

June 29, 2015

DR GLENN WHITE
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Dear Dr. White,

I am writing to you about the parity in Georgia high school athletics. After sitting in the audience during the May meeting on Reclassification it was apparent that the GHSA has their minds made up on how Class A and Class AAAAAA will be handled this next reclassification cycle. I heard the arguments on Private vs Public vs City schools in the state. As Bremen is one of the Public City schools in the state these decisions could affect us detrimentally in the near future and for the long haul. I do not disagree that something should be done; it's that just targeting city schools and private schools in the same sentence is not fair. As a city system we, have to accept into our school every Jimmy and Jane that lives within the city limits of Bremen. We have to financially accept students from other systems to stay financially alive, I am sure that you are aware that when you look at the state financial digest that Bremen City Schools is a lot closer to the bottom of the list than the upper portion of the list for all Georgia school systems.

I have read and listened to all of the proposals that have been formulated over the past several years; I have read how other states have tried to come up with the perfect solution to this problem. Many of us have the same issues. There are many great ideas and we are sure there will be many more will be brought up over the next few weeks/years. The issues are always the same, private schools work under a business model and public schools (county and city) work under a different model.

With that being said how about looking at a totally different model than just the public vs private schools. Let's look and think outside the box. "Has there been a proposal for a promotion system based upon a schools overall success rate for the reclassification cycle?" The states of Colorado and Illinois have each had these options proposed and are realizing that something has to be done differently than just a multiplier. The Colorado proposal is simpler and cleaner than the Illinois proposal. The state of Colorado proposed the following for their problem:

"Any member school that has entry requirements or the ability to screen, interview, select, or are not required by state law to accept students."

Schools would move up a classification based on a point's formula. Specifically:

When a school totals 32 or more points in a four-year period that school will play up one classification from what their enrollment numbers dictate in that sport for the following cycle.

Points will be generated as follows:

State champion – 10 points
State second place – 8 points

State top four – 6 points
State top eight – 4 points

It is important to note that schools would only move up one classification above where their enrollment figures place them. For example, a school with Class 3A enrollment numbers would never be forced to play in 5A.

A school would only be awarded points one time during a season. So a state championship only means 10 points — a school does not also accrue points for a second-place, top-four and top-eight finish. That applies on down.

Points would accrue across classifications. A 2A school moving to 3A would continue to have their 2A success apply toward the 32-point threshold over a four-year span even after they move up.

Finally, these points would be recalculated prior to each two-year cycle. So it is very possible a school that does not have success in their new classification would move back down after two years.

The 32-point threshold, as it turns out, is actually pretty steep. Hypothetically, if this were to go into effect based on the past four seasons, there wouldn't be a whole lot of movement.

I believe using this model and the point system that is already in place and being used for the GADA Directors cup points could be implemented. It has been researched and approved, and has been in place for several years. Everyone will be familiar with it and all the data provided. You can check the GADA website (www.gadaonline.net) for the past five years of results for each classification. If you look at the past winners of each classification and implemented a formula, (example- scoring more than 1000 points per year for a classification cycle the school would require the school to move up a classification). You would not be targeting private schools or public city schools. You would be targeting - "*Any member school that has entry requirements or the ability to screen, interview, select, or are not required by state law to accept students.*"

We hope that the information that we have shared and the plethora of information that has already been sent to you will help with the proposal and decision making process that committee has been charged with.

If I can help in any way please contact us and I will be glad to assist in any way.

Thank you for your time,

Robert Dorch