

GAA Football Handbook 2014



Mission Statement

The mission of the Grayson Athletics Association Football Program is to teach the fundamentals of full contact football while emphasizing team building, sportsmanship, and positive attitude for each and every football player.

The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.

- *Vince Lombardi*

Grayson Athletic Association Football Handbook

Welcome to GAA Football

The Grayson Athletic Association (GAA) football and cheerleading programs field teams from 6 years of age through the eighth grade. GAA participates in the Gwinnett Football League (GFL) and adheres to the rules as set by the GFL.

The football program is focused on teaching the fundamentals of football while instilling good sportsmanship, character, and team work in a supervised environment.

To ensure the success of the GAA football program we need the support of parents and volunteers. All GAA football board members and coaches are volunteers, and are not compensated for their time. To make your child's football experience the most enjoyable, we encourage you to help our coaches and team moms provide a positive experience and atmosphere for all of our participants. A positive environment with positive role models will benefit your child and instill confidence.

We hope your child has a great football season!!

The GAA Football Board

Table of Contents

Page	Topic
Page 5	Dates To Remember
Page 6	Registration
Page 10	Season Information
Page 11	GAA Football Rules
Page 12	Coaches Responsibilities
Page 13	Parents Responsibilities
Page 14	GAA Parents Rules
Page 16	Problem Resolution
Page 17	GAA Football Board

Dates to Remember

22 Mar Saturday	1st Football Registration	10:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Grayson High School
22 Mar Saturday	Cheerleader Registration	10:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Grayson High School
June 7 Saturday	2nd Football Registration	10:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Grayson High School
Jul 23 & 24 Wed & Thu	Football Evaluations	TBD	Bay Creek Park
28 Jul Monday	First Day of Practice	TBD	TBD
31 Jul Thursday	First Practice in Pads (Players must have 3 days with no pads)	TBD	TBD
16 Aug Saturday	Jamboree Games	See Team Schedule	See Team Schedule
18 Aug Saturday	1st Week of Regular Season	See Team Schedule	See Team Schedule
19 Sept Friday	Youth Night at GHS	7:00 PM	GHS Stadium
25 Oct, 1 Nov, & 8 Nov Saturdays	Playoff Games	See Team Schedule	See Team Schedule
15 Nov Saturday	Championship Games	See Team Schedule	See Team Schedule

Registration

Registration

The GAA Football registration includes a spirit fee and can be paid at registration by Visa, MasterCard, cash or money order. The registration and spirit fee is **NON-REFUNDABLE**. As mandated by Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation Department, an additional fee of \$90.00 will be assessed to families that live outside of Gwinnett County.

The registrations dates for 2014 are March 22rd, and June 7th. Each registration will be located at Grayson High School. All registrations will be from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Uniform sizing will be available at each registration.

Also needed at the time of registration is each player's birth certificate and GFL physical form. All birth certificates must be turned in by the last registration date.

Birth Certificates

Per GFL rules, to verify a player's age, we are required to have a copy of the player's birth certificate ***with a raised seal*** or a valid passport before they are able to participate. Birth Certificates will be verified and copied during the registration process and kept on file. Any player without a birth certificate or passport on file with the GAA **WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY GAA EVENT/PRACTICE UNTIL A BIRTH CERTIFICATE IS ON FILE.**

Physicals

Each football player is required to have a physical examination prior to player evaluations. All physicals must be documented on the GFL physical form. This form can be filled out by your physician or the physician on hand during registration. The Physical forms will be gathered during registration and kept on file. GFL Physical forms are available online at www.GAAsports.org in the football section.

Registration

What's Provided

The following items are included in the registration and spirit fee:

- Primary game jersey w/number and last name
- Game pants
- Mouthpiece
- Grayson Ram helmet decals (If Needed)
- Player Admission for Youth Night at GHS
- Participation trophy
- Supplemental insurance policy
- Spirit funds to purchase team essential items

Supplemental Insurance

Included in the registration fee is a supplemental insurance policy provided through GFL and GAA. Please note that this insurance is supplemental – your insurance is the primary insurance for any injury. The supplemental insurance *may* help with some costs that your primary coverage may not address. GAA offers no guarantees of coverage, as those decisions are made by the actual carrier. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact the GAA Secretary or Football Director.

Uniforms

GAA provides each player with game jersey(s), one pair of game pants, game socks, and decals for the helmet if needed. Uniform sizing will be available at each sign up. It is requested that the game uniforms be worn for games only and not practices.

Registration

Sizing

Each player will receive the jersey and pants size specified during the registration process. It is imperative that players get sized by the uniform vendor. Issues with uniform sizing are to be discussed between parents and uniform vendor. GAA is not responsible for exchanges and added cost for additional uniforms due to incorrect sizing.

Jersey Numbers

During registration each player will select three number preferences in priority order. Upon selection to a team, the head coach will assign the numbers selected to the players in priority order. **The determination of which player receives which number is based upon seniority.**

What's NOT Provided

GAA Football does **NOT** provide:

- Helmet (Vegas gold w/dark green mask)
- Shoulder pads
- Pants pads
- Cleats
- Practice uniforms.

Each player must have these items to participate. Each of the items previously listed are available at most sporting goods stores.

Listed below is an approximate cost of the items identified above.

Shoulder Pads	\$35 - \$100 (new)
Cleats	\$25 - \$100 (new)
Practice Pads/Pants/Jersey	\$25 - \$50 (new)
Helmet	\$55 to \$200 (new)

The prices are estimates for new equipment but may be purchased used at stores such as Play It Again Sports or from purchase from other parents. Your coach *MAY* also be able to provide you with used equipment. GAA is not responsible or liable for equipment defects of used equipment. It is parent's responsibility to make sure equipment is inspected and certified for use prior to having their child participate in contact sports.

Registration

Additional Expenses

GAA wants to provide each person with an idea of the additional expenses that may be incurred during the football season. The information and amounts below is for informational purposes only and may not be exact.

Pictures

Team and individual pictures are available for purchase ranging from \$20.00 - \$55.00 in price depending on the package you select

Banquet Meal

While each player's meal is covered, additional family members must purchase their meal. This usually costs \$8.00 - \$15.00 per person

Pink Wear

During breast cancer awareness month cheer and football teams may elect to order items that are pink for awareness and support. Many coaches like to stay uniformed in appearance so they purchase tape, socks, helmet stickers or other pink items as a team

Snack & Drink Fund

Team Moms may have a rotating schedule for parents, or request funds to pay for snacks and drinks for the players



Season Information

Evaluations

You will be called prior to evaluations with the exact evaluation time for your child's age group. If you do not receive a call prior to this please check the GAA Football website at www.GAASports.org/football.htm. In order for a player to be evaluated and selected in the draft they must attend both nights of the evaluations. Players who do not attend the evaluation sessions will be assigned to a team via hat pick.

Practice

Football practice begins on Monday, July 28th. The first three practices are conducted in shorts, t-shirts and helmets. A player **must** practice three days in shorts prior to practicing in full pads. Practice will be two hours M – F the first week of the season (subject to change based on GFL rules), with the first full pad practice on Thursday, July, 31st. Once school begins, practices will be held three days a week, typically Monday, Tuesday and Thursday for 1½ hours each practice. The Six Year Old teams will practice two days a week, typically on Tuesday and Thursday for 1½ hours each practice. Last exception is the 8th grade team that is under one head coach with multiple divisional teams with 2 hour practices and different schedules depending on which team players are assigned to.

Once your child has been drafted onto a team, the coach will contact you with more information such as practice times, dates, and locations. In the event of inclement weather, your coach or team mom will contact you to inform you of any practice changes.

Practices are **NOT** optional. Timely and regular attendance at practice is crucial to the success of the player's team and may have a direct influence on playing time. Players should drink plenty of water and/or sports drinks on practice days. While water is provided at each practice, it is recommended that each player bring water to practice.

GAA Football Rules

1. No jewelry is to be worn by players in practices or games.
2. PARTICIPATION:
 - a. Players must arrive 1 hour prior to scheduled game time or at the time set by his coach.
 - b. Players must attend all practices. Two or more missed practices without the head coach's consent will preclude the player from participating in the Saturday game within that given week. Players are expected to arrive at practice on-time and READY to practice at the time designated by the coach.
3. Disrespect to coaches or team members, unsportsmanlike conduct and failure to adhere to the GFL code of conduct will NOT be tolerated.
 - a. First offense will result in a verbal warning to the player and parent/guardian.
 - b. Second offense will result in a verbal warning to the player and parent/guardian along with a written incident report that will be filed and reviewed by the GAA Football Board.
 - c. Third offense will result in a written incident report that will be filed and reviewed by the GAA Football Board that may result in the dismissal of the child and parent/guardian.
4. Parents/Guardians must notify the head coach of any change in the player's medical condition during the course of the football season.
5. Complete and proper uniform is required for game day participation.
6. Parents/Guardians must adhere to the Code of Conduct as set forth by the Gwinnett Football League and GAA.
7. Use of alcohol and/or tobacco products at practices or games is NOT allowed.
8. No child should be without parent/guardian supervision at any GAA or GFL function. In the event a parent/guardian cannot be present, another adult responsible for the player must be present and the head coach or team mom must be notified. Failure to have a responsible party at the practice or function may result in the child having to sit out during the activity.
9. Profanity or any threatening, abusive language will NOT be tolerated.
10. GFL Rules take precedent over GAA Rules, except in the case where GAA's policies may be more stringent than GFL's.

Coach Responsibilities

- All GAA football head and assistant coaches are expected to provide a positive and enriching atmosphere for our players
- All coaches will make every effort to correct any behavior issues on the field. However, if there are issues a coach cannot resolve, they will seek parental involvement to resolve the situation or conflict.
- Coaches will notify their age group coordinator if there are any ongoing problems with a child or parent.
- Coaches will not favor one particular player nor discourage any player from participating.
- Coaches will promote, encourage and teach your child to the best of their ability all aspects of football and working together as a team.
- The head coach will ensure all players receive their required number of plays as governed by the GFL. Additional playing time is *earned* by the player and is at the head coach's discretion.
- The head coach is the communication point of the team. All issues should be raised to the head coach and not assistant coaches.
- The head coach will be happy to discuss with you matters concerning your child, but will not engage in conversation about other players.



Parents Responsibilities

1. A successful season depends on the coaches, parents, and team mom working together. On occasion you will be asked to perform one or more of the following duties during the course of the season:
 - a. Gate
 - b. Chain gang
 - c. Announcer
 - d. Concession stand
 - e. Snacks
 - i. When you support GAA activities you are considered an ambassador to our community
 1. Profanity or any threatening, abusive language towards the coaches, parents, teammates or officials will NOT be tolerated while performing GAA duties
 2. No fire arms are allowed while performing these duties
 3. Use of Alcohol or illegal drugs will NOT be tolerated
 4. Any violation of the rules above may constitute banishment from GAA Football activities for the remainder of the season
2. A parent, guardian, or designated responsible adult must be present for all practices, games and GFL sponsored events.
3. Parents are expected to allow their coaches to coach. Please do not interfere with the instructional time of practice or at a game.
4. Parents are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship on and off the field, as well as during practice and games.
5. If parents have issues concerning their child, it needs to be addressed with the head coach before or after practice.
6. Parents are expected to have their child *READY* to practice at the specified practice times.
7. Parents are expected to have their child at their game at least one hour prior to the scheduled game time or the time provided by the head coach.

Parents Rules

1. Parents, siblings, grandparents, other family members and guests must adhere to the Code of Conduct as set forth by the GFL. A violation of the Code of Conduct may result in fines and/or suspension from any GFL sanctioned activity.
2. Use of ANY tobacco products is not allowed in designated football and cheerleading practice/game areas. Violations will result in fines of \$100 per incident.
3. Any participant who is ejected from a game on two or more occasions during one season is subject to suspension or ejection from the GFL. Per GAA policy, ejection from two games during one season is grounds for the family account to be suspended, and no member from that family will be eligible for participation in GAA sponsored activities in the future.
4. Use of Alcohol during practice and/or games will NOT be tolerated.
 - a. First offense will result in violator being barred from that day's practice, game or activity and a written report given to the Executive Board of GAA.
 - b. Second offense will result in suspension or ejection from the GFL and GAA.
5. Profanity or any threatening, abusive language towards the coaches, parents, teammates or GAA officials will NOT be tolerated. Anyone found violating this rule will be asked to leave the confines of the playing area. Any spectator who is asked to leave the confines of the playing field area and then refuses will be escorted out of the park by Gwinnett County authorities on the premises. Further incidents of this kind will be documented and if upon approval of the GAA Board of Directors, the child(ren) of the parent involved can be dismissed from the GAA and no refund will be given. Future application of this child into the Association would be upon the approval of the GAA Board of Directors. The decision of the GAA Board of Directors is final. No refunds will be given for any child/parent dismissed from the Association for behavioral issues.
6. The use of noisemakers such as air horns, whistles, or sirens are not allowed at games. Violations may result in a fine to the association. Approved noisemakers are small 20 ounce soda bottles with material in it to make noise, small cow bells, and thunder sticks.
7. Parents are not allowed on the practice or game fields. Certified coaching staff only.

Parents Rules

8. Participant who is ejected by a game official for violation of GFL rules or the GFL Code of Conduct must leave the confines of the arena. Failure to do so will result in fines and/or suspension or ejection from the GFL as well as additional disciplinary action from GAA, including but not limited to suspension from all practices and/or future games.
9. Parents are expected to assist coaches and team moms with the various responsibilities required during the season. This includes the required volunteering for ticket gate, chain crew, concession stand, and game announcer.
10. Parents must abide by the Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation Rules. **THIS INCLUDES PARKING IN DESIGNATED PARKING SPACES ONLY. PER GWINNETT COUNTY ORDINANCE, IT IS UNLAWFUL TO PARK IN ANY AREA NOT CLEARLY DEFINED AS A PARKING SPACE. Park Police have a zero tolerance policy for this violation – no warnings will be given.**

Problem Resolution

When a parent has a complaint, the following procedure should be followed to attain resolution:

Step 1

Communicate the problem to the head coach and attempt to come to a resolution. In order for there to be resolution, no complaint should ever be communicated without a proposed solution accompanying it. Pick a time that is appropriate to talk calmly, privately, and candidly with the head coach. The head coach or parent may, however, ask one other parent or coach to join the conversation as a witness. Please keep in mind that due to the emotional aspects prior to and immediately following a game, this is *not* an appropriate time to have an objective conversation with the head coach regarding any problems or issues you may have.

Step 2

If the problem cannot be resolved, the parent and/or coach need to communicate the issue to the GAA Assistant Football Director.

Step 3

In the event the problem has still not been resolved, the parent can contact the GAA Football Director. The problem must be submitted in writing with the results from steps 1 and 2 documented. The GAA Football Director will NOT address any issue until steps 1 and 2 have been completed and the results documented in writing.

- GAA reserves the right to refuse registration to any child based upon a history of non-conformity to established GAA and/or GFL rules.
- The GAA Football Board will make every attempt to resolve all matters, as they deem fit or necessary.
- The GAA Football Board's decision is final on all matters relating to GAA Football.

GAA Football Board

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Patti Brophy

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{In partnership with}
Gwinnett County Parks & Recreation



{Member Association of}
Gwinnett Football League



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