

**Forsyth County
Athletic Association
and
School System
Constitution
and
By-Laws**



2007-2008

Forsyth County Middle Schools' Athletics' Rulebook

1. Eligibility

- A.** To be eligible to participate in athletic extracurricular activities for a season, a student must be enrolled in the school for which he or she will participate, be in the seventh or eighth grade, meet academic requirements, meet the age requirement, and have not exceeded four semesters of participation.

- B.** Academic Requirements include passing five classes in a seven course semester. For Connections classes, the two classes taken in a nine week period will be averaged together to come up with one grade; therefore, the four classes taken over the two nine weeks of the semester will yield two semester grades. A person can not fail more than two classes for semester.

- C.** The grades from the previous semester will determine eligibility for the current semester: grades from spring of 2007 will determine eligibility for fall of 2007. Students who are not eligible during a semester may not tryout for sports that occur in the following semester if the tryouts occur during the semester of ineligibility. However, students may tryout for the sport if they become eligible at the completion of the semester at the discretion of the coach.

- D.** If a student has more than two incomplete semester grades, he or she will not be eligible to participate in athletic extracurricular activities until those grades have been finalized.

- E.** Students who take courses away from the home school for part or whole day programs but are still enrolled in the home school will be eligible to participate in athletic extracurricular activities at the home school.

- F.** Students who turn 15 prior to May 1 of their seventh grade year are not eligible to participate in athletic extracurricular activities.

- G.** Students will be limited to four consecutive semesters of eligibility for participation in athletic extracurricular activities beginning in the fall of their seventh grade year.

- H.** Retention of students for athletic purposes is prohibited. If a school chooses to retain a student in grades 6, 7, or 8 who has passing grades, the school shall document the educational reasons for the retention. Written documentation shall be maintained in the student's permanent record and shall include the following information.
1. A parent/guardian written request outlining the reasons for requesting the retention and /or a school-initiated written request with the accompanying written approval of the request by the parent/guardian.
 2. Statements from two professional sources from outside the school justifying the retention for educational purposes.
 3. Written approval of the retention request and justification of the retention for educational purposes by the principal, the superintendent and by two teachers (other than athletic coach) who have taught the student.
- I.** To be eligible to participate in athletic extracurricular activities each day, a student must be in school for at least half of the school day, four hours. If a student is absent on Friday, he or she may participate in weekend activities. A student who is in ISS or has OSS is not eligible to participate that day, and will not become eligible until he or she is admitted back into class. Students, who are in ISS or have OSS on Friday, may not participate in weekend activities. A student who is sent from his or her home school to Piedmont may not participate in extracurricular activities.
- J. Eligibility reports** are required for all contestants in any Forsyth County activity prior to the date allowed for the first contest in each activity.
1. Students are not allowed to participate in athletics contest until their eligibility reports have been received.
 2. Reports not filed properly will be returned to the school for resubmission.
- K. Schools playing interscholastic contest before the filing of an eligibility report** on one or more participating students may be subject to the following penalty imposed by the Forsyth County Athletic Association and Forsyth County School System.
1. Forfeiture of any game in which one or more participants did not have eligibility report filed.

2. Physicals and Insurance

- A. Students must have a current physical on file at the home school. The physical must be completed on the Forsyth County Middle School Athletics' Physical Form.
- B. Students must have a waiver and insurance form on file at the home school.

3. Violation of Rules

- A. Each school is required to abide by all rules of the Forsyth County Athletic Association as promulgated by the Forsyth County Athletic Association and Forsyth County School System.
- B. The Forsyth County Athletic Association and School System are authorized to make such investigation as may be necessary and to judge whether or not a school has violated an eligibility rule. When a school is adjudged guilty, the Forsyth County Athletic Association and Forsyth County School System are authorized to direct the penalty or penalties.
- C. A school violating any rule, whether it be due to carelessness, willfulness, ignorance or any other cause, may be subject to probation in the sport(s) in which the violation has been made, and/or suspension from the Forsyth County Athletic Association up to a calendar year, and/or forfeiture of games and/or contests involved.
- D. **Probation-** placing a school on probation permits a school to compete in regular season games and/or contests, but bars that school from competing for any championship during the period of probation.
- E. A school which, after investigation, is adjudged guilty of violating the rules of the Forsyth County Athletic Association and Forsyth County School System shall pay the costs incidental to such investigation; such cost to be in addition to penalties assessed. Failure to pay the cost shall result in suspension or in lengthening the period of suspension.

4. Code of Ethics

- A. The Forsyth County Athletic Association and Forsyth County School System recognize their responsibility with respect to the promotion of honesty, truthfulness, and accuracy in record-keeping and reporting. Therefore, the professional personnel of the member schools are charged with upholding the Code of Ethics adopted by the Professional Standards Commission as accepted and approved by the State Board of Education.

5. Sportsmanship

- A. Forsyth County Athletic Association schools are required to conduct all relationships with other schools in **a spirit of good sportsmanship**.
1. It shall be the responsibility of a member school to use every means at its disposal to impress upon faculty, students, team members, coaches, and spectators the **values of sportsmanship** in preparation for the conduct and management of interscholastic contests.
 2. Forsyth County Athletic Association and Forsyth County School System shall have the authority to assess penalties against schools and/or coaches for conduct unbecoming a professional educator or coach committed by coaches or other school personnel at Forsyth County events.
 3. It shall be the **responsibility of the home or host school** to take the following precautions at all interscholastic athletic events:
 - (a) take proper steps and precautions to insure crowd and spectator control, including having an administrator (or designee) from the host school at all Forsyth County sanctioned events.
Exception: Golf
 - (b) take steps to insure the **comfort and security** of all players, coaches, and officials
 - (c) have in place sufficient security personnel to handle any crowd-control problems that might reasonably be expected. Security escorts must be provided to game officials by the host school at all Forsyth County Athletic sanctioned contests, before, during and following the contest-including to their vehicles.
- B. Each school must develop a **plan to handle fight situations** that may occur during an athletic contest.
1. Attention must be given to keeping **substitutes** in the bench areas throughout the fight, and to keeping **spectators** away from the competitive area.
 2. All players who are involved in a fight and any substitutes leave the bench area during a fight will be **ejected** from the current contest and will be subject to the sit-out rule.

- C. Any **player, coach, or team attendant** who is **ejected** from a Forsyth County contest for a sportsmanship violation shall be suspended from competing in all levels of competition in that sport or activity (during regular season or championship game or tournament) until the period of suspension has expired.
1. Ejections are based on judgment calls by an official and are not reviewable or reversible.
 2. A coach shall have no role nor be in attendance at pre-Contest warm-ups or activities, and shall not be in attendance at contests until the period of suspension has expired.
 3. A player or team attendant may not be on the competitive Area nor in the team bench area during any contest until the period of suspension has expired.
 4. The **period of suspension** resulting from an ejection will expire as follows:
 - (a) **Football:** after the individual has been withheld from the next –scheduled game at the level at which the ejection occurred.
 - (b) **All other Activities:** after the individual has been withheld from the next two (2) scheduled contests at the level at which the ejection occurred.
- D. To satisfy the penalty of the sit-out game(s), those games must have been scheduled at the time of the ejection, and must be played to completion.
- E. When a player, coach, or team attendant has a **second ejection** in the same activity during a school year, that individual shall be withheld from competition for twice the time period of the normal suspension.
- F. In the event that a player, coach, or team attendant is **ejected three (3) or more times** in the same activity during the school year for a sportsmanship violation, the individual will be withheld from competition until:
1. The member school presents a written response to the circumstances involved in that individual's unsportsmanlike behavior, AND
 2. The Forsyth County Athletic Association and Forsyth County School System establish a penalty which may include suspension in all Forsyth County activities for up to twelve (12) months.

- G. If the ejection occurs in the last game of the season, the penalty carries over to the first game of the next season. If the student is a eighth grader, the penalty carries over to the next activity in which the student participates.
- H. Any student **who intentionally injures or intentionally attempts to injure** another student, coach, official, spectator, or other person immediately before, during, or immediately after any Forsyth County –sponsored activity, may be declared ineligible to participate in future Forsyth County activities by the Forsyth County Athletic Association and Forsyth County School System.
- I. The officials’ dressing area is “off limits” to coaches and administrators for the discussion of game decisions either at halftime or after the game. Officials should be granted a one-hour time limit before the game, the length of halftime, and 30 minutes after the game, where the facilities are secured.

6. Policy on Illegal Drugs

- A. The Forsyth County Athletic Association and Forsyth County School System strongly opposes the abuse of any illegal drugs including the abuse of anabolic steroids and other performance enhancing substances by middle school student-athletes. The Forsyth County Athletic Association and Forsyth County School System believe that such usage violates legal, ethical and competitive-equity standards and imposes unreasonable long-term health risks on the user. The Forsyth County Athletic Association and Forsyth County School System encourages educational materials about this issue to member schools.

7. Administrative Responsibility

- A. The administrative head of each school shall have on file in the school a certificate of an **annual physical examination** by a licensed medical physician, a doctor of Osteopathic medicine or a physician’s assistant indicating the student is approved for participation in athletic activities before that student may try-out, participate in practice or conditioning drills, or participates in interscholastic contests.
- B. The administrative head of each school shall operate all interscholastic **contests and activities** under direct and complete control of the school administration or designated school personnel.
 - 1. These responsibilities are not to be delegated by the Board of education, superintendent, or principal to any person or persons who are not a part of the school staff.

2. These responsibilities shall include the handling of all finances, including capital outlay, the purchase of equipment and supplies, and the employment and payment of salaries to all personnel connected with the activity.
3. The administrative head of each school shall be a person who believes in fairness and honesty as evidenced by the **strict adherence to all rules** and regulations in regards to eligibility of contestants representing his/her school.
4. The administrative head of each school shall employ those persons who exemplify fairness and honesty. Any certified who violates rules in regard to student eligibility, or illegal practices, or knowingly misleads a member school and/or the Forsyth County Athletic Association or Forsyth County School System will have a report of that behavior sent to The Professional Standards Commission.
5. The administrative head of each school shall submit to the Forsyth County Athletic Association and Forsyth County School System such **recommendations for the improvement of the Forsyth Athletic Association** as he/she may deem necessary. These recommendations must be submitted to the Forsyth County Athletic Association prior to the Forsyth County Athletic Associations next meeting.
6. The member institution has a responsibility to educate student-athletes, coaches, and other appropriate persons on Forsyth County Athletic Association and Forsyth County School System rules and procedures that could affect them. Further, the member school should monitor its compliance with State Association guidelines.
7. Member schools are expected to fulfill their Responsibilities for a sports season once they have committed to play that sport.

8. Qualifications to Coach

- A. An athletic coach must be a professional teacher **meeting the teaching requirements and be employed** by only one board of education or similar governing authority within the GHSA membership, regardless of whether or not they are paid for their services (note: exception, when all boards of education or similar governing authorities and all principals/headmasters involved sign a consent form on an annual basis he/she may coach at another school system), AND:
 1. be employed for 20 or more hours per week on a regular basis in a professional, contracted position and must hold a **teaching certificate or leadership certificate** issued by the State of Georgia, OR

2. be assigned as a **student intern** in a practice teaching situation under the guidance of a college or university teacher training program, OR
3. be a **retired teacher** teaching or supervising less than one-half time (forty hours considered full time), OR
4. be a certified teacher or administrator at a member school on medical leave governed by the “Family Medical Leave Act” and/or the “Georgia Teacher Maternity Leave of Absence” policy.

B. Member schools may employ persons who are not professionally certificated teachers as assistant coaches in their athletic programs. These individuals are referred to as “**community coaches**” or “**lay coaches.**”

1. Community Coach (lay coach) is defined as a person who may have less than professional-level certification, who relates in role and function to a professional and does a portion of the professional’s job or tasks under the supervision of the professional, and whose decision-making authority is limited and regulated by the professional. Community coaches are not allowed to function without the immediate supervision of a professional.
2. Licensed para-professionals must complete the GHSA Coaches Education Program and testing program to be eligible to coach.
3. Community coaches may coach for only one board of Education annually, regardless of whether or not they are paid for their services.
4. All community coaches must complete the **GHSA Coaches Education Training and Testing Program** in “Sports First Aid” and “Principles for Coaches.”
 - (a) Prospective coaches must be subject to a criminal background check before they are registered for the GHSA coaches education program.
 - (b) Courses are offered at various times each school year throughout the state.
 - (c) Prospective coaches are registered with the County office by the school hiring them.
 - (d) No community coach may do any FCSS Coaching until he/she has been notified that the GHSA Coaches Education program had been completed successfully.

5. It is recommended that the following **priority for employment** be used:
 - (a) certified employees in the local system (secondary, middle, elementary, central office, etc.)
 - (b) retired certificated personnel
 - (c) community coaches who have completed the GHSA Coaches Education Program.
6. After August 1, schools will have occasion to add members to their coaching staff. It is the responsibility of the member school to register these additions in a timely manner.
7. A **football coach** on the payroll of one school district, but under contract to another school district for the following year, may help with **spring practice** at the new school if arrangements are satisfactory with both systems.
8. Failure to comply with these procedures could result in Punitive actions including, but not limited to, forfeitures and other penalties assessed to the member school.

9. Regulations of Competitions

- A. **Sunday Competition:** Sunday competition is prohibited for GHSA regular season or playoff contests. Sunday practices are regulated by local school policy.
- B. **Contest Rules:** All athletic and literary competitions are to be played According to the rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations, using officially-dressed officials who are registered with the GHSA or another State Association.
 1. Exception: Golf is played according to the rules of the USGA.
- C. **Postponed, Suspended, or Terminated Contest:** Any GHSA competition may be interrupted due to human, mechanical, or natural causes when it is necessary to protect the safety of players and spectators. The host school shall have the authority to postpone GHSA events and to direct the procedure for rescheduling when deemed necessary.

1. The GHSA requires lightning detectors at all outdoor athletic activities beginning in the 2006-2007 school year.
 - (a) When a lightning detector indicates a Dangerous situation, the host school will notify the head official. At that point, play will be suspended and all participants will go to a place of safety (NOTE: If officials spot lightning before being notified, they may suspend play)
 - (b) When the detector indicates that it is safe to resume play, the contest may resume.
2. **Postponed games** are games that are postponed before they actually begin.
 - (c) The host school should notify the Opposing team and officials as early as possible when a contest is postponed.
 - (d) The host school is responsible for determining whether an event is to be postponed until the time that game rules turn that responsibility over to game officials.
 - (e) Host school and opponent agree on the rescheduling of the postponed contest.
3. **Suspended games** – The official in charge may suspend a Game for up to one hour when interrupted by events beyond his/her control. The one hour interruption is cumulative with the exception of time between periods. The game shall be terminated after the one-hour (cumulative) delay. If it is not a complete game, administrators of the schools involved (or their designees) should decide about replaying the game.
4. **Terminated Games** – Games terminated after one-hour delay shall count as “no contest” if less than half the game is complete or there is a tie. Games terminated after one half has been completed shall be considered a completed game and the team leading in the score shall be declared winner.

D. Absence of Officials: In the unlikely event that game officials do not Arrive for a contest, both schools should agree on one of the following procedures:

1. Delay the game until a new set of officials can arrive
2. Agree to play the game on another date except a Sunday
3. Use registered officials who might be in attendance at the contest
4. Use coaches or school personnel from both schools

5. Use formerly registered officials who might be in attendance at the contest.

10. Football

- A. Spring practice may take place last full week of April and the last day of student attended school. Spring practice is limited to ten consecutive student attended school days. Each school may decide if they want to practice in full pads, helmets/shoulders pads, or just T-shirts and shorts.
- B. Schools may participate in seven regular season games plus the county championship game.
- C. Football practice may begin two weeks before the first day that students report to school. Regardless of when a school begins practicing, the first five days must be in helmets, shoulder pads, and shorts; a coach may choose to just have helmets and shorts or just shorts. After these five days, practices may be in full pads.
- D. Football teams may attend a week long camp between the last day of school and the first day of practice. Teams will not practice in full pads and shall not participate in full contact drills or scrimmages. Teams may wear helmets.
 1. Football teams may participate in a 7 on 7 passing league. The passing league is a no contact competition and helmets may be worn if both teams are wearing them.
 2. The first game date will be set by the County Middle School Athletic Directors.
 3. Game quarters will be eight minutes. Half-time will be eight minutes.
- E. Football overtime procedures
 1. The overtime procedure will be used whenever two schools from the county are tied at end of regulation play.
 - (a) This procedure involves giving both teams opportunities to score from the 15-yard line until the tie is broken.
 - (b) Schools not in the Forsyth County league may use the overtime procedure if agreement is reached and communicated to the Referee **before** the beginning of the game.

- (c) Overtime games are exempt from the Forsyth County curfew.
- 2. There will be a 3-minute intermission between the end of regulation play and the coin toss to start the overtime procedure.
The captains will meet for the coin toss, and the winner may choose one of the following:
 - (a) Be on offense first
 - (b) Be on defense first
 - (c) Choose the end of the field on which to play
- 3. The ball is placed on the 15-yard line and the offense keeps the ball until:
 - (a) The ball is turned over on downs NOTE: The team on offense can gain a first down.
 - (b) The defense gains possession of the ball (ball is dead immediately)
 - (c) The offense scores a touchdown or field goal
 - (d) The offense misses a field goal
- 4. After the first offensive team completes its possession, the opposing team gets its opportunity from the 15-yard line.
- 5. If the game remains tied after each team has had an offensive possession, there will be a 2-minute intermission and the team that lost the first coin toss has the first option for the second possession.
- 6. For each additional overtime period (i.e., an offensive possession by each team) the coin toss options are alternated.
- 7. Beginning with the third overtime period, a team must attempt a 2-point try after a touchdown.
- 8. Each team is allowed one timeout per overtime period. No timeouts may be carried over from regulation play.
- 9. Penalty enforcement is handled the same way in overtime as in regulation play.

F. Forsyth County Championship Game Procedure

- 1. Each region of Forsyth County will determine the way to designate the one representative and their placement in the County Championship game (i.e., first place)
- 2. In case there is a tie between two teams for first place in each region and the County does not have a different written tie-breaker plan, the following tie-breaker procedures will be used:

- (a) If the teams played during the regular season, the winner of the game will have the higher placement.

11. Football/Competition/Basketball Cheerleading

- A. Football, Basketball, and Competition Tryouts may take place between last full week of April and the last day of student attended school and are limited to ten consecutive student attended school days. Schools may have a clinic before May 1 and may charge a fee; however, the clinic may only last five days and no cuts may be made.
- B. Basketball Cheerleading Tryouts if not done in spring of previous school year may take place on the first complete week of October.
- C. Schools may participate in 6 GHSA Competitions.
- D. Teams may attend two week-long camps between the end of the school and first day of practice.
- E. The first day of practice may begin two weeks before the first day that students report to school.
- F. The date of the first competition is the first day of September and the date of the last competition is the end of November.
- G. Half-time routines can be up to three minutes in all sports that halftime applies to.

12. Basketball

- A. Teams may offer one week of conditioning with basketballs beginning the third Monday of October; however, no cuts may be made during this week. All activities during this week of conditioning must be voluntary.
- B. Try-outs may begin on the fourth Monday of October.
- C. The first day of team competitions may begin the second Monday of November.
- D. Schools may participate in 14 regular season games plus the county championship tournament.

- E. Teams may attend two week long camps between the last day of school and the first day of practice. Teams may have one week of team camp preparation.
- F. Teams may hold open gym at any time between the last day of school and the first day of school; however, there can be no coaching of any kind during open gym.
- G. Half-times for basketball games will be eight minutes. In-between games will be eight minutes.
- H. Game quarters will be six minutes.
- I. Basketball teams will bring their own water, water bottles, and other basketball related items. Basketballs will be provided by host school.
- J. Basketball tournament will be scheduled Tuesday through Friday. The regular season must be done before the Monday of tournament week. The 7th Grade Tournament will be the first week of February and the 8th Grade Tournament will be the second week of February. Two schools will host the first two rounds of the tournament. The last two rounds will be played at host school only. We will have a host school and a secondary school.
 - Brackets for the tournament will be:
 - Tuesday: 1 vs.8 at host school and 2 vs. 7 at secondary school
 - Wednesday: 3 vs. 6 at host school and 4 vs. 5 at secondary school
 - Thursday: winner of 1 vs. 8 vs. winner of 4 vs. 5
 Winner of 2 vs. 7 and winner of 3 vs. 6
 - Friday: Consolation and Championship Games

*The tournament host team can determine if players in the tournament get in free to games that they are not playing in.

13. Golf

- A. Tryouts may begin the third Monday of February. The first match may take place in the last week of February.
- B. Schools may participate in six matches plus the county championship match.
- C. The county match must take place by the end of April and will be a two day event played over eighteen holes.

14. Track and Field

- A.** Tryouts may begin the third Monday of February. The first meet may take place in the last week of February.
- B.** Schools may participate in six meets plus the county championship meet.
- C.** The county meet will take place on two days during the week. The field events will take place on the first day, and the running events will take place on the second day. The county meet must take place by the end of April.

15. Generic Information for all Sports

- A.** No end of game celebrations for teams after the game on the field or court.
- B.** Game Prices: \$4 for adults and \$3 for children/students and \$2 for Golden.
- C.** Games Start: 5:00 PM start time for basketball games, 5:30 PM start time for football games, 4:30 PM start time for golf matches and track meets.
- D.** Host team at all events will have an EMT and Security with the exception of golf.
- E.** All schools will take buses to all athletic events except on weekend events. Athletes do not need to take bus back to school after event unless individual school requires it. Athletes may take own transportation to weekend athletic events unless individual school requires athletes to take bus from school.
- F.** Each individual school may participate in fund raising. Each athletic team is allowed to do two fund raisers per sport per grade. This includes Athletics or Booster Clubs.
 - 1.** Athletics/Booster Clubs-Four Fund Raisers
 - 2.** Cheerleading-Four Fund Raisers
 - 3.** Football-Four Fund Raisers
 - 4.** Basketball-Two Fund Raisers for each Team
 - 5.** Golf-Four Fund Raisers
 - 6.** Track-Four Fund Raisers
- G.** All-County Teams based on the county record which includes regular season and post-season. The breakdown is as follows:

1. Football 5-5-4-4-3-3-2-2
2. Basketball 4-4-3-3-2-2-1-1
3. The All-County Team will be based on each team's county season record combined with the tournament record.
4. In the event of a tie, the tie-breaker will be based on finish in the county tournament.
5. Cheerleading – each school turns in three members by squad.
6. Track and Field – who ever wins the individual events.
7. Golf – top six finishers
8. In the event of a tie, then all athletes that tied will make the all-county team increasing the number of members on the team.

H. Cheerleading, Football, Basketball, Golf, and Track will have a rotating trophy that goes to the champion each year. The trophy will go to the next champion the following year. The champion will also receive a plaque or trophy that the school will keep.

16. Forsyth County Athletic Association Schools

- A. Liberty Middle School**
7465 Wallace Tatum Road
Cumming, Ga. 30028
Phone: 770-781-4889
Fax: 678-513-3877
- B. Little Mill Middle School**
6800 Little Mill Road
Cumming, Ga. 30041
Phone: 678-965-5000
Fax: 678-965-5001
- C. North Forsyth Middle School**
3645 Coal Mountain Drive
Cumming, Ga. 30028
Phone: 770-889-0743
Fax: 770-888-1210
- D. Otwell Middle School**
605 Tribble Gap Road
Cumming, Ga. 30040
Phone: 770-887-5248
Fax: 770-888-1214
- E. Piney Grove Middle School**
8135 Majors Road
Cumming, Ga. 30041
Phone: 678-965-5010
Fax: 678-965-5011
- F. Riverwatch Middle School**
610 James Burgess Road
Suwanee, Ga. 30024
Phone: 678-455-7311
Fax: 678-455-7316
- G. South Forsyth Middle School**
2865 Old Atlanta Road
Cumming, Ga. 30041

Phone: 770-888-3170
Fax: 770-888-3175

H. Vickery Creek Middle School
6240 Post Road
Cumming, Ga. 30040
Phone: 770-667-2580
Fax: 770-667-2593

17. Forsyth County High Schools

A. Forsyth Central High School
520 Tribble Gap Road
Cumming, Ga. 30040
Phone: 770-887-8151
Fax: 770-781-2289

B. North Forsyth High School
3635 Coal Mountain Road
Cumming, Ga. 30028
Phone: 770-781-6637
Fax: 770-888-0934

C. South Forsyth High School
585 Peachtree Parkway
Cumming, Ga. 30041
Phone: 770-781-2264
Fax: 770-888-1224

D. West Forsyth High School
4155 Drew Road
Cumming, Ga. 30040
Phone: 770-888-3470
Fax: 770-888-4371

