

# GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES

### RECLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE

August 23, 2021

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A working meeting of the Reclassification Committee of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 10:00 a.m., on August 23, 2021, at the GHSA office in Thomaston, Georgia, by Glenn White, President. No votes were taken at this meeting.

Roll call by Media Director Steve Figueroa showed the following: Present - 18; Absent - 1 (indicated by "A" below)

Kirk Barton	Jody Dean	Jim Finch	Donnie Drew	Tommy Marshall
Randy McPherson	Bobby Brewington	James Jackson	Bradley Warren - sub	Glenn White
Steve Waters	Jasper Jewell	Davis Russell	Julie Jones	Curt Miller
Steven Craft	Jeff Littleton - A	Myron Newton	Chris Hanson	

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#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

President White called for nominations for chairman of the committee. Finch nominated Miller, and Jewell seconded the nomination. No further nominations were made and Miller was reelected as committee chairman unanimously.

Miller opened the discussion by reading statistics of state championships won by private schools in Classes 2A-5A the past six years. Stating that private schools have a competitive advantage over public schools, Miller presented a proposal that would see the nine (9) private schools currently above Class A placed in a separate bracket at the end of each sport's regular season to play for their own state championship. How that nine-team bracket would be seeded would be among the details to be worked out at a later date.

Marshall, formerly the AD at one of those nine private schools (Marist), spoke against the proposal, saying that the last thing those schools wanted was to be separated into their own bracket.

Miller then recognized Greater Atlanta Christian School AD Tim Hardy from the audience. Hardy presented a different proposal, one approved by the private schools involved. Under this proposal, the private schools would voluntarily move up in classification, leaving none in Class 2A, two in 3A, four in 4A and three in 5A. In addition, those nine schools would participate in a Competitive Balance Adjustment whereby their most successful individual sports programs could be moved up even higher in classification based on a points-earned formula.

"We want to be full-fledged members of the GHSA," said Hardy. "A lot of states have competitive balance programs such as this one, but we believe this is a superior model as it would affect only those nine private schools so it would be much easier to regulate."

Several members of the committee asked questions to get clarification about the proposal, but many said it would only be moving the problems from one class to another.

White called upon the private schools to come up with additional ideas or proposals and to present them before the next scheduled reclassification meeting in October. He left the door open to a possible meeting before the October fall State Executive Committee meeting Oct. 3-4, but none is scheduled at this point.

Miller then moved another topic, saying that surveys of both the Board of Trustees and the members schools indicated a desire to stay with the current setup of seven classifications, so that is what the Reclassification Committee will take forward.

Jewell spoke up and urged everyone to have patience during the always-difficult reclassification process. "It's not going to be easy, but I hope everybody knows this is not personal and I hope we all remain professional and adult during the process."

Motion by White, second by Jewell to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION Passed** (unanimously)