

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE August 15 2016

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 15, 2016, 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 - 62, Absent - 2 (Indicated with "A" below)

Kevin Giddens	Kevin May	Mike Nelson	J.T. Pollock	A - Tim Barron	Donnie Drew
Evan Horton	Nathan Hand	Tommy Stringer	Tim Adams	Jasper Jewell	Michelle Masters
Christina Suttle	Don Corr	Jeff Battles	Chad Campbell	A - Bradley Warren	Regina Montgomery
Steve Jones	Stephen Craft	Jim Finch	Horace Dunson	Tim Armstrong	Pat Blenke
Nathan Turner	Geep Cunningham	Wade Marchman	Bruce Potts	John Pinson	Don Breedlove
Gary Long	Chris Brown	Henry Laws	Jeff Cooper	Jesse Crews	Wes Taylor
Kirk Barton	David Shields	Chip Walker	Joe Lancaster	Britt Ingle	Todd Mobley
Mike Cammack	Kelly Taylor	Britt Adams	Paul Stokes	Glenn Tidwell	Bobby McAllister
Kevin Kinsler	Curt Miller	Ben Corley	Mike Thompson	Ruth Donahoo	Lucia Norwood
Earl Etheridge	Phil McCrary	Frank Barden	Benjy Rogers	Justin Brown	Glenn White
Garrett Black	Carter Wilson	Harley Calhoun	Marvin Fields	Steve Simpson	Lisa Moore Williams

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

APPOINTMENTS

Executive Director Gary Phillips and GHSA Counsel Alan Connell, gave an orientation to the committee (and welcomed the 24 new members) outlining the duties, responsibilities and honor of serving on the State Executive Committee.

Motion was made by Jim Finch, seconded by Christian Suttle, 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.)

King's Ridge Christian School - Hunter Chadwick, Principal, presented the appeal for student Sean Flanigan, requesting a waiver of the eight-semester rule.

Motion by Tommy Stringer, second by Chad Campbell, to **deny** the appeal.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Grovetown High School - Marty Jackson, Athletic Director, presented the appeal for student Antonio Oliver, requesting a waiver of the eight-semester rule.

Motion by Michelle Masters, second by Mike Thompson, to **approve** the appeal.

MOTION PASSED (57-5; Giddens, Pollock, Ingle, Simpson & Kinsler voting "no")

Motion was made by Pat Blenke, seconded by Mike Thompson, and unanimously approved to come out of Executive Session.

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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 By-Law 1.47 on page 16 as follows (changes in italic):
 - (a) Girls may participate on boys' teams when there is no girls' team offered in that sport or activity by the school. Boys may not participate on girls' teams even when there is no corresponding boys' sport or activity. Cheerleading is a coed sport.
 - (b) *The GHSA will honor a gender determination made by a member school. The GHSA will not make gender identity determinations nor entertain appeals of the member school's determination.*
 - (c) *The GHSA will attempt to accommodate requests for private restroom or locker/dressing room facilities for students requesting the same at GHSA playoff events or contests provided notice of the request is made as soon as possible to the GHSA office. No student shall be required to utilize the private facilities.*

MOTION PASSED (unanimously) EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

2. Proposal to reword By-Law 2.62-b on page 36 as follows (changes in italic):
 - (b) In situations not covered by section (a), member schools shall compete, practice or scrimmage only against other member schools or against schools who are *full members, with no restrictions, of the State Association* in their respective states. ...

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

3. Proposal to accept the following stadium seating requirements to host playoff games:
 - (a) Football Semifinals: 7A & 6A - 6,000; 5A & 4A - 4,000; 3A - 3,000; 2A - 2,500; A - 2,000 seats.
 - (b) Basketball: 7A, 6A & 5A - 1,200; 4A - 1,000; 3A & 2A - 700; A - 500 seats.
 - (c) Soccer: 7A, 6A & 5A - 2,000; 4A - 1,500; 3A - 1,000; 2A & A - 750 seats.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously) EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

4. Proposal to accept the following expense and revenue shares by classification for the State Championship Football Games: 7A - 17.5%; 6A - 15%; 5A - 15%; 4A - 13%; 3A - 12%; 2A - 11.5%; A - 16% (8% public and 8% private).

MOTION PASSED (unanimously) EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

5. Proposal to Add new item (g) to By-Law 2.52 on Page 35 to read as follows: No person who has coached a non-GHSA team in a sport or activity within the previous twelve (12) months may be hired or utilized by a GHSA member school in that same sport or activity IF any of that GHSA school's players participated on the non-GHSA team that person coached.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

6. Proposal to add a new item "4" under 3-a on page 74 under State Football Playoff Financial Procedures that reads: The Host School shall receive a fee of 7% of the gross gate receipts.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously) EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

7. Proposal to amend By-Law 2.51 and 2.53 on Pages 34-35 to read as follows (changes in italic, as modified by the Board of Trustees):

2.51 - An athletic *head* coach must be a professional teacher, *or hold a 4-year degree while also employed in a teaching or administrative position*, meet the teaching requirements and be employed by only one board of education or similar governing authority within the GHSA membership, regardless of whether or not they are paid for their coaching. . . .

2.53 - GHSA member schools must register all coaches in all GHSA governed activities according to the following: (a) An initial directory listing of administrators and coaches must be completed and filed with the State Office by August 1 of each year, Only professional certificated personnel *or individuals holding a*

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4-year degree who are employed in a teaching or administrative position are to be included on the initial directory listings.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

8. Proposal to leave the deductible amount of the GHSA catastrophic insurance at \$25,000, as it currently is.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

9. Proposal to amend Article IV, Section 3 by adding new Subparagraph "D" to read as follows:

- (1) The **Board of Trustees** shall be authorized and empowered in exigent circumstances, as determined by the President, to exercise the powers of the Executive Committee including, but not limited to, the power to amend the by-laws of the association, and to otherwise make decisions relating to the association and its member schools as otherwise allowed to be made by the Executive Committee under the constitution and by-laws of the association.
- (2) A majority of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum thereof for the purposes of this Subsection D and action shall be authorized and taken by a majority of the votes cast.
- (3) The meeting of the Board of Trustees under this section shall be noticed by the Executive Director or President by any reasonable means and any meeting of the Board of Trustees may be held electronically. In addition, such vote may be taken by telephone polling of the Board of Trustees by the Executive Director if appropriate in the discretion of the President.
- (4) Any action taken by the Board of Trustees under this Subsection D shall be subject to affirmation, rejection or modification at the next meeting of the GHSA Executive Committee or thereafter. **NOTE:** This is a **Constitutional Amendment** and will require two votes.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

10. Proposal to amend Article IV, Section 3-A and Section 8-A, F & G on Pages 8, 9 and 11 so that the terms of election for the President and Vice President of the GHSA, and all other members of the State Executive Committee, shall coincide with the length of each reclassification cycle instead of the current terms of two (2) years. **NOTE:** This is a **Constitutional Amendment** and will require two votes.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

11. Proposal to amend Article IV, Section 3-C on Page 8 to read as follows (changes in italic):
(C.) The Board of Trustees reviews pertinent issues relative to the successful operation of the organization. The Board of Trustees reviews the recommendation by the Executive Director concerning the budget, recommends committee appointments, *evaluates* and recommends length of term of contract for the Executive Director. The Board of Trustees recommends the two at-large female representatives to the Executive Committee.

NOTE: This is a **Constitutional Amendment** and will require two votes.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

12. Proposal to accept the 2015-16 GHSA Audit as presented. (*See addendum #1*)

The committee **DENIED:**

1. Proposal to overturn the Area alignment for Class 7A Cross Country that was approved at the April meeting and use a Region format for qualifying to the State Meet.
2. Proposal to amend Article III, Section 2-B on Page 7 as follows (changes in italic):
(B) Member schools will be *fully* realigned every four years *and schools with drastic enrollment changes may be realigned after the two-year reclassification midpoint.*
3. Proposal to amend Article IV, Section 4-B and Section 5-A(2) on Page 9 so that the State Appeal Board and the Hardship Committee shall be made up of three (3) instead of the current four (4) members.

The committee **RECEIVED AS INFORMATION:**

1. Proposal to amend the financial distribution sections in all sports so that expenses for the Officials are paid BEFORE the percentage of playoff game receipts is paid to the GHSA.

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BASEBALL COMMITTEE

Report presented by Don Corr

The committee **RECOMMENDED**:

1. Proposal to adopt a pitch count policy as follows:

1. **Maximum Pitches in One Game:** Varsity 110; sub-varsity 90.
2. **Required Rest Periods:**

Varsity		Sub-Varsity	
1-35 Pitches	0 Days	1-24 Pitches	0 Days
36-60 Pitches	1 Day	25-44 Pitches	1 Day
61-85 Pitches	2 Days	45-64 Pitches	2 Days
86-110 Pitches	3 Days	65-90 Pitches	3 Days

Note: A pitcher appearing in consecutive games may not throw more than 60 pitches (45 for sub-varsity) cumulative over a two-day period. Once his total reaches 60 pitches (45 for sub-varsity) on the second consecutive day of pitching, he will be required to rest for a day before appearing again.

3. A pitcher at any level (varsity or sub-varsity) shall be allowed to finish the batter when the pitch count limit is reached during an at bat, but must be replaced immediately when that at-bat ends.
4. A "Day of Rest" is defined as a calendar day. Example: a varsity level pitcher who reaches the 110-pitch limit on a Tuesday would not be allowed to pitch again until the following Saturday.
5. It will be the responsibility of each official scorer (home and visitor) to keep a pitch count record. At the end of each half inning, the two scorers shall meet and compare pitch totals. The only instance where the HP umpire will get involved is if the two scorers cannot agree on a pitch total.
6. A standard GHSA "Pitch Count Form" will be available for download on the GHSA web site. It will be the responsibility of each school to keep a copy of the completed form for each game played and have those forms available for review at the request of the GHSA office.
7. During the State Tournament (best-of-three game format) no pitcher shall be allowed to throw more than 120 pitches over an entire three-game series (unless the series is extended because of weather). In addition, any pitcher who reaches 40 pitches or more in a single State Tournament game is restricted to the same days of rest as designated during the regular season.
8. If a school is found to have violated any of the provisions of this policy, the offending school shall be fined \$250.00 and the head coach assessed a two-game suspension. Any subsequent violation during the same season will result in penalties being doubled and the head coach being required to meet with the Executive Director prior to being reinstated to coach. **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.** **Note:** The committee directed the GHSA Office to form an ad-hoc committee to study pitch counts.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)The committee **DENIED**:

1. Proposal to allow Baseball teams to have a five-day period during the Fall to hold team try-outs.

CHEERLEADING COMMITTEE

Report presented by Steven Craft

The committee **RECOMMENDED**:

1. Proposal concerning cheer apparel as follows:

- a) Male uniform for competition cheerleading will be uniform pants and a top which counterparts those worn by the female teammates. Sideline male cheerleaders may include shorts in place of the pants. Tank tops will not be permitted.
- b) Female cheerleaders (sideline & competition) must wear a uniform that fully covers the athlete's entire torso. A skirt or dress should cover the briefs, bloomers or any spandex material.
- c) All athletes must wear the same uniform when performing at a game or competition. **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE**

Report presented by Pat Blenke

The committee **RECEIVED AS INFORMATION**:

1. Proposal to add Darlington School to the list of other Georgia boarding schools in the migratory rule waiver (By-Law 1.62-I).

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GOLF COMMITTEE

Report presented by Wade Marchman

The committee **RECOMMENDED:**

1. Proposal to make golf an Area sport in all classifications. This will be accomplished by combining two (2) Regions to form four (4) Areas in every classification. An Area Tournament will be scheduled at the end of the regular season with qualifying teams advancing directly to the State Tournaments. *Added by committee:* The Executive Director shall have the authority to add teams to the State Tournament to field a maximum of 20 teams. This will be done by order of finish in the Area Tournament when qualifying scores are achieved. **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**

OFFICIALS COMMITTEE

Report presented by Earl Etheridge

The committee **RECOMMENDED:**

1. Proposal to change cheerleading officials' fees to \$10.00 per official per team up to 12 teams and \$8.00 per official per team for over 12 teams for all GHSA sanctioned cheerleading events, and \$60 per region, \$185 per Sectional, and \$160 per session at State. **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**
2. Proposal to add new pay scale to volleyball officials' fees when teams play a best-of-five match: single match varsity \$65; single match sub-varsity \$60; multiple match varsity \$55; multiple match sub-varsity \$50. **MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**
3. Proposal to implement a pay increase for ALL game officials (other than cheerleading and volleyball) by \$.66 per hour. After this, there will be no further increases for three years. **MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**

RECLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE

Report presented by Earl Etheridge

The committee **RECOMMENDED:**

1. Proposal to reword By-Law 4.21-c on Page 50 as follows (changes in italic):
 - (c) The Reclassification Student Count will be based on **projected** enrollment numbers for all schools affected by the opening of a new school, the consolidation of existing schools *or the redistribution of students within a school system* that must be submitted by the system Superintendent no later than September 15 of the second year of the current reclassification cycle.
 - (1) Projections must be filed for the next two school years and those numbers will be averaged to get the number by which the schools will be classified.
 - (2) In the event that a school's actual enrollment in the first semester of the new reclassification cycle exceeds the projection average by 10% or more, or an existing school exceeds the projection by 5% or more *AND the additional students would have resulted in the school being in a higher classification*, the school shall not be eligible for post-season play in any sport for the entirety of that reclassification cycle.
 - (3) Schools may appeal the loss of post-season competition to the Reclassification Committee and then to the full Executive Committee.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

NOTE: The Reclassification Committee heard an appeal from the Clayton County School System to allow Morrow High School to avoid playing with "non-region" status in Class 5A despite exceeding their projected enrollment by more than the 10% figure specified in By-Law 4.21-c-2. The appeal was **approved**.

The committee **RECEIVED AS INFORMATION:**

1. Proposal to amend By-Laws 4.23-a-4; 4.23-b; and 4.23-b-1 on Pages 51-52 (changes in italic):
 - 4.23 (a) Schools will be placed in classifications (according to their Reclassification Student County) as follows:
 - (4) When schools opt to move up in classification, a corresponding (*on a 1:1 ratio, ex. 7 schools elect to play up then the smallest 7 according to Reclassification Student Count will be given the option to move down*) number of school in the higher classification ...
 - 4.23 (b) Reclassification Attendance Zone Restriction: If the percentage of students *who enrolled after the sixth*

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(6th) grade or later and are attending a school from outside that school's reclassification attendance zone exceeds three (3) percent, that school shall be placed in the next highest classification.

- (1) The designated reclassification attendance zone for all GHSA member schools shall be the county in which the school is located. Note: If a school is located in two counties, that school must elect one of those counties to be its reclassification attendance zone *which will also include the school's assigned attendance boundary.*

2. Proposal to delete By-Law 4.24-g on Page 52, which reads as follows:

~~(g) When a majority vote is used in a subdivided region to determine scheduling and the process for selecting teams for post-season play, one or more schools may file a "minority report" with the Executive Director if the approved procedure is alleged to be unfair to all schools in the region. If the Executive Director believes that there is unfairness with the chosen procedure, the Reclassification Committee will meet and make a final decision on such matters. No further appeal will be allowed.~~

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Gary Phillips spoke of several ad-hoc committees that will be formed in the near future to deal with pressing issues such as transfer eligibility, boarding school waivers, the new mandated pitch count requirements and the increase in cost to the GHSA of the extra medals and trophies that were once provided by outside groups in certain sports. Phillips then called upon Skip Yow and Alan Sharp to address the committee.

Skip Yow, the GHSA Legislative Liaison, gave a report to the committee about the new "teacher advisory committee" formed by the Governor and several other potential issues that could have an impact on the GHSA.

Alan Sharp, the GHSA Marketing Director, reported on the new digital ticketing program that the GHSA has entered into, as well as the lower price structure for live streaming of GHSA playoff events. He also mentioned the new official soccer ball of the GHSA, Select, which is headquartered in Alpharetta, and listed many of the renewed corporate partners who support the GHSA.

NEW BUSINESS

A proposal was made to approve Michelle Masters and Regina Montgomery as the new "at large" female members of the State Executive Committee.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

A **motion** was made by Jesse Crews, seconded by Earl Etheridge, to honor passes from the Georgia Independent School Association and the Georgia Independent Christian Athletic Association to GHSA regular-season events. GHSA passes will also be honored in turn to regular-season events of those two associations.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously) EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Motion by Mike Thompson, second by Earl Etheridge, to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

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Addendum #1

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

	12 MONTHS JUN 30, 2016	12 MONTHS JUN 30, 2015	INCREASE (DECREASE)
Operating Revenues			
Dues	\$ 103,560.00	\$ 103,530.00	\$ 30.00
Catastrophic Insurance	180,080.00	180,055.00	25.00
Invitational & Regional Tournaments	134,405.00	131,276.00	3,129.00
State Tournaments & Playoffs	2,840,829.00	2,704,900.00	135,929.00
Books, Publications, & Labels	-	16,681.00	(16,681.00)
Community Coach Program	517,403.00	465,605.00	51,798.00
Trophies & Awards	9,667.00	10,561.00	(894.00)
Fines	256,055.00	214,521.00	41,534.00
Merchandise Sales (Preferred Vendors)	96,755.00	276,836.00	(180,081.00)
Miscellaneous Income	96.00	30.00	66.00
Rule Books	37,460.00	27,021.00	10,439.00
Officiating Department	355,080.00	343,354.00	11,726.00
Corporate Sponsorships	654,010.00	641,750.00	12,260.00
Media Partnerships	90,000.00	80,000.00	10,000.00
Total Operating Revenues	5,275,400.00	5,196,120.00	79,280.00
Expenses			
Clinics & Exams	33,369.00	27,210.00	6,159.00
Evaluations	20,246.00	18,474.00	1,772.00
Insurance Expense	1,023,582.00	932,412.00	91,170.00
Occupancy	42,609.00	37,298.00	5,311.00
Payroll Taxes	63,036.00	60,798.00	2,238.00
Printing	23,300.00	43,361.00	(20,061.00)
Professional Fees	89,918.00	63,552.00	26,366.00
Retirement Expense	92,571.00	90,179.00	2,392.00
Salaries & Wages	822,494.00	798,752.00	23,742.00
Contract Labor	163,819.00	156,722.00	7,097.00
Sports	2,074,371.00	1,953,268.00	121,103.00
State Meets (Non-Athletic)	32,792.00	28,791.00	4,001.00
Travel Expense	141,488.00	100,700.00	40,788.00
Office Supplies	17,355.00	21,041.00	(3,686.00)
Postage & Parcel Delivery	33,276.00	33,839.00	(563.00)
Telephone	16,753.00	16,332.00	421.00
Service Contracts	25,064.00	23,679.00	1,385.00
Community Coach Program	174,187.00	131,090.00	43,097.00
Trophies & Metals	70,703.00	70,650.00	53.00
Dues & Subscriptions	2,621.00	2,808.00	(187.00)
Flowers & Honoraria	2,296.00	3,060.00	(764.00)
Depreciation	23,844.00	34,920.00	(11,076.00)
Sports Medicine	2,319.00	25,543.00	(23,224.00)
Marketing Expense	47,256.00	52,120.00	(4,864.00)
Licensing Services	3,225.00	81,207.00	(77,982.00)
Disability Sports (AAASP)	75,000.00	75,500.00	(500.00)
Officiating Department	81,386.00	78,997.00	2,389.00
Section 3 Meeting	3,000.00	5,183.00	(2,183.00)
NFHS Rule Books & Publications	119,302.00	117,026.00	2,276.00
Total Expenses	5,321,182.00	5,084,512.00	236,670.00
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS	(45,782.00)	111,608.00	(157,390.00)
Non-operating Items			
Interest & Portfolio Income	(7,040.00)	164,783.00	(171,823.00)
Write-off of stale checks	4,492.00	2,209.00	2,283.00
Total Non-operating Items	(2,548.00)	166,992.00	(169,540.00)
TOTAL INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	\$ (48,330.00)	\$ 278,600.00	\$ (326,930.00)