

# OGAD17

*Make It Official*

# Officiate

# GA Day

# 2017

*Presented by Smitty Official's Apparel*



July 21–22, 2017 | Macon Marriott City Center

# Welcome

Welcome! The Georgia Athletic Officials Association (GAOA) Board of Directors, Joe DeRosa, owner of Smitty Official's Apparel (Officiate Georgia Day's Title Sponsor), and I are delighted that you are here for GAOA's 11th annual Officiate Georgia Day (OGAD) Conference.

Because of OGAD's dedicated planning committee, we have an impressive line-up of speakers from around the country and from GA. Many thanks to the committee for their efforts and to these experts for taking time to share their experiences and insight with us.

This year's conference theme is "Make it Official – Stay in the Game"; it focuses on the development of a campaign to recruit and retain officials. We want to address two critical components of excellence in officiating: the recruitment of new officials and the encouragement of experienced officials to remain dedicated to and actively involved in quality officiating.

In the year ahead, we hope to develop a campaign that specifically appeals to young people who love a sport but are no longer in a position to compete in it and a campaign that encourages and supports the many great officials who have already made the commitment to staying involved with what they love by being excellent officials of that sport. One idea that has already been floated includes training through virtual class rooms to enable officials to work at an individual pace. We hope additional ideas will surface during the conference!

As we work together to enhance recruitment and retention, we will have to address the obstacles we face: what makes recruiting and retaining quality officials a challenge? Hopefully, each break-out group will discuss the specific issues that apply to their sport and work hard together to identify challenges to recruitment and retention and come up with ways these can be addressed and lessened.

GAOA is fortunate to have special partnerships with the GHSA, the GISA, the GICAA, the GACA, and the NASO. Thank you from GAOA to their leaders and staffs for their unwavering support and friendship. Most importantly, thanks to GAOA's 4,300 members - the lifeblood of the GAOA - and the approximately 400 members here today for your continued support.

The sport-specific professional development sessions give you the most direct opportunity to make your voice heard. They are a major part of what makes this conference relevant and vital to our mission. Please be sure to attend your session today to offer input about what you feel is going well for you and your association, your recommendations about issues you feel need our continued and / or increased attention, and ideas for enhancing recruitment and retention.



– W. Alan Smith

GAOA Executive Director



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For assistance, please ask any staff members wearing black staff shirts, or any hotel staff.

# Schedule of Events

7:00AM  
– 8:55AM

Registration and Check-in

9:00AM  
– 9:15AM

Opening Ceremony

9:20AM  
– 9:25AM

Earl Etheridge, Officials Committee Chairman

9:25AM  
– 9:40AM

NFHS Awards

Ernie Yarbrough, GHSA Commissioner of Officials

9:40AM  
– 10:20AM

Officials of the Year and Awards

Alan Smith and Earl Etheridge

10:20AM  
– 10:30AM

Comfort Break

10:30AM  
– 11:30AM

Coaches' Blue Ribbon Panel Discussion

*Moderator: Mike Raynor*

11:30AM  
– 12:15PM

Kevin Ryan

USA Softball

12:15PM  
– 1:00PM

Lunch Break

(Lunch is included!)

1:00PM  
– 2:30PM

Sport-Specific Breakout Sessions

“What’s Hot and What’s Not?”

# Blue Ribbon Panel



**MIKE RAYNOR**

ACC Commissioner of Softball  
Umpires



**BRUCE MILLER**

Head Football Coach  
Gainesville HS



**PHYLLIS ARTHUR**

Head Girls' Basketball Coach  
McEachern HS



**BRENT KORN**

Head Baseball Coach  
Vidalia HS



**SHARMAN WHITE**

Assistant Men's Basketball  
Georgia State University



**TIM O'SULLIVAN**

Head Boys' Soccer Coach  
Frederica Academy



**ALLEN LOWE**

Head Football Coach  
Deerfield-Winsor School



**ALLEN JORDAN**

Head Softball Coach  
David Emanuel Academy

# 2017 GAOA Award Recipients

The high school officials we honor today have been chosen as the 2017 Officials of the Year in their respective sport and as 2017 Charlie Bloodworth Lifetime Achievement Award Winners by the Georgia Athletic Officials Association (GAOA) for their outstanding knowledge and skill in officiating, as well as their integrity, leadership, professionalism, and dedication.

These officials are motivated, well trained, and committed to meeting the demands of their assignments. They are physically and mentally fit and have the knowledge, skills, and courage to make the tough calls and to communicate clearly.

Superb officials like them contribute much to high school athletics in our state, and the GAOA is pleased to recognize them with these awards.

Again, congratulations on their selection as GAOA's 2017 Officials of the Year and as its 2017 Charlie Bloodworth Lifetime Achievement Award Winners. GAOA and GA's 7,000 Officials thank them for their continued commitment to "Excellence in Officiating" and for their continued support of GA's high school athletic programs.

– **W. Alan Smith**  
GAOA Executive Director



# Earl Etheridge Excellence in Officiating Award Recipients 1993–2016

Tim Tipton – 2016  
Jim Sneddon – 2015  
Jill Poole – 2014  
Spencer Smith – 2013  
Dick Kitchens – 2012  
Jack C. Bell – 2011  
Chuck Tidwell – 2010  
Carl Monroe – 2009  
James Arnold – 2008  
Rick Boedy – 2007  
W. Alan Smith – 2006  
Craig Stone – 2005  
Larry Sorrels – 2004  
Irv Zisselman – 2003  
Betty Jane Ford – 2002  
Walt Carter – 2001  
James Lange – 2000  
Jarry Hobgood – 1999  
Randy Etheridge – 1998  
Dock Sisk – 1997  
Earl Fales – 1996  
Troy Dailey – 1995  
Mike Wood – 1994  
Tommy Stalnaker – 1993



## Earl Etheridge Excellence in Officiating Award

### **William Jones – Northeast GA Officials Assoc.**

The GAOA's 2017 Earl Etheridge Overall Official of the Year is William H. "Will" Jones of the Northeast Officials Association. Mr. Jones has been officiating for 25 years, working primarily in basketball and football. Mr. Jones worked the AAA men's finals in football and the first ever 7A finals in men's basketball. He has also worked as an SEC sideline official and participated in football practices with the University of Georgia in his hometown of Athens.

Asked about some of his career highlights thus far, Mr. Jones responded, "One of my biggest joys is working basketball camps as a clinician and training officer for our Association. It's so rewarding to see younger officials you train advance to playoff games and other accomplishments."

In describing his preparation methods, Mr. Jones recounted, "The main thing I try to do is stay conditioned – if you're in shape you can focus better. Fatigue can make a coward out of all of us. I also, every year, try to find something to improve. I watch film of my games as a resource to improve and stay improving. Accept constructive criticism. Create and reach out to relationships within the world of officiating. Keep up-to-date on the new rules and know how to administer them, and work on your communication with coaches. I've really enjoyed meeting people – I've met a lot of great people through officiating."

The GAOA is pleased to congratulate Will Jones, GAOA's 2017 Earl Etheridge Overall Official of the Year.

# Charlie Bloodworth Lifetime Achievement Award



## Norm Smith – Atlanta Peachstate Football

Norm Smith is entering the 54th year of his career as an official. Off the field for 8 years, Mr. Smith is the current President of the Atlanta Peachstate Association. Over the course of his career, Mr. Smith worked several state championship games in football and basketball, and worked with the Georgia Interscholastic Officials Association at the time of its merger with the GHSA. Mr. Smith also recounted receiving the Atlanta Tipoff Club's High School Basketball Official of the Year Award, presented to him by John Wooten and Bill Walton, as one of his fondest memories.

Speaking about Charlie Bloodworth and their mutual passion for basketball and officiating, Mr. Smith reflected, "I worked with Charlie Bloodworth as a mentor to younger officials – he was a very positive influence on all our careers, and was quite an official himself. I think it is important for young officials to have patience, to be ready to put in the work to get their careers where they want them to be, which is officiating championships. Stay focused on your training and don't let crowds or coaches intimidate you. Officiate every game like it's your last, and always remember your rules and mechanics."

The GAOA is pleased to congratulate Norm Smith on his 2017 Charlie Bloodworth Lifetime Achievement Award.



# Charlie Bloodworth Lifetime Achievement Award

## **Pam Carter – GHSA Cheerleading Liason**

Pam Carter has worked extensively in cheer for 47 years. She began as a coach (known as a “sponsor” at the time) in 1970 and continued in that capacity through the early 2000s. Mrs. Carter transitioned into officiating and training in the 1990s, working in cheer with the National Federation of High School. She also founded the Coaches Association for Cheerleading in Georgia. She has judged cheer competitions nationally for numerous Associations, including national and international competitions. As a coach, Mrs. Carter led a team to the state title in 1995, and took teams to perform at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona and the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. She is currently involved in competition and safety training and organization, and has helped grow and advance the sport of cheer in Georgia to unprecedented levels.

Describing her efforts in training cheer officials, Mrs. Carter explained, “As with all officials, it takes an extensive amount of training. You really need to commit to it – and you must truly care about the athletes. They come first. I think our primary purpose when we officiate cheer is safety. It takes a great deal of commitment to do that. To sit on the other side of that table and score a routine and follow up on safety, officials must be committed to doing it right. You’re out there because you love the sport and you love the kids.”

The GAOA is pleased to congratulate Pam Carter on her 2017 Charlie Bloodworth Lifetime Achievement Award.

# Charlie Bloodworth Lifetime Achievement Award



## Jack Kelly - Georgia Officials Athletic Assoc.

Jack Kelly is in his 53rd year of officiating high school football. Among his many accomplishments, Mr. Kelly was named the 2001 Official of the Year by the GACA and was awarded GFOA's George Garner Award in 2002. He was a member of the Collegiate Football Officials Association from 1984 to 1991, and served as president of the Georgia Officials Athletic Association in 2013. On the field, some of Mr. Kelly's career highlights are having worked four GHSA football state championships, a GICAA football state championship, a GISA football state championship, the 1989 Georgia-Florida football All Star game, and the 1986 GACA football All Star game.

When asked what advice he would give to officials starting their careers while reflecting on his own, Mr. Kelly offered, "Study and know the rules; learn to be in the right position at the right time. It's not about how many flags you can throw but how you can help kids learn so you don't have to throw the next ones. I love high school athletics, I love high school football. If I can work a game and help a young person be more disciplined and teach them about life, I'm happy. I've also enjoyed helping train younger officials. I trained a lot of guys and have been blessed to see some of them move up to the SEC, ACC, and even NFL. It's been a good ride."

The GAOA is pleased to congratulate Jack Kelly on his 2017 Charlie Bloodworth Lifetime Achievement Award.



# Charlie Bloodworth Lifetime Achievement Award

## Robert Culbreath – Augusta Baseball

Bob Culbreath's career as a baseball umpire has spanned 38 years. Mr. Culbreath has been umpiring in Georgia since moving to the state from South Carolina in 2003. Selected to work the South Carolina high school All Star baseball game in 1992 and 1999, Mr. Culbreath also umpired seven South Carolina state championship games, as well as being selected to work the 17- and 18-year-old Dixie Majors in 1998. Since moving to Georgia, Mr. Culbreath has worked numerous GHSA and GISA playoffs, including a 2016 state title game.

In reflecting on his career, Mr. Culbreath offered some of what he considers to be integral components to accomplished umpiring, particularly for younger umpires looking to start their own careers. "As far as I'm concerned – train, train, train," he advised. "Study the rules, go to the camps, go to the clinics – commit to getting better. Go to your camps, go to your clinics, go to your local association meetings. Look for a mentor and don't be afraid to ask question. Go out and watch ballgames and watch veteran officials work, and talk to them afterwards if you can. Don't be in such a big rush that you lose focus and don't improve yourself."

The GAOA is pleased to congratulate Bob Culbreath on his 2017 Charlie Bloodworth Lifetime Achievement Award.

# Charlie Bloodworth Lifetime Achievement Award



## C.B. Siniard – Cherokee Basketball

C. B. Siniard has been an official for 51 years, an achievement that has seen him engaged with officiating in six decades. Twenty five of those 51 years have seen Mr. Siniard occupying leadership roles, and he is currently a revered member of the Cherokee Basketball Officials Association.

When asked what he has enjoyed most over the course of his impressive tenure as an official, Mr. Siniard spoke fondly of his love of rivalry basketball games. “I love a big rivalry game.” he stated. “I love a big rivalry game where the teams don’t necessarily like each other. I love a packed gym for a big game where the fans are passionate and loud. But as an official, you always have to keep your head in such exciting environments – to maintain control. Being a good official is staying in shape, learning the rules, and staying on top of rules changes as time passes so you’re always at your best.”

The GAOA is pleased to congratulate C. B. Siniard on his 2017 Charlie Bloodworth Lifetime Achievement Award.



# Charlie Bloodworth Lifetime Achievement Award

## Bob Earwood – North Georgia Softball

Bob Earwood is entering his 49th year as an official. He began by working in baseball, moving on to basketball and football, and finally to fast-pitch softball. A member of the North Georgia Amateur Softball Officials Association, Mr. Earwood currently recruits and assigns softball officials for the Georgia ACA's North/South All Star Softball Junior and Senior Softball games. Mr. Earwood has worked several state football finals, as well as state finals in softball. He has been an evaluator for GHSA in baseball, basketball, football, and softball, and is a Camp Director for GHSA softball camps. He has also umpired in ASA national tournaments. Mr. Earwood has worked for the Atlanta Falcons as a timeout coordinator for the past 12 years.

Asked his advice for young umpires and officials, Mr. Earwood offered, "One should have a genuine desire to do this. Once you make that commitment, get in the rulebook – study your rulebook. Don't be concerned about what other people are doing; be concerned about you and your future. Knowing the rules and doing good work will get you ahead. Don't have rabbit ears and be professional in your approach to officiating, on and off the field or court. Work hard and you will be rewarded. I've made so many friends doing this, and I am humbled and thankful to be thought of in this capacity and honored to be getting this award."

The GAOA is pleased to congratulate Bob Earwood on his 2017 Charlie Bloodworth Lifetime Achievement Award.

# Charlie Bloodworth Lifetime Achievement Award



## Herb Benford – Albany Softball and Volleyball

Herb Benford has been officiating for 48 years. Beginning his career in 1969 in Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Mr. Benford has worked in baseball, softball, volleyball, and football. He currently still works in softball, volleyball, and football. Over the course of his tenure as an official, Mr. Benford officiated four slow-pitch national championship games, and he officiated a 2016 GISA state football championship game. He is currently the Assignor of Albany's Softball and Volleyball Officials Association.

Speaking about the impact of this award, Mr. Benford relayed, "I had heard of Charlie Bloodworth. I did some research into his career after being informed of this honor, and learning more about who Charlie Bloodworth was and what he meant to people and what he meant to training and mentoring officials and high school athletics in Georgia, I was overwhelmed at the honor of receiving an award with his name on it. Looking back, it is very fulfilling to think of all the people I've met through officiating. It makes me very happy. It's fulfilling to think of all the people I've helped and been helped by, and to reflect on where I have been and what I have done; it is overwhelming."

The GAOA is pleased to congratulate Herb Benford on his 2017 Charlie Bloodworth Lifetime Achievement Award.

# Officials of The Year



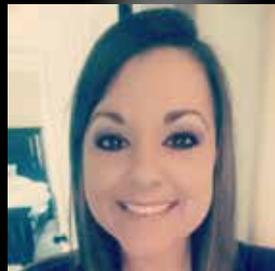
Foy Shemwell  
**Football**  
All-Star Football



A. Nick Brown  
**Lacrosse**  
Georgia Lacrosse



DeWayne Majors  
**Basketball**  
Chattahoochee Basketball



Ashley Spradlin  
**Cheerleading**  
Middle GA Cheer



**Cameron Ellison**

**Softball**

Augusta Umpires



**Jack Henderson**

**Baseball**

Multi. County Umpires



**Danny Price**

**Soccer**

Etowah Valley Soccer

Each year, the GAOA honors its top officials in each sport at **Officiate GA Day**. It is the highest honor any GHSA, GISA, or GICAA official can receive in their specific sport.

# Sponsorship

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Atlanta Peach State Basketball  
Atlanta Peach State Football  
Atlanta Quarterback Club  
Augusta Basketball  
Capitol City Officials  
Chattahoochee Umpires  
Chattahoochee Basketball  
Columbus Football &  
Basketball  
Etowah Valley Football  
Georgia ASA  
GFOA, Established 1926

Georgia Gold Coast  
Georgia Gold Leaf  
Georgia Officials Athletic  
Georgia Lacrosse Officials  
Georgia Women's Lacrosse  
Greater Savannah Soccer  
Gold Leaf Football Officials  
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Houston County Baseball and  
Softball  
International City Football  
Lanier Football  
Marietta Baseball Umpires  
Metro-Atlanta Cheerleading  
Middle Georgia Basketball  
Middle Georgia Football  
Multi-County Basketball  
North Georgia Amateur  
Baseball  
North Georgia Amateur  
Softball  
Northeast Georgia Officials  
Northwest Georgia Basketball  
Northwest Georgia Football  
Savannah Basketball  
Southern Eagles Basketball &  
Football  
Southwest Georgia (SOWEGA)  
TARA Umpires  
Warner Robins Basketball  
West Georgia Football



***Make It Official***

# Gold Sponsors

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Augusta Baseball Umpires  
Augusta Football  
Hinesville Officials  
Metropolitan Basketball  
Multi-County Umpires  
Northeast Georgia Basketball & Softball  
Rome Officials  
Southwest Georgia Cheerleading  
Vidalia-Toombs Co. Softball  
West Georgia Umpires

# Silver Sponsors

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Multi-County Baseball  
Northeast Baseball  
North Metro Umpires  
Northwest Georgia Cheer  
Oconee Basketball  
South Georgia Basketball  
Southern Eagle Baseball

## Thank You!

Without the continued support of our vendors and sponsors, the GAOA would not be able to advocate for officials all over Georgia and put on events like Officiate GA Day.



# GAOA Board Members

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Vidalia, GA

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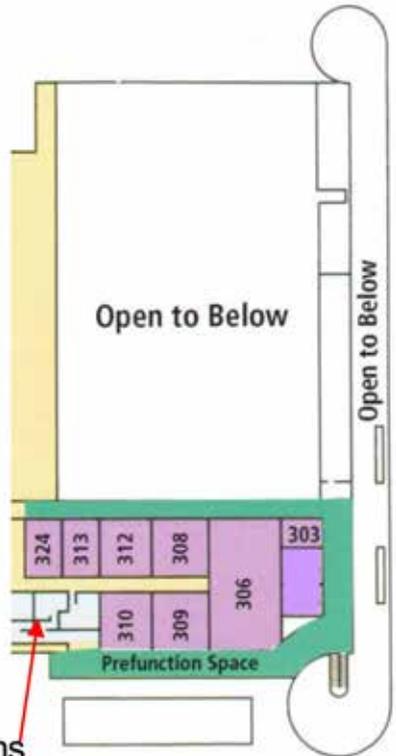
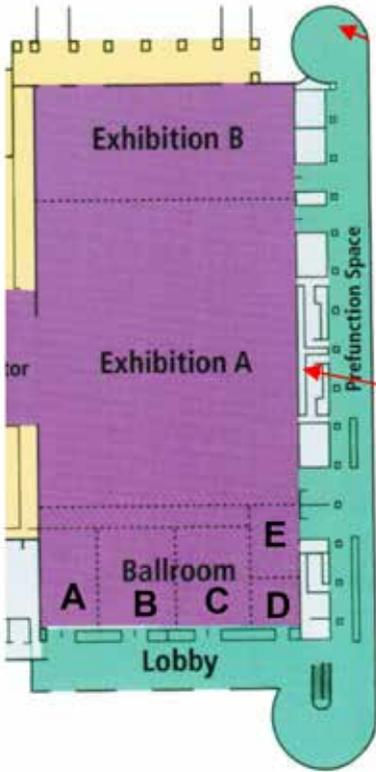
Conference Coordinator  
Alpharetta, GA

# Centreplex Map



## First Floor

## Second Floor



For assistance, please ask any staff members wearing black staff shirts, or any hotel staff.



# OGAD17

***Make It Official***

## **GAOA Membership**

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*Presented by Smitty Official's Apparel*



**July 21-22, 2017 | Macon Marriott City Center**

*Created by David Lemcoe Jr.*