

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

RECLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE September 7, 2023

The Reclassification Committee of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 11:00 a.m., on September 7, 2023, at the GHSA office in Thomaston, Georgia, by Jim Finch, President, to begin discussions for the 2024-26 reclass cycle.

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 - 1 (shown by "A" below)

Kirk Barton	Garrett Black	Jasper Jewell - A	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 started the meeting by calling for nominations to chair the committee. Crews nominated Curt Miller, Craft seconded and there were no other nominations. Miller was reelected as chair unanimously.

Miller then called upon Executive Director Robin Hines who reminded the committee of the reclassification rules previously adopted by the State Executive Committee at the April 11, 2022 meeting, specifically that there will be a reduction from seven classes to six, and that students entering the feeder school of a member high school in grades K-5 would be exempted from any multiplier applied to out-of-district students for the purposes of reclassification. Also that member private and charter schools would be allowed to select a public school attendance zone within their county of residence that best reflects their student population for reclassification purposes only (not for student transfer eligibility). Hines added that the goal of going to six classes was to help with school travel.

Hines then called upon Associate Director Don Corr, who distributed some proposed percentages for dividing the classes (see attachment). Much discussion ensued and questions were asked about adding more schools to the top class, and to the bottom class.

Norton asked the committee to remember that the challenges faced by smaller schools in Division 2 of Class A were different from those faced by schools in larger classifications and that putting larger schools into Division 2 would be a hardship on the smaller schools. "It's tough - there is no perfect solution," said Norton. "But I would just ask the committee to try to leave Division 2 as close to what we have now as possible."

Several members of the committee mentioned that private schools were still very successful despite being forced up in class by the multiplier. Finch said that he had been presented with ideas that would have all the private schools placed into the top 2-3 classes with none competing below 4A. But Petroski commented that idea would result in some small private schools with 200-300 students having to compete with schools 4-5 times that size, which he called ridiculous and even unsafe.

The discussion then turned to the current 3.0 multiplier. Several committee members pointed out that the impact of the multiplier will likely be lessened by the new rule exempting students who entered in K-5 grades, and by allowing private schools to choose an attendance zone where more of their students reside.

So Miller made a **motion** to keep the multiplier at 3.0, Craft seconded the motion, and it was unanimously **approved**.

The committee then voted to receive the classification percentages handed out by Corr as information, and agreed to vote on them when the committee meets again on Oct. 1 as part of the Fall State Executive Committee meeting in Macon.

Hines reminded the committee and the visitors of the reclassification procedures outlined in the GHSA Constitution and the fact everything coming out of the Reclassification Committee are only proposals that will ultimately have to be ratified by the full State Executive Committee.

Corr reminded everyone that each school's out-of-district numbers and private school attendance numbers are due to the GHSA office by October 15 with FTE numbers expected sometime in early November. Hines said he hoped to have reclassification finished before the Christmas break.

Craft then made a **motion** to adjourn, Thompson seconded, and it passed unanimously.

PROPOSED CHANGES IN RED

- 4.23 The membership of the Association shall be divided into ~~seven~~ **six (76)** classifications as follows:
- (a) Schools will be placed in classifications (according to their Reclassification Student Count) as follows:
- (1) Class ~~76A~~: Largest ~~10~~ **14%** (approximately) of schools. Note: Schools may opt to play up into ~~7A6A~~, ~~but no school may move down.~~
 - (2) Class A ~~Public/Private~~: Smallest **26%** (approximately) of schools. Note: Non-football playing schools will NOT be counted when calculating the schools being placed in Class A. They will be placed in appropriate regions later.
 - (3) The remaining schools (after ~~76A~~ and Class A are populated) will be divided into ~~five~~ **four (54)** approximately equal classifications (2A through ~~65A~~) with ~~19-21~~ **24-26%** in each class at the discretion of the Reclassification Committee.
 - (4) When schools opt to move up in classification, only the exact number of schools at the bottom of the next class will be given the option to come down. If any of those schools opt not to come down, the GHSA office will not look further to larger schools in that class. ~~Exceptions: No school can move down from 7A; no school may move down into Class A; and there will be no corresponding movement down should a school opt to play up more than one class above its original classification.~~
 - (5) The Reclassification Committee will assign **all classifications into regions. NOTE: Class Class A Public will be divided into two (2) divisions and each division will be assigned into regions** ~~schools into regions and Class A Private schools into separate regions.~~

NOTE: The above changes would result in the following approximate number of schools per class:

6A – 64 schools

5A – 60 schools

4A – 60 schools

3A – 60 schools

2A – 60 schools

1A, Div. 1 – 60 football playing schools

1A, Div. 2 – 60 football playing schools