



Get it Write

Officiate
GA Day
2018

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August 3-4, 2018 | Macon Marriott City Center

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Welcome

On behalf of Joe DeRosa, owner of Smitty Official's Apparel and Officiate Georgia Day's (OGAD's) title sponsor, and Georgia Athletic Officials Association's (GAOA's) Board of Directors, welcome to the 12th annual OGAD Conference. GAOA thanks all the Associations' leaders whose positive and supportive help enabled GAOA to keep our OGAD Conference affordable. Thank you to GAOA's planning committee for another excellent OGAD conference.

This year's conference theme is **Get it Write**. Today, we will learn how to prepare thorough, concise, accurate, and articulate game reports; an important skill for all officials, which can be invaluable in avoiding or resolving disputes or controversies when we work.

As participation in high school athletics continues to grow in Georgia, we must also remain dedicated to recruiting new officials to meet these increased demands and retaining experienced officials to exemplify and continue to raise our standards of excellence.

OGAD allows GAOA to focus on its purpose: to encourage excellence in all sports officiating, to foster fair play, sportsmanship, and integrity, to provide services and support for the benefit of its membership and all officials, and to advocate for the best interest of officials across the state.

GAOA encourages and amplifies officials' voices, promoting them to help influence positive change to benefit and improve conditions for officials in Georgia. If you want your concerns and best interests championed, OGAD provides an important forum for you to make those issues a matter of public record.

Working with feedback from GAOA's member officials has provided positive influence to improve benefits and conditions for officials from 2006 to the present day, all made possible by the participation of member officials in our annual sport-specific breakout sessions.

Visit our vendors who offer quality officials' apparel and equipment at conference discount pricing. And take advantage of OGAD's opportunity to spend time with old friends, to make new ones, and to celebrate our officiating community.

In closing, GAOA looks forward to the future as it works with its membership to partner with the state associations to continue to provide their athletic programs with the best officiating possible. The key to our mutual success is our willingness to listen to each other's needs, wants, and interest and to find workable solutions to accomplish them successfully.



- W. Alan Smith
GAOA Executive Director



Schedule of Events

8:00AM
– 9:20AM

Registration and Check-in

9:30AM
– 9:45AM

Opening Ceremony

9:45AM
– 10:00AM

Earl Etheridge

GHSA Officials Committee Chairman

10:00AM
– 10:15AM

NFHS Awards

Ernie Yarbrough

GHSA Commissioner of Officials

10:15AM
– 10:35AM

Officials of the Year and Awards

Alan Smith and Earl Etheridge

10:35AM
– 10:45AM

Comfort Break

10:45AM
– 11:30AM

Jason Bradley

Baseball Evaluator / GHSA Arbiter

11:30AM
– 12:15PM

Bob Alexander

"Making it Happen" Leadership Keys

12:15PM
– 1:00PM

Lunch Break

(Lunch is included!)

1:00PM
– 3:00PM

Sport-Specific Breakout Sessions

"What's Hot and What's Not?"



Jason Bradley

Jason Bradley a graduate of Pierce County High School 1995. He began his career as an arbiter in 1996 joining local GHSA Association in Football, Baseball and Basketball. In 2002 he graduated from Harry Wendelstedt Umpire School at the top of his class and embarked on a 10 year career in the Minor Leagues reaching AAA, Dominican Winter League and MLB Spring.

Throughout his Professional Career he stayed true to GHSA and continued to join local associations to officiate football and basketball respectively as well as working college baseball before leaving for spring training each March. Jason's professional career ended and he began working as part time evaluator for umpires in MILB. He joined numerous college conference rosters as an umpire in baseball, CAA, A-Sun, Southern, Sun Belt, ACC and SEC. He has worked a Conference Tourney each year and just this past May worked the SEC Conference Tourney on his way to his second NCAA Regional.

Bob Alexander



Professional speaker, trainer, author and coach Bob Alexander is the author of the books ***Making It Happen: Leadership Keys for People Who Must Produce Results***, ***The Teacher Trap: And How I CAN Break Free***, and numerous audio programs. He is also the manufacturer/distributor of Zig Ziglar's I CAN Character Curriculum that is taught in thousands of public, private, Christian, and home schools as well as martial arts studios and youth serving organizations worldwide.

Bob has excelled in many aspects of his life. As a winning high school coach and administrator, he was selected as an "Outstanding Young Man of American" in recognition of his achievements and leadership skills. Today, as President of The Alexander Resource Group, he travels the world teaching people how to improve their lives by improving their skills. Bob is also a proven winner in fulfilling his personal goals. He has a black belt in Karate and has competed and taught the martial arts since 1967. In 2007, he was inducted into The Black Belt Officials Hall of Fame, and in 2008 inducted into the **Battle of Atlanta Centurion Club** for his unwavering commitment to the World Martial Arts community. He is a baseball/softball umpire with the GHSA/GISA, and a member of the GAOA.

2018 GAOA Award Recipients

The high school officials we honor today have been chosen as the 2018 Officials of the Year in their respective sport and as 2018 Charlie Bloodworth Lifetime Achievement Award Winners by the Georgia Athletic Officials Association for their outstanding knowledge and skill in officiating, as well as their integrity, leadership, professionalism, and dedication.

These officials are motivated, well trained, and committed to meeting the demands of their assignments. They are physically and mentally fit and have the knowledge, skills, and courage to make the tough calls and to communicate clearly.

Superb officials like them contribute much to high school athletics in our state, and the GAOA is pleased to recognize them with these awards.

Again, congratulations on their selection as GAOA's 2018 Officials of the Year and as its 2018 Charlie Bloodworth Lifetime Achievement Award Winners. GAOA and GA's 8,000 Officials thank them for their continued commitment to "Excellence in Officiating" and for their continued support of GA's high school athletic programs.

- W. Alan Smith

GAOA Executive Director



Earl Etheridge Excellence in Officiating Award Recipients

1993–2017

William Jones – 2017
Tim Tipton – 2016
Jim Sneddon – 2015
Jill Poole – 2014
Spencer Smith – 2013
Dick Kitchens – 2012
Jack C. Bell – 2011
Chuck Tidwell – 2010
Carl Monroe – 2009
James Arnold – 2008
Rick Boedy – 2007
W. Alan Smith – 2006
Craig Stone – 2005
Larry Sorrels – 2004
Irv Zisselman – 2003
Betty Jane Ford – 2002
Walt Carter – 2001
James Lange – 2000
Jarry Hobgood – 1999
Randy Etheridge – 1998
Dock Sisk – 1997
Earl Fales – 1996
Troy Dailey – 1995
Mike Wood – 1994
Tommy Stalnaker – 1993



Earl Etheridge Excellence in Officiating Award

Gordon Dickerson – Georgia Football Officials

The GAOA's 2018 Earl Etheridge Overall Official of the Year is Gordon Dickerson. Mr. Dickerson has officiated football since 2002 and is a member of the Georgia Football Officials Association, which he served as president for in 2016. He has been officiating baseball since 2006 and is a member of the Multi County Umpires Association, while also serving on the Advisory Board to the Southern Elite Officials Association. He is also a cancer survivor.

Mr. Dickerson officiated the 2008 and 2013 GISA 2A football state championships, and he officiated the 2015 GHSA 6A football championship -- the highest classification at the time.

When asked to recount some of the highlights of his impressive career, Mr. Dickerson described the "unforgettable" excitement of his first varsity assignment for football in 2003, his first Corky Kell Classic and experience in the Georgia Dome in 2011, his first experience working in a mixed-district football crew, and his working all the way to the 6A GHSA semi-final in 2016, which marked the first year of the District Concept. He also described the warmth and support he received from the many officials, coaches, and administrators who reached out to him during his recent struggle with cancer as "humbling and deeply meaningful."

When asked how he would account for the success he has enjoyed throughout his years of officiating, Mr. Dickerson pointed to his dedication to technique and his deep sense of purpose and responsibility to the "craft," as he put it, of officiating, as well as his commitment to the players, fellow officials, and sports he serves. He explained, "I look at it less as personal success, but more as a privilege to experience these highlights. You work hard to give the game its due regard and to make a positive difference, and the kids deserve for you to give your best – every down, every play, every pitch. Officiating is serious business, and it requires a commitment, a quest for excellence in sports officiating and mechanics." Speaking of his avocation, Mr. Dickerson concluded, "Officiating allows you to have an intimate part of the game and a direct interaction with the players and coaches. When you're engaged in the action of a game, you have an experience that you can't explain or fully describe."

The GAOA is pleased to congratulate Gordon Dickerson, GAOA's 2018 Earl Etheridge Overall Official of the Year.

Charlie Bloodworth Lifetime Achievement Award



Larry Cook – All-Star Football Officials Assoc.

Larry Cook of the All Star Football Officials Association has refereed football for 42 years. He has also spent time as a baseball official. During his impressive career, he has been selected to work numerous football all-star games and state championship contests, including games played in the Georgia Dome. Asked to describe some of his career highlights, Mr. Cook, rather than singling out specific games or moments, spoke of his career in a broader context, describing the personal relationships officiating had afforded him throughout the years. “What I find most rewarding are the friendships and memories made with the crews I’ve worked with over the years,” he stated. “Working on Friday nights, the players and coaches I’ve served – it’s all accumulated into the highlight of Friday night.”

Considering his longevity and success as an official, Mr. Cook spoke of fellow officials who took the time to mentor him as he began his career and of his commitment to continued self-improvement. “I attribute my accomplishments to the great mentoring I received from experienced officials and friends. Great officials like Charlie Hancock and Brockey Brock provided advice and support that led me down the right path; it meant a lot to my career and to me. Also, you’ve got to stay up with rule changes and trends, developing with the game over time.”

Mr. Cook summed up what this award means to him, stating, “It’s a big honor – I respect the past recipients of this award, and it’s an honor to receive an award named after a man with such a great legacy.”

The GAOA is pleased to congratulate Larry Cook on his 2018 Charlie Bloodworth Lifetime Achievement Award.



Charlie Bloodworth Lifetime Achievement Award

Lyndon Huckaby – Rome Softball, Swim/Dive, Volleyball

Lyndon Huckaby of the Rome Officials Association has been officiating baseball since 1970, basketball since 1972, football since 1976 (through 2008), softball since 1981, volleyball since 1993, and swimming and diving since 2004. Throughout his long and multi-faceted career, Mr. Huckaby has called state finals in baseball, softball, volleyball, and swimming.

Mr. Huckaby attributes his successful and varied career to an attention to rules knowledge and game management, his focus on dealing with players and coaches effectively and respectfully, and his ability to diffuse situations before they escalate out of control. In speaking of his time spent officiating, Mr. Huckaby reflected, "It's given me a way to stay involved with sports that I really appreciate. I taught school for 33 years, but officiating has helped me stay in contact with and work on behalf of student athletes, has given me a good hobby, and has provided me the opportunity to meet so many great people and travel all over the state."

When asked what advice he would relay to any new or junior officials starting their own careers, Mr. Huckaby offered, "Find yourself a mentor, and understand that fans are not hollering at you as a person but at the position you are in, the uniform – don't take fans' comments personally. Keep your composure and study your rules."

The GAOA is pleased to congratulate Lyndon Huckaby on his 2018 Charlie Bloodworth Lifetime Achievement Award.

Charlie Bloodworth Lifetime Achievement Award



Richard Williams – West GA Football Officials

Richard Williams of the West Georgia Football Officials Association and the Chattahoochee Basketball Association has been officiating football and basketball for 27 years. He also officiated baseball and softball with the Troup County Umpires Association for 15 years. He has worked multiple high school postseason playoff games, including First-, Second-, and Third-round contests, as well as football and baseball games for the NAIA.

Mr. Williams described training younger officials and the many friendships he's developed throughout his years officiating as the most meaningful highlights of his successful career. Mr. Williams attributes his accomplishments in officiating to his strong desire to stay close to the sports he loves and to the benefit provided to him early on by strong relationships with mentors and established officials. "I was fortunate enough to have strong mentors and teachers in each sport I worked," he stated. "One of the best attributes for a young official to develop is discipline; discipline makes you continue to learn. I've officiated several sports at so many different levels – from minor college to recreation – and being able to focus on each sport, with their different rules and different mechanics, is a product of discipline and constant self-improvement." He continued, "Making friends has been one of the most positive parts of my time officiating. I still have friends today from the very beginning of my career."

Asked what knowledge he would impart to younger officials based on his decades of experience, he replied, "I would advise them to really focus on understanding the game – learn the rules and the spirit of the game and be willing to take the time to learn and, of course, stay disciplined. I really want to help young officials – one of the first things I teach them is to be patient – listen and avoid confrontation. Be able to respond – be that person that somebody can talk to; be approachable for coaches and players.

The GAOA is pleased to congratulate Richard Williams on his 2018 Charlie Bloodworth Lifetime Achievement Award.



Charlie Bloodworth Lifetime Achievement Award

Charlie Stevens – Houston County Umpires

Charlie Stevens of Houston County Baseball and Softball Umpires Association has been officiating for 45 years. He has umpired high school baseball and softball, and he has experience in officiating football, as well as college fast-pitch summer ball for D1, D2, D3, and NAIA contests. Through his lengthy and distinguished career, he has worked numerous state championships, including working behind the plate for 2018's deciding 3A game three in Rome, Georgia. Mr. Stevens was also named the GAOA Baseball Umpire of the Year in 2011.

Reflecting on some of his many career highlights, Mr. Stevens spoke of being selected to umpire a game between two of his Association's schools at Turner Field. He recounted, "I was honored to work with a full-man crew from our Association, and it was a great experience to work in that environment with my longtime friends and associates." As one of his fondest memories, Mr. Stevens also recalled serving as plate umpire in the softball state finals at Olympic Stadium in Columbus, Georgia, a 5A contest, which was – at the time – the highest classification in the state.

Asked what has meant the most to him about his nearly half-century of officiating, Mr. Stevens stated, "I think it's just a love of the game – working with other officials that love the game and that push each other to be their best. We have a lot of those in our Association. You have to continue to stay up on the rules and mechanics, attend clinics, attend camps, always try to get better. I might not have a friend that isn't an umpire, other than a few coaches. I'm very lucky and grateful – I've made so many friends."

The GAOA is pleased to congratulate Charlie Stevens on his 2018 Charlie Bloodworth Lifetime Achievement Award.

Charlie Bloodworth Lifetime Achievement Award



Trish Schimpf – Northwest GA Cheerleading

Trish Schimpf of the Northwest Georgia Cheer Association has been one of the most influential figures – both as a coach and judge -- in amateur cheerleading in Georgia since the sport's official competitions were organized 26 years ago. Her enthusiasm, dedication, and tireless efforts throughout the past two-and-a-half decades have contributed immeasurably to the advancement of competitive cheerleading in Georgia to its current standing.

Reflecting on the changes in cheerleading and her time spent contributing to its athletes and competitions, Ms. Schimpf recounted, "It's been amazing to be able to help the sport grow, and it's so rewarding to see the progress we've made from the very first state competition to now and to see how large it has become and what a phenomenal event it is. Seeing the cheerleaders that I coached come through the ranks as students and now as fellow judges and cheer coaches is a wonderful feeling."

Ms. Schimpf, a former high school and Tift College cheerleader herself, explained her love for judging competitions and cheer in the context of supporting its many participating athletes. "Judging has really kept me close to the sport after leaving coaching. It's important to me to keep up with what's going on in the sport and to help ensure the sport remains ethical and positive for the kids participating." She continued, "I love working with the kids. Teams may not realize this, but when we're sitting behind the table, we're not just stone-faced judges with no feelings; we feel a lot for them, and we hurt for them when they bobble or fall, and we feel for them -- for how hard they practice in order to compete for less than three minutes. When they finish I want to give them the most positive feedback I can to help them move forward – that's always been important to me – finding ways to help athletes feel positively about themselves through disappointment and success. They're dedicated athletes, and we appreciate their hard work. I love helping young people grow."

The GAOA is pleased to congratulate Trish Schimpf on her 2018 Charlie Bloodworth Lifetime Achievement Award.

Officials of The Year



Ronnie Melton
Football
Southern Eagle Football



Clyde Allen, Jr.
Lacrosse
Georgia Lacrosse



Craig Hubbard
Basketball
Gold Coast Basketball



Brenda Carter
Cheerleading
Metro Atlanta
Cheerleading



Rusty Josey
Softball
Flint River Softball



Bob Culbreath
Baseball
Augusta Baseball



Debra
Parker-Marbury
Volleyball
Atlanta Area Volleyball



Brian Marshall
Soccer
Greater Augusta Softball

The GAOA honors the top officials in all sports at **Officiate GA Day**. These awards are the highest honor that any GHSA, GISA, or GICAA official can receive.

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Lanier Football
Marietta Baseball Umpires
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Middle Georgia Football
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North Georgia Amateur Baseball
North Georgia Amateur Softball
Northwest Georgia Cheerleading
Northwest Georgia Basketball
Northwest Georgia Football
Rome Officials
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West Georgia Football

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West Georgia Umpires

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South Georgia Basketball Officials Association
Southern Eagle Baseball Umpires Association

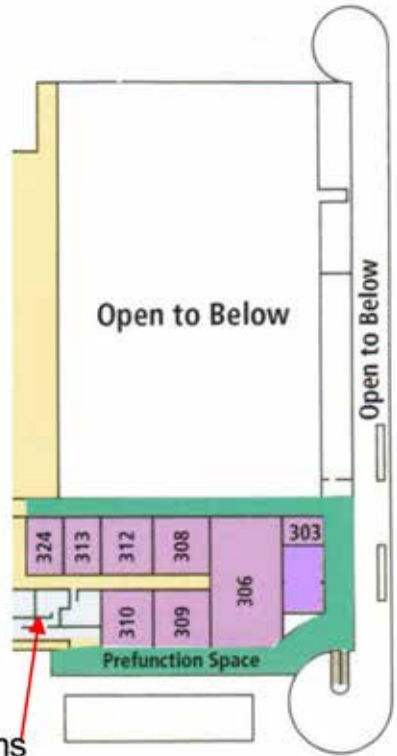
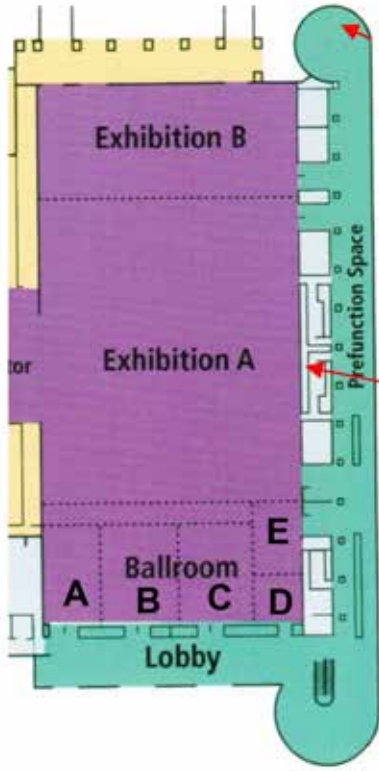
Thank You!

The support of our vendors, officiating associations, attendees, and other organizations make events like **Officiate GA Day** possible.

Centreplex Map

First Floor

Second Floor



For assistance, please ask any staff members wearing black staff shirts, or any hotel staff.

Breakout Sessions

Football: Room 306 and 302

Baseball: Room 312

Softball: Room 309

Basketball: Room 308

Soccer/Lacrosse/Volleyball: Room 313

August 3rd Schedule

8:00AM: GHSA Basketball Camp: Room 308

8:00AM: GHSA Baseball Camp: Room 312

12:00PM: GHSA Football Camp: Ballroom

5:30PM: **GAOA Low-Country Boil Social: Ballroom**

7:30PM: GHSA Softball Camp: Room 312

GAOA Board Members

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Get it Write

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Created by David Lemcoe Jr.