

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
Thomaston, Georgia 30286

MINUTES

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
March 23, 2009

The semiannual meeting of the Executive Committee of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on March 23, 2009, at the Holiday Inn Convention Complex, 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 - Bobby McAllister, Pat Blenke, Lucia Norwood

Wes Taylor	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	Hugh Kight	Sam Barrs	Mike Carswell	Don Rooks
Danny Cronic	Justin White	Rodney Walker	Carror Wright	Larry Campbell	Randall Edmunds
Donnie Griggers	Mike Davis	Mark Kelly	Greg Oglesby	John East	Rudy Hampton
Ed Thayer	Ron Sebree	Alan Long	Dexter Wood	Duane Manus	Ray Broadway
Gary Long	Charles Wilson	Mark Coleman	Glenn White	Scott Queen	Gary Holmes
Dave Hunter	Tommy Stringer		Terry Rogers	Donnie Drew	Walter Wade

Guests Included: Alan Connell, GHSA Attorney
 Skip Yow, GHSA Legislative Liaison
 Alan Sharp, GHSA Marketing Consultant
 Todd Holcomb, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*
 Chip Saye, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

APPOINTMENTS

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.

Jay Russell, Athletic Director LaGrange High School, introduced Charlie Liddle who presented an appeal to the Committee for a waiver of the eight semester rule for son, student Ryan Liddle. Motion by Raynette Evans, second by Don Rooks, to approve the appeal.

Motion Denied (voice vote)

Marcus Searcy, Assistant Principal Chamblee High School, introduced Valari Herman who presented an appeal to the Committee for a waiver of the migratory rule (third appeal) for son, student Chelasty Yancy.

Motion by Jesse Crews, second by Wayne Tootle, to deny the appeal.

Motion Passed to deny (voice vote)

Dan Knudsen, Assistant Principal Berkmar High School, presented an appeal to the Committee for a waiver of the eight-semester rule for student, Esteban Pastrana.

Motion by Raynette Evans, second by Ron Sebree, to deny the appeal.

Motion Passed to deny (voice vote)

Motion was made, seconded, and passed to reconsider the vote.

Motion by Raynette Evans, second by Tommy Stringer, to approve the appeal

Motion Passed (voice vote)

John Osborne, Principal North Oconee High School, presented an appeal to the Committee for a waiver of the eight-semester rule for student Scott Hogg. Coach Terry Tuley, mother, father, and student each spoke to the Committee.

Motion by Dave Hunter, second by Donnie Griggers, to approve the appeal.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

Brian Moore, Assistant Principal-Athletic Director Apalachee High School, presented an appeal to the Committee for a waiver of the eight-semester rule for student, Edward Ameyaw. Chad Hooper, Soccer Coach, also spoke to the Committee.

Motion by Wayne Tootle, second by Scott Horton, to approve the appeal.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

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

OLD BUSINESS

Second vote on Constitutional Amendments:

1. 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-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 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.

Note: This will require rewording of procedures listed in By-Laws 4.15, 4.16, 4.17. (See Reclassification Committee Report)

2. Article IV, Section 2, "B" and "C", change:

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 year)

Motion by Earl Etheridge, second by Jesse Crews, to approve.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Report presented by Wayne Tootle

The Committee recommended:

Add to By-Law 2.93 (b2): (Postponing Games) "The host school is responsible for determining whether an event is to be postponed until the time the game rules turn that responsibility over to the game officials except when there is a written contract for that game. When there is a contract there must be an agreement between the competing schools about the postponement."

Motion Passed (voice vote)

By-Law 4.31d: Change to read: "Retired persons of the teaching profession who served at least twenty (20) years in high school(s), at least the last ten (10) of which must have been served at GHSA member school(s) in grades 9-12, as a: EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Motion Passed (voice vote)

Delete By-Law 2.69 (b4d): "High school coaches may not coach 8th grade players during clinics or non-school competitions out-of-season." EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Motion Passed (voice vote)

Football Section (Page 67, G) add at end: Spring Practice: No student (8th grade or older) may participate in more than 10 days of practice.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

By-Law 2.64 (for special format games) add: For any one-day event in which more than two (2) schools are involved, the following stipulations are in place:

- (a) A "host school" must be designated for each game even if the games are played at a neutral site
- (b) The host school must provide a Game Manager for the event.
- (c) The host school must schedule game officials through the local association assigned to it.
- (d) These special events will require sanctioning approval from the GHSA office.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

Adopting the 2009-10 budget. (see attachment)

Motion Passed (voice vote)

The Board of Trustees denied the proposal to give GHSA passes to Strength and Conditioning coaches and list them in the GHSA Directory.

The Board of Trustees tabled the following:

1. Proposal to replace the word "forfeit" with "vacate the win" for regular season games.
2. Proposal to delete By-Law 1.45 which allows 8th grade students to participate in high school athletics. (GHSA office will survey member schools about their usage of 8th grader students.)

BASKETBALL COMMITTEE: Report presented by Fred Price

The Committee recommended:

Page 57, D4, E - Combine the wording of these two regulations on game time limitations for varsity and JV to read: "For double headers on nights before school day (JV-Varsity or Girl-Boy Varsity), the first game must begin no later than 6:00 pm. (Keep subsections "a" and "b" found under the current "4")

Motion Passed (voice vote)

Region post-season games (play-in games, sub-region games, and full region games) must have a minimum of two games at each site.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

The Committee denied the proposal to delete limitations on number of days per week for games. The Committee also recommended that the GHSA should review the game limitations in regards to number of days per week for all sports.

CHEERLEADING COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Ed Thayer

The Committee recommended:

Stunting not be allowed at any GHSA basketball games by basketball spirit cheerleaders.
Motion to table until the Fall meeting for more clarification on exactly what would be allowed/not allowed.

Motion Passed to Table (voice vote)

Coaches, other school personnel, and/or spectators are prohibited from approaching or contacting event scorekeepers at all GHSA sanctioned cheer competitions.

Motion to table.

Motion Passed to Table (voice vote)

COACHES COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Rodney Walker

The Committee denied the proposal that any coach who is ejected from a GHSA contest must enroll in the next available "Principles for Coaching" course.

The Committee received as information the GHSA Ejection data.

ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Glenn White

The Committee recommended:

By-Law 1.62 (g1, g2) Change wording to accept permanent custody validation by a Juvenile Court as well as Superior Court, because the Georgia legal system has now channeled many custody cases to Juvenile Court. EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

By-Law 1.51 Exception 2: A cheerleader who is academically ineligible for the spring semester may try-out if he/she is passing ALL classes at the time of the try-out. The window of opportunity to try-out under these conditions is available only during the ten days set aside for try-outs that the school has designated. EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

(Note: Would also change in Cheerleading Section (p. 60) General Information: E5c - An academically ineligible student may tryout if passing ALL courses at the time of the tryout.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

By-Law 1.46 - add at the end: "In all sports except Football, a team (JV or varsity) may play multiple games on a single calendar day in a tournament setting. NOTE: In these instances, the special 'quarter/half participation rules' in basketball and soccer are waived." (The "Exception" under Basketball in By-Law 1.44 can be deleted since it is covered by this change.)

Motion Passed (voice vote)

By-Law 1.67 (d) - Add: "When a military base is located in two school districts, a student moving onto the base for the first time may choose to attend either school district, and that district will place the student appropriately. Any transfer after the initial move will be subject to standard eligibility regulations" EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Earl Etheridge

The Committee recommended:

Page 66, C3 - Change to read: "A single sub-varsity game played on a night before a school day may start no later than 6:30 pm. The first game of two sub-varsity games played on a night before a school day may start no later than 5:30 pm."

Motion Passed (voice vote)

Page 67, new F2: Artificial noisemakers except air horns and whistles are legal at football games. Air horns and whistles are to be confiscated when visible and/or used.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

Page 70, A4, new c: The GHSA will provide ticket sellers, pass gate workers, and a supervisor at all semifinal games.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

Page 69, Region Procedures, new D: When a region uses a regular-season playing date for games that determine the seeding of its four playoff teams, all games in the region that night will have officials assigned separately from the regular season assignments. The Region Secretary will work with the GHSA office to coordinate this process.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

Page 66, change in football practice schedule: Football practice may begin no earlier than August 1. In the first five days, at least two practices must be in shorts, helmets, and shoulder pads, and no more than two consecutive days may be in full pads.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

The Committee voted to deny the proposal to delete band noise rule.

GOLF COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Danny Cronin

The Committee denied the proposal that the low-scoring medalist and the runner-up in each region (boys and girls) will advance to the State Tournament even if not on a team qualifying from that region.

LACROSSE COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Donnie Griggers

The Committee recommended:

Moving the calendar forward by one week to give three weeks of preseason practices. The season will start one week later than noted in the previously published calendar, and so will the championship competitions.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

OFFICIALS COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Earl Etheridge

The Committee recommended:

Officials associations must maintain minimum membership levels in order to be considered "active associations" by the GHSA in certain sports. Those numbers shall be: Baseball (15), Softball (15), Football (30), and Basketball (30).

Motion Passed (voice vote)

RECLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Earl Etheridge

The Committee recommended:

By-Law 4.16 (d7) - new: When a majority vote is used in a subdivided region to determine scheduling and the process for selecting teams for post-season play, one or more schools may file a "minority report" with the Executive Director if the approved procedure is alleged to be unfair to all schools in the region. If the Executive Director believes that there is unfairness with the elected procedure, the Reclassification Committee will mediate the matter.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

By-Law 4.17 - new:

1. If two or three schools in a region are considered to be isolated (even if the average travel distance is less than 100 miles one way), the Reclassification Committee shall be authorized to place those schools in another classification based on travel distances and school population sizes.
2. If four or more schools in a region are considered to be isolated (even if the average travel distance is less than 100 miles one way), the Reclassification Committee shall be authorized to form a subdivided region in which crossover games with the other subdivision will not be mandatory for region standing.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

Adjustments to 2010-2014 cycle: (based on the previous passage of implementing the four-year cycle)

- (a) Class AAAAA will consist of schools with an FTE of 1900 or greater, and Class A will consist of schools with an FTE of 525 or less.
- (b) At the mid-term of the cycle, a school shall be moved to a higher or lower classification if it has had an increase or a decrease in FTE of 20% or more, and the new numbers would move the school to a different classification.
- (c) Private schools may enter the GHSA at the "mid-term" period.
- (d) Policy for public schools entering the 2nd and 4th years of the reclassification cycle:
 - (1) In sports where the region has two-year scheduling, the new school will not be able to play a complete region schedule at the varsity level. In those sports, the school could play a varsity non-region schedule or a JV schedule.
 - (2) In sports having year-to-year schedules, the new school will have full membership once it has been assigned to a new region by the Reclassification Committee.
 - (3) In sports that have a region tournament to advance to post-season play, the region may allow a new school to accept a low seed in the tournament even though they did not play a complete region schedule. That is a decision of the region.

Motion Passed (voice vote) Each of the above items were voted on individually and all passed.

SOCCKER COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Dave Hunter

The Committee recommended:

Beginning with the 2010 season, the following season dates will apply:

first date of practice: February 1

first contest: February 22

end of regular season: April 21

finals: May 14, 15

Motion Passed (voice vote)

The Committee denied:

1. The request to increase overtime periods from five minutes to ten minutes and use a sudden victory format.
2. The request to change the post-season brackets so that the North-South crossover will occur in the second round.

SOFTBALL COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Ed Thayer

The Committee recommended:

For post-season play, the first and second rounds will have teams play a best-of-three series at the site of the higher seeded team:

- (a) There will be a double-header on the first day and the "if" game on the second day.
- (b) Host team will be home team the first game; visiting team will be designated home team for the second game: a coin-flip will be used to determine home team for third game.
- (c) Teams that win the second round series will advance to the State Tournament (Elite 8).

Motion Passed (voice vote)

The Committee denied the proposal that teams advancing to the Elite 8 State Tournament will be seeded by a committee selected by the GHSA.

TENNIS COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Dave Hunter

The Committee denied the proposal that no individual alternate may be used in two consecutive rounds during the cumulative rounds of the sub-region, region, or state tournaments.

TRACK/CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Fred Price

The Committee received as information the proposal that the top four (4) finishers in each event at the region meet will advance to a sectional meet.

The Committee requests that the GHSA office survey schools on this issue and require the principal's signature either approving or denying the proposal.

VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE:

Report presented by Mike Davis

The Committee recommended:

The following format changes:

1. All playoff matches will be a best-of-five, single-elimination format.
2. Rounds 1 and 2 of the playoff will be held at the site of the higher seeded team.
3. Rounds 3 and 4 (Elite 8) will be played at four sites - one classification at each site
4. Championship matches will be held as they have in the past.

Motion Passed (voice vote)**WRESTLING COMMITTEE:**

Report presented by Dave Hunter

The Committee recommended:

In tournament competitions (including regular season, invitationals, and any tournaments in the State Championship series), wrestlers will have an option of having their second weigh-in conducted:

- (a) at the conclusion of the first day of competition OR
- (b) one hour before competitions begin on the second day

NOTE: Any wrestler indicating that he is prepared to weigh-in the first day and does not "make the proper weight" will not be allowed to weigh-in on the second day. The exact times for weigh-ins will be determined at the tournament site.

The Committee denied the proposal to delete limitation on number of days per week to compete.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Ralph Swearngin, Executive Director, commended the Executive Committee members for their work on behalf of the member schools.

Dr. Swearngin discussed the current financial status of the GHSA. The 2009-10 budget reflects a 12% reduction due to the current economic situation. He mentioned several new GHSA procedures that will assist member schools financially such as putting the mandated Eligibility Clinic online instead of holding seminars statewide and that GHSA Rules Clinics in most sports for coaches and officials will be online with accountability measures built into the program.

Dr. Swearngin called on the following for a report:

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

Skip Yow, the GHSA Legislative Liaison, updated the Committee on Legislative actions that could affect the GHSA and/or public schools.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion was made by Jesse Crews, seconded by Wayne Tootle, to re-elect Gary Holmes as President and Walter Wade as Vice President.

Motion Passed (voice vote)

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