

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
RECLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
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FEBRUARY 24, 2025 – 10:00 am

The Reclassification Committee of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 10 am on February 25, 2025, at the GHSA office in Thomaston, Georgia, by Dr. Jim Finch, BOT President. Dr. Curt Miller, BOT Vice President, led the pledge of allegiance. The invocation was given by Associate Director, Carror Wright, and roll call was done by Media Director, Marvin James, which shows the following: Present - 18 Absent - 0

Scarlett Granthan - Danny Redshaw - Steve Waters - Lamarr Glenn - Rendell Jackson - Ricky Turner

Andrew Calhoun - Eli Connell - Myron Newton - Brian Montgomery - Harley Calhoun - Jim Finch

Michael Thompson - Davis Russell - Kevin Petroski - Jose Fernandez - Steve Simpson - Curt Miller

The adoption of the agenda by Jim Finch was put in motion by Brian Montgomery and seconded by Harley Calhoun. It passed unanimously.

Dr Scott discussed the results of a recent survey with GHSA member schools regarding their opinion on Competitive Balance.

85 schools **“I have heard the Competitive Balance proposal for reclassification purposes and I SUPPORT the proposal”**

115 schools **“I have heard the Competitive Balance proposal for reclassification purposes and I DO NOT SUPPORT the proposal”**

35 schools **“I have heard the Competitive Balance proposal for reclassification purposes and do not know enough about it to make an educated decision. I would like to be invited to gather more information and hear the proposal.**

3 schools **“I have not heard the proposal and would like to be invited to hear the proposal.”**

Still, more than 230 schools DID NOT respond.

Reclass President Dr. Curt Miller, led a continued discussion for the Competitive Balance. The discussion needs to be decided before moving forward with any proposal. Below are the Questions and Answers during the dialogue.

- During the first year, should we move any schools up, or should we collect data and implement changes after the first cycle? What measurements should be added that are not currently in the proposal? If we move schools up or down - how many?

Opinions from the committee responded with replies of “Depends on where we place them. If we use Competitive Balance how are we setting the layout? Versus the current model? How will we use FTE?”

GHSA Executive Director, Dr. Tim Scott explained, “If we go forward with the original proposed ‘Competitive Balance’ model now, we have enough data to keep everybody where they are now. We will look at next-gen numbers to determine the next step”.

Committee members wanted to clarify exactly what determines “dominance”? What “dominance” could make a school be moved up? Whatever “dominance” will be decided; it should comprise of at least of three years of data average.

Adam: We're talking Competitive Balance because there is a competitive imbalance. Each classification is different.

Reclass Pres, Dr. Curt Miller: What would happen if schools refused to come down because of not wanting to leave nearby rivals? That would create unbalanced classifications over time, how would we address that?

The Reclassification committee affirmed ALL aspects of the reclassification process will be able to be appealed. It also clarified that all schools will remain in the same classification if they are not at the top or bottom of the classification.

If Competitive Balance was approved, all the data would go to the Competitive Balance page on the MIS of the GHSA website so every school could monitor it at all times.

An overwhelming majority preferred to stay on a two-year cycle. Not many have expressed an interest in four-year cycles that would include all 34 GHSA sports and activities in the points system.

- What do you believe the next steps should be for this proposal?

All athletic departments are different. We total up everyone’s points based on the number of sports/activities which gives you the next-gen number to be reclassified with. The percentage of sports participated by all GHSA member schools factors in your next-gen numbers. All sports are not weighted the same.

Scarlett Grantham spoke out about not supporting this Competitive Balance model as it stands. Too many questions unanswered.

Dr. Miller called for a straw poll of the competitive balance model and of the 18 Reclassification Members, 11 were not in favor. Five were in favor, while two members were undecided.

Eli Connell offered up a proposal that would bring all schools back together and it would help to reduce Travel. It consists of 8 groupings for playoffs. A- Smallest 50 2A (upper and lower), 3A (upper and lower), 4A (upper and lower), 5A- Largest 60. Upper and lower depend on whether a school accepts out-of-district students. If they do, they go to the upper division for playoffs. If they do not, they go to the lower division. This proposal is below and up for discussion on the multiplier, how to determine state playoff teams.

A brief discussion about PSR Rankings (to rank teams without guaranteed playoff spots for the top two region placers) was received well. The committee overall approved for the most part but expressed concern about guaranteeing spots in a power-ranked bracket bringing about problems.

GHSA’s Don Corr will research comparisons with Max Prep formulas to find out what’s the difference between the two rating systems.

Kevin Petroski brought up the point, the challenges that PSR can bring to smaller schools when sports bleed over one another. For example, when football wraps up the players are not available for basketball. They are proposing a later PSR start date so that rankings don't have skewed numbers when varsity players are out finishing up other sports.

There were suggestions about ranking the top 32 teams from top to bottom in all classifications, but there were concerns about region champions not being ranked high enough.

The next meeting was set for Monday, March 24, 2025, at 10:00 am at the GHSA office.

Curt Miller called for a motion to adjourn the meeting which was accepted by Andrew Calhoun and seconded by Steve Waters.

Proposal to Reduce Travel 2025

Rational:

- a. Consideration of travel time and costs, plus time out of school for students.
- b. Consideration of differences in the size of school populations.
- c. Consideration of competitive balance of the schools.
- d. Consideration of equitable access to playoff slots.
- e. Consideration of rivalries and gate-receipt issues.

School Types:

Traditional Schools - *Schools that only accept students from a single school district. (This does not include students that are kids of district employees.)

Non- Traditional Schools- Schools that accept students from multiple school districts or schools that have 7% or more out of zone students compared to their actual FTE count.

Classification		
AAAAA	Top ~13% Schools based on Enrollment (~60 Schools)	
	Upper Division	Lower Division
AAAA (33% of remaining schools)	Min 45 <u>Non Traditional</u> Schools. (Based on Enrollment)	Min 45 Traditional Schools. (Based on Enrollment)
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A	Bottom ~12% Football Playing Schools (~50 Schools) Public Schools Only	

****The Reclass committee will make the determination between 45-65 Traditional & Non Traditional Schools for each Division in 4A/3A/2A****

Regular Season

- 8-12 Regions Statewide if needed (Could be Different in each Classification)
- Regions can consist of both Traditional and Non-Traditional Schools in 4A-2A.
- 4A,3A and 2A - Upper and Lower Divisions will be combined by the GHSA during the regular season to form regions.

Enrollment/ Classification Breakdown:

- 5x Multiplier for Out of Zone students is used to determine enrollment totals for ALL schools. (Out of Zone as defined in the GHSA Constitution)
- 5A will consist of the Top 60 Schools based on Enrollment. **(No school with lower than 1600 students before the multiplier can move to 5A (Big 60).**
- 4A-2A will have an Upper & Lower Division in each classification. If possible, The Upper Division will consist of Non Traditional Schools & the Lower Division will consist of Traditional Schools.

*Each Division (Upper and Lower) must have a minimum of ~45 Traditional & ~45 Non Traditional Schools to complete a classification. **If these numbers are not achieved,** the affected classification(s) will be filled by **mixing** Traditional & Non Traditional Schools in order based on their enrollment numbers. **In this case the Upper and Lower divisions will be created using ~50% of teams in each classification based on enrollment. Non Traditional Schools that are placed in this scenario will move up one division for final placement.** (Note:When a Non-Traditional School is moved up a Division, a Traditional School is moved down. ***This could cause movement in 5A-2A***)

Any school that opts to move up will result in a Traditional School moving down. If a school choosing to move up brings the number in each division below 45 then it will not be allowed.(5A-2A)

- 1A will consist of the Bottom ~12% of Public Playing football schools. 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.** (~ 75 overall) All of Single A will consist of Public Schools Only.
- The GHSA will follow this guideline for classification structure.
 - 5A (Top ~13% based on Enrollment)
 - 1A (Bottom ~12% Football Playing Schools)
 - 4A (Upper Division/ Lower Division)
 - 3A (Upper Division/ Lower Division)
 - 2A (Upper Division/ Lower Division)
- See the chart above for the Classification/ Division Breakdown

State Playoffs

- **1A & 5A - Each Region will choose one automatic qualifier. Postseason Rankings will fill any open spots until all 32 teams are filled.**
- **(2A, 3A, and 4A) - Each Region will choose one automatic qualifier for Upper and Lower, if applicable. Postseason Rankings will fill any open spots until all 32 teams are filled.**
- **There will be 8 Championship Brackets.**
 - **5A**
 - **4A Upper/ 4A Lower**
 - **3A Upper/ 3A Lower**
 - **2A Upper/ 2A Lower**
 - **1A**