles (30")
1600m Run	3200m Run
400m Dash	1600m Relay
100m Dash	Shot Put (8.81 lb./4.0 kg.)
100m Intermediate Hurdles (33")	Triple Jump
800m Run	High Jump
Discus (2.20 lb./1 kg.)	Long Jump
200 m Dash	Pole Vault
  - 3. Each school may have two (2) entries in each event.
  - 4. Relay teams should list four (4) runners and two (2) alternates.
    - (a) No replacements may be made after the "Scratch Meeting" preceding competition.
    - (b) Any four (4) of the six (6) listed may run in the event, but after qualifying trials in a Region Meet have been run, there may be no changes in the contestants on a team.

- (c) Schools with two (2) qualifying teams in the same relay may not list competitors on one team as alternates on the other team, nor may the same alternates be listed for both teams.
5. In Shot Put, Discus, Long Jump, and Triple Jump, the giving of qualifying and final trials is optional.  
NOTE: The Region Executive Committee may institute a process in which each contestant has three (3) attempts and only the best attempt counts.
  6. The top two (2) finishers in each event will advance to the State Meet.
- C. Six (6) places shall be counted in Region Meets, with point totals counting as follows:
- |              |   |           |
|--------------|---|-----------|
| First Place  | = | 10 points |
| Second Place | = | 8 points  |
| Third place  | = | 6 points  |
| Fourth Place | = | 4 points  |
| Fifth Place  | = | 2 points  |
| Sixth Place  | = | 1 point   |
- D. When there is a tie in a Region Meet, the points will be divided equally among the contestants who are tied.
- E. When there is a tie in any event involving more contestants than the Region is entitled to enter in the State Meet, the contest must continue or be reheld until the representatives to the State Meet are determined, and no points be given for the continued or reheld contest.

#### STATE MEET:

- A. The State Meet will be scheduled as announced prior to the event.
1. If weather conditions alter the schedule, night sessions may be held.
  2. If weather conditions condense the schedule to a one-day meet, events may be run morning and/or evening.
  3. Preliminaries may be eliminated and finals held in any of the events provided that notice is given prior to the beginning of the meet.
  4. In each preliminary running event (semi-finals) in each classification, there will be two (2) heats with the first four (4) finishers in each heat qualifying for the finals.
- B. The top two (2) finishers in each Region Meet qualify for the State Meet in all classifications.
1. When a qualifier can not compete in the State Meet, the next competitor in the order of finish will be selected as a replacement.
  2. All replacements must be made by the **REGION SECRETARY** only and reported to the GHSA Office no later than Noon two (2) days prior to the beginning of the State Meet.  
Girls: Tuesday, May 1, 2007      Boys: Tuesday, May 8, 2007
  3. Any contestant disqualified in a Region Meet may not participate in the State Meet in the event in which he/she was disqualified.
  4. Relay teams should list four (4) runners and two (2) alternates.
    - (a) No replacements may be made of the runners and alternates qualifying at the Region Meet.
    - (b) Any four (4) of the six (6) listed may run in the event.
    - (c) Schools with two qualifying teams in the same relay may not list competitors on one team as alternates on the other team, nor may the same alternates be listed for both teams.
- C. Each contestant is requested to bring his/her own shot and discus.
1. Any legal shot or discus may be used after it has been checked for weight and legality at the field.
  2. Any contestant may use any shot or discus that has passed the field inspection.
  3. Rings for the shot and discus are concrete; therefore, rubber soled shoes must be worn.
  4. The National Federation 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 (Discus: Rule 6-4-5; Shot Put: Rule 6-5). Schools and Region hosts are encouraged to have the 34.92-degree sectors in place for the Region Meet.
- E. The tracks and runways that are used for both State Meets are all-weather tracks.
1. Spikes on track shoes must not exceed the specified length(s) at each State Meet:
 

Girls at Albany:	1/8"
Boys at Jefferson:	1/4"

 Shoes will 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. Replacement spikes will be sold at each state meet site.

4. Only the starting blocks furnished at the track may be used in the State Meets.
- F. Six (6) places shall be counted in the State Meet, with point totals counting as follows:

First Place	=	10 points
Second Place	=	8 points
Third place	=	6 points
Fourth Place	=	4 points
Fifth Place	=	2 points
Sixth Place	=	1 point
- G. In the State Meets, a tie shall stand, and the points shall be divided equally among the contestants who are tied.
- H. Admission prices for the State Meet are \$7.00

**WHEELCHAIR TRACK AND FIELD:**

1. All high school students with a permanent, physical disability may be eligible to participate on their school's track and field team. These students will have the opportunity to compete in the 200 and 800 meter wheelchair races and the shot put. There will be two (2) divisions of competition in the shot put based upon the disability.
2. Students who participate must meet all GHSA eligibility requirements.
3. Students will be members of the school's track and field team and will compete at all the school's meets (regardless of the number of wheelchair competitors). The athletes must complete in their school's team uniform. The top eight (8) qualifiers over the entire track season in each event will advance to compete at the State Track Meet.
4. Wheelchair racers must use a racing wheelchair, gloves and a bicycle helmet that meets ANSI standards. In the shot put, the boys will use an 8.81lb./4.0 kg. shot while the girls will use a 6 lb. shot.
5. Coaches must complete a required training course conducted by AAASP.
6. All times and distances are to be reported to [resultsga@aaasp.org](mailto:resultsga@aaasp.org)
7. For more information, contact AAASP at 404-294-0070 or see the AAASP web site [www.adaptedsports.org](http://www.adaptedsports.org).

**SCHEDULE AND INFORMATION:****GIRLS STATE MEET - ALL CLASSES**  
**Albany, Georgia - May 3, 4, 5, 2007****INFORMATION:**

1. Notice to all Track coaches:
  - (a) Contestants and coaches will enter and exit through the Pass Gate located at the West end of the stadium.
  - (b) Coaches should pick up their information packets at the Information Table located near the Pass Gate. NOTE: Coaches **must** show their GHSA Coaches Pass in order to receive their information packet.
  - (c) An area will be designated for bus parking.
  - (d) Dressing areas are available at the site.
  - (e) If needed, a security room will be made available to store valuables in a team bag with the school's name visible.
  - (f) Numbers and heat sheets can be picked up at the Information Booth.
  - (g) Schools must comply with all NFHS rules regarding the uniforms of all competitors.
  - (h) All teams are requested to bring a school banner or poster to display during the Opening Ceremonies in the "Parade of Athletes." All contestants are invited and encouraged to participate in the parade.
2. For all events, the schedule and order of events listed in this section will be used.
  - (a) In any running event in which qualifying heats are scheduled and there are eight or fewer entries, qualifying will be eliminated and all entries will qualify for the finals.
  - (b) If any change in schedule becomes necessary due to weather conditions, the GHSA regulations will be followed.
  - (c) Times posted for events are approximate and relative to factors influencing the conduct of the meet. Coaches **must** plan accordingly in order to avoid conflicts.
3. Medals will be awarded for first and second places in each event, and trophies will be awarded to the schools that finish first and second in each classification.
4. EMS personnel will be available at the stadium to transport injured athletes if necessary.

**SCHEDULE:****SESSION I - Thursday, May 3**

Qualifying Heats for Running Events - A, AAA, AAAAA Classifications

Finals for 1600 Meter Run - AA and AAAAA Classifications

Finals for 3200 Meter Run - A, AAA and AAAAA Classifications

The order of running in each event will be: A, AAA, AAAAA

4:00 pm	400 Meter Relays
4:30 pm	400 Meter Dash
5:00 pm	100 Meter Dash
5:30 pm	100 Meter Intermediate Hurdles
6:05 pm	800 Meter Run
6:40 pm	200 Meter Dash
7:10 pm	300 Meter Low Hurdles
7:50 pm	1600 Meter Run Finals (Class AA, AAAAA)
8:35 pm	3200 Meter Run Finals (Class A, AAA, AAAAA)
9:10 pm	1600 Meter Relay

**SESSION II - Friday, May 4**

Qualifying and Finals for all Field Events - All Classifications

9:00 am	Shot Put AA, Triple Jump AAAAA, Long Jump AA, Discus AAAAA, Pole Vault AAAAA
10:30 am	Shot Put AAA, Triple Jump AAAAA, Long Jump A, Discus A, High Jump - Pit 1 - A, Pit 2 - AAA, Pole Vault AAAAA
12:00 pm	Shot Put A, Triple Jump AAA, Long Jump AAAAA, Discus AAAAA, High Jump-Pit 1 - AAAAA, Pit 2 - AA, Pole Vault AAA
1:30 pm	Shot Put AAAAA, Triple Jump A, Long Jump AAA, Discus AAA, High Jump-Pit 1 - AAAAA, Pole Vault AA
3:30 pm	Shot Put AAAAA, Triple Jump AA, Long Jump AAAAA, Discus AA, Pole Vault A
5:00 pm	Wheelchair Shot Put

Mandatory Pole Vault starting height: A, AA - 7'0" AAA, AAAAA, AAAAA - 7'6"

Mandatory High Jump starting height: A, AA - 4'6" AAA, AAAAA, AAAAA - 4'8"

**SESSION III - Friday, May 4**

Qualifying Heats for Running Events - AA and AAAAA Classifications

Finals for 1600 Meter Run - A, AAA and AAAAA Classifications

Finals for 3200 Meter Run - AA and AAAAA Classifications

The order of running in each event will be: AA and AAAAA

5:00 pm	400 Meter Relays
5:30 pm	400 Meter Dash
5:55 pm	100 Meter Dash
6:15 pm	100 Meter Intermediate Hurdles
6:35 pm	800 Meter Run
7:00 pm	200 Meter Dash
7:25 pm	300 Meter Low Hurdles
7:50 pm	1600 Meter Run Finals (Class A, AAA and AAAAA)
8:30 pm	3200 Meter Run Finals (Class AA and AAAAA)
9:10 pm	1600 Meter Relay

**SESSION IV (Finals) - Saturday, May 5**

The order of running in each event will be: A, AA, AAA, AAAAA, AAAAA

12:15 pm	Opening Ceremonies
1:00 pm	400 Meter Relay
1:25 pm	400 Meter Dash
1:45 pm	100 Meter Dash
2:10 pm	100 Meter Intermediate Hurdles
2:35 pm	800 Meter Run
3:05 pm	200 Meter Dash
3:40 pm	300 Meter Low Hurdles
4:10 pm	1600 Meter Relay
4:45 pm	Presentation of Trophies

NOTE: Wheelchair competitions in the 200-meter race and the 800-meter race will be added if schools enter athletes in those events.

**SCHEDULE AND INFORMATION:**

**BOYS STATE MEET - ALL CLASSES**  
**Jefferson, Georgia - May 10, 11, 12, 2007**

**INFORMATION:**

1. Coaches should pick up their information packets and programs at the Information Desk which is located at the back of the Press Box after 9:00 a.m. on May 10th.
2. For all events, the schedule and order of events as given in this section will be used. Times posted for events are approximate and relative to factors influencing the conduct of the meet. Coaches **must** plan accordingly in order to avoid conflicts.
3. Field events for all classifications will be completed at the first session. Contestants should allow ample time to have their shots and discus weighed at the field.

**SCHEDULE:**

**SESSION I - Thursday, May 10** - All Field Events and 1600 Meter Run Finals

12:00 noon	Pole Vault	(AAAAA)	-	Red Pit
	Pole Vault	(AAAA)	-	Blue Pit
	High Jump	(AAA)	-	Red Pit
	High Jump	(AA)	-	Blue Pit
	Shot Put	(AAAAA)	-	Red Circle
	Shot Put	(AAAA)	-	Blue Circle
	Discus	(AAA)	-	Red Circle
	Discus	(AA)	-	Blue Circle
	Long Jump	(AA)	-	Pit #2 (middle)
	Long Jump	(A)	-	Pit #3 (blue)
	Triple Jump	(AAA)	-	Pit #1 (inside)
	2:00 pm	Shot Put	(AAA)	-
Shot Put		(AA)	-	Blue Circle
Discus		(AAAAA)	-	Red Circle
Discus		(A)	-	Blue Circle
Long Jump		(AAAA)	-	Pit #3 (blue)
Triple Jump		(AAAAA)	-	Pit #1 (inside)
2:30 pm	Triple Jump	(A)	-	Pit #2 (middle)
	Pole Vault	(AA)	-	Blue Pit
	Pole Vault	(A)	-	Red Pit
	High Jump	(AAAAA)	-	Red Pit
4:00 pm	High Jump	(AAAA)	-	Blue Pit
	Shot Put	(A)	-	Red Circle
4:00 pm	Discus	(AAAA)	-	Blue Circle
	Long Jump	(AAA)	-	Pit #3 (blue)
	Triple Jump	(AA)	-	Pit #1 (inside)
	Triple Jump	(AAAA)	-	Pit #2 (middle)
	Shot Put	Wheelchair-		Blue Circle

5:00 pm	Pole Vault (AAA) - Red Pit
	High Jump (A) - Red Pit
6:00 pm	Long Jump (AAAAA) - Pit #3 (blue)
7:30 pm	1600 Meter Run FINALS - All Classes - Running Order: A, AA, AAA, AAAA, AAAAA

**SESSION II - Friday, May 11**

Qualifying Heats for Running Events - All Classifications

The order of running in each event will be: A, AA, AAA, AAAA, AAAAA

12:00 noon	400 Meter Relay
12:55 pm	400 Meter Dash
1:45 pm	100 Meter Dash
2:35 pm	110 Meter High Hurdles
3:25 pm	800 Meter Run
4:30 pm	200 Meter Dash
5:20 pm	300 Meter Intermediate Hurdles
6:25 pm	3200 Meter Run - FINALS
7:40 pm	1600 Meter Relay

**SESSION III - Saturday, May 12**

Finals for Running Events - All Classifications

The order of running in each event will be: A, AA, AAA, AAAA, AAAAA

12:00 pm	Opening Ceremonies
12:45 pm	400 Meter Relay
1:15 pm	400 Meter Dash
1:45 pm	100 Meter Dash
2:20 pm	110 Meter High Hurdles
2:55 pm	Wheelchair 800 Meter Race
3:10 pm	800 Meter Run
3:45 pm	200 Meter Dash
4:05 pm	Wheelchair 200 Meter Race
4:15 pm	300 Meter Intermediate Hurdles
4:55 pm	1600 Meter Relay
5:40 pm	Presentation of Trophies

## SECTION 15 VOLLEYBALL

**REGULAR SEASON:**

- A. Volleyball is organized on an Area basis with a state championship in four (4) classifications: AAAAA, AAAA, AAA, AA/A.
- B. The National Federation Volleyball rules committee has given each state its option about the number of games that determine a match. The GHSA will limit all matches to best-of-three except for championship matches in the Area Tournament, and all matches in the Sectional Tournament and Final Four Tournament.
- C. Notification of entry in Volleyball must be filed in writing with the GHSA State Office no later than April 1, for the next school year. Schools will be assigned by the GHSA Executive Director to a geographic area for competition, and then will be notified of that assignment.
- D. Playing dates:
  1. Schools have four (4) options when scheduling playing dates:
    - (a) 15 playing dates with no invitational tournaments.
    - (b) 14 playing dates with one (1) invitational tournament.
    - (c) 13 playing dates with two (2) invitational tournaments.
    - (d) 12 playing dates with three (3) invitational tournaments.
  2. An invitational tournament is defined as three (3) 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 volleyball tournament unless such tournament has been approved by the GHSA Executive Director.
  5. The Area and State Tournament are not counted as part of the allotted playing dates.
  6. Regular season playing dates on days/nights preceding a school day should be limited to no more than three matches per court per night.
    - (a) dual matches - must start no later than 7:00 p.m.
    - (b) multiple matches - must start no later than 6:00 p.m.
  7. In accordance with By-Law 2.66, only one night before a school day per week may be used with competitions beginning at 6:00 p.m. or later.
- E. The season shall begin with practices beginning on August 1, 2006, and the first contest scheduled no earlier than August 14, 2006.
1. Area winners must be determined by October 21, 2006, and the State Tournament will be held October 28, November 2, and 4, 2006.
  2. A school shall not allow its team to engage in any interscholastic practice or scrimmage matches except for a jamboree. Any interscholastic practice is considered an eligibility violation.
  3. The Volleyball season ends for a team when that team is eliminated from play in a post-season tournament or wins the State Tournament.
  4. Artificial noisemakers may not be used during regular season or post-season competition while the ball is in play.
  5. Display of signs is not allowed during regular season or post season competition.
  6. Competitors must stay in uniform while in the competitive area.
  7. All varsity Volleyball matches shall be officiated by at least one (1) officially-dressed volleyball official who is registered under the GHSA plan for the registration of officials
  8. Each school will have a contract with an officials association for regular season matches, play days and invitational tournaments.
    1. For regular-season matches, each team will be billed by the official's association for one-half of the fees for the games in which they played.
    2. For invitational tournaments and play days, the host team will be billed for the officiating fees.
  9. **A fall varsity jamboree** may be played on either of the two (2) week-ends (Fridays or Saturdays) prior to the GHSA designated first game date of the season. A school may participate in only one Jamboree.

#### AREA AND STATE TOURNAMENTS:

- A. Each Area shall determine if it will use single-elimination or double-elimination format - or if it will determine Sectional representatives by regular-season play. That choice must be submitted to the GHSA Volleyball Coordinator for that classification on or before August 4, 2006.
1. *Four* teams from each Area will advance to the Sectionals.
  2. Finances will be the responsibility of the Area.
  3. Ticket prices are to be set at \$5.00 for all persons.
  4. The GHSA will receive 5 percent of the gross gate receipts.
  5. Results of each Area Tournament must be sent to the GHSA office AND to the GHSA Volleyball Coordinators (AAAAA & AAAA: Patty Craven at McEachern; AAA and AA/A: Lynne Malloy at North Springs) within 24 hours of the completion of the event.
- B. The State Volleyball playoffs will involve *two single-elimination* Sectional Tournaments in each classification, and a single-elimination "Final Four" Tournament.
1. Sites for these tournaments are noted on the brackets and these will be one-day events.
  2. One team from each Sectional Tournament will advance to the Final Four Tournament. The teams advancing to the Final Four will be seeded by a committee selected by the Executive Director.
  3. Ticket prices for the Sectional and Final Four Tournaments shall be set at \$7.00 for all persons.
  4. Finances for the Sectional and Final Four Tournaments shall be handled as follows:
    - (a) The host school will retain 20 percent of the gross gate receipts for expenses.
    - (b) Remaining funds will be sent to the GHSA for distribution as follows:
      1. The GHSA will receive 12 percent of gross gate receipts.
      2. The GHSA will pay the officials.
      3. Any funds remaining will be disbursed to competing teams according to number of matches played in the tournament.
  5. Scorekeepers and Line Judges will be supplied by the various officials' associations in the Sectional and Final Four matches.

**SECTION 16  
WRESTLING**

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- A. Wrestling will be a state open meet with separate competitions for Class AAAAA, Class AAAA, Class AAA, Class AA, and Class A. NOTE: There will also be separate competitions in Team Dual Wrestling. Information on this competition is found in this Section.
- 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. A violation of any regulation in the Wrestling Section shall be treated as a violation of eligibility rules.
- C. Notification of entry in Wrestling must be filed with the GHSA office no later than April 1 for the next school year. Schools will then be assigned to a geographic area by the GHSA Executive Director, and then will be notified of that assignment.
- 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. Area Duals, Area Traditional, State Duals and State Traditional Tournaments are not included in the twenty (20) playing dates. NOTE: After December 16, no new wrestling competitions may be scheduled unless approved by the GHSA Executive Director in order to avoid manipulation of weight certification.
1. The maximum number of days for an invitational tournament is two (2) dates.
  2. On a day/night preceding a school day, a student may not wrestle more than three (3) matches, including forfeits. On all other occasions, a student may not wrestle more than five (5) matches per day, including forfeits.
  3. Contestants must have forty-five (45) minutes rest between matches.
  4. Only one day/night preceding a school day per week may be used for varsity wrestling matches, and only one day/night preceding a school day per week may be used for sub-varsity matches.
  5. A student may dress or wrestle on only one day/night preceding a school day per week.
  6. The starting time for a single dual wrestling match on nights preceding a school day may be no later than 7:00 p.m. When a JV match is included, that match should start at 6:00 p.m. with the varsity match to follow.
  7. 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.
  8. *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.*
- F. The season shall begin with practices commencing on October 30, 2006, and the first contest will be scheduled no earlier than November 20, 2006.
1. A school shall not allow its team to engage in any interscholastic exhibition, practice, or scrimmage matches. Any interscholastic practice violation is considered an eligibility violation.
  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 to National Federation and GHSA rules, and will involve only eligible team members.
  4. The wrestling season ends for a team or an individual when that team or individual is eliminated from play in the post-season tournaments or wins the State Tournament.  
NOTE: 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. No school shall enter any wrestling tournament other than the State elimination series unless such tournament has been approved by the GHSA Executive Director.
- H. Weight classifications shall be as follows:
- |          |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 103 lbs. | 130 lbs. | 152 lbs. | 189 lbs. |
| 112 lbs. | 135 lbs. | 160 lbs. | 215 lbs. |
| 119 lbs. | 140 lbs. | 171 lbs. | 285 lbs. |
| 125 lbs. | 145 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 weight-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).
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 weight reduction, the use of sweat box, any type of vinyl or plastic sweatsuit or bag, hot showers, whirlpool, or any other type of artificial heat device for weight reduction is prohibited.
  3. Each wrestler will certify his lowest weight with three (3) recorded weigh-ins **before** January 15.
    - (a) Once a weight has been certified, a wrestler is prohibited from recertifying at a lower weight during the season.
    - (b) A wrestler may not weigh-in more than one weight class above the weight of certification without recertifying at a higher weight.
    - (c) A wrestler who competes before January 15, but does not have three (3) weigh-ins at a given weight, will establish his weight at the first weigh-in on or after January 15.
    - (d) If the wrestler does not compete until January 15 or later, the first weigh-in certifies that wrestler.
    - (e) In accordance with National Federation rules, each wrestler is required to have at least one-half of his weigh-ins during the season at the certified weight in order to wrestle in Area and State competition.
  4. According to the National Federation provisions for "State Adoptions," there will be a two-pound growth allowance in place beginning on January 22, 2007.
  5. For school day meets only, teams will weigh-in at their respective schools prior to the start of the school day. An administrator **must** supervise the weigh-in to be certain all GHSA and National Federation rules are met. Weigh-ins will take place within one hour of the time school begins.
  6. For non-school day dual meets (with mutual consent of schools participating), matches may begin as soon as weigh-ins have been completed.
- I. Coaching requirements:
1. Only two (2) coaches per school will be allowed at matside for coaching purposes throughout the regular season meets and tournaments, and at Area and State Tournaments.
  2. Coaches are required to attend a GHSA Wrestling Rules Clinic. Failure to do so will result in a \$50.00 fine for that school per coach.
- J. All varsity wrestling matches shall be held with officially-dressed wrestling officials who are registered under the GHSA plan for the registration of officials, or with the State Association of another state.
- K. Medical assistance shall be available at all wrestling tournaments.
- L. At all regular season tournaments, full wrestlebacks may be held with the approval of the GHSA Executive Director.
- M. 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](http://www.ghsa.net)) in the Wrestling Section and in the "GHSA Forms Notebook."
- N. 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).

## TEAM DUAL WRESTLING

### GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. Team Dual Wrestling will be a state open meet with separate competitions for Class AAAAA, Class AAAA, Class AAA, Class AA, and Class A.
- B. National Federation and GHSA rules governing Traditional wrestling competition 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 their certification.

- E. No wrestler may compete in two (2) weight classes in the same round.
- F. Teams may weight-in all eligible and weight-certified wrestlers.

**AREA TOURNAMENTS:**

- A. A Dual Area Tournament may be held in each classification with all finances to be handled by the Area, including all expenses, payment of officials, and distribution of receipts. Area Dual Tournaments will be held on Friday, January 12, 2007 or Saturday, January 13, 2007 only.
- B. Officials are to be secured and paid by the Area.
- C. In Classes AA, AAA, AAAA, AAAAA, each Area also should determine the third and fourth place teams.
- D. The GHSA will receive 5% of the gross gate receipts.
- E. No other tournaments may be scheduled on the dates of the Area Dual Tournaments or the State Dual Tournaments.
- F. No individual matches may be scheduled on the dates of the Area Dual Tournaments or the State Dual Tournaments unless the match was scheduled by December 17 of that season and the schools have declared they will not participate in the Area or State Dual Tournaments for that season.

**STATE TOURNAMENTS:**

- A. Two (2) teams from each Area (AA, AAA, AAAA & AAAAA) will advance to the double-elimination Team Dual State Championship to be held on Friday, January 19, 2007, and Saturday, January 20, 2007. Four (4) teams will advance in Class A, since there are only two (2) Areas.
- B. The teams advancing to the state tournament must be designated to the GHSA office no later than 8:00 a.m., on Monday, January 15, 2007.
- C. The GHSA will assign and pay all officials.
- 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 Tournament will be allowed free admission for up to twenty-eight (28) team members, plus a maximum of four (4) mat maids/managers.
- F. Admission prices are \$10.00 per day for Friday and Saturday. A total tournament ticket will be sold for \$17.00.
- G. Teams may not conduct or enter a dual meet tournament after the school is eliminated from post-season team dual competition, whether at the Area Tournament or the State Tournament.
- H. In the event the Area or the State Team 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).
- I. The second weigh-in of the State Tournament will be conducted on Friday at the conclusion of the first day of competition. The exact time will be determined at a later date.
- J. **SITE:** The Team Dual State Championships for all classifications will be held at the Centreplex in Macon

**TRADITIONAL WRESTLING****AREA TOURNAMENTS:**

- A. Area tournaments may be held on either Saturday, February 10, 2007, or Friday and Saturday, February 9-10, 2007. Those hosting Area Tournaments are encouraged to hold a one-day tournament whenever possible.
- B. Areas will be divided with consideration to geographic proximity and to the number of schools involved. The top four

(4) wrestlers in each weight class from each Area Tournament will advance to the State Tournament.

C. Area Tournaments will be held at the following sites:

Class AAAAA: Areas - TBD, Union Grove, Camden County, Hiram,  
TBD, TBD, North Gwinnett, Central Gwinnett

Class AAAA: Area - TBD, TBD, Fayette County, TBD,  
Woodland, TBD, SE Whitfield, Dacula

Class AAA: Areas - TBD, Shaw, TBD, Henry County,  
Riverwood, Cass, Gainesville, Apalachee

Class AA: Areas - TBD, Toombs County, TBD, TBD

Class A: Areas - Turner County, Social Circle

D. Officials are to be secured by the Area.

E. All finances will be handled by the Area, including all expenses, payment of officials and distribution of receipts.

F. The GHSA will receive 5 percent of the gross gate receipts.

**STATE TOURNAMENTS:**

A. The State Traditional Tournament will be held on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, February 14-17, 2007. Championships in all classifications (A, AA, AAA, AAAA & AAAAA) will be held at the Arena at Gwinnett Center.

B. Reports of wrestlers advancing to the State Tournament are due in the GHSA office no later than 8:00 a.m., on Monday, February 12, 2007.

C. All replacements for wrestlers who qualified for the State Tournament must be made by the Area Director, and must be reported to the GHSA office no later than 10:00 a.m., on Wednesday, February 14, 2007.

1. Failure to meet this deadline will result in a vacancy in the bracket.
2. Scoring for wrestlers failing to report, failing skin checks, not weighing in or not making weight will follow NFHS guidelines for forfeitures.
3. Schools failing to report a wrestler who will not advance are subject to penalties.

D. Wrestlers must wrestle in the Area and State Tournaments at the weights certified in accordance with the provisions of Section H-3, General Information, earlier in the wrestling guidelines.

1. All weigh-in scales must be approved for accuracy by an agency or service once each year.
2. Subsequent weigh-ins of the Area and State Tournaments will be conducted upon the conclusion of the each day's competition.
3. Specific times for weigh-ins will be communicated prior to each tournament.

E. Admission prices for State Tournaments will be \$7.00 on Wednesday, and \$10 per day on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. A total tournament ticket will be sold for \$30.00.

F. Each school participating in a State Tournament will be allowed free admission for all wrestlers who qualify for the tournament and a maximum of four (4) managers, mat maids and/or student trainers. Alternates will not be admitted without charge unless they have been substituted into the tournament in accordance with tournament procedures.

G. Schools having athletes qualified for the State Tournament must submit to the GHSA office the new "Roster of Admissions Form" no later than 8:00 a.m., on Monday, February 12, 2007. Persons not listed on this form will not be admitted without charge. This new form may be found in the "GHSA Forms Notebook."

H. The State Tournament will be scored to six (6) places.

I. Full wrestlebacks (double elimination) will be allowed in all classifications. Crossbracketing shall be used for wrestlebacks.

J. In the event the Traditional State Tournament ends in a tie, the teams will be declared co-champions.

# LITERARY

## GENERAL INFORMATION:

- A. There are two (2) events in the Fine Arts that produce State Champions in each of the five classifications. Those events are One Act Play and Literary. There is one event, which is Debate, that produces a State Champion in two classifications: AAAAA/AAAA and AAA/AA/A.
- The Literary events include:
    - Dramatic Interpretation - Boys and Girls
    - Essay - Boys and Girls
    - Extemporaneous Speaking - Boys and Girls
    - Boys Quartet
    - Solo - Boys and Girls
    - Girls Trio
  - The season designation for all Literary events begins on August 14, 2006, and ends on May 31, 2007.
    - The maximum number of contests in Debate shall be 18, excluding region and state competition.
    - The maximum number of contests in One Act Play shall be 6, excluding region and state competition.
    - The maximum number of contests in all other Literary events shall be 15, excluding region and state competition.
  - Eligibility reports are required for all Literary contestants.
    - Contestants must be academically eligible as specified in By-Law 1.50, and can not be a migrant student as defined in By-Law 1.60.
    - Eligibility reports must be received in the GHSA Office at least twenty (20) days prior to the first Literary 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 in order to avoid "surprise" disqualifications.
- C. A student may represent his/her school in not more than two (2) individual events. There is no limit in the number of group events the student may enter (trio, quartet, one act play, debate). A school may have only one entry per contest.
- D. Photography, recording, or video taping will not be allowed at any GHSA Literary event, One Act Play, or Debate contest.
- E. Each school wishing to enter One Act Play and Literary must notify the Region Secretary in writing by the deadline dates.
  - The One Act Play "Notification of Entry" Form must be filed by September 29, 2006.
  - The Literary "Contestants List" Form must be filed by February 1, 2007.  
NOTE: The above forms can be found in the "GHSA Forms Book."
  - Qualifying for State Debate must be completed by January 13, 2007. (See Debate Section for details)
  - The Region Literary Meets must be held on the dates assigned by the GHSA calendar.** For 2007, Region Literary Meet dates are March 9-10.
  - The State Literary Meet will be held on Saturday, March 17, 2007. See schedules at the end of the Literary Section.

## REGION INFORMATION (One Act Play and Literary):

- A. The first-place winner from every region in each Literary event and One Act Play qualifies for the State Meet.
- When the first-place winner in a region is not able to compete in the State Meet, the next person or group in the order of finish may replace the original winner.
    - The school whose winner will not compete must notify the Region Secretary so the replacement can be notified.
    - The Region Secretary must notify the GHSA Office about any changes in contestants.
    - The deadline to make any changes is the Wednesday (noon) prior to the State Meet.
  - 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 contest among the tied competitors must be continued or reheld until one representative can be determined.

- (a) In this situation, the points shall be divided equally among the persons or groups who were tied in the original competition.
  - (b) The extended competition shall carry no points.
  - (c) Ties in the State Meet shall stand, and the points shall be divided equally among those who are tied.
- 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 timekeeper to note the amount of time allotted for the event and the amount of time consumed by the contestant.
    - (b) space for the rank of the contestant to be clearly noted
    - (c) a place in which to write the name of the selection(s) performed
    - (d) the amount of possible points available marked in parentheses
    - (e) space to note if the contestant was disqualified and to state the reason for the disqualification
  3. Individual copies of the score sheet may be obtained from the GHSA Office.
- C. Miscellaneous Regulations:
1. During speech, music, and one-act play competitions, contestants will be identified by "order of appearance" numbers.
  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 copywrite laws have been met.
  4. Each school having one or more students participating must have a school representative at the Region and State Meets.
  5. When there is more than one judge, 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.
    - (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 judges 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 be seated in different parts of the competition room, and will render their decisions without conferring. NOTE: When necessary, judges may sit together to view a single piece of music, but they may not confer with one another.
  6. 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.
  7. For timed events:
    - (a) a timekeeper who has a stopwatch must be present.
    - (b) the timekeeper shall not be a judge.
    - (c) the timekeeper shall time all contestants and note the amount of time they consumed on all score sheets.
      - (1) If a contestant fails to meet a minimum time, he/she shall be penalized two (2) points for each fifteen (15) seconds or portions thereof that the presentation was too brief.
      - (2) If a contestant goes beyond the time allotted, he/she shall be penalized two (2) points for each fifteen (15) seconds or portions thereof that the presentation was too long.
    - (d) Flashcards for time should be used in Debate, Extemporaneous Speaking, and Dramatic Interpretation.
- D. Point totals are the same for determining the Region Champion and State Champion in Literary as follows:
- (a) First Place - 7 points
  - (b) Second Place - 5 points
  - (c) Third Place - 3 points
  - (d) Fourth Place - 1 point
- NOTE: Debate and One-Act Play are separate Championship events.

**STATE INFORMATION:**

- A. 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. Competent judges to officiate the various competitions and will provide the judges with written copies of the rules for the various competitions.
  3. Two judges will be used for all musical events and all speaking events.

- B. Score sheets at the State Meet are submitted 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. All judges decisions are final. Protests are not allowed.

### SECTION L1 DEBATE

- A. Debate is a classified event with two state championships: AAAAA and AAAA schools will constitute one classification; AAA, AA, and A schools will form another classification.
- B. Qualifying for the State Debates must be completed by January 13, 2007.
1. Practices may begin no earlier than August 14, 2006, and no contest may be scheduled earlier than August 14, 2006.
  2. The maximum number of competitions shall be 18.
  3. The season ends on May 31, 2007.
- C. The State Debate Topic will always be the same as the National Topic.
1. Topic for 2006-07: "Resolved: The United States federal government should establish a policy substantially increasing the number of persons serving in one or more of the following national service programs: AmeriCorps, Citizen Corps, Senior Corps, Peace Corps, Learn and Serve America, Armed Forces."
  2. Debate materials can be ordered from:
    - National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)
    - P. O. Box 690
    - Indianapolis, IN 46206
    - Phone: 317-972-6900 Fax: 317-822-5700 www.nfhs.org
- D. The Debate event is administered by the Georgia Forensics Coaches Association. Information and membership information can be obtained at email address: Richard.Bracknell@carrolltoncityschools.net
- E. Specific contest rules:
1. Time for the preparation of speeches shall be given.
    - (a) Each team will have a total of ten (10) minutes of preparation time for the entire debate.
    - (b) The allocation of each team's preparation time will be left to the discretion of the team.
    - (c) Any team utilizing more than the allotted preparation time will lose speech time.
  2. In all contests, time and order of speeches shall be as follows:
    - (a) Main Speeches
 

(1) First Affirmative Speaker	8 minutes
Cross-examination by second negative speaker	3 minutes
(2) First Negative Speaker	8 minutes
Cross-examination by first affirmative	3 minutes
(3) Second Affirmative Speaker	8 minutes
Cross-examination by first negative speaker	3 minutes
(4) Second Negative Speaker	8 minutes
Cross-examination by second affirmative	3 minutes
    - (b) Rebuttal Speeches
 

(1) First Negative Speaker	5 minutes
(2) First Affirmative Speaker	5 minutes
(3) Second Negative Speaker	5 minutes
(4) Second Affirmative Speaker	5 minutes
    - (c) Speakers on respective sides must speak in the same order in rebuttals as in main speech.
    - (d) No speaker can switch position after competition begins.
  3. In all contests, the debaters shall be separated from the audience and shall receive no coaching while the debate is in progress.
  4. No speaker shall be interrupted during the main speech or rebuttal.
  5. When a contestant has used all the time allotted, the timekeeper shall say, "Stop," and the contestant must stop.

- F. Tournament Format:
1. The first two rounds of a tournament will be randomly paired with randomly selected judges.
  2. Remaining rounds will be paired based on the high/low principle with randomly selected judges.
- G. A school entering debate and dropping out without giving notice to the Georgia Forensics Coaches Association at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the State Debate will be guilty of an eligibility violation. Schools violating this provision shall be subject to forfeiture, fine, or other penalties as directed by the GHSA Executive Director.

#### **RULES FOR STATE DEBATE:**

- A. The top sixteen schools in each of the two classifications (AAAAA/AAAA and AAA/AA/A) will advance to the State Debate Tournament.
1. The sixteen teams will be determined by the number of points achieved at the required participation of three (3) GHSA sanctioned tournaments in Georgia.
  2. Schools may still participate in the maximum allowed number of eighteen (18) varsity competitions but only three (3) will be used for determining advancement to the State Debate Tournament. Schools will designate the three (3) tournaments for the participation requirement to the Georgia Forensics Coaches Association.
  3. Schools may choose a one-day tournament, a two-day tournament, or a combination of these tournaments, but the tournaments must be varsity competition level, open to any GHSA team to enter, and be a GHSA sanctioned tournament in Georgia.
  4. Points will be awarded based on the number of teams participating in the varsity division in a particular tournament. The number of wins by a school's team (affirmative and negative teams) will be multiplied by the number of teams in the varsity division of that tournament. Points will be based on preliminary competition rounds.
  5. All debaters at the State Debate Tournament must participate in the three (3) required regular season tournaments and there will be no substitutions in the debate team that accumulated the points for advancement to the State Tournament.
- B. Points will be recorded by the Georgia Forensic Coaches' Association.
- C. Coaching must be done by a coach/teacher of the school.
1. Coaches may give preparatory instruction in the art of debating and in drill or delivery.
  2. Coaches may give advice, suggestions, directions, and criticism on both the form and the content of the debate material.
  3. Coaches may not coach during a debate.
- D. Debaters may not change speaker positions or affirmative/negative sides during state competition.

#### **STATE COMPETITION:**

- A. The State Debate competition for both classifications will be held at a site determined by the GHSA Executive Director.
1. The top sixteen teams in each classification will compete in a regularly formatted tournament.
  2. Three rounds will be held on Friday, and three rounds on Saturday. The first two rounds will be randomly paired using Rich Edwards' computer program "Tab Room for the PC."
  3. **The 2006 competition will be held on February 2-3, 2007 at a site to be announced.**
    - (a) Friday's Schedule

2:30-3:45 pm	Registration
4:00 pm	Assembly
4:30 pm	Round 1
6:30 pm	Round 2
8:30 pm	Round 3
    - (b) Saturday's Schedule

8:30 am	Round 4
10:30 am	Round 5
12:00 noon	Lunch
12:30 pm	Round 6
4:00 pm	Awards (both Classifications)
  4. The winner will be determined by the total number of ballots won at the end of the tournament.
    - (a) In case of ties, the winner will be determined by the total speaker points.
    - (b) If ties remain after considering speaker points, the tie will be broken by dropping high-low points.

5. Individual medals will be awarded to the top Affirmative and top Negative speakers.
- B. Each qualifying school will be required to provide one judge. The State Debate Meet Director and the Georgia Forensics Coaches Association will be responsible for securing additional judges.
  1. High school students cannot be used as judges in state competition.
  2. One judge shall be used in each debate.
  3. After each debate, the judge shall deliver the ballot to the State Meet Director.
  4. Decisions are NOT to be revealed and oral critiques are NOT to be given.
  5. The State Meet Director will tabulate the results and announce the winner.
- C. The GHSA State Coordinator for Debate is Richard Bracknell, Carrollton High School. Questions concerning State Debate can be addressed to Mr. Bracknell by phone at 770-834-7726 or:  
email at [richard.bracknell@carrolltoncityschools.net](mailto:richard.bracknell@carrolltoncityschools.net)

### SECTION L2 DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION

- A. Practices for Dramatic Interpretation may begin no earlier than August 14, 2006, and no contests may be held prior to that date as well. The Literary season ends on May 31, 2007.
- B. Separate contests will be held for boys and girls in Dramatic Interpretation.
- C. This is a competition involving the communication of prose, poetry, and/or dramatic literature.
  1. The selection may be either serious or humorous, but should be of good literary value and appropriate to the contest.
  2. The contestants are judged on how well they communicate the author's meaning to the audience.
    - (a) The contestant is expected to give the audience a brief introductory statement about the selection(s).
    - (b) The material must be memorized and delivered without the use of a manuscript.
    - (c) Prompting shall lead to disqualification.
    - (d) No costumes, props, music, or sound effects may be used in the presentation. Area of presentation should be completely vacant.  
NOTE: Definition of Properties from The Stage and The School, 8th Edition, 1999, page 600: All the stage furnishings, including furniture and those things brought onstage by the actors; also called props.
    - (e) Movement of the speaker is not limited.
- D. Each contestant is allotted ten (10) minutes for the presentation.
  1. The time allotment includes the introduction to the presentation.
  2. A penalty of two (2) points will be imposed for each fifteen (15) second period or portions thereof that the contestant is over the time limit.
  3. An official timekeeper and time cards will be used in the competition.
- E. 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 are not present at the time designated for their presentation will be disqualified.
  3. Contestants who have conflicts with other Literary events should consult with the GHSA representative at the scoring area, and may have early or late presentation positions designated for them.
- F. There shall be two (2) judges assigned to this competition at the State level.
  1. The following criteria will be considered in the judging:
    - (a) selection of material
    - (b) communication skills
    - (c) vocal technique
    - (d) visible technique
  2. The judges shall use GHSA scoring sheets and shall follow scoring directions given to them by the GHSA Office.

### SECTION L3 ESSAY

- A. Practices preparing for Essay competition may begin no earlier than August 14, 2006, and no contests may be held prior to that date as well. The Literary season ends on May 31, 2007.

- B. Separate contests will be held for boys and girls in Essay in all classifications.
- C. This is a writing contest in which contestants are provided with topics on which to write.
1. The GHSA Office shall select six (6) topics for the contest.
    - (a) Three (3) topics will be selected from current topics discussed in newspapers and magazines.
    - (b) Three (3) topics will be selected from literature topics.
  2. For the Region Literary competition, the GHSA Office will send the topics to the Region Secretary in a sealed envelope, and that seal will be broken for the first time in the presence of the contestants at the competition site.
  3. At the State Literary competition, a new essay shall be written on a new topic.
- D. Contest Rules:
1. Contestants will compete in a group setting by writing an essay that is not to exceed 600 words on any one of the topics.
  2. Two (2) hours will be given for writing the essay. If a contestant exceeds the time limit, that student will be penalized two (2) points for each 15-second period or portion thereof.
  3. The use of dictionary or other reference materials during the competition is prohibited.
  4. Essays shall be written in ink.  
EXCEPTION: Visually-challenged students will be allowed to use typewriters.
  5. Contestants must furnish their paper and pens.
  6. The first place winner in each Region competition shall advance to the State competition.
- E. Judging Criteria:
1. The essays shall be judged on:
    - (a) thought development
    - (b) order and arrangement
    - (c) elements of style
  2. Verbal and grammatical correctness, spelling, and punctuation shall have weight, but shall be considered of lesser importance than the interest and general effectiveness of the whole composition.
  3. This is a ready writer's contest, and evidence of memorized composition shall weigh heavily against a contestant.
  4. Judges shall follow scoring directions provided by the GHSA Office.

#### **SECTION L4 EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING**

- A. Practices for Extemporaneous Speaking may begin no earlier than August 14, 2006, and no contests may be held prior to that date as well. The Literary season ends on May 31, 2007.
- B. Separate contests will be held for boys and girls in Extemporaneous Speaking.
- C. 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.
1. The current Debate topic or the Debate topic from the previous year will not be included in the selection of topics.
  2. Contestants will be allowed to use one note card (either 3x5 or 4x6) during the speech.
  3. Thirty (30) minutes before the contest is scheduled to begin, the student who is to speak first shall draw three (3) topic cards and select one (1) on which to speak. The remaining two topics are returned.
  4. Contestants will draw for topics at seven (7) minute intervals in the order of presentation.
  5. The presiding official of the contest shall record the contestant's name, contestant's school, position for presentation, and topic drawn.
- D. The procedure for the contest shall be as follows:
1. After each student has drawn a topic, that student will be escorted to a room where he/she will have 30 minutes to prepare a speech in brief, outline form.
  2. Students will be disqualified for reading the speech.
  3. The student may use any materials that have been brought to the site (including a self-contained computer, i.e., a laptop - no Internet access), but may not receive assistance from another person.
  4. At the end of the preparation time, the contestant will be escorted to the presentation area.
    - (a) The contestant shall give a copy of the selected topic to a judge.
    - (b) Failure to speak on the selected topic will result in disqualification.

5. Each contestant shall be allotted seven (7) minutes in which to deliver the speech. If the time limit is exceeded, the contestant shall be penalized two (2) points for every fifteen (15) second period or portion thereof.
  6. Timekeepers must be present and time cards shall be used.
- E. There shall be two (2) judges for Extemporaneous Speaking at the State competition.
1. The judges shall take into consideration:
    - (a) analysis of topic
    - (b) organizational skills
    - (c) logical support
    - (d) language skills
    - (e) delivery skills
  2. The judges shall use GHSA score sheets and shall follow scoring directions given to them by the GHSA Office.
- F. Contestants shall draw for order of presentation upon reporting to the site of the competition.
1. Contestants shall report to the drawing area one (1) hour prior to the 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 are not present at the time designated for their presentation will be disqualified.
  4. Contestants who have conflicts with other Literary events should consult with the GHSA representative at the scoring area, and may have early or late presentation positions designated for them.

## SECTION L5 ONE ACT PLAY

### GENERAL INFORMATION:

- A. The One Act Play season begins with the first date of practice being no earlier than August 14, 2006.
1. The date of the first competition may be no earlier than August 14, 2006.
  2. The maximum number of contests in One Act Play shall be six (6).
  3. Each school wishing to enter the One Act Play competition must notify the Region Secretary no later than September 29, 2006.
  4. Region winners must be determined by November 4, 2006, and the GHSA State Office must be notified by November 6, 2006.
  5. The state competition shall be held on November 11, 2006.
  6. The season concludes on May 31, 2007.
- B. The One Act Play event is administered by the Georgia State Thespian Board.
- C. Specific Contest Rules:
1. Schools may choose to enter an excerpt or abridgement of a play as their One Act Play selection.
  2. Schools choosing to enter musical productions shall not use a reproduction of the original soundtrack as part of the presentation.
  3. Each school assumes full responsibility for royalties and any other limitations on the play that is selected.
  4. Each school is responsible for its own props, costumes, and make-up.
  5. Each school is given 55 minutes to set-up, perform, and take-down its presentation. The official time will be kept by an assigned official time keeper.
  6. Any school that exceeds its time allotment will be penalized two (2) points for each fifteen (15) second period or portion thereof per judge.
  7. Only set pieces (free standing) may be used.
    - (a) Schools are to refrain from using complicated set pieces that take a long time to unload and assemble, etc. This is an acting competition - not a set competition.
    - (b) The time used to set-up and take-down set pieces is counted in the time of the presentation. Any debris and confetti must be swept up.
    - (c) No part of any setting may be attached to any part of the stage, curtains, draperies, or other existing equipment of the host school.
    - (d) STRIKE AREA: A permanent or temporary line shall be used to delineate the area in the wings, side, and back, where the next show may move onto as long as they are not on the acting area. They can remain in this area until given directions to begin. Upon direction they may begin moving onto the acting area and the 55-minute timing begins and will continue until the acting area is cleared at the end of the play. Any school using the orchestra pit may set up at any time as long as it does not interfere with another show.
  8. No flame of any type can be used, including candles. Real weapons of any kind, such as a sword or knife, etc., cannot be used. Use of simulated weapons cannot be in violation of any local board of education policy of the

- participating school or the host site. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification (zero tolerance rule).
9. Plays are to be announced by the order of appearance number or the title of the play rather than by school name.
  10. Only eligible students are allowed on stage during play performance. Piano placement must be off stage if an adult is playing. Adults may assist in loading and unloading of sets.
  11. Principals must review the school's play and sign the statement on the "One Act Play Information Sheet" stating that the presentation is in good taste for high school students, and is acceptable for the morals of that community.
  12. The use of "body mikes" is allowed.

D. No photography or video taping is allowed of any One Act Play competition.

#### **REGION AND STATE COMPETITION:**

A. The Region Secretary must file an official entry for the play or plays qualifying for the State competition with the GHSA Office according to the deadlines stated in the "Region Secretary Notebook."

B. The date for the State One Act plays is Saturday, November 11, 2006.

The sites for State One-Act Plays are:

- Class AAAAA - Springer Opera House, Columbus
- Class AAAA - Valdosta High School, Valdosta
- Class AAA - Rabun Gap School, Rabun Gap
- Class AA - Jones County High School, Gray
- Class A - Lee County High School, Leesburg

C. The facilities that will be used for One-Act Play competitions will not be available for practice by any school in the State competition.

D. The schedule for each classification shall be:

- 10:00 - 10:55 am - Region 7
- 11:00 - 11:55 am - Region 8
- 12:00 - 12:55 pm - Region 1
- 1:00 - 1:55 pm - Region 2
- 2:00 - 3:00 pm - RECESS
- 3:00 - 3:55 pm - Region 3
- 4:00 - 4:55 pm - Region 4
- 5:00 - 5:55 pm - Region 5
- 6:00 - 6:55 pm - Region 6
- 7:00 - 7:20 pm - Judges' Deliberation
- 7:30 pm - Awards Presentation

NOTE: Schools will be responsible for making their own arrangements for housing and meals.

E. Trophies and individual medals will be awarded to the State Champion and Runner-up schools, and medals will be awarded to the Outstanding Actor and Outstanding Actress.

F. Three judges will be selected for each classification in the Region and State competitions.

1. One judge may be from college ranks.
2. The remaining two judges are to be selected from an approved list of high school or former high school directors or from the professional theater level. NOTE: High school directors are not to judge competitions of their classification.
3. A list of approved judges is available from the GHSA Office. NOTE: In the event that it is impossible to secure the right number or the precise mix of judges as noted above, provisions should be made to secure quality judges that may not precisely meet the state criteria.
4. On the day of the contest, judges shall avoid contact with directors or cast members until after the winners are announced.
5. Judges shall hold all score sheets until after all presentations have been completed.

#### **SECTION L6 QUARTET**

A. Practices preparing for Quartet competition may begin no earlier than August 14, 2006, and no contests may be held prior to that date as well. The Literary season ends on May 31, 2007.

- B. Quartet singing is a competition held for boys in all classifications.
1. The singing parts for the members of the quartet are:
    - (a) first tenor
    - (b) second tenor
    - (c) first bass
    - (d) second bass
  2. Two selections shall be sung from memory.
    - (a) Both selections shall be appropriate for a small group of singers.
    - (b) One selection must be one of the following:
      - (1) chorale
      - (2) madrigal
      - (3) art song
      - (4) folk song
  3. The selections may be sung with or without accompaniment.
    - (a) Live piano accompaniment is the only form allowed (no tapes allowed).
    - (b) Quartets must bring their own accompanist if one is to be used.
  4. Each Quartet shall be allotted eight (8) minutes to perform their selections. If the time limit is exceeded, the Quartet will be penalized two (2) points for every 15 second period or portion thereof that they are overtime.
  5. A director/coach is expressly prohibited from "conducting" during any musical contest at the Region or State levels.
  6. Audiences will be allowed in the competition room of this event.
  7. A substitution will not be allowed in the Quartet advancing to the State Meet after Region competition.
- C. 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 are not present at the time designated for their presentation will be disqualified.
  3. Contestants who have conflicts with other Literary events should consult with the GHSA representative at the scoring area, and may have early or late presentation positions designated for them.
  4. At the time of check-in at the competition site, one original copy of the music (can be computer generated) will be presented for viewing by the judges.
    - (a) Photocopied music for the judges is not permissible.
    - (b) Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.
- D. Judging Procedures:
1. Two judges will be used for the Quartet competition.
    - (a) Judges shall not confer with one another during the competition, but they may sit near one another to view the copy of the music.
    - (b) Tabulation of score sheets shall be handled independently.
  2. Judges shall follow scoring directions provided by the GHSA Office.
  3. Judging criteria are as follows:
 

(a) Accuracy: Notes, Time, Value, Pitch	20%
(b) Tone: Quality, Quantity, Naturalness, Balance, Blend, Freedom	20%
(c) Diction: Clarity, Naturalness, Purity of Vowels and Consonants	10%
(d) Rhythm: Steadiness, Freedom, Tempo	10%
(e) Phrasing: Melodic Line, Attack, Release, Content	10%
(f) Interpretation: Understanding of Composition, Expression Marks, Contrast, General Effect	20%
(g) Presentation: Stage Presence and Personality, Posture, Poise	10%

### SECTION L7 SOLO

- A. No contests for vocal Solo may be held prior to August 14, 2006. The Literary season ends on May 31, 2007.
- B. Separate contests will be held for boys and girls in vocal Solo.
- C. Two selections shall be sung from memory:
1. One selection must be from the standard repertory of the art song, oratorio aria, or operatic aria.
  2. Both selections must be original compositions, and not arrangements of instructional or choral pieces.
  3. The selections may be sung with or without accompaniment.
    - (a) Live piano accompaniment is the only form allowed (no tapes allowed).

- (b) Soloists must bring their own accompanist if one is to be used.
  - 4. Each Soloist shall be allotted seven (7) minutes to perform their selections. If the time limit is exceeded, the Soloist will be penalized two (2) points for every 15 second period or portion thereof that he/she is overtime.
  - 5. A director/coach is expressly prohibited from "conducting" during any musical contest at the Region or State levels.
  - 6. Audiences will be allowed in the competition room of this event.
- D. 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 are not present at the time designated for their presentation will be disqualified.
  - 3. Contestants who have conflicts with other Literary events should consult with the GHSA representative at the scoring area, and may have early or late presentation positions designated for them.
  - 4. At the time of check-in at the competition site, one original copy of the music (can be computer generated) will be presented for viewing by the judges.
    - (a) Photocopied music for the judges is not permissible.
    - (b) Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.
- E. Judging Procedures:
- 1. Two judges will be used for the Solo competition.
    - (a) Judges shall not confer with one another during the competition, but they may sit near one another to view the copy of the music.
    - (b) Tabulation of score sheets shall be handled independently.
  - 2. Judges shall follow scoring directions provided by the GHSA Office.
  - 3. Judging criteria are as follows:
 

(a) Accuracy: Notes, Time, Value, Pitch	20%
(b) Tone: Quality, Quantity, Naturalness, Balance, Blend, Freedom	20%
(c) Diction: Clarity, Naturalness, Purity of Vowels and Consonants	10%
(d) Rhythm: Steadiness, Freedom, Tempo	10%
(e) Phrasing: Melodic Line, Attack, Release, Content	10%
(f) Interpretation: Understanding of Composition, Expression Marks, Contrast, General Effect	20%
(g) Presentation: Stage Presence and Personality, Posture, Poise	10%

**SECTION L8  
TRIO**

- A. Practices preparing for Trio competition may begin no earlier than August 14, 2006, and no contests may be held prior to that date as well. The Literary season ends on May 31, 2007.
- B. Trio singing is a competition held for girls in all classifications.
  - 1. The singing parts for the members of the trio are:
    - (a) first soprano
    - (b) second soprano
    - (c) alto
  - 2. Two selections shall be sung from memory.
    - (a) Both selections shall be appropriate for a small group of singers.
    - (b) One selection must be one of the following:
      - (1) chorale
      - (2) madrigal
      - (3) art song
      - (4) folk song
  - 3. The selections may be sung with or without accompaniment.
    - (a) Live piano accompaniment is the only form allowed (no tapes allowed).
    - (b) Trios must bring their own accompanist if one is to be used.
  - 4. Each Trio shall be allotted eight (8) minutes to perform their selections. If the time limit is exceeded, the Trio will be penalized two (2) points for every 15 second period or portion thereof that they are overtime.
  - 5. Choreography will not be considered in the judging of this event.

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6. A director/coach is expressly prohibited from “conducting” during any musical contest at the Region or State levels.
  7. Audiences will be allowed in the competition room of this event.
  8. A substitution will not be allowed in the Trio advancing to the State Meet after Region competition.
- C. 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 are not present at the time designated for their presentation will be disqualified.
  3. Contestants who have conflicts with other Literary events should consult with the GHSA representative at the scoring area, and may have early or late presentation positions designated for them.
  4. At the time of check-in at the competition site, one (1) original copy of the music (can be computer generated) will be presented for viewing by the judges.
    - (a) Photocopied music for the judges is not permissible.
    - (b) Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.
- D. Judging Procedures:
1. Two (two) judges will be used for the Trio competition.
    - (a) Judges shall not confer with one another during the competition, but they may sit near one another to view the copy of the music.
    - (b) Tabulation of score sheets shall be handled independently.
  2. Judges shall follow scoring directions provided by the GHSA Office.
  3. Judging criteria are as follows:
 

(a) Accuracy: Notes, Time, Value, Pitch	20%
(b) Tone: Quality, Quantity, Naturalness, Balance, Blend, Freedom	20%
(c) Diction: Clarity, Naturalness, Purity of Vowels and Consonants	10%
(d) Rhythm: Steadiness, Freedom, Tempo	10%
(e) Phrasing: Melodic Line, Attack, Release, Content	10%
(f) Interpretation: Understanding of Composition, Expression Marks, Contrast, General Effect	20%
(g) Presentation: Stage Presence and Personality, Posture, Poise	10%

**Schedule Of State Literary Meet**

**Class AAAAA, AAAA and Class A  
Northside High School, Warner Robins, Georgia  
Saturday, March 17, 2007**

NOTE: ROOM ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE MADE AT A LATER DATE.

**GIRLS DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION:**

AAAAA	-	9:30 am	Room
A	-	9:30 am	Room
AAAA	-	11:00 am	Room

**BOYS DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION:**

AAAAA	-	9:30 am	Room
A	-	9:30 am	Room
AAAA	-	11:00 am	Room

**GIRLS EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING :**

AAAAA	-	8:30 am	Room (Drawing)
AAAAA	-	9:30 am	Room (Speaking)
A	-	8:30 am	Room (Drawing)
A	-	9:30 am	Room (Speaking)
AAAA	-	10:00 am	Room (Drawing)
AAAA	-	11:00 am	Room (Speaking)

**BOYS EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING :**

AAAAA	-	8:30 am	Room (Drawing)
AAAAA	-	9:30 am	Room (Speaking)
A	-	8:30 am	Room (Drawing)
A	-	9:30 am	Room (Speaking)
AAAA	-	10:00 am	Room (Drawing)
AAAA	-	11:00 am	Room (Speaking)

**BOYS AND GIRLS ESSAY:**

AAAAA	-	9:00 am	Room
A	-	9:00 am	Room
AAAA	-	9:00 am	Room

**GIRLS TRIO:**

AAAAA	-	11:15 am
A	-	11:30 am
AAAA	-	11:45 am

**BOYS QUARTET**

AAAAA	-	1:15 pm
A	-	1:30 pm
AAAA	-	1:45 pm

**GIRLS SOLO**

AAAAA	-	9:00 am
A	-	9:15 am
AAAA	-	9:30 am

**BOYS SOLO:**

AAAAA	-	10:15 am
A	-	10:30 am
AAAA	-	10:45 am

**GHSA HEADQUARTERS, SCORING, AWARDS:** Located in Cafeteria

**Class AAA and Class AA  
Houston County High School  
Saturday, March 17, 2007**

**GIRLS DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION:**

AA	-	9:30 am	Room 215
AAA	-	11:00 am	Room 215

**BOYS DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION:**

AA	-	9:30 am	Room 203
AAA	-	11:00 am	Room 203

**GIRLS EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING:**

AA	-	8:30 am	Room 305 (Drawing)
AA	-	9:30 am	Room 308 (Speaking)
AAA	-	10:00 am	Room 305 (Drawing)
AAA	-	11:00 am	Room 308 (Speaking)

**BOYS EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING:**

AA	-	8:30 am	Room 305 (Drawing)
AA	-	9:30 am	Room 307 (Speaking)
AAA	-	10:00 am	Room 305 (Drawing)
AAA	-	11:00 am	Room 307 (Speaking)

**BOYS AND GIRLS ESSAY:**

AA	-	9:30 am	Room 312
AAA	-	9:30 am	Room 316

**GIRLS TRIO:**

AA	-	11:30 am	Theater
AAA	-	11:45 am	Choral Room

**BOYS QUARTET:**

AA	-	1:30 pm	Theater
AAA	-	1:45 pm	Choral Room

**GIRLS SOLO:**

AA	-	9:15 am	Theater
AAA	-	9:30 am	Choral Room

**BOYS SOLO:**

AA	-	10:30 am	Theater
AAA	-	10:45 am	Choral Room

Note: Music warmup area is in the Band Room.

**GHSA HEADQUARTERS, SCORING, AWARDS:** Located in Cafeteria