

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE October 1, 2018

The semiannual meeting of the State Executive Committee of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 9:00 a.m., on October 1, 2018, at the Macon Marriott City Center in Macon, Georgia, by Glenn White, President, who immediately called for a moment of silence in remembrance of Pike County football player Dylan Thomas, who passed away following a Friday game.

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 - 65 Absent - 1 (indicted by "A" below)

Greg Tillery	John Kelly	Wade Marchman	Joe Lancaster	Mike Emery
Evan Horton	Steven Craft	Jose Fernandez	Jarrett Luke	Justin Brown
Jim Dorsey	Geep Cunningham	Jarred Griffis	Mike Thompson	Steve Simpson
Tonya Sebring	Chris Brown	Britt Adams	Rex Hodges	Donnie Drew
Nathan Turner	David Shields	Jimmy Lawler	Myron Newton	Michelle Masters
Gary Long	Shane Ratliff	Michael Dowis	David Boland	Regina Montgomery
Kirk Barton	Curt Miller	Johnny Seabrooks	Jasper Jewell - A	Mike Tenoschok
Jon Weyher	Bobby Brewington	Shawn Peek	Bradley Warren	David Colvard
Kevin Kinsler	Rendell Jackson	Ulysses Hawthorne	Tim Armstrong	Jason Miller
Earl Etheridge	Don Breedlove	Mark Daniel	John Pinson	Philip Brown
Garrett Black	Dexter Wood	James Jackson	Jesse Crews	Bobby McAllister
Kevin May	Jeff Battles	Brent Mashburn	Chad Griffin	Joe Sanfilippo
Nathan Hand	Jim Finch	Jeff Cooper	Glenn Tidwell	

Motion was made by Earl Etheridge, seconded by Mike Thompson, and unanimously approved to adopt the agenda for the meeting. **Motion** was made by Jesse Crews, seconded by Steve Simpson, and unanimously approved to go into executive session to hear student appeals (Note: appeals were heard in executive session, but all votes were taken after coming out of executive session).

Tucker High School - Bryan Lamar, Athletic Director, presented the appeal for student Adil Ahmed, requesting a waiver of the eight-semester rule.

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

MOTION PASSED (42-23) Roll Call Vote #1 - **Yes:** Tillery, Horton, Dorsey, Sebring, Turner, Long, Weyher, Kinsler, Etheridge, Black, Hand, Kelly, Craft, Cunningham, C. Brown, Ratliff, Breedlove, Finch, Marchman, Griffis, Adams, Lawler, Dowis, Peek, Daniel, Cooper, Lancaster, Thompson, Hodges, Crews, Tidwell, J. Brown, Simpson, Drew, Masters, Montgomery, Tenoschok, J. Miller, P. Brown, McAllister, Sanfilippo, White. **No:** Barton, May, Shields, C. Miller, Brewington, R. Jackson, Wood, Battles, Fernandez, Seabrooks, Hawthorne, J. Jackson, Mashburn, Luke, Newton, Boland, Warren, Armstrong, Pinson, Griffin, Emery, Colvard, Williams.)

Tucker High School - Bryan Lamar, Athletic Director, presented the appeal for student Abdilnur Tiror, requesting a waiver of the eight-semester rule.

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

MOTION PASSED (42-23) Roll Call Vote #2 - **Yes:** Tillery, Horton, Dorsey, Sebring, Turner, Long, Weyher, Kinsler, Etheridge, Black, Hand, Kelly, Craft, Cunningham, C. Brown, Ratliff, Breedlove, Finch, Marchman, Griffis, Adams, Lawler, Dowis, Peek, Daniel, Cooper, Lancaster, Thompson, Hodges, Crews, Tidwell, J. Brown, Simpson, Drew, Masters, Montgomery, Tenoschok, J. Miller, P. Brown, McAllister, Sanfilippo, White. **No:** Barton, May, Shields, C. Miller, Brewington, R. Jackson, Wood, Battles, Fernandez, Seabrooks, Hawthorne, J. Jackson, Mashburn, Luke, Newton, Boland, Warren, Armstrong, Pinson, Griffin, Emery, Colvard, Williams.)

NOTE: Atlanta Classical Academy did not show up to present an appeal for student Pierce Mastrion, requesting a waiver of the eight-semester rule.

(more)

OLD BUSINESS:

Second vote on the following Constitutional proposals:

1. **Proposal** to amend Article IV, Section 9, Paragraph "C" by adding to the end of the paragraph the following language: *"Any appeal of the decision of the Executive Director does not suspend the ruling made or penalty assessed pending a ruling on the appeal."*

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

2. **Proposal** to amend Article IV, Section 9 by adding a new Paragraph "I" as follows: *"The Executive Director shall have the authority to lengthen or shorten the time for appeals of decisions, if required in his discretion, to accommodate pending schedules, events or other matters."*

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 add the 4x800 Meter Relay to all Region, Sectional and State Track Meets beginning with the 2019-20 school year. Schools would be limited to a maximum of two (2) teams entered in this new relay and individual contestants would be limited to a maximum of two (2) relay events from the 4x100, 4x400 and the 4x800.

MOTION FAILED (44-21) Roll Call Vote #3 - **Yes:** Turner, Long, Barton, Weyher, Hand, Kelly, Craft, Ratliff, C. Miller, Breedlove, Finch, Griffis, Adams, Lawler, Lancaster, Emery, Masters, J. Miller, P. Brown, Sanfilippo, Williams. **No:** Tillery, Horton, Dorsey, Sebring, Kinsler, Etheridge, Black, May, Cunningham, C. Brown, Shields, Brewington, R. Jackson, Wood, Battles, Marchman, Fernandez, Dowis, Seabrooks, Peek, Hawthorne, Daniel, J. Jackson, Mashburn, Cooper, Luke, Thompson, Hodges, Newton, Boland, Warren, Armstrong, Pinson, Crews, Griffin, Tidwell, J. Brown, Simpson, Drew, Montgomery, Tenoschok, Colvard, McAllister, White.)

2. **Proposal** to eliminate the Sectional Track Meets for Class A Public and Private schools only, instead taking the top four qualifiers per event from each of four Areas directly to the State Track Meet.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Motion by Jesse Crews, seconded by Steve Simpson, and **unanimously approved** to make this **Effective Immediately**.

3. **Proposal** to modify item "d" under By-Law 1.45 on Page 16 of the Constitution as follows (new text in italic): Eighth grade students participating on a sub-varsity team may only participate in 60% of the number of games allotted to the varsity team in that sport. *Eighth grade students may not participate in more sub-varsity and middle school contests combined than the number the GHSA allows for varsity competition in that respective sport.*

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

4. **Proposal** to modify item "c" under By-Law 1.62 on Page 19 of the Constitution to delete the word "private" as follows: "The student was enrolled in a non-member ~~private~~ school in Georgia and, without a bona fide move, transferred to a GHSA member school that serves his service area as long as:" . . .

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

5. **Proposal** to modify By-Law 1.63 on Page 21 of the Constitution by adding the following sentence at the end of the existing language: "In the event that, after transfer, a student becomes or is later determined to be a migrant student, then the student shall be ineligible to compete at the varsity level for a period of one calendar year from that date."

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

6. **Proposal** to modify By-Law 1.64 on Page 21 of the Constitution to add the word "academic" as follows: "A student who is not eligible because of GHSA *academic* rules at the former school, and then transfers to a new school, cannot regain eligibility by the transfer. (Second sentence remains as written.)"

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

7. **Proposal** to reword By-Law 2.63, item "e" on Page 29 of the Constitution as follows (old text is struck through, new text is in bold italic):

(3) If a school fails to show up for a game, or cancels a game, within ~~four (4)~~ **24** hours of the scheduled starting time without an emergency condition or weather-related conditions, that school shall pay a forfeiture fee to the host school equivalent to the cost of the officials.

(more)

(4) If a school fails to show up for a game or cancels within ~~four (4)~~ **24** hours of the scheduled game time without emergency reasons or weather-related reasons for a second time, that school must make restitution again and must show cause to the GHSA Executive Director as to why they should not be placed on probation by the GHSA.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

8. **Proposal** to reword item "D" on Page 65 of the Constitution as follows (old text is struck through, new text is in bold italic): "The number of matches allowed (excluding region, sectional and state tournaments) is twelve (12) playing dates. NOTE: A 9-hole match played ~~prior to April 1~~ **before the Last Play Date** will count as 1/2 playing date." **Effective Immediately**

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

The following are Constitutional proposals and require two votes. This is the **first vote**.

9. **Proposal** to amend Article IV, Section 9A on page 11 by adding to the end of the first sentence the following language: ". . . , including but not limited to, declaring a student ineligible to compete in GHSA activities for a period of time of up to four (4) years."

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

10. **Proposal** to amend Article IV, Section 13B on page 13 by adding to the end of the second sentence the following language: ". . . , including but not limited to, declaring a student ineligible to compete in GHSA activities for a period of time of up to four (4) years."

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

The committee **DENIED**:

1. **Proposal** that Riverside Military Academy will host the State Track Meet for Class A Public and Private and the Class 3A schools at the Spec Towns Track on the campus of the University of Georgia on May 9-11, 2019. **(Vote: 10-0)**
2. **Proposal** to eliminate item "d" under By-Law 1.45 on Page 16 of the Constitution that currently reads: Eighth grade students participating on a sub-varsity team may only participate in 60% of the number of games allotted to the varsity team in that sport. **(Vote: 10-0)**

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE

Report presented by Earl Etheridge

The committee **RECOMMENDED**:

1. **Proposal** to modify by-law D-3-b on page 59 of the Constitution to read as follows (old text is struck through; new text in italic): 6. Schools will be limited to attending no more than three (3) Team Contact Camps per summer (no more than ~~eight (8)~~ *six (6) days total. There must be at least four (4) participating schools or the camp cannot be held.*

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

2. **Proposal** that no GHSA member school shall be allowed to participate in a football game against a school that is not a full member, without restrictions, of their state athletic association.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

GYMNASTICS COMMITTEE

Report presented by Nathan Turner

The committee **RECOMMENDED**:

Proposal to name the GHSA Gymnastics State Championships the "Dr. Lucia B. Norwood GHSA State Championships" beginning in April of 2019.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

TENNIS COMMITTEE

Report presented by Jarrett Luke

The committee **RECOMMENDED**:

Proposal to delete Item B-2-c on page 80 of the GHSA Constitution that reads: No individual alternate may be used more than a total of two (2) times during the cumulative rounds of the sub-region, region or state tournaments.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

(more)

The committee **DENIED**:

1. **Proposal** to change current GHSA team format of three singles and two doubles matches to a format whereby the two teams begin with three doubles matches with one (1) point going to the team that wins two of the three doubles matches. If one team wins the first two doubles matches completed, the third match is abandoned and the teams then play six (6) singles matches. The first team to win a total of four (4) points (including the doubles point) wins the team match. Under this format, individual athletes could play both singles and doubles, but are not required to. (**Vote: 5-0**)
2. **Proposal** to count each line played during a team match instead of just the ultimate match result. For example, teams losing a match 3-2 would get two points to be used when calculating region standings and seedings prior to the region tournament. Points accumulated during the season would count and not just the final won-loss record. (**Vote: 5-0**)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Robin Hines called on Associate Director Penny Pitts Mitchell to give a report on the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, which has just begun its second year of existence. Pitts introduced Advisory Committee member Justin Harris, a junior at Peach County High School, and he talked about the goals of the committee in promoting sportsmanship among teammates, within different teams at a school and between rival schools.

Pitts then gave an update on the progress of the first Esports season, which begins on October 30. She told the committee that a total of 96 schools had signed up to participate so far.

Justin Connell, one of the GHSA attorneys, then gave an update of the legal issues facing the GHSA at this time, specifically speaking of court hearings involving Charlton County High School, Marietta High School and an individual student from Whitfield County in the near future.

Dr. Hines gave an update of Georgia's involvement with the NFHSNetwork and how it is benefiting the GHSA and the participating member schools. Georgia was second in the nation in total revenue from the program.

Dr. Hines then called upon Associate Director Ernie Yarbrough, who gave an update on the efforts being made in the recruitment of officials and on the new SafeSport program introduced by the NFHS.

Dr. Hines advised the committee of plans to reinstate the training meeting for Region Secretaries and of starting a new training program for school administrators and/or athletic directors in the near future. He also went over the latest GHSA audit, indicating a positive trend in the association's financial outlook.

Dr. Hines then concluded the report by reminding the committee that it was time to start thinking seriously about the reclassification process, which will begin next spring, and reemphasizing his belief that going back to six classifications would help the problems many schools are now facing on travel, scheduling and finances. He also thanked the committee for their support and for the opportunity to serve as Executive Director.

Motion by Mike Thompson, second by Jesse Crews, to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)