

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

**MINUTES**

**STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**August 29, 2011**

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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 29, 2011, at the Macon Marriott City Center, Macon, 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: Bob Brannon

Wes Taylor	Ed Pilcher	Wayne Tootle	Randy Garrett	Alan Ingram	Raynette Evans
Evan Horton	Garrett Black	Rodney Walker	Kevin Hill	Jesse Crews	Debbie Ball
Earl Etheridge	Mike Davis	Marvin Fields	Sam Barrs	Britt Ingle	Patrick Blenke
Donnie Griggers	Don Breedlove	Mike Parris	Carror Wright	Glenn Tidwell	Tony Arasi
Christian Suttle	Ron Sebree	Mike Cammack	Greg Oglesby	Scott Queen	Bill Truby
Nathan Turner	Don Corr	Jay Russell	Dexter Wood	Duane McManus	Rudy Hampton
Gary Long	Tommy Stringer	Jay Floyd	Glenn White	Larry Campbell	Terry Rogers
Dave Hunter		Tracy Sanford	Jim Hughes	Donnie Drew	Lucia Norwood
					Gary Holmes
					Walter Wade

**APPOINTMENTS**

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

**Johns Creek High School** - Mike Cloy, Athletic Director, introduced the father of the student who presented the appeal for his son, Patrick Sivestri, requesting a waiver of the eight-semester rule.

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

**MOTION PASSED (voice vote)**

**Georgia School for the Deaf** - Erik Whitworth, Athletic Director, presented the appeal for student, Jay Roberson, for a waiver of the eight-semester rule.

Motion by Jesse Crews, second by Wayne Tootle, 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.

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## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

The Committee recommended:

Instituting an appeals process for schools whose population of special needs students (level 3 and higher) move them into a higher classification to seek to play at the lower classification.

**MOTION PASSED** (voice vote)

The full State Executive Committee rescind its vote of May 10, 2011, that approved a six-classification format, and send the issue back to the Reclassification Committee.

**MOTION PASSED** (voice vote)

A request for a twenty-minute recess was made by Jesse Crews in order for the Reclassification Committee to meet.

After the recess, Chairman of the Reclassification Committee yielded the floor to Dave Hunter who submitted the proposal of a six-classification format to include giving the Reclassification Committee the flexibility to adjust the percentages of the classes as follows:

6-A 14 - 17%  
5-A 14 - 17%  
4-A 14 - 17%  
3-A 14 - 17%  
2-A 14 - 17%  
A 21 - 22%

The proposal also included allowing the Reclassification Committee to address the concerns and proposals of the Ad Hoc Committee on public/private schools.

**MOTION PASSED** (voice vote - unanimously)

(Note: Jesse Crews withdrew his challenge to the voting process made in May, 2011.)

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES:** Report presented by Wayne Tootle

The Committee recommended:

Establishing the title of the "GHSA/Tommy Guillebeau Football Championships Presented by Georgia Farm Bureau" beginning with the 2011 Football Championships.

**MOTION PASSED** (voice vote)

Adjusting the semi-annual Executive Committee meetings to late September and late April of each year beginning with the 2012 fall meeting.

**MOTION PASSED** (voice vote)

Approve the audit of GHSA finances for the 2010-11 school year. A copy of the audit is available from the GHSA office upon request.

**MOTION PASSED** (voice vote)

(continued)

The Committee received as information:

1. The 2011-12 GHSA Financial Report
2. Information about a potential legal issue

**BASEBALL COMMITTEE:**

Report presented by Gary Long

The Committee recommended:

Conducting a survey of all GHSA member schools about the following issues:

- a. Spectator seating
- b. Field dimensions
- c. Parking, restrooms, and other such issues

This data will be collected to look at developing minimum standards for hosting semifinal and championship baseball series.

The survey is also to include a question about moving the championship series to a centralized site.

**MOTION PASSED** (voice vote)

The Committee received as information:

A proposal from various groups in the Rome, Georgia, community to host the 2013 GHSA Baseball Championship games in that city using minor league and college fields.

**COACHES COMMITTEE:**

Report presented by Jim Hughes

The Committee recommended:

Add new By-Law 2.52c2: Community coaches may not coach the same sport at more than one school, even if there are multiple schools in the system.

**MOTION PASSED** (voice vote)

**FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:**

Report presented by Earl Etheridge

The Committee recommended:

Changing the GHSA "Tie Breaker" plan found on page 67 as follows:

C-2 - delete subsection "b" that makes a school's record against all teams in the same classification a part of the tie-breaker plan so that playing nearby teams from other classifications will not hurt a team's playoff chances.

C-4 - delete subsection "c" (same rationale as above)

**MOTION PASSED** (voice vote)

Delete the NOTE on item D.2., page 65, allowing modification of equipment rule in summer camps with approval of Executive Director.

**MOTION PASSED** (voice vote)

The Committee received as information:

There will be a meeting of the Football Committee with Dr. Michael Ferrara of the University of Georgia in January to discuss the results of his three-year study on heat and football practices. That meeting will involve such topics as:

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Policies and procedures for equipment allowed the first week of preseason practice  
The number of practices allowed each day and the duration of those practices  
Possible changes in policies and procedures for voluntary summer activities

**GOLF COMMITTEE:** Report presented by Jesse Crews

The Committee recommended:

Add new A.3. to page 70: In accordance with By-Law 1.47, if a school does not have a girls' golf team, a girl electing to play on a boys' golf team will be required to play by the rules and procedures for the boys.

**(Effective Immediately)**

**MOTION PASSED** (voice vote)

Item C., page 70 - change to read: A school may list the allowed number of team members, plus up to four (4) alternates. (changing from 2 to 4) **(Effective Immediately)**

**MOTION PASSED** (voice vote)

Adjusting the calendar for the 2013 season as follows:

First day of practice: February 18

First day of contest: March 4

State Tournament: May 20

**MOTION PASSED** (voice vote)

The Committee tabled:

The proposal to charge a \$5.00 admission fee for each state tournament beginning with the 2012 season.

**LACROSSE COMMITTEE:** Report presented by Donnie Griggers

The Committee recommended:

Changing "tie-breaker" procedures, page 74, Area Competition, B. - delete subsection "7" that makes a school's record against all teams in the same classification a part of the tie-breaker plan so that playing nearby teams from other classifications will not hurt a team's playoff chances.

**MOTION PASSED** (voice vote)

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

The Committee recommended:

Include in the format for One Act Play at both Region and State level to allow a 10-minute "walk through" for play directors only. The directors of the plays scheduled for the first half of the day will all "walk through" during the same 10 minutes before the first play begins. The directors of the plays scheduled for the second half of the day will all have their 10-minute "walk through" at the same time during the lunch break (or prior to the second half if there is no lunch break).

**MOTION PASSED** (voice vote)

The Committee received as information:

The proposal to establish minimum standards for a site to be able to be used for the One Act Play Championships in the areas of stage dimensions, lighting, sound systems, seating capacity, etc.

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**SOC CER COMMITTEE:**

Report presented by Dave Hunter

The Committee recommended:

Changing the "tie-breaker" procedure, page 77, Region/Area, A. - delete subsection "7" that makes a school's record against all teams in the same classification a part of the tie-breaker plan so that playing nearby teams from other classifications will not hurt a team's playoff chances.

**MOTION PASSED** (voice vote)**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Dr. Ralph Swearngin**, Executive Director, gave a brief report to the Committee covering several topics such as the recent NASO Summit hosted by Georgia, the "Georgia Day" hosted by the GAOA, and a GHSA leadership summit. The Director expressed his deep sadness about the deaths of two students who had participated in football workouts.

He emphasized that there will always be many challenges facing the Committee and that both GHSA staff and Committee members must continue to work together in the best interest of our member schools.

Dr. Swearngin called on Alan Sharp, who reported on the changes in sponsorships and licensees, the progress in the broadcast community with PlayOn Sports, weekly football game broadcasts and Georgia High School Radio Scoreboard show.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Second vote on Constitutional Amendment - Article IV, Section 5, B.5. -- Hardship Committee decisions to grant an appeal shall be decided by a majority vote.

**MOTION PASSED** (voice vote)**NEW BUSINESS**

Pat Blenke, Georgia Department of Education Representative, distributed a handout on the recent NCAA Eligibility Center ruling that denied their appeal to allow Mathematics I and II Support courses to count as core credit towards awarding athletic financial aid to students in Georgia. Under this ruling, students who graduate from a Georgia high school who have only successfully completed the Mathematics I, II, and Mathematics I, II Support sequence of courses will not be eligible for a Division I athletic scholarship (partial or full).

Motion by Jesse Crews, second by Jim Hughes, to give the Executive Director authority to find a Parliamentarian to be present at the Executive Committee meetings.

**MOTION FAILED** (Show of Hands)

Motion was made and unanimously approved to adjourn.