



**GEORGIA MIDDLE SCHOOL
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

GMSAA FLAG FOOTBALL 2025

Saturday, August 9th ----- Game Week 1

Wednesday, August 20th ----- Final Certification

Saturday, September 20th ----- End of Season Tournament

TEAM COMPOSITION

Participating Grade Levels: Only students with scholastic enrollment in the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade are eligible for interscholastic participation. The student's age shall abide by the By-Laws 1.30

Team Requirement: Member schools who are members of the GMSAA shall field a girls team consisting of a varsity and/or junior varsity team. The junior varsity team shall consist of sixth grade and/or seventh grade athletes. No student may participate on a member team representing a lower interscholastic grade than the enrolled scholastic grade level for the student. The student shall not move teams within the same member school once the student is certified eligible for a particular team.

GAME BALL

The game ball shall meet the general specifications as found in the NFHS Football Rule 1-3 section 3 Game Equipment on page 14, 15 and the Ball Specifications on page 15, table 1-3-1 for 8th grade and below.

The official size game ball should be a “Junior” or “Youth” size (i.e., Wilson TDJ or TDY Traditional or Composite Football)

GMSAA MEMBER SCHOOL DUES

Association Dues for the 2025 school year for each member school is \$600 per team. The member school shall abide by the By-Law 2.13

STRUCTURE OF GAME SCHEDULE

The Schedule Chairman shall request the schedule conflicts from each member school and set the schedule format. Each host member school shall confirm the game times with the away school. Upon completion, the host school shall submit the home game times to the Schedule Chairman.

Upon approval from the Executive Officers, the Schedule Chairman shall submit the approved game schedule to the Executive Committee. The game schedule shall be ratified by a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee.

FLAG FOOTBALL BADGES

The GMSAA shall issue badges for the regular flag football season and post flag football season:

- (1) No more than three (3) certified GMSAA coaches per team
- (2) No more than three (3) team volunteers

FLAG FOOTBALL ADMISSION RATES

The maximum allowable admission rate to be charged at regular season games shall be \$7.00 per adult and \$5.00 per student. Each member school has the right to set admission rates at the venue for regular season games provided that those rates are not higher than the maximum allowable rate set by the GMSAA. The maximum allowable admission rates for playoffs shall not exceed \$8.00 for the admission.

FIRST-AID KITS

Each host team will be required to have a first-aid kit onsite for use by both teams. At minimum, this kit should include band-aids, tape, wraps, and ice.

GAME SCORE REPORTING

The **host site** shall be responsible for reporting the official game score for all regular season and playoff games to the GMSAA. There are (2) score reporting options: report your score via email *or* submit your score to the Executive Director or Vice-President for Certification (telephone number will be provided before the start of the flag football season).

FLAG FOOTBALL MODIFICATIONS

The Flag Football Athletic Authority has set forth below modifications directly related to the operation of Flag Football within the GMSAA Constitution and By-laws.

- a. All provisions of the GMSAA Constitution and By-Laws which refer to a call for an action by a school

official, such as a Varsity Head Coach, Principal, Athletic Director or any other school official shall be modified to refer to the Athletic Authority Officer, Head Coach, or designated officer from the member program.

- b. The Athletic Authority Officer shall be appointed by such member program and may be a board member, officer, coach, team manager or other person designated by such member program.
- c. If an Athletic Authority Officer of a member program is unavailable for any reason, the Athletic Authority Officer may designate a substitute with voting authority.
- d. Athletes gain eligibility found in By-law 2.30. However, even though the GMSAA is primarily residency based for athletic eligibility, the Athletic Authority Officer may file a waiver that requests permission for an athlete's approval to participate out of district if one of the following conditions are met:
 - (a) the player's feeder school program does not have a flag football program.
 - (b) the player's parent coach's flag football in the district in which the player is applying to play.The maximum of five (5) out of district athletes per team shall receive approval waivers. This is valid for only one season and the athlete will need to reapply each year for the request to participate out of district.
- e. The GMSAA will not prohibit an athlete dual participation in other sports or other flag football programs.
- f. Member schools shall be able to compete against teams not affiliated with the GMSAA.
NOTE: When a member school competes out of the association, the member school must maintain to follow the GMSAA By-Laws regarding sportsmanship, eligibility and team certification will be enforced.
- g. Each member school shall determine their own practice rules, schedules and shall not prohibit practice dates.
- h. Flag football games shall take place on multiple days of the week, including Sundays. The host program will attempt to secure the high school stadium field whenever possible. However, the member program is not required to host the home game on their high school stadium field.

FLAG FOOTBALL GENERAL INFORMATION

- a. Flag football is a classified event with a state championship.
- b. All flag football games will be played according to the rules published by the GHSA with such GMSAA modifications as may be found in this section.
- c. Notification of entry in flag football must be filed in writing with the GMSAA office no later than **June 1st**, for the upcoming school year so that teams may be placed in Areas for competition.
- d. There will be a minimum of 10 games played against other GMSAA opponents each season.
- e. All GMSAA Flag Football games shall be played with a minimum of two officially dressed officials who are registered under the GHSA plan for registration of officials.
- f. Mercy rule – At the two-minute warning in the 4th quarter, if a team is up 19 points, the game is over.
- g. Games that are tied at the end of regulation will follow the GHSA overtime rules.
- h. Teams arriving late for a scheduled contest by thirty (30) minutes or more shall forfeit the game and shall be responsible for payment of the officials unless prior arrangements are made in a timely manner. Consideration will be given to emergency situations over which the traveling school has no control. The host school has the responsibility of notifying the away school and the officials of any changes in the schedule.
- i. If games need to be rescheduled, a program must notify the Executive Director before Monday at 5:00 the week of the game. Notifications made after Monday but before Wednesday at 5:00 will carry a \$100 fine. Notifications after Wednesday at 5:00 will carry a \$200 fine. It is the responsibility of the program that postponed the game to reschedule the game, or the game will result in a forfeit. Games rescheduled the day of the scheduled game due to inclement weather are not subject to fines.

PLAYOFF QUALIFICATION & TIE BREAKER PROCEDURE

The playoff format will be decided by the league each year.

Tiebreakers:

1. Head-to-Head will be the first scenario.
2. Record against common opponents
3. Point Allowed against region opponents
4. Point allowed against all opponents

FLEX PLAYERS

In recognition of the need to continue to grow the game and provide flexibility for teams to field a team when they may, at times, have player number issues due to injuries, illness or travel, this proposal provides the ability for moving a limited number of players between rosters for these purposes. The spirit of this proposal is to provide similar flexibility, and control, for moving a limited number of players between rosters in line with the rules in place with GHSA for player movements between JV and Varsity.

This proposal will outline the main conditions, and restrictions, around which GMSAA Teams may move a limited number of players between rosters in order to field a competitive team in GMSAA League games. This proposal will not be able to consider all the circumstances and instances of use of "flex" players. The intent is to provide a reasonable, honest, and straightforward method to allow a limited number of players to move to a different roster for less than a full-season period during the regular season to allow teams to be fielded and games to be played in a competitive and enjoyable fashion. This is expected to be a short-term fill-in fix for temporary player issues, such as injury, illness, or travel, and not to be used to provide a competitive advantage for a game against an opponent. It is not expected to be an opportunity to "promote" a player from Junior Varsity to Varsity for the remainder of the season, effectively switching the roster.

1. **Number of Players Eligible to be "Flexed"** The number of players on each that may be moved between rosters will be limited to a maximum of five players during the season.
2. **Exception players:** Players who are out of district are not eligible to be a flex player.
3. **Age of Players:** The players that may be moved between rosters may only be 7th graders, either rostered primarily on Junior Varsity or Varsity. 8th graders may NOT be moved down to play in a Junior Varsity game. Unless otherwise approved, it is not expected that 6th graders will be playing in a "flex" capacity on any Varsity team.
4. **Pre-Season Identification:** Players that may be moved between rosters must be identified by each program at the beginning of the season during certification timelines. Any requests to move a player after that time must be petitioned to the GMSAA Board and its members for approval (which may or may not be granted). It is highly likely that many programs will have no rostered Division A players identified as "flex" players, as their team consists of only 8th grade players. In those cases, their Division B roster would have a limited number of 7th graders rostered on their Division B team who will have the ability to "flex" to the Division A roster for a limited number of games, if required.
5. **Maximum Play in Per Weekend** A player can play in no more than twelve quarters per weekend, meaning that a player that plays in a Division B game in all/part of the four quarters in the game, may only play in two quarters of a Division A game on the same calendar day.
6. **Coaches' Notification:** Coaches that "dress" a "flex" player(s) during a game must alert the opposing

coach and the scorer's table as to their inclusion on the bench, and how many quarters that player(s) is/are allowed to play during the game, if they do play. The coach must also let the opposing coach and scorer's table know when a "flex" player is being reported. Anytime a Coach uses a "flex" player in a game, they must communicate to the league who the player(s) was/were, what games they played in, how many quarters they played, and how many quarters they may have played in another GMSAA Select game that same date.

7. **Consequences:** If a team is found to exercise this flex opportunity in a manner that is willfully different than its intended use (per the Board of GMSAA) and solely in a manner to gain an "ill-gotten, competitive advantage, then they will forfeit the game(s) in which a flex player was used, and they will not be allowed to use the flex player option the rest of the season. Further consequences may be applied by the GMSAA and its members including fines & rescission of the option by the offending program in future years.