

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

September 16, 2026

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 10:00 am., on September 16, 2026 by VP Curt Miller who also led the Pledge of Allegiance. Associate Director, Carror Wright provided the invocation and Media Director, Marvin James called the roll. Roll call showed the following: Present - 12; Absent – 1

Scarlett Grantham
Steve Waters
Harley Calhoun
Jeremy Rayburn

Robert Wilson
Kevin Petroski
Jim Finch - A

Ricky Turner
Regina Montgomery
Jason Dopson

Curt Miller
Eli Connell
Brian Montgomery

Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by **Jason Dopson** and seconded by **Steve Waters**. The motion passed.

- I. Sportsmanship** - Dr. Scott introduces the concept of sportsmanship, emphasizing character development. Dr. Scott mentions the involvement of the student leadership team and the filming of B-roll at different schools. Dr. Scott highlights the importance of coaches dedicating time to discuss key points with their teams. Dr. Scott discusses the collaboration with various organizations like the Georgia Secondary School Principals, Georgia Athletic Directors Association, and Georgia Coaches Association and expresses this will be a volunteer program for schools not mandatory. Action: No action taken. Plans to launch campaign in Fall 2027.

- II. Private School State Playoff** - Dr. Scott addresses the need for a separate playoff structure for private schools due to enrollment differences. Dr. Scott mentions a meeting with private schools to discuss potential solutions, including splitting by FTE or multiplier. Dr. Scott explains the challenges of implementing such a system in sports like football and basketball. Dr. Scott suggests taking the proposal to the executive committee in October and voting in April. Kevin Petroski (Athens Academy) and Ricky Turner (Blessed Trinity) share the private schools' perspective, emphasizing the need for a fair playoff structure. Petroski discusses the differences in enrollment sizes and the impact on playoff matches. Petroski mentions the potential for ending seasons earlier and the need for a survey to gauge private schools' interest. Turner and Petroski highlight the importance of competitive balance and the potential for private schools to return to competing with public schools in the next reclass cycle. Dr. Scott emphasizes the importance of gathering feedback and addressing the needs of private schools. Action: The meeting concludes with a consensus to move forward with the proposed changes and further discussions.

III. Region Tournaments and Minimum Games Played

GHSA Associate Directors Merri Sherman and Danny Redshaw led a discussion regarding whether region tournament contests should count toward the minimum number of games required for teams to qualify for Postseason Rankings (PSR) and the state playoffs.

The Board discussed the differences among sports, including how counting region tournament contests could affect both minimum and maximum contest limits. Members noted that a uniform policy could have different consequences depending on the sport.

With the 2026-27 school year representing the first full year of PSR implementation across sports, the Board agreed to maintain the current sport-specific policies through the present classification cycle. The issue may be revisited in conjunction with the next classification cycle.

Action: No change at this time. Current sport-specific policies will remain in place.

IV. PSR Score Entry and MIS Training

The Board discussed the importance of schools entering game and match results into the GHSA system as quickly as possible. Members noted instances in which scores have remained unreported for several days, potentially affecting the accuracy and timeliness of PSR information.

The discussion also addressed ways to make score reporting more accessible to athletic directors and other designated school personnel, including easier mobile access to the GHSA system.

GHSA's Jim Bullington will develop instructional videos and other resources to assist member schools with MIS functions. Topics may include entering scores and rosters, uploading eligibility forms, locating information and completing other commonly used administrative functions.

The Board also discussed improving access to PSR information from the GHSA website and providing additional assistance to schools using student information systems such as Infinite Campus and PowerSchool.

Action: GHSA staff will develop instructional resources designed to make score reporting and other MIS responsibilities easier for member schools.

V. Volleyball Play Dates, Match Limits and PSR

GHSA Volleyball Director Danny Redshaw presented information regarding the current 18-play-date limit and a possible move toward a maximum number of individual matches rather than limiting competition by play dates.

The discussion included scheduling flexibility, rivalry matches, tri-matches, tournaments, round-robin events, best-of-five matches, officiating availability, travel considerations and the potential impact of scheduling decisions on PSR.

A possible maximum of approximately 45 matches was discussed as an example, but no final number or policy change was adopted.

Members also discussed how a match-based system could allow schools greater flexibility to schedule single rivalry matches without using an entire play date and could provide additional options for region and non-region scheduling. Concerns included increased travel, officiating demands and unintended effects on schools that schedule fewer contests.

Redshaw will continue gathering input from volleyball coaches, officials and other stakeholders. The issue will be presented to the State Volleyball Committee during the October meetings in Macon.

Action: Refer the matter to the State Volleyball Committee for further discussion and consideration at the October 2026 meeting. No rule change was adopted by the Board.

VI. Football Knee Pads and Mouthpieces

The Board received an update regarding enforcement of NFHS football equipment requirements involving knee pads and mouthpieces.

GHSA has issued warning letters and fines to schools following reported violations. Officials associations have also received continued communication emphasizing enforcement of the equipment requirements.

The Board discussed reports of players wearing mouthpieces attached to their helmets without properly wearing them during play, as well as continued concerns regarding football pants and knee pads that do not provide the required coverage.

GHSA will continue communicating with officials associations and member schools and will stress consistent enforcement of the applicable equipment rules.

Action: Continue enforcement, communication and education regarding knee-pad and mouthpiece requirements.

VII. VII. Heat Policies for Practices and Games

GHSA Executive Director Dr. Tim Scott reviewed the Association's heat policies for practices and contests and emphasized the importance of schools and officials understanding the procedures associated with Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) readings.

Current football procedures provide for hydration breaks under elevated heat conditions. Officials have also been encouraged to provide additional recovery opportunities during games by slowing transitions following scores and kickoffs, allowing additional time during stoppages and encouraging players to remove helmets when appropriate.

The Board discussed concerns involving student-athletes who practice during cooler early-morning conditions but later compete in significantly hotter game conditions. Acclimatization, cramping and heat illness were among the concerns discussed.

Dr. Scott indicated that additional options will be discussed with the Sports Medicine Committee, including whether additional mandatory hydration breaks should be implemented at higher WBGT readings. The discussion also included possible requirements for cold-water immersion or other rapid-cooling resources during extreme heat conditions.

The Board additionally discussed heat concerns involving other activities and sports, including softball, cross country and marching band.

Action: GHSA will continue emphasizing existing heat policies. Dr. Scott will consult with the Sports Medicine Committee regarding possible additional game-day heat protections.

VIII. 2027 Summer Dead Weeks

The Board discussed the GHSA summer dead-week calendar and potential complications created by the placement of July 4 in future calendars.

Under the current bylaw, one summer dead week runs Monday through Sunday during the week in which July 4 falls. Members discussed whether adjustments may be appropriate when the holiday's placement creates scheduling concerns for families, schools and athletic programs.

The Board also discussed the Memorial Day dead week and its potential effect on basketball programs when it conflicts with NCAA live-period opportunities.

Because changes to the dead-week schedule would require action through the appropriate GHSA governance process, the Board agreed that possible modifications should be prepared for further consideration.

Action: GHSA staff will develop possible proposals concerning the summer dead-week calendar for consideration by the Executive Committee at its October 2026 meeting.

IX. GHSA Citation Award

The Board considered nominations for the GHSA Citation Award, which recognizes an individual for significant commitment and contributions to the GHSA office, member schools and student-athletes.

Two individuals were nominated:

Former GHSA Associate Director Jay Russell

Former GHSA Executive Director Dr. Robin Hines

Board members received biographical information on both nominees and selected the 2026 recipient by written ballot.

The selected recipient is scheduled to be announced in October. The Citation Award will be formally presented during a GHSA state championship football event at Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

Action: Board members completed and submitted written ballots. The recipient will be announced in October 2026.

X. Additional Business

The Board briefly discussed eligibility for GHSA retired coaching passes. Members clarified that individuals who continue to coach should receive their coaching credentials through their current school rather than a retired coaching pass. Individual circumstances involving former coaches who remain employed by a school system may require further review by GHSA staff.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by **Scarlett Grantham** and seconded by **Brian Montgomery**. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.