



GHSAA

"ITEMS OF INTEREST"

September 2015

Reclassification Process Still Far From Finish Line

The Georgia High School Association's Executive Committee approved a reclassification plan for its 451 member schools on Monday, August 17, 2015 at its regularly scheduled meeting in Macon. The Committee's action puts in place the frame work for distribution of schools for the next four years (2016-2020). Here are the basic components of the plan:

- Seven classifications, with a public / private split (for playoffs) in the smallest division.
- There would be eight championships in the "power ranked" sports of football, softball, basketball and baseball.
- The number of championships in other sports and activities would be decided by the GHSA office.
- The classification made up of the largest schools would contain approximately 44 schools (about 10% of the membership).
- A threshold for out-of-county students was established at 3%. Schools with a larger percentage of out-of-county students would be required to move up one classification.
- The schools in the public/private classification, in the large classification, and in the next smaller classification would not be subject to the requirement to move up. Schools would not be required to move into the largest classification.
- Schools in the "middle 5 classes" would be separated using a percentage of 19% - 21% for each classification.
- If schools are moved up because of the out-of-county threshold, smaller schools in that classification would be given the opportunity to move down.



Historically the Reclassification plan involves a series of steps in order to reach the final ratification in January. Here is how the process should progress:

- Private schools turn in their enrollment figures on September 15.
- Public schools' and charter schools' FTE counts collected from the Department of Education (late October).
- All schools ranked by FTE, enrollments and/or out-of-county thresholds. Schools will then have an opportunity to appeal their enrollment or FTE numbers.
- The individual classifications will be designated and schools will have the opportunity to opt to play up in classification.
- Region assignments will be made. Schools will have an opportunity to appeal the assignment and ask for lateral transfers within that classification.
- The Reclassification Committee will vote on the plan after all appeals have been heard and settled.
- The full Executive Committee will hear appeals from schools still not satisfied with their region assignment.
- The final plan is ratified by the Executive Committee.

Schools then meet (January, 2016) to organize their new regions and create athletics schedules for 2016-18.

– Gary Phillips, Executive Director

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GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION Newsletter
 Issued monthly, September through April, by the Georgia High School Association, P.O. Box 271, Thomaston, GA 30286
 Phone: 706-647-7473 Fax: 706-647-2638 Web: www.ghsa.net
 OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday

Vol. 34 September 2015 No. 1

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 Football Playoffs, Coaches Education Program

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By-Law Interpretations, Transfer Eligibility, Cross Country, Golf, Track

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Non-transfer Eligibility, Literary & One-Act Play Liaison,
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GHSA Licensed Products

This month's featured licensees are: **Jostens**, official championship jewelry (jostens.com); **Musco Sports Lighting**, leader in sports-lighting technology solutions (musco.com); **FieldTurf**, official artificial turf (fieldturf.com); **Hudl**, official video exchange service (hudl.com); **Planet HS**, connecting high school communities online (planeths.com); **Jaxx Field Miracle**, official field drying agent (jaxxusa.com); **Sports Imports**, official volleyball net systems (sportsimports.com); and **COOLShirt Systems**, Innovator of Personal Cooling Systems (coolshirt.com).

September is GHSA's Cancer Awareness Month

The GHSA is designating three consecutive weeks during the fall sports season to advance the awareness of and help fight several types of cancer.

In observance of Breast Cancer awareness, the GHSA will allow member schools to wear "Pink" uniforms at their HOME events during the week of September 7-14 for all fall sports.

September 14-19 will be the first ever GHSA "Gold Week" to help raise the awareness of Childhood Cancer. Again, this will be for all fall sports.

And, finally, September 21-26 will be the second annual "Blue Week" in the sport of Football only to help fight Prostate Cancer. Special blue decals and blue wristbands can be worn this week, and the officials will have blue penalty flags to throw. Also the host school can stencil blue ribbons on the playing field for this special contest.

If a school does NOT have a home contest during one of the designated cancer awareness weeks, that school may request to wear or display the special cancer-awareness colors at a home contest during another week in September. Schools should contact the appropriate GHSA sports coordinator with this request.

REMINDER: GHSA Membership Dues Must Be Paid On Or Before October 15th!

First Class A Power Ratings on Sept. 8

The first power ratings for Class A football and softball by MaxPreps will be posted on Tuesday, September 8.

Every GHSA member school **must** submit all game results, regardless of classification, to MaxPreps in order to manage the Class A football and softball power ratings and to verify Region Standings across all classifications.

* MaxPreps offers coaches a stat management and communication platform that enables them to efficiently submit their schedules, scores, rosters and statistics.

* MaxPreps is a 100% free service and is the official source of power ratings, region standings and stats for the GHSA.

* Submit your score in seconds with the MP Coach app, which allows coaches to manage rosters, schedules, update game results and send messages to their athletes. The app can be downloaded for FREE from the [Android app store](#) or [iTunes app store](#).

For assistance, you may contact MaxPreps' Georgia state representative, **Kylie McLarty** at kylie.mclarty@cbsi.com with any questions.



GHSA Honors 2015 Cooperative Spirit Award Winning Schools

The Georgia High School Association and Georgia's Electric Membership Corporations (Georgia EMC) proudly salutes the 48 GHSA-member high schools that will receive the 2015 Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award. The award honors schools that demonstrated exemplary sportsmanship during the 2014-2015 school year.

"Sportsmanship is an essential element in the mission of education-based athletics," says Gary Phillips, GHSA Executive Director. "Good sporting behavior involves many important values that influence the behavior of productive citizens. The GHSA appreciates the efforts of Georgia EMC to recognize schools that have excelled at good sportsmanship."

Since 2006, the GHSA and Georgia's EMCs have sponsored the Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award, which reinforces the GHSA philosophy: "Students, athletes, coaches, spectators and all others associated with high school activities programs should adhere to the fundamental values of respect, fairness, honesty and responsibility." Schools around the state are honored for exhibiting exceptional sportsmanship during competitive events.

Student athletes, fellow students, school staff, parents and event spectators are recognized for the sportsmanship they display. The award is not only a school honor, but a community honor as well. The GHSA region secretaries select winners based upon the sportsmanship demonstrated throughout the school year.

The Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Awards are presented annually to the GHSA-member high schools in the 48 regions from the six classifications by representatives from the EMCs



during fall athletic events and school assemblies.

Georgia EMC is the statewide trade association representing the state's 41 EMCs, Oglethorpe Power Corp., Georgia Transmission Corp. and Georgia System Operations Corp. Collectively, Georgia's customer-owned EMCs provide electricity and related services to 4.4 million people, nearly half of Georgia's population, across 73 percent of the state's land area.

Winners of the 2014 Georgia EMC Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award are listed in the next column:

2015 Award Winning Schools

Class AAAAAA

- 1-AAAAAA - Lee County High School
- 2-AAAAAA - Lakeside-DeKalb HS
- 3-AAAAAA - Campbell High School
- 4-AAAAAA - Hillgrove High School
- 5-AAAAAA - Pope High School
- 6-AAAAAA - Habersham Central HS
- 7-AAAAAA - Meadowcreek High School
- 8-AAAAAA - South Gwinnett HS

Class AAAAA

- 1-AAAAA - LaGrange High School
- 2-AAAAA - Houston County HS
- 3-AAAAA - Statesboro High School
- 4-AAAAA - Forest Park High School
- 5-AAAAA - Hiram High School
- 6-AAAAA - Carver-Atlanta HS
- 7-AAAAA - Riverwood High School
- 8-AAAAA - Heritage-Conyers HS

Class AAAA

- 1-AAAA - Cook High School
- 2-AAAA - Baldwin High School
- 3-AAAA - Wayne County HS
- 4-AAAA - Locust Grove High School
- 5-AAAA - Sandy Creek High School
- 6-AAAA - Lithonia High School
- 7-AAAA - SE Whitfield High School
- 8-AAAA - Chestatee High School

Class AAA

- 1-AAA - SE Bulloch High School
- 2-AAA - Rutland High School
- 3-AAA - Westside-Augusta HS
- 4-AAA - Coretta Scott King HS
- 5-AAA - Calloway High School
- 6-AAA - Gordon Central HS
- 7-AAA - Franklin County HS
- 8-AAA - Elbert County High School

Class AA

- 1-AA - Early County High School
- 2-AA - Jeff Davis High School
- 3-AA - Screven County HS
- 4-AA - Crawford County HS
- 5-AA - Temple High School
- 6-AA - Wesleyan School
- 7-AA - Armuchee High School
- 8-AA - Social Circle High School

Class A

- 1-A - Baker County High School
- 2-A - Charlton County HS
- 3-A - Portal High School
- 4-A - Marion County High School
- 5-A - Strong Rock Christian
- 6-A - Fellowship Christian
- 7-A - Georgia Military College
- 8-A - Providence Christian

NFHS Network Recognizes Top High School Broadcast Programs

In time for the kickoff of the 2015-16 school year, the NFHS Network, the nation's leading high school sports media company, announces its list of Select and Elite high school broadcast programs recognizing them for their astounding contributions to the Network. The NFHS Network is the online destination for watching high school sports and other events live and on demand from anywhere at anytime.

Schools participating in the NFHS Network School Broadcast Program, which provides high schools with the technology platform, training and support to broadcast their own regular season games online, produce the vast majority of the events on the NFHS Network. The 83 Select Schools demonstrated excellent broadcasting skills and the 37 Elite Schools not only have excellent broadcasting skills, but also excel in promoting their events and generating funds for their schools. The complete Honor Roll of Select and Elite High School programs can be found here: <http://www.nfhsnetwork.com/sbp-honor-roll>.

"As we begin another school year, we are thrilled to recognize these high schools and their student broadcasters for their hard work and commitment to their school's program and for delivering such high-quality broadcasts to their fans," says Robert Rothberg, President of the NFHS Network. "We continue to be impressed with the professionalism and the creativity of the work these students produce."

This past school year, the NFHS Network's Select High Schools produced an average of 56 events each covering an average of 5 different sports. The Elite High Schools produced an average of 72 events each covering an average of 6 different sports.

In its second year, the NFHS Network marked another year of successes and firsts. The Network added 470 new

schools to the School Broadcast Program, which is now in a total of 49 states. The Network presented over 18,000 live video sports events and 30,000 live data sports events. In addition, over 14,000 high schools were featured on the Network representing 70% of all high schools in the U.S.

In July 2015, the Network hosted over 100 students and teachers at the first-ever NFHS Network Broadcast Academy and recognized 21 remarkable schools for their accomplishments at the inaugural Broadcast Academy Awards Ceremony. In addition, NFHS Network's partnership with Under Armour yielded over 20 episodes of the Under Armour Highlights of the Week show featuring some of the most memorable moments in high school sports.



Select:

- Bacon County
- Westminster
- Carrollton
- Chattahoochee County
- Clarke Central
- Holy Innocents' Episcopal School
- Marietta
- North Forsyth
- Woodward Academy

Elite:

- Blessed Trinity
- Charlton County
- Marist
- Pierce County
- Rockdale County
- St. Pius X
- Tucker

ACT and SAT Assessment Dates

Each year, the GHSA office gets requests to alter schedules due to conflicts with ACT and SAT tests. We cannot accommodate those requests. The following chart gives dates of the exams and possible conflicts with GHSA activities. We urge you to inform your athletes and coaches **now** about these dates in order for the athletes to plan their assessments around events in which they are to compete.

ACT ASSESSMENT DATES

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| September 12, 2015..... | None |
| October 24, 2015..... | Volleyball Quarterfinals |
| December 12, 2015..... | State Football Finals |
| February 6, 2016..... | Sectional Traditional Wrestling, State Swimming & Diving |
| April 9, 2016..... | None |
| June 11, 2016..... | None |

ACTIVITY CONFLICTS

SAT ASSESSMENT DATES

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| October 3, 2015..... | None |
| November 7, 2015..... | State Cross Country, Region/Sectional Cheerleading, State One-Act Play in 3A, 5A & 6A |
| December 5, 2015..... | State Football Semifinals |
| January 23, 2016..... | None |
| March 5, 2016..... | Area Riflery, Region/Area Literary Meets |
| May 7, 2016..... | State Girls Track, State Quarterfinals in Lacrosse and Soccer, State Tennis Finals |
| June 4, 2016..... | None |

ACTIVITY CONFLICTS

AP EXAM DATES

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Week 1 - May 2-6..... | Baseball, Lacrosse, Soccer & Tennis Playoffs, Golf Sectionals, Girls State Track |
| Week 2 - May 9-13..... | Baseball, Lacrosse & Soccer Playoffs, Boys State Track |

ACTIVITY CONFLICTS

GHSA State Executive Committee Meeting

August 17, 2015

MINUTES

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 17, 2015, at the Macon Marriott City Center in Macon, Georgia, by Glenn White, President. Following is a **condensed** version of the minutes of that meeting. A complete version may be found on the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

(NOTE: Proposals passed will go into effect for the 2016-17 school year unless specified to be "effective immediately.")

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Report presented by Jesse Crews

The Committee **recommended**:

Proposal to restructure By-Law 1.47 as follows: A student's gender is determined by the gender noted on his/her birth certificate. Girls may participate on boys' teams when there is no girls' team offered in that sport by the school. Boys are not allowed to play on girls' teams even when there is no corresponding boys' sport.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Proposal to add new A.(5)(3) under Football - State Playoffs on page 73 that reads: Certified staff members who work at the participating high schools only will be allowed free admission through the semifinal round with proper identification.

MOTION PASSED (56-1; Voting No: Arnold)

Accepting the Audit Report for 2014-15.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

The committee **denied**:

Proposal to reword By-Law 2.62 (E-6) to allow Tennis to play exhibition matches that are not counted.

BASEBALL COMMITTEE

Report presented by David Brooks

The committee **recommended**:

Proposal to re-consider holding state championships at neutral site(s) beginning with the 2017 season.

MOTION PASSED (45-12; Voting No: Crews, Arnold, Pollock, Pinson, Arasi, Fields, Lancaster, Maynard, May, Mobley, Giddens and Thompson)

The committee **denied**:

Proposal to change Baseball by-laws for 2015-16 to add a "Halted Game" rule.

The committee **received as information**:

Proposal to increase the number of games allowed from 26 to 30 on 26 play dates.

(NOTE: The committee directs the GHSA office to study the issue of finding a common number of contests for both softball and baseball.)

(over)

GHSA State Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, *Continued*

ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE

Report presented by Pat Blenke

The committee **recommended**:

Proposal to delete wording: "residence" in by-law 1.62(a-4) and add wording "service area."

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Proposal to restructure by-law 1.62 (c) as follows:

(c) The student was enrolled in a non-member private school in Georgia or was boarded at a school out of state and, without a bona fide move, transferred to a GHSA member school that serves his area of residence as long as:

1. It is the initial move of the student from a non-member school to a member school serving his area of residence, AND
2. The student was enrolled at the high school serving his area of residence in grades 9-12 before attending the non-member school, OR
3. The student has not yet established eligibility at grades 9-12 at a member school serving his area of residence.

NOTE: Rules about joint custody transfers have control over the one time transfer restriction in this by-law.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

GYMNASTICS COMMITTEE

Report presented by Lucia Norwood

The committee **recommended**:

Proposal to raise the qualifying requirements for teams and individuals for the Preliminary Meet (page 77, item B): Minimum scores must be earned during the regular season meets to qualify for the Preliminary Meet as follows:

1. Any team that scores 100.00 or better in two (2) regular season meets will automatically qualify.
2. An all-around score of 34.0 or better in three (3) regular season meets will qualify a gymnast.
3. An individual score of 8.50 or better in three (3) regular season meets will qualify a gymnast.

MOTION PASSED (56-1; Voting No: Giddens) NOTE: EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY!

Proposal to delete "no-touch" warm-up rule (page 77, G).

MOTION PASSED (unanimously) NOTE: EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY!

RECLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE

Report presented by Earl Etheridge and Dave Hunter

The committee **recommended**:

Proposal for structure of classifications for 2016-18 school years as follows:

- A. Non-football playing schools will not be counted when calculating the teams being placed in Class A (they will be placed in their appropriate regions later).
- B. Classifications will be divided as follows:
 1. Big 44 (top 10% approximately) (NOTE: Teams may opt to play up into the Big 44 class, but no team may move down).
 2. Class A Public/Private (same as before except the number of playoff teams will increase from 16 public and 16 private to 24 public and 24 private in football, softball, basketball and baseball. The Public/Private school shall be allowed to play up in classification if they elect to do so. And if a school chooses to do so, then an equal number of Class AA schools will be given the option to move down to the Class A Public/Private class.
 3. There will be five (5) other classes, which will be split at the natural breaks between 19-21% of the remaining number after Big 44 and Class A Public/Private have been set.
- C. Attendance Zone Restriction
 1. Schools accepting students from outside of their reclassification attendance zone may be subject to (over)

GHSA State Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, *Continued*

being placed in the next highest classification. If the percentage of students attending a school from outside that school's reclassification attendance zone exceeds three (3%) percent of that school's F.T.E. Count, then that school shall be placed in the next highest classification. Schools may opt to be placed in the Big 44. However, the attendance zone restriction in this section will not be applied so to move a school up to the Big 44.

2. The reclassification attendance zone for ALL GHSA member schools shall be the county in which the school is located.
 3. If a school is located in two counties, the school will be required to elect one of those to be its Reclassification Attendance Zone. The election shall be binding for the entire reclassification period.
 4. Any school(s) that feel(s) that their placement is unfair and unjustified will be allowed to appeal to the Reclassification Committee. The school will present data and evidence to the committee that proves the placement is not warranted or fair to the school and the program. If the committee feels that the placement of the school into a higher classification is not warranted, then the school would be placed in a classification based on the F.T.E. count without any regard to the percentage of out-of-county students.
 5. The number of students determined by multiplier will not be rounded up. Example: If a multiplier allows for 9.82 students outside of the attendance zone, 9 students will be the number that is used.
 6. If a school is found to be intentionally reporting incorrect numbers, that school will be banned from participating in state playoff games for two (2) years and must pay a fine of \$2,500.
- D. For regions that have fewer than five (5) teams, the number of teams going to the state playoffs will be one (1) fewer than the number of teams in the region. Example: A region with four teams would get three playoff spots. The available playoff slot(s) will be awarded to non-playoff team(s) with the highest power ranking.

MOTION PASSED (Roll Call Vote - Yes: 47, No: 10, Absent: 1)

Yes: Giddens, Hoffman, Horton, Suttle, Jones, Turner, Long, Hunter, Maynard, Masters, Etheridge, Miller, Breedlove, McCrary, Corr, Tootle, Marchman, May, Brooks, Dunson, Adams, Pollock, Fields, Jewell, Byrnes, Potts, Thompson, Arnold, Barron, Vick, Warren, Hughes, Pinson, Crews, Ingle, Tidwell, Dupree, Simpson, Drew, Bradley, Fine, Blenke, Arasi, Long, Norwood, White, Williams. **No:** Stringer, Finch, Wood, Campbell, Cooper, Lancaster, Mobley, B. Rogers, Queen, Taylor. **Absent:** T. Rogers.

Proposal to reword Article III, Section 2 (Item B) of Constitution to read as follows: B. Member schools will be realigned every four (4) years. Adjustments will be made at the end of two years according to updated FTE figures and the attendance zone restriction of 3% will be recalculated. (**NOTE: This is a constitutional change and requires two votes**).

MOTION PASSED (47-10; Voting no: Miller, Finch, Wood, Campbell, Dupree, Lancaster, Masters, Mobley, B. Rogers, Queen.)

TENNIS COMMITTEE

Report presented by Don Corr

The committee **received as information:**

Proposal to change Tennis from a Spring sport to a Fall sport starting in the fall of 2016, and to allow a spring tryout period similar to softball and volleyball. NOTE: The committee directed the GHSA office to survey the member schools about this issue and report the results at the next State Executive Committee meeting on Reclassification.

OLD BUSINESS

Proposal to delete Constitutional Reference: Section 5, D. 1. (Page 10) **SECOND VOTE**

"The Executive Director shall have the discretion upon receiving an application by a member school to set aside the effect of any academic eligibility ~~or eight semester rule~~ upon individual students when in the judgement of the Executive Director, the following criteria are met: ...

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Motion by Jesse Crews, second by Wayne Tootle, to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

GHSA - September / October Calendar - 2015

September

- 7 Labor Day, GHSA Office closed
- 8 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 21 Deadline for notification of entry in Cross Country
- 22 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting

October

- 1 Deadline to notify entry in One Act Play & to set Riflery schedules
- 5 Earliest date for Riflery match
- 9 Deadline date to file Riflery schedules with GHSA office
- 10 Complete Region Softball (2A through 6A)
- 10 Determine Area Volleyball winners
- 12 Report Region Softball & Area Volleyball winners by 9 a.m.
- 12 Complete Region Softball (Class A)
- 13 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 13 Deadline for posting rosters in Cross Country
- 14 First Round State Volleyball in 3A & 4A
- 14, 15 First Round State Softball Classes 2A-6A
- 15 First Round State Volleyball in A, 5A & 6A
- 15 Deadline for payment of GHSA membership dues
- 19 Earliest date for swimming practice

GHSA Sponsors

