

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

RECLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE September 26, 2023

The Reclassification Committee of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 10:00 a.m., on September 26, 2023, at the GHSA office in Thomaston, Georgia, by Jim Finch, President, to continue discussions for the 2024-26 reclass cycle.

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	Bobby Brewington	Jesse Crews	Don Norton	
Steven Craft	Jeff Battles	Kevin Petroski		

NEW BUSINESS

President Finch turned the meeting over to committee chair Miller, who called upon Norton to present a proposal he brought with him.

Norton then handed out a **proposal** that read as follows: "Class A D2 shall consist of the smallest (approximately 50) football playing public schools. Maximum enrollment, including multiplier, for Class A D2 will fall within the natural cutoff of approximately 450-475 students. Non-football playing public schools that classify as Class A D2 will be placed in Class A D2 regions."

Much discussion ensued. Several members of the committee pointed out that pushing the private schools out of Division 2 would result in them competing in Division 1, which would make it even more competitive than it is now.

The discussion turned to the dominance of private schools in all classes this past school year. Several members of the audience echoed this view, saying that private schools actually won more state titles last school year than the previous year.

"The multiplier has zero impact on the success rate of private schools," said Miller. "It is time to have a serious conversation about having different playoffs for private and public schools. I want them to be together during the regular season in regions to help with travel and scheduling, but then split the playoffs."

Petroski said such a model would solve problems for the public schools, but would be unfair to the private schools. "The only way to solve the problem for all schools is with a competitive balance model," he said.

Several members of the committee expressed interest in such a model, while others pointed out the problems that would be encountered if individual schools were placed in different classifications and regions by sport, depending on their success in those sports.

"One of the problems I had with competitive balance when it was brought up two years ago," said Craft, "is that you could have a school with a dominant boys basketball team, but a mediocre girls team and the girls team would be brought up to a higher classification because of the boys success. I think that would be an immediate Title IV problem."

Brewington suggested forming a committee to study how other states handled competitive balance models, which met with some approval from other committee members.

Executive Director Robin Hines then commented, "Competitive balance is easier to talk about than it is to do. But we will implement whatever you tell us to."

The discussion returned to Norton's original proposal (see above) and Waters made a **motion** to approve the proposal. Thompson seconded and the committee voted to **approve the proposal 15-2**, which Petroski and Ricketts voting no.

Battles then introduced a plan to split the playoffs in Classes A-Div. 1 through 3-A, with the private schools in those three classes combining into a single championship bracket while the public schools would play for championships in A-Div. 1, A-Div. 2, 2A and 3A. The regular season would be contested in regions of both public and private schools as normal. Miller made a **motion** to adopt the plan, but Petroski and Ricketts urged the committee to hold off on such a proposal until the full ramifications could be studied further.

Miller then made a **motion** to table the proposal, Crews seconded and the committee unanimously voted to table it.

The committee then discussed the increasing number of career academies around the state and how they affect a school's reclassification enrollment number. It was agreed that, if the students attending a career academy were eligible to represent their home schools in extra curricular activities, they should be counted in the enrollment number.

Miller reminded the committee that the next meeting would be Sunday, Oct. 1 at 3:00 p.m., as part of the Fall meeting of the State Executive Committee in Macon.

Jewell then made a **motion** to adjourn, Crews seconded, and it passed unanimously.