



GEORGIA ATHLETIC DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION



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You make an impact!

Hello Don,

Emphasizing Sportsmanship and Character:



While winning games and championships is undoubtedly important, it's equally essential to emphasize the values of sportsmanship integrity, and character. As leaders in Georgia athletics, we have a responsibility to instill these values to our athletes to promote a culture of respect, fairness and good sportsmanship both on and off the field. Encourage coaches, athletes and spectators to uphold these principles in every aspect of competition, fostering a positive and inclusive environment for all. Hope to see you are the Conference in Athens.

Let's Go To Work

Maurice Freeman
GADA President



[GHSA February 2024
Newsletter](#)

[GHSA 2023-2024
Deadline Dates](#)



My Stuff Bags Foundation

We are less than one week away from our conference and I want to thank our Board for planning our conference. I especially want to acknowledge the time and effort Josh Mathew's has put into our conference. Moving to a new site after spending over 20 years in Savannah proved to be a new challenge. Looking forward to seeing you in Athens. Thank you for all you have done for our organization and your schools.



Thanks for all you do.

Joe Sanfilipo, CMAA

GADA Executive Director



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



[Georgia Athletic Job Postings](#)

7 Simple Steps to Streamline Your Athletic Clearance Process

Author: Clay Burnett, CEO of FinalForms



7 Simple Steps to Streamline Your Athletic Clearance Process

It's never been more important to make sure only eligible athletes suit up and take the field. Fielding ineligible players comes with serious penalties at the department, district, and state level; not to mention the public relations and legal nightmares. Unfortunately,

"eligibility" is becoming increasingly complex due to evolving, required consent, compliance, and waiver forms.

Suffice it to say that athletic clearance is complex — and it's even harder when you're relying on outdated systems. That being the case, optimizing athletic clearance needs to be a top goal for every district in order to keep kids safe and avoid negative outcomes.

With that in mind, let's take a look at some of the ways you can streamline your athletic clearance process and ensure only eligible athletes play.

1. Examine your current process

Before you change anything about your program, take a hard look at your current process. Document what's working and what needs improvement.

For example, it's possible your school has a stellar system in place for collecting information and preventing ineligible athletes from taking the field. If your district never has any issues with eligibility, it may just be a matter of further optimizing your system and digitizing your operations. On the other hand, if you're constantly running into problems, you may need to scrap your current system and start fresh.

Some key points to consider include:

Parent accessibility

Is your system ADA compliant, does it translate forms to any language, and is it easily accessible via any standard web browser?

Data delivery

Does your system automatically deliver data such as physical clearances, eligibility alerts, and return-to-play statuses?

Time commitment

Can you save time by employing a more efficient, more secure system so each stakeholder has fewer touch points and less duplication?

Investing in the right technology can improve all of these needs. Digitizing athletic clearance lowers operational costs, eliminates data-entry errors, and increases data security.

As an added bonus, it's also more convenient for parents, guardians, coaches, and students.

[Click HERE to download the article](#)



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

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THE TIME TO START PLANNING IS NOW

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.



Fight Fallout: Cairo must forfeit final home game

By Clint Thompson, TimesEnterprise.com

CAIRO – The Cairo Syrupmakers have played their last regular season game.

The latest fallout from last Friday night's fight at the end of Cairo's home game with Westover occurred this week when the



Georgia High School Association ruled Cairo has been fined \$500 and must forfeit its final game against Bainbridge, which was scheduled for Friday.

“Additionally, Cairo High School boys’ basketball program is being placed on “Severe Warning Status” for one calendar year from the date of this letter. This status means that any similar violation could result in more stringent penalties being levied against your program,” according to a letter from Carror Wright, GHSA Associate Director for Compliance, addressed to Cairo athletic director Sam Holland. “The GHSA office received reports, along with videos and statements, detailing an altercation and a lack of sportsmanship issues after the boys’ basketball game, creating a very toxic situation on 2-2-24 versus Westover High School. The issues involved Cairo players and fans being involved in an altercation. Please address the GHSA sportsmanship policies with your players, coaches and spectators.”

The letter ended reminding Cairo of any wish to appeal must be done by referring to the section 9 “Authority of Executive Director Appellate Procedure” on page 11 of the GHSA Constitution and By-Laws.

“We will abide by the GHSA and their ruling, and I’m going to leave it at that,” said Holland, responding to the disciplinary notice.

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GHSA doles out punishment from Spalding-Wayne County girls' playoff game fight

By Joey Lamar, WSAV.com

SAVANNAH, Ga. (WSAV) — The Georgia High School Association (GHSA) handed down the punishment from its investigation of a “multi-player fight” between Spalding High School and Wayne County High School on Feb. 20. The incident happened at Wayne County High School during the first round of the Class AAAA playoffs, according to letters received by WSAV.

Wayne County and Spalding are being fined \$1,500 each. They have 10 calendar days to submit the payment. Both schools also have the right to appeal. In addition to the fine, each school is being placed on “Severe Warning Status” for one calendar year. According to the letter, “This status means that any similar violation could result in more

Amanda Weir's 20-year-old GHSA Record in 100 Free broken twice at 4-5A State Championship

By Riley Overend, SwimSwam.com

Midtown High School freshman Sarah Paisley Owen first broke Weir's mark with her individual 100 free victory in 48.94, dropping more than half a second off her previous-best 49.48 from last February. In the process, the 15-year-old Owen moved up to 60th in the U.S. girls' 15-16 national age group (NAG) rankings.

Then at the end of the finals session, Westminster School senior Katie Christopherson went even faster leading off her triumphant 400 free relay (3:30.12) with a 48.59. It was her first time under 49 seconds in the 100 free as her previous best stood at 49.08 from last March. A 17-year-old University of Virginia commit, Christopherson is now tied for 89th in the 17-18 NAG rankings.

stringent penalties being levied against your school.”

The letter, dated Feb. 22 for Spalding and Feb. 23 for Wayne County, says the GHSA received a “report, video and pictures detailing” the Feb. 20 incident. The decision on the penalties was based on a report, according to the letter.

The game was ruled a no contest, meaning there was no winner of the game. Additionally, because this was a playoff game, neither team advanced to the second round of the playoffs. The ruling meant Star’s Mill received a second-round bye and advanced to the third round of the playoffs.

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The 100 free was Christopherson’s third GHSA record of the meet after already rewriting standards in the 200 IM (1:55.46) and 100 breast (59.91) during her individual events. In the 200 IM, she lowered her lifetime best by .03 seconds to move up to 27th in the 17-18 NAG rankings. In the 100 breaststroke, Christopherson brought the state record under a minute for the first time, taking down the mark of 1:00.56 clocked by Alpharetta’s Alicia Henry in 2020.

Statesboro High School senior Olivia Stewart earned a runner-up finish in the 100 breast (1:00.24), also under Henry’s old GHSA record. The Auburn commit improved upon her previous-best 1:00.99 from November

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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.

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Hilliard Bradley athletic director resigns, accused of making women staffers uncomfortable

By Dean Narciso, ColumbusDispatch.com



HILLIARD, OH—Two years into his three-year contract as Hilliard Bradley High School's athletic director, Kaz Pata has resigned amid allegations that he used social media to make two women at the school uncomfortable.

Pata had earlier this month been placed on paid administrative leave. According to a document in Pata's personnel file, which The Dispatch obtained Wednesday, "the district received complaints from two female staff

members that Mr. Pata made them uncomfortable in his attempts to communicate with them over social media.

"The district asked Mr. Pata to resign, and he did," the records state. His resignation is effective Friday.

Contacted by The Dispatch at his home, Pata, 33, initially said that his resignation was related to personal issues at home.

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Racial Slurs Ended Charity Basketball Game Early

By Paul Steinbach, AthleticBusiness.com

Athletic directors severing the East Ramapo and Scarsdale school districts in New York have issued a joint statement denouncing racially charged comments aimed at East Ramapo girls' basketball players during a charity game Saturday.

As reported by [News 12 Westchester](#), the schools' teams were playing in a game at Scarsdale High School to raise awareness and funds in support of cancer research.

“Late in the 4th quarter, the East Ramapo coach stopped the game and reported that during the game, racially charged comments from the stands were directed at his players. Unfortunately, the game ended, the East Ramapo players left Scarsdale feeling dejected and disrespected, and a day intended to bring communities together for a common purpose was tainted.”

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High School Students Need Adults to Listen and Recognize Their Needs, Struggles

By NHSF.org



Periodically, The NFHS Voice will be presented in the form of video. This week, NFHS CEO Karissa Niehoff shares about the first-ever NFHS National Student Advisory Council of 16 high school students who were invited to share their perspectives on participating in high school sports and performing arts. These students said they need adults – parents, coaches, teachers, administrators, state associations and the NFHS – to see them where they are and recognize the areas where they may be struggling. She said students need to know that their feelings and opinions matter, and that we are working with them to support their best interests.

Revisions Made in Fouls and Misconduct Rule in High School Soccer

By NHSF.org

Rule 12 of the NFHS Soccer Rules Book on Fouls and Misconduct has been revised and reorganized and includes a new section on “Stopping a Promising Attack.”



The revisions in the Fouls and Misconduct Rule, along with one change in Rule 4 regarding Player Equipment, were recommended by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Soccer Rules Committee at its February 5-7 meeting in Indianapolis. All changes were subsequently approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

Rule 12-7 defines what a promising attack is, how to determine a promising attack, and any punishments a player may receive. The new language states that a promising attack is an attack moving quickly with the promise or potential to become a clear goal-scoring opportunity for the attacking team. A promising attack can occur anywhere on the field.

When determining if an attack is promising, the following considerations would include but are not limited to: distance between the offense and the goal, general direction of play, likelihood of keeping or gaining control of the ball, if the attacking team is moving forward with speed, open space in front of the player with the ball or the presence of other attackers who could receive the ball, the player having an option to take on the defender or pass to a teammate, and if the attacker has assistance from teammates.

In a move to achieve one of the committee's fundamental tasks of creating an atmosphere of sportsmanship, much of Rule 12 was rearranged and re-worded for clarity and consistency.

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H.S. Basketball Announcer Wrongly Accused of Racist Remarks Awarded \$25 Million

By Partrick Andres, HighSchool.SI.COM

After being misidentified by a major newspaper as having made racist remarks during a high school basketball game, an announcer has won a \$25 million judgment in court.

Scott Sapulpa, an Oklahoma-based high school basketball announcer, won the verdict Monday—with the court ordering Gannett, the owner of The Oklahoman, to pay him \$5 million in actual damages and \$20 million in punitive damages.

In March 2021, Sapulpa and Matt Rowan were on the call for a girls' high school basketball game between Norman and Midwest City High Schools. Norman's players knelt in protest as the national anthem played pregame, and Rowan launched into an offensive tirade in which he used the n-word.

The Oklahoman picked up the story and misidentified Rowan as Sapulpa. After Rowan admitted he was the one who made the remarks, Sapulpa took the newspaper, Rowan and others to court.

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Resource Information

Your March AD Checklist

- Insure that all invoices/bills are paid from winter sports
- Attend region meeting
- Have completed all spring sports eligibility
- Preparation for parent night meeting (site, notification, handouts, a/v equipment, refreshments, etc.)
- Attend weekly administrative meeting
- Complete game event administrator schedule
- Attend faculty meetings and prepare sport-specific announcements
- Spring sports picture schedule
- Update school athletics website
- Schedule, make agenda for monthly athletic department meeting
- Confirm all spring sports schedules with school calendar, check for conflicts
- Confirm game event personnel (ticket takers, event manager, administrator on duty, security, officials, scorekeeper, etc.)
- Complete winter sports equipment inventory
- Prepare winter sports equipment order
- Attend/advise booster club(s) on business matters
- Confirm spring sports scheduling (at least two weeks in advance of contest)
- Confirm schedule for team transportation



[Download March 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
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