

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

The Reclassification Committee of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 10 am on March 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 Steve Simpson and seconded by Michael Thompson. It passed unanimously.

Dr. Curt Miller addressed the crowd of more than 50 including 32 visiting athletic directors and coaches and offered all in attendance to raise their hand and they would be called on to speak. Dr. Miller gave an update on things since the last meeting. He spoke to 56 of the 68 executive committees offering explanations and region google meets if they would like. Three regions have taken him up on it. He encouraged those with opinions or thoughts to come to these meetings and be heard.

The committee opened with a discussion regarding Power Rankings, the pros/cons. A suggestion was brought up to rank the first 8 places as top 8 region champs, then 9-32 power rankings. Others stressed that 1-32 Power rankings.

Coach Jesse McMillan (Norcross) spoke that a majority of his unofficial poll (226 basketball coaches) would prefer (1-32) with region tournament not having bearing on the PSR.

Travel time is a major concern regarding the 1-32 seeding, so consider ranking in the North (16) and South (16) but there was a suggestion that a few regions don't align geographically. (Eli Connell)

They also discussed how many automatic qualifiers 0,2,3 or 4? But divide the 32 in half between north (16) and south (16)

Regions with private school schools may skew the region champion qualifiers.

Suggested to delay PSR between sports to account for programs sharing student-athletes.

Straw poll results are below for PSR.

RECLASS PROPOSAL FROM ELI CONNELL TO ADDRESS TRAVEL (see attachments)

Big 60 – 4.22 The Reclassification Committee may utilize the following factors in the reclassification decision:

- 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.

Suggest 5 for the qualifier, but could continue with three. Each region would represent two to Upper, and two to the lower.

BIG 90 – same concept, same rules RURAL 50 in 4 large classes based on enrollment

The issues against this are concerns with all schools being looked as being the same.

COMPETITIVE BALANCE

Preference of 4-year cycles and if schools were bumped up/down will be given true 4-year read. For most, it will only be a 2-year cycle.

GHSA Executive Director spoke on FTE in Oct 2025, all have options to appeal as we operate now. You would only change if you're at the very top or very bottom, if you are competitive, you will stay put. All private schools are brought back in and will be included. And of course, all schools can appeal.

All success is not the same, schools with large out-of-zone students will continue to see success while those that do not take out-of-zone students will not be able to maintain success year after year.

Suggestion of doing competitive balance per sport/activity. There are only 3 sports by gender Tennis, Soccer, and Basketball that play the same exact region schedule so keep them combined. Consider all sports to fall according to FTE.

We have to consider the “recruiting” aspect of things as well as transfers.

Straw poll from the reclass committee regarding Post Season Rankings,

- Rank them straight from 1-32 (2)
- Region Champs (8) guaranteed, then rank 9-32 (10)
- Top 4 from every region, just rank from 1-32 (2)
- North/South Top 16 (1)
- Top 2 (1)

KEEPING THE CURRENT MODEL FOR 2 MORE YEARS

Schools have asked why aren't we giving the current model a chance?

Dr. Miller mentioned several schools in various sports that have reached deep rounds of the state tournaments that haven't done so in decades and that is rewarding to see.

He also said when we condensed classes from 7 to 6, we created competitive balance.

Why are Private schools separated A-3A? They shouldn't be treated differently. This is according to the GHSA mission statement. This also applies to schools the same size so the mission statement does not align with competitive balance either.

This is according to the GHSA mission statement which reads... *“The Georgia High School Association promotes the total educational experience by encouraging participation in school sponsored interscholastic activities, while providing the leadership necessary to insure equitable opportunities for all student-athletes.”*

Add to the appeal history of poor athletic performance for a reason to drop,

Dublin's ROGER HOLMES, Pepperell's Chad Brown & Hart County's Corey Dickerson also presented Reclassification proposals

The next meeting was set for Sunday, April 13, 2025, at 10:00 am in Macon for the weekend State Executive Committee meeting for the spring.

Dr. Miller encouraged all member schools to come and be a part of the process. Please come listen and share your thoughts. We are all working together on this.

Curt Miller called for a motion to adjourn the meeting which was accepted by Steve Simpson and seconded by Scarlett Grantham.

Big 60

4A

3A

2A

5A

1A

Big
60

Rural
50

45/65 Non-Tr	45/65 Trad.
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45/65 Non-Tr	45/65 Trad.
-----------------	----------------

45/65 Non-Tr	45/65 Trad.
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No school under
1600 actual
count can jump
to Big 60.

~1/3
Remaining

~1/3
Remaining

~1/3
Remaining

- Key Points:**
- Increase Gates
 - Reduce Travel
 - 4A-2A
 - State Brackets consists of schools w/similar enrollment rules

Proposal to Reduce Travel 2025

Rationale: GHSA bylaws - 4.22 The Reclassification Committee may utilize the following factors in reclassification decision:

- 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)
AAA (33% of remaining schools)	Min 45 <u>Non Traditional</u> Schools. (Based on Enrollment)	Min 45 Traditional Schools. (Based on Enrollment)
AA (33% of remaining schools)	Min 45 <u>Non Traditional</u> Schools. (Based on Enrollment)	Min 45 Traditional Schools. (Based on Enrollment)
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(3x) 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(1500) 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. **(No school under 400 students before mult. will go above 2A)**

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 NT/ Lower Division T)
 - 3A (Upper Division NT/ Lower Division T)
 - 2A (Upper Division NT/ Lower Division T)
- 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. Each Region will choose 2 automatic qualifiers and PSR will fill any remaining spots.**
- **(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. Each Region will choose two automatic qualifiers(1 host school) for Upper and Lower, if applicable. PSR will fill any remaining spots.**
- There will be 8 Championship Brackets.
 - 5A
 - 4A Upper/ 4A Lower
 - 3A Upper/ 3A Lower
 - 2A Upper/ 2A Lower
 - 1A

5A

45 Schools
Upper
Division

45 Schools
Lower
Division

90

4A

45-50
Upper
Division

45-50
Lower
Division

~ 95

3A

45-50
Upper
Division

45-50
Lower
Division

~ 95

2A

45-50
Upper
Division

45-50
Lower
Division

~ 95

Big 90

Reduce Travel 2A-5A

Improve gate/receipts

Divisions based on enrollment

1A

Rural 50

~ 50

Proposal to Reduce Travel 2025

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- 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	<u>Upper Division</u>	<u>Lower Division</u>
AAAAA	Top ~20% Schools based on Enrollment (~90 Schools)	
AAAA (~33% of remaining schools)	Min 45 Schools. (Based on Enrollment)	Min 45 Schools. (Based on Enrollment)
AAA (~33% of remaining schools)	Min 45 Schools. (Based on Enrollment)	Min 45 Schools. (Based on Enrollment)
AA (~33% of remaining schools)	Min 45 Schools. (Based on Enrollment)	Min 45 Schools. (Based on Enrollment)
A	Bottom ~12% Football Playing Schools (~50 Schools) Public Schools Only	

****All schools 2A - 5A will be placed based on enrollment after multiplier. All Non Traditional schools will be bumped up half a division.*****

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 5A-2A.
- 5A-2A - Upper and Lower Divisions will be combined by the GHSA during the regular season to form regions.

Enrollment/ Classification Breakdown:

- 5x (3x) 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-2A will consist of Traditional and Non Traditional Schools based on enrollment. Upper and Lower divisions will consist of ~50% of teams in each classification. Non Traditional Schools 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.
- No school under 400 students before mult. will go above 2A
- **No school with lower than 1600(1500) students before the multiplier can move to 5A upper.**
- 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 any 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 (Upper Division/ Lower Division)
 - 4A (Upper Division/ Lower Division)
 - 3A (Upper Division/ Lower Division)
 - 2A (Upper Division/ Lower Division)
 - 1A (Bottom ~12% Football Playing Schools)
- See the chart above for the Classification/ Division Breakdown

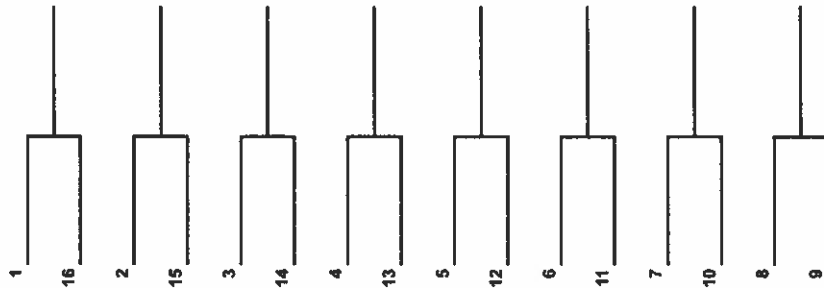
State Playoffs

- **1A - Each Region will choose one automatic qualifier. Postseason Rankings will fill any open spots until all 32 teams are filled. Each Region will choose 2 automatic qualifiers and PSR will fill any remaining spots.**
- **(2A- 5A) - 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. Each Region will choose two automatic qualifiers(1 host school) for Upper and Lower, if applicable. PSR will fill any remaining spots.**
- **There will be 9 Championship Brackets.**
 - 5A Upper/ 5A Lower
 - 4A Upper/ 4A Lower
 - 3A Upper/ 3A Lower
 - 2A Upper/ 2A Lower
 - 1A

Round 1:

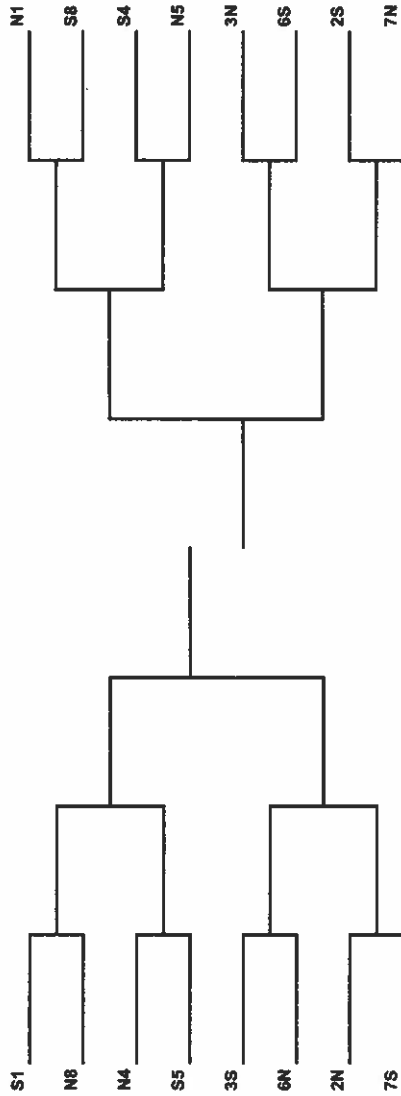
South Regions will produce a 16 team bracket w/PSR
Each Region will designate a host school that will be
guaranteed 1-8 in Rd 1.

SOUTH Teams 1-16



Round 2-6:

PSR will seed Teams 1-8 from Both North
and South's Round 1 Bracket and be
Placed in Bracket below to determine State
Champion.



RATIONALE:

- Reduce travel in 1st Round
- Reseed using PSR after Round 1 to increase chances of BEST teams meeting in the Finals
- Helps eliminate Regions facing each other in both Rounds 1 and 2

Round 1:

North Regions will produce a 16 team bracket w/PSR
Each Region will designate a host school that will be
guaranteed 1-8 in Rd 1.

NORTH Teams 1-16

