

Officiate GA Day 2015

July 17–18, 2015
Macon Marriott
City Center

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Vice President
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Conference Coordinator

OGAD'15 
ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL

ALL FOR ONE ONE FOR ALL

EXCELLENCE: THE ONLY WAY

Officials are charged with the task of keeping our sports fair and without outside influence. Striving to be excellent on the field, court, diamond, or at a competition is critical to maintaining our integrity.

This year's theme, ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL, is the sole attitude all officials should expect from their peers. Never should one official benefit at the expense of another.

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Promoting Excellence in Officiating

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Thank you for attending the premier gathering of athletic officials in the Southeast.

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

GHSA camps, low-country boil, speakers, and break-out sessions.

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The continued support from our sponsors makes this event possible each year.

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The GAOA sincerely appreciates its association sponsors throughout the State.

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The GAOA seeks to resolve officiating matters in a way that benefits all its members.

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THANK YOU

We hope you enjoyed our event this year, and look forward to seeing you next year!

The **premier** gathering
of athletic officials in
the Southeast.

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THANK YOU

We appreciate all the GAOA members, for attending our annual event. We hope you enjoy what we have worked so hard to assemble.

WELCOME



On behalf of the Georgia Athletic Officials Association Board of Directors, Joe DeRosa, owner of Smitty's Sport Apparel, Inc., and Officiate Georgia Day's title sponsor, and I welcome you to GAOA's 9th annual OGAD Conference.

This year's Conference theme is **All For One and One For All**, a fitting theme for OGAD's annual Conference considering the issues facing officials in our state today. A sense of togetherness and purpose will be integral in favorably resolving such matters as background checks for officials, the proposed independent contractor status of officials in Georgia, E-verification requirements, and violence in sport. I hope that after a positive and foundational weekend, we are all inspired to dedicate ourselves even further towards supporting our fellow officials and strengthening our organization.

Please review the list of sponsors in this year's program. GAOA could not conduct OGAD at the high level of success it achieves without these sponsors' loyalty and financial support, and we extend our gratitude for their involvement with this event. Additionally, I encourage you to

visit OGAD's stellar group of vendors who supply us with quality goods and services at competitive prices offered to this year's Conference attendees. Their support of our organization and this event is also greatly appreciated.

GAOA is fortunate to have special partnerships with the GHSA, the GISA, the GACA, and the NASO. I thank these fine organizations' leaders and their staffs for their unwavering support and friendship. I would also like to thank GAOA's 4,000 members - the lifeblood of the GAOA - and the 400 members that are here today for their continued support.

In closing, please attend your sport-specific professional development session today to offer your input regarding what you feel is going well for you and your Association and your recommendations for what issues you feel still need attention to improve conditions for officials in Georgia.

- W. Alan Smith
GAOA Executive Director

BEST IN THE BUSINESS

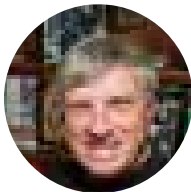
**TONY
GREENE**

NCAA Basketball Official



**PHIL
LAURIE**

Big 8 and Big 12
Football Official



**MIKE
RAYNOR**

ACC Women's Softball
Officials Coordinator



**SEAN
WRIGHT**

NBA Official



**ERNIE
YARBROUGH**

GHSA Commissioner of
Officials



**DUSTY
DELLINGER**

PUBC, MLB Evaluator



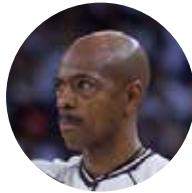
**DAVE
YEAST**

Coordinator, NCAA
National Umpire
Program



**TOM
WASHINGTON**

NBA Official



EXPERTS

We're very excited about our speaker lineup for this year's unprecedented training sessions. Our speakers represent a multitude of sports, various levels of competition, and diverse demographics.

COMMENTS?

If you have any comments, suggestions, or recommendations, please let us know.

REPRESENTING ALL OFFICIALS

The GAOA, established in 1993, serves to provide the best representation for high school sports officials across the State. Starting with 169 members in 2007, to over 4,000 in 2014, The GAOA has become one of the premier officiating associations nationwide.

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THE **PURPOSE** of the Georgia Athletic Officials Association is to **ORGANIZE** Georgia's athletic officials into a **WELL-INTEGRATED**, Statewide association that **ENCOURAGES EXCELLENCE** in all athletics, **EMPHASIZES** sportsmanship, fair play, and integrity at all levels, as well as providing **SERVICES** and **SUPPORT** for the **BENEFIT** of its membership.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, July 17

- 9:00AM **GHSA Basketball Officiating Camp**
- 9:00AM **GHSA Baseball Officiating Camp**
- 11:00AM **GHSA Football Officiating Camp**
- 12:00PM **GHSA Softball Officiating Camp**
- 6:00PM **GAOA Low-Country Boil Social**

Saturday, July 18

- 8:00AM **OGAD Check-in and Registration Begins**
- 9:00AM **OGAD Training Sessions**
- 12:00PM **Lunch (Included) Is Served**
- 1:30PM **Sport-Specific Breakout Sessions Begin**



Don't forget, lunch is included with your \$20 conference fee!

SPONSORS



This event would not be possible without the continued support of our sponsors. The title sponsor of Officiate GA Day 2015 is [Smitty Official's Apparel](#).

On behalf of Smitty Official's Apparel, I would like to welcome you to Officiate GA Day 2015. Smitty has partnered with the GAOA as its title sponsor because of the premier officiating and training Georgia has to offer to its schools.

Smitty Official's Apparel is a leader in officials and umpire's apparel, and we believe that looking that part is definitely an important part of the job. Starting in

2004 with only two products, the Smitty and Moose lanyards, to over 60 custom



Joe DeRosa, former NBA official, listens to Jason Kaponao complain about a call.

dye-sublimated shirts alone in 2015, plus dozens of other products, Smitty has grown with officiating over the past eleven years. We continue to listen to sports officials across the country to find out what they want, and make products around those requests.

We thank you for attending, and ask that you take a look at the vendors in the hallway to stock up on gear!

- Joe DeRosa
Owner, Smitty Official's Apparel



PURCHASE
OFFICIALS



Sports

“Look the Best, Be the Best!”

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PLATINUM SPONSORS

1 Stop Sports

Albany Baseball Umpires Association
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 Atlanta Peach State Football Officials Association
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 Capital City Officials Association
 Chattahoochee Officials Association
 Columbus Football & Basketball Officials Association
 Etowah Valley Football Officials Association
 Georgia ASA
 Georgia Athletic Coaches Association
 Georgia Football Officials Association
 Georgia Gold Coast Officials Association
 Georgia High School Association
 Georgia Independent School Association
 Georgia Lacrosse Officials Association
 Georgia Officials Athletic Association
 Georgia Women's Lacrosse Umpires Association
 Georgia Wrestling Officials Association

Gold Leaf Football Officials Association
 Heritage Baseball Umpires Association
 Hinesville Officials Association
 International City Football Officials Association
 Lanier Football Officials Association
 Marietta Baseball Umpires Association
 Metro-Atlanta Cheerleading Officials Association
 Middle Georgia Basketball Officials Association
 Middle Georgia Football Officials Association
 Multi-County Basketball Officials Association
 Multi-County Football Association
 NASO / Referee Magazine
 North Georgia Amateur Umpires Association
 Northwest Georgia Basketball Officials Association
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 Peach State Basketball Officials Association
 Purchase Officials Georgia
 Savannah Basketball Officials Association
 Southtowne Motors
 Southwest Georgia Officials Association
 TARA Baseball & Softball Umpires Association

GOLD SPONSORS

Atlanta Baseball Umpires' Association
 Augusta Association of Football Officials
 Chattahoochee Basketball Officials Association
 Columbus Umpires Association
 Houston County Umpires Association
 Northeast Georgia Basketball & Softball Officials
 Northeast Georgia Football & Baseball Officials

Rome Officials Association
 SOPTI Conditioning Program
 Vidalia-Toombs County Softball Officials Association
 Warner Robins Basketball Officials Association
 West Georgia Football Officials Association
 West Georgia Umpires Associations

SILVER SPONSORS

Atlanta Area Basketball Officials Association
 Augusta Baseball Officials Association
 Augusta Basketball Officials Association
 Columbus Baseball & Softball Umpires Association
 Lanier Baseball & Softball Umpires Association
 Metropolitan Basketball Officials Association
 Middle Georgia Cheerleading Officials Association
 North Metro Umpires Association

Northwest Georgia Cheer Association
 South Georgia Basketball Officials Association
 South Georgia Cheerleading Officials Association
 Southern Eagle Baseball & Softball Officials
 Southern Eagle Basketball & Football Officials
 Southwest Georgia Cheerleading Officials Association



JOSH DANFORTH
Swim & Dive
GA Interscholastic Swim/Dive

OFFICIALS OF THE YEAR

Each year, the GAOA honors its top officials at the **Georgia Athletic Coaches Association Banquet** in Dalton, GA on May 30, 2015.



KEITH HAMMOND
Football
Georgia Football (GFOA)



WILLIAM WEST
Basketball
Warner Robins Basketball



LYNNE FIELDS
Cheerleading
South Georgia Cheerleading



DONNIE RICHARD
Baseball
Augusta Umpires



ERIC PHILBERT
Softball
Atlanta Quarterback Club



ASHLEE JAEggi
Lacrosse
GA Women's Umpires



MIKE GODLEWSKI
Wrestling
Georgia Wrestling



MICHAEL JOHNSON
Volleyball
Augusta Officials



CHIP BOWLES
Soccer
South Georgia Soccer

EARL ETHERIDGE **EXCELLENCE** **IN OFFICIATING** **AWARD**

The Earl Etheridge Award is given to an official that truly has shown excellence in this business, and has done more than just officiate his or her games. Earl Etheridge is an individual that has exhibited professionalism as a coach, as a father, and especially as the Director of Savannah Parks and Recreation Services. Earl has improved conditions for officials by leaps and bounds in his relationship with the GAOA, and we will never be able to pay him back for his support and friendship. This award represents 2015's Overall Official of the Year, and is the highest award given by the GAOA.

JIM SNEDDON

Jim Sneddon, veteran baseball and softball umpire has received this prestigious award for his incredible work in umpire training and his leadership abilities with the GHSA.

The GAOA is pleased to announce that the Earl Etheridge Excellence in Officiating Award Overall Official of the Year for 2015 is Jim Sneddon of Carrollton, Georgia. A 32-year veteran umpire and a leading figure in GHSA baseball and softball, Sneddon has also earned appearances in A-SUN, ACC, and SEC competitions. Sneddon is currently the acting Baseball liaison and Umpire in Chief (UIC) for softball state tournaments with the GHSA.

Sneddon brought his enthusiasm for and knowledge of fast-pitch softball and baseball from Indiana to Georgia in 1983. After years spent garnering the respect and appreciation of his peers through his fine work, Sneddon became integral to overseeing softball's conversion from slow- to fast-pitch in Georgia, a change that kept state athletes competitive for college scholarships in the sport. He has worked multiple state championships in both softball

and baseball, and has been instrumental in opening up the same opportunity to a wider pool of officials and Associations through his innovative measures in the administration and scheduling of playoff and championship series throughout the state.

Reflecting on his career and his reception of this award, Sneddon affirmed, "Softball and Baseball have been real good to me. You meet a lot of good people. It keeps you young running around out there and interacting with the kids. My wife tells me I never really retired – I just changed professions. You try to put back into the game. My goal is to make officiating better – to help put better umpires on the field."

Congratulations to Jim Sneddon, GAOA's 2015 Overall Official of the Year.

CHARLIE BLOODWORTH **LIFETIME ACHEIVEMENT** **AWARD**

Charlie Bloodworth was a husband, a father, a grandfather, a friend, a mentor, a fundraiser, a consensus builder, and a leader. Charlie was the son-in-law every father wishes for, the husband every woman dreams of, the father and grandfather every child deserves, and the friend everyone treasures. Charlie selflessly helped everyone he could and every good cause that came his way.

Past Recipients:

2011 – Dock Sisk

2012 – Walt Carter

2013 – Robert Barnett Sr.

2014 – Bob Hamby

CHIP HUFFMAN

Chip Huffman has been selected for the Charlie Bloodworth Lifetime Achievement Award. His leadership on and off the field and court has truly benefited all who know him.

This year's recipient of GAOA's Charlie Bloodworth Lifetime Achievement in Officiating Award is Chip Huffman of Augusta, Georgia. During his impressive 35-year career, Chip Huffman has become a decorated football and basketball official, having worked multiple GHSA state championship football and GISA state championship basketball contests.

Huffman attributes his early interest in officiating to his father, who was also an official and lifelong supporter of Huffman's passion for the profession. Huffman began officiating at the age of 16, working recreation league games until beginning to officiate GHSA events in 1980. Currently, he serves as the Assigning Secretary for the Augusta Football Officials Association. A father of three, Huffman describes himself as "blessed" to have also passed on an enthusiasm for officiating to a son. "I'm blessed to have a 25-year-old son doing well in officiating alongside me. It's really special to

get to work with him on Friday nights." Huffman also credits the camaraderie of fellow officials and coaches with his enduring enjoyment of officiating. "My dad had a saying that's true for me too," Huffman recalls, "I've made a lot more friends officiating than I have enemies."

In speaking of his reaction to this award, Huffman described himself as "overwhelmed." "It makes me think of my dad," Huffman states, "learning from my dad, passing it on to my son – I know he's proud of me up in heaven." Huffman went on to reflect on the hard work required to excel as an official. "I've dedicated a lot of nights to officiating sports and I love it. It is rewarding to be recognized for all this hard work. The average fan has no idea the time we put in to prepare for seasons and games, and it's a heartwarming honor to be recognized like this by your peers.

GAOA BOARD MEMBERS

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Vidalia, GA



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Vice President
Hull, GA



CHUCK TIDWELL

Vice President
Lizella, GA



SPENCER SMITH

Vice President
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ED MARTINEZ

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Taylorsville, GA



DAVID M. LEMCOE JR.

Conference Coordinator
Alpharetta, GA



NEW GHSA UNIFORMS



NEW LOOK

GHSA basketball and football officials will soon be wearing new uniforms that will reflect a contemporary yet authentic presence.

APPROVED VENDORS

Smitty
Purchase Officials
1 Stop Sports
Honig's
Cliff Keen Athletic

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



ALL-STAR GAMES

GAOA Members are selected each year for the GACA Football, Basketball, and Softball All-Star games. This is a unique opportunity for members to officiate at a high level with other officials from across the State.



OFFICIATING MATTERS

Georgia sports officials experience multiple matters, especially today, that the GAOA seeks to resolve in ways most favorable to officials, protecting their interests at all times. Such matters include background checks, E-Verification, and our independent contractor status.



FREE ADMISSION

GAOA Membership cards can be used for free admission to all GHSA and GISA contests, including all post-season games at the Georgia Dome, Macon Centreplex, and other Championship sites.

! THANK YOU!

The GAOA and its board sincerely thank you for attending this installment of Officiate GA Day. We hope you found it educational, and most importantly, we hope you had a lot of fun. We look forward to seeing you next year!

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GET OUR NEWSLETTER

If you registered for a membership and/or the conference online (not a walk-up registration), you're already registered for our newsletter! Be on the lookout for GAOA updates.

