

Commissioner Julian Tackett

**Topic**

Attendance on Behalf of KHSAA

**Attendance for KHSAA**

**Meeting\_Session  
Attended**

NFHS Section 3 Meeting - Chattanooga

Most states are facing the same issues as Kentucky. Lots of legislative inquiries that seemed to preoccupy the executive directors more than ever. Sum in section three has not had as much success cultivating those legislative relationships, and for that, I honestly believe we need to be thankful. In a couple of cases, the autonomy of those perceived as fully autonomous organizations (not legislatively regulated) may be causing issues, as well as litigation in those states, which seems to be ongoing.

The Transfer Rule and restrictions on athletes' transferring and the conflict with education choice and vouchers (money following the child) are certainly in those states as they continue to rise to the top of discussions here. Even in those states that have a one-time transfer option, they are finding abuses within the system in schools, basically due to disagreements between students caused by this newfound freedom of movement. There doesn't seem to be a single state that has found the magic bullet for handling the transfer issue, as everyone seems to be continually evolving.

**Takeaways to help  
Board and Staff**

There is a huge amount of staff turnover in those states in terms of state association leadership, but the commonality with those states, particularly the college influence of the schools in the Southeastern Conference, makes this an outstanding meeting for Kentucky to be able to attend at the discretion of those states in Section 3

Two themes were repeatedly discussed during the meeting, especially during the breakouts that included only the executive directors. Like our state, they have a handful of seasoned people in their offices, yet the gap between those with a great deal of experience and those with virtually none in the state office continues to widen. The other theme discussed in some of those states having issues with their championships, etc., is that people who have not been in those offices just don't understand the additional pressure that comes with trying to manage those relationships, even if they have been in leadership positions in a school.

The other significant part of the meeting was that many states are not participating in NFHS programs that might help with official recruitment recognition and school recognition. Kentucky is proud to note that it has long been a participant in most of those programs and will continue to be.

**General Commentary**

Nothing additional



## 2026 NFHS SECTION 3 MEETING

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE

### EVENT SCHEDULE (All times are Eastern)

#### Friday, September 11, 2026

3:00-5:00 pm  
5:30-6:30 pm  
6:30-7:30 pm

Registration  
Embassy Managers Reception  
Welcome Reception  
Pictures by state upon arrival  
*Dinner on Your Own*

Embassy Suites Lobby  
  
Embassy Suites Rooftop

#### Saturday, September 12, 2026

8:30-9:15 am  
9:15-9:30 am  
9:30-10:15 am  
10:15-10:30 am  
10:30-12:00 pm

*Embassy Suites Breakfast*  
Guest Speaker: Heath Eslinger  
Break  
Guest Speaker: Alex Diamond  
Transition to Breakout Session  
Breakout Sessions: Executive Directors  
Marketing/Media/Technology  
Assistant Directors  
*Afternoon on Your Own*

Embassy Suites Ballrooms A/B  
  
Embassy Suites Ballroom C  
Embassy Suites Lobby Lounge  
Embassy Suites Ballrooms A/B  
*Chattanooga Lookouts*

#### Sunday, September 13, 2026

8:30-9:00 am  
11:30-12:45 pm  
1:00-3:00 pm

*Embassy Suites Breakfast*  
Devotional  
Lunch on your own  
Breakout Sessions: Executive Directors  
Marketing/Media/Technology  
Assistant Directors  
Bus pick-up by state for Section 3 Olympics  
Section 3 Olympics & Cookout  
(Buses return at 7:30pm, 8:00pm or 8:30pm)

Embassy Suites Ballrooms A/B  
  
Embassy Suites Ballroom C  
Embassy Suites Lobby Lounge  
Embassy Suites Ballrooms A/B  
  
Manker Patten Tennis Club

#### Monday, September 14, 2026

9:00am (2:00pm)  
  
9-12:00 pm  
12:15-1:30 pm  
1:45-3:30pm  
  
3:30-4:00 pm  
6:30 pm

*Embassy Suites Breakfast*  
Spouses Outing: Visit Ruby Falls, Lunch at Feed  
Meet in the lobby in casual clothes and walking shoes  
NFHS General Session  
Lunch  
Breakout Sessions: Executive Directors  
Marketing/Media/Technology  
Assistant Directors  
Wrap-Up  
Closing Dinner at the Tennessee Aquarium River Journey

Embassy Suites Hallway  
Embassy Suites Ballroom C  
Embassy Suites Lobby Lounge  
Embassy Suites Ballrooms A/B

**TSSAA would like to give a special "Thank You" to our event sponsors:**



## SECTION 3 MEETING ITINERARY

### Friday, September 11

3:00-5:00 PM Registration  
6:30-7:30 PM Welcome Reception

### Saturday, September 12

6:30 AM Complimentary Breakfast - Embassy Suites  
8:30-9:15 AM Guest Speaker - Heath Eslinger  
9:15-9:30 AM Break  
9:30-10:15 AM Guest Speaker - Alex Diamond  
10:15-10:30 AM Transition to Breakouts \*  
10:30 AM-12:00 PM Breakout Sessions - Executive Directors / Assistants  
Media/Marketing  
After 12:00 PM Free Time  
6:30 PM Chattanooga Lookouts vs Rocket City Trash Pandas (optional)

### Sunday, September 13

6:30 AM Complimentary Breakfast - Embassy Suites  
8:30-9:00 AM Devotional  
11:30 AM-12:45 PM Lunch on Your Own  
1:00-3:00 PM Breakout Sessions\* - Executive Directors / Assistants  
Media/Marketing  
4:00 PM Bus Departs for MPTC  
4:30-7:30 PM Section 3 Olympics & Cookout

### Monday, September 14

6:30 AM Complimentary Breakfast - Embassy Suites  
9:00 AM-2:00 PM Spouses Outing - Ruby Falls & Lunch at Feed  
9:00 AM-12:00 PM NFHS General Session \*  
12:15-1:30 PM Lunch  
1:45-3:00 PM Breakout Sessions - Executive Directors / Assistants  
Media/Marketing  
3:15-4:00 PM Closing Session\* - Grant Swallows  
6:30 PM Tennessee Aquarium Dinner - River Journey

### Tuesday, September 15

Complimentary Breakfast — Embassy Suites  
Departure / Safe Travels Home

\*Door Prize Drawing

## NOTES

Session: \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!!



2026 NFHS SECTION 3 MEETING  
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE



SEPTEMBER 11 - 15, 2026



## **Strategic Priority #5 Working Group**

### **Section Discussion Questions**

#### **Rules Editing and Writing Process**

- What should guide how rules are proposed, evaluated, and approved?
- What threshold should an issue meet before the NFHS considers a national rules change? If it does not meet that threshold, how else should it be addressed?

#### **Financial Impact**

- How would a shift to biannual in-person rules committee meetings impact your state (i.e., operationally, financially, etc.)? What do you see as pros/cons?
- How would printing rules books every other year impact your state (i.e., operationally, financially, etc.)? What do you see as pros/cons?
- How would a shift to fully digital rules books impact your state (i.e., operationally, financially, etc.)? What do you see as pros/cons?

#### **Rules Distribution Process**

- How should the NFHS deliver rules information in the future while balancing stakeholder needs and preferences for print and digital access?
- What would a successful, sustainable, and accessible rules-distribution model look like for the NFHS and State Associations?

#### **Rules Interpretations and Education**

- How should the rules interpretations and education process evolve to help stakeholders better understand and apply the rules?

#### **Rules Evolution**

- How can the NFHS use technology to build a more valuable and sustainable rules ecosystem while offsetting potential revenue losses associated with potentially moving away from annual print publication?



## NFHS Awards Programs – Academic Year 2026-27 Due November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2027

We would like to provide you with information in one communication regarding many of the NFHS awards.

Nomination forms for the NFHS Coaches Association, Music Association, Officials Association, Speech/Debate and Theater Association, and State Award for Outstanding Service are now available online for state associations to complete and submit for the 2026-27 school year. All nominations are due online by **November 15, 2026**. The links for all nomination forms can be found below, in addition to the point of contact for each of the award's programs. Please share this information with the appropriate members of your staff.

### **NFHS Coaches Association** (Dan Schuster – [dschuster@nfhs.org](mailto:dschuster@nfhs.org)):

- [NFHS Coach Awards Program](#) (State Association Use)
- [NFHS Coach Awards Application](#) (For Coaches to Complete)
- [NFHS Coaching Citation](#)

### **NFHS Officials Association** (Dana Pappas - [dpappas@nfhs.org](mailto:dpappas@nfhs.org)):

- [State Active Official of the Year](#)  
Nominees in this category must be current members of the NFHS Officials Association. *Note that state active officials may be nominated throughout the school year and are not subject to the November 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.*
- [Sectional/National Active Official of the Year](#)  
Nominees in this category must be current members of the NFHS Officials Association.
- [National Contributor](#)  
Membership in the NFHS Officials Association is **not** required for nominees for this award.
- [NFHS Officials Citation](#)  
Membership in the NFHS Officials Association is **not** required for nominees for this award.

### **NFHS Music Association** (Chris Paulson – [cpaulson@nfhs.org](mailto:cpaulson@nfhs.org)):

- [Music Outstanding Educator](#) (both Middle School and High School Educators are eligible)

### **NFHS Speech, Debate and Theater Association** (Chris Paulson – [cpaulson@nfhs.org](mailto:cpaulson@nfhs.org)):

- [Speech & Debate Outstanding Educator](#) (both Middle School and High School Educators are eligible)
- [Theatre Outstanding Educator](#) (both Middle School and High School Educators are eligible)

### **NFHS State Award for Outstanding Service** (Lisa Beverly – [lbeverly@nfhs.org](mailto:lbeverly@nfhs.org) / Kyle Mills – [kmills@nfhs.org](mailto:kmills@nfhs.org)):

- [State Award for Outstanding Service](#)



Dear State Executive Director –

Welcome to beautiful Chattanooga, Tenn for the 2026 Southern District annual meeting. I hope your meeting is productive and you enjoy your time in Chattanooga.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to Fellowship of Christian Officials (FCO) and hopefully follow up with you to explore how we can work together to promote FCO in your state.

Established in 2024, FCO is a non-profit (501c3) organization comprised of men and women who officiate sports at all levels including youth, high school, college, and professional sports. FCO is guided by three core principles – affirm, support, and encourage sports officials and to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ through officiating. FCO has grown to over 800 officials nation-wide but our work is far from complete and we need your help. I would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you in person, via Zoom, or a phone call to discuss reaching out to sports officiating associations in your state to gauge their interest in being a part of FCO and discuss how they can get involved. Membership is free and includes receiving a weekly devotional via email geared to sports officiating. You can learn more about FCO at <https://www.fellowshipofchristianofficials.org/>, which includes a link to sign up, or you can simply scan the QR code below. Thank you for considering and I look forward to hearing back from you at your earliest convenience. You may reach me at 229-672-0076 or via email at [mdgammons@yahoo.com](mailto:mdgammons@yahoo.com). I pray God's blessings over you and your staff for good health and success during the 2026-2027 school/athletic year.

Sincerely,

Big Mike Gammons - Founder, FCO - Thomasville, Georgia

Scan the QR Code to start receiving faith-based  
encouragement from fellow sports officials.





2026 NFHS SECTION 3 MEETING  
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE

## NFHS Citation Award

- |                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| ● 2015 Wanda Gilliland   | Alabama        |
| ● 2016 Gene Menees       | Tennessee      |
| ● 2017 Karen DeHart      | North Carolina |
| ● 2018 Keith Alexander   | Louisiana      |
| ● 2019 Joyce Franklin    | Mississippi    |
| ● 2020 Nessie Harris     | South Carolina |
| ● 2021 Mark Dreibelbis   | North Carolina |
| ● 2022 Skip Lax          | South Carolina |
| ● 2023 Ernie Yarbrough   | Georgia        |
| ● 2024 Mary Sheldon      | Mississippi    |
| ● 2025 Jan Hogan         | South Carolina |
| ● 2026 Richard McWhirter | Tennessee      |



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BROADCASTING SCHOOLS

**50M+**

MAXPREPS VISITORS / YR

**2.5M**

STUDENT-ATHLETES COVERED



DIGITAL TICKETING

The largest digital ticketing platform in high school sports. GoFan powers fast, secure ticketing, concessions, fundraising, and merchandise payments for events of every size.

- › Mobile ticket purchase via card, Apple Pay, Google Pay, or Cash App
- › iPad-based point of sale for gate & concessions
- › Real-time sales reporting & reduced cash handling
- › Fundraising & sponsorship tools built in

**750K**

EVENTS / YR

**41**

POSTSEASON PARTNERS



BROADCASTING & STREAMING

The broadcast network for high schools. NFHS Network cameras automatically stream every sport at every level — live and on-demand — to fans anywhere.

- › Automated production, no staffing required
- › Postseason coverage across 46 state associations
- › Fan clips, instant replay & social sharing tools
- › Camera install, maintenance, and support included

**600K**

EVENTS / YR

**46**

POSTSEASON PARTNERS



SCHEDULES, STATS & SCORES

America's source for high school sports since 2002. MaxPreps covers 29 sports with scores, schedules, rankings, statistics, and athlete profiles for college recruiting.

- › Live scores, standings & power rankings
- › Athlete profiles for recruiting exposure
- › Central stat repository for state associations
- › Trusted data source for media & recruiters

**50M**

VISITORS / YR

**525K**

TEAMS COVERED

**2.5M**

ATHLETES



COACHING TOOLS & ANALYTICS

Turns NFHS Network game footage into organized film, stats, and breakdowns automatically — no uploads or tagging. Ready within hours of the final buzzer.

- › All Access: free film & editing tools for NFHS schools
- › Advanced Breakdowns: \$600/team for stat-linked clips & shot charts
- › Covers 11 sports at every level, same price for every team
- › Stats auto-publish to MaxPreps for fan visibility
- › Free unlimited storage means you never have to delete valuable footage

**\$600**

ADVANCED BREAKDOWN

**8-12 HOURS**

TURNAROUND



**NORTHWEST DESIGNS  
WOULD LIKE TO SAY **THANK YOU**  
FOR YOUR CONTINUED  
INVOLVEMENT IN HIGH SCHOOL  
ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES.**

**WE HOPE YOU ENJOY SPORTING YOUR SECTION MERCH GIFT  
DURING YOUR TIME IN TENNESSEE!**

**WE ARE HONORED TO SERVE THE NFHS, PARTNER  
ASSOCIATIONS, AND STUDENT ATHLETES AS THE OFFICIAL  
CHAMPIONSHIP MERCHANDISER.**

**WE ARE HERE TO HELP SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS AT: [VICTOR@NWD.INK](mailto:victor@nwd.ink)**





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***Want to learn more about how AgL  
can generate revenue back to your  
state association?***

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for more information!



Our team of real diamond-sport experts is here to  
support your teams and athletes along the way.  
Connect with our customer success team via text to  
(678) 929-4882 or email  
[successteam@athletesgolive.com](mailto:successteam@athletesgolive.com).



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TRUSTED BY TEAMS, LOVED BY FANS**

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**PITCHCOUNT**

# State Association Partner Options

## Included with either option:

- **No cost** to school or state association to stream or score
- All stats, scores, schedules & rosters sync to MaxPreps
- AGL will become a paid sponsor of your state association
- All playoff games sent directly to the NFHS Network (Network states only) - solves piracy challenges
- Associations, coaches, athletes & fans gain access to state-of-the-art functionality

## Option 1 (Recommended)

### Require all schools score and stream on AGL

- Paid sponsorship guarantee at greater value
- Partnership secures revenue share
- PitchKount included at **no cost** (\$285 value per school)
- Additional marketing and visibility support from AGL directly to state association

## Option 2

### Use of AGL to score and stream is optional

- Paid sponsorship guarantee at lesser value
- Partnership secures revenue
- Generate revenue via fan passes sold

# Solutions for every baseball and softball team in your state.

## Stream

Broadcast every game, so fans and families can follow along from anywhere.



## Score

Track comprehensive metrics effortlessly across hundreds of team and player statistical categories.



## Fundraise

AGL live streaming has a built-in, customizable advertising fundraiser to generate revenue back to your program.



## Get Noticed

AGL uniquely showcases talent, with endless opportunities including leaderboards, video sharing and recruiting tools.



## Official PitchKount Partner

AGL has teamed up with PitchKount to elevate player safety and simplify pitch-count management with seamless integration inside our scoring app.