



# GHSA

## *“Items of Interest”*

September 2011

### Welcome to the Complicated World of Reclassification

Imagine a situation involving very complicated issues where everyone had a different opinion about these matters and no one could find a way to make everyone happy. Welcome to the world of reclassification. At the semi-annual meeting of the GHSA Executive Committee this week, the association moved to a system of six classifications. The difference between the plan adopted in August and the plan approved in May is that the latest plan affords some flexibility in the percentages that the Reclassification Committee can use to place schools in the appropriate classification. This flexibility was included to address issues where schools had extensive travel in their regions, but did not meet the criteria for the isolation rule.

Superintendents and Principals have registered their concerns with the GHSA in regard to travel costs and time out of class for the students. This is especially problematic in the spring semester. It has been demonstrated over time that the issues of travel, time out of class, and competitive fairness present challenges that cannot be completely satisfied for all schools. The Reclassification Committee attempts to balance these concerns as much as possible.

The state of Georgia presents some challenging dynamics. The geography of Central and South Georgia is extensive. The number of schools and the number of students served in North Georgia is extremely large – and growing. The GHSA has not learned how to control the economic issues and the demographic shifts that occur in the state. This GHSA generally has to react to those factors.



Some people have asked why an additional classification is justified. Let’s look at a brief sketch of the number of schools that have been members of the GHSA in this millennium:

2000	— 377
2004	— 392
2008	— 411
2009	— 423
2010	— 432
2011	— 437
2012	— 440 (estimated)

The association will have added 63 schools (a 17% increase) since 2000, and those figures just about make up one classification.

The timetable for the Reclassification process is estimated to be as follows:

**Late-October** — The GHSA will receive the FTE counts for public schools from the Georgia Department of Education and the Reclassification Committee will place schools in classes – Schools will have two weeks to exercise their option to play at a higher classification after being placed in a classification.

**Mid-November** – The Reclassification Committee will place the schools in regions.

**Early-December** – The Reclassification Committee will hear appeals from schools that desire to be moved from one region to another.

**Early-January** – The full Executive Committee will hear appeals from schools that were denied at the December appeal meeting – and then they will vote on the plan proposed by the Reclassification Committee.

This reclassification cycle will cover two school years beginning with the fall of 2012.

– **Ralph Swearngin**, Executive Director

**GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION** Newsletter

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No. 1

- GHSA STAFF -  
Areas of Responsibility

**RALPH SWEARNGIN** (extension 7)

- Executive Director -  
Administration, Interpretation of GHSA Rules,  
Hardship Appeals, Lacrosse, Volleyball

**GARY PHILLIPS** (extension 6)

- Assistant Executive Director -  
Student Eligibility, Community Coach Program,  
Cross Country, Wrestling, Track, Golf

**JOYCE KAY** (extension 5)

- Associate Executive Director -  
Finances, Entry Notification, Agendas,  
Literary, One-Act Play, Debate, Cheerleading, Riflery

**STEVE FIGUEROA** (extension 4)

- Director of Media Relations -  
Press Releases, Media Coordination for State Events, Newsletter,  
Football Schedules, Constitution, Calendar, Tennis

**JIM BULLINGTON** (extension 33)

- Technology Specialist -  
Web Page Supervision, Database Management, Technical Support

**PAM THOMPSON** (extension 30)

- Officials' Registrar -  
Officials' Registration, Test Scoring and Records

**DENNIS PAYNE** (extension 23)

- Associate Director -  
Football, Baseball, Swimming

**ERNIE YARBROUGH** (extension 27)

- Associate Director -  
Basketball, Soccer, Softball

**TANYA ANDERSON** (extension 2)

- Administrative Assistant -  
Sanctioning of Events, School Passes,  
Directory, Coaches' Clinic Attendance

**JULIE JONES** (extension 1)

- Administrative Assistant -  
Dues, Community Coach Program

**SHERI FORBUS** (extension 0)

- Receptionist -  
Lifetime Passes, School System Passes,  
Ejection Reports, Publication Orders

**GHSA Licensed Products**

This month's featured GHSA licensees are: **Jostens**, official championship jewelry ([jostens.com](http://jostens.com)); **Musco Sports Lighting**, the leader in sports-lighting solutions ([musco.com](http://musco.com)); **FieldTurf**, official artificial turf ([fieldturf.com](http://fieldturf.com)), **Resilite**, official wrestling mat ([resilite.com](http://resilite.com)), and **TeamIP**, official merchandiser and online store ([teamip.com](http://teamip.com)). View a complete list of licensees at [www.ghsa.net/licensing](http://www.ghsa.net/licensing). *Become a Fan of the GHSA on Facebook* ([Facebook.com/OfficialGHSA](http://Facebook.com/OfficialGHSA)) and *Follow us on Twitter* ([Twitter.com/OfficialGHSA](http://Twitter.com/OfficialGHSA)).

**Online Wrestling Clinics Set!**

All Wrestling Coaches must complete the online **NFHS/ GHSA Rules Clinic** this season. The Rules Clinic is available on the GHSA web site between the dates of Monday, Oct. 3 and Sunday Oct. 30 ONLY!

In addition, at least one (1) coach from each member school must complete the online **Weight Management Seminar** between the dates of Monday, Oct. 3 and Sunday, Oct. 30, also on the GHSA web site.

**GHSA Football Games on TV**

GHSA broadcast partners Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB) and PlayOn Sports are telecasting many regular season and playoff football games this season. PlayOn Sports produces Thursday night games for WSB-TV's digital channel 2.2 (Comcast Channel 248 / Charter 127), while GPB is carrying gridiron action on Friday nights. Most games air at 7:30 p.m. You can get the full schedule of GHSA games on TV and the web by visiting the GHSA web site ([www.ghsa.net](http://www.ghsa.net)).

**Basketball Cheerleading Dos and Don'ts**

There are questions about what stunts are legal at GHSA basketball games, so here are some examples:

**What may be done:**

1. Extension prep dismount to cradle
  2. Liberty dismount straight to cradle
  3. Pendulum
  4. Braced Tick-Tock
  5. Leap frog
  6. Helicopter
  7. Split drop
  8. Dismount from a single based stunt to a single based cradle with proper spotting
  9. Series of back-handsprings
  10. Series of cartwheels
- (The stunts listed above are just a few examples of what could be legal if executed appropriately on a basketball court or track.)

**What NOT to do:**

1. Basket tosses of any kind
  2. Quick Load to a toss that twists prior to landing in a stunt
  3. Elevator toss
  4. A top person performs a twisting dismount to cradle
  5. Perform a single twisting back flip
- (The stunts listed above are examples of stunts that would be illegal if executed on a basketball court or track.)

**Sports Authority Offers 15% Coupon**

Sports Authority, the GHSA's official sports retailer, offers students, coaches and fans 15% off any purchase made from now through December 31, 2011. The coupon is good for both in-store purchases and online orders.

You can download the coupon by visiting the Coaches page or any fall sports page on the GHSA site ([www.ghsa.net](http://www.ghsa.net)).

**SPORTS  
AUTHORITY**

## GHSA Salutes 2011 Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Winners

Georgia Electric Membership Corporation (GEMC) is proud to sponsor the Georgia High School Association Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award and salute the 40 GHSA-member high schools that will receive the 2011 award.

The award honors schools that demonstrated exemplary sportsmanship during the 2010-2011 school year.

"Media reports across our nation show us that people do not always interact with each other in a civil manner, said Dr. Ralph Swearngin, Executive Director for the GHSA. "The Georgia High School Association believes that some progress can be made in reversing that trend by emphasizing good sportsmanship in our athletic events. The GHSA appreciates its partnership with GEMC so that those who do practice good sportsmanship can be rewarded."

Introduced in 2006, the Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship award reinforces the GHSA philosophy: "Students, athletes, coaches, spectators and all others associated with high school activities programs should adhere to the fundamental values of respect, fairness, honesty and responsibility."

The award honors schools around the state that exhibit exceptional sportsmanship during competitive events. By honoring student athletes, fellow students, school staff, parents and event spectators, the award is not only a school honor, but also a community honor as well.

The GHSA region secretaries select winners based upon the sportsmanship demonstrated throughout the school year.

Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Awards are presented annually to the winning schools by representatives from the EMCs during fall athletic events and school assemblies.



Georgia EMC is a statewide trade association representing the state's 42 EMCs, Oglethorpe Power Corp., Georgia Transmission Corp., and Georgia System Operations Corp.

Through a statewide network, Georgia's EMCs provide electricity and related services to approximately 4.5 million of the state's 9.7 million residents, across 73 percent of the state's land area.

Georgia's 42 electric membership cooperatives serve more customers than any other state network of EMCs in the nation.

Winners of the 2011 Georgia EMC Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award are:

- 1-A-A-A-A-A - Tift County
- 2-A-A-A-A-A - Luella High School
- 3-A-A-A-A-A - Johnson, Savannah
- 4-A-A-A-A-A - Pebblebrook
- 5-A-A-A-A-A - Etowah
- 6-A-A-A-A-A - Northview
- 7-A-A-A-A-A - Mountain View
- 8-A-A-A-A-A - Archer
- 1-A-A-A-A - Thomas County Central
- 2-A-A-A-A - South Effingham
- 3-A-A-A-A - Woodland, Stockbridge
- 4-A-A-A-A - Creekside
- 5-A-A-A-A - Chapel Hill
- 6-A-A-A-A - Redan
- 7-A-A-A-A - Forsyth Central
- 8-A-A-A-A - Habersham Central
- 1-A-A-A - Cairo
- 2-A-A-A - Rutland
- 3-A-A-A - Harlem
- 4-A-A-A - Locust Grove
- 5-A-A-A - Riverwood/Columbia
- 6-A-A-A - Haralson County
- 7-A-A-A - Ringgold
- 1-A-A - Early County
- 2-A-A - Pierce County
- 3-A-A - East Laurens
- 4-A-A - Lamar County
- 5-A-A - Jordan
- 6-A-A - Cross Keys
- 7-A-A - Model
- 8-A-A - Jefferson
- 1-A - Terrell County
- 2-A - Telfair County
- 3-A - Treutlen
- 4-A - Schley County
- 5-A - Providence Christian
- 6-A - Mt. Zion, Carroll
- 7-A - Glascock County
- 8-A - Athens Academy
- 9-A - Our Lady of Mercy

## High School Football Scoreboard Show Begins 16th Season

The **Georgia High School Scoreboard Show** presented by Georgia Farm Bureau Insurance kicked off a 16th season on Friday night, August 26th.

The show, hosted by Tommy Palmer, airs from 10:00 p.m., until midnight through November 18. The radio network of over 60+ radio station affiliates, is the second-largest sports network in the state behind only the Atlanta Braves.

The program features up-to-the-minute football scores and game reports on Friday nights for 13 weeks. Sponsors include: Georgia Farm Bureau, Verizon Wireless and Georgia Southern.



**Countdown To Kickoff** also began on August 26th for a fifth season on 27+ radio affiliates from 6-7:00 p.m. Countdown is the statewide "pregame show," hosted by Tommy Palmer, featuring interviews and insights into Friday's top games from expert correspondents throughout Georgia.

Sponsors include: Georgia Farm Bureau and Georgia Southern.

Both programs are produced by Palmer Sports Media, a media partner of the Georgia High School Association. For a list of affiliates go to: [palmermediagroup.com](http://palmermediagroup.com).

# STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## August 29, 2011

### MINUTES

The semiannual meeting of the Executive Committee of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on August 29, 2011, at the Marriott City Center, Macon, Georgia, by Dr. Gary Holmes, President. Following is a **condensed** version of the minutes of that meeting. A complete version may be found on the GHSA web site ([www.ghsa.net](http://www.ghsa.net)).

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**RECLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE:** Report presented by Earl Etheridge  
The Committee recommended:

Instituting an appeals process for schools whose population of special needs students (level 3 and higher) move them into a higher classification to seek to play at the lower classification.

**MOTION PASSED** (voice vote)

The full State Executive Committee rescind its vote of May 10, 2011, that approved a six-classification format, and send the issue back to the Reclassification Committee.

**MOTION PASSED** (voice vote)

A request for a 20-minute recess was made by Jesse Crews in order for the Reclassification Committee to meet. After the recess, Chairman of the Reclassification Committee yielded the floor to Dave Hunter who submitted the proposal of a six-classification format to include giving the Reclassification Committee the flexibility to adjust the percentages of the classes as follows:

6-A 14 - 17%  
5-A 14 - 17%  
4-A 14 - 17%  
3-A 14 - 17%  
2-A 14 - 17%  
A 21 - 22%

The proposal also included allowing the Reclassification Committee to address the concerns and proposals of the Ad Hoc Committee on public/private schools.

**MOTION PASSED** (voice vote - unanimously)

(Note: Jesse Crews withdrew his challenge to the voting process made in May, 2011.)

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES:** Report presented by Wayne Tootle  
The Committee recommended:

Establishing the title of the "GHSA/Tommy Guillebeau Football Championships Presented by Georgia Farm Bureau" beginning with the 2011 Football Championships.

**MOTION PASSED** (voice vote)

Adjusting the semi-annual Executive Committee meetings to late September and late April of each year beginning with the 2012 fall meeting.

**MOTION PASSED** (voice vote)

Approve the audit of GHSA finances for the 2010-11 school year. A copy of the audit is available from the GHSA office upon request.

**MOTION PASSED** (voice vote)

**BASEBALL COMMITTEE:** Report presented by Gary Long  
The Committee recommended:

Conducting a survey of all GHSA member schools about the following issues:

- a. Spectator seating
- b. Field dimensions
- c. Parking, restrooms, and other such issues

(continued)

## STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, *Continued*

This data will be collected to look at developing minimum standards for hosing semifinal and championship baseball series.

The survey is also to include a question about moving the championship series to a centralized site.

**MOTION PASSED (voice vote)**

The Committee received as information:

A proposal from various groups in the Rome, Georgia, community to host the 2013 GHSA Baseball Championship games in that city using minor league and college fields.

**COACHES COMMITTEE:** Report presented by Jim Hughes

The Committee recommended:

Add new By-Law 2.52c2: Community coaches may not coach the same sport at more than one school, even if there are multiple schools in the system.

**MOTION PASSED (voice vote)**

**FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:** Report presented by Earl Etheridge

The Committee recommended:

Changing the GHSA "Tie Breaker" plan found on page 67 as follows:

C-2 - delete subsection "b" that makes a school's record against all teams in the same classification a part of the tie-breaker plan so that playing nearby teams from other classifications will not hurt a team's playoff chances.

C-4 - delete subsection "c" (same rationale as above)

**MOTION PASSED (voice vote)**

Delete the NOTE on item D.2., page 65, allowing modification of equipment rule in summer camps with approval of Executive Director.

**MOTION PASSED (voice vote)**

The Committee received as information:

There will be a meeting of the Football Committee with Dr. Michael Ferrara of the University of Georgia in January to discuss the results of his three-year study on heat and football practices. That meeting will involve such topics as:

Policies and procedures for equipment allowed the first week of preseason practice

The number of practices allowed each day and the duration of those practices

Possible changes in policies and procedures for voluntary summer activities

**GOLF COMMITTEE:** Report presented by Jesse Crews

The Committee recommended:

Add new A.3. to page 70: In accordance with By-Law 1.47, if a school does not have a girls' golf team, a girl electing to play on a boys' golf team will be required to play by the rules and procedures for the boys. **(Effective Immediately)**

**MOTION PASSED (voice vote)**

Item C., page 70 - change to read: A school may list the allowed number of team members, plus up to four (4) alternates. (changing from 2 to 4) **(Effective Immediately)**

**MOTION PASSED (voice vote)**

Adjusting the calendar for the 2013 season as follows:

First day of practice: February 18

First day of contest: March 4

State Tournament: May 20

**MOTION PASSED (voice vote)**

The Committee tabled:

The proposal to charge a \$5.00 admission fee for each state tournament beginning with the 2012 season.

(continued)

## STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, *Continued*

### LACROSSE COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Donnie Griggers

The Committee recommended:

Changing "tie-breaker" procedures, page 74, Area Competition, B. - delete subsection "7" that makes a school's record against all teams in the same classification a part of the tie-breaker plan so that playing nearby teams from other classifications will not hurt a team's playoff chances.

**MOTION PASSED (voice vote)**

### LITERARY COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Glenn White

The Committee recommended:

Include in the format for One Act Play at both Region and State level to allow a 10-minute "walk through" for play directors only. The directors of the plays scheduled for the first half of the day will all "walk through" during the same 10 minutes before the first play begins. The directors of the plays scheduled for the second half of the day will all have their 10-minute "walk through" at the same time during the lunch break (or prior to the second half if there is no lunch break).

**MOTION PASSED (voice vote)**

### SOCCER COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Dave Hunter

The Committee recommended:

Changing the "tie-breaker" procedure, page 77, Region/Area, A. - delete subsection "7" that makes a school's record against all teams in the same classification a part of the tie-breaker plan so that playing nearby teams from other classifications will not hurt a team's playoff chances.

**MOTION PASSED (voice vote)**

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**Dr. Ralph Swearngin**, Executive Director, gave a brief report to the Committee covering several topics such as the recent NASO Summit hosted by Georgia, the "Georgia Day" hosted by the GAOA, and a GHSA leadership summit. The Director expressed his deep sadness about the deaths of two students who had participated in football workouts.

He emphasized that there will always be many challenges facing the Committee and that both GHSA staff and Committee members must continue to work together in the best interest of our member schools.

Dr. Swearngin called on Alan Sharp, who reported on the changes in sponsorships and licensees, the progress in the broadcast community with PlayOn Sports, weekly football game broadcasts and Georgia High School Radio Scoreboard show.

## OLD BUSINESS

Second vote on Constitutional Amendment - Article IV, Section 5, B.5. -- Hardship Committee decisions to grant an appeal shall be decided by a majority vote.

**MOTION PASSED (voice vote)**

## NEW BUSINESS

Pat Blenke, Georgia Department of Education Representative, distributed a handout on the recent NCAA Eligibility Center ruling that denied their appeal to allow Mathematics I and II Support courses to count as core credit towards awarding athletic financial aid to students in Georgia. Under this ruling, students who graduate from a Georgia high school who have only successfully completed the Mathematics I, II, and Mathematics I, II Support sequence of courses will not be eligible for a Division I athletic scholarship (partial or full).

Motion by Jesse Crews, second by Jim Hughes, to give the Executive Director authority to find a Parliamentarian to be present at the Executive Committee meetings.

**MOTION FAILED (Show of Hands)**

Motion was made and unanimously approved to adjourn.



## Team up with Brian McCann to help fund research for kids with cancer

The top elementary, middle and high school that raises the most funds will have the opportunity to **meet Brian McCann** at the 2011 Brian McCann Celebrity Softball Game!

The elementary, middle and high school that raise the most money in this simple change collection fundraiser between now and November 2 will win the Rally 4 Quarters 4 Research award. As an award recipient, each school will receive

- ! On-field recognition and award presentation at the Brian McCann Celebrity Softball Game on November 11, 2011
- ! "Rally 4 Quarters 4 Research" Trophy
- ! Feature Story on the Rally website
- ! Mention in the Rally Spring Newsletter



## Sign Up Your School for the 2011 Football Season

**More than 200 schools have participated!**

*"Cancer is a word that brings concern to the hearts of most people, and childhood cancer accentuates those concerns. Rally 4 Quarters 4 Research will enable Rally to raise funds to fight the ravages of childhood cancer. I think it will send a positive message if high school athletics joined that cause."*

- GHSA Executive Director Ralph Swearngin

**TO SIGN UP YOUR SCHOOL OR LEARN MORE, CONTACT:**

Christen Patterson, Program and Event Coordinator  
christen@rallyfoundation.org  
404.847.9176

[RallyFoundation.org](http://RallyFoundation.org)



## GHSA - September / October Calendar - 2011

### September

- 5 Labor Day, GHSA Office closed
- 6 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 20 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 26 Deadline for notification of entry in Cross Country

### October

- 1 Deadline for notification of entry in One Act Play
- 1 Deadline to set Riflery schedules
- 3 Earliest date for Riflery match
- 4 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 7 Deadline date to file Riflery schedules with GHSA office
- 8 Complete Region Softball & Determine Area Volleyball winners
- 10 Report Region Softball and Area Volleyball winners by noon
- 12, 13 First Round State Softball
- 12 First Round State Volleyball in AAA & AA/A
- 13 First Round State Volleyball in AAAAA & AAAAA
- 14 Deadline for payment of GHSA membership dues
- 17 Earliest practice date for Swimming
- 18 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 18 Second Round State Volleyball for all classifications

## GHSA Sponsors













