

**GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**  
**Thomaston, Georgia 30286**

**MINUTES**

**STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**August 16, 2010**

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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 16, 2010, at the Ramada 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 - 47    Absent - 3: Sam Barrs, Larry Campbell, Patrick Blenke

Wes Taylor	Ed Pilcher	Wayne Tootle	Randy Garrett	Alan Ingram	Raynette Evans
Danny Cronin	Garrett Black	Rodney Walker	Kevin Hill	Jesse Crews	Debbie Ball
Earl Etheridge	Mike Davis	Marvin Fields	Carror Wright	Britt Ingle	Tony Arasi
Donnie Griggers	Bob Brannon	Mike Parris	Greg Oglesby	Glenn Tidwell	Randall Edmunds
Art O'Neill	Lee Segars	Mike Cammack	Dexter Wood	Scott Queen	Rudy Hampton
Dennis Stromie	Ron Sebree	Jay Russell	Glenn White	Duane McManus	Terry Rogers
Gary Long	Don Corr	Jay Floyd	Jim Hughes	Donnie Drew	Lucia Norwood
Dave Hunter	Tommy Stringer	Tracy Sanford			Walter Wade
					Gary Holmes

**APPOINTMENTS**

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

**Carver High School, Atlanta** - Marilyn Turley, Athletic Director, along with the mother Eyvonne Roberson, presented the appeal for student, Myguel Roberson, for a waiver of the eight-semester rule. Motion by Dave Hunter, second by Wayne Tootle, to deny the appeal.

**MOTION PASSED to deny (voice vote)**

**Starr's Mill High School** - Michael Davis, Athletic Director, and Aziza Simmons, ESOL Teacher, presented the appeal for student, Ufomba Kamalu, for a waiver of the eight-semester rule. Motion by Rodney Walker, second by Raynette Evans, to approve the appeal.

**MOTION PASSED (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 Earl Etheridge

The Committee recommended:

When there are double-header playoffs in Soccer and Lacrosse (boy/girl in one sport or a Soccer/Lacrosse combination), the admission fee will be \$10.00 for the doubleheader and the GHSA will receive 20%. **Effective Immediately**

**MOTION PASSED** (voice vote)

Change the percentage that the GHSA receives from playoffs in Baseball and Softball from 10% to 12% to be consistent with other sports. **Effective Immediately.**

**MOTION PASSED** (voice vote)

Approve the audit of GHSA finances for the 2009-10 school year. A copy of the audit is available from the GHSA office upon request.

**MOTION PASSED** (voice vote)

Make a Constitutional Amendment to Section 9 D.3. Appellate Procedure - add the following:

(a) An appeal of an eligibility decision must be based on one or more of the following reasons:

- (1) There is substantial new information to be submitted that was not heard by the previous group
- (2) There is an allegation that a GHSA rule was misapplied
- (3) There is an allegation that due process was not given in previous considerations

All appeals shall set forth the basis for the appeal and facts supporting the same and shall be screened by the Executive Director for compliance with this rule prior to scheduling a hearing.

(b) An appeal of a decision by the Executive Director must be based on one of the following reasons:

- (1) There is an allegation that a GHSA rule was misinterpreted
- (2) There was an absence of due process given by the Director

**MOTION PASSED** (voice vote) **Note: Constitutional Amendment will require a second vote**

The GHSA strongly recommends that all coaches complete the free, online course on Concussion Injuries offered by the National Federation of State High School Associations ([www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com))

**MOTION PASSED** (voice vote)

Create a new By-Law 4.65 to read:

The Executive Director shall have the authority to grant permission to sanction football recruiting fairs for collegiate coaches provided:

1. There are no high school athletes present
2. It is a non-profit venture
3. It is organized and supervised by a GHSA member school, school system, or region
4. It does not deny attendance to any GHSA member school provided space is available and deadlines are met
5. It does not charge collegiate representatives for their attendance

**MOTION PASSED** (voice vote)

Form an "Ad Hoc Committee on Recruiting and Undue Influence" to develop proposals to bolster GHSA By-Laws in this area and to present that report to the Executive Committee at the March 2011 meeting. This Ad Hoc Committee will be composed of coaches, administrators, Executive Committee members, and the Executive Director.

**MOTION PASSED (voice vote)**

The Committee received as information the following editorial changes for By-Law 4.60:

1. Section Title: "SPECIAL GHSA POLICIES"
2. 4.61 "GENDER EQUITY"
3. 4.62 "OPEN MEETING/OPEN RECORDS LAW"
4. 4.63 "STEROIDS/PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUGS"
5. 4.64 "PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS"

**COACHES COMMITTEE:** Report presented by Jim Hughes

The Committee recommended:

In By-Law 2.52 (a), change the last sentence to read:

Community coaches are not allowed to function without the immediate supervision of an educational professional, and may not function as a varsity head coach or be named by the school as the varsity head coach.

**MOTION PASSED Show of Hands: Yes - 24; No - 13**

**ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE:** Report presented by Glenn White

The Committee recommended:

Change the wording in By-Law 1.12 that would require the initial eligibility reports to be submitted by the date for first practice rather than 20 days before the first contest date.

**MOTION PASSED (voice vote)**

The Committee denied the request from Darlington School to be included in the list of boarding schools that are exempt from the GHSA migratory rule.

The Committee received as information:

1. Questions about changing standards for college credits earned in Dual Enrollment programs
2. New guidelines put into effect by the NCAA Eligibility Clearinghouse in regard to non-traditional academic programs. More information will be sent to all schools when finalized.

**FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:** Report presented by Earl Etheridge

The Committee recommended:

Add new F. 6 on page 65 to allow the use of a 25-second clock in GHSA football games that must be visible on both ends of the field and that will be operated by a game official.

**MOTION PASSED (voice vote)**

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When a player or coach is ejected from a pre-season scrimmage in any sport, the school shall be fined a minimum of \$250.00 and there will be no sit-out penalties imposed. **Effective beginning September 1, 2010.**

**MOTION PASSED (voice vote)**

That the GHSA make editorial changes to bring By-Law 1.44 and the wording in the Football Section into agreement dealing with limiting a student to play 6 quarters per week on one varsity and one sub-varsity team.

**MOTION PASSED (voice vote)**

The Committee received as information:

The procedure for allowing players to use shoulder pads in football camps during the summer months.

**GOLF COMMITTEE:** Report presented by Danny Cronic

The Committee recommended:

Add new B. 3 on page 69 to read:

Other electronic devices including, but not limited to, cell phones, cameras, video recorders, etc., may not be used (sending and/or receiving messages or pictures) by players or coaches during competition.

**MOTION PASSED (voice vote)**

Approval for Regions' low individual on a non-qualifying team to advance to State as an individual competitor. **Effective Immediately.**

**MOTION PASSED (voice vote)**

The Committee received as information :

1. Making state tournaments a two-day, 36-hole event
2. Moving the tournament to two weeks later in May (referred to Calendar Committee)
3. Plans for the 2012 Golf Tournament from the Augusta Sports Council

**OFFICIALS COMMITTEE:** Report presented by Earl Etheridge

The Committee received as information:

1. A report on the recent annual meeting of the Georgia Athletic Officials Association
2. A description of the procedures in place to evaluate officials in several sports
3. Various points of view about the number of crews to use in the semifinals and finals in football
4. A request to notify schools about the Officials' Accountability Manual that is on the GHSA web site so coaches can understand procedures to discipline officials.

**RECLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE:** Report presented by Earl Etheridge

The Committee recommended:

By-Law 4.21: Member schools (public and private) will be placed in classifications for competition by the following procedures:

- (a) based on the FTE count for students in grades 9-11 provided by the Georgia Department of Education and on the actual head count of students in grades 9-11 in private schools

(continued)

- (b) for the fall semester of the second year of the current reclassification cycle  
(Note: This means schools will be classified on one count rather than two.)

**MOTION PASSED (voice vote)**

By-Law 4.21: Member schools may be placed in classifications based on projected enrollment numbers for all schools affected by the opening of a new school or the consolidation of existing schools.

- (a) Projections must be submitted by the system Superintendent no later than September 15th of the second year of the current reclassification cycle. Projections must be filed for the next two school years, and those numbers will be averaged to get the number by which the schools will be classified
- (b) In the event that a new school's actual enrollment in the first semester of the new reclassification cycle exceeds the projection average by 10% or more or an existing school exceeds its projection by 5% or more (and the overage results in the numbers being in a higher classification), the school shall not be eligible for post-season play in any sport for the entirety of that reclassification cycle.
- (c) Schools may appeal the loss of post-season competition to the full Executive Committee.

**MOTION PASSED (voice vote)**

**TENNIS COMMITTEE:** Report presented by Dave Hunter

The Committee recommended:

Page 82, D. - The format of all GHSA varsity tennis matches shall be three (3) singles matches and two (2) doubles matches. With prior agreement of both coaches, JV squads may use a format of two (2) singles matches and one (1) doubles match.

**MOTION PASSED (voice vote)**

The Committee denied:

1. The proposal to mandate that a player must play in 60% of the region matches in order to qualify to play in the Region Tournament
2. The proposal to allow singles tournaments for JV teams

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Dr. Ralph Swearngin,** Executive Director, welcomed the fifteen new members to the Committee. His report included: the GHSA staff will seek a different venue for the March Meeting; that 2009-10 closed on a positive note; that 2010-11 will have many budgetary pressures because of the economic situation.

Dr. Swearngin commented that Georgia is recognized as an exemplary state in many ways: Committee member Wes Taylor is a finalist for the Principal of the Year Award by the National Association of Secondary School Principals; the National Executive Directors Council held their annual meeting at Stone Mountain this year; the National Association of Sports Officials will meet in Atlanta next summer; and the National Federation of State High Schools will hold its winter meeting in Savannah in January. Dr. Swearngin now serves on the Board of Directors of both the National Federation of State High School Associations and the National Association of Sports Officials.

Dr. Swearngin called on Skip Yow, who encouraged members to study the Gubernatorial candidates' education platforms and to vote in the upcoming elections.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Terry Rogers announced that there has been a change in the GACA liability insurance coverage for coaches who are members of the GACA to now include coverage of coaches in the classrooms.

Motion by Earl Etheridge, second by Wayne Tootle, to allow girls from another school to cheer at an all-boys school.

Substitute motion by Dave Hunter, second by Jay Floyd, to table.

**MOTION PASSED to table (voice vote)**

Motion by Gary Long, second by Dave Hunter, to rescind the rule passed at the last meeting disallowing stunting and tumbling by cheerleaders at GHSA basketball games.

**MOTION FAILED (voice vote)**

Motion was made and unanimously approved to adjourn.