



GEORGIA ATHLETIC DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION



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October 2023

You make an impact!

Hello Don,

Sportsmanship is a cornerstone of athletic competition, embodying the values of fairness, respect and integrity. It goes beyond winning and losing, emphasizing the importance of playing with grace, whether in victor or defeat. True sportsmanship involves showing respect to opponents, officials, teammates, while adhering to the rules of the game. It's about celebrating the spirit of competition, acknowledging the efforts of all participants and accepting the outcome with humility. In essence, sportsmanship fosters camaraderie and sportsmanlike conduct both on and off the field, setting a positive example for athletes of all ages.



I challenge all ADs to govern their program no matter how large or small. Remember little eyes are watching.

Bring That Hammer

Maurice Freeman, CMAA,
Brooks County High School

President
Georgia Athletic Directors Association



[GHSA September 2023
Newsletter](#)

[GHSA 2023-2024
Deadline Dates](#)



The Georgia Athletic Director's Association is excited to partner with No Kid Hungry in support of the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrator's Association 2023 Initiative. We seek to do our part in ending hunger in children and need your help! There are two ways for you to give. You can send a check made out to GADA in the amount of your school's fundraising efforts, or you can use this link: [2023 Friendsgiving for No Kid Hungry - Georgia Athletic Directors Association \(onecause.com\) to donate online](https://onecause.com/2023-Friendsgiving-for-No-Kid-Hungry-Georgia-Athletic-Directors-Association). Be sure to include your school's name on the check or the donation so we can track each participating school's donation. If you share the link with your community, please have them note your school on the contribution to allow us to total all receipts for your school.

Once again, we will recognize our highest donors at the GADA conference in March. Please read the flyer for more information and if you need some creative ideas for your fundraising campaign, reach out to Kelli Smith,



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GADA Initiative Fundraising Chair. [Kelli Smith](#). Be sure to involve your community and student-athletes in the efforts as we use our statewide event GADA Friendsgiving to raise awareness and money toward this cause.

Please don't overlook this opportunity to engage your student-athletes, school and community in a wonderful event that unifies and solves a problem, all at once. The deadline to engage with our Friendsgiving event is November 20th and our statewide blitz event is November 3rd.

Checks can be mailed to:

GADA

Attn: Joe Sanfilippo

671 Starlight Drive

Nacoochee, Georgia 30571

A message from our Executive Director

Fall is definitely in the air. It is hard to believe that we have reached the midway point of our football season. Your board has been busy planning our conference in Athens. We are shooting for mid October to start the registration process. A noticeable change will be the length of the conference. We have shortened the conference by one day. Conference costs for you will be a lot less than they have in the past, around 50% less. Once registration opens please do not hesitate to register early. You can always cancel your room registration.



Our membership is at an all time high. We will be receiving several commendations at our conference in Orlando in December. Georgia has some of the lowest membership and conference fees across the US. If you are not a member of NIAAA/GADA please go to our [website and register](#). Georgia receives \$60.00 for each membership.

Our initiative this year is [No Kids Hungry](#). We are asking that each school raise \$100.00 for this cause. A suggestion we discussed at our board meeting is to have a “bucket day” at your last home football game. Our deadline is November 20. Thanks to Kellie Smith for organizing this cause. Region 6 AAAAAAA is the first to make a donation for this cause. Thanks.

I am in my second year of retirement and have had time to reflect about what it took to be an effective athletic director. My utmost respect goes out to you for all you do. Sometimes a simple “thanks for all you do” goes a long way.

Joe Sanfilippo, CMAA
GADA Executive Director



Are you interested in transforming your program's social media presence?

Would Gipper be helpful for your program?

If so, we're thrilled to offer you a 10% discount thanks to our partnership with the GADA. Please go to <https://www.gipper.com/gada> for more info, contact sales@gogipper.com, book a 15-minute virtual demo or create a free ""sandbox"" account on Gipper via the links below:

15 minute demo: <https://app.hubspot.com/meetings/jzamora/gipper-virtual-demo>

Free account: https://platform.gogipper.com/users/sign_up

If making a purchase by CC via our site, please use the following discount code during check-out: **GADA10**

If making a purchase by PO, please [contact our team](#) and we will apply the discount for you.

Membership Information

Please remember to pay your NIAAA/GADA dues. Also, please update your profiles as needed especially when you change jobs.

Click the link below

[Join NIAAA/GADA Membership Login now powered by Final Forms AMP](#)



Pickle Juice can help you. Let us make your life easier.

Pickle Juice streamlines the registration process for your team, club or league by placing all of your forms and registrations in one place, but we're also continually updating and enhancing features like fundraising and messaging. We are also allowing you to customize your site with Team Logos.



Simplifying Registrations

Pickle Juice simplifies registrations for you. The online registration platform gives you the ability to customize your registration and include special events. Since that's taken care of, you can focus on streamlining the registration process for yourself by:

- Offering incentives for early registrants like early-bird discounts and referral discounts.
- Setting up registrations online and sending hyperlinks to parents, taking them directly to where they need to register.



Simplifying Payments

Sports are expensive, and that's understandable. But you can take care of athletes, parents and coaches by taking some of that burden away from them.

- Set up custom payment plans for your teams: Give your parents and players the options to pay in full or over multiple payments. These can be set up in advance of the season and ready to go when the season starts.
- Make sure you have a system capable of accepting all types of payments and managing all forms of payment.

If you allow Pickle Juice to help simplify your registrations and payments, then you'll have access to a secure card and chip reader that allows you to accept payments on your smartphone, and we have an application you can download to your phone that makes the process even easier.



Simplifying Communication

One of the best ways you can plan ahead for your next season is to communicate early and often with all of your parents, players and coaches.

- Set deadlines for registration and fees and communicate those deadlines via email or text.
- Make sure you have a management program that integrates an email function to send invoices, payment reminders and notifications for any failed payments.

Pickle Juice makes communicating across your team, league or club easy with its messaging center that's managed from one centralized location.



GHSA to consider separate private-school championships again

By Todd Holcomb, AJC.com

The Georgia High School Association is discussing again a plan that would have private schools playing for their own state championships separate from public schools in classes 3A to A.



GHSA reclassification committee chairman Curt Miller, who pushed hard for a similar plan two years ago before compromising, made the motion Tuesday in Thomaston at a GHSA reclass meeting.

This plan, suggested by Muscogee County Schools athletic director Jeff Battles, would have private schools in classes 3A to A competing for one private-only state championship in each sport while continuing to play in regular-season regions with public schools.

By Alpine Helen White County ADVERTISER CONTENT

In this town 2 hours from Atlanta, there's a new family adventure

The committee tabled Miller's motion until Sunday at the next reclass committee meeting, which precedes Monday's executive committee meeting. The executive committee has the power to approve it.

In 2021, Miller, the athletic director at public school Oconee County, backed down from his plan to keep private schools from competing against publics for championships in

all classes. He agreed instead to applying a 3.0 multiplier to out-of-zone enrollment in an effort to push private and city schools into higher classifications.

The multiplier effectively moved up several private and city schools, but it did not significantly curtail their success. The AJC was the first to research and report in June that private schools won 61 state titles in 2022-23 compared with 58 in the last season without the multiplier. City schools won 17 titles compared with 16 before the 3.0 multiplier.

The private schools did better because the GHSA abolished the Class A-Private class, and those smaller private schools were dominant when freed to face public schools for championships for the first time in 10 years.

“The multiplier has zero impact on the success rate of private schools,” said Miller according to the GHSA’s minutes of the meeting. “It is time to have a serious conversation about having different playoffs for private and public schools. I want them to be together during the regular season in regions to help with travel and scheduling but then split the playoffs.”

Committee member Kevin Petroski, the athletic director at private school Athens Academy, said a better solution would be a competitive-balance model that would classify private schools based on their track record in each sport but still allow them to face public schools. A competitive-balance model might move a private-school tennis team to the highest class but allow the same school’s football team to remain lower.

The reclass committee heard that idea two years ago but did not seriously consider it because of logistical and administrative concerns of having a school’s sports teams spread across several classes and regions. Several committee members did express an openness to revisiting it Tuesday, according to the minutes.

Having separate private-school playoffs in 3A-A would have a huge impact on who wins state titles.

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Related

[GHSA discusses private schools at reclassification meeting](#)

An advertisement for the OnGuard weather siren alerting solution. The background is a dark blue sky with a bright lightning bolt striking down on the right side. In the bottom right corner, there is a silhouette of a tall pole with three circular lights. The text is white and cyan. The headline is in cyan, followed by a horizontal line. The main body text is in white, and there is a small white button with the text 'LEARN MORE' in black.

Introducing OnGuard - a Weather Siren that improves safety for Outdoor Events.

OnGuard Siren Alerting Solution combines WeatherSentry's patented capabilities to activate audio and visual mass notifications for outdoor safety.

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GHSA hands down penalties after fight at Savannah High football game

By Joey Lamar, MSN.com

SAVANNAH, Ga. (WSAV)- A fight during last Friday's football game between Savannah High and Cross Creek ended the game early and has caused both teams to forfeit their games scheduled for this Friday.

According to Savannah-Chatham County Public School System (SCCPSS) officials, a player from each team began to fight on the



GHSA set to approve NIL in Georgia on Monday

By Todd Holcomb, AJC.com

The Georgia High School Association on Monday is expected to approve a bylaw allowing high school athletes to profit from name, image and likeness deals.

The proposal comes with limitations.

If approved, NIL deals cannot be linked to a specific achievement or performance, and athletes won't be allowed to use their schools' name, logos or uniforms or other intellectual property.

field, and the situation escalated as more players became involved.

Due to the fight, SCCPSS officials decided to end the game in the third quarter.

Coroner: 6-month-old's death in Savannah considered 'suspicious'
The Georgia High School Association (GHSA) issued a statement on Wednesday, explaining that each team will have to forfeit their next scheduled football game due to the severity of the incident.

"The GHSA sanctions are significant due to the severity of the incident," the statement reads.

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Schools or school representatives may not use NIL deals to entice an athlete to enroll.

According to Business of College Sports, 29 states and the District of Columbia allow NIL deals. Notable among those that do not are Alabama, Florida and South Carolina. NIL deals are legal in Tennessee and North Carolina.

Approval would come at the GHSA's executive committee meeting Monday in Macon.

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New Job? Don't miss out on the newsletter!

We don't want you to miss an issue! Please let us know about your new AD position so that we can keep you up to date about important GADA news!

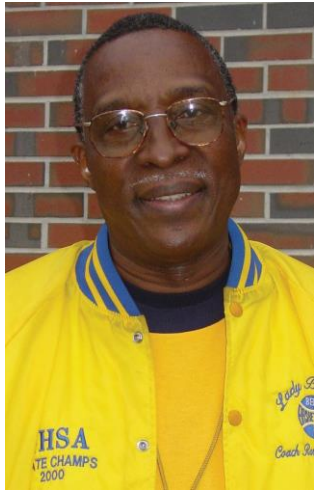
Email us [HERE](#) with your new email address and job information

Often school systems block our emails. To ensure you receive our newsletter it helps to sign up with both a work and personal email.

The GADA respects your privacy. We do not sell or share your information.

Savannah street to be renamed after legendary Beach High Coach Ronald Booker

By Staff, SavannahTribune.com



The City of Savannah will designate a portion of Hopkins Street, in front of Alfred Ely Beach High School, as Coach Ronald Booker Way on Saturday, Sept. 30 at 12 p.m.

The honorary designation was approved by City Council on Sept. 14, 2023. The ceremony will take place at the intersection of Hopkins St. and W. Victory Drive.

Ronald Booker was the head basketball coach for the Beach High School women's basketball team for 34 years. He also served as an assistant coach for the boy's team and as the athletic director. Following retirement from Beach High, Booker was named the special assistant to the head coach for the

women's basketball team at Savannah State University. He is an alumnus of both Beach High and Savannah State.

During his illustrious career, Booker led the Lady Bulldogs to 12 sub-regional titles, 22 regional championships, and made 30 state championship basketball tournament appearances. His teams were ranked by the Atlanta Journal Constitution in the state's top 10 teams for 26 seasons. He concluded his coaching career with a 786-190 overall record.

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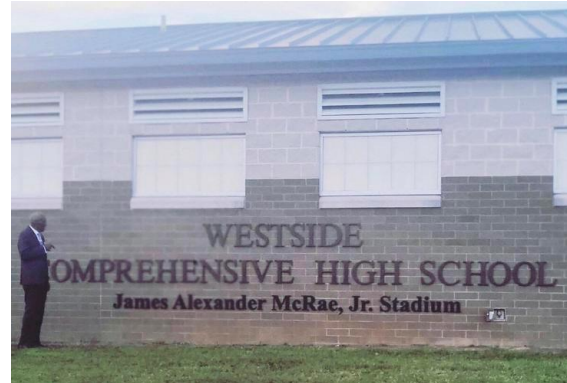
Stack (1.85" x 6") • Roll (1.75" x 5") • Fan Fold (1.75" x 4.25") • Minion (1.25 x 3.5")

Football stadium named for coach, Oak Park graduate

By Staff, LaurelLeader-Call.com

A Laurel native was honored on Sept. 1 when the Georgia school for which he has coached and taught for more than three decades named the football stadium in his honor.

James Alexander McRae Jr., the son of the late James A. And Bertha Lee McRae, had the Westside High football stadium in Augusta, Ga., renamed James Alexander McRae Jr Football Stadium.



McRae, Jr. affectionately called “Coach McRae,” is a lifelong Westside Patriot, having taught and coached there for 36 years. He is a native of Laurel, where he attended public schools. During high school, he played football and excelled at the position of wide receiver at Oak Park School. After graduating, he received a four-year scholarship to attend the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. There, he received a Bachelor of Science degree in physical education. Shortly after graduation, he was called to serve in the United States Army and began basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C. He completed his military service at Fort Gordon, Ga., as a clerk of his company, battalion and headquarters.

He coached Westside to three straight region championships from 1977-79 and was honored as Georgia Athletic Directors Association Regions 4-AAA and 3-AAA Athletic

Director of the year in 1993, 1995 and 1998. As AD, the school won two state championships, a basketball state title and a golf championship in 1999.

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High School Students Address Hazing Issues Through Award-winning Essays

NSHF.org

When asked to share their thoughts about hazing and how to prevent it, high school students from around the country responded with powerful essays tackling the issue. Students from Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Hawaii and Idaho are receiving national recognition for their essays as winners of the Hazing Prevention Network National Hazing Prevention Week High School Essay Contest sponsored by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

“Hazing prevention starts with students,” said Elliot Hopkins, Director of Sports, Sanctioning and Student Services for NFHS. “The powerful words of these young people in support of preventing hazing and eradicating it gives us hope for progress on campuses throughout the country. They clearly understand the dangers of hazing and the serious consequences of it.”

Brandon Granger from Parkway Center City Middle College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is the national first place winner with his essay “Creating Lasting Change” in which he discusses understanding the impact of hazing, promoting accountability and taking

decisive action to effect lasting change. Brandon will receive a \$750 cash prize for his work.

Second-place winner Cianni Lassus, also from Parkway Center City Middle College in Philadelphia, brought attention to hazing as a dangerous and degrading practice. She will receive a \$500 cash prize.

Three were recognized with honorable mention for their work and will each receive \$250: Rubi Silva from Apprentice Academy in Monroe, North Carolina; Ryan Choi from Mid Pacific Institute in Honolulu, Hawaii; and Emily Sanford from Moscow High School in Moscow, Idaho.

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School Stresses Importance of Student-Athletes in AED Scenarios

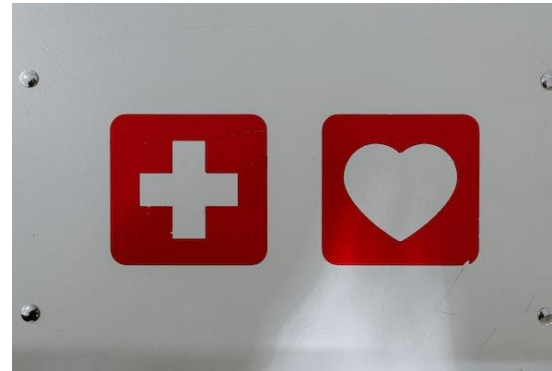
By Paul Steinbach, AthleticBusiness.com

Each team at Campbellsville (Ky.) High School has its own Automatic External Defibrillator, but athletic director Tim Davis realizes that the mere presence of such a device doesn't equate to a team being prepared for every emergency scenario.

"Like most other schools in the region, Campbellsville's emergency action plan vested responsibility in coaches," reported Dennis George of Paxton Media Group.

"Baptist Health Hardin athletic trainer program manager Carol George stressed to the athletic directors that student-athletes needed to be involved."

"I'm going to my teams and I'm asking athletes, 'Where's your closest AED?' " said George, who also serves as the certified athletic trainer at Elizabethtown High School, 43 miles to the northwest. "None of them know where that is. There are not always multiple coaches at a practice. Some sports don't have seven or eight coaches like football. If a team is practicing at 5 on a Sunday afternoon and there is only one coach, and the coach



is providing CPR, do the student athletes know where to go to get an AED? What if the coach is the one who goes down? Student athletes need to have a role in this.

“We have failed and admittedly failed if we are not having these conversations with all of our athletes as well,” she added. “We need to educate them because this might be them or their teammate who goes down.”

That point caught the attention of Davis, a longtime basketball coach, according to Dennis George..

“What if I was practicing on a Saturday morning, and myself or someone else went down,” he said. “If I have to give CPR, who’s going to call 911? If I am practicing football, does everyone know where the AED is and who has the key to get to it? Those are the things we need to revise.”

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High School Official Goes Viral for Ripping Helmet off Player After Incidental Bump

By Cicily Stoute, 13WMAZ.com



High School Official Goes Viral for Ripping Helmet off Player After Incidental Bump.

A video showing an incident between an official and a player during a Texas high school football game surfaced on social media Friday night.

The interaction, which occurred during a matchup between Whitney High and Madison High of Dallas, was filmed by the player's mother from the stands at Seagoville Stadium in Dallas.

The video shows a Whitney player dropping into pass coverage on defense as Madison's quarterback scrambles out of the pocket. While attempting to pursue the play on the backside, the defender bumped into the umpire in the middle of the field. After the collision, the official ripped off the player's helmet and threw a penalty flag on the defender.

Then, the umpire ejected the player, according to his mother's post on X, formerly known as Twitter.

On Saturday, the University Interscholastic League issued a statement that it is looking into the matter.

“The UIL is aware of an incident involving a sports official and a student-athlete during the Whitney vs. Dallas Madison varsity football game last night (Friday, 9/29). This situation is of great concern to us, and we are actively looking into the matter.”

Whitney won the game the 56-28, improving to 5-0 while Madison dropped to 2-4 on the season.

Observers were stunned to see the official’s reaction to what appeared to be an accidental collision.

[Read More →](#)

Yes, student-athletes can switch schools and play that same season

By Kevin Sweeney, SI.com

HOUSTON COUNTY, Ga. — Judd Anderson attended Jones County High School until last week when he made the switch to Warner Robins. This has caused some people to wonder if student-athletes can transfer during the season and still play in games.

We received questions about the transfer rules for student-athletes after Warner Robins defeated Northside Friday night.



Our sources are Robin Hines executive director at the Georgia High School Association and Doug Rizer director of school operations in Houston County School District.

Changing school zones happen often, but there's another layer added on for athletes who want to play at their new school. Hines defines what a bonafide move is.

"A bonafide move is where all members of the family unit and or persons who lived in one household moves from one attended zone to another with a simultaneous change of enrollment," Hines said.

The GHSA bylaws explain everything that's expected for a bonafide move.

The student must 1. choose a private or public school, 2. it's apparent that everyone in the previous household have left, and 3. now live at the new residence.

If there's a violation found, then the student will be ineligible and labeled as a migrant student, which would make them ineligible for one calendar year.

Rizer explained the eligibility process for student-athletes transferring into Houston County.

"At every school when a student transfers in and they're an athlete let's say they're out of county. They would have to do what's called a Form B," Rizer said. "The Form B would go to the GHSA, they would review that Form B, and then they would determine if that student-athlete was eligible or not."

After families make a transfer enrollment appointment, Rizer said the processing time varies after that.

"All of the rules pertaining to student enrollment whether they're an athlete or just a normal student. They have to go to central registration," Rizer said. "They have to have the proper forms that we provide on our website. If they show up with those forms, they could have a live enrollment by the end of the day."

[Read More →](#)

Resource Information

Your October AD Checklist

- Acquire and bills weekly.
- Prepare winter sports gym and facility use schedules for practices and contests.
- Advise winter sports coaches of rules clinics and online GHSA clinics.
- Complete coaching contracts (if applicable).
- Inform and schedule event security.
- Have completed officials and referee's contracts. Review schedule of games and matches (just to make sure).again.
- Attend weekly administrative meetings.
- Update athletic website of current fall sports pictures, articles, statistics and results.
- Attend ALL faculty meetings.
- Assist in ways of promoting upcoming athletic events.
- Make a plan for dealing with all items in Lost and Found. This can include items from



events, locker rooms, etc.

Have scheduled and send out agenda for upcoming Athletic Department meetings.

Complete rosters and have sent all to region secretaries and GHSA for region and state tournament games and events.

Review all region and contest tie-breaking procedures.

Order all letter awards and pictures as needed for fall post season award banquets.

Disseminate all state tournament information to coaches.

Attend contests and practices at least once a week for all fall sports.

Bill (if necessary) and thank all advertisers for sports program support.

Check state tournament dates for fall sports. Make hotel reservations and meal accommodations.

Double check transportation dates, pick up and game times for remainder of fall sports events.

Schedule end of season coaches meeting for all fall sports.

Schedule fall sports awards banquets.

[Download the October Checklist](#)

Title IX Regulations Checklist



On May 6, 2020 the United States Department of Education released new Title IX Regulations with expectations for districts to be compliant by August 14, 2020. Although there aren't major changes in athletics, in your role you should be aware of the new requirements.

While working with colleagues of yours, I shared the attached K12 Title IX Checklist. This is a great resource to help reach compliance. Feel free to share with your team.

[Click here for the checklist](#)

Best,

Christopher Simmons, Ph. D.
Director of Business Development
[ICS Solutions](#)

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balfour





Stay Up To Date

We value your [comments and feedback](#). We encourage you to submit articles and items of interest for the newsletter and the [GADA website](#).

Thank You

Dr. Maurice Freeman
President
Georgia Athletic Directors
Association

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