

# GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES

### STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE April 13, 2015

The semiannual meeting of the State Executive Committee of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on April 13, 2015, at the Macon Marriott City Center in Macon, Georgia, by Glenn White, President.

The invocation was given by Carror Wright, Associate Director.

Roll call by Steve Figueroa, Media Director, showed the following: Present - 56, Absent - 2 (Indicated with "A" below)

Kevin Giddens	Earl Etheridge	David Brooks	Jeff Cooper	John Pinson	Lisa Fine
Kirk Hoffman	Curt Miller	Horace Dunson	Joe Lancaster	Jesse Crews	Pat Blenke
Evan Horton	Don Breedlove	Britt Adams	Paul Stokes	Britt Ingle	David Colvard
Donnie Griggers	Phil McCrary	Dexter Wood	Mike Thompson	Glenn Tidwell	Wes Taylor
Steve Jones	Don Corr	J.T. Pollock	J.B. Arnold	Scott Queen	A - Jay Floyd
Nathan Turner	Tommy Stringer	Chad Campbell	Benjy Rogers	A - Lynn Dupree	Terry Rogers
Gary Long	Wayne Tootle	Marvin Fields	Tim Barron	Steve Simpson	Lucia Norwood
Dave Hunter	Jim Finch	Jasper Jewell	Tim Vick	Donnie Drew	Glenn White
Fred Maynard	Wade Marchman	Topher Byrnes	Bradley Warren	Maria Bradley	Lisa Moore Williams
Michelle Masters	Kevin May	Bruce Potts	Jim Hughes		

**Motion** was made by Jesse Crews, seconded by Kevin Giddens, and unanimously approved to adopt the agenda for the meeting.

### APPOINTMENTS

**Motion** was made by Wayne Tootle, seconded by Jesse Crews, and unanimously approved to go into Executive Session to hear student eligibility appeals. (**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.)

**Cambridge High School** - Edward Spurka, Principal, presented the appeal for student Kyler Duley, requesting a waiver of the migratory rule.

**Motion** by Tommy Stringer, second by Kevin Giddens, to deny the appeal.

**MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**

**Lakeview Academy** - Deuce Roark, Athletic Director, presented the appeal for student Trystan Regnier, requesting a waiver of the eight semester rule.

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

**MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**

**Grayson High School** - Jason Abner, track coach, presented the appeal for student Marquise Cooper, requesting a waiver of the eight semester rule.

**Motion** by Tommy Stringer, second by Earl Etheridge, to deny the appeal.

**MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**

**Landmark Christian School** - Durand Rice, Athletic Director, presented the appeal for student Jackson Ayers, requesting a waiver of the eight semester rule.

**Motion** by Kevin Giddens, second by Jim Finch, to deny the appeal.

**MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**

**Pope High School** - Josh Mathews, Athletic Director, presented the appeal for student Steven Acheson, requesting a waiver of

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the eight semester rule.

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

**MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**

**Jefferson High School** - Randy Gambrell, Assistant Principal, presented the appeal for student Adrian Huff, requesting a waiver of the eight semester rule.

**Motion** by Lucia Norwood, second by Donnie Griggers, to grant the appeal.

**MOTION PASSED (Roll Call Vote #1 - Yes: 33, No: 23, Absent: 2)**

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

**Meadowcreek High School** - Michael House, Athletic Director, presented the appeal for student Jamori Blash, requesting a waiver of the eight semester rule.

**Motion** by Chad Campbell, second by Tommy Stringer, to deny the appeal.

**MOTION PASSED (51-5; Voting No: Wood, Pollock, Bradley, Norwood, Williams)**

**Scott Boatright, the GHSA's BB&T Insurance Agent**, gave a report to the committee outlining the coverage and scope of the GHSA's catastrophic insurance policy that covers member schools' student/athletes.

**Skip Yow, the GHSA Legislative Liaison**, gave a report to the committee concerning issues in the State Legislature that involved the GHSA and/or the GHSA's legislative oversight committee.

**Alan Sharp, the GHSA Marketing Director**, gave a report on the GHSA's member schools involved in the NFHS broadcasting program and gave an update about marketing and sponsorship.

**Alan Connell, the GHSA's Legal Council**, spoke to the committee about the honor and responsibilities that come with being members of the State Executive Committee.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*(Committee reports constitute motions by the Chairman of the Committee, no seconds are required.)*

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Report presented by Jesse Crews

The committee **recommended**:

1. Proposal to require the host school to provide an adult (21 or older) to maintain the official scorebook and electronic clock/scoreboard at all varsity basketball games.

**MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**

2. Proposal to consider modifying by-law 2.64 (a) (2) to read: Member state championship teams receiving an invitation to nationally-recognized tournaments held after the designated sports season has ended must apply to the Executive Director for approval. Such application must be signed by the principal of the school, must be submitted at least 14 days prior to the beginning of the tournament and must include the following: contact information for the tournament organizer; proposed plans for the school to include manner and date of travel; number of hours of instruction to be missed and fees to participate. A decision not to approve may be appealed to the GHSA Board of Trustees, who shall review the information submitted to the Executive Director. No additional information or documentation shall be considered. The vote of the majority of the Trustees shall control.

**MOTION PASSED (55-1; Voting no: Hunter)**

3. Proposal to delete Constitutional reference Section 5, D.1. (page 10) "or eight semester rule" **Note: Constitutional change, will require two votes.** And add: New By-Law 1.42(c) "The provisions of the eight semester rule can only be waived in the case of an individual student by the Executive Committee upon timely application by a member school for placement on the Spring or Fall agenda."

**MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**

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4. Proposal to add New By-Law 4.11(a)(3)  
Members of the Executive Committee may propose new or amended rules, by-laws or actions to be taken or considered by the Executive Committee during the new business portion of Executive Committee meetings only if such proposal has first been submitted to the Executive Director for inclusion on the agenda for the meeting not later than five (5) days prior to the date of the Executive Committee meeting. Provided however, that if the Executive Director certifies any proposal that has not been timely submitted to be of an emergency nature or to be necessary for the orderly transaction of the business or activities of the GHSA, then he shall have the authority to bring such proposal to the floor of the meeting for consideration of and action by the Executive Committee.  
**MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**
5. Proposal to approve the 2015-16 budget (See attachment at the end of these minutes).  
**MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**
6. Proposal to extend contract of Executive Director Gary Phillips through 2017-18 with an increase in salary of \$5,000 for 2015-16 and a five-percent increase for 2016-17.  
**MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**

The committee **denied**:

1. Proposal to reword By-Law 2.62(a) to include entering into an agreement for athletic competition in non-power rated sports with the Georgia Independent Christian Athletic Association.
2. Proposal to allow a coach to work with four (4) athletes in skill-building drills in all sports instead of the current two (2) athletes.

The committee **received as information**:

Proposal to adopt "Position Statement on Hazing/Bullying/Harassment"

Add new 4.64 (Renumber old 4.64 to new 4.65) to read:

The GHSA believes in the values of good sporting behavior, of encouraging citizenship, fair play and the promotion of a positive atmosphere within the competitive activities of our member schools. Every student and every team in the association must be free of hazing, bullying and harassment. Regrettably some groups take it upon themselves to engage in initiation ceremonies as a condition of team membership; "a right of passage."

Hazing is defined as any act or ceremony deliberately subjecting another person to potential harm or physical injury as a part of an initiation or prerequisite of membership on a team or into an activity. Georgia state law prohibits these activities regardless of the willingness of the individual(s) to participate.

It is the responsibility of school administrators, athletic staff and others to report any form of hazing / bullying or harassment and deal with the problems on the local level. Tolerance of these wrongs to individuals destroys self-respect, negates positive contributions, creates physical risks and harms the overall athletic environment.

### **BASEBALL COMMITTEE**

Report presented by David Brooks

The committee **denied**:

Proposal to increase the number of baseball games allowed during the regular season from 26 to 36.

The committee **received as information**:

Proposal to move the state championship games in all classifications to a single neutral host city.

### **BASKETBALL COMMITTEE**

Report presented by Nathan Turner

The committee **recommended**:

Proposal to return to the "Sectional" format for the quarterfinals and semifinals of the state tournament.

**MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**

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**ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE**

Report presented by Pat Blenke

The committee **recommended**:

1. Proposal to reword By-Law 1.62(b) as follows: The student was enrolled in a private school or a magnet school and has a bona fide move from one public school service area to another public school service area. A student in this situation may attend either the public school or a private school serving his area of residence. NOTE: Students who have a bona fide move within a service area that has multiple private schools must file a hardship to seek eligibility if they wish to enroll into a different private school.  
**MOTION PASSED (55-1; Voting No: Vick)**
2. Proposal to reword By-Law 1.62(h) as follows: Students who are U.S. citizens who have been enrolled and attended a high school in a foreign country, upon return to the U.S., shall be eligible to participate at the GHSA member school provided that the student lives in the new school's service area and is otherwise eligible under GHSA age, eight semester, academic and other eligibility rules.  
**MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**
3. Proposal to add New By-Law 2.51(h) to read: If a school is in a charter or strategic waiver (IE<sup>2</sup>) system, the coach (head coach or assistant) must meet the highly qualified requirements outlined in the Georgia Professional Standards Commission's guidelines.  
**MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**

**FOOTBALL COMMITTEE**

Report presented by Earl Etheridge

The committee **recommended**:

1. Proposal to allow football schools the opportunity to play 10 Mini Games in Junior Varsity Football instead of 7 regular games (combination of which shall not exceed 28 quarters for sub-varsity), as allowed currently. Each mini game will be one/half of a regular game. Four schools would meet at one site and two schools play one half, and the other two the second half. Officials would be paid the regular game fee.  
**MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**
2. Proposal to amend By-Law 2.68 as follows: Full contact should be limited during games and practices as well as during activity outside of the traditional fall practice. When possible, an athletic trainer should be present at all practices and games. (Note: No limitation is placed on activities defined below as "AIR, BAGS or CONTROL" contact.
  - A. For purposes of this by-law, the following definitions shall apply: **AIR** - Players run a drill unopposed without contact; **BAGS** - Players run a drill against a bag or another soft-contact surface; **CONTROL** - Players run a drill at assigned speed until the moment of contact and one player is pre-determined the "winner" by the coach. Contact remains above the waist and players stay on their feet; **THUD** - Players run a drill at competitive speed through the moment of contact with no pre-determined "winner." Contact remains above the waist, players stay on their feet and a quick whistle ends the drill; **LIVE ACTION** - Players run a drill in game-like conditions and is the only time that players are taken to the ground; **FULL CONTACT** - Contact which meets the definition of Live Action or Thud.
  - B. **Pre-Season Practice:**
    - 1) Full contact shall be allowed in no more than 2 consecutive practice days per week;
    - 2) Full contact during practice shall be limited to not more than 45 minutes per day;
    - 3) Full contact during practice shall be limited to not more than 135 minutes per week; and
    - 4) During any twice-daily practice, only one session per day shall include full contact.
  - C. **Regular & Post Season Practice:**
    - 1) Full contact during practice shall be allowed in no more than three (3) practice days per week;
    - 2) Full contact during practice shall not be allowed on more than two (2) consecutive days;
    - 3) Full contact during practice shall be limited to not more than 30 minutes per day;
    - 4) Full contact during practice shall be limited to not more than 90 minutes per week.
  - D. **Written Practice Plans:** A written practice plan in compliance with this by-law shall be prepared in advance by the head coach prior to every practice and maintained by the school for a period of at least twelve (12) months. Such practice plans shall be made available to the GHSA upon request.
  - E. **Violations:** The penalty to be imposed upon any member school found to have violated this by-law in any substantial manner shall be as follows:

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- 1) First Offense: A fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$2500 per violation at the discretion of the Executive Director.
- 2) Second Offense: The school shall be placed on probation and shall not be eligible to participate in post season play.

**MOTION PASSED (unanimously)** [NOTE: These limited contact rules go into effect Aug. 1, 2015.]

3. Proposal to implement a discounted presale student ticket (\$2 off regular price) through the semifinal round of the state football playoffs. (Note: Only one (1) ticket per student may be sold at the discounted price)

**MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**

The committee **denied**:

Proposal to allow schools that have Spring Practice to have the option of playing their scrimmage game at the end of Spring Practice or in the fall.

### **GYMNASTICS COMMITTEE**

Report presented by Lucia Norwood

The committee **recommended**:

Proposal that schools may organize and conduct Invitational Tournaments to assist in meeting the GHSA three-meet requirement. These tournaments may be held outside the school, but must be run by school personnel and must be sanctioned through the GHSA. The invitational will count as one of the ten (10) season competitions. All scoring that meets the established minimum scores will be recognized for the gymnastics Preliminary Meet.

**MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**

### **LITERARY COMMITTEE**

Report presented by Nathan Turner

The committee **received as information**:

1. Proposal that the GHSA develops a list of trained (adjudicator training) judges for Region and State Literary, as already done in One Act Play. In 2016, Region Literary would require one (1) judge to be from the list, and both judges at State. In 2017 and future years, all judges would come from this list. If not enough certified judges are on the list, any judge selected must be approved by GHSA.
2. Proposal that no judge working the GHSA Literary Region or State events, can have had any connection in the past 10 years (attended, worked in system, have children or other relatives in system, etc.) with the schools they are judging. If there is a question, the Region or State Literary representative must ask the GHSA office for clarification on acceptability.

### **OFFICIALS COMMITTEE**

Report presented by Earl Etheridge

The committee **recommended**:

1. Proposal to change fees for cheerleading judges to \$8 per team, per judge for all regular-season events, and \$10 per team, per judge for all post-season events.

**MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**

2. Proposal to require annual background checks for all GHSA contest officials.

**MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**

### **SOFTBALL COMMITTEE**

Report presented by Dexter Wood

The committee **recommended**:

1. Proposal to reduce the number of regular season games to 25, but then allow a region tournament that is in addition to

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the regular-season limit.

**MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**

2. Proposal to adopt the true "state-wide" bracket used in football and the other power rated sports.  
**MOTION PASSED (54-2; Voting No: Stokes, B. Rogers)**
3. Proposal that, upon arrival for the "team check-in" at the Elite Eight tournament in Columbus, all player and team bats will be inspected using an ASA certified bat testing machine.  
**MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**

The committee **denied**:

1. Proposal that the maximum number of games allowed (28) will now include region tournament games.
2. Proposal that, during region tournaments, no game shall be started that does not have a reasonable presumption to be completed no later than 11:30 PM on a night that precedes a school day.
3. Proposal that only the final four schools in each classification will advance to Columbus. The first, second and third rounds will be played at school sites.

**SPORTSMANSHIP COMMITTEE**

Report presented by Lucia Norwood

The committee **recommended**:

Proposal to increase penalties (for unsporting acts) for coaches' ejections and institute a player penalty as follows:

**First Ejection** - Coach (\$250 + by-law penalty), Player (completion of NFHS Sportsmanship Online Course + by-law penalty).

**Second Ejection** - Coach (\$500 + by-law penalty and suspension until completion of NFHS Sportsmanship Online Course, Player (\$200 + by-law penalty).

**Third Ejection** - Coach (Season suspension + by-law penalty(s) and cannot coach in an activity at any member school until successful completion of GHSA Principals of Coaching, Player (Season suspension + by-law penalty(s).

The Executive Director shall have the authority to levy additional penalties on repeat offenders.

**MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**

**TENNIS COMMITTEE**

Report presented by Don Corr

The committee **recommended**:

Proposal to adopt the true "state-wide" bracket used in football and the other power rated sports.

**MOTION PASSED (Roll Call Vote #2 - Yes: 40, No: 14, Abstain: 1, Absent: 3)**

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

**VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE**

Report presented by Don Breedlove

The committee **recommended**:

1. Proposal to allow spring tryouts in volleyball.  
**MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**
2. Proposal to allow the option to change the format of the area volleyball tournaments to best-of-five, single-elimination.  
**MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**

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The committee **received as information**:

Proposal to standardize the number of teams qualifying for the state volleyball playoffs to be four from each Area.

**WRESTLING COMMITTEE**

Report presented by Don Breedlove

The committee **recommended**:

Proposal to adopt the NFHS wrestling weigh-in procedures.

**MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Gary Phillips** reminded the committee of the new dates for next year's State Executive Committee meeting (August 17, 2015) and April 18, 2016) and of the fact all coaches must review the NFHS concussion video this next school year. He also urged all schools to make sure they have their Emergency Action Plan on file, as required.

**Motion** by Don Corr, second by Lucia Norwood, to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION PASSED (unanimously)**

<b>GHSA 2015-16 Budget</b>			
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>2015-16</b>		
Books & Publications	\$15,000.00		
Invitational/Regional Tourneys	\$120,000.00		
Preferred Vendor Sales	\$250,000.00		
State Tourneys & Playoffs	\$2,450,000.00		
Dues	\$110,000.00		
Insurance Fees (Members)	\$175,000.00		
Community Coach Registration	\$360,000.00		
Trophies & Awards	\$10,000.00		
Fines	\$155,000.00		
Interest Income/Fund Transferrrs	\$500.00		
Rules Books	\$25,000.00		
Officiating Department	\$360,000.00		
Corporate Partnerships	\$560,000.00		
Media Partnerships	\$80,000.00		
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$4,670,500.00</b>		
<b>Expenses</b>			
Payroll Taxes	\$70,000.00		
Printing	\$25,000.00		
Professional Fees	\$50,000.00		
Retirement Expense	\$95,000.00		
Salaries & Wages	\$820,000.00		
State Tourneys/Playoffs	\$1,650,000.00		
State Meets (Activities)	\$35,000.00		
Clinics & Exams	\$15,000.00		
Evaluations	\$15,000.00		
Insurance Expense	\$920,000.00		
Occupancy Expense	\$32,500.00		
Travel Expense/Meetings	\$100,000.00		
Outside Services	\$160,000.00		
Office Supplies/Equipment	\$20,000.00		
Postal/Parcel Delivery	\$35,000.00		
Telephone	\$15,000.00		
Service Contracts	\$20,000.00		
Community Coach Program	\$120,000.00		
Trophies & Medals	\$80,000.00		
Dues & Subscriptions	\$3,000.00		
Flowers & Honoraria	\$3,000.00		
Marketing Expenses	\$45,000.00		
Licensing Services	\$80,000.00		
Disability Sports	\$75,000.00		
Miscalleneous Expenses	\$2,000.00		
Officiating Department	\$100,000.00		
NFHS Books/Publications	\$75,000.00		
Sports Medicine	\$10,000.00		
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,670,500.00</b>		