

4.20 - RECLASSIFICATION

- 4.21 Every ~~four (4)~~ **two (2)** years, member schools will be assigned a "Reclassification Student Count" and placed in classifications for competition by one of the following procedures:
- The Reclassification Student Count for Public schools will be based on the FTE count for students in Grades 9-12 provided by the Georgia Department of Education for the fall semester of the second year of the current reclassification cycle.
 - A school will be considered a single-gender school if either gender composes less than 35% of the school population
 - A single-gender school shall have its FTE numbers doubled for the purpose of reclassification
 - The Reclassification Student Count for **non-public** schools will be based on the actual head count of students in Grades 9-12 **at the member school** as determined on ~~September 15th~~ **October 1st** of the second year of the current reclassification cycle.
 - The Reclassification Student Count will be based on **projected** enrollment numbers for all schools affected by the **opening of a new school**, the consolidation of existing schools or the redistribution of students within a school system that must be submitted by the system **Principal and/or** Superintendent no later than ~~September 15~~ **October 1st** 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.
 - In the event that a 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 the projection by 5% or more AND the additional students would have resulted in the school 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.
 - Schools may appeal the loss of post-season competition. ~~to the Reclassification Committee and then to the full Executive Committee.~~
 - The Reclassification Student Count or classification placement of isolated schools will be determined by **the Executive Director with approval of** the Reclassification Committee in accordance with the "Isolation Rule."
- 4.22 The Reclassification Committee may utilize the following factors in reclassification decision:
- Consideration of travel time and costs, plus time out of school for students.
 - Consideration of differences in the size of school populations.
 - Consideration of competitive balance of the schools.
 - Consideration of equitable access to playoff slots.
 - Consideration of rivalries and gate-receipt issues.
- 4.23 The membership of the Association shall be divided into ~~seven (7)~~ **six (6)** classifications as follows:
- Schools will be placed in classifications (according to their Reclassification Student Count) as follows:
 - Class **6A: Largest 12%** (~~approximately~~) of schools. **Note:** Schools may opt to play up into **6A**, but no school may move down.
 - Class A Public/Private: **Smallest 28%** (~~approximately~~) of schools. **Note:** ~~Non-football playing schools will NOT be counted when calculating the schools being placed in Class A. They will be placed in appropriate regions later.~~
 - The remaining schools (after **6A** and Class A are populated) will be divided into ~~five (5)~~ **four (4)** approximately equal classifications (2A through **5A**) with ~~49-24%~~ **15%** in each class ~~at the discretion of the Reclassification Committee.~~
 - ~~Reclassification Attendance Zone Restriction~~ **Out-Of-Zone Multiplier:** Every student attending a school from outside that school's district-assigned attendance zone shall be counted as _____ students when it comes to calculating that school's Reclassification Student Count and that school shall be placed in the classification where the increased Student Count falls, except that no school shall be moved up into Class **6A**, or out of Class A, by this rule. (Note: Schools compelled to play at a higher classification because of this stipulation may petition the Executive Director for stadium/arena seating waivers by August 31 of each year. If granted, the waiver would allow that school to use the smaller classification's seating requirements in order to comply with playoff by-laws.)
 - The designated ~~reclassification~~ attendance zone for all GHSA **public schools shall be that attendance zone assigned to the school by its respective school district.** ~~county in which the school is located.~~ **Note:** If a school is located in two counties, that school must elect one of those counties to be its ~~reclassification attendance zone.~~ That election will be binding for the entire reclassification period.
 - The ~~designated~~ attendance zone for all GHSA non-public schools for the purposes of reclassification shall be the public school's attendance zone in which the non-public school is located.

- (3) Children of full-time, certified employees of that high school shall NOT be subject to the Out-Of-Zone Multiplier even if they live outside the school's designated attendance zone.
- (4) All member schools must submit the number of students that will be counted as Out-Of-Zone students by Oct. 1st of the second year of the reclassification cycle.
- (5) If a school is found to be intentionally reporting incorrect numbers, that school will be banned from participating in the state playoffs for two (2) years and must pay a fine of \$2,500.
- (6) A school shall be allowed to appeal its classification placement to the ~~Reclassification Committee~~ by filing a written appeal with the Executive Director not later than seven (7) days after notification of its classification placement, setting forth in detail why it contends the placement is unfair or unjustified. ~~The Reclassification Committee shall thereafter set a date for the hearing of such appeals. If the Reclassification Committee finds that the placement is unfair or unjustified, the school's placement may be modified by the Reclassification Committee. The decision of the Reclassification Committee may be appealed by the school to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will not consider objections from schools regarding contested classification placements unless those schools have filed timely appeals with the Reclassification Committee.~~
- (c) Each classification will have eight (8) regions ~~unless otherwise determined by the Reclassification Committee or the Executive Committee.~~
- (d) The Reclassification Committee shall have the authority to assign a different Reclassification Student Count or classification placement for any school that is geographically isolated within its region in order to resolve difficulties in travel and time out of class. **Note:** Football may be exempted from the isolation policy.
 - (1) An individual 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.
 - (2) The decision to place a school in a higher or lower classification will be based on a combination of factors that include travel distances and school population size.
 - (3) 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 Executive Director with approval of the Reclassification Committee** shall be authorized to place those schools in another classification based on travel distances and school population size.
 - (4) 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 Executive Director with approval of 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.

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

- (a) Schools will be assigned a Reclassification Student Count by the GHSA office.
- (b) Member schools will be able to review and verify their assigned Reclassification Student Count on the GHSA web site. When there is a major discrepancy between the school's count and the count determined by the GHSA staff, the school may appeal to the Executive Director to reconsider the count. The Executive Director's decision shall be final.
- (c) When enrollment figures have been verified, schools will be placed in the proper classification and schools will have seven (7) calendar 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 signatures of the school's administrative authorities (i.e., the Principal and/or Superintendent).
 - (2) When schools opt to move up in classification, **an exact** corresponding number of **the smallest** schools in the higher classification will be given the option ~~by the Reclassification Committee~~ to move down to offset the schools leaving a class. **Exceptions:** No school can move down from **6A**; and no school may move down into Class A; ~~and there will be no corresponding movement down should a school opt to play up more than one class above its original classification.~~ **(NOTE: Schools moving up or down in classification must remain in that classification until schools are next reclassified.**
- ~~(2) A school that transfers to a higher classification must remain in the higher classification until schools are next reclassified on a statewide basis, but may appeal to the Reclassification Committee to come back down to its proper classification when adjustments are made after two years of the four-year reclassification cycle.~~
- (d) ~~The Reclassification Committee will meet in the month of November to~~ **GHSA office will initially place schools in regions and the Reclassification Committee will then meet to ratify or modify those placements.** ~~and subregions. The decisions placements will be sent to member schools after that meeting.~~
 - (1) ~~There will be a mandatory subdivision of each region containing ten (10) or more schools by the Reclassification Committee (Exception: Cheerleading).~~

- ~~(2) The Reclassification Committee may subdivide a region consisting of less than ten schools if there is an extremely large geographic area within that region.~~
 - ~~(3) For football, the Reclassification Committee will require crossover games between teams in the subregions to guarantee a minimum of 70% of the season schedule unless there are isolation issues.~~
 - ~~(4) 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 unless there are isolation issues.~~
 - ~~(5) Any region subdivided because of geographic considerations may vote to play a full region schedule based on a two-thirds approval of all Principals in the region.~~
 - (e) Member schools will have seven (7) calendar days after notification of their region assignment to request a lateral move to another region, by filing that request with the Executive Director.
 - (1) A request to have a lateral transfer must be submitted over the signatures of the school's administrative authorities (i.e., the Principal and/or Superintendent).
 - (2) The request will be heard in December by the Reclassification Committee and representatives from both regions shall be notified of the request, 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 basis.
 - (4) At a meeting in January, the Executive Committee shall hear any appeals regarding 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.
 - (5) Thereafter, the Executive Committee will approve, disapprove or modify the final reclassification and region alignment plan.
 - (f) 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.
 - (g) If a region chooses to subdivide, that region may appeal to the Executive Director if the schools in the region cannot agree on the subdivisions.
 - (h) 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 chosen procedure, the Reclassification Committee will meet and make a final decision on such matters. No further appeal will be allowed.
- 4.25 The following scheduling policy will be in effect for public schools entering the GHSA at the beginning of the second year of the reclassification cycle:
- (a) 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.
 - (b) In sports having year-to-year scheduling, the new school will have full membership once it has been assigned to the new region by the Reclassification Committee.
 - (c) 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 it did not play a complete region schedule. That is a decision made by the region.
- 4.26 Charter schools that apply for membership after the reclassification process has been completed will be accepted as schools playing sub-varsity schedules and/or non-region varsity schedules for the next reclassification cycle.