

FULTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

ATHLETICS

FALL NEWSLETTER • 2026

VOLUME 4 | AUGUST 2026 | #BUILTFOREXCELLENCE

FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR



Lamarr C. Glenn
Director of Athletics

FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

Dear Fulton County Schools Community,

As we begin another fall athletic season, there is a renewed sense of excitement throughout Fulton County Schools. Our student-athletes, coaches, athletic trainers, administrators, families, and community partners have worked diligently to prepare for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

This year, our theme is Built for Excellence. Excellence is not simply measured by wins, championships, or trophies. It is demonstrated through preparation, discipline, sportsmanship, academic commitment, and the way we represent our schools and communities. It is built through the daily choices we make — even when no one is watching.

Education-based athletics continues to play an important role in the development of our students. Through competition, they learn leadership, teamwork, perseverance, accountability, and how to respond when things do not go according to plan. These lessons will remain with them long after their playing days are over.

As the fall season gets underway, we remain committed to providing safe, competitive, and meaningful athletic experiences for every student-athlete. I encourage our entire athletic community to communicate openly, support one another, model positive sportsmanship, and always keep the well-being of our students at the center of every decision.

Thank you to our coaches, athletic directors, principals, athletic trainers, officials, parents, partners, and supporters for everything you do to make Fulton County Schools Athletics successful.

Let us begin this season with purpose, lead with integrity, and continue building programs that reflect excellence in everything we do.

Here's to a safe, successful, and memorable fall season!

Warm regards,

Lamarr C. Glenn

Director of Athletics | Fulton County Schools

#BuiltForExcellence

LAST SEASON BY THE NUMBERS

25+

GHSA STATE
CHAMPIONSHIPS

198+

COLLEGE SIGNEES

16

HIGH SCHOOLS

1

STANDARD:
EXCELLENCE

FALL SPORTS ARE UNDERWAY

Fall practices are underway across all 16 high schools. Below are the GHSA practice start dates for each fall sport.

Fall Sport	Practice Begins	First Contest
Football	July 27, 2026	<i>August 21, 2026</i>
Cheerleading / Game Day	July 27, 2026	<i>August 8/September 19, 2026</i>
Softball (Fast Pitch)	July 27, 2026	<i>August 1, 2026</i>
Volleyball	July 27, 2026	<i>August 3, 2026</i>
Cross Country	July 27, 2026	<i>August 10, 2026</i>
One Act & Literary	July 27, 2026	<i>No set date</i>
Riflery	July 27, 2026	<i>No set date</i>
Flag Football	September 7, 2026	<i>September 14, 2026</i>

RANK ONE: ATHLETE REGISTRATION

Rank One is the official athletics registration platform for all Fulton County Schools high schools and middle schools. Every student-athlete must have all Rank One requirements completed and approved before participating in any tryout, practice, or contest — no exceptions. Physicals are valid for twelve (12) months from the date of the exam; check your athlete's expiration date now.

PARENT ACTION ITEMS

- **Rank One Registration** — [Click Here](#)
- **GHSA Preparticipation Physical Form** — [Click Here](#)
- **Student Accident Insurance** — [Click Here](#)

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility is determined on the first day of each semester and is based on coursework completed the previous semester. A student who is ineligible in the fall may regain eligibility for the spring.

- **High school:** Students must pass courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units in the previous semester and remain on track to graduate with their cohort.
- **Middle school:** Students must pass five of six courses the previous semester — four core courses and one full connection segment. Core subjects count as one grade each; connection courses count as a half grade each.
- **Questions** about your student's status should go first to your school's athletic director and counselor.

2026–27 ELIGIBILITY CHECKPOINTS

- **Fall eligibility determined:** First day of the fall semester
- **End of first semester / spring eligibility set:** December 18th / January 20th

8TH GRADE PARTICIPATION

Eighth-grade students are eligible to participate on high school sub-varsity teams at their zoned feeder high school if the middle school does not offer the sport through extramurals. Approval is required from both the receiving coach and the parent or guardian. Extramural sports offered at FCS middle schools are tennis, gymnastics, track, volleyball, basketball, and soccer.

- Students may participate only at their home zoned high school. No exceptions.
- Eighth grade students are never eligible for varsity competition and may not dress for or compete in any GHSA playoff contest.
- Participation is limited to 70% of the varsity contest allotment in that sport, and all participants must be reported to GHSA on Eligibility Form D before the season begins.
- A current physical and all Rank One forms must be on file before any tryout, practice, workout, or game.

- FCS does not provide transportation from the middle school to the high school for practices or events, and eighth grade students are not granted early dismissal for athletic competitions.
- Full GHSA Bylaw 1.45 language and the complete FCS guidelines are available from your school's athletic director or at ghsa.net.

NEW FOR 2026–27: GHSA POST SEASON RANKING (PSR)

Beginning this school year, GHSA uses the Post Season Ranking (PSR) formula to qualify and seed teams for the state playoffs in all classifications and all 32-team bracket sports — a significant change from the previous model, which seeded teams by region finish.

- **Every game counts.** A team's entire regular season — not just region play — factors into its ranking. The formula weighs a team's winning percentage, its opponents' winning percentage, and its opponents' opponents' winning percentage, similar to the NCAA's RPI model.
- **Region champions are protected.** They are guaranteed a berth, placed in the top 16, and host a first-round contest. All remaining spots and seeds are determined statewide by PSR totals.
- **Schedule minimums apply.** Teams must compete in a region and play the minimum number of contests for their sport. Football requires a minimum of nine (9) games.
- **Tiebreakers:** head-to-head result, then highest PSR winning percentage, then opponents' winning percentage, then opponents' opponents' winning percentage.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR FANS

Strength of schedule now matters. Brackets may look different than in past years, and a familiar region rival may not be the first-round opponent. Every contest from September on affects postseason positioning.

Rankings are updated throughout the season at ghsa.net.

TICKETS, GOFAN & CLEAR BAG POLICY

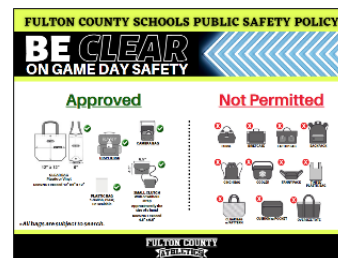
Fulton County Schools ticket prices will remain the same for the 2026-2027 school year. Gate receipts fund the school's total athletic program. Fulton County Schools is completely cashless at all athletic events — all tickets are purchased through GoFan, and a clear bag policy is in effect at every venue.

1 Go to GoFan Visit gofan.co or download the GoFan app and search for your school.	2 Buy Before You Go Student pre-sale football tickets are \$8.00 instead of \$10.00 at the gate.	3 Redeem at the Gate Pull up your ticket on your phone before you reach the gate. Screenshots are not accepted.
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2026–27 TICKET PRICES

Sport / Level	Price
Football — Varsity, Adults & Students (gate)	\$10.00
Football — Varsity, Students (pre-sale)	\$8.00
Football — Sub-Varsity, Adults	\$8.00
Basketball — all programs	\$8.00
Basketball — sub-varsity only	\$6.00
All other sports	\$6.00

CLEAR BAG POLICY



Bags must be clear plastic, vinyl, or PVC and no larger than 12" x 6" x 12". One clear bag per person, plus a small clutch no larger than 4.5" x 6.5". Prohibited items are not held at the gate — please leave them in your vehicle.

- **Football:** \$10.00 is the only amount collected at the gate for varsity football. Children 5 and under are free.
- **Basketball:** \$8.00 is the maximum charged for GHSA basketball in FCS, unless a region tournament sets the price.
- **Parking:** Booster organizations may charge \$2.00 to \$5.00 per vehicle as authorized by the principal. A Fulton County employee ID badge admits that employee only.

SPORTSMANSHIP & FAN EXPECTATIONS

FCS promotes and expects high standards of sportsmanship from all participants — athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators. Per GHSA, profanity, degrading remarks, and intimidating actions directed at officials, competitors, or other spectators will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal from the event site. Spectators may not enter the competition area before, during, or after a contest.

Cheer for our students. Respect the officials. Support the coaches. Represent your school well.

HEALTH & SAFETY: HEAT, LIGHTNING & EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Heat & Humidity — GHSA Bylaw 2.67

Georgia uses Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT), not the heat index, to measure heat stress. An approved WBGT device is used at every practice, with readings beginning 30 minutes before practice and every hour after. Athletes have unlimited access to water, and cooling zones with cold-water immersion are required at 80°F and above.

WBGT	Required Practice Modification
Under 82.0	Normal activities. At least three rest breaks each hour, minimum 4 minutes each.
82.0 – 86.9	Use discretion for intense or prolonged exercise; monitor at-risk athletes closely.
87.0 – 89.9	Maximum 2 hours. Football limited to helmet, shoulder pads, and shorts. Four rest breaks per hour.
90.0 – 92.0	Maximum 1 hour. Football: no protective equipment, no conditioning. 20 minutes of rest breaks.
Over 92.1	No outdoor workouts. Practice delayed until a cooler WBGT level is reached.

Lightning & Severe Weather

- A functioning lightning detector is required at every outdoor event and is monitored by the game manager. When thunder is heard or lightning is seen, play is suspended immediately and everyone moves to a safe location.
- **The 30-minute rule:** play does not resume until at least 30 minutes after the last thunder heard or lightning seen. Any subsequent thunder or lightning resets the clock.
- A safe location is a substantial building or a fully enclosed hard-top vehicle. Bleachers, dugouts, press boxes, and open shelters are not safe locations.
- Delays and postponements are communicated through your school's athletic department and FCS Athletics social media.

Athletic Training & Emergency Action Plans

- Every FCS high school has a certified athletic trainer.
- Each venue has a written Emergency Action Plan reviewed annually with coaches, administrators, and local EMS, identifying AED locations, ambulance access, and responder roles.
- Concussion protocol: any athlete showing signs of a concussion is removed from play immediately and may not return the same day. Return requires written clearance from a licensed health care provider and a graduated return-to-play progression.

Transportation & Away Contests

- Student-athletes travel to and from away contests on school-provided transportation. Athletes ride with the team both ways unless a parent submits the school's approved release form in advance and signs the athlete out in person with the coach.
- Departure and return times are communicated by each head coach. Questions about routing, bus availability, or late returns go to your school's athletic director.

COLLEGE RECRUITING CORNER

Fulton County Schools produced 198+ college signees last year across all 16 high schools. If your student-athlete hopes to compete at the next level, the work starts well before senior year.

- **Register early.** Sign up with the NCAA Eligibility Center at eligibilitycenter.org during the junior year, and with the NAIA Eligibility Center if considering NAIA schools.

- **Know the core-course requirements.** Division I requires 16 core courses, with 10 completed before the seventh semester. Ten of the 16 are locked in after the junior year and cannot be improved.
- **Talk to your coach and athletic director first.** Recruiting services are not required, and no family should pay for exposure without that conversation.
- **Signing dates:**

Date	Window	Who It Affects
November 11, 2026	Early signing period opens for most non-football sports	Baseball, softball, basketball, soccer, and other Class of 2027 athletes
December 4, 2026	Football early signing period opens (72-hour window)	FBS and FCS Class of 2027 signees
February 5, 2027	National Signing Day (football regular period opens)	Remaining football signees
April 2027	Regular signing periods continue for basketball and spring sports	Class of 2027 athletes still deciding
April 15, 2027	D2 spring signing benchmark	D2-bound seniors across sports
May 1, 2027	Common final window for NAIA and JUCO commitments	NAIA and JUCO-bound athletes

- **NIL and social media:** Understand GHSA rules on name, image, and likeness before entering any agreement. What is posted online follows a student-athlete into every recruiting conversation.

FOOTBALL MEDIA DAY & FALL SCRIMMAGES

All 16 Fulton County high school football teams attended FCS Football Media Day at the College Football Hall of Fame. Each head coach and key players shared their outlook on the upcoming season. We are looking forward to another exciting football season!



2026 Varsity Football Fall Scrimmage Schedule

Date	Time	Visitor	Host Site
August 6	7:00 PM	Cambridge	Roswell
August 6	7:00 PM	Grayson	Milton
August 7	6:00 PM	Northview	McNair
August 7	7:00 PM	North Springs	Griffin
August 7	7:00 PM	Centennial	Riverwood
August 7	7:30 PM	Creekside	Columbia
August 13	7:00 PM	Alpharetta	Heritage
August 13	7:00 PM	Westlake	North Atlanta
August 14	7:00 PM	Banneker	Tri-Cities
August 14	7:00 PM	North Springs	Johns Creek
August 14	7:00 PM	Northview	West Hall
August 14	7:00 PM	Douglas County	Langston Hughes

Fulton County host sites appear in bold green.

KEY DATES AT A GLANCE

Date	Event
<i>August 3, 2026</i>	First day of school — fall eligibility determined
<i>September 21- 25, 2026</i>	Fall Break; Practices and Games will still take place
<i>November 23 -27, 2026</i>	Thanksgiving Break
<i>October 28-31, 2026</i>	GHSA Softball State Championships
<i>October 29-31, 2026</i>	GHSA Volleyball State Championships
<i>November 6-7, 2026</i>	GHSA Cross Country State Championships
<i>November 13-14, 2026</i>	GHSA Cheerleading State Championships
<i>November 14 & November 21, 2026</i>	GHSA One Act Play State Championships
<i>December 8, 2026</i>	GHSA Flag Football State Championships
<i>December 10-12, 2026</i>	GHSA Gameday Cheer State Championships
<i>December 14-16, 2026</i>	GHSA Football State Championships

BOOSTERS, SPONSORS & VOLUNTEERS

Booster clubs, corporate partners, and volunteers directly fund uniforms, equipment, facility upgrades, and student-athlete experiences across all 16 high schools. All fundraising must be authorized by the principal and follow district financial procedures.

- **Join your school’s booster club.** Contact your athletic director for meeting dates and membership information.
- **Become a sponsor.** Opportunities include stadium signage, program advertising, and event partnerships.
- **Volunteer on game day.** Schools need help with gate operations, concessions, chain crews, and setup.

CONTACT YOUR ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Your school's athletic director is your first point of contact for schedules, eligibility, tickets, transportation, and program questions.

High School	Athletic Director	High School	Athletic Director
Alpharetta	<i>Alejandro Romero</i>	Langston Hughes	<i>Latrice Webster</i>
Banneker	<i>Dr. Shaina Williams</i>	Milton	<i>Kory Keys</i>
Cambridge	<i>Lesley Broadwell</i>	North Springs	<i>Keith Thomas</i>
Centennial	<i>Trey Henson</i>	Northview	<i>Scott Schwarzer</i>
Chattahoochee	<i>Chris Short</i>	Riverwood	<i>PJ Graybeck</i>
Creekside	<i>Dr. Mekia Troy</i>	Roswell	<i>Ben Sutter</i>
Hapeville Charter	<i>Winston Gordon</i>	Tri-Cities	<i>Fredrick Sippial</i>
Johns Creek	<i>Kirk Call</i>	Westlake	<i>Byron Parker</i>

DISTRICT ATHLETICS OFFICE

Lamarr C. Glenn — Director of Athletics, Fulton County Schools

470-254-6892 | glennl2@fultonschools.org | Rank One support: support@rankonesports.com

BUILT FOR EXCELLENCE

Fulton County Schools Athletics • Fall 2026



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