

**MIDDLE GEORGIA MIDDLE
SCHOOL ATHLETIC LEAGUE**

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

April 17, 2025

I. Membership

- a.) The league will consist of 10 teams.
- b.) The league will sanction the following sports.
 - Football
 - Fast Pitch Softball
 - Cross Country
 - Boys/Girls Basketball
 - Boys/Girls Soccer
 - Wrestling
 - Track
 - Cross Country
 - Baseball
 - Volleyball
- c.) A School representative must represent each school at the meeting, an AD/Administrator, and the head coach for each sport.
- d.) Dues for MGMSAL will be **\$500 per year**.
- e.) The MGMSAL will consist of no more than 10 teams. The only way to add another school is for one school to withdraw and another school is found to take its place.
- f.) A school must give the MGMSAL written notice of its desire to withdraw from the league at least 30 days before May 1 of the year they wish to withdraw.
- g.) Admission to all MGMSAL events can be no more than \$7 for games during regular season. Double-headers in softball and baseball cannot exceed \$10. Playoff games cannot exceed \$10.
- h.) **GHSA passes will be accepted at all MGMSAL league functions.**

II. Rules and Procedures

- The MGMSAL will have meetings each year in the Fall, Winter, and Spring.
- Members who do not attend must adhere to any rules or procedures voted on at the meeting or Coaches' sessions.

Membership

- Admission to the MGMSAL requires approval by an 80% majority vote by the existing league members.
- Each new school seeking admission to the MGMSAL must field a football, boys/girls' basketball, baseball, and fast pitch teams to participate in the league.

- Any school wishing to withdraw from the MGMSAL must have a letter to the league president with the school head on it by April 1.

III. Appeals and Protests

- A school may file a protest with the league president. The protest must be in writing and signed by the principal and athletic director within three working days of the incident. Each school will be allowed to write a rebuttal within two working days. The league president will then form a committee of 3 coaches who will hear the protest and decide.

IV. Sanctions and Rules

- Rules shall be voted on at meetings and adhered to as agreed upon by all schools.
- If a coach or player is ejected from the game for any reason, they must serve suspension the rest of that game plus be suspended for the next contest.
- All teams must have a game administrator in place for any issues. (Player issues, coach removal, misconduct from fans, weather-related issues)
- If one team fails to complete the contest by pulling the team off the playing field, that team will forfeit the game.
- The coach could be suspended at the next contest if they pull their team from the game.
- Any changes to rules/sanctions must be approved by a majority vote (51%) of schools present at the meeting.
- **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:
 - (a) Delay the game until a new set of officials can arrive.
 - (b) Agree to play the game on another date except a Sunday.
 - (c) Use registered officials who might be in attendance at the contest.
 - (d) Use coaches or school personnel from both schools.
 - (e) Use formerly registered officials who might attend the contest.

V. Player Eligibility

- A player is eligible if they have attained their 15th birthday after April 1 before the year of eligibility.
- Students must pass 70% of all classes per semester.

- Students must have a valid physical, cardiac, concussion, and heat form on file with their respective schools.
- Students must be registered for that school. (Home school students are eligible to participate at that school if they qualify under the Dexter-Mosley Act)
- Any student-athlete retained from the previous year will not be eligible for competition.
- 8th-grade student-athletes are eligible to play JV sports. **However, a student-athlete can only participate in a full middle school season and a partial JV season. An 8th grade player can play no more than 70% of the varsity schedule.**
- 8th-grade student-athletes will be allowed to play JV after their middle school season has ended.
- 8th-grade students will not be allowed to play a full JV schedule, then return to middle school to play in the playoffs of their respective sports.
- Schools must contract with an official association certified by GHSA.
- Schools will request that the official's association not assign officials living in the home team's county.
- **GHSA AND STATE STANDARDS WILL GOVERN ANY RULES NOT SET FORTH BY MGMSAL.**

MGMSAL Fast Pitch By-Laws

- 1.) A minimum of 2 certified umpires will officiate each game.
- 2.) GHSA standards will govern any rules not set forth by MGMSAL.
- 3.) If a team does not show up for a scheduled contest without 24 hours' notice, they will be responsible for the cost of the umpires.
- 4.) After the regular season, a single elimination tournament will be played with the top 4 teams.
- 5.) Trophies will be awarded to the playoff champion and runner-up.
- 6.) Games will be 6 innings or a 90 minute time limit. The inning will be finished if time is reached.
- 7.) Teams will use the International Tie Breaker to break any ties at the end of 6 innings or 90 minutes
- 8.) Fast Pitch will use National Federation Rules.

10.) If bad weather is imminent, both coaches must decide at the pregame meeting at home plate whether it will be suspended and picked up where they left off at a later date or start a new game later.

11.) The mercy run rule will be (15 runs/after three innings) (12 runs/after four innings) (and 8 runs /after 5innings)

MGMSAL Football By-Laws

- A. Students must be registered and enrolled in their district. (Home school students are eligible to participate if they reside in that district)
- B. Players may only be added to the roster in mid-season if they are transfer students and have completed all eligibility requirements.
- C. Players who have played up on 9th or JV are not eligible to participate in the MGMSAL.
- D. The standard Admission fee is \$7. (MGMSAL/GHSA coaches' passes are valid).

1.) RULES AND REGULATIONS

- A. Teams will play games for 8-minute quarters. All games will begin at 5:00 unless otherwise agreed on by both schools.
- B. MGMSAL will use GHSA overtime rules in case of a tie at the end of the regulation.
- I. Teams will take possession at the 15 yd line (UNTIMED)
- II. Each team will get possession.
- C. All schools must use a GHSA-sanctioned officials association to officiate games.
- D. There will be no special teams unless agreed upon by both schools.
- E. Teams will begin offensive possession at the 25 yd. line.
- F. In the event of a safety, the offensive team will receive the ball at their 40 yd line
- G. If a team elects to punt. Officials will move the ball 30 yds. Officials cannot move the ball on a punt inside the opponents ten yd line.
- H. If there are any issues with the weather, be mindful that the safety of both teams is most important. Games may be rescheduled if they have yet to go past halftime. If the game has gone past halftime, the game can be deemed a completed game unless both coaches decide to finish the game later.
- I. There should be no students working the chains, adults only.

- J. The home team should call to verify officials are available on the day of the game.
- K. Coaches will communicate to verify uniform colors.

TIEBREAKER FOR THE LEAGUE

- 1.) Head-to-head.
 - 2.) +12/ -12 Rule. In case that three or more teams are tied after the head-to-head. The following will apply
 - a.) +12/-12 rule will be applied to the tied teams. Only the scores of the games between the tied teams will be considered. Teams will be seeded from the most points to the fewest points. The team with the fewest points will be eliminated and the remaining teams will revert to Rule 1 (head-to-head)
 - b.) If teams are still tied. Tied teams scores in all Region games will be tallied using the +12/-12 rule. When the team with fewest points is eliminated, revert to head-to-head.
- +12/-12 rules explanation: Each team will receive points for each game. A team gets positive 12 points for a win, and negative 12 points for a loss.
 - If three or more teams are tied, the seeding will be as follows. You would add the total point margin for the teams in the head-to-head contest. Then apply the +12/-12 to that point total to get your number.
- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Lamar Co 23 | Henderson 7 | Lamar Co. 12 + -12= 0 |
| Henderson 14 | Jasper Co. 10 | Henderson -12 + 4 = -8 |
| Jasper Co. 35 | Lamar Co. 7 | Jasper Co. -4 + 12 = 8 |

- 3.) If tie cannot be solved using +12/-12 rule. A Coin toss will be done by a neutral official.

Cross Country by-laws

1. Beginning date of the season will be per GHSA.
- Two. lists are due at least a week before the first meeting with the league secretary.

3. Each team must have a minimum of five (5) runners for the team to score, and a maximum of seven (7) entrants are allowed for each team that participates in the league meets.
4. The first five (5) finishers for each team will count for the total team score.
5. Each team must begin and end the competition with a minimum of five (5) runners. If a qualifying team does not have five (5) runners, that team will not be allowed to compete in the league meet.
6. All coaches from each school should be prepared to assist in timing and judging events if necessary.
7. A maximum of six meets will be allowed before the league championship. Two major invitational meets will be allowed after the league championship but may not compete after the end date stated by GHSA.
8. All runners on the same team (excluding gender) must have matching uniforms.
9. Meets should begin at 4:30 unless agreed upon by all coaches before the competition.
10. Interleague meets will be a distance of 2 miles.
11. A league championship meet will be held at a location determined before the season starts and will occur on the first Saturday in October.
12. The league will pay up to \$400 towards the cost of timing services for the league championship meet. The gate fee for the region meet will be set at \$10 per person.
13. Trophies will be awarded to the first, and second-place teams in the region meet. Medals will be awarded for the first ten individual places in each event.
14. MGMSAL will follow the National Federation Rules for anything not outlined in the MGMSAL Constitution.

Soccer by-laws

Rules and Regulations

- Games will consist of two 30 minutes halves with a 5-minute halftime. The game clocks will stop for goals scored and injuries and resume once play begins.
- Games are scheduled to be played at 5:00 and 6:15. Generally, Schools will play the girls' games first unless an exception has been made to change it.

- The home team will wear dark color jerseys and visiting teams will wear white jerseys. However, coaches may agree to change home/ away jerseys according to team needs/ equipment.
- The GHSA mercy rule will apply to MGMSAL soccer matches.

MGMSAL games to be eligible to play in the playoffs.

8th graders that have played JV and not participated in any MGMSAL regular season games should not be eligible for the playoffs.

- Regular season games tied at the end of regulation will remain as a tie.

Playoffs

- To determine league standings for the playoffs, the coaches adopted a point system similar to FIFA group play. Each team will receive 3 points per league win, 1 point per tie, and 0 points per loss.
- At the end of the season, the four teams with the most league points will qualify for the playoffs. The GHSA white book tiebreakers will break a tie between teams with the same amount of league points.
- For the playoffs, the host school will keep gate proceeds but be responsible for paying the officials for the games.
- For playoff games, the higher-seeded team will wear home jerseys unless the coaches agree to change.
- If a playoff game is tied at the end of regulation, Schools will use the GHSA white book procedures for overtime and PK procedures.

Basketball By-Laws

1. Eligibility lists are due two weeks before the first contest.
2. Schools must use a minimum of 2 certified officials.
3. GHSA standards will govern any rules not set forth by the league.
4. If a team does not show up for a scheduled game, that team will be responsible for the costs of the officials.
5. All officials must sign the scorebook.

6. If the officials arrive late for the game, both coaches can agree to lengthen the warm-up, shorten the halftime, or shorten the quarters before the game begins.
7. Games should begin by 4:30.
8. Playing time should be 6-minute quarters, 10-minute warm-ups, and 8-minute halftime.
9. The home team will wear light-colored jerseys, while the visiting team will wear dark.
10. Girls' teams will use the smaller 28.5 as approved by GHSA.
11. The approved basketball will be the Wilson EVO.
12. The home team is responsible for all costs and will retain the gate proceeds unless otherwise agreed upon by both schools.
13. If both schools decide not to play a game on the schedule, both teams will take a loss. (Unless approved by MGMSAL)
14. If the game ends in a tie, overtime will be 3 minutes.

Baseball By-Laws

1. Schools must use a minimum of 2 umpires in an MGMSAL contest.
2. GHSA standards and rules will apply to anything not addressed by the MGMSAL
3. **Seeding ties will be determined by**
 - a) *head-to-head,*
 - b) *fewest runs allowed the head-to-head*
 - c) *Fewest runs allowed overall with common opponents*
 - d) *then a coin flip*
4. Teams will play six-inning games unless a DH is being played. Five innings will be allowed. There will be a time limit of 2 hours. If the time limit is reached before the end of an inning, the inning will be finished.
5. Schools will use the international tie breaker in the event of a tie at the end of 6 innings or 2 hours.
6. GHSA JV or subvarsity pitch count rules will be used.
7. *Games will start at 4:30 unless coaches agree on a different start time.
8. Baseball will use National Federation Rules; the only exception is using (-5) bats.
9. Admission will be \$7.
10. If there is an imminent weather situation, both coaches must address it at the home plate meeting before the game. Schools must decide whether the game