

# GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES

### STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 6, 2025

The Fall meeting of the State Executive Committee of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 9:00 a.m., on October 6, 2025, at the Marriott Macon City Center by Jim Finch, President.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice President Curt Miller. The invocation was given by Carror Wright, Associate Director. Roll call by Marvin James, Media Director, showed the following: Present - 67, Absent -1 (A below)

Danny Redshaw	Paris Burd	Darrell Demastus	Kevin Grooms	Steven Craft	Michelle Masters-A	Karen Woods-Sub
Lee Heaberlin	Rick Sauls	Matt Hollis	Jesse Crews	Mike Cleveland	Regina Montgomery	Tommy Howell-Sub
Don Baker	Tonya Sebring	Greg Ellison	Myron Newton	David Bell	David Colvard	
Jason Holcombe	Lamarr Glenn	Andrew Calhoun	Nyere Coy Brown	Winston Peterson	Eric Holland	
Matt Moody	Brooke Whitlock	Reggie Wilkes	Brian Montgomery	Eli Dupree	Craig Davis	
Nathan Turner	Brad Hayes	Lawrence Kelly	Brent Mashburn	Harley Calhoun	Joe Sanfilippo	
Scarlett Grantham	Andre Byrd	Phillip Shiflet	Cory Dickerson	Jeff Bryant	Jim Finch	
Daniel Garrett	Charles Robinson	Matt Combs	Michael Thompson	Steve Simpson	Curt Miller	
Steve Waters	Rendell Jackson	Paul Standard	Adam Robertson	Brad Dehem	Stacy Bennett	
Jason Brett	Bobby Brewington	Eli Connell	Jeffrey Sloan	Don Norton	Richard Woods	
Cedric King	Ricky Turner	Joseph Kegler	Davis Russell	Jose Fernandez	Kevin Petroski	

**Motion** was made by Steve Simpson, seconded by Jesse Crews, and unanimously approved to adopt the agenda.

**Motion** was made by Steve Simpson, seconded by Jesse Crews to enter into executive session.

#### ELIGIBILITY APPOINTMENTS:

**Greene County High School** –Chris Williams, Athletic Director, presented an appeal for a student.

**Motion** by Paris Burd, seconded by Jesse Crews to **DENY** the appeal. Motion passed – Simpson abstained.

**Milton High School** – Kory Keys, Athletic Director, presented an appeal for a student.

**Motion** by Andrew Calhoun, seconded by Brad Hayes to **APPROVE** the appeal. Motion passed 35-31 after roll call vote.

**Peach County High School** – Greg Ellison, Athletic Director, presented an appeal for a student.

**Motion** by Kevin Grooms, seconded by Jesse Crews to **DENY** the appeal. Motion passed – Ellison abstained, Combs, Dehem and Woods voted to approve.

**Motion** was made by Steve Simpson, seconded by Nathan Turner to come out of executive session.

Kelli Hutcheson spoke on behalf of GADA regarding participation in the NIAAA/GADA initiative supporting St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Jesse Crews made an announcement that Earl Etheridge, a very close friend of the GHSA, lost his wife Becky. Please continue to pray for Earl and his family.

Dr. Michelle Masters announced on Sunday, October 5, 2025 that she would resign her At Large seat on the Board of Trustees at the end of the year.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*(Committee reports constitute motions by the Chairman of the Committee, no seconds are required.)*

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

1. **Proposal** to allow the use of the ledges in swimming the backstroke if all coaches in the meet are in agreement and the host school has enough ledges of the same type for ALL participants. This is recommended for the 2025-2026 season. The ledges will be used at the 2026 state championships to be held at Georgia Tech – Georgia Tech already has all of the necessary equipment as this has been NCAA approved.  
**(VOTE: 13-0) Motion by Steven Simpson, seconded by Brian Montgomery. Motion carried unanimously**  
**(VOTE: 68-0, STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE)**
2. **Proposal** to donate three million dollars (\$3,000,000) to the GHSA Foundation, Inc. The Foundation will exist exclusively for educational and charitable purposes. Its mission is to serve and assist deserving students across Georgia in furthering their education, while also protecting the integrity of high school sports and activities in our state. This will be achieved through funding scholarships, grants, and programs that support students, coaches, administrators, and officials engaged in these activities.  
**(VOTE: 13-0) Motion by Kevin Petroski , seconded by Scarlett Grantham. Motion carried unanimously**  
**(VOTE: 68-0, STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE)**
3. **Proposal** to update 2.13 Dues for Membership moving from 6 classifications to 7 classifications.  
**(VOTE: 13-0) Motion by Steve Simpson, seconded by Mike Thompson. Motion carried unanimously**  
**(VOTE: 68-0, STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE)**

### **CHEERLEADING/DANCE COMMITTEE:**

1. Proposal to sub-divide Coed Cheerleading into two state championships. Submitted by Callaway High School.  
**Motion to DENY by Davis Russell seconded by Lamar Glenn (VOTE:6-0) Motion carried unanimously**  
**(VOTE: 68-0, STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE)**

### **RECLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE:**

1. **Proposal** that Reclassification for the 2026 – 2028 cycle will be based on the same model as the current cycle.  
**(VOTE: 15-3) Motion carried - Jose Fernandez, Brad Dehem and Kevin Petroski opposed.**  
**(VOTE: 65-3, STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE)**
2. **Proposal** that Eliminates A Division I/Division II to move to a unified A–7A structure with schools being divided into seven classifications based on the following approximate percentages of football playing schools: Class 7A (largest 13%); Class A (smallest 12%); Classes 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A and 6A, divided equally among the 5 classes at 15%. When football playing schools opt to move up in classification, only the exact number of football playing schools at the bottom of the next class will be given the option to come down.  
**(VOTE: 18-0) Motion carried unanimously**  
**(VOTE: 68-0, STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE)**

3. Proposal that maintains a 2A–4A private classification for state playoffs.

**(VOTE: 15-3) Motion carried**

**(VOTE: 65-3), STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE) Brad Dehem, Jose Fernandez and Kevin Petroski opposed**

4. Proposal that the organization will use post season rankings 1–32 to rank playoffs in all classifications. Region champions will host the first round. Any region champion not ranked in the top 16 teams will be moved into a top 16 spot and teams will move down to the next available position. All teams will be ranked by their post season rankings with the exception of the above mentioned. GHSA tie breakers for an equal Post Season Ranking score will be 1. head-to-head, 2. highest PSR Winning Percentage, 3. highest OWP, 4. Highest OOWP. Teams are required to compete in a region and play the minimum number of contests as stated by each sports general information and playing rules books to qualify. A team playing a non-region schedule cannot qualify for the play-offs. 5. We'll add the coin flip as the 5th tie breaker. (GHSA Office will take a look at formula with more emphasis on wins/losses vs OOWP, OWP)

Sports Using the Postseason Ranking Formula (minimum number of contests to qualify)

FALL

Football (9 games)

Softball (Drop 24 to 20 games)

Volleyball (Drop 16 dates/32 matches to 30 matches)

WINTER

Basketball (22 games)

SPRING

Baseball (Drop 24 to 20 games)

Soccer (14 games)

Lacrosse (14 games)

Tennis (14 games)

**(VOTE: 17-1) Motion carried Nathan Turner opposed**

5. Proposal to delete 4.37 in all sports/activities because we are seeding by post season rankings (VOTE: 18-0)  
Motion carries unanimously (VOTE: 68-0, STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE)

In waiting period until DOE sends numbers from the schools. After that happens schools will have a week to appeal.

**DIRECTORS REPORT** – GHSA Executive Director Tim Scott announced that the GHSA office sent two member shares to each GHSA member school. We returned 670K back to our schools by waiving dues and catastrophic insurance. Current assets with the Association are more than 12 million dollars with increase of 1.4 million this past year. Girls Flag Football was 280 teams last season but has increased to 311 teams this year. The GHSA Building in Thomaston maintenance is slightly elevated due to paint and parking lot awnings. Scott also told the SEC, that the wrestling state championships will move to Clayton County Convention center in January, leaving Macon for the 2025-26 games.

**LEGAL REPORT** – Justin Connell gave a report that there are no current issues.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT** - Continued push for all things school choice and safety. Promise scholarships will also be something on the docket when legislation is in session early 2026.

**Steve Simpson motioned to adjourn; Nathan Turner seconded. Motion carried.**