

GWINNETT OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

B Y - L A W S

Adapted from Georgia Officials Assoc. By-Laws
Enacted 3/1/92 – Amended 1/21/01

Article 1 – Name: The name of this Association shall be Gwinnett Official Association.

Article 2 – Membership: Membership is open to any person who is of good moral character, is interested in youth baseball or basketball, furthers the interests of amateur sports officials, maintains the highest standards of sports officiating, and encourages the spirit of fair play and sportsmanship. Members shall be governed by regulations adopted by these By-Laws. Only members in good standing shall be scheduled except in emergency situations approved by the board.

Article 3 – Meetings: The Association shall hold regular membership meetings both prior to the start of the regular season and throughout the season as deemed necessary by the administration. Attendance of these meetings and training sessions are mandatory. Absence will affect a member's schedule. Absence of aforementioned meetings will result in a \$35 non-clinic attendance surcharge.

Article 4 – Training: Each member is encouraged to attend any other formal umpire/referee training session such as: a professional umpire/referee school, Southern Umpires Camp, Professional Umpire Clinic, or high school sponsored training. Failure to attend mandatory training sessions will result in a limited or withdrawn schedule. The member is also responsible for officiating all pre-season assignments without compensation for the purpose of training and evaluation. Attendance at the regularly scheduled booking assignment meeting is also mandatory to all members in order to be considered for initial months scheduling assignments.

Article 5 – Appearance: All members of the Association will be responsible for wearing the prescribed uniform of the Association when scheduled by GOA. Each member shall dress and groom himself or herself in a manner that will reflect well upon the Association and its members. Failure to wear the proper uniform will result in monetary fines being levied and/or scheduling penalties at the discretion of the park Crew Chief.

Article 6 – Dues: The Association will require each member to submit annual dues to cover general association expenses, postage, telephone bills, checking service fees, printing, and other operating costs. The dues will be established by the board and are non-refundable or transferable. Any dues not collected by the pre-determined due date will be considered late and subject to a late payment penalty surcharge. There will be no exceptions to this article and provision whatsoever. Each member is expected to pay dues in full no later than the final scheduled training clinic.

Article 7 – Insurance: All members of the Association will be responsible for providing themselves with their own medical and liability insurance. The Association and/or any of the parks for which the Association services will in no way be responsible for any injury or liable situation which may arise. Members are strongly urged to obtain insurance from the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO) or any other similar type of policy.

Article 8 – Scheduling: All members are independent contractors assigned by the parks through the Association. Each member is personally responsible for reporting any income gained from these services as outlined by the Internal Revenue Service. All assignments will be made based on ability, loyalty and availability to this Association. In order to receive assignments, each member must complete the registration form and remain a member in good standing. After a member has accepted, by signature or verbal commitment, such member is responsible for honoring these assignments. In addition, no member may cancel or change assignments except through the approval of the person(s) responsible for booking the assignment.

Article 9 – Canceling: If any member, after accepting an assignment, cancels such assignment, the following will apply: Canceling more than three days in advance of said assignment will result in no penalty provided the number of occurrences is kept to a minimum. Canceling less than three days but more than forty-eight hours in advance of scheduled game start time will result in that assignment’s normal booking fee being charged provided the number of occurrences is kept to a minimum. Any cancellation within a twenty-four hour period of the scheduled game start time will result in that assignment’s normal booking fee plus a half-game pay cancellation fee charged. For every cancellation less than twenty-four hours prior to the scheduled game, the cancellation fee will double with each and every occurrence and may result in the suspension or dismissal of that member.* Waiver of the cancellation fee may be possible by placing in writing the reason for the cancellation and submitting it to the assigning agent within seventy-two hours after such cancellation. The decision of the board is final in scheduling and cancellation matters. Failure to show for any accepted assignment will result in a full game fine plus the normal booking fee and may result in the suspension or dismissal of the offending member. Late arrival to a scheduled game assignment will also result in a monetary penalty, and if continuous may result in the suspension or dismissal of the offending member. These financial penalties for tardiness are in order to offset penalties invoked by the servicing association and are not open for waiver and appeal.

*Any cancellation involving a Saturday’s assignment will result in double the above financial penalties being levied due to the large volume of games and difficulty in covering Saturday schedules.

Article 10 – Payment of Fees: All members will be paid for all games completely officiated and/or billed. Members who arrive at the game site but who are unable to begin the game because of inadequate weather, malfunctioning lights or any other unforeseen reason will be compensated at a rate of \$10 for travel. Any member who works a game that is suspended for any reason, will receive a predetermined percentage of that game’s fee. The administration will provide a fee distribution schedule with the membership packet at one of the mandatory training clinics. Inability to disperse funds earned to any given member will result in alternative means of distribution at the earliest convenience. The members earned fees will consist of the money earned from the member’s game fee minus any moneys owed to the Association and in some cases, less a 5% scheduling surcharge where applicable. All possible pay discrepancies are to be communicated to the Crew Chief of the park where the discrepancy occurred and must be done within eight days of the past pay distribution date to be no later than the end of the succeeding pay period. Failure to do so within prescribed time frame will result in member’s pay discrepancy appeals to become null and void without exception.

Article 11 – Tournaments: The Association will be responsible for covering any number of post-season sanctioned tournaments. Scheduling of these tournaments will be done by the administration with same limited input from the officials hosting the tournament. The member assigned to these games will be responsible for adhering to any and all policies and guidelines normally followed during the regular season and any additional requirements imposed due to the tournament situation. The selection of post-season officials is based primarily on the individual’s past commitment to the Association and his/her ability to positively portray the best interests of GOA.

Article 12 – Resignation: Any member may resign by filing a written resignation with the administration, but such resignation does not relieve the resigning member of his obligation to pay any dues, assessments, or other charges previously accrued and unpaid prior to the receipt of such resignation. Furthermore, any GOA member must not solicit any athletic association previously serviced by GOA for the purpose of supplying them with officials for a minimum of two years after member’s said resignation from GOA. GOA will enforce this mandate and will use any and all means necessary including legal action to guarantee that this policy is absolutely adhered to.