

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

RECLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE November 9, 2023

The Reclassification Committee of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 9:00 a.m., on November 9, 2023, at the GHSA office in Thomaston, Georgia, by Jim Finch, President, to hear appeals about classification placements.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice President Curt Miller. The invocation was given by Associate Director Carror Wright. Roll Call by Media Director Steve Figueroa showed the following: Present - 17; Absent - 0

Kirk Barton	Garrett Black	Jasper Jewell	Richard Ricketts	Jim Finch
Danny Redshaw	Brian Montgomery - sub	Reggie Wilkes	Mike Thompson	Curt Miller
Steve Waters	Kathy Walton - sub	Jesse Crews	Don Norton*	*Steven Simpson subbed for Norton after lunch
Steven Craft	Jeff Battles	Kevin Petroski		

APPOINTMENTS

Rockdale County - Erwin Equihua, Athletic Director, presented the appeal to play down from 6A to 5A

Motion by Norton, second by Crews, to **Deny** the appeal

MOTION to Deny Passed 17-0

Central Gwinnett - Shane Orr, Principal, presented the appeal to play down from 6A to 5A

Motion by Jewell, second by Craft, to **Approve** the appeal

MOTION to Approve Failed 7-10 (Jewell, Craft, Black, Battles, Waters, Barton, Wilkes voted yes)

Heritage-Conyers - Dorian Powell-Harris, Athletic Director, presented the appeal to play down from 6A to 5A

Motion by Finch, second by Barton, to **Deny** the appeal

MOTION to Deny Passed 15-2 (Jewell, Waters voted no)

Houston County - Jay Jones, Principal, presented the appeal to play down from 6A to 5A

Motion by Redshaw, second by Crews, to **Approve** the appeal

MOTION to Approve Passed 16-0-1 (Jewell abstained)

Alexander - Jamie Stiltz, Athletic Director, presented the appeal to play down from 6A to 5A

Motion by Norton, second by Thompson, to **Deny** the appeal

MOTION to Deny Passed 16-1 (Jewell voted no)

Kennesaw Mountain - Philip Matthews, Athletic Director, presented the appeal to play down from 6A to 5A

Motion by Miller, second by Crews, to **Approve** the appeal

MOTION to Approve Passed 16-1 (Finch voted no)

Chapel Hill - Rodney Latham, Athletic Director, presented the appeal to play down from 6A to 5A

Motion by Waters, second by Crews, to **Deny** the appeal

MOTION to Deny Passed 16-1 (Jewell voted no)

New Manchester - Casey Bethel, Principal, presented the appeal to play down from 6A to 5A

Motion by Petroski, second by Thompson, to **Approve** the appeal

MOTION to Approve Passed 13-4 (Finch, Barton, Miller, Wilkes voted no)

Arabia Mountain - Sharon Richard, Athletic Director, presented the appeal to play down from 6A to 5A

Motion by Black, second by Jewell, to **Approve** the appeal

MOTION to Approve Passed 16-1 (Finch voted no)

Douglas County - School withdrew appeal.

(more)

Newnan - Randy Robbins, Athletic Director, presented the appeal to play down from 6A to 5A

Motion by Battles, second by Norton, to **Approve** the appeal

MOTION to Approve Passed 15-2 (Redshaw, Wilkes voted no)

Shiloh - Robert Wilson, Athletic Director, presented the appeal to play down from 6A to 5A

Motion by Montgomery, second by Jewell, to **Approve** the appeal

MOTION to Approve Passed 11-6 (Redshaw, Ricketts, Battles, Norton, Waters, Miller voted no)

Grovetown - Andrew Young, Principal, presented the appeal to play down from 6A to 5A

Motion by Finch, second by Miller, to **Deny** the appeal

MOTION to Deny Passed 10-6-1 (Petroski, Redshaw, Walton, Wilkes, Norton, Waters voted no, Black abstained)

Effingham County - Jake Darling, Athletic Director, presented the appeal to play down from 6A to 5A

Motion by Redshaw, second by Crews, to **Approve** the appeal

MOTION to Approve Failed 5-12 (Redshaw, Waters, Crews, Wilkes, Thompson voted yes)

KIPP Metro Atlanta - Nyere Brown, Athletic Director, presented the appeal to play down from 5A to 2A

Motion by Montgomery, second by Crews, to **Approve** the appeal

MOTION to Approve Passed 16-0-1 (Jewell abstained)

Eastside - Jeff Cher, Principal, presented the appeal to play down from 5A to 4A

Motion by Barton, second by Redshaw, to **Deny** the appeal

MOTION to Deny Passed 16-1 (Miller voted no)

Dalton - Steven Craft, Assistant Superintendent, presented the appeal to play down from 5A to 4A

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

MOTION to Approve Passed 16-0-1 (Craft abstained)

Warner Robins - Chris McCook, Principal, presented the appeal to play down from 5A to 4A

Motion by Ricketts, second by Redshaw, to **Approve** the appeal

MOTION to Approve Passed 9-8 (Jewell, Miller, Simpson, Walton, Montgomery, Wilkes, Battles, Finch voted no)

Union Grove - Stephen Spruell, Athletic Director, presented the appeal to play down from 5A to 4A

Motion by Miller, second by Petroski, to **Approve** the appeal

MOTION to Approve Passed 13-4 (Simpson, Jewell, Walton, Barton voted no)

Allatoona - Amie Howard, Athletic Director, presented the appeal to play down from 5A to 4A

Motion by Petroski, second by Battles, to **Approve** the appeal

MOTION to Approve Passed 17-0

Richmond Academy - Kevin Scheyer, Athletic Director, presented the appeal to play down from 4A to 3A

Motion by Battles, second by Jewell, to **Approve** the appeal

MOTION to Approve Passed 17-0

Central Macon - Chendra Dupree, Principal, presented the appeal to play down from 3A to 1A-Div. 1

Motion by Barton, second by Finch, to **Approve** the appeal

MOTION to Approve Passed 17-0

Shaw - Jeff Battles, District Athletic Director, presented the appeal to play down from 3A to 2A

Motion by Thompson, second by Simpson, to **Approve** the appeal

MOTION to Approve Passed 16-0-1 (Battles abstained)

Savannah - Stacie Pottenger, Principal, presented the appeal to play down from A-D1 to A-D2

Motion by Simpson, second by Barton, to **Deny** the appeal

MOTION to Deny Failed 7-10 (Mongomery, Miller, Barton, Crews, Redshaw, Simpson, Battles voted yes)

(more)

State Representative Will Wade addressed the committee with some concerns about the use of the power ranking system in classes A through 3A and not in classes 4A through 6A. He said that several schools in his district were concerned that deserving teams in the lower three classes might be left out of the playoffs with a power ranking system. He suggested that, if the power rating system was good for A-3A, it should be used in all classes.

The committee then discussed the pros and cons of the power ranking plan for Classes A through 3A. Several spoke of the possibility that not counting games against out-of-state or out-of-class teams will increase travel. The feeling was that schools will have to travel to find enough teams to play in their own respective classification.

The committee seemed to agree that teams should get credit for playing teams in higher classifications, and a proposal addressing that issue is expected to be presented at the next meeting on the Reclassification Committee.

That next meeting will be **9:00 a.m., on Thursday, November 16** in the GHSA office when schools will be allowed to appeal for **lateral transfers** within their classification.

The **deadline to get on the agenda for the lateral appeal meeting is noon on Wednesday, November 15**. The form to request a lateral transfer may be found on the "Forms Page" of the GHSA web site.

Before adjourning, the committee reviewed the proposed new Region Alignments, which may be found on the pages following this one.

Region Alignment for 2024-2026

AAAAAA (59)

(* Schools Not Playing Football)

1-AAAAAA (7)

Camden County
Colquitt County
Effingham County
Lowndes
Richmond Hill
Tift County
Valdosta

2-AAAAAA (7)

Alexander
Carrollton
Chapel Hill
Douglas County
East Coweta
Paulding County
Westlake

3-AAAAAA (7)

Campbell
Harrison
Hillgrove
McEachern
Osborne
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 (60)

(* Schools Not Playing Football)

1-AAAAA (8)

Bradwell Institute
Brunswick
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 (7)

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 (8)

Alcovy
Apalachee
Clarke Central
Eastside
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)

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

3-AAAA (7)

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

4-AAAA (7)

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

5-AAAA (8)

Clarkston
Cross Keys
Druid Hills
Lithonia
Marist
Southwest DeKalb
St. Pius X
Tucker

6-AAAA (9)

Blessed Trinity
Cambridge
Centennial
Holy Innocents'
Kell
North Springs
Northview
Pace Academy
Westminster

7-AAAA (8)

Allatoona
Cartersville
Cass
Cedartown
Dalton
Hiram
Southeast Whitfield
Woodland, Cartersville

8-AAAA (6)

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

Region Alignment for 2024-2026

AAA (62)

(* 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)

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

4-AAA (8)

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
Gilmer
Greater Atlanta Christian
Lumpkin County
North Hall
Pickens
White County

7-AAA (6)

Adairsville
Calhoun
Heritage, Catoosa
LaFayette
Northwest Whitfield
Ridgeland

8-AAA (7)

Cherokee Bluff
East Hall
Jefferson
Johnson, Gainesville
Monroe Area
Oconee County
West Hall

Region Alignment for 2024-2026

AA (57)

(* 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
KIPP Atlanta Collegiate
Lovett
North Cobb Christian
Therrell
Washington

6-AA (6)

Columbia
Drew Charter School*
Miller Grove
Redan
Salem
South Atlanta

7-AA (7)

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

8-AA (7)

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

Region Alignment for 2024-2026

A Division I (80)

(* Schools Not Playing Football)

1-A Division I (8)

Bacon County
Berrien
Brantley County
Dodge County
Fitzgerald
Jeff Davis
Thomasville
Worth County

2-A Division I (10)

ACE Charter
Aquinas
Bleckley County
Central, Macon
Dublin
East Laurens
Jefferson County
Northeast
Southwest
Washington County

3-A Division I (8)

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

4-A Division I (11)

Greenforest Christian*
Jasper County
Lamar County
Landmark Christian
McNair
Putnam County
Social Circle
Southwest Atlanta Christian*
Towers
Utopian Academy
W. D. Mohammed*

5-A Division I (16)

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

6-A Division I (9)

Armuchee
Bremen
Coosa
Darlington
Haralson County
Heard County
Model
Pepperell
Temple

7-A Division I (7)

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

8-A Division I (11)

Athens Academy
Athens Christian
Banks County
Barrow*
Commerce
Elbert County
Oglethorpe County
Providence Christian
Rabun County
Tallulah Falls*
Wesleyan

457 Schools

Region Alignment for 2024-2026

A Division II (78)

(* Schools Not Playing Football)

1-A Division II (14)

Baconton
Baker County*
Calhoun County*
Early County
Miller County
Mitchell County
Pataula Charter
Pelham
Quitman County*
Randolph-Clay
Seminole County
Southwest Georgia STEM*
Stewart County*
Terrell County

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 (11)

Bryan County
Claxton
Emanuel County Institute
Jenkins County
McIntosh County Academy
Metter
Portal
Savannah
Savannah Classical*
Savannah Early College*
Steam Academy*

4-A Division II (8)

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

5-A Division II (10)

Elite Scholars Academy*
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 (9)

Central, Talbotton
Chattahoochee County
Furlow Charter*
Macon County
Marion County
Rainey-McCullers*
Schley County
Taylor County
Webster County*

7-A Division II (10)

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

8-A Division II (8)

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