

Media Guidelines for Fulton County Schools Athletic Events

To ensure that all qualified media agencies have the appropriate access and working space, the following guidelines and policies have been developed for all Fulton County Schools (FCS) high school varsity athletic events.

- Media access/credential registration will not be required for working members of the media representing recognized outlets in the business of news gathering as their primary source of revenue.
- Media access/credential registration will be required for non-traditional media outlets (i.e., YouTubers, bloggers, social media influencers, etc.)
- Media access/credentials is granted at the discretion of the host school. Priority will be given to media outlets that have staffed and regularly reported on the majority of home games of a school, though this does not guarantee access.
- Due to capacity limitations, **alternative media must pre-register for games of interest**, and will be issued access on a first come first served basis based on predetermined media capacity.
- Media credentials **must be displayed at all times**, by the authorized credential holder during the applicable FCS sporting event. Credential holder must also carry a government issued photo ID (driver's license, Georgia ID Card, passport) with them **at all times**.
- A media credential does not allow access to team or participant locker rooms before, during or after any competition.
- FCS reserves the right to deny or revoke media access at any time at its sole discretion.
- Coaches and participants may be available for interviews directly outside the locker rooms.
 - a. Coaches and/or athletic directors shall determine the availability of coaches and players as well as the time and length of all interviews.
- Any member of the media believed to be intoxicated, under the influence of mood-altering substances or acting in an unprofessional manner will have their

media credentials revoked and be escorted out of the media area with possible denial of future credentials to individual perpetrators and/or their affiliated media organization.

*Media credentials are not required for FCS student journalists, i.e...members of the home school's student newspaper, yearbook etc....) Student journalists who wish to cover athletic contests are strongly encouraged to connect with their school's athletic director to arrange access to the above-mentioned sporting events as well as opportunities to interview players and/or coaches.

Applying for Media Credentials

- Requests for credentials shall be directed to the athletic director of the host school in writing or via email at **least 48 hours before the event.**
- **A valid government issued photo ID (driver's license, Georgia ID Card, passport) is required to apply for and pick up a credential.**
- Credentials can be picked up from the host school **one (1) day** prior to the event or at the respective school's pass gate.
- FCS does not grant media credentials to individuals under 18.
- Each credential request will stand on its own merits.
- Membership in a 'writers' or 'broadcasters' association does not automatically qualify a media outlet or individual for credentials.
- Having been credentialed for other athletic events does not automatically qualify a media outlet or individual for credentials.
- Credential requests will only be approved for those assigned to cover the game.
- Credentials are not transferable and may not be given or loaned to any person not identified on the credential.
- Credentials may not be duplicated or reproduced in any manner.

- Failure to adhere to the requirements of this policy may result in revocation of credentials for the representative and their outlet.
- Media outlets will be held accountable for the actions, conduct and professionalism of all their credentialed personnel.
- All credentials are subject to space availability restrictions in working media areas at various facilities.

Credentials shall not be issued to the following:

- Persons solely for the purpose of writing or gathering material for individual highlight films, books, short films or movies.
- Representatives of syndicated television or cable programmers who are not producing programs for immediate news coverage (i.e., to air within 24 hours).

Risks:

By applying for credentials, outlets and their representatives acknowledge and assume the risks that comes from viewing sporting events including being struck or injured by participants, and flying objects such as balls, bats, and other sports equipment.