

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
Thomaston, Georgia 30286

MINUTES

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
August 25, 2008

The semiannual meeting of the State Executive Committee of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on August 25, 2008, at the Holiday Inn Conference Center, 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:

Monday : Present - 49 Absent: 1: Don Rooks

Bud Drew	Robert Davis	Wayne Tootle	Scott Horton	Robert Douberly	Raynette Evans
Fred Price	Jack Webb	Jay Russell	Jesse Crews	Glenn Tidwell	Debbie Ball
Earl Etheridge	George Bailey	Wade Marchman	Sam Barrs	Mike Carswell	Stephen Pruitt
Danny Cronic	Justin White	Rodney Walker	Carror Wright	Gary Couch	Randall Edmunds
Donnie Griggers	Mike Davis	Mark Kelly	Greg Oglesby	Rob Weltz	Veta New
Ed Thayer	Ron Sebree	Alan Long	Dexter Wood	Duane McManus	Ray Broadaway
Gary Long	Charles Wilson	Mark Coleman	Glenn White	DeWayne Cupples	Lucia Norwood
Dave Hunter	Tommy Stringer	Bobby McAllister	Terry Rogers	Donnie Drew	Walter Wade
					Gary Holmes

GUESTS PRESENT:

Seth Coleman, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*
Jerry Rutledge, *Columbus Ledger-Enquirer*
Jerry Cauley, Forsyth Central High School
Nathan Turner, North Forsyth High School
Todd Shirley, AD, Forsyth County Schools
Skip Yow, GHSA Legislative Liaison

APPOINTMENTS

Rebecca Watts Hull and Dr. Anne Mellinger-Birdsong, with *Mothers & Others for Clean Air* and the *Air Quality Health Advisory Task Force*, gave a presentation to the Committee requesting the GHSA develop policies with respect to poor air quality and athletics practices. The suggested guidelines and recommendations will be discussed with the GHSA Sports Medicine Advisory Board.

Brian Shulman, Founder and CEO of "Learning Through Sports," presented information to the Committee on his organization and the services he could offer to member schools in literacy standards based instructions and sportsmanship education. Information can be found on website www.learningthroughsports.com.

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Motion was made, seconded, and approved to go into Executive Session to hear student eligibility issues.

North Atlanta High School - Robert Whitman, Athletic Director, presented the appeal for student, Elyas Munye, for a waiver of the eight-semester rule.

Motion by Dave Hunter, second by Jesse Crews, to deny the appeal.

MOTION PASSED TO DENY (voice vote)

North Atlanta High School - Robert Whitman-Athletic Director, and Derrick Stafford-father of the student, presented the appeal for student, Desmond Stafford, for a waiver of the eight-semester rule.

Motion by Raynette Evans, second by Lucia Norwood, to approve the appeal.

MOTION FAILED (voice vote)

Shaw High School - Scott Newman-Athletic Director, Damon Hewitt-NAACP Legal Defense Attorney, Brandon Wood-Football Coach, presented the appeal for student, Robert Bailey, Jr, for a waiver of the eight-semester rule.

Motion by Dave Hunter, second by Jesse Crews, to approve the appeal.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

Butler High School - Galen Phillips-Football Coach, Linda Davis-Mother, Walter Reeves-Principal, presented the appeal for student, Randy Johnson, for a waiver of the eight-semester rule.

Motion by Dave Hunter, second by Sam Barrs, to deny the appeal.

MOTION PASSED TO DENY (voice vote)

Fellowship Christian School - Terry Luck-Athletic Director, Todd Johnson-Attorney, and student, presented the appeal for Jonathan Duffner, for a waiver of the migratory rule.

Motion by Mike Carswell, second by Lucia Norwood, to deny the appeal.

MOTION PASSED TO DENY (voice vote)

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

NOTE: Presentations were made in Executive Session; all votes were taken while not in Executive Session. For clarity, outcome of vote is given after each statement of presentation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Report presented by Wayne Tootle.

The Committee recommended:

(1) Constitutional Amendment: Modify the guidelines for reclassification by placing general provisions in Article 3 of the Constitution, and specific procedures in the 4.00 section of by By-Laws.

Article 3: Section 2 (New wording - Delete current Sections 2-9 -To be effective 2010)

The Reclassification Committee of the GHSA Executive Committee shall place member schools in classifications and regions based on student F.T.E. figures and geographic proximity respectively.

(a) Member schools will be realigned every four years, and may be adjusted at the end of the second

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- year for schools whose student population growth creates unfair advantages or disadvantages.
- (b) The number of classifications and the number of regions will be determined by the Reclassification Committee at the time of each realignment.
 - (c) The realignment plan of the Reclassification Committee shall be ratified by a simple majority of the full Executive Committee.

(2) Revise By-Law 4.15 - 4.16: This proposal includes information from the current By-Law 4.16 plus material moved from the Constitution. (Note: There is no new information in this revision except the "blanks" that occur in areas where the Reclassification Committee has latitude to make adjustments.)

4.15 RECLASSIFICATION (To be effective 2010)

In reclassification years, the Executive Director shall secure the F.T.E. count of member schools for students in grade 9-12, and shall assign each school to a classification for a _____-year period. Each member shall be notified of its proposed classification.

- (a) Classification of public schools shall be based on F.T.E. numbers (active enrollment) using the average counts for Grades 9-12 received from the Department of Education for semester #2 and semester #3 of the current reclassification cycle. Realignment for the 2010-2011 and _____ school years shall be based on the reports of the spring 2009 and the fall 2009 semesters.
- (b) Classification of private schools shall be based on the enrollment information furnished by schools for Grades 9-12 for the third semester of the current reclassification cycle.
- (c) Unless a school has at least 35% of its student enrollment of each gender, it will be considered a single-gender school. Single-gender schools shall double their F.T.E. counts for use in reclassification.
- (d) New schools will be assigned classification based on projected system F.T.E. counts.
 - (1) Where a new school has 9th and 10th grades only, projected figures for Grades 7-8 in feeder schools will apply.
 - (2) Where a school has 9th grade only, projected figures for Grades 6-7-8 in feeder schools will apply.
- (e) Where a member school will lose students due to the opening of a new school or the consolidation of other schools, the school will be assigned classification based on the projected system F.T.E. count for the applicable grades.
- (f) Whenever a new member school is created either through its establishment or through consolidation of two or more schools, the Superintendent shall file a report with the GHSA office that projects the enrollment for that school for the next three years. In the event that the school exceeds that projection by more than 20%, the school will be required to play a non-region schedule.

4.16 The membership of the Association shall be divided into _____ classifications as follows:

- (a) Schools with an F.T.E. count of 1,850 or more will be placed in Class AAAAA.
- (b) Schools with an F.T.E. Count of 525 or less will be placed in Class A.
- (c) The remaining schools will be divided evenly into Classes AAAA, AAA, and AA.
- (d) Schools with the same F.T.E. count separated by a classification break point will be placed in the higher classification.
- (e) For Class A there will be one region alignment for football and a separate region alignment for all other sports.
- (f) Each classification will have _____ regions unless otherwise needed.

4.17 When the membership is divided into classifications as called for by the GHSA Constitution, the following timetable will be used:

- (a) The two F.T.E. Counts for public schools will be averaged by the GHSA staff, and the staff will compile enrollment counts from private schools and system projections for new schools and other schools affected by that opening.
- (b) Member schools will receive a listing of student population counts for their verification. When there is a major discrepancy between the school's enrollment count and the count determined

- by the GHSA staff, the school may appeal to the Executive Director to reconsider the count.
- (c) When enrollment figures have been verified, schools will be placed in the proper classification and the schools will have fourteen (14) days to file a request to play at a higher classification.
 - (1) A request to move to a higher classification must be submitted over the signature of the school's administrative authorities, i.e., the Principal and Superintendent.
 - (2) A school that transfers to a higher classification must remain in the higher classification until schools are next reclassified on a statewide basis.
 - (d) The Reclassification Committee will meet in the month of November to place schools in regions and sub-regions. The decisions of the Reclassification Committee will be sent to the member schools after that meeting.
 - (1) There will be a mandatory subdivision by the Reclassification Committee of each region with twelve (12) or more schools. (Exception: Cheerleading)
 - (2) The Reclassification Committee may subdivide a region consisting of less than twelve schools if there is an extremely large geographic area within that region.
 - (3) If the region has less than twelve teams, the region has the option of subdividing if it chooses and that decision will be made on the basis of a simple majority vote.
 - (4) For football only, subdivided regions may choose to play a full region schedule by a simple majority vote. If the region vote is tied, the issue will be forwarded to the GHSA Reclassification Committee for resolution.
 - (5) For football only, the Reclassification Committee will require crossover games between teams in the sub-regions to guarantee a minimum of 70% of the season schedule, unless all schools can complete their schedules without using crossover games.
 - (6) For all other sports, subdivided regions must guarantee member schools a minimum number of contests within the region equal to 50% of the season schedule.
 - (e) Following the initial placement of schools into regions, each new region shall meet to audit the population numbers of its member schools.
 - (1) If the numbers are accurate, a written notice of approval shall be sent to the GHSA office.
 - (2) If there are discrepancies in the numbers, a written notice shall be sent to the GHSA office asking the Reclassification Committee to hear the appeal at the meeting that is scheduled to hear appeals for lateral transfers.
 - (f) Member schools will have fourteen (14) days to appeal to the Reclassification Committee in order to request a lateral move to another region.
 - (1) A request to have a lateral transfer must be submitted over the signature of the school's administrative authorities, i.e., the Principal and Superintendent.
 - (2) This appeal will be heard in December and representatives from both regions shall be notified of the appeal, and may attend the meeting to voice their approval or state their concerns about such a move.
 - (3) A school that receives a lateral transfer must remain in that region until schools are next reclassified on a statewide bases.
 - (4) The decisions made by the Reclassification Committee will produce the alignment that will be presented to the full Executive Committee.
 - (g) At a specially-called meeting in January, the Executive Committee shall hear any appeals from members who were denied lateral transfers by the Reclassification Committee. Representatives from both regions involved in the appeal shall be notified, and may voice their approval or state their concerns about the appeal.
 - (h) Member schools may begin scheduling contests for the new reclassification cycle as soon as the final vote has been taken, the membership notified, and any region subdivisions finalized.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote) Note: Constitutional Change - will require 2nd vote

(3) Constitutional Amendment: Article IV, Section 2, "B" and "C", change to read:

B. Terms of office for members of the State Executive Committee elected by Regions shall coincide with the length of each reclassification cycle. (effective with 2010-11 school year)

Delete "C"

MOTION PASSED (voice vote) Note: Constitutional Change - will require 2nd vote

(4) International competitions - change 2.62 (a) as follows:

2.62(a) Member schools shall compete only against other member schools or against schools who are affiliated with the State Association in their respective states. When competing internationally, member schools may compete only against school teams in that nation that are composed of students of similar ages. International exhibition competitions or scrimmages are not allowed. (retain the existing note)

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

(5) The Trustees voted to accept the 2007-08 GHSA Financial Report and Audit Report. These reports presented and approved in the Executive Director's Report.

Voted to Deny:

A proposal to modify the playoff brackets that had a "North Georgia" and a "South Georgia" representative for the championship contest.

The Board of Trustees received as information:

A suggestion to add the Director of GAEL to the Executive Committee

CALENDAR COMMITTEE: Report presented by Donnie Griggers

The Committee denied the proposal to expand the 2009 Soccer season by three weeks.

The Committee received as information:

1. Concerns about Lacrosse only having two weeks of preseason practice
2. Concerns about the overlap between the Fall, Winter, and Spring seasons

COACHES COMMITTEE: Report presented by Fred Price

The Committee recommended:

Add at the end of By-Law 2.69 (b): "Exception: In a situation in which the child or step-child of the coach is the only player on the non-school team from the coach's school, the coach would be exempted from this rule." (Rationale: This allows a high school coach to be a parent-coach of a non-school team.)

Effective Immediately.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

The Committee voted to table a proposal to modify the rule about high school coaches coaching middle school volleyball teams in the spring, and recommended the GHSA conduct a comprehensive review of rules affecting participation of eighth grade students.

MOTION PASSED TO TABLE (voice vote)

The Committee voted to deny the proposal to give GHSA passes to academic coaches.

ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE: Report presented by Glenn White

The Committee recommended:

In response to the policy of the State Board of Education concerning units needed for graduation, the GHSA shall raise its eligibility standards as follows:

Make the following changes to By-Law 1.53:

Second year students must have accumulated 5 Carnegie units in order to be eligible.

Third year students must have accumulated 11 Carnegie units in order to be eligible.

Fourth year students must have accumulated 17 Carnegie units in order to be eligible.

Note: Implementation date to be determined.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

Add new By-Law 1.62 (m): Students entering a school as an "unaccompanied youth" under the conditions of the McKinney-Vento Act must go through the hardship appeal process to become eligible for GHSA interscholastic competitions.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

Change By-Law 2.41 to read: Member schools shall prohibit participation in interscholastic activities by any student who was retained in grade 8 for competitive purposes. The governing body of each school system shall develop a written policy showing that the system does not allow retention for competitive purposes [See State Board Policy 160-5-1-.19; IDE(2)]

Delete the current 2.42, 2.43, 2.44, 2.45

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

Develop a special form to be used in a hardship appeal involving the transfer rule for the sending school to submit information about the case. The form will be found on the GHSA website.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

The Committee received as information:

1. Concerns about the number of credits allowed during the summer and the lack of definition for "independent study course."
2. Concerns about determining when a students in non-traditional programs begin ninth grade.

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE: Report presented by Earl Etheridge.

The Committee recommended:

1. Playoff ticket prices for 2008:

First & Second Rounds:	\$ 8.00
Third Round:	\$10.00
Semifinals:	\$12.00
Championships Games -	
Presale at Schools:	\$15.00
Ticketmaster & at Gate:	\$20.00

2. Revenue and Expenses for Championship Games at the Dome -
 [Pro-rated scale of AAAAA - 27%, AAAA - 23%, AAA - 20%, AA - 17%, A - 13%]
 Gross Revenue from Friday and Saturday to be combined
 Less expenses:
 12% to GHSA
 Dome Rent - \$10,000 per classification
 Officiating Fees (\$945 per game)
 Pro-rated Dome expenses
 Mileage payments to each team
 Net Revenue to be distributed to teams using the pro-rated scale
MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

On page 67, G. 2., insert the wording: "A student may participate in spring practice at one school only."
Effective Immediately
MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

On page 69, C. 4., add new (b) to read: "If one team has not beaten all other tied teams, the school with the higher percentage of wins against the tied teams will have the higher seed. If the percentages leave two or more teams still tied, then revert to head-to-head records." **Effective Immediately.**
 Re-letter the existing (b) and (c)
MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

The Committee voted to table the proposal to allow member schools to use shoulder pads and helmets during the summer for drills and passing league games and that there would be no "eleven against eleven" scrimmages.
MOTION PASSED TO TABLE (voice vote) See New Business for a vote on this issue

GOLF COMMITTEE: Report presented by Jesse Crews
 The Committee recommended:

All State Golf Tournaments shall be 18-hole events. **Effective Immediately**
MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

RECLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE: Report presented by Earl Etheridge
 The Committee recommended:

Establish the following "isolation policy" for reclassification.

4.18 The Executive Director shall have the authority to place a school that is geographically isolated from other members of its region in a different classification in order to resolve difficulties in travel and time out of school.

- (a) A school shall be considered to be isolated if the average distance from that school to all other schools in the region is 100 miles or more one way.
- (b) The decision to place a school in a higher or a lower classification will be based on a combination of travel distances and school population sizes.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

The Committee received as information:

1. Realignment plans that allow schools to minimize travel during the regular season.
2. Information about procedures in other states in regard to giving schools the option to play at a higher classification.

There will be an open forum meeting for school personnel from around the state to discuss reclassification ideas held on January 24, 2009. More information about time, site, and format of the meeting will be sent to all schools when determined.

SOCCKER COMMITTEE: Report presented by Dave Hunter

The Committee recommended:

Revise the "mercy rule" as follows:

1. If a team is 7 or more goals behind at the midpoint of the first half, that will be considered the end of the half, and the teams will play a 20-minute second half.
2. When a team is 10 or more goals behind in the second half, the game will be terminated.

Effective Immediately.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

The Committee denied the following:

1. The proposal to amend the playoff brackets during the playoff games so that there will always be a higher seed host
2. The proposal to give flexibility to schools to schedule their playoff matches
3. The proposal to allow double-headers in the playoffs with a mandated clearing of the stadium between matches
4. The proposal to expand the soccer season by three weeks (denied by the Calendar Committee)
5. The proposal to allow teams to play non-region matches between the end of the regular season and the beginning of the playoffs
6. The proposal to eliminate overtime procedures from regular season matches except for region tournaments held during the regular season.

The Committee tabled the following proposals for study and report at the Spring Meeting:

1. To increase the overtime periods from 5 minutes to 10 minutes and use a sudden-victory format.
2. To implement the cross-over in the second round rather than the third round of the playoff bracket.

MOTION PASSED TO TABLE (voice vote)

TENNIS COMMITTEE: Report presented by Dave Hunter

The Committee recommended:

Make the following changes on page 85, under REGION COMPETITION:

B. Beginning at the region/subregion tournament (based on the integrity of the coach), each coach will submit to the tournament director an official playoff roster (form to be found on GHSA website) listing the singles players as Nos. 1, 2, and 3 and the doubles teams as Nos. 1 and 2, in proper order of ability. This roster will be the lineup used in ALL tournament play thereafter, unless an alternate is used under the restrictions listed below. NOTE: If no region/subregion tournament is held, the lineup must be submitted to the Region Secretary at the end of the regular season and prior to the start of the state tournament.

1. Any attempt to "stack" a lineup or use a player below his/her relative ability level on the team will result in the immediate disqualification of the entire team.

- (a) The best singles players in ability MUST be listed at #1 singles. The player who has played the majority of regular season matches at #1 singles must be listed at that position.
 - (b) No singles players may be listed more than one slot lower or higher than they have played during the regular season. Example: A player who has played even one match at #1 singles during the regular season may not be listed on the playoff roster at #3 singles, or vice-versa.
 - (c) No player who has played more than half of his team's regular season matches at any singles position may be listed as a doubles player on the playoff roster, or vice-versa.
 - (d) A player listed as a singles player on the playoff roster shall not switch over to doubles competitions in any later round, or vice-versa.
2. Designate up to four (4) alternates to be used under the following conditions:
 - (a) Alternates should not be better in ability ANY of the players listed on the playoff roster in the positions of #1, 2, or 3 singles OR #1 or 2 doubles.
 - (b) Alternates may be used in either singles or doubles competitions, but the same player may not be used for both in the same round of competition.
 - (c) No individual alternate may be used more than a total of two (2) times during the cumulative rounds of the sub-region, region, or state tournaments.
 - (d) Substitutions after sub-region or region competition must be made at the lowest level of singles play with all others moving to the higher level of competition. In doubles competition, the coach has the option to place the alternate in the open slot or to place the alternate on the #2 doubles team and move a player from the #2 doubles team to the #1 doubles team, if the original vacancy is on the #1 team. A player may never be used in a position lower than his original position.
 - (e) If the original contestant(s) resumes play, everyone moves back to their original positions listed on the submitted playoff roster.
 3. A serious injury, illness, or suspension MAY warrant a waiver of the anti-stacking restrictions listed above. Such waivers will be considered on a case-by-case basis upon receipt of proper documentation to the GHSA office, including a letter signed by the school's principal.
 4. The objecting school must provide documentation (newspaper articles, scorebooks, or written confirmation from opposing coaches) of any stacking violations.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote) EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

TRACK COMMITTEE: Report presented by Robert Davis

The Committee recommended:

To score eight places at the State Track Meets effective 2009.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ralph Swearngin, Executive Director, welcomed the new members to the Committee and commended the Committee on their good work during the past year.

Dr. Swearngin gave the financial report of the recent audit to the Committee which was approved by the Board of Trustees. Copies of the Audit Report may be requested from the GHSA office.

Motion by Raynette Evans, second by Wayne Tootle to accept and approve the audit report.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

Dr. Swearngin called on Skip Yow, who spoke briefly about the current legislative issues; and Alan Sharp, who gave a report on the growth of the marketing of GHSA and high school sports.

Motion was made, seconded and approved to go into Executive Session in order for the GHSA Attorney, Alan Connell, to discuss litigation issues. After report, motion was made, seconded and approved to come out of Executive Session.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Earl Etheridge, second by Mike Carswell, to add Note on page 66, Section 5-Football, D. 2. to read: "NOTE: Any modification of this equipment rule in summer camps requires the approval of the Executive Director."

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

Motion was made and unanimously approved to adjourn.