



GEORGIA ATHLETIC DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION



Vol 15 No 4

November 2023

You make an impact!

Hello Don,

Athletics play a significant role in high school for several reasons:

1. **Physical Fitness:** High school athletics promote physical health and well-being among students, helping them develop lifelong habits of staying active.
2. **Teamwork:** Sports teach valuable teamwork and cooperation skills, fostering a sense of belonging and camaraderie among students.
3. **Discipline:** Athletics require commitment and discipline, helping students manage their time and prioritize responsibilities.
4. **Character Development:** Through sports, students learn important life lessons such as perseverance, sportsmanship, and resilience.
5. **Academic Performance:** Engaging in athletics can boost academic performance by teaching time management and



[GHSA November 2023
Newsletter](#)

discipline, and may even lead to scholarships for higher education.

6. College and Career Opportunities:

Exceptional athletes can use their high school sports achievements to pursue college scholarships or even a career in sports.

7. Social Skills: Athletics provide opportunities for students to make friends, build relationships, and develop social skills.

8. Stress Relief: Sports offer a healthy outlet for stress, which can be especially important during the high school years.

9. School Spirit: Athletics can enhance school spirit and a sense of community, as students, parents, and teachers come together to support teams.

10. Lifelong Passion: Participation in high school sports can lead to a lifelong passion for physical activity and a healthier lifestyle.

11.

In summary, high school athletics contribute to both physical and personal development, making them an important part of the high school experience.

Thank you GADA for guidance and leadership in Athletics...Get back to work.

Maurice Freeman

GHSA 2023-2024
Deadline Dates



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Brooks County High School

President
Georgia Athletic Directors Association



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](#). 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, 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

Welcome to November and the start of the holiday season. November is proving to be a busy month with reclassification and state playoffs. If you wish to appeal your enrollment figure or request to play up in classification, you must do so by noon on November 8 to be placed on the agenda for the November 9 meeting. Our National conference will be held in Orlando, Florida-December 15-19, 2023. Please go to NIAAA's website to register. You have to register before you can book a room at any of the preferred hotels.



Our webpage will be “open for business” sometime this month. Thanks for your patience. A link to book your room for our conference is included in this email. Please do not wait to book your room. You can always cancel your room. Don't call the hotel direct or you will not receive our discounted rate. Our conference dates are March 8-11, 2024.

Thanks for all you do. I hope you have a happy Thanksgiving. Joe.

Joe Sanfilipo, 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 sets classes; city, private schools get good news

By Todd Holcomb, AJC.com

City and private schools took a hit in reclassification two years ago with a new 3.0 multiplier. They are probably smiling today.



**GEORGIA
HIGH SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION**

The Georgia High School Association on Wednesday placed its 457 member schools into classifications for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 academic years, and some larger county public schools got the worst of it.

Nineteen schools are moving into the highest classification, now called Class 6A and containing 64 schools instead of the current 45. All are from county or multiple-high-school districts.

The 19 are Alexander, Alpharetta, Arabia Mountain, Chapel Hill, Douglas County, Effingham County, Etowah, Grovetown, Heritage-Conyers, Houston County, New Manchester, Newnan, North Atlanta, North Forsyth, Paulding County, Rockdale County, Shiloh, South Cobb and Tift County. They may appeal.

Milton is the only school currently in the highest class assigned to a lower one. Milton got a similar assignment in 2021 and petitioned to play in the highest class.

City schools Buford, Carrollton, Marietta and Valdosta are slated to remain in the highest class, but Gainesville, Dalton and Rome will be in 5A, one from the top. They're currently in 6A, one from the top, but likely relieved that they didn't get a promotion into the expanded highest class.

Jefferson and Calhoun, city schools currently in 5A, will go down to 3A. Thomasville went from 3A to Class A Division I.

The larger private schools also got favorable reclass outcomes.

Current 6A schools St. Pius, Blessed Trinity and Marist wound up in Class 4A. Slated for 3A are Greater Atlanta Christian (currently in 5A) and Benedictine and Westminster (both 4A). Lovett was moved to 2A from 4A. Woodward Academy, at 5A, is set to be the only private school in either of the two highest classes.

New for the next cycle, private schools falling in classes 3A to A will compete for their own state titles separate from public schools, though they will be together for the regular season. Larger schools that fall in 3A-A, such as Westminster, GAC and Lovett, might petition to play up in 4A. So might Holy Innocents' and Trinity Christian, which did so in 2021.

The 3.0 multiplier, instituted in 2021 for the current class cycle, counted out-of-zone students three times when determining classification. The multiplier was voted in to mitigate the winning ways of city and private schools, which get a higher percentage of their students outside the school zones. That's deemed an unfair competitive advantage to some.

For this reclassification, schools did not have to apply the 3.0 multiplier to out-of-zone students who began at their schools in the fifth grade or earlier. Private schools were allowed to choose their attendance zone rather than take the one of the public school where they are located.

Those changes probably allowed city and public schools to avoid harsher class assignments this time around. In the most extreme case, St. Pius had 1,060 out-of-zone students in 2021 but only 348 under the new rules.


These classifications are not final. Schools have a week to appeal their assignments. Following that, the GHSA will place schools into regions.

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Related

Complete 2024-2026 Reclassification list: [CLICK HERE](#)

GHSA form to request to play up - [CLICK HERE](#) Email form [HERE](#)



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Cook wins GHSA appeal to keep five victories and region title

By Ken Guftason, Amricus-TimesRecorder.com

ADEL, GA – According to published reports, the Cook Hornets have won their appeal to the GHSA, which will allow them to keep all five of their victories and claim a region title. One of those victories came against Sumter County, in which the Hornets defeated the Panthers 40-14.

A GHSA appeals board ruled by a vote of 8-3 that the Hornets can keep those five victories and their region title. Originally, the GHSA ruled on October 20 that all five of the Hornets' victories should be vacated because the Hornets



Colquitt County begins dealing with GHSA approval of NIL

By Wayne Grandy, MoultrieObserver.com

MOULTRIE - A little over two years ago, the NCAA began implementing a policy that allows student-athletes to make money on their name, image and likeness (NIL).

It came in response to the question of whether college athletes should get paid.

And once college sports began allowing athletes to cash in on their NIL, high school sports were not far behind.

allegedly used an ineligible player in those games. "We are glad this is over," Cook Athletic Director Paul Dobson told ITG News. After the GHSA's original ruling on October 20, a judge handed down a temporary restraining order overruling the GHSA's original ruling.

[Read More →](#)

There are now 34 states that allow high school athletes to, in effect, establish their own brand and cash in on it.

The Georgia High School Association is one of the latest state groups to approve allowing student/athletes and/or their parents to enter in NIL contracts.

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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.

Emory establishes state-wide initiative to reduce youth athlete injury using virtual reality technology

By news.emory.edu



The Emory Sports Performance And Research Center (SPARC) has received a \$4.5 million grant from the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation to establish the Georgia Initiative for Virtual Reality, Education and Sport (GIVES) program. The school-based program will leverage virtual reality (VR) technology and disseminate scientific discoveries from EMORY SPARC to reduce injury risk in young athletes and improve

their game performance.

“Our foundation has a long history of supporting youth athletics,” says Fay Twersky, president, Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation. “We’re pleased to fund this innovative initiative from the EMORY SPARC and GIVES programs that will bring more equitable access to state-of-the-art injury prevention for young athletes, enhancing both their physical and mental well-being.”

Designed to be fun and engaging, state-of-the-art VR technology will help youth and high school athletes train effectively for their sports while learning to play safely. Data collected through the platform will inform targeted treatments after injury and support safer return-to-play decision making.

“We will be able to train our student athletes using technology that is similar to what professional athletes use,” says Jimmy Lawler, athletic director at Flowery Branch High School. “The excitement around VR will not only help our students enjoy the benefits of injury-free physical activity and sport but will also position them for new career paths in science and technology.”

In the long term, organizers of the GIVES program expect the exercise-based VR methods to foster excitement for physical activity and sports participation more broadly. Their goal is to help athletes play well and stay well, ultimately enhancing the lives of Georgia youth through sport-related injury prevention.

“Research shows participation in athletics not only improves health and well-being, but also builds character and resilience,” says Ravi Thadhani, MD, MPH, executive vice president for health affairs at Emory University and executive director of Emory’s Woodruff Health Sciences Center. “We believe the youth who take part in this program will make meaningful lifestyle changes that improve lifelong mental and physical health.”

Collaboration between the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, Emory SPARC and Georgia high schools will make this unique program scalable and sustainable. The Blank Family Foundation will subsidize start-up and equipment costs. Emory SPARC research staff and outreach teams will develop and deploy the GIVES program. Physical education teachers, administrators, coaches, and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) facilitators will support the program’s implementation with the involvement of work-based learning students who will engage with existing high school curricula and sports programs.

Rollout is expected to begin this fall in Hall County, home of IBM Performance Field, the Atlanta Falcons practice facility, with additional metro Atlanta-area schools to follow.

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54th NATIONAL ATHLETIC DIRECTORS CONFERENCE

Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando FL December 15-19, 2023

The National Athletic Directors Conference, sponsored by the NFHS and the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA), is the single premier conference that provides an outstanding educational in-service program for interscholastic athletic administrators. This first-class conference is foremost in featuring professional speakers and an exhibit show with more than 300 exhibit booth spaces, as well as proven athletic administrators who willingly share their experience and expertise on a variety of educational topics.



[Register now!](#)

Gun Violence Surrounding School Sports Events Calls for Increased Security Measures

By Dr Karissa Neihoff, NSHF.org

The tragedy in Lewiston, Maine, last week is the latest sign of troubling times in our nation with regard to gun violence. Eighteen people lost their lives and another 13 were injured in an incomprehensible mass shooting. Our hearts are burdened by this senseless act, and our thoughts and prayers are with the families whose lives have been turned upside down.

This horrific act of violence occurred at a bar and a bowling alley; however, in the past few years, an increasing number of shootings have occurred around school events – particularly Friday night football games.

According to David Riedman with the K-12 School Shooting Database, there have been 34 shootings at middle school and high school sporting events since August, a pace that would surpass the 38 of last year. To call this a “concerning trend” for everyone involved with interscholastic sports nationwide would be putting it mildly.

These events have occurred throughout the country – from states in the Deep South, to California, New York and, most recently, Ohio, where, according to Cleveland.com, “the episodes have resulted in a near forfeit, two relocations and games in which fan attendance was either limited or barred outright.”

Certainly, the safety of individuals attending middle school and high school events must be paramount for school officials; however, limiting fan attendance at school sporting events is a last-resort solution. Many student-athletes and their families experienced this loss of connectivity when stadiums sat empty during the pandemic.

High school sporting events traditionally are safe gathering places for fans to attend and celebrate the accomplishments of high school student-athletes. We must do whatever is necessary to make sure these venues remain safe and secure.

In most cases, shootings that have occurred in and around school venues mirror the increase in gun violence at large gatherings nationwide. Often, fights between individuals not connected to the game whatsoever occur outside stadiums and, unfortunately, more of these events are ending violently with the use of guns.

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New AD at One High School Will Remain Coach at Another

By Scott Ericson, CTInsider.com



Chris Lindwall has been hired as the athletic director at Lauralton Hall-Milford, the school announced in a press release Thursday.

Lindwall, who has been the girls basketball coach at St. Joseph-Trumbull for the last 13 seasons, will remain as the Cadets coach for the upcoming season.

Lindwall said the opportunity to be an athletic director at a school like Lauralton is something he has always thought about and when the opportunity presented itself, he applied.

“I have been involved in female sports for 33 years and I am humbled and honored to be part of the great tradition at Lauralton Hall,” Lindwall said. “They have a new head of the school in Beth Coyne and are heading in the right direction. They have good coaches, good student-athletes and it is a great fit for me. We are going to do great things at Lauralton Hall.”

Lindwall said he spoke with both Lauralton and St. Joseph about staying on as coach at St. Joseph and got the blessings of both schools to continue.

“I know some people will question this and wonder how I can do both,” Lindwall said. “All I care about is my kids and I was not going to leave them without a coach a month before

the season starts. This is manageable and we will make it work. I'll be busy, but busy doing what I love. This is my passion.”

Lauralton has a rich tradition of athletics with state titles in basketball, tennis, swimming and softball.

[Read More →](#)

Resource Information

Your November AD Checklist

- Insure that all winter sports coaches have completed required rules clinics.
- Have submitted all GHSA eligibility forms for winter sports.
- Schedule and disseminate agenda for upcoming athletic department meetings
- Pay bills.
- Insure that fall sports coaches have made nominations and attended appropriate meetings for all region and all-state nominations
- Have collected and filed all appropriate winter sports forms, to include proof of insurance, emergency medical treatment, emergency contact information, etc.
- Schedule winter sports parents meetings.
- Finalize gymnasium use practice schedules.



- Review all winter sports schedules for possible conflicts.
- With assistance from fall sports coaches, clean out and sanitize all multi-use locker rooms for use by winter sports team members.
- Pre-season meetings with winter sport coaches.
- Confirm all winter sports officiating schedules with time, dates and locations.
- Collect rosters from all opponents.
- Review winter sports season guidelines.
- Prepare winter sports game event managers schedules.
- Highlight and communicate all deadlines.
- Send all winter sports schedules to appropriate media.
- Arrange all home event gate workers. Cover necessary protocol and procedures.
- Update athletic website.
- Schedule winter sports booster club meetings.
- Complete and mail all booster club meeting agendas.
- Prepare for winter sport parent night.
- Disseminate all winter sports schedules to school administrators for sign up of administration game duties.
- Winter sports team picture schedule.
- Have completed all fall sports inventories for sports that are finished with their seasons.
- Speak with and/or inform student body on good sportsmanship and proper behaviors for winter sports events.
- Begin fall sports coaches end of season evaluations and conferences.
- Send thank you notes to all fall sports seasons coaches spouses.

[Download the November 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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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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