

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

April 17, 2023

A meeting of the State Executive Committee of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 9:00 a.m., on April 17, 2023, 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 Ernie Yarbrough, Assistant Director, showed the following: Present - 72, Absent - 3 (indicated by "A" below)

Danny Redshaw	Todd Mooney	Darrell Demastus	Greg Ellison	Scott Queen - sub	Will Smith - sub	Jose Fernandez
Evan Horton	Willie Cannon	Jeff Segars	Shon Hardy - sub	Joshua Moore	David Bell	Richard Woods - A
Don Baker	Tonya Sebring	Jeff Battles	Felecia Colquitt	Barry Williams	Don Tison	David Colvard
Jason Dopson	Steven Craft	Marty Shiver	Jasper Jewell	Kevin Petroski	Bradley Warren	Jason Miller
Matthew Moody	Brad Hayes - A	Brooke Whitlock	Ronnie Massey	Mike Thompson	Eli Dupree	Kevin Yancey
Keith Gravitt	Garrett Black	Shane Ratliff	Paul Standard	Fred Williams	Don Norton	Craig Davis
Kirk Barton	Stephen Phillips - sub	Andre Byrd - sub	Eli Connell	Randy Cooper	Josh Kemp	Joe Sanfilippo
Jason Carrera	Mindy Johnson	Bobby Brewington	Jarrett Luke	Tim Gribben	Chad Jordan	Jim Finch
Jason Brett	James Jackson	Jarred Griffis	Kevin Grooms	Richard Ricketts	Steve Simpson	Curt Miller
Steve Waters	Rendell Jackson	Michael Dowis	Jesse Crews	Brad Dehem - A	Michelle Masters	
Cedric King	Peter Giles	Jeremy Raburn	Myron Newton	Rick Hurst	Regina Montgomery	

Motion was made by Crews, seconded by Simpson, and unanimously approved to adopt the agenda for the meeting.

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

APPOINTMENT

Greenbrier High School - Chip Fulmer, Principal, presented the appeal for student Jake W. Maday, requesting a waiver of the eight-semester rule.

Motion by Craft, second by Crews, to **Deny** the appeal.

Motion to Deny Passed 46-24-2 (Voting No were: Baker, Moody, Carrera, King, Mooney, Cannon, Johnson, Giles, Demastus, Ratliff, Byrd, Hardy, Massey, Queen, Moore, Williams, Cooper, Hurst, Warren, Simpson, Fernandez, Colvard, J. Miller and Sanfilippo. **Abstain:** Black and Jewell)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Report presented by Regina Montgomery

The committee **RECOMMENDED:**

- Proposal** to modify by-law 1.62 (n) on page 20 of the GHSA Constitution by adding new text (in italic): If approved by the local board of education, students enrolled in a magnet or specialty school *established by the local board of education* shall be allowed to participate in GHSA extracurricular activities as a member of the school team for the school which they would ordinarily attend according to local board of education attendance policy.
Motion Passed (Unanimously)
- Proposal** to add a new item "H" under Section 2, Basketball, General Information on page 50 of the GHSA Constitution to read as follows: "*Spectators* from participating schools shall not be allowed to sit *or stand* in the first row of seating at *court level* on either sideline or endline, and a minimum of one (1) school administrator in close proximity to the student section. (**Note:** modifications shown in italic above)
Motion Passed 74-1 (Massey voted no)
- Proposal** to change the permanent seating requirements for hosting semifinal-round football playoff games (Item B-1 on page 65 of the GHSA Constitution) as follows: Set Class A Divisions 1 and 2 at 2,000; set 2A and 3A at 2,500; set 4A and 5A at 3,000; and set 6A and 7A at 4,500.
Motion Passed (Unanimously)
- Proposal** to mandate a two-year sit out period (9th and 10th grades) for any middle school student-athlete who:
■ Attends a skills camp, combine or official visit set by schools to host student-athletes and transfers to a school (feeder or high school) where any of the coaches working the event are employed.

(more)

- Attends a skills camp, combine or official visit set by schools to host student-athletes and transfers to the school (feeder or high school) where the camp/event was held.
- Any coach(es) or school(s) hosting one of these camps, combines or official visits set by schools to host student-athletes must report the following to the GHSA:
 - (a) A complete list of all staff working the event. This includes those on the field, involved with any aspect of the event, including but not limited to, registration and facility rental/care.
 - (b) A complete list of all participants in attendance.

Motion to Table by Giles, second by Crews. **Motion to Table Passed (Unanimously)**

5. **Proposal** to replace by-law 2.54-c on page 27 of the GHSA Constitution with the following text: ALL coaches must attend/complete a comprehensive training and education program for "Traumatic Head Injuries." The recommendation is the "Heads Up" for Coaches.

Motion Passed (Unanimously)

6. **Proposal** to create a new by-law 2.68-b (and renumbering existing item "b" to "c") on page 32 of the GHSA Constitution to read as follows: Any student-athlete who has sustained and has been diagnosed with a traumatic head injury (concussion), must follow a minimum of a 5-step return-to-play protocol. Recommendation for this RTP is based on an athlete completing the following return-to-sport strategy once they have become "symptom free" as determined by an appropriate healthcare professional. A minimum of 24-48 hours of both physical and cognitive rest must take place once the diagnosis is made:

- Level 1: Activity – "activities of daily living" that do not cause symptoms to re-occur (gradual return to school)
 - Level 2: Activity – Light aerobic activity such as walking or stationary bicycle (at a low pace with no resistance)
 - Level 3: Activity - Running drills, sport-specific activity without head impact
 - Level 4: Activity – Intensity of training drills may be increased. Limited practice with non-contact drills. Progressive resistance training may begin.
 - Level 5: Activity – Full medical clearance by a healthcare professional, unrestricted training activities including contact drills may begin
 - Level 6: Activity – Unrestricted participation to sport
- A minimum of 24 hours must take place before progression to the next level.

Motion Passed (Unanimously)

7. **Proposal** to modify by-law 2.51 on page 26 of the GHSA Constitution to read as follows (new text in italic): An athletic head coach must be a professional teacher, *a certified para pro*, or hold a four-year degree while also employed in a teaching or administrative position ... *NOTE: Paraprofessionals must take the Head Coaching Class offered through the GHSA coaches education program.* (**Note:** effective in 2024-25 school year)

Motion Passed (Unanimously)

The committee **DENIED**:

1. **Proposal** to increase the number of individual medals awarded in the sport of Volleyball from 15 to 18 in by-law 4.33 on page 43 of the GHSA Constitution. (**Vote:** 14-0)
2. **Proposal** to replace by-law 1.62, item "a" on page 20 of the GHSA Constitution with the following (new wording in italic): *A family who Purchases and Resides in a home located in a school district attendance area qualifies the student for immediate eligibility in that school district, as long as the previous residence has been relinquished according to the GHSA guidelines. (Purchasing a home in an attendance district will be considered a "bona fide move" even if the home purchase and the enrollment date are not "simultaneous".)* The current "Note" in item "a" remains the same. (**Vote:** 14-0)
3. **Proposal** to modify by-law 1.62, item "l" on page 20 of the GHSA Constitution by adding the following: (new wording in italic): *There will be no migratory waiver for any student who lives within 75 miles of a school with a dormitory. (Any student who lives within 75 miles of a school with a dormitory and moves on campus will be ineligible for one (1) calendar year.)* (**Vote:** 14-0)

BASEBALL COMMITTEE

Report presented by Danny Redshaw

The committee **RECOMMENDED**:

Proposal to to mandate the use of WBGT for ALL Contests as follows:

- WBGT must be measured 15 minutes prior to start of contest and coaches notified.
- If WBGT is equal or above 86.0 F, an ice immersion tub must be present and ready for use.
- If WBGT is equal or above 88.0 F, Umpires will take a 3-minute hydration break at the beginning and mid-point of inning 3 and continuing until the conclusion of the game.

Motion Passed (Unanimously)

(more)

CHEERLEADING / DANCE COMMITTEE

Report presented by Shane Ratliff

The committee **RECOMMENDED**:**Proposal** to adopt the following Competition Rules:

- a. All teams must compete with a minimum of seven (7) dancers, but no more than 20 dancers. If the number of competitors falls below seven, teams must compete with a 5-point deduction per dancer below that number.
- b. Fabric must cover the skin from the bra line to the knees in front and in back (tights, body liners, or pants).
- c. To qualify for state, a team's selected routine must be scored at a minimum of three invitationals.
- d. The length of a routine shall be a minimum of 1 minute and 40 seconds and a maximum of two minutes. Going below or over will be a 5-point deduction per 15 seconds.
- e. In-bounds is determined as the area inside the end line and side lines of a basketball court.
- f. Hair must be secured above the waist for both males and females.

Motion Passed (Unanimously)**CROSS COUNTRY / TRACK COMMITTEE**

Report presented by Steve Simpson

The committee **RECOMMENDED**:**Proposal** to mandate the use of WBGT for ALL Cross Country contests as follows:

- WBGT must be measured 15 minutes prior to start of contest and coaches notified.
- If WBGT is equal or above 86.0 F, an ice immersion tub must be present and ready for use at finish line.
- If WBGT is equal or above 88.0 F, A minimum of two (2) hydration stations must be placed throughout the racecourse as well as at the finish line.

Motion Passed (Unanimously)**FOOTBALL COMMITTEE**

Report presented by Jose Fernandez

The committee **RECOMMENDED**:

1. **Proposal** to Replace Article "K" on page 63 of the GHSA Constitution regarding Football Overtime with the following:
 1. Overtime is mandated for all games between schools of the same classification. Overtime MAY NOT be played between teams of different classifications in the regular season unless both head coaches agree to play overtime in the presence of the Referee prior to the start of the game.
 2. In Sub-Varsity play, the two schools, regardless of classification, MAY agree before the game not to play overtime if tied at the end of regulation.
 Items No. 1 and No. 2 currently under Item "K" will remain the same.

Motion Passed (Unanimously)

2. **Proposal** that any football contest MUST have an on-site WBGT monitor and take measurements 15 minutes prior to the start of the contest and again during halftime. The following requirements for hydration breaks must be followed:
 - Kick-off WBGT equal or above 87.0 F – referees will take a mandatory hydration break at or near the 6-minute mark of each quarter lasting 3 minutes (change of possession or touchdown and PAT). All participants must remove their helmets and no coaches are permitted on the field at this time. It is recommended that players who are actively engaged in the competition and come to the sideline remove their helmets and hydrate until such time that they re-enter the field of play.
 - Kick-off WBGT equal or above 90.0 F – referees will take a mandatory hydration break at or near the 4-minute and 8-minute mark of each quarter lasting 3 minutes (change of possession or PAT). All participants must remove their helmets and no coaches are permitted on the field at this time. It is recommended that players who are actively engaged in the competition and come to the sideline remove their helmets and hydrate until such time that they re-enter the field of play.

Regulation of 7-on-7 Contests

Clarification of Terminology: 7-on-7 play between 2 or more teams where there are NOT any officials present will be viewed as a "PRACTICE" and therefore will fall under the GHSA Interscholastic Contests and Practices (Section 2.60) and the Practice Policy for Heat and Humidity (Section 2.67) along with the following guidelines:

- Teams that participate in back-to-back play periods lasting a maximum of 60 minutes, must be followed by a 30-minute break in a shaded area before resuming activity.
- It is recommended that medical personnel (athletic trainer or EMT) be present during said practice session.

7-on-7 play between 2 or more teams **in the presence of officials** will constitute a "CONTEST" and therefore will follow guidelines listed below:

- WBGT Temperature will be taken and recorded prior to the start of all contests.
- The host school will notify the Head Official and both Head Coaches of the WBGT reading prior to the start of the contest.

(more)

- Hydration breaks will be implemented when the WBGT is equal or above 90.0 F. Referees will take a mandatory 3-minute hydration break at the 10-minute mark of each contest.
- Ice immersion tub on-site and ready for use when WBGT is equal or above 86.0 F.
- Medical Time-out taken prior to start of contest to discuss procedures for possible heat exhaustion or heat stroke treatment.
- Teams that participate in back-to-back play periods lasting a maximum of 60 minutes, must be followed by a 30-minute break in a shaded area before resuming activity.
- It is recommended that medical personnel (athletic trainer or EMT) be present on each field during all contests.

Motion Passed (Unanimously)

3. **Proposal** to use "Video Review" at State Championship Football games beginning with the 2023 season. **NOTE:** The entire protocol and procedures for Video Review may be read on the Football page of the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net).
Motion Passed (Unanimously)

GOLF COMMITTEE

Report presented by Steve Simpson

The committee **RECOMMENDED:**

Proposal to move the Boys and Girls Golf season for the three largest classifications (4A, 5A, 6A) to the Fall beginning in the 2024-2025 school year. The smaller classifications (1A, 2A, 3A) would continue to play their season in the Spring each school year.

Motion to Deny by Petroski, second by Miller.

Motion to Deny Passed 48-24 (Voting No were: Baker, Moody, Gravitt, Barton, Carrera, Waters, Mooney, Sebring, Craft, Phillips, Johnson, Giles, Griffis, Hardy, Colquitt, Grooms, Moore, Gribben, Smith, Simpson, Montgomery, Colvard, Davis & Finch.)

LACROSSE COMMITTEE

Report presented by Kevin Petroski

The committee **RECOMMENDED:**

Proposal to mandate the use of WBGT for ALL contests as follows:

Women's Lacrosse

- WBGT must be measured 15 minutes prior to start of contest and coaches notified.
- If WBGT is equal or above 86.0 F, an ice immersion tub must be present and ready for use.
- If WBGT is equal or above 88.0 F, Referees will take a 3-minute hydration break at or near the midway point of each half (ball out of bounds/foul assessed or goal scored). Teams to the bench area during hydration break, no coaches permitted on field.

Men's Lacrosse

- WBGT must be measured 15 minutes prior to start of contest and coaches notified.
- If WBGT is equal or above 86.0 F, an ice immersion tub must be present and ready for use.
- If WBGT is equal or above 88.0 F, Referee's will take a 3-minute hydration break at or near the midway point of each 12-minute period (ball out of bounds/foul assessed or goal scored). Teams to the bench area during hydration break, no coaches permitted on field.

Motion Passed (Unanimously)**SOCCER COMMITTEE**

Report presented by Todd Mooney

The committee **RECOMMENDED:**

Proposal to mandate the use of WBGT for ALL Contests as follows:

- WBGT must be measured 15 minutes prior to start of contest and coaches notified.
- If WBGT is equal or above 86.0 F, an ice immersion tub must be present and ready for use.
- If WBGT is equal or above 88.0 F, Referees will take a 3-minute hydration break at or near the midway point of each half (ball out of bounds/foul assessed or goal scored). Teams to the bench area during hydration break, no coaches permitted on field.

Motion Passed (Unanimously)**SOFTBALL COMMITTEE**

Report presented by Don Baker

The committee **RECOMMENDED:**

Proposal to mandate the use of WBGT for ALL Fastpitch Softball Contests as follows:

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- WBGT must be measured 15 minutes prior to start of contest and coaches notified.
- If WBGT is equal or above 86.0 F, an ice immersion tub must be present and ready for use.
- If WBGT is equal or above 88.0 F, Umpires will take a 3-minute hydration break at the beginning and mid-point of inning 3 and continuing until the conclusion of the game.

Motion Passed (Unanimously)

VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE

Report presented by Matthew Moody

The committee **RECOMMENDED**:

1. **Proposal** to modify volleyball Regular Season, item E-2 on page 89 of the GHSA Constitution as follows (new text in italic, old text struck through): An invitational tournament is defined as ~~four (4)~~ *five (5)* or more schools competing in a single or double elimination format that leads to a champion being declared. The use of pool play is acceptable.

Motion Passed (Unanimously)

2. **Proposal** to make the following changes/additions to Volleyball State Playoffs section on page 89 of the GHSA Constitution (old text is struck out, new text in italic):

1. All playoff matches will be a best-of-five, single-elimination format *and played on:*

- a. A full court that is free of overhead obstructions (including an overhead scoreboard).
- b. A court that is equitable in spacing on both sidelines and end lines.
- c. A court that is free of obstructions coming into play such as a wall, bleachers, benches, etc.
- d. A court that provides adequate lighting.

7. ~~One coach (head or assistant) may stand in the libero replacement zone to coach his/her team during play.~~

7. *Pep bands with a maximum of 15 members and one (1) adult school personnel member may be allowed. If the home team allows its pep band to attend, it shall also allow the visiting school's pep band to attend.*

8. *A maximum of sixteen (16) cheerleaders in uniform will be allowed.*

Motion Passed (Unanimously)

WRESTLING COMMITTEE

Report presented by Steven Craft

The committee **RECOMMENDED**:

Proposal to modify Wrestling General Information, item E-1 on page 90 of the GHSA Constitution to read (new text in italic): *An invitational tournament is defined as five (5) or more schools competing in a single or double elimination format that leads to a champion being declared. The use of pool play is acceptable.* The maximum number of days for an invitational tournament is two (2) dates.

Motion Passed (Unanimously)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Robin Hines spoke to the committee about Name, Image and Likeness coming down to the high school level. He said that 28 states currently have some form of NIL and that the GHSA will need more education on NIL. The premise is that each individual owns his/her name, image, and likeness. But, any form of compensation cannot infringe on any intellectual property of the GHSA or member schools (logos, uniforms, competition video, etc.). Any form of recruiting or undue influence remains illegal. He said he will continue to investigate options for GHSA member schools and student/athletes.

Hines went on to say that the GHSA will host the NASO (National Association of Sports Officials) conference in 2024. And he said that sportsmanship continues to be a concern at our contests. He asked all the committee to please make efforts to work with coaches, students, spectators to control bad behavior.

Hines then went over some GHSA personnel changes, saying that Jay Russell is back, but that Kevin Giddens is resigning June 30. Darrell Lane is a new Associate Director hire.

Hines went over the budget, saying that there is a slight reduction in the budget this year. Dues and catastrophic insurance will be waived for the 4th consecutive year. The Budget was approved unanimously (**Motion** by Craft, second by Crews). And, to be in line with the Department of Education, the budget includes a \$2,000.00 increase for GHSA employees. Overall, the GHSA is in good financial shape going forward with a \$187K profit increase.

(more)

Hines then called upon GHSA attorney Alan Connell, who gave a brief legal update. He spoke of three ongoing lawsuits and shared NIL concerns over “collectables and boosters.” He said the GHSA may be subject to Georgia legislation if we don't explore an NIL policy for the GHSA. Connell will be working with Dr. Hines on this matter. He also shared information concerning “transgender” matters and said he was waiting on decisions by the Supreme Court rulings to see how the GHSA needs to proceed. He asked all committee members to get to know their legislative representatives and share information about GHSA matters.

Dr. Curt Miller and Dr. Jim Finch presented GADA Awards to region representatives. Earlier, Officiating Awards were presented by Ernie Yarbrough and Tim Godby was honored for winning the NFHS National Girls Lacrosse Coach of the Year award. Penny Mitchell presented Pam Carter with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Motion to Adjourn by Crews, second by Dowis, and unanimously approved.