

Georgia High School Association

Board of Trustees Meeting

Minutes

GHSA Office - Thomaston, Georgia

July 18, 2024 10:00 AM

Board of Trustees in Attendance:

Scarlett Grantham, Steve Waters, Bobby Brewington, Eli Connell, Brian Montgomery, Michael Thompson, Harley Calhoun (sub), Jose Fernandez, Michelle Masters, Regina Montgomery, Kevin Petroski, Jim Finch, Curt Miller, Robin Hines

Guests: Legislators Brent Cox and Chas Cannon

New Business:

1. NIL By-Law Amendment to Appendix N (Attached) - Dr. Hines

Dr. Hines introduced the Amendment to the Board of Trustees. He explained that the purpose of the Amendment was to further specify and define guidelines described in the original NIL Policy. Concerns have arisen over groups identifying themselves as “NIL Clubs.” These clubs solicit schools and individual high school students to join their organizations for a fee. However, their guidelines do not meet the GHSA stipulations under the current policy and can create eligibility questions.

A healthy discussion transpired with representatives of the company speaking on behalf of the “NIL Club.”

Dr. Hines recommended that all schools who have joined these clubs need to remove themselves immediately due to questions that might arise in regard to student eligibility.

Motion by Grantham to Approve Amendment placement:

Second by Waters:

Motion passed 14-0

2. Executive Oversight Committee – Dr. Hines

Dr. Hines gave an overview of the Legislative Oversight committee. The committee will convene August 28th in the GHSA office and then again during the State Football Championships in Atlanta.

3. Bass Fishing – Dr. Hines

Dr. Hines indicated to the Board of Trustees that a search is being conducted to replace the late Kevin Giddens in Bass Fishing. He praised Coach Giddens for the tremendous job he did in all of his roles at GHSA.

4. Constitution and By Laws - Jay Russell

Coach Russell gave an overview of the new platform that now exists on the GHSA Website as it pertains to the Constitution and By-Laws. It is user friendly and allows GHSA staff to produce their own edits. He praised Jim Bullington for his innovative talents.

5. Officiate Georgia Day, NASO – Ernie Yarbrough

Ernie Yarbrough presented an overview of the 2024 Officiate Georgia Day and NASO National Conference taking place July 27-30 in Atlanta. He stated that Georgia is expecting over 1500 officials to be in attendance on the 27th.

6. Competitive Balance for Reclassification – Don Corr

Don Corr presented a brief introduction to a potential future reclassification method based on competitive balance.

Dr. Hines indicated that this would be his last Board of Trustees meeting as Executive Director. He then introduced Dr. Tim Scott, his successor, who made a few brief comments.

Motion by Thompson to adjourn:

Second by Waters

AMENDMENT TO APPENDIX "N" OF THE GHSA BYLAWS

Appendix N of the GHSA Bylaws is hereby amended as follows:

By adding thereto the following language to the guidelines in effect for NIL activities:

No student-athlete may be a member of nor receive compensation or any other benefit from a Collective or NIL Club. A Collective is defined as any group organized or existing for the purpose of compensating or benefiting an individual student athlete or a group of student athletes of a member school.

NIL Clubs are defined as a group of student athletes organized or existing for the purpose of soliciting funds or other benefits from fans, members or other sources, managing or promoting NIL activities of student athletes or otherwise providing funds or other benefits to an individual student athlete or group of student athletes.

Booster Clubs are not considered Collectives or NIL Clubs if such Booster Club is operated under the supervision of a member school and provides monetary or other benefits to school athletic facilities, school athletic equipment, school team meals or other school team benefits rather than to an individual student athlete or group of student athletes.

Student athletes violating this guideline may be subject to loss of eligibility to compete in GHSA activities and any member school which knowingly allows any student athlete to violate these guidelines may be subject to fines, forfeiture of contests, probation and being declared ineligible to compete in post season GHSA contests or activities.