TIFT COUNTY RECREATION DEPARTMENT

2026 GRPA State Football Tournament Packet

Class B & Class C | 8U, 10U & 12U | December 5–6, 2026

Welcome

On behalf of the Tift County Recreation Department, welcome to the 2026 GRPA Class B/C State Football Tournament. We are honored to host players, coaches, agency representatives, families, and guests from across Georgia. All tournament games are scheduled for Saturday, December 5, and Sunday, December 6, at the E.B. Hamilton Football Complex in Tifton. We look forward to an outstanding weekend of competition and sportsmanship.

Tournament at a Glance

Tournament dates	Saturday–Sunday, December 5–6, 2026
Venue	E.B. Hamilton Sports Complex, 3199 E.B. Hamilton Drive, Tifton, GA 31794
Tournament brackets / schedules	https://www.quickscores.com/grpa
Vehicle admission	$8 per car, collected on site; credit/debit card preferred. Please avoid large bills.
Team entry fee	$255 per team. Please send payment with your agency representative and present it to tournament staff on tournament day.
Entry-fee payment	Send payment with your agency representative and present it to the appropriate tournament staff on tournament day.

Mandatory Pre-Tournament Coaches Meeting (Zoom)

Monday, November 30, 2026 — Two attendance options: 1:00 PM or 6:00 PM (Eastern Time).

Every participating team is required to have the Head Coach AND one department/agency representative attend one of the two Zoom meetings. Each organization may choose whichever meeting time works best; attendance at both sessions is not required.

This mandatory virtual meeting replaces the game-day coaches meeting. Please plan to attend in advance so that team check-in, weigh-in procedures, field logistics, GRPA rules, and sportsmanship expectations can be reviewed before tournament weekend.

The Zoom meeting link and joining instructions will be made available in mid-November.

Contact Information

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Office: (229) 382-3262 | recreation@tiftcounty.org

Tournament Director: Tim Petrea, CPRP, AFO | Cell: (229) 392-3166 | tim.petrea@tiftcounty.org

Agency Representative and Protest Procedures

Every team in GRPA district or state competition must be accompanied by at least one adult recreation staff member (preferably a full-time salaried GRPA professional), or a responsible adult personally designated by the agency director. If staff are not present, the designated representative must attend each game involving the agency's team and remain available to the Tournament Director as the person in charge.

Only the designated agency representative may formally protest a game or an ineligible player. Once a protest is filed and the required fee paid, the agency director/staff representative must be involved.

Sportsmanship and Spectator Conduct

Negative cheering or hollering, whether directed for or against a team, may result in a warning and/or removal from the site. Artificial noisemakers are prohibited in dugouts, bleachers, seating areas, and standing areas around the perimeter of youth competitions. The Tournament Director has final authority on enforcement decisions.

GRPA Sportsmanship Statement: "The Georgia Recreation and Park Association and its member agencies have made a commitment to promote good sportsmanship by athletes, coaches, and spectators at all GRPA sanctioned events. Profanity, degrading remarks, and intimidating actions directed at officials or competitors will not be tolerated, and are grounds for removal from the event site. Spectators are not allowed to enter the competition area during warm-ups or while the contest is being conducted. Thank you for your cooperation in the promotion of good sportsmanship at today's event."

Team Rosters, Personnel and Check-In

- Maximum roster: 30 players per team. A maximum of five team personnel are permitted inside the confines of the field.
- Official rosters and acceptable birth records are subject to verification with State Athletic Committee members and the District Commissioner.
- All adult team personnel and youth players must attend team/roster check-in before their team's first tournament game. The Tournament Director will visually cross-check players against the roster.
- A player absent from initial team check-in must check in with the Tournament Director before participating.
- All players, their helmets, and rosters must be checked before each game in district and state tournament play.

Football Game Limits and Rest

- No team may play more than two football games in a single day.
- A minimum three-hour rest period is required between games. If extenuating circumstances arise, the state chair or designee must be notified.
- Tournament staff will monitor game completion times and adjust subsequent kickoff times as needed to preserve the required rest period.

Length of Games

- Regulation games consist of four 8-minute quarters.
- Each team is permitted three timeouts per half.
- Halftime is limited to 10 minutes.

Official Weigh-In Procedures

The host will provide digital or balance-type scales; spring scales are not acceptable. Players must weigh in at each level of play. Once a player has met the applicable weight requirement at that level, the player does not need to reweigh during the same level of play.

- Official weigh-in is conducted two hours before game time. Players who do not meet the weight limit may use a second/alternate weigh-in one hour before game time.
- A team may choose to weigh in one hour before game time instead, but then no alternate weigh-in is permitted.
- A player failing to meet the weight requirement at the alternate weigh-in is ineligible to carry or handle the ball.
- A player absent from the team's first game must weigh in before participating in a subsequent game.
- Players attempting to make weight after district play may reweigh at their first state game. Teams advancing directly to state must meet all weight requirements.
- Failure to complete a required weigh-in may result in ejection of the player and/or coach from the facility, as provided in the GRPA rules.

Traditional Football: Weight Limits, Helmet Stripes and Player Positioning

To prevent confusion during weigh-ins and games, the following traditional-football restrictions are drawn from the GRPA Athletic Manual (revised April 27, 2026, p. 153). These restrictions apply to players who exceed the maximum weight for receiving a hand-off or pass from scrimmage.

- 8U: 100 pounds maximum to receive a hand-off or pass from scrimmage.
- 10U: 125 pounds maximum to receive a hand-off or pass from scrimmage.
- 12U: 150 pounds maximum to receive a hand-off or pass from scrimmage.
- Players exceeding the applicable limit are ineligible to run the ball and must wear a diagonal RED stripe on the back of the helmet; teams with red helmets must use a WHITE stripe.
- Striped players on offense must line up tackle-to-tackle (T–G–C–G–T). Offensive linemen may use a 2-, 3-, or 4-point stance.

- Striped players on defense must play as down linemen, tackle-to-tackle on the line of scrimmage, in a 3- or 4-point stance. Striped defensive linemen may not align outside the outside shoulder of the offensive tackles.
- Defensive linemen must use a 3- or 4-point stance. Any player aligned tackle-to-tackle on the line of scrimmage is considered a lineman. Linebackers aligned tackle-to-tackle must be off the line, with depth at least to the back of the farthest lineman position; violation carries the same penalty as offside.
- 8U ONLY: No defensive player may line up over the center. No quarterback sneaks are allowed. When the quarterback runs up the middle, a running back must lead; the quarterback may run outside the guards. Direct snaps are permitted only to the quarterback. The stated penalty is the same as illegal formation.
- Coaches must maintain the required helmet stripes and ensure striped players are in legal positions. An incorrectly aligned striped player results in a 5-yard penalty. Striped players may punt and kick on kickoffs or field-goal attempts.
- Unstriped players have no additional restrictions under this provision; see National Federation rules.
- Official weight is determined on approved/certified scales. Players must wear at least gym shorts during weigh-in; completely stripping is not permitted.
- Players should report to weigh-in in alphabetical order. A coach should be present with the roster and birth certificates, also in alphabetical order.

Tournament reminder: Coaches should check helmet stripes and player alignments before each game; the official weigh-in determination controls eligibility to carry/handle the ball.

Coaching and Playing Rules

Teams must meet GRPA coaching certification requirements. The tournament will be governed by the applicable GRPA Athletic Rule Book and relevant NFHS/GHSA football rules. The Tournament Director will coordinate any necessary rule interpretations with tournament officials and GRPA leadership.

Visitor Resources

Places to stay: https://tiftontourism.com/places-to-stay

Places to dine: https://tiftontourism.com/places-to-dine

Thank you for your cooperation. We wish every team a safe, enjoyable, and successful tournament.

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