

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE November 29, 2023

A meeting of the State Executive Committee of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 10:00 a.m., on October 2, 2023, at the Thomaston-Upson County Civic 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 Steve Figueroa, Media Director, showed the following: Present - 70, Absent - 5 (indicated by "A" below)

Danny Redshaw	Todd Mooney	Darrell Demastus	Greg Ellison	Brian Montgomery	Heath Kennedy	Regina Montgomery
John Small - sub	Willie Cannon	Jeff Segars	Reggie Wilkes - A	Joshua Moore	David Bell	Richard Woods - A
Don Baker	Tonya Sebring	Jeff Battles	Lawrence Kelly	Barry Williams	Don Tison	David Colvard - A
Jason Dopson	Steven Craft	Dexter Ricks	Jasper Jewell	Kevin Petroski	Ron Duncan - sub	Eric Holland - A
Matt Moody	Brad Hayes	Brooke Whitlock	Ronnie Massey	Mike Thompson	Eli Dupree	Stacey Bennett - sub
Keith Gravitt - sub	Garrett Black	Shane Ratliff	David Wagner - sub	Roger Holmes -sub	Don Norton	Craig Davis
Kirk Barton	Kelli Smith	Andre Byrd	Eli Connell	Randy Cooper	Harley Calhoun	Joe Sanfilippo
Travis Techo - sub	Mindy Johnson	Bobby Brewington	Jarrett Luke	Shane Lasseter - sub	Chad Jordan	Curt Miller
Jason Brett - A	Paris Burd - sub	Chuck Robinson - sub	Kevin Grooms	Richard Ricketts	Steven Simpson	Jim Finch
Steve Waters	Rendell Jackson	Michael Dowis	Jesse Crews	Brad Dehem	Jose Fernandez	
Cedric King	Trey Henson - sub	Jeremy Rayburn	Myron Newton	Chad Brown - sub	Michelle Masters	

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

APPOINTMENTS:

Alexander High School - Jamie Stiltz, assistant Athletic Director, presented an appeal of a denial to move down from Class 6A to Class 5A.

Motion by Barton, second by Thompson to **Approve** the appeal.

MOTION to Approve PASSED (unanimously)

Effingham County High School - Yancy Ford, Superintendent, presented an appeal of a denial to move down from Class 6A to Class 5A.

Motion by Crews, second by Waters to **Approve** the appeal.

MOTION to Approve PASSED (unanimously)

Eastside High School - Jeff Cher, Principal, presented an appeal of a denial to move down from Class 5A to Class 4A.

Motion by Craft, second by Grooms to **Approve** the appeal.

MOTION to Approve PASSED (unanimously)

Holy Innocents' - Tony Watkins, Athletic Director, presented an appeal to return to Class 2A after requesting to move up to 4A.

Motion by Montgomery, second by Crews to **Deny** the appeal.

MOTION to Deny FAILED (24-46: Baker, Mooney, Burd, Jackson, Henson, Ricks, Whitlock, Ratliff, Byrd, Kelly, Massey, Wagner, Connell, Crews, Newton, B. Montgomery, Moore, Williams, Holmes, Cooper, Lasseter, Brown, Calhoun, R. Montgomery voted yes.)

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposal for the reclassification of schools for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years to be ratified with the changes approved earlier in the meeting. (Reclassification Committee)

NOTE: The classes were voted on individually, with the following results:

Class 6A

Motion by Jewell, second by Barton to **Ratify** the class.

MOTION to Ratify PASSED (unanimously)

Class 5A

Motion by Waters, second by Whitlock to **Ratify** the class.

MOTION to Ratify PASSED (unanimously)

(more)

Class 4A

Motion by Craft, second by Demastus to **Ratify** the class.

MOTION to Ratify PASSED (unanimously)

Class 3A

Motion by Kelly, second by Demastus to **Ratify** the class.

MOTION to Ratify PASSED (unanimously)

Class 2A

Motion by Battles, second by Crews to **Ratify** the class.

MOTION to Ratify PASSED (unanimously)

Class A, Division 1

Motion by Thompson, second by Luke to **Ratify** the class.

MOTION to Ratify PASSED (unanimously)

Class A, Division 2

Motion by Grooms, second by Finch to **Ratify** the class.

MOTION to Ratify PASSED (64-6: Crews, Simpson, Tison, Calhoun, Bell, Dupree voted no)

NOTE: The finalized region alignments for the 2024-26 school years may be found at the end of these minutes.

The committee then discussed the proposed Post Season Ranking Formula (PSRF). The committee agreed to make some modifications to the PSRF, specifically making the formula for gaining points the same for both public and private schools, and eliminating a paragraph about possibly combining public and private schools into one bracket if there are fewer than 24 teams playing a particular sport.

Motion by Barton, second by Craft to **Approve** the modified Post Season Ranking Formula. (See attached)

MOTION to Approve PASSED (unanimously)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Robin Hines thanked the Reclassification Committee, and Chair Curt Miller, for all their hard work during the reclassification process. He also thanked Kevin Petroski for his work on the Post Season Ranking Formula.

Hines then announced to the committee that he intended to retire as Executive Director on August 1, 2024, although he said he would be flexible in staying on a little longer if needed to make the transition smoother for the incoming Executive Director.

Finch then retook the podium and complimented Dr. Hines on the job he has done as Executive Director, particularly with the state legislature. The committee then gave Dr. Hines a standing ovation.

Motion by Simpson, second by Crews, to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Reclassification Proposal 2024-26

Post Season Ranking Formula (PSRF)

Public and Non-Public Schools in Classes A DI, 2A and 3A will play in their assigned regions during the regular season, but private member schools will compete in a combined championship bracket of private member schools only. Public schools in Class A DI, 2A and 3A will participate in a separate championship bracket by assigned classification. The following format will be used for playoff seeding sports that the ranking formula is required.

Public & Private School State Playoff Qualification

Seed all of the Region Champions (1-8, or the number of region champs) by the school's post season ranking formula totals and all of the Region Runner-Up's (9-16, or starting at the seed below the lowest region champ) by the school's post season ranking formula totals and then seeding the remaining 3rd & 4th finishing place schools and At Large seeds strictly by the school's post season ranking formula (starting with the seed below the lowest region runner-up).

Example - Public Bracket - 4 public schools win the region and 5 public schools finish as the region runner-up; 15 public schools finish as #3 or #4 in the region; that's a total of 24 schools guaranteed a state playoff seed; the 8 remaining seeds are determined using the PSRF. All 3rd, 4th & At Large state playoff participants will be seeded based on PSRF.

Public Bracket

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| #1 Seed - Highest PSRF Region Winner | #17 Seed - At Large |
| #2 Seed - Next Highest PSRF Region Winner | #18 Seed - At Large |
| #3 Seed - Next Highest PSRF Region Winner | #19 Seed - 3rd Place |
| #4 Seed - Next Highest PSRF Region Winner | #20 Seed - 4th Place |
| #5 Seed - Highest PSRF Region Runner-Up | #21 Seed - 4th Place |
| #6 Seed - Next Highest PSRF Region Runner-Up | #22 Seed - 3rd Place |
| #7 Seed - Next Highest PSRF Region Runner-Up | #23 Seed - At Large |
| #8 Seed - Next Highest PSRF Region Runner-Up | #24 Seed - 4th Place |
| #9 Seed - Next Highest PSRF Region Runner-Up | #25 Seed - At Large |
| #10 Seed - 3rd Place - Highest PSRF of 3rd, 4th Place & At Large | #26 Seed - At Large |
| #11 Seed - 3rd Place | #27 Seed - 3rd Place |
| #12 Seed - At Large | #28 Seed - 3rd Place |
| #13 Seed - 3rd Place | #29 Seed - At Large |
| #14 Seed - 4th Place | #30 Seed - At Large |
| #15 Seed - 4th Place | #31 Seed - 4th Place |
| #16 Seed - 4th Place | #32 Seed - 4th Place |

Example - Private Bracket - 6 private schools win the region and 4 private schools finish as the region runner-up; 7 private schools finish as #3 or #4 in the region; that's a total of 17 schools guaranteed a state playoff seed; the remaining 15 seeds are determined using the PSRF. All 3rd, 4th & At Large state playoff participants will be seeded based on PSRF.

Private Bracket

#1 Seed - Highest PSRF Region Winner	#17 Seed - 4th Place
#2 Seed - Next Highest PSRF Region Winner	#18 Seed - At Large
#3 Seed - Next Highest PSRF Region Winner	#19 Seed - 3rd Place
#4 Seed - Next Highest PSRF Region Winner	#20 Seed - At Large
#5 Seed - Next Highest PSRF Region Winner	#21 Seed - At Large
#6 Seed - Next Highest PSRF Region Winner	#22 Seed - At Large
#7 Seed - Highest PSRF Region Runner-Up	#23 Seed - At Large
#8 Seed - Next Highest PSRF Region Runner-Up	#24 Seed - 4th Place
#9 Seed - Next Highest PSRF Region Runner-Up	#25 Seed - At Large
#10 Seed - Next Highest PSRF Region Runner-Up	#26 Seed - At Large
#11 Seed - 3rd Place - Highest PSRF of 3rd, 4th Place & At Large	#27 Seed - At Large
#12 Seed - 4th Place	#28 Seed - At Large
#13 Seed - 3rd Place	#29 Seed - At Large
#14 Seed - At Large	#30 Seed - At Large
#15 Seed - At Large	#31 Seed - At Large
#16 Seed - 4th Place	#32 Seed - At Large

The GHSA Office will build a platform in the MIS system that implements the following requirements:

- Every Class A DII-6A school team enters their schedule in the MIS system (Schedule will be locked before 1st game).
 - Each school enters their teams schedule on the MIS platform for all contests; Contests against out of state schools and non GHSA member schools will be calculated using winning percentage only.
 - All postponed contests should be rescheduled.
 - Canceled contests will need approval from the GHSA office to reschedule a replacement opponent.
 - Forfeited contests count in a school's formula and the appropriate points should be applied (If a school chooses to accept the forfeited contest points, any additional scheduled game played will not be calculated into the school's formula).
 - However, if a school chooses to not accept the forfeited contest points, the additional "makeup" contest will be calculated into the school's formula. The school must choose which option to accept before the makeup contest is played.
- All contests against GHSA member schools will be used to calculate the school's PSRF regardless of classification. Schools will not earn additional points for playing schools in higher classifications.
- All member schools must enter their scores in the MIS system for the schedule entered in the system (scores will be locked after being submitted).

GHSA Post Season Ranking Formula will contain:

- o **Winning Percentage (WP)** is calculated by taking a team's wins divided by the number of contests played.
 - Home win equals 0.9, Away win equals 1.1, neutral site and non GHSA win equals 1.
 - For sanctioned tournaments and play dates, if an opponent plays against the host at the host site, a home win equals 0.9 and an away win equals 1.1. All other contests, not involving the host, would be considered a neutral site and a win equals 1.
 - All Region tournament contests will be considered a neutral site and a win equals 1.
 - o **Opponents' Winning Percentage (OWP)** – is calculated by taking the average of the WP's for each of the team's GHSA opponents with the requirement that all contests against the team in question are removed from the equation.
 - o **Opponents' Opponents' Winning Percentage (OOWP)** – is calculated by taking the average of each GHSA Opponent's OWP. Note that the team in question is part of the team's OOWP.
- MIS system would calculate the ranking using the evaluation formula for each *Class A DI-3A* team by sport.
 - GHSA Post Season Ranking Formula will be published on the GHSA website for public viewing.
 - Tiebreakers for equal ranking
 - Head to Head Result
 - GHSA Tiebreaker in ByLaws

GHSA Post Season Ranking Formula:

$$\text{PSRF} = (\text{WP} * 0.35) + (\text{OWP} * 0.35) + (\text{OOWP} * 0.30)$$

WP – Winning Percentage

OWP – Opponents' Winning Percentage against GHSA opponents only

OOWP – Opponents' Opponents' Winning Percentage against GHSA opponents only

WP – is calculated by taking a team's wins divided by the number of contests it has played. Home win equals 0.9, Away win equals 1.1, neutral site and non GHSA opponents win is 1.

OWP – is calculated by taking the average of the WP's for each of the team's GHSA opponents with the requirement that all contests against the team in question are removed from the equation.

OOWP – is calculated by taking the average of each GHSA Opponent's OWP. Note that the team in question is part of the team's OOWP.

Team A loses to Team B at home

Team A wins against Team B on the road

Team A loses to Team C on the road

Team A is 1-2

Examples:

Team A loses a home game, wins an away game, and loses an away game.

$$WP = 1.1 \text{ (away win)} / (1.1 \text{ (away game)} + 1.1 \text{ (away game)} + 0.9 \text{ (home game)}) = 0.35483$$

Team A has played Team B twice and Team B WP would be counted twice. Team A has played Team C once and Team C WP would be counted once.

$$OWP = (0/1 + 0/1 + 2/2) / 3 \text{ (number of opponents- Team B, Team B, Team C)} \quad OWP = 0.3333$$

$$OOWP = (\text{Team B's OWP} + \text{Teams B's OWP} + \text{Team C's OWP}) / 3.$$

$$OOWP = (0.000 + 0.000 + 0.500) / 3 = 0.1667$$

$$\text{Team A's PSRF} = (WP * 0.25) + (OWP * 0.50) + (OOWP * 0.25)$$

$$\text{Team A's PSRF} = (0.35483 * 0.35) + (0.33333 * 0.35) + (0.16667 * 0.30) = 0.29086$$

Sports Using the Postseason Ranking Formula

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Baseball | Soccer |
| Basketball | Tennis |
| Football | Volleyball |
| Lacrosse | Wrestling Duals |
| Softball - Fastpitch | Wrestling Traditional |

Sports with Separate Championships that do not use the Ranking Formula -

A Qualifying Event will Determine which Schools Advance to the State Playoffs/Tournament/Meet

- Competitive Cheerleading
- Cross Country
- Track & Field
- Golf

Sports/Activities without Separate Championships and without using the Ranking Formula

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Bass Fishing | Gymnastics |
| Competitive Dance | One Act Play |
| Game Day | Literary |
| eSports | Riflery |
| Flag Football | Softball - Slow Pitch |
| | Swimming & Diving (State Qualifying Time) |

Ratified 11-29-23

Region Alignment for 2024-2026

AAAAAA (57)

(* Schools Not Playing Football)

1-AAAAAA (6)

Camden County
Colquitt County
Lowndes
Richmond Hill
Tift County
Valdosta

2-AAAAAA (5)

Carrollton
Chapel Hill
Douglas County
East Coweta
Westlake

3-AAAAAA (8)

Campbell
Harrison
Hillgrove
McEachern
Osborne
Paulding County
Pebblebrook
South Cobb

4-AAAAAA (7)

Archer
Grayson
Grovetown
Heritage, Conyers
Newton
Rockdale County
South Gwinnett

5-AAAAAA (7)

Cherokee
Etowah
Marietta
North Cobb
North Paulding
Walton
Wheeler

6-AAAAAA (9)

Alpharetta
Denmark
Forsyth Central
Innovation Academy*
Lambert
North Atlanta
North Forsyth
South Forsyth
West Forsyth

7-AAAAAA (8)

Berkmar
Brookwood
Duluth
Meadowcreek
Norcross
North Gwinnett
Parkview
Peachtree Ridge

8-AAAAAA (7)

Buford
Central Gwinnett
Collins Hill
Dacula
Discovery
Mill Creek
Mountain View

Region Alignment for 2024-2026

AAAAA (61)

(* Schools Not Playing Football)

1-AAAAA (9)

Bradwell Institute
Brunswick
Effingham County
Evans
Glynn Academy
Greenbrier
Lakeside, Evans
South Effingham
Statesboro

2-AAAAA (6)

Coffee
Houston County
Lee County
Northside, Warner Robins
Thomas County Central
Veterans

3-AAAAA (8)

Banneker
Dutchtown
Hughes
Lovejoy
McIntosh
Morrow
Newnan
Northgate

4-AAAAA (8)

Arabia Mountain
Chamblee
Decatur
Dunwoody
Lakeside, DeKalb
Shiloh
Tri-Cities
Woodward Academy

5-AAAAA (8)

Alexander
East Paulding
Kennesaw Mountain
Lithia Springs
New Manchester
Rome
South Paulding
Villa Rica

6-AAAAA (8)

Creekview
Lassiter
Pope
River Ridge
Riverwood
Sequoyah
Sprayberry
Woodstock

7-AAAAA (7)

Chattahoochee
Gainesville
Johns Creek
Lanier
Milton
Roswell
Seckinger

8-AAAAA (7)

Alcovy
Apalachee
Clarke Central
Habersham Central
Jackson County
Loganville
Winder-Barrow

Region Alignment for 2024-2026

AAAA (61)

(* Schools Not Playing Football)

1-AAAA (6)

Benedictine
New Hampstead
Perry
Ware County
Warner Robins
Wayne County

2-AAAA (10)

Sub Region A
Eagle's Landing
Eagle's Landing Christian
Stockbridge
Union Grove
Woodland, Stockbridge
Sub Region B
Hampton
Jones County
Locust Grove
McDonough
Ola

3-AAAA (7)

Central, Carroll
Griffin
Harris County
Jonesboro
Mundy's Mill
Northside, Columbus
Starr's Mill

4-AAAA (8)

Creekside
Drew
Forest Park
Jackson, Atlanta
M. L. King
Mays
Midtown
Pace Academy

5-AAAA (10)

Sub Region A
Cross Keys
Marist
North Springs
Northview
Tucker
Sub Region B
Clarkston
Druid Hills
Lithonia
Southwest DeKalb
St. Pius X

6-AAAA (5)

Blessed Trinity
Cambridge
Centennial
Kell
Westminster

7-AAAA (8)

Allatoona
Cartersville
Cass
Cedartown
Dalton
Hiram
Southeast Whitfield
Woodland, Cartersville

8-AAAA (7)

Cedar Shoals
East Forsyth
Eastside
Flowery Branch
Madison County
North Oconee
Walnut Grove

Region Alignment for 2024-2026

AAA (63)

(* Schools Not Playing Football)

1-AAA (6)

Bainbridge
Cairo
Dougherty
Monroe
Peach County
Westover

2-AAA (9)

Fayette County
LaGrange
Mary Persons
Sandy Creek
Spalding
Trinity Christian
Troup County
Upson-Lee
Whitewater

3-AAA (10)

Sub Region A
Groves
Liberty County
Long County
Southeast Bulloch
Windsor Forest
Sub Region B
Beach
Calvary Day School
Islands
Jenkins
Johnson, Savannah

4-AAA (9)

Aquinas
Baldwin
Cross Creek
Harlem
Hephzibah
Howard
Richmond Academy
West Laurens
Westside, Augusta

5-AAA (8)

Cedar Grove
Douglass, Atlanta
Luella
Mt. Zion, Jonesboro
North Clayton
Riverdale
Stephenson
Stone Mountain

6-AAA (8)

Chestatee
Dawson County
Greater Atlanta Christian
Johnson, Gainesville
Lumpkin County
North Hall
Pickens
White County

7-AAA (7)

Adairsville
Calhoun
Gilmer
Heritage, Catoosa
LaFayette
Northwest Whitfield
Ridgeland

8-AAA (6)

Cherokee Bluff
East Hall
Jefferson
Monroe Area
Oconee County
West Hall

Region Alignment for 2024-2026

AA (58)

(* Schools Not Playing Football)

1-AA (8)

Carver, Columbus
Columbus
Hardaway
Jordan
Kendrick
Shaw
Spencer
Sumter County

2-AA (6)

Callaway
Jackson
Morgan County
Pike County
Rutland
Westside, Macon

3-AA (6)

Appling County
Cook
Crisp County
Pierce County
Savannah Arts Academy*
Tattnall County

4-AA (9)

Burke County
Butler
Davidson Fine Arts*
Glenn Hills
Johnson, Augusta*
Josey
Laney
Technical Career Magnet*
Thomson

5-AA (8)

Carver, Atlanta
Coretta Scott King Academy*
Hapeville
Holy Innocents'
KIPP Atlanta Collegiate
Lovett
Therrell
Washington

6-AA (6)

Columbia
Drew Charter School*
Miller Grove
Redan
Salem
South Atlanta

7-AA (9)

Coahulla Creek
Lakeview-Ft. Oglethorpe
Murray County
North Cobb Christian
North Murray
Ringgold
Rockmart
Sonoraville
Union County

8-AA (6)

East Jackson
Franklin County
Hart County
Hebron Christian Academy
Prince Avenue Christian
Stephens County

Region Alignment for 2024-2026

A Division I (78)

(* Schools Not Playing Football)

1-A Division I (7)

Bacon County
Berrien
Brantley County
Fitzgerald
Jeff Davis
Thomasville
Worth County

2-A Division I (10)

Sub Region A
ACE Charter
Bleckley County
Central, Macon
Northeast
Southwest
Sub Region B
Dodge County
Dublin
East Laurens
Jefferson County
Washington County

3-A Division I (7)

Savannah Christian
Savannah Country Day
St. Vincent's Academy*
Swainsboro
Toombs County
Vidalia
Woodville-Tompkins*

4-A Division I (10)

Sub Region A
Greenforest Christian*
McNair
Southwest Atlanta Christian*
Towers
W. D. Mohammed*
Sub Region B
Jasper County
Lamar County
Putnam County
Social Circle
Utopian Academy

5-A Division I (18)

Sub Region A
Fellowship Christian
Galloway*
King's Ridge
Mount Vernon
Mt. Bethel Christian*
Mt. Pisgah Christian
St. Francis
Weber School*
Wesleyan
Sub Region B
Atlanta International*
B.E.S.T Academy
Ben Franklin Academy*
DeKalb School of the Arts*
Landmark Christian
Mt. Paran Christian
Paideia*
Walker
Whitefield Academy

6-A Division I (7)

Bremen
Darlington
Haralson County
Heard County
Model
Pepperell
Temple

7-A Division I (9)

Armuchee
Chattooga
Christian Heritage
Coosa
Dade County
Dalton Academy*
Fannin County
Gordon Central
Gordon Lee

8-A Division I (10)

Sub Region A
Banks County
Commerce
Elbert County
Rabun County
Tallulah Falls*
Sub Region B
Athens Academy
Athens Christian
Barrow*
Oglethorpe County
Providence Christian

Region Alignment for 2024-2026

A Division II (80)

(* Schools Not Playing Football)

1-A Division II (15)

Sub Region A

Calhoun County*
Early County
Pataula Charter
Quitman County*
Randolph-Clay
Southwest Georgia STEM*
Stewart County*
Terrell County

Sub Region B

Baconton
Baker County*
Miller County
Mitchell County
Pelham
Seminole County
Spring Creek

2-A Division II (8)

Atkinson County
Brooks County
Charlton County
Clinch County
Echols County*
Irwin County
Lanier County
Turner County

3-A Division II (12)

Sub Region A

Emanuel County Institute
Jenkins County
Metter
Portal
Screven County
Steam Academy*

Sub Region B

Bryan County
Claxton
McIntosh County Academy
Savannah
Savannah Classical*
Savannah Early College*

4-A Division II (7)

Dooly County
Hawkinsville
Montgomery County
Telfair County
Treutlen
Wheeler County
Wilcox County

5-A Division II (9)

Georgia Academy for Blind*
Georgia Military College
Georgia School for Innovation*
Glascoc County
Hancock Central
Johnson County
Stilwell Arts*
Twiggs County
Wilkinson County

6-A Division II (10)

Sub Region A

Central, Talbotton
Chattahoochee County
Marion County
Rainey-McCullers*
Webster County*

Sub Region B

Crawford County
Furlow Charter*
Macon County
Schley County
Taylor County

7-A Division II (11)

Sub Region A

Bowdon
Georgia School for Deaf*
Manchester
Mt. Zion, Carroll
Trion
Sub Region B
Atlanta Classical*
Elite Scholars Academy*
Fulton Leadership Academy*
Genesis Innovation*
Georgia Fugees Academy*
Greenville

8-A Division II (8)

Greene County
Lake Oconee Academy
Lincoln County
Taliaferro County*
Towns County
Warren County
Washington-Wilkes
Woody Gap*

458 Schools