

**West Georgia Middle School Athletic
Conference
2014-15 By-Laws**

Conference Chair

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West Georgia Middle School Athletic Conference

I. Organization

- A. Member schools will be Bay Springs, Bowdon, Bremen, Carrollton, Central, Haralson County, Heard County, Mt. Zion, Temple, and Villa Rica.
- B. Member schools will participate in football, fast-pitch softball, girls' basketball, boys' basketball, and baseball if possible. Additional available sports include soccer, track and field, golf, cross country, wrestling, and competitive cheerleading.
- C. All WGMSAC extracurricular activities are governed by the Georgia High School Athletic Association rules and regulations for that activity which can be found in the GHSA White Book.
- D. All member schools are expected to adhere to GHSA rules, WGMSAC rules and regulations, as well as state standards for extracurricular activities.
- E. Conference Officers: The conference chair will be selected by the principals of member schools on a rotating basis of every two years. There shall be two permanent officers with duties as follows:
 - Conference Chair:**
 - moderate all meetings
 - appoint committees as deemed necessary
 - conduct business for the conference, including but not limited to, scheduling conference games, collecting fees and gate percentages, paying debts incurred (signing checks)
 - purchase trophies for league championships
 - investigate all protests and present findings to the conference
 - Update and distribute annual contact information
 - Conference Vice-Chair:**
 - succeed the Conference Chair
 - serve as Chair when the Chair is absent or unable to serve
- F. There will be two divisions in the WGMSAC. There will a large school division that Conference divisions will be revisited every two years; member schools' division assignments will be determined using October FTE. There will be five schools in each division. There will be a conference champion for each division except in certain sports.
- G. Coaches' meetings will be held at the beginning of each season (i.e. fall, winter, and spring).
- H. At the beginning of each year, each member school should submit the following information to the conference chair for the conference directory:
 - i. Sport/Head Coach/email Address/phone numbers
 - ii. Principal/Assistant Principal/School address/email address/phone number/fax number
 - iii. Athletic director/Email address/phone numbers
- I. A copy of the WGMSAC conference by-laws should be provided to every coach and should be available at all events.

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II. General Regulations

- A. All member schools shall abide by the GHSA white book, by-laws of this conference, as well as state guidelines for extracurricular activities, which are included with these by-laws.
- B. If there is an alleged violation, a tribunal will be held with the Conference Chair and two principals not involved in the allegation. The school that is allegedly in violation will present its case to the tribunal, which will issue a decision with penalties if merited. The tribunal may choose any one or combination of the following as possible penalties for violations of conference rules:
 - i. Forfeiture of games
 - ii. Suspension/expulsion of school from playoff/tournament game
 - iii. Suspension/expulsion of school from conference play
 - iv. Fines
- C. Coaches should be employed by the Board of Education of the member school; lay coaches must complete the designated community coaches program and receive Board approval to coach at member schools. All lay coaches must have on record a background check performed by their local county sheriff's department.
- D. Any player/coach ejection should be reported to the Conference Chair on the first work day after the ejection occurs along with a written account of the incident. A one-game suspension of the next contest is the automatic penalty. The coach or player is not allowed to attend or be on campus for the event for which they have been suspended.

III. Fees and Payments

- A. All member schools shall pay a \$150 fee per school year. A letter will be sent from the Conference Chair to each school's principal as a reminder. If trophy costs exceed this amount, each school will be billed for 1/10 of the additional cost.

IV. Admission Charges

- A. Admission will be \$5.00 for everyone at the gate. Principals have the discretion on prices for presale tickets.
- B. GHSA passes and employee badges for all WGMSAC participating school systems are good at all WGMSAC events and allow for free admission of the badge owner plus one visitor.
- C. Playoff or tournament events will have the same admission charges as regular season events.
 - i. Coaches should submit a roster of players to the host school at the beginning of the tournament if the players wish to attend games after they have been put out of the tournament
- D. Admission for all-day events or events that are held as a fundraiser for a program is determined by the event sponsor. Events that are held as onetime fundraisers such as invitational tournaments will follow Carroll County Board of Education Policy regarding the use of GHSA passes only.
- E.

V. Supervision of Events/Sportsmanship

- A. GHSA Rule 2.7 Modified conduct all relationships with other schools in a **spirit of good sportsmanship**.
 - i. It shall be the responsibility of a member school to use every means at its disposal to impress upon faculty, students, team members, coaches, and spectators the **values of sportsmanship** in preparation for the management of interscholastic contests.

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- ii. It shall be the **responsibility of the home or host school** to take the following precautions at all interscholastic athletic events:
 - a. take proper steps and precautions to insure crowd and spectator control, including having an administrator (or designee) from the host school to function as "game administrator" at all WGMSAC events. EXCEPTIONS: Golf and Tennis
 - b. take steps to insure the **comfort and security** of all players, coaches, and officials
 - c. *provide a safe and secure changing area for contest officials, free from traffic by school staff, students and spectators.*
- iii. Players and coaches are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship before and after a contest, even if the game officials do not have jurisdiction. Behaviors such as taunting, fighting, etc., are forbidden.
- iv. No coach may remove his/her team from competition before the end of the contest unless it is done in accordance with the playing rules of that sport.
- v. **Prior to the beginning of the competition it is recommended that each school read the sportsmanship statement.**

VI. Delayed/Interrupted Game Rules

(These are GHSA guidelines that have been modified to meet WGMSAC competition needs.)

2.93 (with modifications)

A. Interrupted Games: Any WGMSAC competition may be interrupted due to human, mechanical, or natural causes when it is necessary to protect the safety of players and spectators. The host school administrator shall have the authority to postpone WGMSAC events and to direct the procedure for rescheduling when deemed necessary.

- i. The WGMSAC requires lightning detectors at all outdoor athletic activities.
 - a. When a lightning detector indicates a dangerous situation, the game manager will notify the head official. At that point, the official will suspend play and all participants 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.
- ii. **Postponed games** are games that are terminated before they actually begin because of weather problems, emergency situations, or mechanical failures. **The host school should notify the opposing team and officials as early as possible when a contest is postponed. 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. School personnel will agree on the rescheduling of the contest. All postponed or terminated games should be rescheduled for the next available date.**
- iii. **Suspended and/or Terminated Games** - When game officials suspend a game due to weather issues, the following procedures are in place:
 - a. For all Baseball, Softball, Football and Soccer contests, there will be up to a two-hour delay (cumulative) before the contest will be terminated. (See the Baseball and Softball Sections to see the procedures involved with terminated games.)
 - 1. If the Football or Soccer contest is terminated before it has reached the halfway point, the contest is declared a "no contest."
 - 2. Administrators from the competing schools may agree to postpone the contest (after halftime) and resume competition at the point of interruption at a later time.

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3. The team that is behind (at halftime) may choose not to resume the contest at a later date.
 4. If the Football or Soccer contest is terminated after it has reached the halfway point, the score at the point of termination is final.
 5. Golf and Tennis procedures will be dictated by USGA and USTA rules
 6. Cross Country and Track and Field will not use the two-hour delay rule.
- iv. **Paying Officials** in shortened/postponed games:
- a. In the event a scheduled contest cannot be started due to weather-related conditions, officials who have arrived at the contest site will be paid one-half the contest fee.
 - b. 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.
 - c. If a game is an official game at the point of interruption, the officials will be paid full fees.
 - d. Beyond these conditions, no officials group(s) may hold the schools responsible for weather-related postponements.
- 2.94
- B. All championship contests that end in a tie will have that tie resolved by means of the procedures that are used to resolve ties in preceding rounds of the playoffs.
- 2.95
- C. **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:
- i. Delay the game until a new set of officials can arrive
 - ii. Agree to play the game on another date except a Sunday
 - iii. Use registered officials who might be in attendance at the contest
 - iv. Use coaches or school personnel from both schools
 - v. Use formerly registered officials who might be in attendance at the contest

VII. Eligibility

- A. If a student turns sixteen years old prior to or during his/her eighth grade year, he/she is ineligible to participate in athletics.
- B. To be eligible, a student must pass a physical examination by a licensed M.D. Those students who try out for athletic teams must have their physicals before try-outs.
- C. A student may not be retained for the purpose of participating in an athletic program.
- D. A student shall have six continuous semesters of eligibility in middle school sports from the date they start sixth grade.
- E. WGMSAC schools will follow the semester grading period. Students participating in extracurricular activities must pass a minimum of 70% of their total classes per semester; connections (exploratory) classes are averaged separately. (i.e. if a school has 7 periods, the student must pass 5 out of 7 classes)
- F. Eligibility lists for each school's athletic rosters should be compiled and kept by each member school.
- G. Move-in students may participate immediately as long as they meet eligibility requirements.
- H. Questions regarding eligibility of a student-athlete may be made to the conference chair. The conference chair may require schools to prove a student meets or has met eligibility requirements.

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VIII. Schedules/Contests

- A. Member schools' athletic directors will meet in the spring to set the season schedules for all sports.
- B. Member schools must play all mandated league games. Once those games are scheduled schools may choose to schedule other games from outside the league.
- C. For all sports, teams may play a maximum of 60% of a varsity schedule including league games.
- D. Dates, times, and locations of all schedules will be submitted to the principals for approval.
- E. Games will be put on a home to home basis if possible.
- F. Rainouts for all sports are to be scheduled by the home team for the next available date.
- G. All weekday sports will begin at 5:00 pm unless lighting does not permit with the exception of football which will start at 5:30. All home teams must give the visiting team 30 minutes to warm up from the time they arrive. This may cause the start of the event to be later than 5:00. If a Saturday game must be played due to make-ups, Saturday games will begin at mutually agreed upon time.
- H. Football games will be played on Thursdays. All other contests may be played on any day of the week that is mutually agreeable to both teams.
- I. All contests must end in a winner for purposes of playoffs.
- J. In sports where there members play each other twice, the first game will count toward league standings. Scrimmage games do not count in league standings or when determining tie breakers but the scrimmage must be designated as such.
- K. Only Cross Country and golf will have League Champs and League Runners-up.
- L. Tournaments will be hosted by member schools on a rotating basis. Host schools are responsible for :
 - i. Securing officials for games
 - Collecting rosters of participating schools and distributing tournament passes
 - Distributing all tournament/all conference certificates

IX. Officials

- A. Certified officials' associations must be used for all events. Home teams are responsible for retaining certified officials for every sport.
- B. Every sport is limited to 2 officials per game, including Tournaments, except Football.
- C. WGMSAC does not promote the use of a certain official's association; however, the league does recommend that member schools have contracts with the association.

X. Changes in Conference By-laws

- A. Changes in conference by-laws may be accomplished by a 2/3 majority vote of the member schools after proper discussion. Each member school gets one vote.

XI. Football

- A. Date for first practice/tryouts is August 1st.
- B. Six regular season games will be scheduled. Member schools will play 5 mandated league games (4 conference games and 1 crossover). Schools may choose to schedule another game or have two open dates.
- C. Every attempt should be made to schedule/play no more than one game per week. Games will be scheduled on Thursday.
- D. Each quarter will be 8 minutes.
- E. Practices may begin only after the instructional school day has ended, including teacher workdays. Teams may practice on early release days.
- F. To encourage sportsmanlike conduct, the mercy rule will be invoked if there is a 30-point

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difference in the score.

- i. If the coach does not exercise the option of the running clock, the third quarter will be played with regulation timing.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. 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
 - iv. A game that is reduced in time by use of a running clock shall constitute a "completed" game.
- G. Games ending in ties after regulation shall be decided in the following manner:
- i. After a coin toss, the Kansas Plan will be used to decide a winner. The ball will be placed on the 10-yard line to begin play. Each team will have 4 downs (if necessary) to score. The offensive team will lose possession of its series of downs if the defensive team intercepts a pass or recovers a fumble. A touchdown is 6 points; extra points or 2-point conversions will be allowed during overtime play. Each team will have 1 timeout per overtime series. If the tie is not broken after each team has one possession series, the process is repeated until there is a winner.
- H. Playoff and championship games will be hosted by the higher seeded school.
- I. Football playoff schedule:
- Game 1 #1 seed vs. #4 seed
 - Game 2 #2 seed vs. #3 seed, #5 seed vs. #5 seed (interdivisional play)
 - Game 3 winners of game 1 and 2 at the higher seed
- J. The two teams playing in the championship game will receive trophies.
- K. In case of a tie for playoff seeds, the following procedures will be followed:
- i. Head-to-head competition
 - ii. Winning percentage within division
 - iii. Overall winning percentage within conference
 - iv. Coin toss
- L. Spring football is optional. If a member school decides to hold spring training, it will be one week. Current sixth and seventh graders are eligible. Shorts and helmets only.

XII. Basketball

- A. Date for first practice/tryouts is the first Monday after the last football/softball championship game.
- B. No more than two games per week should be scheduled except in cases of tournaments or make-up games when necessary.
- C. Member schools may play 60% of a varsity schedule (**maximum of 15**). League mandated games must be played. The first game is a pre-season crossover game and DOES NOT count in the standings.
- D. Games outside of the league or crossover games will not count toward conference standings.
- E. Each quarter in a basketball game will be 7 minutes; half time will be 8 minutes. There will be a 10-minute break between the girls' and boys' games. Basketball games should have a responsible adult keeping the home scorebook and score clock.
- F. To encourage sportsmanlike conduct, the mercy rule will be invoked when there is a 30-point

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difference in the score.

Mercy rule defined: Any time there is a 30 point differential in the score. Mercy rule will apply to the second half of the game. The following rules apply:

- i. The point differential at halftime is thirty (30) points or greater, and the coach of the trailing team wishes to have the "Mercy Rule" imposed.
- ii. The point differential at the beginning of the fourth (4th) quarter is thirty (30) points or greater, the "Mercy Rule" will be invoked automatically.
- iii. Once the Mercy rule is in effect, it stays in effect and will not be taken off regardless of the differential.
 - a. No full court pressing by either team will be allowed when there is a 30 point differential in the score. Teams who continue to full-court press will be given one warning and then the coach will receive a technical foul. This is at the discretion of the game officials.
 - b. When the mercy rule is in effect, the second half of the game will be regular quarters (7 minutes) with a running clock. The clock will only stop for time-outs.
- F. Games ending in a tie after regulation play will be decided by a 3-minute overtime.
- G. There will be a 1-day tip-off tournament for schools to play crossover games the first day of the season. These crossover games will not count. One single elimination tournament will be held at the end of the season; host schools will rotate in reverse alphabetical order.
- H. In case of a tie for playoff seeds, the following procedures will be followed:
 - i. Head to head competition
 - ii. Record/winning percentage within division
 - iii. Overall winning percentage conference games only
 - iv. Coin toss
- I. Tip-off schedule will be as follows:

2014-2015	Haralson County
2015-2016	Heard County
2016-2017	Bowdon
- J. Final Tournament Schedule will be as follows: (2 divisions)

	<u>Small School</u>	<u>Large School</u>
2014-2015	Heard County	Bay Springs
- K. There will NOT be a League Championship.

XIII. Softball

- A. Date for first practice/tryouts is August 1st.
- B. Games will start after Labor Day.
- C. Each team may play 60% of a varsity schedule (**16 games**). Schools must play league mandated games.
- D. There will be no double-headers scheduled as regular season games.
- E. All games will be 6 innings.
 - i. Games tied after 6 innings will continue until a winner is determined using the international tie breaker.
- F. Bat and ball specifications will follow those set forth annually by the GHSA.
- G. Metal cleats are permitted per GHSA rules
- H. The pitcher's mound should be set at 40' for all games.
- I. Home teams are responsible for umpires' payment and game balls.

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- J. All regular season games count toward tournament seeding.
- K. A-game will end anytime that a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed four 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.
- L. Division tournaments will be held at the end of the season.
- M. There will NOT be a League Championship.
- N. In case of a tie for end of season seeding the following procedures will be used:
 - i. Head to head competition
 - ii. Winning percentage within division
 - iii. Overall winning percentage conference games only
 - iv. Coin toss

XIV. Baseball

- A. Date for first practice/tryouts is the first day following the end of the season basketball tournaments.
- B. Games may be scheduled any time after March 4th.
- C. Each team may play 60% of a varsity schedule (16 games). Schools must play league mandated games.
- D. Home teams are responsible for umpires' payment and baseballs.
- E. Games tied after 6 innings will continue until a winner is determined.
- F. Bat and ball specifications will follow those set-forth annually by the GHSA.
- I. Division tournaments will be held at the end of the season. There will NOT be a League Championship.
- J. Each school will play each team in their division on a home to home basis with one league crossover game as determined by the draw every 2 years.
- K. In case of a tie for end of season seeding the following procedures will be used:
 - i. Head to head competition
 - ii. Winning percentage within division
 - iii. Overall winning percentage conference games only
 - iv. Coin toss

Baseball termination of game rules:

The following items allowed in the National Federation rule book as "State Adoptions" have been adopted by the GHSA: (These are GHSA guidelines that have been modified to meet WGMSAC competition needs.)

- A. A game will end anytime that a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed four 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.
- B. The suspended game rule will be used:
 - i. When a game is stopped before it becomes a legal game (3.5 or 4 innings), it is considered "no contest" and any replay will begin from the first inning.
 - ii. When a game is stopped after it becomes a legal game and a winner can be determined, it is a completed game.
 - iii. When a game is stopped after it becomes a legal game and a winner cannot be determined, any replay will begin from the point of interruption.
 - iv. In any terminated game, pitching innings will count.
- C. 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.
- D. The following interpretations have been approved by the GHSA.
 - i. Termination of the game due to weather, unplayable conditions, or

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mechanical malfunctions:

- a. The umpires may halt play for up to two hours when conditions do not allow play to continue.
 1. The two-hour interruption(s) is cumulative
 2. The game must be terminated when the two-hour time has elapsed. If the first game of a doubleheader is terminated, the second game will be postponed.
 3. The two-hour period does not include time needed to prepare the field for the resumption of play.
 - c. Umpires must wait for at least thirty (30) minutes before terminating a game for unplayable field conditions.
- ii. Pitching restrictions:
- a. Pitchers are limited to a maximum of ten (9) innings in a calendar day.
 - b. Pitchers are limited to a maximum of fourteen (14) innings in four 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.

XV. Soccer

- A. Date for first practice/tryouts is the first day following the end of the regularly scheduled basketball tournament.
- B. This is a co-ed league. There must be a minimum of 4 females on the field, including the keeper, at all times.
- C. Teams may play 60% of a varsity schedule (**10 games**). League mandated games must be played.
- D. Soccer will be divided into big/small school divisions with Champion in each division. There will not be a League Championship.
- E. In case of a tie for end of season seeding the following procedures will be used:
 - i. Head to head competition
 - ii. Winning percentage within division
 - iii. Overall winning percentage conference games only
 - iv. Coin toss
- F. Games are 60 minutes; there are two 30-minute halves.
 - i. In the case of a tie, teams will play a 5-minute OT. The first team to score in the OT wins.
 - ii. If the game is still tied at the conclusion of the OT period, a shootout will occur.
- G. The shootout rules are as follows:
 - i. A coin toss shall take place. The winner of the coin toss will have the option to: 1) shoot or defend first, or 2) select the end of the field the shootout will take place. The loser of the coin toss will take the remaining option.
 - ii. Only the 11 players who were on the field at the end of the over-time period are eligible to participate in the shoot-out.
 - iii. If one team has less than 11 players at the completion of OT, the number of players used in the shootout will equal this number. (e.g. Team A has 10 players and Team B has 11 players. Team B will only have to submit 10 names for the shootout)
 - iv. After the OT and before the shoot-out begins, each coach must submit in the order they will "shoot" the name and number of the players

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- participating in the shoot-out. At least one female should be listed in the first 5 players.
- v. Each team will take a minimum of 5 shots on goal from the designated penalty kick spot.
 - vi. Teams will alternate shots (e.g. Team A, Team B, Team...)
 - vii. The teams will alternate shots until each team takes 5 shots or until one team clinches the win, whichever comes first.
 - viii. All Shootout kicks are direct.
 - ix. The defense may switch goalies before any shot. The goalie's name and number must be on the list submitted to the official prior to the shoot-out.
 - x. If after 5 shots the shootout is still tied, teams will alternate one shot until a winner is determined
 - xi. Each player on the list of names submitted to the official for the shoot-out must shoot once before anyone shoots a second time. Goalies must shoot at some point in the order.
 - xii. The order may be switched, using the players that were on the field. Once a team has used every eligible player to shot. This can be done every time a team goes completely through its order.
- F. Mercy Rules:
- i. If a team is seven (7) or more goals down at the mid-point of the first half that will be considered the end of the half.
 - ii. When a team is ten (10) or more goals behind in the second half, the game is terminated.
- G. Slide tackling is not allowed. A slide tackle is defined as a full, baseball-style slide in which contact, however minimal, is made with an opponent whether the ball is stripped away in the process or not. Slide tackling shall carry the following penalties:
- i. The first slide tackle by any member of a team in a contest shall result in the captain being warned.
 - ii. The second slide-tackle by any member of a team, whether that particular player committed the first team violation or not, shall result in that player being issued a yellow card.

XVI. Competition Cheerleading

- A. Cheer competitions must be conducted in accordance with the National Federation Spirit Rules Book and the GHSA competition cheerleading manual.
- B. Competitive squads may participate in 60% of a varsity schedule (**3 competitions**).
- C. Cheer Coaches should attend a GHSA Sponsored training seminar each year in order to do stunting. All stunts must follow the new GHSA guidelines.

XVII. Golf

- A. The first date for practice will be August 1st.
- 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:
 - i. Players may use push/pull carts in regular season and post season matches. Motorized carts or caddies are not permitted.
 - ii. Players may NOT use electronic devices that compute playing distances during competition.

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- iii. Other electronic devices including, but not limited to, cell phones, cameras, video recorders, etc., may not be used (sending and/or receiving messages or pictures) by players or coaches during competition.
- iv. If a coach receives information from an "artificial device" (as defined by USGA rules) and passes that information on to a player during competition, it is grounds for disqualification.

XVIII. Tennis

- A. Date for first practice/tryouts is January 14th.
- B. All tennis matches will be played in accordance with USTA rules unless otherwise specified by the GHSA by-laws.

XIX. Wrestling

- A. Date for first practice/tryouts is the first day following the end of season tournaments for football/softball.
- B. Coaches should attend a GHSA Sponsored training seminar each year.
- C. Teams may wrestle 60% of a varsity schedule (**12 competitions or playing dates**).
- D. Wrestling must follow all National Federation and GHSA rules.
- E. There will be 15 weight classes using the USA wrestling and GHSA weight classes as guidelines.
- F. Weigh-ins for wrestlers must be conducted the day of the match. The schools may determine that the weigh-in will be conducted at the school prior to the match and certified by a school official or at the match site. Weigh-in sheets should be kept. All weigh-in sheets will be kept by the host school.
- G. Weight management guidelines as defined by the GHSA are strongly encouraged.
- H. Wrestling will have NOT have a league championship.
- I. Each division will have a Traditional Championship Tournament. Divisions may choose to do a dual format tournament as well prior to the Traditional Tournament, however, the league will only sponsor trophies for the Division Traditional Tournament.
- J. Host schools for the traditional tournaments will be determined by the league prior to the beginning of the wrestling season.
- K. Host schools may charge a nominal fee for the Division Championship Tournament to cover the cost of officials and individual weight class medals.
- L. The format of the traditional tournament will be determined by the coaches at the meeting prior to the season. Championship tournaments may choose to have an A and B bracket with only A wrestlers counting toward team scores or they may choose to have only 1 bracket with all schools entering 1 wrestler at each weight class.

XX. Track

- A. Date for first practice/tryouts is the day following the end of season basketball tournament.
- B. Teams may participate in 60% of a varsity schedule (6 meets).
- C. All track teams must follow the National Federation Track and Field Rule Book and the GHSA rule book.
- D. Pole vault will count as a field event at WGMSAC track meets.

XXI. Cross Country

- A. The first date for practice/tryouts will be August 1st.

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- B. Teams may participate in 60% of a varsity schedule
- C. All cross country teams must follow the National Federation of Track and Field/Cross Country Rule Book and the GHSA rules.
- D. The distance for both girls and boys will be approximately 3 miles or 5 kilometers.

Current Athletic Programs offered at Member Schools										
	Large School Division					Small School Division				
	BSMS	Bremen	CJHS	CMS	Haralson	Heard	Bowdon	MZMS	TMS	VRMS
Football	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Softball	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Cross Country	*	*	*	*	No	*	*	*	*	*
Volleyball										
Golf	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wrestling	*	*	*	*	No	*	*	*	No	*
Basketball Boys	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Basketball Girls	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Baseball	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Soccer (coed)	*	*	No	*	No	*	*	*	*	*
Track	No	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Competitive Cheerleading	No	*	*	*	No	No	No	*	No	No
Tennis	No	*	*	*	No	No	*	*	No	No
Swimming	No	*	*	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

Appendix A Georgia State Standards

Code: IDE(1)

160-5-1-.18 COMPETITIVE INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES IN GRADES 6 -12.

(1) DEFINITIONS.

(a) **Competitive Interscholastic Activities** – Any organized competition between schools that is held outside the regular instructional day. This does not include vocational clubs, academic bowls, geography bees, spelling bees, science fairs, math bowls, or specific subject area fairs.

(b) **Competitive Interscholastic Athletics** – A competitive interscholastic activity specifically pertaining to any organized athletic sport which shall include cheerleading.

(c) **Course** – any subject with a state approved course number as defined in Rule 160-4-2-.20 LIST OF STATE-FUNDED K-8 SUBJECTS AND 9 -12 COURSES FOR STUDENTS ENTERING NINTH GRADE IN 2008.

(d) **Full-Time** – A student enrolled and attending the full six segments as defined in the Quality Basic Education Act or the equivalent thereof.

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(e) **Georgia High School Association** – The association with which the State Board of Education has a cooperative relationship to establish statewide regulations for 9-12 interscholastic competitive activities.

(f) **Local Education Agency (LEA)** – local school system pursuant to local board of education control and management.

(g) **Physician** - a doctor of medicine or osteopathy licensed by the Georgia Composite Medical Board pursuant to Article 2, Chapter 34, Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.

(a) Each local board of education shall adopt a policy regulating competitive interscholastic activities.

(b) The school principal shall regulate competitive interscholastic activities in his or her school and shall ensure that all staff members adhere to local board of education policies, and rules of the State Board of Education.

(c) A student wishing to participate in interscholastic competitive activities shall be enrolled full-time in a public school during the semester of participation.

(d) Retention of students for athletic purposes is prohibited.

(e) Middle Grades Requirements.

1. These provisions are considered as minimum standards for each LEA to abide by or surpass in its efforts to maintain the highest possible standards relative to its competitive interscholastic activities.

(f) Student Eligibility

(I) For determining student eligibility, the grading period shall be a semester. The same period shall also be the minimum length of the ineligibility period.

(II) Students participating in competitive interscholastic activities shall pass a minimum of 70% of courses carrying credit toward grade promotion in the semester immediately preceding participation.

I. Students initially enrolling in the first semester of the sixth grade are exempt from this requirement.

II. An exploratory course that is comprised of several multi-week courses taken during the same period of the day within the semester shall be averaged to count as one subject for eligibility purposes.

III. If more than one exploratory course is taken during a semester during two different periods of the day, then each course shall be individually calculated into the average to determine student eligibility.

(III) Student eligibility shall be determined on the first school day of a semester.

I. A maximum of two courses taken in summer school and carrying credit toward grade promotion may be counted for eligibility purposes for participation in first semester activities.

II. If a student receives an incomplete for a subject that will be used to establish eligibility; he/she may complete make-up work that will change the incomplete to a grade provided this opportunity is available to all students.

A. Make-up work must be completed within 14 school days after the start of the semester.

B. A student is ineligible until make-up work is completed and the required passing grade(s) is/are recorded in the student's permanent record.

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(IV) Independent study course credit taken in summer school may not be used to gain eligibility.

(V) Summer school credits earned in non-accredited home study programs or nonaccredited private schools may not be used to gain eligibility. For summer school credits to be accepted for eligibility purposes from either private schools, or home study programs, the credits must have been earned in programs approved by an accrediting agency recognized by the State Board of Education in accordance with Rule 160-5-1-.15 ACCEPTANCE OF TRANSFER CREDIT AND/OR GRADES.

(g) Physical Examinations.

(I) All students who participate in competitive interscholastic athletics or cheerleading shall have an annual physical examination prior to participation in any tryout, practice or conditioning, whichever comes first. The physical examination form shall indicate whether the student is cleared without restriction, cleared with recommendations for further evaluation or treatment, specify whether the student is cleared for certain sports or all sports, and be signed by a physician or legally authorized designee. The physical examination form shall also include the date that the exam was performed (month, day, and year), the student's name, gender, age, and date of birth.

(iii) Special Provisions.

(I) Special education students shall meet the same eligibility requirements as regular students, except that the courses passed must be according to the student's IEP. Special Olympics or other athletic programs designed exclusively for students with disabilities are exempt.

(II) Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2161 local school systems shall facilitate the opportunity for transitioning children of military families' inclusion in extracurricular activities, regardless of application deadlines, to the extent they are otherwise qualified. The meaning and determination of military children shall be as provided in

O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2130 and O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2131.

(III) Local boards of education may allow schools within their jurisdiction to join leagues or appropriate associations for the purpose of formulating and enforcing uniform rules of eligibility and play. Nothing in this rule shall be deemed to authorize the use of state or local tax dollars for membership in these organizations.

(3) EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIP.

(a) The State Board of Education supports a cooperative relationship with the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) in establishing statewide regulations for 9-12 interscholastic competitive activities. A local board of education may allow a school within its jurisdiction to join GHSA; however, nothing in this rule shall be deemed to authorize the use of state or local tax dollars for membership in GHSA.

(b) The State School Superintendent or designee serves as a member of the State Executive Committee of the GHSA. Reports shall be made to the State Board of any changes in the Georgia High School Association Constitution and Bylaws. Authority O.C.G.A. § 20-2-240.

Adopted: October 12, 2011 **Effective:** November 1, 2011

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Appendix B Sportsmanship Statement

"The GHSA (WGMSAC) and its member schools have made a commitment to promote good sportsmanship by student/athletes, coaches, and spectators at all GHSA sanctioned events. Profanity, degrading remarks, and intimidating actions directed at officials or competitors will not be tolerated, and are grounds for removal from the event site. Spectators are not allowed to enter the competition area during warm-ups or while the contest is being conducted. Thank you for your cooperation in the promotion of good sportsmanship at today's event."

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League Alignment for 2013-14 and 2014-15

Based on FTE October 2012

Large School

Bay Springs
Bremen
Carrollton
Central
Haralson County

Small School

Bowdon
Heard County
Mt. Zion
Temple
Villa Rica Middle

Next League Alignment: FTE October 2014