

PRINCE Leadership MONTHLY

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GHSA Single A Updates

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Prince is a member of the Georgia High School Association (GHSA), which standardizes and encourages student participation in athletics. Last March I wrote to you about the challenges Single A private schools in the GHSA were facing, and you can read that article [HERE](#). Since then, many things have happened that will impact PACS and other private schools in the GHSA. While the changes are not all private schools had hoped for, the changes are not entirely bad either. Here is what has happened and what it means for us.



On April 15th, the GHSA Board of Trustees voted to separate Single A private and public schools into eight separate regions for the regular season. This rule means that beginning in Fall 2020, private and public schools will be separated for both the regular season and state playoffs. Power rankings will no longer be used and there will be no more “areas” for volleyball, golf, tennis, soccer, one act play, literary, and cross country. Each of these activities will compete in regions. Private and public schools will still be able to play non-region contests during the regular season.

On April 15th, the GHSA Reclassification Committee voted to use a multiplier of “2” for students who reside out of the service area of their school. Simply put, each high school student that lives outside of our service area will be multiplied by two. A private school’s service area is the same as its local public-school’s service area. For example, PACS’ service area is the same as North Oconee High School’s service area. It was also determined that no school with raw Single A enrollment numbers would be moved up because of the new service area multiplier. The bottom line? This new rule will NOT affect our school.

In May, every Single A private school was represented at a meeting to discuss how the new changes would affect private schools and whether moving to the Georgia Independent School Association (GISA) was a possibility. The consensus

was that moving to the GISA was NOT a good alternative. A committee representing all Single A private schools was nominated and met five times during the summer to come up with proposals that would benefit private schools to take to the GHSA Board of Trustees. There were two major results of these meetings and proposals that benefitted Single A private schools. The first outcome was that the GHSA granted Single A private schools one at-large member on the board of trustees. This will allow issues and concerns to be voiced during important decision-making meetings. The second outcome was the formation of a Single A, Ad-Hoc committee. This committee will be used to give input on all matters that impact Single A.

The GHSA is currently going over the attendance numbers for every GHSA high school. In November, a preliminary list of classifications and regions will be proposed. Appeals will be heard throughout the month of November. In late December or early January, final region alignments will be voted on and released. Here’s what we know for sure: PACS will be in an all private, Single A region; the region will most likely be smaller but will have many of the same schools that we have now; and all activities will compete against the same schools and in the same region.

This is not a perfect process, and the results won’t be perfect either, but we have made progress in regards to how the GHSA manages private schools. It is unfortunate that the private/public split has been instituted; however, I am confident we are doing everything we can to make our membership in the GHSA the best it can be.

Go Wolverines!

