

# GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES

### STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 7, 2024

The Fall meeting of the State Executive Committee of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 9:00 a.m., on October 7, 2024, at the Marriott Macon City Center by Jim Finch, President.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice President Curt Miller. The invocation was given by Carror Wright, Associate Director. Roll call by Marvin James, Media Director, showed the following: Present - 64, Absent - 5 (A below)

Danny Redshaw	Rick Sauls	Darrell Demastus	Joseph Kegler	Brian Montgomery	Jose Fernandez	Richard Woods -A
Paul Fitz-Simons	Lamar Glenn	Ricky Turner	Kevin Grooms	Scott Hodges	Michelle Masters	Josh Owens – A
Don Baker	Tonya Sebring	Matt Hollis	Jesse Crews	Robert Shaw	Regina Montgomery	Don Norton – A
Jason Holcombe	Brooke Whitlock	Greg Ellison	Myron Newton	Kevin Petroski	David Colvard	Eli Dupree -A
Matt Moody	Brad Hayes	Andrew Calhoun	Nyere Coy Brown	Mike Thompson	Eric Holland	
Nathan Turner	Andre Byrd	Reggie Wilkes	Brent Mashburn	Mike Cleveland	Craig Davis	
Scarlett Grantham	Charles Robinson	Lawrence Kelly	Corey Dickerson	Harley Calhoun	Joe Sanfilippo	
Jason Carrera	Rendell Jackson	Phillip Shiflet	Fred Williams	Dusty Phillips	Jim Finch	
Steve Waters	Paris Burd	Matt Combs	Dawn Odom	Corian Robinson	Curt Miller	
Jody Dean	Rendell Jackson	Paul Standard	Jeffrey Sloan	Jeff Bryant	David Bell – A	
Cedric King	Bobby Brewington	Eli Connell	Brad Dehem	Steve Simpson		

**Motion** was made by Jesse Crews, seconded by Steve Simpson, and unanimously approved to adopt the agenda.

**Motion** was made by Simpson, seconded by Crews, and unanimously approved to go into executive session to hear student appeals (Note: The appeal was heard in executive session, but the vote was taken after coming out of executive session).

#### APPOINTMENTS:

**Central High School, Macon** – Dr. Chendra Dupree, principal, presented an appeal of student eligibility for two students.

**Motion** by Jesse Crews, second by David Colvard to **Deny** the appeal.

**MOTION to Deny PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Lakeside, DeKalb** – Tricia Newmyer, Athletic Director, presented a Hardship Appeal & Semester Rule for a student.

**Motion** by Steve Waters, second by Andre Byrd to **Deny** the appeal.

**MOTION to Deny PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### PRESENTATIONS:

1. Presentation by Kyle Eversgard and Jackson McClure for soft-padded helmets for girls' flag football. They own a company called Gamebreaker that supplies helmets for many girls' flag football and 7 on-7 teams across the country to help prevent concussions and injuries. Helmets are like guardian caps.
2. Presentation by Ref Reps. This program is designed to recruit and retain the next generation of sporting officials. Dr. Hines endorsed the program, saying it is imperative to attract younger clientele to officiate.
3. Presentation by Kelli Hutchinson (Henry County) to promote GHSA programs to donate clothing, and funds to foster care programs in Georgia. More than 300K are in the Peach State foster care system. Georgia Athletic Directors Association and NIAAA are helping to sponsor this donation drive that expires on November 10, 2024.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

1. Proposal to remove by-law 1.62 L, regarding migratory rule **(VOTE: 10-3) Motion to approve by Finch, seconded by Miller (Roll Call Vote 10-3)**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**
2. **Proposal** for Gymnastics: ALL gymnasts must wear a school-issued uniform of modest proportions in their school colors. **(VOTE: 13-0) Motion to approve by Grantham, seconded by Montgomery**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**
3. **Proposal** The GHSA office will sanction all Golf events proposed to start before the end of the school day, none to start before 1 pm, and will be limited to up to 4 times per gender. Effective July 1, 2025 **(VOTE: 13-0)**  
**Motion to approve by Petroski and seconded by Waters**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **RECEIVED AS INFORMATION:**

1. Presentation from GHSA Executive Director, Tim Scott, led a discussion on competitive balance.

### **COMMITTEE VOTED TO TABLE:**

1. Proposal to increase the fine for missing rules clinic, from \$100 to \$200; by-law 2.54 Appendix P.  
**Motion to table by Masters and Seconded by Simpson**

### **TENNIS COMMITTEE: Brent Mashburn, Chairman (Sonoraville HS)**

1. Use 2 of 3 No-Add scoring to all STATE playoff and championship matches. Effective immediately. **(VOTE: 6-0)**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**
2. Moving second and third-round playoffs to Macon **(RECEIVED AS INFORMATION)**
3. Combining semi-finals and championships in Rome on the same day. **(RECEIVED AS INFORMATION)**
4. Change the deadline for completion of the region schedule from April 10 to April 18 **(RECEIVED AS INFORMATION)**

### **SOCCKER COMMITTEE: Don Baker, Chairman (Cobb County) – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

1. Proposed non-region OVERTIME change. Effective immediately. **(VOTE: 5-0)**

### **FOOTBALL COMMITTEE: Paul Standard, Chairman (Gilmer HS) – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

1. Provide flexibility during spring football, with options for OTA's, scrimmages, etc. **(VOTE: 7-0)**

### **DIRECTOR's REPORT**

#### **LEGAL REPORT**

Justin Connell reported that they are still handling Open requests on behalf of the GHSA. He also expressed that GHSA has only one open litigation which occurred in Lowndes County, 2019. They hope to have a resolution in 2025.

#### **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Dr. Robin Hines reported that the GHSA is in good standing. Hines also encouraged the SEC to reach out and develop a relationship with their senator and representatives. Hines expects Safety from the Apalachee shooting to be a main topic coming out of legislature when they return to session. He also lists mental health awareness, N.I.L., School choice, and "Save Girls Sports" as other important topics of discussion this coming new year.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Dr. Tim Scott shared that he presented the competitive balance model with the Trustees and implored the SEC to contact him for further discussion soon. Scott also spoke of GHSA waiving membership and catastrophic insurance dues along with a member share distribution of nearly \$700,000 totaling \$1MM given back to the member schools this year. GHSA hopes to continue giving back to our member schools in coming years provided our Association continues to experience financial stability. Scott applauded the GHSA member schools' outstanding work handling Hurricane Helene's outcome, both on the playing fields and in the community while offering continued support. Lastly, Scott expressed excitement about the Football State Championships returning to the Mercedes Benz stadium later in December.

*Jesse Crews motioned to adjourn; Steve Simpson seconded.*