



# Central Board Update

November, 2009

## RECLASSIFICATION GOES SMOOTHLY, THANKS TO COOPERATION OF MANY

Reclassification and realignment for the 2010-11 and 2011-12 school years was approved by the Central Board at this quarter's Board Meeting (Nov. 4).

And while no system is perfect, I think this reclassification is very fair and thorough and based on the criteria the administrators and coaches at our member schools asked us to consider. Those most foremost were: (1) to keep region play for football; (2) remain in six classifications; (3) and keep travel costs to a minimum where possible.

A lot of time and effort went into this endeavor. I want to thank the AHSAA staff and the Central Board members for their input. I also want to thank our coaches and principals for taking the time to give us their thoughts.

### INSIDE:

- Ejections down 43% in October
- Volleyball has record attendance
- Super 6 events announced

We conducted member school surveys, had district meetings, sports committee meetings and met with coaches at All-Star Sports Week to get their input.

I also want to especially thank Cody Kilpatrick, who devised the on-line format that helped us utilize GPS data to group the schools as closely as possible in each alignment.

The Central Board approved the alignment for football and basketball. We have fewer nine-team regions in football and no six-team areas in basketball.

We are nearing the completion of alignment for other sports as well.

Other Board action included:

--Approving a plan to return the \$1.00, which had been added three years ago to some playoff event tickets and designated for the new building fund, back to the member schools in the future. The building indebtedness was paid off during the summer. Also, the Board approved the school revenue sharing to start after the association audit next June.

--The Board also approved renovations for the Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame located in the AHSAA building. The renovation upgrade will include display cases for memorabilia of inductees and the development of the second floor area designed for expansion.

**KANABY STEPPING DOWN:** I want to wish Bob Kanaby, the Executive Director of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), a wonderful retirement. He announced his plans to step down last week.

Mr. Kanaby has served as executive director since 1993. His retirement will be effective in May, 2010.

He has been a true friend of the nation's high schools and will be sorely missed by us all.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** I want to congratulate all the state volleyball champions crowned last week at Pelham. It was once again an outstanding event with outstanding play and sportsmanship displayed throughout the tournament.

I want to especially thank Wanda Gilliland and our staff, the Pelham Civic Complex staff, the Shelby County Commission and Pelham Mayor Don Murphy for their efforts in making the event successful.

We had a record attendance on Wednesday. With that said, I also want

to offer good luck to all the teams competing in the state cross country meet at Moulton next week and to all the teams competing in the state swim meet at Auburn in December.

We expect more outstanding effort and sportsmanship to be displayed by all our coaches and schools.

## **T-MOBILE TOURNEY SET FOR SAMFORD DEC. 29-30**

The T-Mobile National High School Invitational Tournament, which was awarded to Alabama this year, will be played at Samford University's Pete Hanna Center Dec. 29-30.

The field of teams includes some of the nation's top programs, including Butler of Huntsville (boys) and Hoover (girls). The teams coming in from across the nation will also include some of the most talented players in the U.S.

Rounding out the boys field is defending Texas state champs Houston-Yates (34-1), Winter Park, Florida (24-8) and Covington (Washington) Kentwood High School (17-9). Butler won the AHSAA 5A state crown in 2009. Three defending state champions are in the girls field: Stockton (California) St. Mary's (31-3), Nashville (Tennessee) Hillsboro (36-1) and Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania) Mt. Lebanon (31-0). Hoover was runner-up in Alabama last season.

## **SAVARESE TO SPEAK AT CLAS CONFERENCE**

AHSAA Executive Director Steve Savarese will address the CLAS Conference next Wednesday at Orange Beach.

He will discuss with the principals' organization the current issues facing member schools and the AHSAA.

## **WRESTLING NEWS** **SECTION TOURNAMENTS TO UTILIZE INSTANT SCORING TECHNOLOGY**

The AHSAA is planning to introduce at the 2010 Section and State wrestling tournaments an automatic scoring system for the weight classes. Don Korn and Rod Gaddy from USA wrestling will be sponsoring the upgraded technology to be used at the tournaments. This is great news for our state's wrestling programs and an outstanding opportunity to provide more up-to-date information onsite for the coaches, student-athletes and fans.

A special meeting of section wrestling coordinators will be held in Birmingham on Dec. 8 at a site still to be determined. It will be a training session concerning the software.

Please make plans to attend and bring anyone that needs to be there for training. Further information will be emailed to coordinators soon.

A few weigh-in dates still remain for the state's wrestling programs. The schedule of remaining dates are:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Site</u>
Nov. 7	Bob Jones HS
Nov. 14	Homewood HS
Nov. 21	St. James HS, Montgomery

## **VOLLEYBALL UPDATE** **BAYSIDE CLAIMS 8<sup>TH</sup> STRAIGHT STATE TITLE**

Bayside Academy clawed its way to the Class 3A state championship at the AHSAA 2009 Elite Eight state volleyball tournament. It marked the Lady Admirals' eighth consecutive state title.

Coach Ann Schilling, who won the 1000<sup>th</sup> match of her career earlier in the state playoffs, matched coaching wits with Coach Julie Sinclair of

Montgomery Academy in the finals. Sinclair also won her 1,000<sup>th</sup> match earlier in the season.

It was a great state tournament with record attendance. I can't thank our schools and coaches enough. The teams played with heart and determination and the fans were excellent both days. The attendance on Wednesday (more than 6,000 paid) was standing-room-only pretty much all day.

The success of this year's tournament is the result of a team effort. From AHSAA staff members to coaches, players, officials and of course, Mayor Don Murphy and the Pelham Civic Complex staff. I also want to thank the Shelby County Commission and the many other volunteers who made this state tournament so special.

Media attendance was also in record numbers. One special guest, John Tawa of [www.prepvolleyball.com](http://www.prepvolleyball.com), one of the nation's leading authorities on high school volleyball, traveled all the way from Oregon to attend. His coverage on the national website was outstanding. This is what he wrote about the Elite Eight state tournament:

*"The schools let students out of class to travel to (the Elite Eight), and "They came in droves, with costumes and body paint and school spirit oozing from their pores. And they stand, shoulder to shoulder on the base lines, cheering and shouting encouragement to the young ladies trying to make history. Being so close to the action, the atmosphere ranks as the MOST intense high school tournament match that I have witnessed personally. Players, coaches and fans couldn't help but be energized."—John Tawa, [www.prepvolleyball.com](http://www.prepvolleyball.com).*

A special congratulation goes out to all the teams that participated, especially the schools that emerged as state champions.

The state champions were as follows:

**Class 1A: Athens Bible (36-12)**

**Class 2A: Addison (69-3)**

**Class 3A: Bayside Academy (50-17)**

**Class 4A: Guntersville (62-7)**

**Class 5A: Faith Academy (39-15)**

**Class 6A: Huntsville (61-2)**

## **FOOTBALL**

### **SABAN TO SPEAK AT SUPER 6 COACHES DINNER**

University of Alabama head football coach Nick Saban will be the keynote speaker at a Super 6 Coaches Week Banquet to be held Wednesday night, Dec. 2, to kick off the 2009 Super 6 Week festivities. The event is being made available by the AHSAA, the Alabama Sports Foundation and the Tuscaloosa Sports Foundation.

A member-school coaches and administrators welcome reception will be held at the Bryant Museum on Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 2 from 3 to 5 p.m. The banquet will follow from 6 to 8 p.m. at Bryant-Denny Stadium in "The Zone" reception hall. Following the banquet, from 8 to 9:30 p.m., the University of Alabama football coaching staff will conduct a Coaches Chalk Talk clinic.

The reception and banquet will be limited to the first 400 coaches to register.

On Thursday morning, Dec. 3, the annual Fellowship of Christian Athletes' Coaches and Administrators Breakfast will be held at "The Zone" inside Bryant-Denny Stadium beginning

at 8 a.m. The keynote speaker will be John Croyle.

Coaches and administrators can go on line at [www.super6al.com](http://www.super6al.com) and register for the events. The link is already up and running.

The Super 6 championships will be played Thursday, Dec. 3, and Friday, Dec. 4, at Bryant-Denny Stadium. The schedule will be:

#### **Thursday, Dec. 3**

3A finals, 11 a.m.

1A finals, 3 p.m.

5A finals, 7 p.m.

#### **Friday, Dec. 4**

4A finals, 11 a.m.

2A finals, 3 p.m.

6A finals, 7 p.m.

## **OFFICIALS UPDATE** **ASSIGNMENTS DESIGNED TO CUT TRAVEL COSTS**

The officials assignment process by the AHSAA for the state football playoffs is helping reduce the expense required for travel each week.

The AHSAA is again assigning associations within close proximity of the playoff contest sites to help reduce the game expense based on mileage. The AHSAA is able to assign neutral associations for these contests and hopes the economy will recover soon in order to restore the regular assignment procedures.

Officials are now participating in the STAR Sportsmanship program by completing the STAR component as part of the registration process.

Radio personalities Rick and Bubba will be going into the studio Monday to cut some television public service announcements as part of the

new officials' recruitment initiative. We thank them for giving of their time and talents for this important project.

Officials can also apply for a 30-year pass if they have spent 30 or more years in officiating in Alabama. At this time, 123 have taken advantage of the program that presents them a card good for admission to all AHSAA championship events.

### **AHSADCA UPDATE**

#### **ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI GAME TO BE TELEVISED**

The Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic is now a nationally-televised event.

Game officials made the historic announcement Thursday that this year's All-Star Classic, featuring 74 of the best senior collegiate prospects from the two states, will be nationally-televised live by VERSUS, the basic cable sports network available in over 70 million homes nationwide.

Officials also announced that this year's contest, set for Saturday, Dec. 12, will kickoff at 12:30 p.m. CST in Mobile's Ladd-Peebles Stadium.

VERSUS is one of the fastest growing sports cable networks in the nation.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES**

- **Football state playoffs, Nov. 6, Nov. 13, Nov. 20, Nov. 27**
- **Super 6 Championships, Dec. 3-4**
- **Cross country section meets, Nov. 5 and 6**
- **Cross Country Championships, Nov. 14, Moulton**
- **Swimming Championships, Dec. 4-5, Auburn University**
- **AHSADCA Tennis Mini Clinic, Nov. 19, AHSAA office**
- **AHSADCA Track & Field Mini Clinic, Dec. 1, AHSAA office**