

# GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES

### STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE August 17, 2015

The semiannual meeting of the State Executive Committee of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 9:00 a.m., on August 17, 2015, 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 - 57, Absent - 1 (Indicated with "A" below)

Kevin Giddens	Earl Etheridge	David Brooks	Jeff Cooper	John Pinson	Lisa Fine
Kirk Hoffman	Curt Miller	Horace Dunson	Joe Lancaster	Jesse Crews	Pat Blenke
Evan Horton	Don Breedlove	Britt Adams	Todd Mobley	Britt Ingle	Tony Arasi
Christian Suttle	Phil McCrary	Dexter Wood	Mike Thompson	Glenn Tidwell	Wes Taylor
Steve Jones	Don Corr	J.T. Pollock	J.B. Arnold	Scott Queen	Alan Long
Nathan Turner	Tommy Stringer	Chad Campbell	Benjy Rogers	Lynn Dupree	A - Terry Rogers
Gary Long	Wayne Tootle	Marvin Fields	Tim Barron	Steve Simpson	Lucia Norwood
Dave Hunter	Jim Finch	Jasper Jewell	Tim Vick	Donnie Drew	Glenn White
Fred Maynard	Wade Marchman	Topher Byrnes	Bradley Warren	Maria Bradley	Lisa Moore Williams
Michelle Masters	Kevin May	Bruce Potts	Jim Hughes		

**Motion** was made by Jesse Crews, seconded by Wayne Tootle, and unanimously approved to adopt the agenda for the meeting.

### APPOINTMENTS

**Scott Boatright, the GHSA's BB&T Insurance Agent**, gave a report to the committee outlining the coverage and scope of a new concussion-only insurance program that is now available. (See Addendum #1)

**Motion** was made by Steve Simpson, seconded by Don Corr, 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.)

**Elbert County High School** - Sid Fitts, Athletic Director, presented the appeal for student Garrison Harris, requesting a waiver of the eight-semester rule.

**Motion** by Don Corr, second by Jim Finch, 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:**

Proposal to restructure By-Law 1.47 as follows: A student's gender is determined by the gender noted on his/her birth certificate. Girls may participate on boys' teams when there is no girls' team offered in that sport by the school. Boys are not allowed to play on girls' teams even when there is no corresponding boys' sport.

**MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**

(more)

Proposal to add new A.(5)(3) under Football - State Playoffs on page 73 that reads: Certified staff members who work at the participating high schools only will be allowed free admission through the semifinal round with proper identification.  
**MOTION PASSED (56-1; Voting No: Arnold)**

Accepting the Audit Report for 2014-15. (See Addendum #2)  
**MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**

The committee **denied**:

Proposal to reword By-Law 2.62 (E-6) to allow Tennis to play exhibition matches that are not counted.

The committee **received as information**:

A discussion regarding female athletics and activities.

### **BASEBALL COMMITTEE**

Report presented by David Brooks

The committee **recommended**:

Proposal to re-consider holding state championships at neutral site(s) beginning with the 2017 season.  
**MOTION PASSED (45-12; Voting No: Crews, Arnold, Pollock, Pinson, Arasi, Fields, Lancaster, Maynard, May, Mobley, Giddens and Thompson)**

The committee **denied**:

Proposal to change Baseball by-laws for 2015-16 to add a "Halted Game" rule as follows: A game that has been stopped at any time after its start because of inclement weather, darkness, light failure, mechanical malfunctions or curfew shall be considered a halted game.

It is a regulation game if one team is ahead:

- A. if five full innings have been played, or if the home team has scored an equal or greater number of runs in four or four and a fraction turns at bat than the visiting team has scored in five turns at bat; or
- B. if play has gone beyond five full innings and the teams have had an equal number of at bats.

If the game is called after five full innings and the teams have not had an equal number of completed turns at bat, the score shall be the same as it was at the end of the last completed inning, with the following exceptions:

- if the visitor's score enough runs in its half of the incomplete inning to tie or go ahead, the game shall be considered halted.
- if the home team scores a run (or runs) which exceeds the opponent's score, the final score shall be as recorded when the game is called.

If the game is halted before becoming a regulation game, or if the score is tied at the time play was halted, or if the exceptions relating to incomplete innings render the game halted, play will continued on the next available date from the point of interruption.

A halted game must resume play at exactly the point of being halted, with the lineups and batting orders of both teams exactly the same, subject to the normal game rules of substitution. The resumption of the game shall be a continuation as if the game had not been interrupted.

If a pitcher is brought into the game but has not faced one batter (or retired the side) when the game is halted, such pitcher may, but is not required, to continue pitching when the game is resumed. If he does not continue, he may not return as a pitcher in that inning.

The committee **received as information**:

Proposal to increase the number of games allowed from 26 to 30 on 26 play dates.

(NOTE: The committee directs the GHSA office to study the issue of finding a common number of contests for both softball and baseball.)

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**ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE**

Report presented by Pat Blenke

The committee **recommended**:

Proposal to delete wording: "residence" in by-law 1.62(a-4) and add wording "service area."

**MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**

Proposal to restructure by-law 1.62 (c) as follows:

(c) The student was enrolled in a non-member private school in Georgia or was boarded at a school out of state and, without a bona fide move, transferred to a GHSA member school that serves his area of residence as long as:

1. It is the initial move of the student from a non-member school to a member school serving his area of residence, AND
2. The student was enrolled at the high school serving his area of residence in grades 9-12 before attending the non-member school, OR
3. The student has not yet established eligibility at grades 9-12 at a member school serving his area of residence.
4. A student who transfers from a GHSA member school to an independent school entering the GHSA in the next school year must be enrolled at the entering independent school by January 31 of the year preceding their becoming a GHSA member school in order to be eligible.

NOTE: Rules about joint custody transfers have control over the one time transfer restriction in this by-law.

**MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**

**GYMNASTICS COMMITTEE**

Report presented by Lucia Norwood

The committee **recommended**:

Proposal to raise the qualifying requirements for teams and individuals for the Preliminary Meet (page 77, item B): Minimum scores must be earned during the regular season meets to qualify for the Preliminary Meet as follows:

1. Any team that scores 100.00 or better in two (2) regular season meets will automatically qualify.
2. An all-around score of 34.0 or better in three (3) regular season meets will qualify a gymnast.
3. An individual score of 8.50 or better in three (3) regular season meets will qualify a gymnast.

**MOTION PASSED (56-1; Voting No: Giddens) NOTE: EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY!**

Proposal to delete "no-touch" warm-up rule (page 77, G).

**MOTION PASSED (unanimously) NOTE: EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY!**

**LITERARY COMMITTEE**

Report presented by Nathan Turner

The committee **denied**:

Proposal to disallow the use of profanity in One-Act Play competition.

**RECLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE**

Report presented by Earl Etheridge and Dave Hunter

The committee **recommended**:

Proposal for structure of classifications for 2016-18 school years as follows:

- A. Non-football playing schools will not be counted when calculating the teams being placed in Class A (they will be placed in their appropriate regions later).
- B. Classifications will be divided as follows:
  1. Big 44 (top 10% approximately) (NOTE: Teams may opt to play up into the Big 44 class, but no team may move down).
  2. Class A Public/Private (same as before except the number of playoff teams will increase from 16 public

(more)

and 16 private to 24 public and 24 private in football, softball, basketball and baseball. The Public/Private school shall be allowed to play up in classification if they elect to do so. And if a school chooses to do so, then an equal number of Class AA schools will be given the option to move down to the Class A Public/Private class.

3. There will be five (5) other classes, which will be split at the natural breaks between 19-21% of the remaining number after Big 44 and Class A Public/Private have been set.

C. Attendance Zone Restriction

1. Schools accepting students from outside of their reclassification attendance zone may be subject to being placed in the next highest classification. If the percentage of students attending a school from outside that's school's reclassification attendance zone exceeds three (3%) percent of that school's F.T.E. Count, then that school shall be placed in the next highest classification. Schools may opt to be placed in the Big 44. However, the attendance zone restriction in this section will not be applied so as to move a school up to the Big 44.
2. The reclassification attendance zone for ALL GHSA member schools shall be the county in which the school is located.
3. If a school is located in two counties, the school will be required to elect one of those to be it's Reclassification Attendance Zone. The election shall be binding for the entire reclassification period.
4. Any school(s) that feel(s) that their placement is unfair and unjustified will be allowed to appeal to the Reclassification Committee. The school will present data and evidence to the committee that proves the placement is not warranted or fair to the school and the program. If the committee feels that the placement of the school into a higher classification is not warranted, then the school would be placed in a classification based on the F.T.E. count without any regard to the percentage of out-of-county students.
5. The number of students determined by multiplier will not be rounded up. Example: If a multiplier allows for 9.82 students outside of the attendance zone, 9 students will be the number that is used.
6. If a school is found to be intentionally reporting incorrect numbers, that school will be banned from participating in state playoff games for two (2) years and must pay a fine of \$2,500.

- D. For regions that have fewer than five (5) teams, the number of teams going to the state playoffs will be one (1) fewer than the number of teams in the region. Example: A region with four teams would get three playoff spots. The available playoff slot(s) will be awarded to non-playoff team(s) with the highest power ranking.

**MOTION PASSED (Roll Call Vote - Yes: 47, No: 10, Absent: 1)**

**Yes:** Giddens, Hoffman, Horton, Suttle, Jones, Turner, Long, Hunter, Maynard, Masters, Etheridge, Miller, Breedlove, McCrary, Corr, Tootle, Marchman, May, Brooks, Dunson, Adams, Pollock, Fields, Jewell, Byrnes, Potts, Thompson, Arnold, Barron, Vick, Warren, Hughes, Pinson, Crews, Ingle, Tidwell, Dupree, Simpson, Drew, Bradley, Fine, Blenke, Arasi, Long, Norwood, White, Williams. **No:** Stringer, Finch, Wood, Campbell, Cooper, Lancaster, Mobley, B. Rogers, Queen, Taylor. **Absent:** T. Rogers.

Proposal to reword Article III, Section 2 (Item B) of Constitution to read as follows: B. Member schools will be realigned every four (4) years. Adjustments will be made at the end of two years according to updated FTE figures and the attendance zone restriction of 3% will be recalculated. (**NOTE: This is a constitutional change and requires two votes**).

**MOTION PASSED (47-10;** Voting no: Miller, Finch, Wood, Campbell, Dupree, Lancaster, Masters, Mobley, B. Rogers, Queen.)

**TENNIS COMMITTEE**

Report presented by Don Corr

The committee **received as information:**

Proposal to change Tennis from a Spring sport to a Fall sport starting in the fall of 2016, and to allow a spring tryout period similar to softball and volleyball. NOTE: The committee directed the GHSA office to survey the member schools about this issue and report the results at the next State Executive Committee meeting on Reclassification.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Gary Phillips** reminded the committee that all coaches must watch the NFHS concussion education video this year, and went over the 2014-15 Audit Report, which was then unanimously approved. Phillips then called upon Skip Yow and Alan Sharp to address the committee.

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**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.

**Alan Sharp, the GHSA Marketing Director**, reported that the GHSA's TV contract with GPB has been renewed and also announced the launch of the officials' uniform program.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Proposal to delete Constitutional Reference: Section 5, D. 1. (Page 10) **SECOND VOTE**

"The Executive Director shall have the discretion upon receiving an application by a member school to set aside the effect of any academic eligibility or ~~eight semester rule~~ upon individual students when in the judgement of the Executive Director, the following criteria are met: ...

**MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**

**Motion** by Jesse Crews, second by Wayne Tootle, to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**

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## Addendum #1

### Conceptual Concussion Medical Accident Program

- **Excess Accident Medical Limits**

- Maximum: \$25,000 per injury
- Usual % Customary 100%
- Benefit Period: 1 Year
- Deductible: \$100 per claim
- AD&D \$5,000

- **Eligible Person**

- All athletes participating in a Covered Activity.

- **Covered Activities**

- Participating in practice or play of sports governed and/or sponsored by the Participating Organization.
- Participating Organization: an organization which:

- **Definition of Injury**

- For the Accidental Medical Expense benefits, the following definition of Injury applies:  
A bodily injury which is:
  1. Directly and independently caused by a specific Accidental contact with another Body or Object
  2. A source of loss that is sustained while the Insured Person is covered under the Policy and All athletes participating in a Covered Activity.
  3. Resulting in a concussion.

- **Definition of Concussion**

- A Specific brain injury defined as a complex pathophysiological process affecting the brain, induced by trauma to the brain and diagnosed by a Physician practicing within the scope of his or her license.

- **Estimated Cost**

- Premium: \$1.50 per Participant of a Participating Organization
- Minimum participation requirements

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## Addendum #2

### GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION COMPARABLE STATEMENT OF SUPPORT, REVENUES AND EXPENSES-MODIFIED CASH BASIS FOR THE YEARS ENDED

	12 MONTHS JUN 30, 2015	12 MONTHS JUN 30, 2014	INCREASE (DECREASE)
<b>Operating Revenues</b>			
Dues	\$ 103,530.00	\$ 100,480.00	\$ 3,050.00
Catastrophic Insurance	180,055.00	174,292.00	5,763.00
Invitational & Regional Tournaments	131,276.00	124,945.00	6,331.00
State Tournaments & Playoffs	2,704,900.00	2,417,324.00	287,576.00
Books, Publications, & Labels	16,681.00	15,320.00	1,361.00
Community Coach Program	465,605.00	426,588.00	39,017.00
Trophies & Awards	10,561.00	14,090.00	(3,529.00)
Fines	214,521.00	181,855.00	32,666.00
Merchandise Sales (Preferred Vendors)	276,836.00	292,000.00	(15,164.00)
Miscellaneous Income	30.00	1,880.00	(1,850.00)
Rule Books	27,021.00	27,448.00	(427.00)
Officiating Department	343,354.00	349,573.00	(6,219.00)
Corporate Sponsorships	641,750.00	569,879.00	71,871.00
Media Partnerships	80,000.00	93,500.00	(13,500.00)
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<b>5,196,120.00</b>	<b>4,789,174.00</b>	<b>406,946.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Clinics & Exams	27,210.00	37,306.00	(10,096.00)
Evaluations	18,474.00	27,877.00	(9,403.00)
Insurance Expense	932,412.00	928,882.00	3,530.00
Occupancy	37,298.00	33,097.00	4,201.00
Payroll Taxes	60,798.00	59,512.00	1,286.00
Printing	43,361.00	26,409.00	16,952.00
Professional Fees	63,552.00	44,324.00	19,228.00
Retirement Expense	90,179.00	89,629.00	550.00
Salaries & Wages	798,752.00	793,885.00	4,867.00
Contract Labor	156,722.00	158,509.00	(1,787.00)
Sports	1,953,268.00	1,701,237.00	252,031.00
State Meets (Non-Athletic)	28,791.00	27,631.00	1,160.00
Travel Expense	100,700.00	188,600.00	(87,900.00)
Office Supplies	21,041.00	29,551.00	(8,510.00)
Postage & Parcel Delivery	33,839.00	31,680.00	2,159.00
Telephone	16,332.00	19,033.00	(2,701.00)
Service Contracts	23,679.00	22,593.00	1,086.00
Community Coach Program	131,090.00	165,460.00	(34,370.00)
Trophies & Metals	70,650.00	67,560.00	3,090.00
Dues & Subscriptions	2,808.00	2,904.00	(96.00)
Flowers & Honoraria	3,060.00	1,600.00	1,460.00
Depreciation	34,920.00	30,453.00	4,467.00
Sports Medicine	25,543.00	29,000.00	(3,457.00)
Marketing Expense	52,120.00	57,571.00	(5,451.00)
Licensing Services	81,207.00	60,540.00	20,667.00
Disability Sports (AAASP)	75,500.00	75,850.00	(350.00)
Officiating Department	78,997.00	52,747.00	26,250.00
Section 3 Meeting	5,183.00	-	5,183.00
NFHS Rule Books & Publications	117,026.00	135,094.00	(18,068.00)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>5,084,512.00</b>	<b>4,898,534.00</b>	<b>185,978.00</b>
<b>INCREASE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>111,608.00</b>	<b>(109,360.00)</b>	<b>220,968.00</b>
<b>Non-operating Items</b>			
Interest & Portfolio Income	164,783.00	565,682.00	(400,899.00)
Write-off of stale checks	2,209.00	2,481.00	(272.00)
<b>Total Non-operating Items</b>	<b>166,992.00</b>	<b>568,163.00</b>	<b>(401,171.00)</b>
<b>TOTAL INCREASE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 278,600.00</b>	<b>\$ 458,803.00</b>	<b>\$ (180,203.00)</b>