# Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia

## Department 54 DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA ATHLETE AGENTS

*Current through Rules and Regulations filed through June 22, 2022*

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ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

The Administrative History following each Rule gives the date on which the rule was originally filed and its effective date, as well as the date on which any amendment or repeal was filed and its effective date. Principal abbreviations used in the Administrative History are as follows:

f. - filed

eff. - effective

R. - Rule (Abbreviated only at the beginning of the control number)

Ch. - Chapter (Abbreviated only at the beginning of the control number)

ER. - Emergency Rule

Rev. - Revised

Note: Emergency Rules are listed in each Rule's Administrative History by Emergency Rule number, date filed and effective date. The Emergency Rule will be in effect for 120 days or until the effective date of a permanent Rule covering the same subject matter superseding this Emergency Rule is adopted, as specified by the Agency.

Chapter 54-1, entitled "Organization" containing Rules 54-1-.01 through 54-1-.04, adopted. Filed October 17, 1989; effective November 6, 1989.

Chapter 54-2, entitled "Definitions" containing Rules 54-2-.01 through 54-2-.09, adopted. Filed October 17, 1989; effective November 6, 1989.

Chapter 54-3, entitled "Application Process" containing Rules 54-3-.01 through 54-3-.07, adopted. Filed October 17, 1989; effective November 6, 1989.

Chapter 54-4, entitled "Renewal/Registration Update" containing Rules 54-4-.01 through 54-4-.05, adopted. Filed October 17, 1989; effective November 6, 1989.

Chapter 54-5, entitled "Institution of Higher Education" containing Rules 54-5-.01 and 54-5-.02, adopted. Filed October 17, 1989; effective November 6, 1989.

Chapter 54-6, entitled "Signing Provisions" containing Rules 54-6-.01 through 54-6-.05, adopted. Filed October 17, 1989; effective November 6, 1989.

Chapter 54-7, entitled "Sanctions" containing Rules 54-7-.01 through 54-7-.04, adopted. Filed October 17, 1989; effective November 6, 1989.
Chapter 54-8, entitled "Complaints" containing Rule 54-8-.01, adopted. Filed October 17, 1989; effective November 6, 1989.

Chapter 54-9, entitled "Fees" containing Rules 54-9-.01 and 54-9-.02, adopted. Filed October 17, 1989; effective November 6, 1989.

Chapter 54-10, entitled "Procedural Rules", containing Rules 54-10-.01 and 54-10-.02, adopted. Filed October 17, 1989; effective November 6, 1989.

Chapter 54-11, entitled "Public Information", containing Rules 54-11-.01 and 54-11-.02, adopted. Filed October 17, 1989; effective November 6, 1989.

Rule 54-3-.02 has been repealed and a new Rule of same title adopted. Filed September 5, 1990; effective September 25, 1990.

Rule 54-2-.03(a) has been repealed and a new Rule adopted. Filed January 18, 1991; effective February 7, 1991.

Rule 54-3-.03(1) has been repealed and a new Rule adopted. Filed January 18, 1991; effective February 7, 1991.

Rule 54-2-.03 has been amended. Filed July 30, 1991; effective August 19, 1991.

Rule 54-2-.03 has been amended. Filed December 3, 1992; effective December 23, 1992.

Rule 54-2-.03 has been amended. Rule 54-4-.06 has been adopted. Filed February 10, 1995; effective March 2, 1995.

Rule 54-6-.02 has been repealed. Rules 54-1-.01, 54-5-.02, 54-6-.03, 54-11-.01 have been repealed and new Rules adopted. Filed August 22, 2001; effective September 11, 2001.

Department 54 entitled "Georgia Athlete Agent Regulatory Commission" title changed to "Department of Georgia Athlete Agents." Rule 54-3-.08 adopted; Rules 54-1-.01, 54-2-.01, 54-3-.01, 02, 03, 07, 54-4-.02, 03, 05, 54-7-.01 through .04, 54-8-.01, 54-9-.01, 54-10-.01 amended; Rules 54-1-.02, .03, .04, 54-2-.02 through .09, 54-4-.01, .04, 06, 54-6-.01, .04, 54-9-.02 repealed; Chapters 54-5, 54-11 repealed in its entirety. F. Apr. 21, 2021; eff. May 11, 2021.

Chapter 54-1. ORGANIZATION.

Rule 54-1-.01. Administration.
All rules and regulations which are promulgated by the Secretary of State pertaining to the Uniform Athlete Agents Act shall be administered by the Professional Licensing Boards Division of the Office of the Secretary of State, through the Division Director of the Professional Licensing Boards Division. The Office of the Division Director is located at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217-3858.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-1-.01

Rule 54-1-.02. [Repealed].

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-1-.02

Rule 54-1-.03. [Repealed].

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-1-.03

Rule 54-1-.04. [Repealed].

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-1-.04

Chapter 54-2. DEFINITIONS.

Rule 54-2-.01. Definitions.

As used in these Rules and Regulations and in the Uniform Athlete Agents Act, the following terms shall mean the following:

(a) "Law" means the Uniform Athlete Agents Act, O.C.G.A. § 43-4A.
(b) "Agent Contract" means an agreement between an athlete and an athlete agent which authorizes the agent to pursue employment for the athlete with a professional sports team or as a professional athlete.

c) "Athlete" means an individual who is eligible to participate in any Intercollegiate sport and who is currently enrolled as a student at an institution of higher education, or has signed a national grant-in-aid with an institution of higher education.

d) "Athlete Agent" means:

   (1) any individual, company, corporation, association, partnership, or other legal entity which directly or indirectly recruits or solicits an athlete to enter into an agent contract or professional sports service contract, or, for a fee, procures, offers, promises, or attempts to obtain employment for an athlete with a professional sports team; or

   (2) Any owner, employee, or other representative of a professional sports team is not deemed an athlete agent if he/she does not recruit or solicit such athlete to enter into an offer, promise, or attempt to obtain employment for an athlete with a professional sports team.

(e) "Athletic Department" means the entity which exercises control over the intercollegiate sports program at a public or private post-secondary school in Georgia.

(f) "Professional Sports Service Contract" means an agreement under which an individual is employed, or agrees to render services, as a player on a professional sports team, with a professional sports organization, or as a professional athlete.

(g) "Athletic Director" means the representative of the Georgia public or private post-secondary school who is in responsible charge of the Athletic Department of the school.

(h) "Institution of Higher Education" means a public or private post-secondary school which is located in Georgia.

(i) "Person" means any individual, company, corporation, association, partnership, or other legal entity.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-2-.01

Rule 54-2-.02. [Repealed].

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-2-.02
Rule 54-2-.03. [Repealed].

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-2-.03

Rule 54-2-.04. [Repealed].

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-2-.04

Rule 54-2-.05. [Repealed].

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-2-.05

Rule 54-2-.06. [Repealed].

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-2-.06

Rule 54-2-.07. [Repealed].

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-2-.07

Rule 54-2-.08. [Repealed].
Chapter 54-3. APPLICATION PROCEDURES.

Rule 54-3-.01. Application.

(1) Any person who seeks to practice as an athlete agent shall apply for registration on forms which are available online through the Secretary of State's website, or will be provided upon request.

(2) Any person who seeks to practice as an athlete agent shall submit an Application for Athlete Agent Registration.

(3) Business Location. The applicant shall provide the Secretary of State with the street address of the principal place of business from which the applicant proposes to conduct business as an athlete agent.

(4) Training and Experience. Each applicant shall submit affidavits or certificates of completion of any and all formal training and practical experience in any one of the following areas:
   (a) Contracts,
   (b) Contract negotiations,
   (c) Complaint resolution,
   (d) Arbitration, and
   (e) Civil resolution of contract disputes.

   (f) Persons without experience in at least one of the five (5) areas listed in this subsection may request in writing that the Secretary of State consider other relevant training and practical experience. The written request must set forth with particularity the specific training and practical experience which the applicant
possesses and the applicant’s reasons for requesting that the requirements of this subsection be waived. The Secretary of State, in its sole discretion, may accept other relevant training, education or experience that it deems to be appropriate.

(5) An application must be completed within six (6) months of the date the first document was received by the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State will only approve qualified applicants who submit a complete file which consists of an Application for Athlete Agent Registration (with attached affidavits or certificates of completion), Surety Bond, and appropriate application fee.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-3-.01

Rule 54-3-.02. Fees.

Each application must be accompanied by an application fee. Application fees are non-refundable. See fee schedule for the current list of fees.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-3-.02

Rule 54-3-.03. Surety Bond.

(1) An applicant for registration shall deposit with the Secretary of State a surety bond in the penal sum of not less than $10,000. At no time during any registration period shall the athlete agent be without the bond. The bond shall be executed in favor of the State with a surety company authorized to do business in Georgia. The bond shall be conditioned to pay a pro rata share of the amount of the bond for damages to each athletic department aggrieved by any act which the agent commits which violates Official Code of Georgia Annotated § 43-4A-16 or any act which would be grounds for revocation of the athlete agent's registration under Official Code of Georgia Annotated §§ 43-4A-7 or 43-4A-8.

(2) If a registered athlete agent fails to maintain a surety bond, the Secretary of State shall suspend the registration until such time as the agent obtains a new bond. An athlete agent shall not carry on business as an athlete agent during such period of suspension.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-3-.03
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 43-4A-12.
Rule 54-3-.04. [Repealed].

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-3-.04

Rule 54-3-.05. [Repealed].

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-3-.05

Rule 54-3-.06. [Repealed].

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-3-.06
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19.

Rule 54-3-.07. Refusal to Grant Registration.

(1) The Secretary of State may refuse to grant a registration or may limit and/or restrict a registration upon making a finding that an applicant has committed any act which is enumerated in Official Code of Georgia Annotated Title 43.

(2) The Secretary of State shall notify an applicant in writing of the Secretary of State's refusal to grant a registration. The notice shall set forth the reason(s) for the refusal.

(3) Within sixty (60) days of receipt of a notice of refusal to grant a registration, an applicant may file a written request to appear before the Secretary of State as a non-contested case under the Administrative Procedures Act. The Secretary of State will then schedule a time for the applicant to appear before the Secretary of State at a regularly scheduled meeting. The applicant may present additional documentation at the scheduled appearance.

(4) The Secretary of State shall notify the applicant, in writing, of the decision after a scheduled appearance with the applicant.
(5) An applicant who has been refused registration may submit a new application, supporting documentation, and the appropriate fee to the Secretary of State subsequent to receipt of notification of the refusal of the registration.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-3-.07
Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-4A-6, 43-1-19

Rule 54-3-.08. Military Spouses and Transitioning Service Members.

(1) As used in this rule, the following terms shall mean:
   (a) "License" means any license issued by the Secretary of State to practice as an Athlete Agent in the state of Georgia.
   (b) "Military" means the United States armed forces, including the National Guard.
   (c) "Service member" means an active or reserve member of the armed forces, including the National Guard.
   (d) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.
   (e) "Transitioning service member" means a member of the military on active duty status or on separation leave who is within twenty-four (24) months of retirement or twelve (12) months of separation.

(2) Effective January 1, 2021, military spouses and transitioning service members stationed within this state shall qualify for expedited processing of the license application by showing that the applicant is a military spouse or transitioning service member and that the applicant has paid the fee and meets the requirements for a license under the law and rules for the type of license for which the applicant has applied and:
   (a) Holds a current license to practice such occupation or profession issued by another state for which the training, experience, and testing are substantially similar in qualifications and scope to the requirements under this state to obtain a license;
   (b) Is in good standing in such other state; and
   (c) Passes any examination that may only be required to demonstrate knowledge of the laws and rules and regulations of this state specific to the practice of the profession, business, or trade for which such expedited license by endorsement is being sought.
Chapter 54-4. RENEWAL/REGISTRATION UPDATE.

Rule 54-4-.01. [Repealed].

Rule 54-4-.02. Change of Name or Address.

It is the duty of each registrant to notify the Secretary of State in writing if their name or address changes from that which they previously filed with the Secretary of State. A notice of change of name must be accompanied by a certified copy of a marriage certificate, Court order or other legal document. Changes of address may be made online by the registrant, or by written request to the Secretary of State.

Rule 54-4-.03. Biennial Renewal Cycle.

(1) An initial registration shall become effective upon issuance of the registration number by the Secretary of State that the applicant has been assigned a registration number.

(2) All registrations shall expire on June 30 of odd numbered years.

(3) Notice of registration expiration will be emailed to all registered athlete agents with valid email addresses on file with the Secretary of State; otherwise, notice of registration expiration will be mailed by regular mail to the mailing address on file. Notice will provide instruction on renewing the registration online, as well as providing instruction on obtaining a renewal application by mail.

(4) The applicant for renewal shall submit to the Secretary of State, on or before June 30 of odd numbered years:

(a) a complete Application for Renewal; and
(b) the biennial renewal fee (See Fee Schedule); and

(c) a surety bond in accordance with these rules.

(5) A person whose registration has expired may no longer practice the occupation of athlete agent.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-4-.03
Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-4A-6, 43-4A-4

Rule 54-4-.04. [Repealed].

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-4-.04
Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-4A-6, 43-4A-4

Rule 54-4-.05. Revocation for Failure to Renew.

A registration shall be revoked for failure to renew if the registration has expired and the licensee has failed to meet the requirements for renewal on or before July 1 of the renewal year. In order to reinstate the registration, a person whose registration has been revoked for failure to renew must apply for registration following the procedure set out in Chapter 54-3. The applicant must satisfy the current requirements for registration set out in Chapter 54-3. In order to meet the current requirements, the applicant may use any qualifying experience and training, including any which was applied toward their initial registration. In addition to all other fees, a person seeking to reinstate a registration that has been revoked, must pay a reinstatement fee (see Fee Schedule).

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-4-.05
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19(d).

Rule 54-4-.06. [Repealed].

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-4-.06
Chapter 54-5. [Repealed].

Rule 54-5-.01. [Repealed].

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-5-.01

Rule 54-5-.02. [Repealed].

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-5-.02

Chapter 54-6. SIGNING PROVISIONS.

Rule 54-6-.01. [Repealed].

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-6-.01

Rule 54-6-.02. Repealed.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-6-.02
Authority: O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-4A-4, 43-4A-16.

Rule 54-6-.03. Notice to Athletic Director.

An athlete agent shall notify in writing the appropriate athletic director of having signed an athlete before the contracting athlete practices or participates in any intercollegiate event or within 72 hours after entering into the contract, whichever comes first.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-6-.03
Authority: O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-4A-4, 43-4A-16.
Rule 54-6-.04. [Repealed].

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-6-.04

Rule 54-6-.05. Prohibited Acts Prior to Signing.

Prior to signing an athlete to an agent contract, an agent shall not compensate that athlete or take any other action which may jeopardize that athlete's eligibility to participate in intercollegiate sports contests at an institution of higher education.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-6-.05
Authority: O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-4A-4 and 43-4A-16.

Rule 54-6-.06. Sanctions.

An agent who fails to comply with the provisions of this Chapter shall be subject to the sanctions set out in Chapter 54-7.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-6-.06
Authority: O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-4A-4 and 43-4A-16.

Chapter 54-7. SANCTIONS.

Rule 54-7-.01. Revocation of Registration or Discipline of Registrant.

(1) The Secretary of State may revoke a registration or may discipline a registrant upon a finding that the registrant, its representative or employee has violated Official Code of Georgia Annotated Chapter 43-4A.

(2) When the Secretary of State finds that a registrant should be disciplined, any one or more of the actions enumerated in Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section 43-1-19 may be taken.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-7-.01
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19.
Rule 54-7-.02. Violations: Felony, Unregistered Practice, Void Contract.

(1) Any person who violates Chapter 43-4A shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less than $5,000.00 or more than $100,000.00 or by imprisonment from one to five years, or both.

(2) Any agent contract or professional services contract that is negotiated for, with, or on behalf of an athlete by a person who has not first registered with the Secretary of State is void.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-7-.02

Rule 54-7-.03. Failure to Maintain Surety Bond.

(1) The Secretary of State shall suspend a registration if the registrant fails to maintain such bond so as to comply with Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section 43-4A-13 or Section 43-4A-14. An athlete agent shall not carry on business as an athlete agent during the period of suspension.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-7-.03

Rule 54-7-.04. Failure to Comply with Signing Provisions.

Regardless of an athlete's eligibility to participate in intercollegiate sports at an institution of higher education, the athlete agent must comply with signing provisions of O.C.G.A. § 43-4A-14 and 43-4A-15. Failure to do so shall result in the following:

(a) The agent shall be liable for damages in the amount of the surety bond to the athletic department at the institution of higher education at which the athlete is enrolled; and
(b) The agent shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Secretary of State pursuant to Rule 54-7-.01, and to a civil penalty pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 43-4A-15.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-7-.04

Chapter 54-8. COMPLAINTS.

Rule 54-8-.01. Complaints.

(1) Any person may file a complaint against a registered athlete agent or an unregistered person who is practicing as an athlete agent. The Complaint must be in writing and must be delivered to the Secretary of State at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, GA 31217. The Complaint may also be filed online through the Secretary of State's website.

(2) The complaint shall include the complainant's name and contact information, shall be signed by the complainant if submitted in writing, and shall give the name and address of the person or business entity against whom the complaint is filed.

(3) The complaint must specify the circumstances which led to the complaint being filed.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-8-.01
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19.

Chapter 54-9. FEES.

Rule 54-9-.01. Fees.

Refer to Fee Schedule for appropriate fees payable to the Secretary of State. Fees may be reviewed and changed at the discretion of the Secretary of State. Any request for refund must be submitted in writing.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-9-.01
Chapter 54-10. PROCEDURAL RULES.

Rule 54-10-.01. Administrative Procedures.

The Secretary of State hereby adopts by reference Procedures for Hearings before the several Professional Licensing Boards Chapter 13 of Title 50, the Georgia Administrative Procedures Act and any future amendments thereto.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-10-.01
Authority: O.C.G.A. Sec. 43-4A-7.

Rule 54-10-.02. Refusal to Grant Registration.

The refusal to grant a registration shall not be considered a contested case within the meaning of the Georgia Administrative Procedures Act. Notice of hearing within the meaning of such Chapter shall not be required.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-10-.02

Rule 54-11. [Repealed].

Chapter 54-11. [Repealed].

Rule 54-11-.01. [Repealed].

Rule 54-11-.02. [Repealed].
Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 54-11-.02
Authority: O.C.G.A. § 43-1-3.