



GEORGIA ATHLETIC DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION



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You make an impact!

Hello Don,

Happy New Year. "Everyone wants to be appreciated so if you appreciate someone. Don't keep it a secret." Mary Kay Ash. Thank you for being amazing.



Did you know?

Your NIAAA/GADA membership comes with a \$2500.00 life insurance policy?

The [NFHS learning center](#) has over 90 courses 63 of them are free. You can use some of these in your preseason parent meetings. Go to nfhslearn.com if you have never checked this site out please do so.

We raised \$15,399.00 for [No Kid Hungry](#) with 30 schools participating. Start planning for our new initiative, [My Stuff Bag Foundation](#). Thank you Kelli Smith for taking the lead with these initiatives.

We had over 120 athletic directors attend the NADC in Orlando last month. Next year we will meet in Austin, Texas December 13-17, 2024

President Maurice Freeman received our 103% NIAAA MEMBERSHIP banner for 2023 during our conference in Orlando. This is a great accomplishment.



[GHSA December 2023 / January 2024 Newsletter](#)

[GHSA 2023-2024
Deadline Dates](#)

Don Baker, Ashley Lott, Kevin Grooms and Kelli Smith all taught LTC classes in Orlando. Scarlett Grantham presented with the Atlanta Falcons on how to start a Girls Flag Football program. Josh Mathew's serves on the NIAAA board. Thanks for your time and dedication. Georgia is well represented nationally.

Please [register for our conference](#) if you have not done so. Go to our new website to register. You have to register for the conference to get our discounted room rate so do both at the same time. We have condensed our schedule so that you can get back to your schools. We need to get food totals in to our caterer so please register. Once our discounted room rate totals are met we WILL NOT be able to get any more discounted rooms.

Thanks for all you do.

Joe Sanfilipo, CMAA

GADA Executive Director



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My Stuff Bags Foundation



President Maurice Freeman received our 103% NIAAA MEMBERSHIP banner for 2023 during our conference in Orlando. This is a great accomplishment.

GADA Requesting NIAAA Award Nominations

The GADA awards committee is looking for nominees for the following NIAAA recognitions to be presented at the spring conference. If you have any nominations, please send them to ralph.neeley@barrow.k12.ga.us.



NIAAA State Award of Merit

The State Award of Merit may be selected and presented annually in each state. It is an award presented by the state to an NIAAA member who demonstrates outstanding leadership and meritorious service and achievement in the vocation of interscholastic administration.

NIAAA Frank Kovaleski Professional Development Award

The Frank Kovaleski Professional Development Award is presented annually to an NIAAA member who has made significant contributions and demonstrated excellence in professional development at the local, state and national levels.

NIAAA Distinguished Service Award

The NIAAA Board of Directors, at the recommendation of the NIAAA Awards Committee, annually selects a number of individuals to receive the NIAAA Distinguished Service Award. Recipients of the NIAAA Distinguished Service Award are selected from persons nominated by their respective state athletic director associations. Each state may nominate one DSA candidate each year.

NFHS Citation Award

NFHS Citations are awarded to individuals whose contributions have impacted high school activity programs through their association with one of the following groups of professionals: state associations and NFHS staff, athletic directors, coaches, officials, music adjudicators and directors, and speech, debate and theatre directors.



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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

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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.



Calvary Christian moving to GIAA for 2024-25

By Jake Patterson, WRBL.com

COLUMBUS (WRBL) – The GIAA has been adding new schools to its rapidly growing ranks over the last two years, and this fall, a third Columbus school will join the league. Calvary Christian announced Friday that they will join the GIAA, leaving their longtime home in the GAPPS. Athletic Director and Baseball




Coach Steve Smith says that the Knights will likely join fellow Columbus schools Brookstone and Pacelli in Class 4A.

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Related

[Tallahassee says goodbye to GHSA; set to join GIAA in 2024](#)



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GHSA Reclassification: Bryan County, Richmond Hill

By Mike Brown, BryanCoNews.com

In the final football rankings following the conclusion of the state high school playoffs, Bryan County was ranked fourth in Class A-D1 after state champion Prince Avenue Christian, Swainsboro and Brooks County.

The Redskins' march to the Final Four of the playoffs marked their swansong competing in Class A-D1 for the next two years. The GHSA's recent reclassifications placed Bryan County in Class A-DII and



Northside Schools Move to New Regions Next Two Years in GHSA Reclassification

By Greg Ohust, MDJonline.com

The high school sports scene will have a different look for the two years after the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) finalized its reclassification plan for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years.

With the elimination of Class AAAAAA, Class AAAAAA will now be the highest classification in the state. The classifications will now range from AAAAAA to Class A, Division I and II.

school officials and coaches couldn't be happier.

While the Redskins were reclassified, nothing changes for Richmond Hill other than being in Class 6A which is now the highest classification for schools following the elimination of Class 7A.

The Wildcats remain in the same region with Camden County, Lowndes County, Valdosta and Colquitt County. A new addition will be Tift County. Effingham County was originally placed in the region but the Rebels successfully appealed to be placed in 5A.

Prior to the new classifications being announced, Bryan County officials were concerned they would possibly be bumped up to Class 2A or even possibly 3A.

However, once the dust settled everyone breathed a sigh of relief

North Atlanta will find itself in the state's highest classification after being assigned to AAAAAA and will be a member of Region 6AAAAA, along with Alpharetta, Denmark, Forsyth Central, Innovation Academy, Lambert, North Forsyth, South Forsyth and West Forsyth.

Riverwood and Woodward Academy will be assigned to Class AAAAA, with Riverwood in Region 6AAAAA and Woodward Academy in 4AAAAA.

Joining Riverwood in 6AAAAA will be Creekview, Lassiter, Pope, River Ridge, Sequoyah, Sprayberry and Woodstock, while Woodward is joined in 4AAAAA by Arabia Mountain, Chamblee, Decatur, Dunwoody, Lakeside-DeKalb, Shiloh and Tri-Cities.

Westminster, Pace Academy, North Springs, Marist and St. Pius X will be in Class AAAA, with Westminster in Region 6AAAA, Pace in 4AAAA and

and were more than happy to find themselves at the DII level.

“Going into Division II is going to keep us where we belong,” football coach Cherard Freeman said. “It gives us an opportunity to compete with schools our size.”

“I think it’ll continue to get more kids out where we’ll have a chance to win,” Freeman said. “It’s not going to be where we’ll be somebody’s Homecoming opponent on Friday night.”

“My first year here (2020) we were everybody’s Homecoming game. These kids have worked hard for four years to put this program in a position where it can compete and I believe we’ll be in a classification and region where we can continue to do so.”

The teams in the Redskins’ new 3A-DII region will include Metter, Claxton, Emanuel County Institute,

North Springs, Marist and St. Pius X in 5AAAA.

Joining Westminster in 6AAAA will be Blessed Trinity, Cambridge, Centennial and Kell, while Pace will be joined in 4AAAA by Creekside, Drew, Forest Park, Jackson of Atlanta, M.L. King, Mays and Midtown.

North Springs and Marist will be in Sub-Region A of 5AAAA, along with Cross Keys, Northview and Tucker, while St. Pius is joined in Sub-Region B by Clarkston, Druid Hills, Lithonia and Southwest DeKalb.

Holy Innocents’ and Lovett were assigned to Class AA and will both compete in Region 5AA, along with Carver of Atlanta, Coretta Scott King Academy, Hapeville Charter, KIPP Atlanta, Therrell and Washington.

Galloway, Mount Vernon, Weber, Wesleyan, Atlanta International and

Jenkins County, McIntosh County Academy, Portal and Savannah High. Also in the region are three Savannah schools who field a limited number of athletic teams: Savannah Classical Academy, Savannah Early College and STEAM Academy.

[Read More →](#)

Whitefield Academy will be in Class A and will compete in Region 5A.

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

We don't want to 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.

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Georgia high school baseball player dies after being hit in head by bat

By Jordan Mendoza, USA Today.com



A Georgia high school baseball player died nearly a month after he was hit in the head by a bat.

Jeremy Medina, a senior at Gainesville High School, died on Monday, his family announced on social media. He was 18.

"We began the process of seeking a visa for his grandmother so she could travel to be with us for the honor walk," Medina's family said. "Sadly, his

heart stopped last night about an hour before grandma arrived. We know Jeremy was and will always be in God's hands and we will see him soon."

A pitcher and catcher for the Gainesville baseball team, Medina was accidentally struck in the head by a baseball bat while inside the batting cages on the school's campus on Nov. 20, according to the Gainesville City School System. School principal Jamie Green **told WSB-TV** Medina leaned into the net of the batting cage while a teammate followed through a swing as there was "no horseplay, no misconduct, and no intent" in the accident.

Medina was then placed in a coma, but last week, doctors announced at a press conference they had declared him brain dead, and the family said they would fulfill his wish to become an organ donor.

"We are grateful for all the prayers and support over the last three weeks, and we appreciate everyone's understanding as we take time now to be with our family," his family said.

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Prince Avenue football OC Jon Richt is creating his own coaching legacy in the Athens area

B Sara Tidwell, OnlineAthens.com

Jon Richt is an Athens-area sports hero, just like his famous father.

As the offensive coordinator for Prince Avenue Christian football, he's helped his alma mater to their fourth – his third on staff – straight Georgia High School Association state championship game. .



"It's funny because our seniors have been to the state championship every year they've been in high school," Richt said. "They've never lost a game here at Prince Avenue, so we're constantly having to remind them, 'Hey guys, like this isn't normal. You might never ever make it to a championship in the rest of your life.' All that kind of stuff. It's a blessing and that's why we work as hard as we do."

Richt was the first Prince Avenue Christian quarterback when the varsity program began in 2005. From there, he spent one year at Clemson before transferring to Mars Hill College, where he finished his career and graduated with a degree in physical education in 2012.

The son of [former Georgia and Miami football coach Mark Richt](#), Jon tried to stay out of the family business. Instead, after marrying his wife in 2010, he went into the mortgage business.

That didn't stick, because in 2014, he was at his dad's side on Georgia's staff as quality control. In 2015, he got a taste of the NFL working as an offensive assistant for the Buffalo Bills before he rejoined his dad's staff at Miami (Fla.) as quarterbacks coach from 2016-2018.

[Read More →](#)

As Winter Sports Begin Across the Country, Let's All Take a Stand for Sportsmanship

By Dr Karissa Neihoff, NSHF.org



Periodically, The NFHS Voice will be presented in the form of video. This week, NFHS CEO Karissa Niehoff says as winter sports begin in schools across the country, it is time for coaches, administrators, captains and student leaders to take a stand for sportsmanship. She said we must exhibit and expect behavior that promotes respect for competition and authority figures, and athletes should be more focused on supporting their own team than antagonizing their opponent. Finally, she says we must take

ownership of youth and high school sports and champion the formative nature of these programs while continuing to make sportsmanship the top priority.



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**AJC's all-classification football player of the
year: Sammy Brown of Jefferson**

By Todd Holcomb, AJC.com

AJC PLAYER OF THE YEAR

High school running backs with 2,289 yards rushing and 40 touchdowns on 13-1 teams are natural candidates for Georgia player of the year. So are five-star linebackers who make 153 tackles and sign with Clemson.



Sammy Brown, a senior at Jefferson, was both.

“He does everything you can ask a football player to do,” Jefferson coach Travis Noland said. “He played over 125 snaps every game. He covered kicks. He was our punter. He threw touchdown passes. At one point, our tight end was hurt, and he said, ‘You know, if you need me, I’ll go up there and play tight end.’ To me, he’s the epitome of what a total football player is.”

Brown, the AJC’s all-classification player of the year, is among the more versatile and accomplished football players – and athletes – in state history.

The consensus No. 2 linebacker prospect nationally, Brown is 6 feet, 3 inches, 235 pounds. His best time in the 100 meters is 10.69 seconds, faster than many wide receivers.

Brown played his freshman football season at Commerce, a Class A school where his father, Mike, was the head coach and an alumnus. Sammy rushed for 1,368 yards, made first-team all-state and led the Tigers to their first region title in 17 years. Brown played his final three seasons at nearby Jefferson, a Class 5A school that afforded him better competition, and won two more region titles.

For his career, Brown rushed for 5,859 yards and scored 96 touchdowns. He made more than 300 tackles. As a punter this season, he averaged 44.5 yards with 12 of his 32 attempts downed inside the 20-yard line.

Brown was a two-time state wrestling champion at Jefferson in the 215- and 285-pound divisions. In track and field, he won the state 400 meters at Commerce and placed in the 100 and 200 meters and long jump. He might have done more in those sports but graduated early to enroll at Clemson and join the Tigers for Gator Bowl practices.

[Read More →](#)

Florida State-bound QB Luke Kromenhoek tells Georgia football 'thanks but no thanks'

By Dennis Knight, SavannahNow.com



Benedictine football's four-star quarterback **Luke Kromenhoek** committed to play at Florida State in March of 2022, his sophomore year, **before he had ever started a game behind center for the Cadets.**

His allegiance to the Seminoles never wavered, even when **a big-time last minute offer came through on Saturday.**

"Thanks but no thanks," Kromenhoek posted on X, formerly known as Twitter above a photo of the word "loyalty" with its dictionary definition under it. The offer, from the University of Georgia, might have seemed tempting for the native of the Peach State, but Kromenhoek said he never thought twice.

"Georgia had a quarterback decommit and they came and asked around to see if I would be interested," Kromenhoek said. "But I had to make a statement to 'Nole Nation that I was committed and Tallahassee is where I want to be. I made my commitment and I stayed true to it."

Kromenhoek was a starter at safety as a sophomore when BC made a run to a state title with Holden Geriner (now at Auburn) starting at quarterback, and he led the Cadets to their second straight state crown as a junior. As a senior, BC reached the state semis as Kromenhoek threw for 2,578 yards and 24 touchdowns with just two interceptions. He also ran for 558 yards and seven scores.

[Read More →](#)

Resource Information

Your January AD Checklist

- Schedule and disseminate agendas for upcoming athletic coaches meetings.
- Check, check and double check winter sports eligibility forms.
- Attend scheduled region meeting.
- Begin academic and residency checks for upcoming spring sports for eligibility purposes.
- Schedule spring sports picture day.



- Meet with current winter sports booster clubs.
- Review and audit concessions receipts and revenues.
- Review and adjust if necessary all basketball, wrestling and swimming game day preparation as needed
- Check spring sports scoreboards to insure that they are operational.
- Attend weekly administrative meetings.
- Inform faculty on upcoming athletic events. Talk about the positive things that are happening in the athletic program.
- Update your athletic website.
- Finalize fall sports schedules for next year.
- Finalize wrestling weight class rosters for upcoming area duals.
- Update transportation of any changes or adjustments to winter team travel schedules.
- Pay outstanding invoices from fall sports.
- Review region standings for seeding possibilities for upcoming basketball tournaments.
- Review spring sports officiating schedules and associations. Give association President or booking secretary a phone call to confirm all schedules.
- Forward spring sports schedules and assignments to all gate workers.

[Download January 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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Thank You

Maurice Freeman
President
Georgia Athletic Directors
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