

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
Thomaston, Georgia 30286

MINUTES

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
August 27, 2007

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 27, 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:

Monday : Present - 49 Absent: 2: Anthony Dimitri, Ray Broadaway

Wes Taylor	Ed Pilcher	Wayne Tootle	Scott Horton	Robert Douberly	Raynette Evans
Fred Price	Mike Davis	Wade Marchman	Jesse Crews	Britt Ingle	Lynda Martin
Earl Etheridge	Craig Davis	Rodney Walker	Molly Howard	Mike Carswell	Stuart Bennett
Danny Cronic	Robert Davis	Charlie Henderson	Sam Barrs	Windle McKenzie	Don Rooks
Donnie Griggers	Ronnie Smith	Charles Wilson	Glenn Tidwell	Daniel Dorsel	Randall Edmunds
Ed Thayer	Ron Sebree	Mark Coleman	Rob Weltz	Chuck Taylor	Veta New
Gary Long	Tommy Marshall	Bobby McAllister	Glenn White	Larry Campbell	Lucia Norwood
Dave Hunter	Alan Long		Terry Rogers	Donnie Drew	Walter Wade
	Tommy Stringer				Gary Holmes

GUESTS PRESENT:

Jeff Haws, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*
Todd Holcomb, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*
Jonathan Heeter, *Macon Telegraph*
Robert Spruck, *Columbus Ledger*

APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Ralph Swearngin, Executive Director, introduced Robert Dallas, Director of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, who made a video presentation to the Committee concerning the SADD Program ("Students Against Destructive Decisions"). The program is offered to all high schools and is a student administered, self-funded, instructional program with student mentoring. GOHS will assist with funding.

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

Stone Mountain High School - Doug Dakin, Soccer Coach, and Carolyn Williams, Principal, presented the appeal for students, Akute Toudeka and Akutegan Toudeka, for a waiver of the eight-semester rule. Motion by Mike Carswell, second by Rob Weltz, to approve the appeal.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

Morrow High School - J. Livingston, AD, presented the appeal for student, Brice Lee, for a waiver of the eight-semester rule.

Motion by Raynette Evans, second by Dave Hunter, to deny the appeal.

MOTION PASSED TO DENY **Show of Hands: Yes - 26 No - 17**

Morrow High School - Daryl Steward, Football Coach, presented the appeal for student, Justin Wilson, for a waiver of the eight-semester rule.

Motion by Raynette Evans, second by Jesse Crews, 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:

Revise Article IV; Section 8; F. (paragraph 2), dealing with officers (i.e., President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, etc.) of the various regions, to read: "Terms of office shall be two years and elections shall be held at the beginning of each reclassification cycle. Any vacancy occurring on a Region Committee shall be filled by the Region Committee until the next meeting of the region."

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

Revise Article IV; Section 13; C; and By-Law 2.69(b)(8) to increase the maximum fine to a member school from \$1,000.00 to \$2,500.00

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

Create new By-Law 1.14 to read: "If a school or school system initiates litigation against the Association and the court rules in favor of the Association, the school or school system shall be responsible for paying all court costs and attorney fees."

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

Create new By-Law 1.15 to read: "If the Association conducts an investigation of a member school in reference to a violation of Association rules and the member school is found guilty, the school shall be assessed the cost of the investigation in addition to any fines."

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

Delete By-Law 2.22 (b) concerning school management of finances.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

Expand the time interval for interruptions due to rain and/or lightning from one hour to two hours. This would apply to all baseball, softball, and lacrosse games, and to football and soccer competitions involving teams from different classifications.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote) **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**

Approval of the Audit Report for 2006-07. Motion presented and passed during the Executive Director's report.

Authorize the Executive Director and the Marketing Director to negotiate the "Official Ball of the GHSA" contracts that will be in effect for 2008-2013.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

The Board of Trustees received as information:

1. Discussion about extending the contract of the Executive Director that expires in June 2008.
2. Inquiries about different heat policies in various school systems and possible clarifications that might be made.

BASEBALL COMMITTEE: Report presented by Jesse Crews

The Committee received as information:

1. Concerns about having the state championship series after schools are out of session. The proposal for a change in the baseball season was withdrawn and an updated proposal may be submitted at the Spring Meeting.
2. Concerns about seating limitations at many schools hosting championship series.

CHEERLEADING COMMITTEE: Report presented by Sam Barrs

The Committee voted to deny the proposal to change the Class A region competitions to a statewide sectional competition to determine advancement to the state championship.

ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE: Report presented by Glenn White

The Committee recommended:

That the Glynn County "8.5 Program" be exempt from By-Law 1.45 (c) for the 2007-08 school year, and that the GHSA office survey all superintendents about present or proposed programs of a similar nature.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

On By-Law 1.82, add to the end of the sentence: ".....or financial aid based on institutional policies for academic performance (classroom record and/or test scores) that is administered by persons not in the athletic department."

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

Each Executive Committee Member survey the principals in his/her region concerning a new approach for processing ineligibility/recruitment accusations before sending the information to the GHSA office. (Guidelines for the survey were distributed to Committee Members.)

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE: Report presented by Earl Etheridge.

The Committee recommended:

Add "Exception" to "E.1.a.", page 65, to read: "Each theatre style seat (with back and arm rests) will count as one seat regardless of the width of the seat. (This item was tabled at the Spring Meeting)

MOTION PASSED (voice vote) EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

That the tie-breaker method used for football games be kept the same as it is presently.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

On page 65, item D.2: delete the "note" at the end of the statement.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

The Committee voted to deny the proposal that the AAAAA Championship game seating requirement be set at 8,000 (tabled from the Spring Meeting).

The Executive Director and the GHSA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee are to compose a list of respected organizations who have set standards for practicing in times of high heat and humidity. This list is to be submitted to the full Committee for possible refinement of By-Law 2.67.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

The following calendar be set for football season for the next three years:

Basic Principles:

1. Three (3) school days of practice in shorts, helmets, and shoulder pads.
2. Seventeen (17) school days of practice in full pads before opening game.
3. Eleven (11) weeks to play ten (10) games in the regular season.
4. Five (5) weeks of playoff games.

2008-09

Practice in shorts, helmets, shoulder pads: August 1 - August 5
 Practice in full pads: August 6 - August 28
 Regular Season: August 29 - November 8
 Playoffs: November 14 - December 13

2009-10

Practice in shorts, helmets, shoulder pads: July 31 - August 4
 Practice in full pads: August 5 - August 27
 Regular Season: August 28 - November 7
 Playoffs: November 13 - December 12

2010-11

Practice in shorts, helmets, shoulder pads: July 30 - August 3
 Practice in full pads: August 4 - August 26
 Regular Season: August 27 - November 6
 Playoffs: November 12 - December 11

LACROSSE COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Donnie Griggers

The Committee recommended:

The game limit for playing on a varsity team and a sub-varsity team be set as follows:

Boys: 5 quarters per day

Girls: 3 halves per day

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

OFFICIALS COMMITTEE: Report presented by Earl Etheridge

The Committee recommended:

Revise By-Law 2.93 (e) to read: "In the event that a scheduled contest cannot be started due to weather-related conditions, and the assigned officials have arrived at the contest site, the officials will be paid one-half the contest fee in addition to the travel allowance."

MOTION PASSED (voice vote) EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Authorize the GHSA office to meet with schools in outlying areas from officiating associations to discuss a surcharge on travel fees for soccer only and to work out a plan to implement a solution to the problem for the 2008 season.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

All sportsmanship fouls in all sports be reported to the GHSA office by officials associations in order to create a report to be presented at the Spring Meeting.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

Officials Associations are also to make a report to the GHSA office when there is lack of game management or a game management issue such as inadequate provisions of dressing room facilities and/or security at a contest site.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

Create new (c) to By-Law 2.68 to read: "Officials associations and their assigned schools shall include the method of payment in their contracts."

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

RECLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE: Report presented by Earl Etheridge

The Committee received as information the calendar of events for aligning schools for the next reclassification cycle.

TENNIS COMMITTEE: Report presented by Dave Hunter

The Committee recommended:

Add the following to the Tennis Section under "State Tournament": "During the first three rounds of the state playoffs, the host school shall provide a designated "site manager" to make any rulings concerning sportsmanship, lateness, or other rules violations that might occur during the match. This person should be a certified USTA official when possible, hired and paid for by the host school. In instances where a USTA official cannot be secured, a school administrator must be the replacement.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote) EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

TRACK COMMITTEE: Report presented by Fred Price

The Committee voted not to add the 4x800 meter relay after reviewing the results of the survey from Regions.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ralph Swearngin, Executive Director, gave the financial report of the recent audit to the Committee which included the information shown on the attachment, and also the fact that the mortgage loan on the office building expansion was paid in full on August 1, 2007, and the organization is now debt-free.

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

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

Dr. Swearngin spoke of the relationship with the General Assembly and the Overview Committee which is very good, and also the relationship between the GHSA and various other agencies, such as the GOHS, where there could be possible proposals in the future. He also spoke of being challenged with various academic situations in the future because of the change in the academic systems and that the GHSA must see the "big picture" and remember that the education process is more important than the sports program.

Dr. Swearngin called on Skip Yow, who spoke briefly about the legislative issues; Alan Sharp, who gave a report on the growth of the marketing of GHSA and high school sports to include the new sponsors "Naturally Fresh" and Hibbits Sports and announced that souvenir tickets for championship events will be provided through Verizon Wireless.

OLD BUSINESS

At the request of the Executive Committee at the Spring Meeting 2007, the Ad Hoc Committee met at the GHSA Office on July 17, 2007, and voted unanimously to bring forth the following proposal: "A team shall forfeit any team standing or points toward team honors when an ineligible student participates in a contest. In individual activities (Cross Country, Literary, Swimming & Diving, Traditional Wrestling, Gymnastics, Golf, Tennis, and Track & Field), eligible individuals will keep their placements and opportunities to advance toward individual honors if a teammate participated while ineligible.

MOTION PASSED (voice vote)

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Scott Horton, Region 1-AA Representative, that if both schools agree, the 100-mile rule could be waived.

MOTION FAILED FOR LACK OF SECOND

Motion was made and unanimously approved to adjourn.

AUDIT REPORT SUMMARY (for 2006-07 Fiscal Year)

Operating Funds:

Total Revenue	\$4,027,853.00
Total Expenditures	\$3,880,294.00 *
Budgetary Surplus	\$147,559.00

* The GHSA reimbursed participants in football, basketball, and cheerleading a total of \$1,202,993.00. Additional funds for playoffs are processed by host schools, and are not represented in these figures.

Reserve Funds: **

Short Term Investments	\$153,705.00
Long Term Investments	\$2,132,417.00 ***
Total Reserves	\$2,256,122.00

** The published investment policy of the GHSA is to accumulate reserve funds comparable to one year's budget. As the budget has increased over the past several years, this has become a lofty goal. Since the reserve fund was created in the early 1990's, the GHSA has never taken money out of the investment accounts.

*** The GHSA investments are managed by CITIGROUP GLOBAL MARKETS INC. (Smith Barney). The portfolio is allocated as follows:

Fixed Income	31%
Equities	62%
Cash	7%