

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE April 10, 2017

The semiannual meeting of the State Executive Committee of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 9:00 a.m., on April 10, 2017, at the Macon Marriott City Center in Macon, Georgia, by Glenn White, President.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice President Lisa Moore Williams. The invocation was given by Carror Wright, Associate Director.

Roll call by Steve Figueroa, Media Director, showed the following: Present - 66 Absent - 0

Greg Tillery	Don Corr	Wade Marchman	Joe Lancaster	Ruth Donahoo
Evan Horton	Steven Craft	Henry Laws	Paul Stokes	Justin Brown
Christian Suttle	Geep Cunningham	Jared Griffis	Mike Thompson	Steve Simpson
Steve Jones	Chris Brown	Britt Adams	Benjy Rogers	Donnie Drew
Nathan Turner	David Shields	Ben Corley	Marvin Fields	Brenda Arnett
Gary Long	Kelly Taylor	Frank Barden	Tim Barron	Regina Montgomery
Kirk Barton	Curt Miller	Harley Calhoun	Jasper Jewell	Pat Blenke
Mike Cammack	Bobby Brewington	J.T. Pollock	Bradley Warren	David Colvard
Kevin Kinsler	Carter Wilson	Tim Adams	Tim Armstrong	Wes Taylor
Earl Etheridge	Mike Nelson	Chad Campbell	John Pinson	Todd Mobley
Garrett Black	Tommy Stringer	Horace Dunson	Jesse Crews	Bobby McAllister
Kevin May	Jeff Battles	Bruce Potts	Randy Collins	Joe Sanfilippo
Nathan Hand	Jim Finch	Jeff Cooper	Glenn Tidwell	

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

APPOINTMENTS

Motion was made by Earl Etheridge, seconded by Mike Thompson, and unanimously approved to go into Executive Session to hear student eligibility appeals. (**NOTE:** Presentations were made in Executive Session; all votes were taken after voting to come out of Executive Session. For clarity, outcome of vote is given after each statement of presentation.)

North Gwinnett High School - Matt Champitto, Athletic Director, presented the appeal for student Lloyd deLatour, requesting a waiver of the migratory rule.

Motion by Jim Finch, second by Evan Horton, to **Deny** the appeal.

MOTION PASSED (65-1; Long voting "no")

Mt. Zion High School - Tracey Barrow, Principal, presented the appeal for student Ray Cheeks, Jr., requesting a waiver of the migratory rule.

Motion by Tommy Stringer, second by Britt Adams, to **Deny** the appeal.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Johnson-Gainesville High School - Jonathan Edwards, Athletic Director, presented the appeal for student Thuan Dinh, requesting a waiver of the eight-semester rule.

Motion by Nathan Hand, second by Jasper Jewell, to **Approve** the appeal.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

McEachern High School - Jimmy Dorsey, Athletic Director, presented the appeal for student Babatunde Akingbola, requesting a waiver of the eight-semester rule.

Motion by Earl Etheridge, second by Curt Miller, to **Approve** the appeal.

MOTION PASSED (60-6; Stringer, Potts, Cammack, Corley, Barton and Mobley voting "no")

(more)

Alpharetta High School - Mike Scheifflee, Athletic Director, presented the appeal for student Savon Richardson, requesting a waiver of the eight-semester rule.

Motion by Nathan Hand, second by Jasper Jewell, to **Deny** the appeal.

MOTION PASSED (64-2; Jesse Crews and Britt Adams voting "no")

Whitefield Academy - Danny Ryan, Athletic Director, presented the appeal for student Andre'us Johnson, requesting a waiver of the eight-semester rule.

Motion by Earl Etheridge, second by Christian Suttle, to **Deny** the appeal.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Harrison High School - Matt Moody, Athletic Director, presented the appeal for student Jack Brunswick, requesting a waiver of the eight-semester rule.

Motion by Chris Brown, second by Jesse Crews, to **Approve** the appeal.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

First Presbyterian Day School - Cheri Frame, Enrollment Director, presented the appeal for student Armaun Smith, requesting a waiver of the eight-semester rule.

Motion by Earl Etheridge, second by Chad Campbell, to **Deny** the appeal.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

KIPP Atlanta Collegiate - David Howland, Principal, presented the appeal of the school's 2017 probation penalty for forfeiture of a playoff football game.

Motion by Tommy Stringer, second by Earl Etheridge, to **Deny** the appeal.

MOTION FAILED (Roll Call Vote #1 - Yes: 16, No: 50) – Appeal is therefore approved.

Yes: Horton, Etheridge, Cunningham, Stringer, Marchman, Griffis, Corley, Calhoun, Pollock, Campbell, Potts, Lancaster, Thompson, Pinson, Brown, W. Taylor. **No:** Tillery, Suttle, Jones, Turner, Long, Barton, Cammack, Kinsley, Black, May, Hand, Corr, Craft, Brown, Shields, K. Taylor, Miller, Brewington, Wilson, Nelson, Battles, Finch, Laws, B. Adams, Barden, T. Adams, Dunson, Cooper, Stokes, Rogers, Fields, Barron, Jewell, Warren, Armstrong, Crews, Collins, Tidwell, Donahoo, Simpson, Drew, Arnett, Montgomery, Blenke, Colvard, Mobley, McAllister, Sanfilippo, White, Williams.

Atkinson County High School - Shane Miller, Principal, presented the appeal of the school's 2017 probation penalty for student transfer violations.

Motion by Earl Etheridge, second by Jesse Crews, to **Approve** the appeal.

MOTION FAILED (Roll Call Vote #2 - Yes: 16, No: 50) – Appeal is therefore denied.

Yes: Etheridge, Hand, Craft, Dunson, Thompson, Jewell, Warren, Armstrong, Crews, Collins, Simpson, Drew, Colvard, W. Taylor, Mobley, McAllister. **No:** Tillery, Horton, Suttle, Jones, Turner, Long, Barton, Cammack, Kinsley, Black, May, Corr, Cunningham, Brown, Shields, K. Taylor, Miller, Brewington, Wilson, Nelson, Stringer, Battles, Finch, Marchman, Laws, Griffis, B. Adams, Corley, Barden, Calhoun, Pollock, T. Adams, Campbell, Potts, Cooper, Lancaster, Stokes, Rogers, Fields, Barron, Pinson, Tidwell, Donahoo, Brown, Arnett, Montgomery, Blenke, Sanfilippo, White, Williams.

Benedictine Military School - Danny Britt, Athletic Director, presented the appeal of forfeiture penalties for use of an overage student.

Motion by Jim Finch, second by Jesse Crews, to **Deny** the appeal.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Report presented by Jesse Crews

The committee **RECOMMENDED:**

1. Proposal to change the "Power Ratings" procedure in Football only beginning with the 2018-19 school year so that games between Class 7A teams and any team below Class 5A will NOT count in determining the power rating for the 7A school if power ratings are needed due to a Region having fewer than five teams in 7A.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

(more)

2. Proposal that during Basketball state tournament games, the designated host school shall be required to provide 50% of the available seating to the visiting school spectators.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

3. Proposal to increase the seating requirement by classification to host Basketball State Tournament games to the following minimums: 7A – 2,000; 6A – 2,000; 5A – 1,500; 4A – 1,200; 3A – 900; 2A – 700; 1A – 500.

Motion by Todd Mobley, second by Steven Craft, to **Table** this proposal for further study.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

4. Proposal that member schools compelled to play at a higher classification because of special stipulations in the reclassification process may petition the Executive Director for stadium / arena seating waivers by August 31 each year. A waiver would allow the school to use the smaller classification's seating requirements in order to comply with playoff by-laws.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

5. Proposal to revise By-Law 2.69 (b) on page 40 to read (new text in italic): At any given point in time, only one (1) coach in a sport may work with up to ~~two (2)~~ *four (4)* athletes in skill-building drills.

MOTION PASSED (60-6; Stringer, W. Taylor, Cunningham, Barden, B. Adams and Corley voting "no")

6. Proposal that Literary become an Area activity for all classifications with the Areas increasing the number of qualifiers so there is no reduction in State qualifiers.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

7. Proposal that the GHSA office will conduct one (1) universal coin toss prior to the Quarterfinal Round and again prior to the Semifinal Round in all sports to determine the designated home team in ALL classifications (2A – 7A) where equal seeds are meeting in the next round. The toss would determine if the top or bottom of the bracket would be the host team (subject to other hosting requirements as specified in the GHSA by-laws for each sport).

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

8. Proposal to accept the 2017-18 budget. (See Appendix 1)

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

The committee **DENIED**:

Proposal that By-Law 2.72 (a) on Page 41 be reworded so that the GHSA office could use video to review an ejection of a coach from a contest. [**Vote**: 10-0]

The committee **RECEIVED AS INFORMATION**:

1. Proposal to change the "Power Ratings" procedure in all sports so that the only game results used to calculate the "power ratings" are those games played as part of the regular-season game limit by each sport. Games played as part of a Region Tournament shall NOT be used to calculate the power ratings. [**Vote**: 9-0]
2. Proposal to reword By-Law 4.52 (e) on page 55 to read (new text in italic): All invoices for officiating fees in all sports shall be paid within ~~30 days~~ *10 days of the end of the season of receipt of the invoice*. Failure to ~~do so~~ *remit payment within 10 days of receipt of the invoice* will result in a 10% late fee charged to the member school by the officials association of record. ~~Associations must send a final season invoice to schools within one week of the completion of the season.~~ Schools are prohibited from paying contest officials at the game site. [**Vote**: 10-0]

BASEBALL COMMITTEE

Report presented by Don Corr

The committee **RECOMMENDED**:

Proposal to add new item "e" (and renumber existing items) to the "Pitching Restrictions" on page 58: In games vs. non-GHSA member schools, the GHSA pitching restrictions shall be adhered to, regardless of the pitch count policy of the host school affiliation or state association. When playing out of state, it is the school's responsibility to report the pitch count information to the GHSA office. [**Vote**: 7-0]

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

(more)

CHEERLEADING COMMITTEE

Report presented by Steve Jones

The committee **DENIED**:

Proposal to combine Class A Public and Private cheerleading into one division and move to Area format. [Vote: 6-0]

The committee **RECEIVED AS INFORMATION**:

Proposal to move to an Area format for Classes 2A - 7A in Competitive Cheerleading. [Vote: 6-0]

ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE

Report presented by Pat Blenke

The committee **RECOMMENDED**:

1. Proposal to modify By Law 1.58 on Page 18 (items "c," "d" & "e") so as to eliminate the 15-day credit recovery grace period at the beginning of the first semester.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

2. Proposal to add Darlington to the list of schools (Riverside, Ben Franklin, Tallulah Falls) whose students are granted a one-time migratory waiver for eligibility upon enrollment in by-law 1.62 (L) on page 20.

MOTION PASSED (65-1; Warren voting "no")**FOOTBALL COMMITTEE**

Report presented by Earl Etheridge

The committee **RECOMMENDED**:

1. Proposal to add a new item "3" (and renumber existing items) under by-law 2.93 c-2 that reads "All scheduled GHSA varsity football games that have been either interrupted or postponed must be played to completion. Schools must decide when completion will take place in a timely manner. The team behind in score of an interrupted game will have the option not to complete the game and the score will be recorded as it was at the point of interruption.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

2. Proposal that, beginning in 2018, the Spring Game culminating Spring Practice may be either a traditional team vs. team contest or a Jamboree type game with three teams playing a half against the other two teams.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)The committee **RECEIVED AS INFORMATION**:

Proposal that the six (6) quarters per week participation limitation will NOT include an athlete's play on any special teams. [Vote: 7-0]

GYMNASTICS COMMITTEE

Report presented by Horace Dunson

The committee **DENIED**:

1. Proposal to change the substitution policy to allow any team member who has competed in the mandatory number of meets during the season (3) to compete at the State Meet. Note: Their scores would count for their teams, but they would not be eligible for individual awards if they did not compete at the qualifying meet. [Vote: 6-0]

2. Proposal that all qualifying teams will be allowed to have one team manager on the competition floor to assist the coaches at both the Preliminary and State Meets. [Vote: 6-0]

3. Proposal that all qualifying teams will be allowed free admission for all team members to the Preliminary and State Meets even if those members did not qualify to compete. [Vote: 6-0]

The committee **RECEIVED AS INFORMATION**:

Proposal to increase the number of teams qualifying at the Preliminary Meet to go to the State Meet from six (6) to eight (8). [Vote: 6-0]

RECLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE

Report presented by Earl Etheridge

The committee **DENIED**:

1. Proposal to return the reclassification cycle to two (2) year rotation beginning in 2018-19. [Vote: 15-0]

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2. Proposal to rethink the addition of a seventh classification and return to the six-class distribution of member schools. Note: Class A would continue with the current public/private split in certain sports. [Vote: 15-0]
3. Proposal to eliminate the GHSA Reclassification Committee and transfer its responsibilities to individual GHSA activity sub-committees. [Vote: 15-0]

RIFLERY COMMITTEE

Report presented by Steve Simpson

The committee **RECOMMENDED:**

Proposal that if a team has less than four (4) competitors, they forfeit the match and receive a loss. But, if both teams agree to compete anyway, the individual scores from both teams will count as GHSA official scores.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**SOFTBALL COMMITTEE**

Report presented by Kirk Barton

The committee **RECOMMENDED:**

Proposal to reword Softball GENERAL INFORMATION item No. 7, page 85. The tie-breaker procedure for extra-inning games will be used. At the beginning of the ~~eight~~ *10th* inning (and all subsequent half-innings) ... *Exception: In Invitational Tournament games with a "time limit" in place, the tie-breaker would start in the subsequent inning.*

MOTION PASSED (65-1; Pollock voting "no")The committee **RECEIVED AS INFORMATION:**

1. Proposal to restructure fast pitch softball playoffs using best-of-three series format for first two rounds with seeds 1-4 all playing at site of No. 1 seed. [Vote: 5-0]
2. Proposal to change the first two rounds of the fast pitch softball state tournament to a format that is consistent with the Elite Eight Championships. This change is to be termed as "Super Regionals" and would condense the playoffs to two double-elimination tournaments on consecutive weekends. [Vote: 5-0]

SWIMMING COMMITTEE

Report presented by Greg Tillery

The committee **RECOMMENDED:**

Proposal to score the top 30 places in the finals (instead of the current 20) and award separate team championships for Class 6A and Class 7A and separate team championships for 1A-3A and 4A-5A for a total of four (4) swimming team champions instead of the current two (2).

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE**

Report presented by Britt Adams

The committee **RECOMMENDED:**

Proposal to allow Areas the option of using the best-of-five format for regular season Area matches, if all teams in the Area agree, provided that only one Area dual match is played per day.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**WRESTLING COMMITTEE**

Report presented by Steve Jones

The committee **RECOMMENDED:**

1. Proposal to allow, but not require, alternates to weigh-in and be placed on the bracket at the Sectional Tournament if a wrestler representing the same Area cannot wrestle for any reason.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

2. Proposal to allow a wrestler in the state tournament, who cannot wrestle for any reason, to be replaced by an alternate at the time of weigh-in. NOTE: The alternate must come from the same Sectional Tournament.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

(more)

The committee **DENIED**:

Proposal to allow, in multiple-day tournaments, a wrestler in the championship bracket who does not make weight on the second day, to be replaced in the championship bracket by the last wrestler which was defeated by the wrestler who did not make weight. [Vote: 7-0]

OLD BUSINESS

Proposal to reword Section 12, Items "A & B" of the Constitution on page 12 to read as follows:

A. The State Executive Committee of the Georgia High School Association shall meet in the spring of each year on such date as may be designated by the State Executive Director.

B. In addition to this meeting, special meetings may be called by the State President or the Executive Director at any time or place upon giving reasonable notice to the members of the Committee. **NOTE**: This is a **Constitutional Amendment** and this is the **second** vote.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposal to amend Article IV, Section 3, Board of Trustees as follows:

Sub-paragraph "A" would be deleted in its entirety and the following language substituted in lieu thereof:

A. Membership of the Board of Trustees shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Executive Director, one member of the Executive Committee from each classification (to be elected by the Executive Committee members from each respective classification), two at-large female members, two at-large minority members and one at-large private school member to be appointed by the President. The at-large members shall not be required to be current Executive Committee members. The term of office for Trustees shall be four years and members shall be allowed to succeed themselves in office.

Motion by Crews, second by Montgomery, to **Table** paragraph "A" for further study and vote only on "D".

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Subparagraph "D" would be revised to delete the words "in exigent circumstances, as determined by the President".

NOTE: This is a **Constitutional Amendment** and will require two (2) votes. This is the **first** vote.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

2. Proposal to delete current By-Law 1.62 (a - 4) on page 19 and substitute the following language:
(4.) In the event that the student subsequently returns/moves to the previous school service area within 12 months of the initial move, then the "bona fide move" status is negated and the student shall be declared a migrant in both schools and ineligible for a period of 12 months from the date of the initial move. All contests in which the student participated during that 12-month period shall be forfeited. The student may apply for waiver of this rule to the GHSA Hardship Committee. The schools involved may appeal the forfeiture of contests to the Executive Director under By-Law 2.63 (f).

Motion by Williams, second by Jones, to **Table** this item for further study.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

3. Proposal that once the final eight (8) teams are determined in the Softball State Playoffs, a seeding process would take place to pair the teams playing in the Finals Tournament in Columbus instead of a team simply earning a pre-determined position in the bracket. This would be in all classifications.

Motion by Crews, second by Thompson, to **Deny** this proposal.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

4. Proposal to correct a procedural error that requires a **second vote** on amending the Constitution, Section 2, Item B. that was changed when the current seven-class, four-year reclassification plan was adopted. Item B. reads as follows:
Member schools will be realigned every four (4) years. Adjustments will be made at the end of every two years according to updated F.T.E. Figures. (GHSA Office)

Motion by Etheridge, second by Crews, to **Approve** this proposal.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Gary Phillips introduced Jeff Battcher from AIM Sports Reputation Management, who gave a presentation to the group on the great response and favorable results from the recent GHSA member school survey. Phillips recognized retiring

(more)

members of the Executive Committee (Benji Rogers, Horace Dunson and Todd Mobley) as well as assistant director Denis Tallini, who is retiring in June. Phillips then called upon Alan Connell, Skip Yow and Alan Sharp to address the committee.

Alan Connell, the GHSA Legal Representative, updated the committee on the schedule for the hiring of a new Executive Director to replace Gary Phillips, who is retiring at the end of June.

Skip Yow, the GHSA Legislative Liaison, gave a report to the committee concerning issues currently going on in the State Legislature that might have an impact on the GHSA and urging the members of the group to get to know their local state representatives.

Alan Sharp, the GHSA Marketing Director, gave the committee an update on the GHSA corporate sponsorship, the success of GoFan online ticketing and the NFHSNetwork streaming video service.

Motion by Crews, second by Suttle, to adjourn the meeting.
MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

NOTE: Following the meeting of the full Executive Committee, the representatives from the Class 2A regions met to elect a replacement for Benji Rogers on the Board of Trustees. **Jasper Jewell** from Region 6 was elected.

AMENDMENT No. 1

GHSA 2017-18 Budget		Proposed
	Budget	Budget
Revenue	2016-17	2017-18
Books & Publications	\$5,000.00	\$1,000.00
Invitational/Regional Tourneys	\$135,000.00	\$140,000.00
State Tourneys & Playoffs	\$2,600,000.00	\$3,100,000.00
Dues	\$108,600.00	\$108,600.00
Insurance Fees (Members)	\$200,600.00	\$200,600.00
Community Coach Registration	\$450,000.00	\$520,000.00
Trophies & Awards	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Fines	\$200,000.00	\$250,000.00
GHSA Pass Replacement Fee	\$0.00	\$2,600.00
Interest Income	\$500.00	\$500.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$2,000.00	\$500.00
Rule Books	\$25,000.00	\$22,000.00
Officiating Department	\$370,000.00	\$360,000.00
Corporate Partnerships	\$600,000.00	\$560,000.00
Media Partnerships	\$130,000.00	\$130,000.00
Licensing Partnerships	\$250,000.00	\$225,000.00
Total Revenue	\$5,086,700.00	\$5,630,800.00
Expenses		
Payroll Taxes	\$138,000.00	\$158,000.00
Printing	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
Professional Fees	\$82,000.00	\$85,000.00
Retirement Expense	\$105,000.00	\$119,000.00
Salaries & Wages	\$915,000.00	\$1,045,000.00
State Tourneys/Playoffs	\$1,650,000.00	\$2,100,000.00
State Meets (Non-Athletic)	\$35,000.00	\$37,000.00
Clinics & Exams	\$15,000.00	\$34,000.00
Evaluations	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Insurance Expense	\$1,080,000.00	\$1,000,000.00
Occupancy Expense	\$45,000.00	\$65,000.00
Travel Expense/Meetings	\$125,000.00	\$125,000.00
Outside Services	\$160,000.00	\$175,000.00
Investigations	\$0.00	\$25,000.00
Office Supplies/Equipment	\$20,000.00	\$10,000.00
Postal/Parcel Delivery	\$35,000.00	\$25,000.00
Telephone	\$17,000.00	\$17,000.00
Service Contracts	\$25,000.00	\$28,000.00
Community Coach Program	\$135,200.00	\$165,000.00
Trophies & Medals	\$95,000.00	\$90,000.00
Dues & Subscriptions	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Flowers & Honoraria	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
Marketing Expenses	\$45,000.00	\$25,000.00
Licensing (Payout to Schools)	\$80,000.00	\$60,000.00
Disability Sports	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$500.00	\$0.00
Officiating Department	\$100,000.00	\$65,000.00
NFHS Books/Publications	\$75,000.00	\$80,000.00
Sports Medicine	\$8,000.00	\$2,800.00
Total Expenses	\$5,086,700.00	\$5,630,800.00