



## GEORGIA ATHLETIC DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION



**Vol 15 No 5**

**December 2023**

You make an impact!

Hello,

Welcome back from your Thanksgiving break. We hope you all had a nice holiday with family and friends.



Recently I saw a post on social media that was spot on and I quote, " Thank you to everyone who helped make our tournament happen this week. In my opinion this is the real MVP. She announced 4 games , kept stats for 2, did the book for 1, then cleaned up the gym before we left. Spent 20 hours over two days helping our program!!!! Coaches wives are so special!". A picture shows the coach's wife picking up trash.

Take time to thank your coaches significant others and let them know how much they are appreciated. We all are aware of the saying "happy wife happy coach".

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Thanks for all you do.

Joe Sanfilipo, CMAA

GADA Executive Director



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Deadline Dates](#)



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## **GHSA sets classes; city, private schools get good news**

By Todd Holcomb, GHSFD.com

GHSA executive director Robin Hines announced Wednesday that he will retire Aug. 1.

Hines shared the news at the end of an executive committee meeting in which the GHSA ratified reclassification for 2024-26 and adopted a playoff format and rankings formula for classes 3A to A Division I.



Also approved at the Thomaston meeting were four schools' appeals to move down in classification for the 2024-26 academic years. They were Alexander and Effingham County to 5A, Eastside to 4A and Holy Innocents' to 2A.

After the meeting, Hines told the committee that his seventh year on the job would be his last.

"My kids have been pushing for this for a couple of years," Hines told GHSF Daily. "My grandchildren are getting older. They're involved in youth sports. I yearn to be a part of that."

Hines and his wife, Kim, bought a house on Lake Hartwell about a year ago, and the 3.5-hour drive from Thomaston had been keeping them apart too much, he said.

Hines' decision reverses his plans from March, when he signed an extension through May 31, 2026. He said he would stay a little beyond Aug. 1 if needed.

"The August 1 date is certainly a soft one for me," Hines said. "I'm sure it would be an advantage to work side by side with the new executive director for a couple of months. I'll do whatever the association needs me to do."

The GHSA has had only six executive directors. The others were Sam Burke (1946-81), Bill Fordham (1982-91), Tommy Guillebeau (1992-2000), Ralph Swearngin (1991-2013) and Gary Phillips (2014-16).

The GHSA settled on a playoff plan and rankings formula for 3A-A that will seed teams with a model similar to the RPI rankings the NCAA sometimes uses. The plan would award preferred seeding to region champions and runners-up and give automatic

playoff berths to the top four finishers in each region. Some schools will make the playoffs with at-large berths when they finish outside the top four.

Private schools in classes 3A to A need a seeding model because they will be competing in multiple classifications with public schools during the regular season, then separated into private-only state playoff brackets.

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- Setting up registrations online and sending hyperlinks to parents, taking them directly to where they need to register.



#### Simplifying Payments

Sports are expensive, and that's understandable. But you can take care of athletes, parents and coaches by taking some of that burden away from them.

- Set up custom payment plans for your teams. Give your parents and players the options to pay in full or over multiple payments. These can be set up in advance of the season and ready to go when the season starts.
- Make sure you have a system capable of accepting all types of payments and managing all forms of payment.

If you allow Pickle Juice to help simplify your registrations and payments, then you'll have access to a secure card and chip reader that allows you to accept payments on your smartphone, and we have an application you can download to your phone that makes the process even easier.



#### Simplifying Communication

One of the best ways you can plan ahead for your next season is to communicate early and often with all of your parents, players and coaches.

- Set deadlines for registration and fees and communicate those deadlines via email or text.
- Make sure you have a management program that integrates an email function to send invoices, payment reminders and notifications for any failed payments.

Pickle Juice makes communicating across your team, league or club easy with its messaging center that's managed from one centralized location.



## GHS A to consider playoff format, formula for classes 3A-A

By Todd Holcomb, AJC.com



The GHSA's executive committee on Wednesday will consider a proposed playoff format and rankings formula that would help determine playoff teams and seeds in classes 3A to A Division I beginning in 2024-25.

The plan would give preferential seeding to region champions and runners-up and automatic playoff berths to the top four finishers in each region.

Teams finishing third and fourth and at-large playoff qualifiers would be seeded using a proposed new power rating model.



The model would rank teams based on a combination of winning percentage, opponents' winning percentage and opponents' opponents' winning percentage. The model is a more complicated version of the RPI rankings the NCAA has used in college sports.

Private schools in classes 3A to A need a seeding model because they will be competing in multiple classifications with public schools during the regular season, then separated into private-only state playoff brackets.

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## **Corky Kell + Dave Hunter Classic basketball event starts busy holiday tournament schedule**

**By ScoreAtlanta, AJC.com**

The inaugural Corky Kell + Dave Hunter Classic will jump-start a packed schedule of basketball tournaments that will be held throughout December and into the New Year.

The Kell event, which has been associated with football for 32 years, will televise four basketball games on the Peachtree Sports Network on Saturday from Norcross.

"It is so awesome. I was telling the kids we get to play on TV, and that is something that I wanted to do," said Baldwin girls coach Kizi Walker. "Hopefully college coaches will be able to see them. I have a lot of talent on the team."

## **2 Savannah-Chatham high schools receive newly renovated sports fields**

**By Jordan Stepenson,  
Fox28Savannah.com**

CHATHAM COUNTY, Ga. (WTGS) – Two high schools in the Savannah-Chatham County area have newly renovated sports fields.

*"Sports Turf Company announced the completion of the artificial turf fields on Tuesday, showcasing the renovations that upgraded Savannah High School and Islands High School."*

Sports Turf Company President Todd Wiggins says these new fields are sure to enhance athletics at the schools.

Sports Turf is excited to complete these fields to better serve the athletic programs for two of the area's high schools," said Wiggins.

The final game of the Kell event will feature Class 3A No. 2 Douglass taking on Class 7A Norcross.

The Kell is one of the many tournaments that will attract some of the best state and national teams.

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“The state-of-the-art turf system installed at both fields can withstand heavy traffic from various sports in virtually any weather condition, so players and coaches can maximize their utilization of the field for a variety of sport

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## **GIAA's Triplett breaks state career rushing record**

**By Todd Holcomb, AJC.com**



Georgia has a new all-time rushing leader.

Jordan Triplett of Frederica Academy In St. Simons rushed for 316 yards on 57 carries in his final high school game last week, a

56-30 loss to Valwood in the GIAA Class 3A semifinals.

Triplett's career rushing total is 9,028 yards, surpassing the 8,844 of Commerce's Monte Williams established in 1997-2000. Williams was a 2022 inaugural inductee into the Georgia High School Football Hall of Fame.

Triplett finished with 3,172 yards for the season, tying the mark of Washington-Wilkes' Daccus Turman set in 2000.

Triplett had season highs of 404 yards and seven touchdowns against Pinewood Christian on Oct. 27. His career best was 442 rushing yards against St. Andrew's in 2021.

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The National Athletic Directors Conference, sponsored by the NFHS and the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA), is the single premier conference that provides an outstanding educational in-service program for interscholastic athletic administrators. This first-class conference is foremost in featuring professional speakers and an exhibit show with more than 300 exhibit booth spaces, as well as proven athletic administrators who willingly share their experience and expertise on a variety of educational topics.



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## **Reporting Catastrophic Injuries Promotes Improved Safety**

**By Kristen L. Kucera, PhD, MSPH, LAT, ATC, NSHF.org**

Participation in organized sports is returning to pre-pandemic numbers in the United States, with more than 7.8 million high school-level participants and more than 500,000 college-level participants (1,2). The benefits of participating in sports go beyond improved cardiovascular fitness, strength and balance. There are also psychological and social benefits.

These benefits do not go without risk. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that more than 2.7 million visits to hospital emergency departments annually are due to youth sports injuries (3). The continued growth of sports participation has highlighted the importance of ensuring the safety of the participants.

Catastrophic sports injuries and illnesses are defined as severe conditions that result in death, permanent or temporary disability, or events that would have resulted in death without immediate medical action. The most common types of catastrophic events include sudden cardiac arrest, traumatic head and neck injuries, exertional heat stroke, internal organ injuries, and exertional sickling (Fig. 1).

Ongoing surveillance since 1982 reveals that on average, 120 catastrophic injuries and medical conditions – approximately 45 fatal – occur annually among high school, middle school and collegiate participants. There is an urgent need for information regarding how to prevent and respond to these serious events. Knowing the number and frequency of catastrophic injuries and illnesses, as well as the athlete groups affected, is a critical step to inform current and future safety efforts.

For example, information about the number of deaths related to exertional heat stroke among high school athletes spurred the distribution of 5,000 wet-bulb globe temperature devices to National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) member schools (4).

The National Center for Catastrophic Sport Injury Research (NCCSIR) conducts surveillance of catastrophic injuries and illnesses related to participation in organized sports in the United States at the collegiate, high school, middle school, youth, amateur and professional levels. As a primary source for published and unpublished catastrophic sport injury and illness information, the NCCSIR has historically obtained information largely from publicly available news media reports and national and state sport organizations, including the NFHS. However, reliance on news media reports means that only the events covered by the media are captured. Although adequate for some catastrophic sport-related events, for those that receive less media attention, numbers



may only reflect the tip of the iceberg. Therefore, to maximize their effectiveness, surveillance systems should strive to actively capture health outcomes as they occur.

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## **Scoreshots**

### Easy Social Media for your Sports Team

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**GHSA's 'vague' NIL bylaw creates more worries, questions than answers**

By Zack Myers, [nowhabersham.com](http://nowhabersham.com)

The Georgia High School Association approved and announced changes to the 2023-24 GHSA Constitution, which allows high school athletes in Georgia to benefit from their name, image and likeness.



With the new bylaw (1.97), Georgia becomes the 30th state, along with the District of Columbia, to allow its member schools' athletes to profit from their name, image and likeness (NIL).

The Georgia High School Association (GHSA) has, of course, added in limits or restrictions as to how the athletes can conduct themselves in accordance with the new bylaw while maintaining their amateur status as an athlete.

The different restrictions are spelled out in "Appendix 'N'", which can be found on page 131 of the 191-page GHSA Constitution.

Athletes can benefit from NIL assuming they comply with bylaw 1.92-c, which means "the compensation is not contingent on the specific athletic performance or achievement," or "the compensation is not provided as an incentive to enroll or remain enrolled at a specific school," or "the compensation is not provided by the school or any person acting as an agent for the school."

There also cannot be a violation of bylaw 1.70, which defines the rules against recruiting, undue influence, following the coach, and booster involvement.

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## Related

[GHSA reclassification: Dalton High wins appeal to move to 4A, local landscape appears set](#)

[New Region: THS bracing for long travels, easier scheduling](#)

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## **HS Player Reinstated to Team After Mother Sues**

**By Tabatha Wethal, AthleticBusiness.com**

A high school basketball player in Illinois who had been cut from the team was reinstated this week following a lawsuit filed by the boy's mother.

Erin Savage is suing the Hinsdale Township School District and employees because she told the [Chicago Sun Times](#) that her son Brendan, a senior, was cut from the basketball team in retaliation for the family filing a complaint against the previous coach, Michael Moretti. Hinsdale South boys basketball coach Michael Belcaster cut Brendan after tryouts this fall. Previously, Brendan had started in "probably every game" as a sophomore and junior, his mother said.



Savage filed the lawsuit this week in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division. She heard from the Hinsdale Township School District's lawyer Tuesday morning saying Brendan is back on the boys basketball team.

"It is awesome," Savage told the Sun-Times. "He can finally start playing tomorrow. They have their first game tonight. He will miss that but they play Downers Grove South on Friday and that is going to be a big game."

Although Brendan has been added back to the team, the school district didn't give the Savages any guarantee that Brendan would receive playing time.

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## Resource Information

### Your December AD Checklist

**Coaches:** Distribute Clinic brochures to coaches

**Pre Season:** Winter event preparation:

- Announcer
- Timer
- Ticket sellers
- Event Manager
- Security
- Gate cash
- Signage
- Police
- 

**Wrestling:** Weight permit forms (W-1) must be signed by physician and kept on file

- Copy of Doctors Minimum Weight Recommendation
- (W-2A) kept on file at the school
- Observe at winter sports contests and practices – all levels



- Weekly administrative meeting
- Faculty meetings
- Update website
- 

**Concession stand:** Who is responsible? Schedule, order process

- Make necessary preparations for Holiday competitions
- Obtain emergency numbers for Holiday break opponents in case of snow
- Obtain emergency numbers for weekend contests where bad weather could cause problems
- Review all winter schedules for conflicts
- Confirm all transportation request and review for conflicts
- Schedule, send out agenda for any Athletic Department Meeting
- Equipment requests for fall sports
- Post Season Review all winter tourney room reservations
- NIAA \_ Attend the National Athletic Directors Conference

[Download the December Checklist](#)

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## **Title IX Regulations Checklist**



On May 6, 2020 the United States Department of Education released new Title IX Regulations with expectations for districts to be compliant by August 14, 2020. Although there aren't major changes in athletics, in your role you should be aware of the new requirements.

While working with colleagues of yours, I shared the attached K12 Title IX Checklist. This is a great resource to help reach compliance. Feel free to share with your team.

[Click here for the checklist](#)

Best,

Christopher Simmons, Ph. D.  
Director of Business Development  
[ICS Solutions](#)

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Thank You

Maurice Freeman  
President  
Georgia Athletic Directors  
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