

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
Thomaston, Georgia 30286

MINUTES

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
March 19, 2007

The semiannual meeting of the Executive Committee of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on March 19, 2007, at the Holiday Inn, Forsyth, Georgia, by Dr. Gary Holmes, President.

The invocation was given by Dr. Ralph Swearngin, Executive Director.

Roll call by Joyce Kay, Associate Director, showed the following:

Present : 47 Absent: 3 - Robert Davis, Mark Chanell, Lynda Martin

Wes Taylor	Ed Pilcher	Wayne Tootle	Jarrett Luke	Robert Douberly	Raynette Evans
Fred Price	Mike Davis	Anthony Dimitri	Jesse Crews	Britt Ingle	Stuart Bennett
Earl Etheridge	Craig Davis	Wade Marchman	Molly Howard	Mike Carswell	Don Rooks
Danny Cronic	Ronnie Smith	Rodney Walker	Sam Barrs	Rusty Tondee	Randall Edmunds
Donnie Griggers	Ron Sebree	Charlie Henderson	Glenn Tidwell	Daniel Dorsel	Veta New
Leonard Jones	Alan Long	Randy Patterson	Rob Weltz	Chuck Taylor	Ray Broadaway
Gary Long	Tommy Stringer	Mark Coleman	Glenn White	Larry Campbell	Lucia Norwood
Dave Hunter			Terry Rogers	Donnie Drew	Gary Holmes
					Walter Wade

Guests Included:

- Alan Connell, GHSA Attorney
- Justin Connell, Attorney
- Skip Yow, GHSA Legislative Liaison
- Alan Sharp, GHSA Marketing Consultant
- Jerry Cauley, AD, Forsyth Central High School
- Jonathan Heeter, *Macon Telegraph*
- Robert Spruck, *Columbus Ledger*
- Craig Peters, *Athens Banner-Herald*
- John Koon, *gasports.com*
- Todd Holcomb, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Ralph Swearngin introduced Marty Myers of the Georgia Electric Membership Corporation, who gave an update on the "Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award," which is the award given to the Region Sportsmanship winners in partnership with the GHSA to encourage good sportsmanship. It is hoped that in this second year of the program there will be 100% participation by the Regions.

Motion was made, seconded, and approved to go into Executive Session to hear student eligibility cases. NOTE: Presentation of appeals were made while in Executive Session; all votes were taken while not in Executive Session. For clarity, the outcome of each vote is given after the statement of presentation.

Dr. Quimby Melton, Principal Griffin High School, presented an appeal to the Committee for a waiver of the eight semester rule for student, David Murphy.

Motion by by Donnie Griggers, second by Lucia Norwood, to approve

Motion Failed Show of Hands: Yes - 13; No - 29

Fred Wheeler, Athletic Director Creekside High School, presented an appeal to the Committee for a waiver of the academic rule and eight-semester rule for student, Edwin Barboza

Motion by Ed Pilcher, second by Lucia Norwood, to deny the appeal.

Motion Passed to Deny (voice vote)

Ralph Simpson, Principal Miller Grove High School, presented an appeal to the Committee for a waiver of the eight-semester rule for student, Lyndon Lamott.

Motion by Dave Hunter, second by Lucia Norwood, to approve the appeal.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

Rob Brown, Principal Alexander High School, presented an appeal to the Committee for a waiver of the over age rule for student, Lawrence Anuforo.

Motion by Glenn White, second by Lucia Norwood, to deny the appeal.

Motion Passed to Deny (voice vote)

Doug Dakin, Soccer Coach at Stone Mountain High School, presented an appeal to the Committee for a waiver of the over age and eight-semester rule for student, Yaovi Toudeka.

Motion by Charlie Henderson, second by Glenn White, to deny the appeal.

Motion Passed to Deny (voice vote)

Erik Fridborg, Soccer Coach at North Cobb High School, presented an appeal to the Committee for a waiver of the over age rule for student, Alain Compoare.

Motion by Donnie Griggers, second by Molly Howard, to approve the appeal.

Motion Failed (voice vote)

Motion was made, seconded, and approved to come out of Executive Session.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Report presented by Wayne Tootle

The Committee recommended:

Change wording in By-Laws 1.41b and 2.21, to allow a nurse practitioner to conduct physical exams.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

Add new By-Law 2.93 (and renumber existing) to read: " All championship contests that end in a tie will have that tie resolved by means of the procedures that are used to resolve ties in preceding rounds of the playoffs." (Note: Remove references to "co-championships" on page 65D and page 73(c).

Motion Passed Roll Call #1 - Yes - 25; No - 21 Pass - 1 Absent - 3

Yes: Taylor, Price, Griggers, Jones, G. Long, Hunter, M. Davis, C. Davis, Smith, Sebree, Stringer, Tootle, Dimitri, Marchman, Patterson, Coleman, Howard, Tidwell, Weltz, Dorsel, Taylor, Drew, Bennett, Rooks, Edmunds

No: Etheridge, Cronin, Pilcher, A. Long, Walker, Henderson, Luke, Crews, Barrs, White, Rogers, Douberly, Ingle, Carswell, Tondee, Campbell, Evans, New, Broadway, Norwood, Wade
 Pass: Holmes

Constitution Amendment to Article IV, Section 4 C, to delete appeals in regard to the age rule and to add new paragraph D to read: "There shall be no appeal of eligibility related to age restrictions set forth in the By-Laws." (Note: Delete references to age in Article IV, Section 4, paragraphs C., Section 5, paragraphs B and D)

Motion Passed (voice vote) CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE - REQUIRES 2ND VOTE

Add new By-Law 2.62e to read:

"One interscholastic scrimmage is allowed in the sports of Baseball, Basketball, Football, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, and Volleyball.

- (a) This scrimmage may be scheduled anytime between the beginning of practice as set by the GHSA and the first regular-season game for each team.
- (b) This scrimmage is for varsity teams only, and shall be played with normal timing and/or scoring rules.
- (c) Officials shall be used for all scrimmages, and shall be paid normal game fees."

(Note: Notations about scrimmages and jamborees to be edited in the individual sport sections.)

Motion Passed (voice vote)

The GHSA Executive Director make inquiries to convene a task force involving representatives from the Superintendents' Association, the School Boards Association, and Georgia Emergency Management Agency to review procedures for curtailing activities in emergency situations. The outcomes from that meeting will be presented to the GHSA Executive Committee in August, 2007.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

Add new By-Law 2.62 d (reletter existing d) to read: "When member schools compete out-of-state, the host state's adaptations of NFHS playing rules will be enforced, and all GHSA by-laws regarding sportsmanship, eligibility, and playing times will be enforced.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

Motion to approve the 2007-08 GHSA budget.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

The Board of Trustees received the following as information:

1. Concerns about the need to expand the dead week to two weeks.
2. Concerns about not allowing GHSA members to play non-member schools in sports sanctioned by the GHSA.

BASKETBALL COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Charlie Henderson

The Committee recommended:

That the host school provide dressing areas for visiting teams in close proximity to the playing floor. Game managers, in conjunction with officials, will determine if halftime will be extended to 15 minutes based on the location of the visiting dressing room.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

First and second round playoff games be played at the site of the higher seed. Quarterfinal games will be played at a central site like the Sectional Tournaments have been played in the past.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

The Committee denied the following:

1. To restore the conditioning week for basketball
2. An automatic extension of halftime intermission

CALENDAR COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Mark Coleman

The Committee recommended:

Approval of the proposed GHSA Calendars for 2007-08 and 2008-09

Motion Passed (voice vote)

The Committee received as information:

1. Concerns about 3 fall championships being on the same day
2. Concerns about region literary meets conflicting with SAT dates

ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Glenn White

The Committee recommended:

Add new By-Law 2.37 to read: "Requests to investigate a student's eligibility in regard to the transfer rule must be filed with the GHSA office at least 20 calendar days before the end of the regular season in order for any penalties to be applied before the end of the playoffs.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

Change By-Law 1.52(a1) to read:

- (1) Summer school course is an extension of the previous semester and courses taken may be:
 - a. Remedial course in which a previously taken course is repeated in its entirety with a new grade being given.
 - b. Enrichment course that has not been taken previously by the student, resulting in new credits being earned.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

Add "Note" to By-Law 1.52 (a2) to read: NOTE: Additional credits may be earned in credit recovery programs or make-up programs."

Motion Passed (voice vote)

Change By-Law 1.58 to read:

Credit Recovery/Make-up Work: Students who have academic deficiencies at the end of a semester may make up those deficiencies in programs that are available to any student in the school.

- (a) Credit recovery programs are short-term programs that involve a course that has been completed and a grade given. The student is given the opportunity to work on areas of deficiency.
- (b) Make-up programs occur when a course has not been completed and an "Incomplete" grade has been given. The student is given the opportunity to work on areas of deficiency.

- (c) Credit recovery and make-up work must be completed within fourteen (14) school days after the start of the next semester. The student is ineligible until such time as the work is completed and the required passing grade has been recorded.
- (d) [wording remains the same]
- (e) [wording remains the same]
- (f) Eligibility submitted for credit recovery work or make-up work must be submitted on FORM C.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

Add note to By-Law 2.63e to read: NOTE: In individual sports such as Gymnastics, Wrestling, Swimming & Diving, Track & Field, etc., the ineligible athlete forfeits all of his/her points and the team scores are adjusted accordingly.

Motion Failed Show of Hands: Yes - 20 No - 24

The Committee received as information:

1. The development of the "Georgia Early College Initiative" may impact current GHSA eligibility rules.
2. A number of educational innovations are arising that will need to be watched for their impact on GHSA academic and transfer eligibility rules.

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Earl Etheridge

The Committee recommended:

Revise Section A, page 64, to establish the following procedures:

Beginning with the 2008 season, championship games will be played at the Georgia Dome with AA and AAAA games being played on Friday and A, AAA, and AAAAA games being played on Saturday. Standards and procedures for hosting privileges that were previously used for championship games will be utilized for the quarterfinal and semifinal games. Championship games will be played on the second weekend in December.

Motion Passed (voice vote - unanimously)

Remove stadium standards required to host a playoff game for the first and second rounds (page 65, E).

Motion Passed (voice vote)

Both teams to receive mileage reimbursement when playoff games are played at a neutral site.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

The Committee tabled the following items until the August 2007 Meeting:

1. Page 65, E1a, add: Exception: Each theatre style seat (back and arm rests) will count as one seat regardless of the width of the seat.
2. Page 65, E1c note, add at the end of the passage: "For the AAAAA Championship game, the seating capacity must be 8,000 seats."

Passed to Table (voice vote)

The Committee denied the following:

1. Defending state champions would host quarterfinal or final games if tied in seeding with their opponents.
2. Revise the hosting procedures for quarterfinal and final games by still having a coin toss when the teams are tied in seeding and one school does not have a stadium that meets the standards.
3. Remove the February 1st starting date restriction for spring practice and allow each school system to set its date.

GOLF COMMITTEE: Report presented by Jesse Crews

The Committee recommended:

Allow 9-hole matches to count as half-a-match in the season allotment through the month of March since daylight savings time has been expanded.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

The Committee requested the GHSA office to look into the possibility of developing rules clinics for golf coaches.

The Committee clarified the rule that two (2) golf coaches may talk with their golfers between holes as long as there is no delay in the pace of play.

The Committee denied the following:

1. Expand the field of golfers for the State Tournament to the top four medalists in the region tournament.
2. Expand the Class AAAA Golf Tournament (boys and girls) to 36 holes.
3. Expand the Class AAA Golf Tournament (boys only) to 36 holes.
4. Allow 9-hole matches to be scheduled throughout the season that count as half-a-match in the season allotment.

LITERARY COMMITTEE: Report presented by Glenn Tidwell

The Committee recommended:

Create a Literary Advisory Committee to the GHSA Executive Committee for literary events and to assist in determining the possibility of another agency administering the literary events.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

Allow each region to set its date for Region Literary competition with a deadline date for completion.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

The Committee denied the following:

1. The proposed change in essay competition format.
2. Assign Region Literary Coordinators in each Region.

OFFICIALS COMMITTEE: Report presented by Earl Etheridge

The Committee recommended:

Approval of the following plan for officials travel pay:

- A. During all regular season and region/area playoff games prior to the 1st round of the State Tournament, officials' associations will be paid travel fees as follows:
 1. Single official contests: \$15.00
 2. Crew of two contests: \$20.00
 3. Crew of three contests: \$25.00
 4. Add \$5.00 per official for contests requiring more than three officials
- B. The fee is neither optional nor negotiable.
- C. The fee is based on a "per crew/per competition day" assessment

- D. The respective officials' associations will distribute the funds in accordance within their association policies and procedures.
- E. Football and Cheerleading are exempt from the travel fee assessment.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

The GHSA to honor identification cards from the Georgia Athletic Officials Association for entry into GHSA events.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

Officials Associations will be assigned to member schools based on criteria designed by the GHSA office consistent for all Regions.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

RECLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Earl Etheridge

The Committee recommended:

Amending the Constitution as follows:

Article 3, Section 2, A: The membership of the Association shall be divided into five (5) classifications as follows:

- (1) Schools with an F.T.E. count of 1850 and above will be placed in Class AAAAA.
- (2) Schools with an F.T.E. count of 525 or less will be placed in Class A.
- (3) The remaining schools will be divided evenly into Classes AAAA, AAA, and AA.
- (4) Schools with the same F.T.E. count separated by a percentage break point will be placed in the higher classification.
- (5) For Class A there will be a separate region alignment for football in addition to the alignment used for all other sports.

Motion Passed (voice vote) CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE - REQUIRES 2ND VOTE

The Committee denied the following:

1. Expand to six classifications with an equal percentage of schools in each class.
2. Divide the classes as follows:
 - a. Class A - 100 schools with the smallest FTE counts
 - b. Classes AAAAA, AAAA, AAA, AA - split the remaining schools equally

The Committee received as information:

1. Proposal to have four classifications in the regular season and five classifications in the playoffs.

SOCCKER COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Dave Hunter

The Committee voted to approve a one game preseason scrimmage of regular season game length (approved in the Board of Trustees report).

The Committee withdrew the motion to allow a tryout period beginning the Wednesday before the first date of practice.

The Committee denied the following:

1. To allow a voluntary week of conditioning with a soccer ball.
2. Start the season one week later
3. Develop a point system to determine region standings when games are determined by penalty kicks. (3 points for win in regulation or overtime; 1 point for an overtime loss).

SWIMMING COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Mike Davis

The Committee recommends:

Allow computer-generated Proof of Performance forms approved by the GHSA as well as hand-scored forms to be submitted to the GHSA office.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

Change the reporting method for Diving Proof of Performance.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

The Committee denied the following:

1. Score 20 places for the championship meet
2. Standardize reporting deadlines for diving as for swimming

TRACK/CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Fred Price

The Committee received as information the proposal to score 8 places at the State Meet.

VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Gary Long

The Committee recommended:

A single non-area varsity match scheduled on a night before a school day may use the best-of-five format. All other formats allowed in the GHSA by-laws are unchanged.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

The Committee received as information:

1. Playing times for Sectional Tournaments will be set to avoid playing three matches in consecutive time slots, and to avoid long delays between matches.
2. AA/A Sectional Tournaments will be played in the Savannah area.

WRESTLING COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Dave Hunter

The Committee recommended:

Require written contracts for all wrestling competitions between member schools in a dual format.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

All contestants may engage in legal weight loss activities on site until weigh-ins begin. Once weigh-ins begin, activities that promote weight loss/dehydration are prohibited. Contestants shall not leave the designated weigh-in area unless permission is granted by the school administrator or meet director.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

Delete item G. page 92 that states teams may not conduct or enter a dual meet tournament after the school is eliminated from post-season team dual competition, whether at the Area tournament or the State Tournament.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Ralph Swearngin, Executive Director, commended the Executive Committee members for their work on the Committee and also those who volunteer at GHSA playoff events.

Dr. Swearngin discussed the current financial status of the GHSA. There has been a distribution of almost \$1,000,000 back to member schools competing in cheerleading and football this year. There was also discussion on the Community Coach Program and the new GHSA website design which will have emphasis next year on sportsmanship.

The Director mentioned two areas of concern:

1. Schools dropping out of competition in some events after scheduling has been completed or after the season has begun.
2. Ejections continue to be on the rise, especially in the sport of soccer.

Dr. Swearngin called on the following for a report:

Skip Yow, the GHSA Legislative Liaison, updated the Committee on Legislative actions that could affect the GHSA.

Alan Sharp, GHSA Marketing Director, updated the Committee on the GHSA Marketing Program that continues to enhance the GHSA brand.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Dave Hunter, second by Donnie Griggers, to adopt a policy that the penalties for participation of an ineligible student be the same for all sports.

Motion Passed Show of Hands: Yes - 25 No - 17 (tabled in following motion)

Motion by Jesse Crews, second by Rob Weltz, to reconsider the motion and table for further study and presentation at the August 2007 meeting.

Motion Passed to Table (voice vote)

Motion by Fred Price, second by Earl Etheridge, to begin issuing GHSA passes to Community Coaches beginning in 2007-08.

Motion Passed Roll Call Vote #2 Yes - 26 No - 19

Yes: Price, Cronin, Griggers, Jones, G. Long, Hunter, M. Davis, C. Davis, Smith, A. Long, Luke, Howard, Barrs, Weltz, White, Ingle, Carswell, Tondee, Dorsel, Taylor, Evans, Rooks, Edmunds, New, Broadaway, Wade

No: Taylor, Etheridge, Pilcher, Sebree, Stringer, Tootle, Dimitri, Marchman, Walker, Henderson, Patterson, Coleman, Crews, Tidwell, Rogers, Douberly, Drew, Norwood, Holmes

Motion by Ray Broadaway, second by Terry Rogers, to have the Football Committee study the tie-breaker method currently used for Football for a report at the August 2007 meeting.

Motion Passed to Study (voice vote)

Motion by Earl Etheridge, second by Wayne Tootle, to reelect Gary Holmes President and Walter Wade Vice President.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to adjourn.