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## GRPA Athletic Manual

### **RULE CHANGES/2017 ATHLETIC MANUAL**

The athletic manual is available online at [www.grpa.org](http://www.grpa.org) under the “Athletics” tab

**All page # references are from the 2016 Athletic Manual**

#### **All Sports:**

CHANGED - For all team sports allow within district lines for individuals to compete in the nearest or adjoin departments with the following restrictions:

- a. Home County or Agency has no program.
- b. Cannot cross district lines.
- c. Cannot pass over a program to participate in another agency.
- d. Must participate in the sport program in the host agency.
- e. Host agency must endorse participant.
- f. Participant must be approved by District Athletic Chair. Once approved, they are legal throughout District and State.
- g. Host agency must notify the District Athletic Chair with list and Home County of each crossover participant. The district must forward info to the State Host and Athletic Chair.

CHANGED - In all Youth Sports, drop the category names Flea, Mite, Midget, etc. Refer to them as 8 & Under, 10 & Under, etc.

ADDED - All head and assistant coaches that are coaching youth teams participating in all levels of GRPA athletics must have undergone a criminal background check through their department. By signing the team’s GRPA roster, the department director or their designee attests that this has taken place.

ADDED - Page 43, Section B, Number 1d, Article I, Rule 1. Add the following after the first sentence. “If the player’s parents are divorced and the court has awarded joint custody of the child, the player’s eligibility shall be determined by where he/she attends school.”

CHANGED - Page 44, Section D, Number 1. Middle school/9th grade athletes that are 14 years of age or younger are eligible to participate in GRPA. No participant that is on a varsity high school sport roster in all sports is eligible to participate in GRPA. Exception: Summer Sports.

ADDED - Page 55, Section A, Number 1-b, Article Hosting State, Rule 1. Add sentence: All awards for GRPA state tournaments must be purchased from the official awards vendors that are approved by the State Athletic Committee and Board of Trustees.

ADDED - In all team sports, teams are allowed to add up to 3 players to their roster when advancing to a state tournament. This can only be done if there is enough room on the original roster to add the names. Any additions must be made and submitted to the state host prior to their team’s first game of the state tournament.

#### **Youth Basketball:**

CHANGED - Page 72, Section C, Number 9, Rule IV. Take this out and let them play like the 10 & Under

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### Swimming:

CHANGED - Swimming: Reduce the number of medals to (3). Give ribbons 4th-8th.

ADDED - Page 125, Section B, Rule IX, Article I, Number 4. Adding another certification option for coaches to be eligible to be on deck. ASCA has developed a new certification for summer swim league coaches.

ADDED - Page 126, Article I, Section C, Number 4. Swimming. After “custom relay times were swam at the qualifying meet”, ADD if custom relay times are submitted, the 1,500+ agency submitting the relay entries must clearly indicate to the state host where the custom times were derived from(IE highlight the times in the qualifying meet results. If no time submitted, it will be a no-time.

ADDED - Page 126, Article I, Section C, Number 5-6. Swimming. All meet entries must be submitted by the district or qualifying meet host utilizing Hy-Tek or Meet manager. 1500+ agency entries should be on one entry file with one agency name. Swimmers from 1500+ agencies must be listed by their agency team’s name on the state entries rather than the community team’s name that may have been used at the qualifying meet.

ADDED - Page 126, Article 1, Section C, Number 3. Swimming. Individual competitors may enter a max of two individual swimming events and two relay events, including one freestyle and one medley relay. Diving competitors may enter two events in which he/she qualified for at the agency or district meet.

ADDED - Page 127, Article II, Section A, Number 4. Swimming. It is “Strongly Recommended” that both an agency member and swim coach from each agency or team attend swim meeting/s/webinar to ensure that all necessary parties are clear on any rule changes or clarifications. Have host produce a Power Point that highlights guidelines for swim participation and display power point on GRPA website 60 days in advance of swim meet or have someone tape a video that is put on the GRPA website and have it displayed on the website.

ADDED - Page 126, Article I, Section C, Number 4. Swimming. Relay Cards must be provided to the agency rep or coach for each team in the coach’s packets upon arrival at the facility. If the team/agency does not utilize the relay cards or the approved computer change form to indicate any changes, they will have no recourse to challenge any changes to the relay including the order of the swimmers other than what was submitted at the entry deadline.

ADDED - Page 128-129, Section C. Swimming. The use of a bullpen is optional and shall be determined by the meet host/tournament director.

ADDED - Page 129, Article III, Section A, Number 4. Swimming. State meet hosts must also have an awards podium for 1st-8th place.

ADDED - Page 128-129, Article II, Section C. Swimming. Dive-over starts shall be permitted for preliminaries with the final decision to be made in consultation with the meet referee. Dive-over starts are not permitted during the finals.

ADDED - Page 130, article III, Section B. Swimming. For timing adjustments and malfunctions, refer to the USA Swim Rules.

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ADDED - Swimming: Each team will be allowed 2 coaches on the swim deck at a time. Larger teams will be allowed an additional coach on deck at a ratio of 1 for every 25 swimmers up to a max of 4 coaches.

ADDED - Swimming: Each team shall receive 6 current copies of both the heat sheets and entry sheets by 7 am each day of the meet. Discretion of state host if less than a ratio of 1 to 20 swimmers.

### **Baseball:**

CHANGED - Page 93, section C, Number 7a. To place a maximum number of pitches for a tournament in all youth baseball: for ages 9-10 120, ages 11-12 120, ages 13-14 160, ages 15-17 160.

CHANGED - Page 93. Once a pitcher leaves the mound he cannot return to the mound in that game, regardless of the number of pitches thrown.

CHANGED - Page 98. Increase maximum outfield fence distance to not be more than 225 feet instead of 200 feet.

CHANGED - Page 101, 2d, Rule 8 & Under. Take out "Umpire feeding the machine".

ADDED - 7/8 Coach Pitch Baseball. Pitchers on defense wear a mask for safety reason.

ADDED - All Tournaments will start on Tuesday regardless of # of teams.

### **Youth Softball:**

ADDED - All Tournaments will start on Tuesday regardless of # of teams.

CHANGED - Page 115 10U Pitching machine Fast Pitch Softball. Time limit to 1:15 and then revert to ASA Rule 5, Section 11.

CLARIFIED - Page 122, Rule VIII. Coach Pitch Softball. Change sentence to read: Pitcher will pitch under-hand and can be without arch, but with moderate speed.

### **Track and Field:**

CHANGED - Track: Reduce the number of medals to (3). Give ribbons 4th-8th.

CHANGED - Track/Field: Page 75, Change age cutoff date prior to May 1 (Effective 2018)

CHANGED - Track/Field: Page 77, Eliminate the 4x400 relay for 7/8 year olds only.

ADDED - Track/Field: Page 78, Section 1, Rule V, Number 1. Add, "No international exchange zones in 4x100 relay"

ADDED - Page 81, Section A, Number 3f. Use wireless timing with watches only as backup. .32 caliber pistols may be used for all events.

CHANGED – Track/Field: Have Class A and B/C meet at the same location on the same weekend making a large event. Odd years would be in the South and even years in the North. Change Parade time to 4:30 PM and start of event time to 5:00 PM.

ADDED – Track/Field: Add mini-javelin and or discus. Add 3200 meter event for 12U and 14U age groups.

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ADDED – Track/Field: State meet host must also have an awards podium for 1st-8th place.

CHANGED - Page 76, Rule V, Article II, Section A, Number 3. Track/Field. Change the webinar to one of a couple options. Have host produce a Power Point that highlights guidelines for track participation and display power point on GRPA website 60 days in advance of track meet or have someone tape a video that is put on the GRPA website and have it displayed on the website.

CHANGED – Track/Field: Page 77, Delete 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E. See Track/Field section for new order of events.

### **Youth Football:**

ADDED - Page 146, Section A, Number 1. Football. Add age groups 7, 8, 9,10,11,12. Same age control date. Unlimited weight restriction only.

CHANGED - Page 148, Rule XIII, Section C, Number 2V. Football. Take out the 5lb variance and add back in that all players must weigh in at all levels of GRPA football. In effect in 2017.

CHANGED - Page 148. Football. Remove 2 weight protests per game. Protest must occur prior to the game.

ADDED - Page 149, Article 2, Section c, Number 8. Football. **OVERTIME: In the 8 & Under division ONLY;** If a game ends in a tie, the 10-yard line overtime procedure will be used with the ball being placed on the 10-yard line with each team getting a series. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Overtime will use 10 yard procedure and 3<sup>rd</sup> overtime the ball will be placed on the 3 yd line, each team will be given ONE play to score (no extra point attempts in 3<sup>rd</sup> OT or any successive OT periods).

CHANGED - Page 148 (v) Any team(s) found utilizing ineligible players will be penalized by forfeiting the game.

## **PREFACE**

**The GRPA State Athletic Committee is charged with the responsibility of the organization, conduct, supervision, and evaluation of an athletic program for Georgia residents on a statewide basis for its members and affiliated groups. Authority for the committee is found in the CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS of the GEORGIA RECREATION & PARK ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED.**

The State Athletic Committee, mindful of its function and the authority vested in it by the members of the Georgia Recreation & Park Association, has set forth rules and regulations of which the objects and purposes are as follows:

1. To unite one organization in all competitive athletics conducted by agency members of GRPA;
2. To promote and maintain high standards of athletic competition and sportsmanship in Georgia;
3. To promote and provide the best training and guidance for athletic coaches and game officials;
4. To promote recognition of recreation sports for Georgia residents;
5. To improve and expand athletic participation;
6. To provide athletic and professional fellowship;
7. To assist in any practical way, the improvement of athletic competition throughout Georgia and to promote and regulate state championships where desirable and practical; and
8. To function in such a manner as will further the interests of athletic competition in Georgia and to promote the Georgia Recreation & Parks Association, Inc.

## **GRPA Athletic Manual**

**THE ATHLETIC MANUAL** is the official publication of the GRPA State Athletic Committee with its intent and purpose being to provide rules and guidelines for athletic programs throughout the State of Georgia. Reference is to types of activities, specific rules and qualifications for participants. The Athletic Manual is revised periodically as the State Athletic Committee deems necessary. Manuals are to be made available at nominal costs to individuals and without charge to GRPA agency members, GRPA district commissioners, State Athletic Committee members and such organizations deemed appropriate by the committee chairperson.

The State Athletic Committee will serve as final authority on the interpretation of the rules and regulations established in this Athletic Manual of the Georgia Recreation & Park Association, Inc. The Athletic Manual is reviewed yearly with Rule Change requests received and voted upon every two years. Rules changes are voted on by simple majority for those rules that were submitted on time and distributed for review prior to the meeting. For any rule change that is made from the floor or requested by agency members on the date of the meeting must be approved by 2/3 of the members present for the rule to be adopted. Any rule changes made during non-rule change submittals will follow Robert's Rule of Order, as amended. For any matter to be reconsidered it must be motioned and seconded by the prevailing party and passed by 2/3 of members present. After motion is back on the floor it will follow Robert's Rules of Order as amended and be subject to a simple majority vote. Rule changes that are made by National Governing Bodies that affect GRPA Athletic Manual will be voted on by the Committee during non- rule change year by simple majority.

State Host Bids received by the date required will be distributed to all members prior to the meeting to discuss with their respective districts. Bids may only be taken from the floor if there are no bids submitted by the due date or if sole bidder withdraws their name. State host bids will be determined by a simple majority vote.

Adopted the 4<sup>th</sup> day of January 1964. Revised December 11, 1965; January 31, 1967; January 4, 1970; January 11, 1972; January 9, 1974; January 7, 1975; September 9, 1975; September 14, 1976; September 23, 1977; September 14, 1978; September 25, 1979; September 16 and 17, 1980; September 16, 1981; September 29, 1982; September 28, 1983; September 19, 1984; September 12, 1985; September 18, 1986; August 27, 1987; August 25, 1988; August 22, 1989; September 19, 1990; August 19, 1991; September 14, 1992; September 8, 1993; August 17, 1994; September 11, 1995; September 9, 1996; September 9, 1997; September 2, 1998; August 28, 1999; August 29, 2000; August 2001; October 2-3, 2002; October 1-2, 2003; September 21, 2004; December 19, 2005; September 14, 2006; November 19, 2008; December 21, 2009; December 20, 2010; December 19, 2011; December 2012; December 2013; December 2014; December 2015; December 2016.

**The Georgia Recreation and Park Association, Inc.,  
wishes to express a special thanks to  
Cobb County P.A.R.K.S.  
for printing this manual on an annual basis.**



## The Fundamentals of Good Sportsmanship

GRPA will be emphasizing the importance of **GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP**. The one thing we need to realize is that many people have not had **GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP** explained to them. It is earnestly hoped that the following will help everyone to understand their responsibilities at an athletic contest.

1. GAIN AN UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION FOR THE RULES OF THE GAME CONTEST/EVENT.
2. EXERCISE REPRESENTATIVE BEHAVIOR AT ALL TIMES.
3. RECOGNIZE AND APPRECIATE SKILLS PERFORMANCES OF ALL ATHLETES AND/OR COMMUNITIES REGARDLESS OF AFFILIATION.
4. EXHIBIT RESPECT FOR THE OFFICIALS.
5. OPENLY DISPLAY RESPECT FOR THE OPPONENT AT ALL TIMES.
6. DISPLAY PRIDE IN YOUR ACTIONS AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY.

To reinforce this philosophy, the following statement must be read before all contests at GRPA district and state level competitions:

### 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.”*

## GRPA Athletic Manual

### Guidelines for Behavior or “What Your *Fellow Players* Expect of *YOU!*”

1. Exemplify the highest moral character, behavior and leadership, adhering to strong standards of ethics and integrity.
2. Respect the integrity and personality of the individual athlete.
3. Abide by and teach the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
4. Set a good example for coaches, players and spectators to follow. Please:
  - a. Refrain from arguments in front of players and spectators.
  - b. Make no gestures which indicate an official or opposing coach does not know what he or she is doing or talking about.
  - c. Do not throw any object in disgust.
  - d. Coaches - shake hands with the officials and the opposing coaches before and after the contest in full view of the public.
5. Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat in public and in meeting/talking with the media. Please confine your remarks to game statistics and to the performance of your team.
6. Be no party to the use of profanity or obscene language, or improper actions. Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility and the privilege of representing the department and the community.
7. Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, fellow coaches, and athletes. This will assist both them and you in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
8. Teach good sportsmanship and reward teams/teammates who are good sports.
9. Treat opponents the way you would like to be treated, as a guest or friend. Who better than you can understand all the hard work and team effort that is required of your sport? Never direct remarks at opponents in a taunting manner.
10. Wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner; just as you would like to be greeted following either victory or defeat.
11. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. The officials are doing their best to help promote you and your sport. Treat them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, and your reputation will only benefit. Leave a positive impression of you and your team in the eyes of the officials and all people at the event.

## **GRPA Athletic Manual**

12. Understand the seriousness and responsibility of your role and the privilege of representing the department and the community in which you live.
13. Establish standards of desirable behavior and attempt to transfer that to your spectators.
14. Select positive comments which praise your team without antagonizing the opponents.
15. Encourage a positive crowd alternative when booing or an inappropriate behavior begins.
16. Give encouragement to injured players and recognition to outstanding performances for both teams.
17. Remember: recreational athletics are learning experiences for participants and mistakes are sometimes made. Praise athletes in their attempt to improve themselves both as young athletes and as people.
18. Spectators need to understand that a ticket/admission to an event is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others and be generally obnoxious. You also are a direct reflection on your community/program.
19. Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before and during games and afterwards on or near the site of the event (i.e., tailgating).
20. In all you do, promote ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship.
21. Speak out about acts of sportsmanlike behavior and do not give undue publicity to unsportsmanlike conduct.
22. Refrain from making negative comments toward participants, coaches, or officials.
23. Report facts without demonstrating partiality to either team.

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### **Guidelines for Behavior of Recreation Staff & Officials or “What Your *Fellow Community Members* Expect of YOU!”**

1. Accept your role in an unassuming manner. Showboating and over-officiating are not acceptable.
2. Maintain confidence and poise, controlling the contest from start to finish.
3. Know the rules of the game thoroughly and abide by the established Good Sportsmanship Code.
4. Publicly shake hands with coaches of both teams before the contest.
5. Never exhibit negative emotions or argue with participants and coaches when enforcing rules.
6. When watching a game as a spectator, give the officials the same respect you expect to receive when working a contest.
7. Develop a program for teaching and promoting the ideals and fundamentals of Good Sportsmanship within the program and the state association.
8. Provide appropriate supervisory personnel for each event.
9. Support participants, coaches, and fans that teach and display good sportsmanship.
10. Recognize exemplary behavior and actively discourage undesirable conduct by participants, coaches, and fans.
11. Serve as a positive role model and expect the same from parents, fans, participants, coaches, and other school personnel.

### **Guidelines for Behavior of Recreation Staff & Officials or “Acceptable Behavior *Expected* of YOU!”**

1. Applause during introduction of players, coaches, and officials.
2. Players shaking hands with opponent who fouls out while both sets of fans recognize player’s performance with applause.
3. Accept all decisions of officials.
4. Handshakes between participants and coaches at end of contest, regardless of outcome.
5. Treat competition as a game, not a war.
6. Coaches/players search out opposing participants to recognize them for outstanding performance and coaching.
7. Positive cheering by players, coaches, and spectators is encouraged.
8. Applause at end of contest for performances of all participants.
9. Everyone showing concern for an injured player, regardless of team.
10. Encourage surrounding people to display only sportsmanlike conduct.

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### Guidelines for Unacceptable Behavior or “Would You Want Your *Mama to See You Acting Like That?*”

1. For all GRPA competitions at the district or state level, **any negative cheering/hollering** may result in a warning and/or removal from the site, whether it is for or against your team. Use of **artificial noisemakers** in the dugouts, bleachers, seats, and standing areas around the perimeter of the competition in all youth sports **IS NOT ALLOWED**. The Tournament Director is empowered with the authority to make the final decision.
2. **Use of tobacco** in any form on the competition area or on the bench by participants, coaches, or officials, regardless of local rules, **IS NOT ALLOWED**.
3. **Yelling or waiving arms** during opponent’s free-throw attempt, serve, at-bat, start, etc.
4. **Disrespectful or derogatory** yells, chants, songs, or gestures.
5. **Booing or heckling** an official’s decision.
6. **Criticizing officials** in any way or displays of temper in response to an official’s call.
7. Yells which **antagonize** opponents.
8. **Refusing** to shake hands or give recognition for good performance.
9. **Blaming loss** of game on officials, coaches, or participants.
10. **Laughing or name-calling** to distract an opponent.
11. Use of **profanity or displays of anger** that draw attention away from the game.
12. **Pulling team off** of field/court.

## GRPA Athletic Manual

### **Penalties for Unacceptable Behavior**

Any parent or spectator acting in an unsportsmanlike manner or in any way that could prove detrimental to any player, official, coach, or another spectator will be subject to disciplinary action by their respective recreation department and the GRPA State Athletic Committee:

1. **Language unbecoming** to the league/event (Suspension: 1 game)
2. **Touching or striking** a coach or official (Suspension: remainder of the season)
3. **Unsportsmanlike conduct** at an athletic event/program (Suspension: 1 game)
4. **Damage** to recreation property (Suspension: indefinite)

**Any player or coach ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for one game, in addition to the game from which ejected; or, in the case of an individual event within a meet or match, for the duration of that event.**

1. A forfeited (not played) game shall not be counted as a sit-out game for an ejected player.
2. Thrown out of a game/contest/event (suspension remainder of present game/contest/event, suspension next game, and must leave the park immediately)

### **Code of Conduct**

The GRPA State Athletic Committee and Board of Trustees believe that **Good Sportsmanship** is a core value, and its promotion and practice are essential. Participants, parents, officials, administrators, and spectators have a duty to assure their teams/communities promote the development of good character. This code of conduct applies to all participants involved in athletics and GRPA-sponsored activities/events.

1. Participants will advocate, model, and promote the development of good character to include trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, teamwork, fairness, caring, and citizenship while promoting emotional, physical, and moral well-being above desires and pressure to win.
2. Participants will respect peers, coaches, officials, opponents, and others associated with the event.
3. Participants will promote fair play and uphold the spirit of the rules in the activity.
4. Participants will model appropriate behavior at all times.
5. Participants will engage in a healthy lifestyle.

## GRPA Athletic Manual

### NOTES OF INTEREST

#### ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF GRPA ATHLETICS

It is imperative that each agency, team, or personnel having responsibility for teams and/or individuals entering GRPA competition be familiar with the following guidelines, policies, and procedures of the GRPA State Athletic Committee. All of the items to follow are either required or highly recommended to be followed. When an item is “Highly Recommended” or “Recommended,” the State Committee asks for everyone’s cooperation in following such recommendations.

**A. Age Control Dates and Roster Limits and Allowed Team Personnel (For age divisions, see respective sections on a particular event.) A child must attain the age of 7 for District and State Competition in any event or sport of GRPA, prior to the age control date for that event or sport.**

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>CONTROL DATE</u>	<u>ROSTER LIMIT</u>	<u>PERSONNEL</u>
Basketball-Youth	Prior January 1	10	2/1 Scorer
Basketball-Adult	Prior January 1	15	2/1 Scorer
Baseball	Prior May 1	15	3/1 Batboy
Swimming & Diving	Prior June 1	Unlimited	Discretion
Football	Prior September 1	30	5 Total
Flag Football (Adult)	Prior December 1	15	3/1 Water boy
Lacrosse (Youth)	Prior to September 1	u12 – (15) over 12(18)	3/1 Water
Softball (Youth)	Prior January 1	15	3/1 Batboy
Softball (Adult)	Prior September 1	20	3/1 Batboy
Volleyball	Prior September 1	12	Discretion
Tennis (Youth)	Prior September 1	Unlimited	Discretion
Tennis (Adult)	Prior December 31	Unlimited	Discretion
Track & Field	On December 31	Unlimited	6 then 1:10
	Note: (Effective 2018)	Prior to May 1	
Soccer	Prior August 1	Under 10 & 12 (15) Under 14 & above (18)	Discretion
Golf	Prior August 1	Unlimited	Discretion
Gymnastics	Age on 1 <sup>st</sup> Day Of Competition	Unlimited	Discretion

**B. Entries**

1. An agency may enter as many teams as it wishes in all divisions, provided the District does not establish an entry limit.
2. A District not conducting a district-level tournament or playoff may allow team/s to represent their district per GRPA regulations as stated in Rule 1, Article IV, Section C.
3. Entry withdrawals must be made prior to the deadline established by the state athletic committee at that sport’s entry meeting.
4. For those Districts entering GRPA state level of competition and who do not fill their commitment to send a team or teams to the State Tournament will be responsible for entry fees, forfeits and fines. Districts/agencies will also have to pay all costs for trophies if the withdrawal causes the cancellation of the tournament/event.

## GRPA Athletic Manual

### C. Participants and Participation

1. A participant is allowed to compete in one age division only in the same sport/event. Youth participants may compete in an older youth age group provided they remain in the same older group for all games AND through all levels of competition. In tennis, adults are allowed to compete in a younger adult division under the same specifications of participation.
2. A participant may compete in district and state competition, provided he/she is not in violation of any rules or regulations in this manual.
3. Only persons whose names are approved on their agency's GRPA Official Roster, who meet all eligibility requirements, and who are representing an agency not on current suspension for that sport in question may compete in GRPA events. Youth participants can only be submitted on one GRPA Roster per sport/event.
4. The use of ineligible players, in accordance with the rules in this Manual, shall result in immediate forfeiture from an event. Burden of proof rests with the protesting agency's representative person.

### D. Hardship Committee Guidelines

1. The committee will consist of eight members. The committee will consist of chairperson appointed by the State Athletic Chair; District Athletic Chairs from D2, 4, and 6 (even years) and district chair-elects from D1, 3, 5 and 7. The district chairs and chair-elects composure will rotate from year to year. The initial committee composition in 2013 will be (4) district chairs from 1, 3, 5 and 7 and (3) district chair-elects from 2, 4, and 6.
2. The committee shall meet on an as needed basis. The committee will meet on the same day prior to the State Athletic Committee entry meeting.
3. Request to Hardship Committee shall be to set aside a rule or rules in the manual for the benefit of individuals or agencies. The Agency's request must be submitted to the State Athletic Chair in writing **one week prior to the scheduled SAC entries meeting**. The agency requesting consideration **MUST** be represented by a fulltime employee, which must also be a GRPA member, at the Hardship meeting. The agency's request will not be heard if said representation is not present. Documentation is requested to support agencies request. **If a full-time employee cannot attend due to extreme circumstances the district athletic representative will be allowed to represent the agency.**
4. The chairperson of the Hardship Committee will vote only in the event of a tie.
5. All classification appeals must go to Hardship Committee by due date **(at least 30 days prior to state athletic meeting)** with district recommendations. Hardship Committee will present to full Athletic Committee for final approval by two-thirds vote.
6. Decisions of the Hardship Committee must be approved by majority to take to the State Athletic Committee for final approval. Decisions made by the Hardship Committee, also called the Full Committee, shall not be considered as setting a precedent for any other request. Each request will stand on its own merit. The approval of the full athletic committee must be **simple majority**.
7. Every request to the Athletic Committee shall be considered.
8. The GRPA State Athletic Committee is the final authority.



## GRPA Athletic Manual

### **E. District Tournaments, Pairings and Special Game Rules**

1. Each district shall conduct its own tournament or playoff for each division by GRPA manual rules. The District must follow the rules of the game. The intention is to supply rules for game play, not how the tournaments are organized.
2. Pairings for all state tournaments will be determined by the State Athletic Bracket Committee, except individual sports, and with the Host Team or District representative playing an adjacent district representative in a game on the first day.
3. Youth activities cannot be originally scheduled for Sunday except for tackle football.
4. Game times are forfeit times.
5. The host team in a state tournament shall be a team from the host agency unless the tournament is being hosted by a different class then the district shall select a host from the proper classification.

### **F. Sportsmanship and Conduct (Detailed description is on pages 10-15 and pertains to all GRPA sports)**

1. For all GRPA competitions at the district or state level, positive cheering by players, coaches and spectators is encouraged. Any negative cheering/hollering may result in a warning and/or removal from the site, whether it is for or against your team. No artificial noisemakers shall be allowed in the dugouts, bleachers, seats and standing areas around the perimeter of the competition in all youth sports. The tournament director is empowered with the authority to make the final decision.
2. No use of tobacco in any form is permitted on the competition area or on the bench by participants, coaches or officials, regardless of local rules.
3. Any player or coach ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for one game, in addition to the game from which ejected, or in the case of an individual event within a meet or match, for the duration of that event. A forfeited (not played) game shall not be counted as a sit-out game for an ejected player.

### **G. All youth team and individual sports must have a certified coach (certified in the sport coaching) or a full-time staff person who is a GRPA member with their team, except under extenuating circumstances, which will be determined by the tournament director. This person must be on playing area and available at all times (dugout, bench, etc.)**

1. Sports
  - a. Basketball – NYSCA, ACEP, GHSA, SIMPLY THE BEST, EXCELLENCE PLUS.
  - b. Track & Field - NYSCA, ACEP, GHSA, USA TRACK, SIMPLY THE BEST.
  - c. Tennis - NYSCA, ACEP, GHSA, SIMPLY THE BEST.

## GRPA Athletic Manual

- d. Baseball - NYSCA, ACEP, GHSA, HIGHER GROUND, SIMPLY THE BEST, DOYLE, MVP, ASA VIP, EXCELLENCE PLUS.
  - e. Softball - NYSCA, ACEP, GHSA, HIGHER GROUND, SIMPLY THE BEST, DOYLE, MVP, ASA VIP, EXCELLENCE PLUS.
  - f. Swimming/Diving – NYSCA-swimming, ACEP, GHSA, US SWIMMING, ASCA, or American Red Cross Safety Training for Swim Coaches in conjunction with any nationally recognized life guard certification.
  - g. Golf - NYSCA, ACEP, GHSA, SIMPLY THE BEST.
  - h. Football - NYSCA, ACEP, GHSA, USA FOOTBALL, EXCELLENCE PLUS.
  - i. Soccer – NYSCA, ACEP, GHSA, GYSA, SIMPLY THE BEST, U.S.YOUTH SOCCER.
  - j. Gymnastics – AAU, NYSCA, GHSA, USA Gymnastics.
2. The certified person's name or full-time staff member, who is a member of GRPA, must appear on the official roster signed by the agency director.
  3. All head and assistant coaches that are coaching youth teams participating in all levels of GRPA athletics must have undergone a criminal background check through their department. By signing the team's GRPA roster, the department director or their designee attests that this has taken place.
- H. Manual changes will be taken every two years (even years) with the next changes in 2016. All odd year changes may be made for typos or national governing body changes (i.e., ASA, NFA, GHSA, etc.). Any other changes in odd years must be approved by 75% of those state athletic committee members present. **Proposed rule changes for 2018 are to be to the SAC Chair by August 4, 2017.****

The Athletic Manual is reviewed yearly with Rule Change requests received and voted upon every two years. Rules changes are voted on by simple majority for those rules that were submitted on time and distributed for review prior to the meeting. For any rule change that is made from the floor or requested by agency members on the date of the meeting must be approved by 2/3 of the members present for the rule to be adopted. Any rule changes made during non-rule change submittals will follow Robert's Rule of Order, as amended. For any matter to be reconsidered it must be motioned and seconded by the prevailing party and passed by 2/3 of members present. After motion is back on the floor it will follow Robert's Rules of Order as amended and be subject to a simple majority vote. Rule changes that are made by National Governing Bodies that affect GRPA Athletic Manual will be voted on by the Committee during non- rule change year by simple majority.

- I.** Use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone, is not permitted in changing areas, rest rooms, or locker rooms. The use of audio or visual recording devices is not allowed in resolution of protested matters.
- J.** Use of drones of any type is not allowed during any GRPA events.

## GRPA Athletic Manual

### GEORGIA RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION, INC. 2017 Board of Trustees

	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
President	Robby Newton, CPRP	Johns Creek	678.512.3239
President-Elect	Eddie Canon	Cobb County	770.528.2608
Vice President	Randy Spivey, CYSA	Dublin-Laurens County	478.277.5060
Secretary/Treasurer	Craig Potter, CPRP	Cusseta-Chatt. Co.	706.989.9911
Past-President	Missy Bailey, CPRP	Gainesville	770.297.5449

#### TRUSTEES

Citizen	Wayne Gay, CPRP	Dublin	478.595.1840
Professional	Fran Stalter, CYSA	Albany	229.430.5222

#### DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

First	Darryl Hopkins, CYSA	Statesboro-Bulloch County	912.489.9064
Second	Rod Mitchell	Ware County	912.287.4488
Third	George Page	Valdosta-Lowndes County	229.259.3507
Fourth	Dottee Morton, CPRP	Carrollton	770.834.1127
Fifth	Steve Card, CPRP	Dalton	706.278.5404
Sixth	Rip Robertson, CYSA	Doraville	770.936.3850
Seven	Wayne Maddox	Forsyth County	770.781.2215

#### NETWORK CHAIRS

Admin./L'ship	Bryan Reynolds, CPRP	Cherokee County	770.924.7768
Athletics/Aquatics	Troy Stubbs, CPO, AFO	Clayton County	770.603.4000
Parks Maint./Oper.	Michael Brantley, CPRP	Cherokee County	770.924.7768
Rec. Programming	Christie Mills, CPRP	Marietta	770.794.5708

**GEORGIA RECREATION & PARK ASSOCIATION**  
**1285 PARKER ROAD CONYERS, GA 30094 (770) 760-1403**

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## GRPA Athletic Manual

### 2017 State Athletic Committee

#### Chair

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#### Past Chair

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#### Chair-Elect

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## GRPA Athletic Manual

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## **GRPA Athletic Manual**

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## GRPA Athletic Manual

### CHAIRS OF THE STATE ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

1964	James A. Colley	Douglas Parks and Recreation Department
1965	Charles E. Ouzts	Macon Recreation Department
1966	Sonny Miller	Brunswick Recreation Department
1967	Sonny Miller	Brunswick Recreation Department
1968	Jim Oates	Cobb County Parks and Rec. Dept.
1969	George McElveen	Richmond County Parks and Rec. Dept.
	Jim Oates	Cobb County Parks and Recreation Dept.
1970	Sonny Miller	Brunswick Recreation Department
1971	Sonny Miller	Brunswick Recreation Department
1972	Sonny Miller	Brunswick Recreation Department
1973	Charles Webb	Statesboro Recreation Department
1974	Charles Webb	Dalton Parks and Recreation Department
1975	Ronnie R. Young	Carrollton Parks and Recreation Department
1976	Donald NeSmith	Baxley Recreation Department
1977	Bob Baldwin	Cobb County Parks and Recreation Dept.
1978	Ronnie R. Young	Carrollton Parks and Recreation Department
1979	Gerald Blackburn	Cumming Recreation and Parks Department
1980	W. Danny Swain	Evans County Recreation Department
1981	W. Danny Swain	Evans County Recreation Department
1982	Walter Huckaby	Douglas Parks and Recreation Department
1983	Bill Wood	Madison-Morgan Co. Rec. Department
1984	Ken Farmer	Carrollton Parks and Rec. Department
1985	Ken Farmer	Carrollton Parks and Rec. Department
1986	Ed Smith	Vidalia Recreation and Parks Department
1987	Buck Salter	Richmond County Recreation & Parks Dept.
1988	Brockey Brock	Albany-Dougherty Co. Rec. Department
1989	Brockey Brock	Albany-Dougherty Co. Rec. Department
1990	Buck Salter	Richmond County Recreation & Parks
1991	Buck Salter	Richmond County Recreation & Parks
1992	Ken Farmer	Carrollton Parks & Rec. & Cultural Affairs
1993	Ronnie Young	Carrollton Parks & Rec. & Cultural Affairs
1994	Bill Wood	Madison-Morgan Co. Rec. Dept.
1995	Bill Wood	Madison-Morgan Co. Rec. Dept
1996	Bill Wood	Madison-Morgan Co. Rec. Dept
1997	Buck Salter	Augusta-Richmond Co. Rec. & Parks
1998	Wayne Gay	Dublin Parks & Rec. Department
1999	Wayne Gay	Dublin Parks & Rec. Department
	Buck Salter	Augusta-Richmond Co. Rec. & Parks
2000	Buck Salter	Augusta-Richmond Co. Rec. & Parks
2001	Buck Salter	Augusta-Richmond Co. Rec. & Parks
2002	Brockey Brock	Valdosta-Lowndes Co. Rec. & Parks
2003	Brockey Brock	Valdosta-Lowndes Co. Rec. & Parks
2004	Kim Hamilton	Cherokee Co. Rec. & Parks Auth.
2005	Wayne Gay	Carrollton PRCA
2006	Greg Walker	Pickens Co. Recreation & Parks Department
2007	Bill Wood	Morgan Co. Parks & Rec.
2008	Randy Spivey	Dublin-Laurens County Recreation Authority
2009	Martha Ann Lumpkin	Warner-Robins Recreation Department
2010	Craig Sowell	Tift County Recreation Department
2011	Randy Spivey	Dublin-Laurens County Recreation Authority
2012	Randy Spivey	Dublin-Laurens County Recreation Authority
2013	James Dodson	Warner Robins Recreation Department
2014	Wayne Maddox	Forsyth County Parks and Recreation Department
2015	Randy Spivey	Dublin-Laurens County Recreation Authority
2016	Drew Torok	Morgan County Recreation Department
2017	Missy Bailey	Gainesville Parks and Recreation Agency

STATE OF GEORGIA

Tennessee

North Carolina

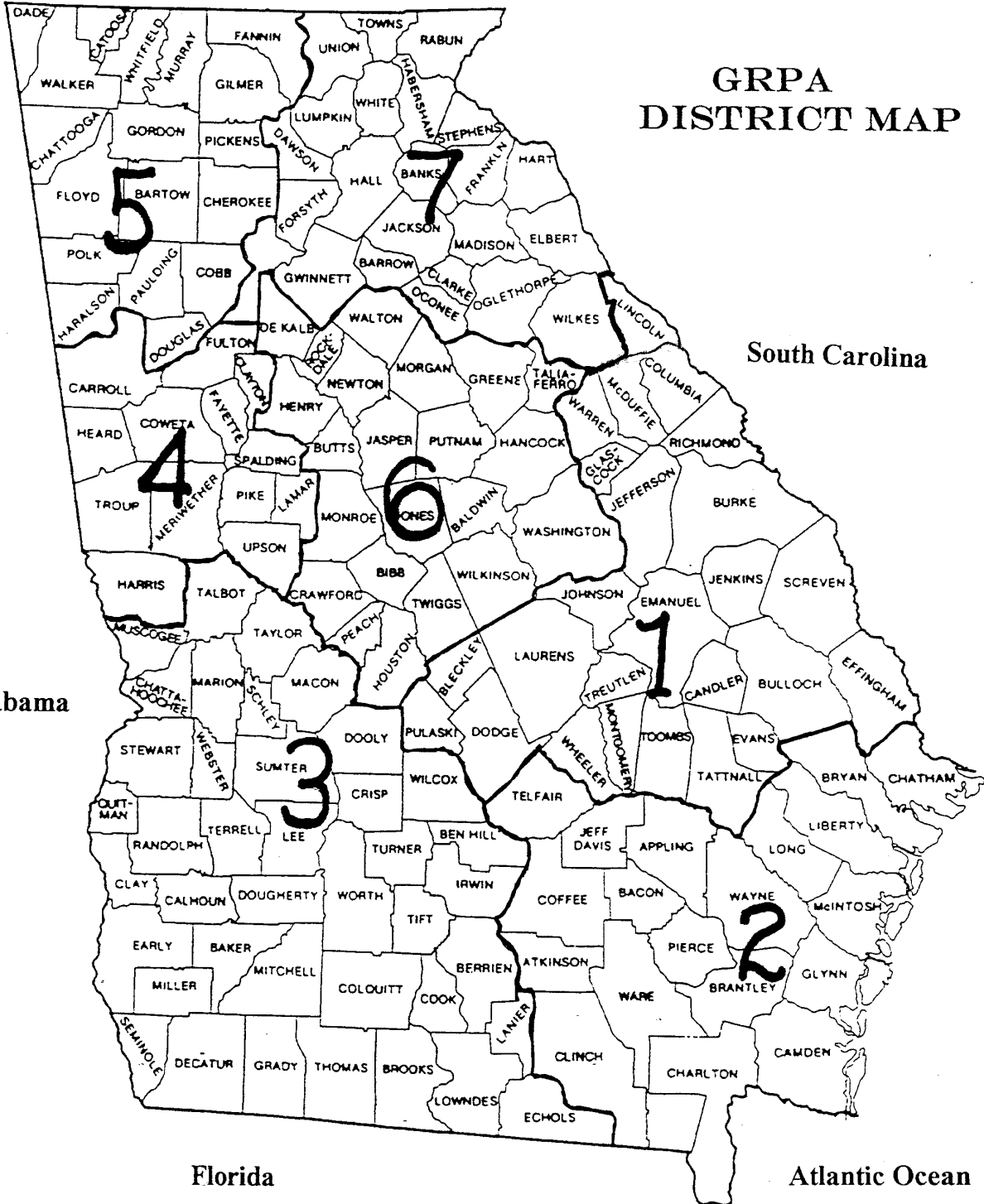
GRPA  
DISTRICT MAP

Alabama

South Carolina

Florida

Atlantic Ocean





**GRPA Athletic Manual**

**GRPA State Tournament Information  
2016 Results**

**Youth Baseball**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Champion</b>	<b>Runner up</b>
A/B 8 & Under Boys	Vidalia	Camden County
A/B/C 8 & Under Coach Pitch	Cartersville	City of Calhoun
A/B 10 & Under Live	Savannah	Burke County
A/B 10 & Under Machine	Statesboro-Bulloch County	Glynn County
A/B 12 & Under Traditional	Moultrie-Colquitt County	Twin City
A/B 12 & Under Major	Clayton County	Grady County
A/B 14 & Under	Glynn County	Moultrie-Colquitt County
C 8 & Under Boys	Morgan County	Jeff Davis County
C 10 & Under Live Pitch	North Bryan County	Brantley County
C 10 & Under Machine	Evans County	Appling County
C 12 & Under Traditional	Metter	Evans County
C 14 & Under	Appling County	Jeff Davis County

**GRPA Athletic Manual**

**Youth Softball**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Champion</b>	<b>Runner-up</b>
A/B 8 & Under	Troup County	Crisp County
A/B/C 8 & Under Coach Pitch	Bartow County	Rome
A/B 10 & Under Girls Machine	Ware County	Swainsboro
A/B 12 & Under	Colquitt County	East Point
A/B 14 & Under	Vidalia	Glynn County
A/B/C 17 & Under	Adel-Cook County	Grady County
C 8 & Under	Glennville	Cochran
C 10 & Under Machine	Jeff Davis County	Hawkinsville
C 12 & Under	Hawkinsville	Long County
C 14 & Under	Wilcox County	Jeff Davis County

**GRPA State Tournament Information  
2016 Results  
Adult Softball**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Champion</b>	<b>Runner-up</b>
Men's Open Equalizer	Coweta County	Jackson County
Church Equalizer	Madison County	Warner Robins
Coed Equalizer	Dublin-Laurens County	Bryan County

**GRPA State Basketball  
2016 Results  
Adult**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Champion</b>	<b>Runner-up</b>
Men's Open	College Park	Spalding Co.
Men's Industrial	Troup County	Troup County
Men's Church	Augusta	Carrollton
Men's 35 & Over	College Park	Atlanta

## GRPA Athletic Manual

### GRPA State Flag Football

<b>Event</b>	<b>Champion</b>	<b>Runner-Up</b>
2016	Clayton County	Brookhaven

### GRPA State Basketball 2016 Results

#### Class A

<b>Event</b>	<b>Champion</b>	<b>Runner-up</b>
8 & Under Boys	Fulton County	Cobb County
8 & Under Girls	Whitfield County	Bartow County
10 & Under Boys	College Park	Fulton County
10 & Under Girls	Dekalb County	Bartow County
12 & Under Boys	Savannah	Spalding County
12 & Under Girls	College Park	Rome-Floyd County
14 & Under Boys	College Park	Savannah
14 & Under Girls	College Park	Camden County
17 & Under Boys	Dekalb County	Cobb County

#### Class B

<b>Event</b>	<b>Champion</b>	<b>Runner-up</b>
8 & Under Boys	Habersham County	Hapeville
10 & Under Boys	Hapeville	Baldwin County
10 & Under Girls	Fannin County	Liberty County
12 & Under Boys	Swainsboro-Emanuel Co.	Hapeville
12 & Under Girls	Jackson County	Summerville
14 & Under Boys	Wayne County	Hapeville
17 & Under Boys (B/C)	Liberty County	Douglas-Coffee County

## GRPA Athletic Manual

### GRPA State Basketball 2016 Results Class C

Event	Champion	Runner-up
8 & Under Boys	Macon County	Evans County
8 & Under Girls (B/C)	Habersham County	Calhoun
10 & Under Boys	Evans County	Irwin County
10 & Under Girls	Lumpkin County	Evans County
12 & Under Boys	Morgan County	Macon County
12 & Under Girls	Rabun County	Blakely-Early County
14 & Under Boys	Irwin County	Jefferson County

### GRPA Tackle Football 2016 Results

Event	Champion	Runner-up
Class A 8 & Under	Rome-Floyd County	Chatham County
Class B 8 & Under	Sumter County	Calhoun
Class C 8 & Under	Dooly County	Bacon County
Class A 10 & Under	Rome-Floyd County	Chatham County
Class B 10 & Under	Camden County	Calhoun
Class C 10 & Under	Ellaville-Schley County	North Bryan County
Class A 12 & Under	Chatham County	Walton County
Class B 12 & Under	Effingham County	Calhoun
Class C 12 & Under	Appling County	Metter-Candler County

### GRPA State Soccer 2016 Results

Event	Champion	Runner-Up
Co-ed 7	Calhoun	Albany Area YMCA
Co-ed U10	Liberty County	Thomasville YMCA
Co-ed U12	Dalton	Grady County
Girls 7	Bartow County	Calhoun
Girls U10	Dalton	Columbia County
Girls U12	Albany Area YMCA	Columbia County

## GRPA Athletic Manual

### 2017 STATE ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIP CALENDAR

December 5 <sup>th</sup>	President's Assembly – State Tournaments Awarded –	<b>Milledgeville</b>
January 18 <sup>th</sup>	SAC Meeting- <i>Winter Entries (Basketball)</i> -	<b>Cumming</b>
March 3 <sup>rd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup>	State Youth Basketball	
March 10 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup>	State Adult Basketball	
March 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	Adult 35& Over Basketball	
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	SAC Meeting- <i>Track, Lacrosse Entries -</i>	<b>Tift County</b>
May 5 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup>	State Track Meet Class A & B/C	
May 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>	State Lacrosse ( <i>All Classifications</i> )	
May 24 <sup>th</sup>	SAC Meeting-( <i>BB, SB, Swim, Tennis, Golf</i> )-	<b>Clayton County</b>
June 9 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup>	State Adult Softball: CO-ED, 40 &Over	
June 13 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup>	Youth State 17 & Under Baseball/Softball	
June 16 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	Adult Softball State Tournaments	
June 23 <sup>rd</sup> –July 9 <sup>th</sup>	All District Swim Meets must be held and completed	
Discretion of Host	Diving	
July 11 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup>	State Youth Baseball/Softball Tournaments	
July 14 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup>	Class B/C State Swim Meet	
July 21 <sup>st</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup>	Class A State Swim Meet	
<b>August 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Proposed Rule Change Deadline</b>	
Discretion of Host	Youth and Adult Tennis (District Two weeks prior)	
Discretion of Host	Youth and Adult Golf (District Two weeks prior)	
Discretion of Host	Gymnastics (District Two weeks prior)	
September 6 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup>	SAC Meeting ( <i>Rule Changes</i> )	<b>Savannah</b>
<b>October 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>GRPA State Tournament Bid Submittal Deadline</b>	
October 11 <sup>th</sup>	SAC Meeting-( <i>Fall Entries-FB, FLG, SC, VB, CHR</i> )	<b>Gainesville</b>
November 3 <sup>rd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup>	State Cheerleading	
November 10 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup>	Adult Volleyball (Including COED)	
December 1 <sup>st</sup> -2 <sup>nd</sup>	State Youth Soccer	
December 2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup>	State Youth Football <i>North (D4-7) Even Years &amp; South (D1-3) Odd years</i>	
December 9 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup>	Adult Flag Football	

## GRPA Athletic Manual

### AGENCY AND FORFEIT WITHDRAWAL FEES/FINES

1. There is an annual agency membership fee of \$400.00 due by January 30. After this date the fee will be \$425.00.
2. Forfeit, withdrawal, and non-notification fees:
  - a. In the event of a forfeit or withdrawal after the bracket is drawn in a state competition, the team will be required to pay the entry fee to the state host and a forfeit fee of \$375.00 with \$125.00 going to the host from the GRPA Office. This fee applies to no shows and intentional forfeits. The agency that forfeits will be placed on probation from that sport for one (1) year. The agency may appeal probation before the athletic committee.
  - b. Districts entering GRPA state level of competition that do not fill their commitment to send a team or teams to the State Tournament will be responsible for forfeits, fines and trophies if the withdrawal causes the cancellation of the tournament/event.
  - c. Any team that abandons their position in a GRPA tournament/event will be subject to suspension pending an investigation by GRPA State Athletic Committee.
3. Scratch fees for track and swimming are \$10.00 per person per event payable to GRPA.
4. A certified coach or staff member must be in attendance at all State events. Failure to have a certified coach or full-time staff member is:
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: \$100
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: \$200
  - c. 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: \$500
5. Failure to attend mandatory statewide swim and/or track meetings/webinars will result in a \$200 fine payable to the GRPA state office. It is **“Strongly Recommended”** that both an agency member and swim coach from each agency or team attend swim meeting/s/webinar to ensure that all necessary parties are clear on any rule changes or clarifications.

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**FEE'S FOR STATE TOURNAMENTS AND STATE HOSTS**

SPORT	DIVISION	TYPE EVENT	ENTRY FEE	STATE HOST FEE
Basketball	Youth	Pool Play/Single Elimination	\$ 200.00	\$ 75.00 for 9 & over \$ 50.00 up to 8 Teams
	Adult	Single Elimination	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00 for 9 or more Teams \$ 100.00 for 8 or less Teams
Baseball	8 & Under, 10 & Under, 12 & Under	Double Elimination	\$200.00	\$ 75.00 for 9 & over \$ 50.00 up to 8 Teams
Baseball	14 & Under and 17 & Under	Double Elimination	\$250.00	\$ 75.00 for 9 & over \$ 50.00 up to 8 Teams
Slow Pitch Softball	All Youth	Double Elimination	\$ 200.00	\$ 75.00 for 9 & over \$ 50.00 up to 8 Teams
	All Adult	3 Game Guarantee	\$275.00	\$250.00 for 9 & up Teams \$175.00 for 8 or less Teams
Fast Pitch Softball	8 & Under, 10 & Under, 12 & Under	Double Elimination	\$ 200.00	\$ 75.00 for 9 & over \$ 50.00 up to 8 Teams
	14 & Under and 17 & Under	Double Elimination	\$250.00	\$ 75.00 for 9 & over \$ 50.00 up to 8 Teams
Tackle Football	Youth	Single Elimination	\$150.00	\$50.00
Flag Football	Adult	Pool Play	\$ 150.00	\$ 250.00 for 9 & up Teams \$ 175.00 for 8 or less Teams
Volleyball	Adult	Double Elimination	\$ 200.00	\$ 100.00 for 9 or more Teams \$ 70.00 for 8 or less Teams
Soccer	All Youth	Single Elimination	\$ 100.00	\$ 75.00-9 & up Teams \$ 50.00 for 8 & under Teams
Swimming Diving	Youth	Individual	\$7 per person	20% Entry Fee
		Relay Team	\$15 per Event	20 % Entry Fee
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">                     A \$1 per participant charge will be added to cover US Swim sanctioning fees                 </div>				

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Tennis	Youth		\$10 per event	20% Entry Fee
Tennis	Adult	Doubles	\$30 per event	20% Entry Fee
Golf	Youth		\$15 for 9 holes, \$20 for 18 holes	\$ 5.00 per participant
	Adult		\$25 per day	\$ 5.00 per participant
Track & Field	Youth		\$5.00 per person/Event	20% Entry Fee
	Youth		\$ 12.00 per relay	
A \$1 per participant charge will be added to cover electronic timing device if utilized				
Lacrosse	Youth	Single Elimination	\$ 100.00	\$ 75.00-9 & up Teams \$ 50.00 for 8 & under Teams
Gymnastics	Youth	Individual	\$7 per person/ 15 per team event	20% Entry Fee

**50% late charge to all agencies not paying their entire entry by the time the state tournament or competition is completed. Purchase orders not paid within 30 days are considered late.**

State Tournament Gate Fees: The following gate fees can be charged for GRPA State Tournaments:

Adults - \$5.00  
Students - \$2.00  
17 & Under (55 and over) - \$2.00

**Gate fees can be charged or a parking fee not to exceed \$5.00 per car. Both a gate and a parking fee cannot be charged.**



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**CALENDAR FOR DISTRICT/STATE TOURNAMENT COMPETITION**

State Tournament weekends start on Fridays.

Sport	Division	District	State
Basketball	Youth	Last Weekend in February	1 <sup>st</sup> Weekend in March
	Adult	1 <sup>st</sup> Weekend in March	2 <sup>nd</sup> Weekend in March
Track & Field	A & B/C	Last Weekend in April	1 <sup>st</sup> Weekend in May *
		Odd years: Hosted in South (Districts 1, 2, & 3) Even years: Hosted in North (Districts 4, 5,6 & 7)	
Lacrosse	Youth	Second weekend in May	3 <sup>rd</sup> weekend in May unless falls on holiday, then approved by chair of SAC
Tennis	Youth	Two weeks prior to State	Host Discretion
	Adult	Two weeks prior to State	Host Discretion
Baseball	17 & Under	Prior to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday in June	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday – Saturday in June
	All Live Pitch	Saturday Prior to 4 <sup>th</sup> of July	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday-Saturday in July
	10 & Under w/machine, 8 & Under	Saturday Prior to 4 <sup>th</sup> of July	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday-Saturday in July
<b>ALL Baseball/Softball Tournaments will begin on Tuesday, regardless of number of teams.</b>			
Softball	17 & Under	Prior to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday in June	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday – Saturday in June
	14 & Under, 12 & Under, 10 & Under, 8 & Under	Saturday Prior to 4 <sup>th</sup> of July	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday-Saturday in July
	Adult (Slow)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday June	4 <sup>th</sup> Friday-Sunday in June (Church only on Friday)
	Adult (Special/slow)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday in June	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday-Sunday in June
Diving		NO DISTRICT	Host Discretion
Swimming		Between 4 <sup>th</sup> Mon. in June & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. in July	B/C - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Weekend in July A – 4 <sup>th</sup> Weekend in July
Golf	Youth	Two weeks prior to	Host Discretion

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		State	
	Adult	Two weeks prior to State	Host Discretion
Volleyball	Youth & Adult	Prior to Last Weekend in October	2 <sup>nd</sup> weekend in November
Volleyball	Co-Ed	Prior to Last Weekend in October	2 <sup>nd</sup> Weekend in November
Cheerleading	Youth	Prior to Last weekend in October	2 <sup>nd</sup> Weekend in November
Soccer	Youth	By Last Saturday in November	1 <sup>st</sup> Weekend in December
Football	Youth	Last Saturday in November	1 <sup>st</sup> Sat./Sun. in December & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. in December
	Odd years: Hosted in South (Districts 1, 2, & 3) Even years: Hosted in North (Districts 4, 5,6 & 7)		
	Adult Flag	First Saturday in December	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday in December
Gymnastics	Youth	Two weeks prior to State	Host Discretion

## GRPA YOUTH STATE AWARDS

**All awards for GRPA state tournaments must be purchased from the official awards vendors that are approved by the State Athletic Committee and Board of Trustees.**

**Single elimination tournaments:** first and second place team trophies and individual medals (roster limit plus 2).

**Double elimination tournaments:** first and second place team trophies and individual medals and a third place team trophy.

**In Swimming and Track:** Individual medals will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Ribbons will be awarded for 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> place. State meet host must provide an awards podium for 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> place.

Trophies will be delivered to the State Host at least one week in advance. The GRPA State Trophy Representative is:

### GRPA ADULT STATE AWARDS

**Single elimination tournaments:** first and second place team trophies and individual t-shirts

**Double elimination tournaments:** first and second place team trophies and first and second individual t-shirts

### Awards South

261 Northside Drive East  
Statesboro, GA 30458  
Phone: (912) 489-2631  
Fax: (912) 489-3798  
Contact: Pegi Boatwright  
[awardssouth@yahoo.com](mailto:awardssouth@yahoo.com)

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### 2017 STATE TOURNAMENT HOSTS YOUTH BASKETBALL March 3-4, 2017

Division	Class A	Class B	Class C
8 & Under Boys	College Park Emmanuel Rainey 404-669-9206 <a href="mailto:erainey@collegeparkga.com">erainey@collegeparkga.com</a>	Effingham County Clarence Morgan 912-754-6339 <a href="mailto:cmorgan@effinghamcounty.org">cmorgan@effinghamcounty.org</a>	Rabun County Adam Dixon 706-782-4600 <a href="mailto:Adam.dixon@rabuncounty.ga.gov">Adam.dixon@rabuncounty.ga.gov</a>
8 & Under Girls	College Park Emmanuel Rainey 404-669-9206 <a href="mailto:erainey@collegeparkga.com">erainey@collegeparkga.com</a>	Habersham County Kurt Cooper 706-839-0234 <a href="mailto:kcooper@habershamga.com">kcooper@habershamga.com</a>	NO BID
10 & Under Boys	Spalding County Robby Milner 770-467-4750 <a href="mailto:rmilner@spaldingcounty.com">rmilner@spaldingcounty.com</a>	Murray County Chris Tipton 706-695-7359 <a href="mailto:ctipton@murraycountyga.gov">ctipton@murraycountyga.gov</a>	North Bryan County Mandy Toole 912-858-4640 <a href="mailto:mtoole@bryan-county.org">mtoole@bryan-county.org</a>
10 & Under Major Boys All Classifications	Clayton County Adeal Bell 770-473-3800 <a href="mailto:Adeal.bell@claytoncountyga.gov">Adeal.bell@claytoncountyga.gov</a>	Clayton County Adeal Bell 770-473-3800 <a href="mailto:Adeal.bell@claytoncountyga.gov">Adeal.bell@claytoncountyga.gov</a>	Clayton County Adeal Bell 770-473-3800 <a href="mailto:Adeal.bell@claytoncountyga.gov">Adeal.bell@claytoncountyga.gov</a>
10 & Under Major Girls All Classifications	Brookhaven Taylor Davis 404-637-0514 <a href="mailto:Taylor.davis@brookhavenga.gov">Taylor.davis@brookhavenga.gov</a>	NO BID	NO BID
10 & Under Girls	NO BID	Carrollton John Layng 770-832-1161 <a href="mailto:jlayng@carrollton-ga.gov">jlayng@carrollton-ga.gov</a>	Oglethorpe County Ben McDaniel 706-743-3533 <a href="mailto:bmcdaniel@oglethorpecountyga.gov">bmcdaniel@oglethorpecountyga.gov</a>
12 & Under Boys	Spalding County Robby Milner 770-467-4750 <a href="mailto:rmilner@spaldingcounty.com">rmilner@spaldingcounty.com</a>	Thomaston-Upson County Jeff Middlebrooks 706-647-9691 <a href="mailto:jeffwmiddlebrooks@yahoo.com">jeffwmiddlebrooks@yahoo.com</a>	Appling County Wilton McCall 912-367-8190 <a href="mailto:wiltonmccall@live.com">wiltonmccall@live.com</a>
12 & Under Girls	College Park Emmanuel Rainey 404-669-9206 <a href="mailto:erainey@collegeparkga.com">erainey@collegeparkga.com</a>	Murray County Chris Tipton 706-695-7359 <a href="mailto:ctipton@murraycountyga.gov">ctipton@murraycountyga.gov</a>	Rabun County Adam Dixon 706-782-4600 <a href="mailto:Adam.dixon@rabuncounty.ga.gov">Adam.dixon@rabuncounty.ga.gov</a>
14 & Under Boys	Savannah Earl Etheridge 912-351-3852 <a href="mailto:Earl_Etheridge@savannahga.gov">Earl_Etheridge@savannahga.gov</a>	Effingham County Clarence Morgan 912-754-6339 <a href="mailto:cmorgan@effinghamcounty.org">cmorgan@effinghamcounty.org</a>	Blakely Early Co. Steven Bonner 229-308-9300 <a href="mailto:becrddirector@gmail.com">becrddirector@gmail.com</a>
14 & Under Girls	Savannah Earl Etheridge 912-351-3852 <a href="mailto:Earl_Etheridge@savannahga.gov">Earl_Etheridge@savannahga.gov</a>	NO BID	NO BID
17 & Under Boys	Savannah Earl Etheridge 912-351-3852 <a href="mailto:Earl_Etheridge@savannahga.gov">Earl_Etheridge@savannahga.gov</a>	Effingham County Clarence Morgan 912-754-6339 <a href="mailto:cmorgan@effinghamcounty.org">cmorgan@effinghamcounty.org</a>	NO BID
17 & Under Girls	Savannah Earl Etheridge 912-351-3852 <a href="mailto:Earl_Etheridge@savannahga.gov">Earl_Etheridge@savannahga.gov</a>	NO BID	NO BID

## GRPA Athletic Manual

### ADULT BASKETBALL March 10-11, 2017 March 17-18, 2017 / 35 & Over

Division	Agency	Contact
Men's Open	Augusta	Lida Gregg – 706-771-2980 <a href="mailto:lgregg@augustaga.gov">lgregg@augustaga.gov</a>
Men's Industrial	Augusta	Lida Gregg – 706-771-2980 <a href="mailto:lgregg@augustaga.gov">lgregg@augustaga.gov</a>
Men's Church	Augusta	Lida Gregg – 706-771-2980 <a href="mailto:lgregg@augustaga.gov">lgregg@augustaga.gov</a>
Men's 35 & Over	Spalding County	Robby Milner 770-467-4750 <a href="mailto:rmilner@spaldingcounty.com">rmilner@spaldingcounty.com</a>

### TRACK & FIELD

CLASS	DATE	AGENCY	CONTACT
A & B/C	May 5-6, 2017	Augusta	Bobby Martin 706-826-1354 <a href="mailto:rmartin@augustaga.gov">rmartin@augustaga.gov</a>

### YOUTH BASEBALL

17 & Under Boys-June 13-17, 2017 / All other youth divisions-July 11-15, 2017

	Class A/B	Class C
8 & Under w/machine	Ware County Rod Mitchell 912-287-4488 <a href="mailto:rmitchell@warecounty.com">rmitchell@warecounty.com</a>	Berrien County King Bridges 229-606-6576 <a href="mailto:kingbridg@hotmail.com">kingbridg@hotmail.com</a>
8 & Under Coach Pitch	Calhoun Kim Townsend 706-629-0177 <a href="mailto:ktownsend@calnet-ga.net">ktownsend@calnet-ga.net</a>	Morgan County Jay Doss 706-342-0588 <a href="mailto:jdoss@morganga.org">jdoss@morganga.org</a>
10 & Under Live Pitch	Savannah Earl Etheridge 912-351-3852 <a href="mailto:Earl.Etheridge@savannahga.gov">Earl.Etheridge@savannahga.gov</a>	Morgan County Jay Doss 706-342-0588 <a href="mailto:jdoss@morganga.org">jdoss@morganga.org</a>
10 & Under Machine	East Point Otis Key 404-423-8549 <a href="mailto:okey@eastpointcity.org">okey@eastpointcity.org</a>	Screven County Truman Anderson 912-863-2388 <a href="mailto:sscrd@planters.net">sscrd@planters.net</a>
12 & Under Traditional	Effingham County Clarence Morgan 912-754-6339 <a href="mailto:cmorgan@effinghamcounty.org">cmorgan@effinghamcounty.org</a>	Jeff Davis County Bruce Johns 912-375-6550 <a href="mailto:jdcrcbruce@bellsouth.net">jdcrcbruce@bellsouth.net</a>
12 & Under MAJOR	Tift County Jeff Howard 229-382-3262 <a href="mailto:Jeff.howard@tiftcounty.org">Jeff.howard@tiftcounty.org</a>	NO BID
14 & Under	Augusta Josh Kornaus 706-796-5047 <a href="mailto:jkornaus@augustaga.gov">jkornaus@augustaga.gov</a>	Appling County Wilton McCall 912-367-8190 <a href="mailto:wiltonmccall@live.com">wiltonmccall@live.com</a>
17 & Under	Effingham County Clarence Morgan 912-754-6339 <a href="mailto:cmorgan@effinghamcounty.org">cmorgan@effinghamcounty.org</a>	NO BID

## GRPA Athletic Manual

### YOUTH FAST PITCH SOFTBALL 17 & Under Girls – June 13-17, 2017 All other youth divisions – July 11-15, 2017

	Class A/B	Class C
8 & Under w/machine	Moultrie-Colquitt County James Kling 229-668-0028 <a href="mailto:James.kling@moultriega.com">James.kling@moultriega.com</a>	Screven County Truman Anderson 912-863-2388 <a href="mailto:sscrd@planters.net">sscrd@planters.net</a>
8 & Under Coach Pitch	Calhoun Kim Townsend 706-629-0177 <a href="mailto:ktownsend@calnet-ga.net">ktownsend@calnet-ga.net</a>	NO BID
10 & Under Machine	Bainbridge-Decatur County Karson King 229-726-5405 <a href="mailto:kking@bdcra.com">kking@bdcra.com</a>	Morgan County Jay Doss 706-342-0588 <a href="mailto:jdoss@morganga.org">jdoss@morganga.org</a>
10 & Under Live	Bainbridge-Decatur County Karson King 229-726-5405 <a href="mailto:kking@bdcra.com">kking@bdcra.com</a>	NO BID
12 & Under	East Point Otis Key 404-423-8549 <a href="mailto:okey@eastpointcity.org">okey@eastpointcity.org</a>	Adel-Cook County Glenn Simmons 229-896-4411 <a href="mailto:gsimmons@southlink.us">gsimmons@southlink.us</a>
14 & Under	Augusta Ken Warner 706-821-2801 <a href="mailto:kwarner@augustaga.gov">kwarner@augustaga.gov</a>	Jeff Davis County Bruce Johns 912-375-6550 <a href="mailto:jdcrcbruce@bellsouth.net">jdcrcbruce@bellsouth.net</a>
17 & Under	NO BID	Adel-Cook Glenn Simmons 229-896-4411 <a href="mailto:gsimmons@southlink.us">gsimmons@southlink.us</a>

### ADULT SOFTBALL Adult Co-Ed/40 & Over – June 9-10, 2017 Adult Church – June 16-17, 2017 / Adult Regular – June 16-18, 2017

Division	Host Agency	Contact
Men's Open Equalizer	Augusta	Lida Gregg 706-771-2980 <a href="mailto:lgregg@augustaga.gov">lgregg@augustaga.gov</a>
Men's Church Equalizer	Appling County	Wilton McCall 912-240-0683 <a href="mailto:wiltonmccall@live.com">wiltonmccall@live.com</a>
Men's Industrial Equalizer	Spalding County	Robby Milner 770-467-4750 <a href="mailto:rmilner@spaldingcounty.com">rmilner@spaldingcounty.com</a>
Coed – Equalizer	Augusta	Lida Gregg 706-771-2980 <a href="mailto:lgregg@augustaga.gov">lgregg@augustaga.gov</a>

## GRPA Athletic Manual

### YOUTH LACROSSE- All Ages & Classes May 19-20, 2017

Date	Agency	Contact
May 19-20	City of Riverdale	Alan Dotson 770-909-5304 <a href="mailto:adotson@riverdalega.gov">adotson@riverdalega.gov</a>

### TENNIS

Division	Date	Agency	Contact
Youth - Recreational	Discretion of Host	Moultrie-Colquitt Co.	James Kling 229-668-0028 <a href="mailto:james.kling@moultriega.com">james.kling@moultriega.com</a>
Youth – Open	Discretion of Host	NO BID	
Adult	Discretion of Host	NO BID	

### GOLF

Division	Date	Agency	Contact
Youth	Discretion of Host	Ware County	Rod Mitchell 912-287-4488 <a href="mailto:rmitchell@warecounty.com">rmitchell@warecounty.com</a>
Adult	Discretion of Host	Ware County	Rod Mitchell 912-287-4488 <a href="mailto:rmitchell@warecounty.com">rmitchell@warecounty.com</a>

### SWIMMING

Division	Date	Agency	Contact
A	July 21-22, 2017	Cumming	Carla Wilson 770-781-1781 <a href="mailto:cwilson@cityofcumming.net">cwilson@cityofcumming.net</a>
B/C	July 14-15, 2017	Tift County	Craig Sowell 229-382-3262 <a href="mailto:craig.sowell@tiftcounty.org">craig.sowell@tiftcounty.org</a>

## GRPA Athletic Manual

### SOCCER December 1-2, 2017

Division	CO/ED	GIRLS
Co-Ed 7 & 8	Dalton Steve Roberts 706-278-5404 <a href="mailto:sroberts@cityofdaltonga.gov">sroberts@cityofdaltonga.gov</a>	Dalton Steve Roberts 706-278-5404 <a href="mailto:sroberts@cityofdaltonga.gov">sroberts@cityofdaltonga.gov</a>
Co-Ed Under 10	Dalton Steve Roberts 706-278-5404 <a href="mailto:sroberts@cityofdaltonga.gov">sroberts@cityofdaltonga.gov</a>	Dalton Steve Roberts 706-278-5404 <a href="mailto:sroberts@cityofdaltonga.gov">sroberts@cityofdaltonga.gov</a>
Co-Ed Under 12	Dalton Steve Roberts 706-278-5404 <a href="mailto:sroberts@cityofdaltonga.gov">sroberts@cityofdaltonga.gov</a>	Dalton Steve Roberts 706-278-5404 <a href="mailto:sroberts@cityofdaltonga.gov">sroberts@cityofdaltonga.gov</a>
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### ADULT FLAG FOOTBALL December 9-10, 2017

Host	Contact
NO BID	NO BID

### UNRESTRICTED YOUTH TACKLE FOOTBALL December 2-3, 2017 December 9, 2017

Division	Agency	Contact
7 Year Olds	City of Riverdale	Alan Dotson 770-909-5304 <a href="mailto:adotson@riverdalega.gov">adotson@riverdalega.gov</a>
8 Year Olds	City of Riverdale	Alan Dotson 770-909-5304 <a href="mailto:adotson@riverdalega.gov">adotson@riverdalega.gov</a>
9 Year Olds	City of Riverdale	Alan Dotson 770-909-5304 <a href="mailto:adotson@riverdalega.gov">adotson@riverdalega.gov</a>
10 Year Olds	City of Riverdale	Alan Dotson 770-909-5304 <a href="mailto:adotson@riverdalega.gov">adotson@riverdalega.gov</a>
11 Year Olds	City of Riverdale	Alan Dotson 770-909-5304 <a href="mailto:adotson@riverdalega.gov">adotson@riverdalega.gov</a>
12 Year Olds	City of Riverdale	Alan Dotson 770-909-5304 <a href="mailto:adotson@riverdalega.gov">adotson@riverdalega.gov</a>

## GRPA Athletic Manual

### YOUTH TACKLE FOOTBALL - TRADITIONAL

December 2-3, 2017

December 9, 2017

Division		Agency	Contact
<b>Class A</b> (Championships to be held in Tift County)	North Regional - All Ages	Calhoun	Kim Townsend 706-629-0177 <a href="mailto:ktownsend@calnet-ga.net">ktownsend@calnet-ga.net</a>
	South Regional - All Ages	Tift County	Jeff Howard 229-382-3262 <a href="mailto:Jeff.howard@tiftcounty.org">Jeff.howard@tiftcounty.org</a>
<b>Class B</b> (Championships to be held in Tift County)	North Regional - All Ages	Calhoun	Kim Townsend 706-629-0177 <a href="mailto:ktownsend@calnet-ga.net">ktownsend@calnet-ga.net</a>
	South Regional - All Ages	Tift County	Jeff Howard 229-382-3262 <a href="mailto:Jeff.howard@tiftcounty.org">Jeff.howard@tiftcounty.org</a>
<b>Class C</b> (Championships to be held in Tift County)	North Regional - All Ages	Calhoun	Kim Townsend 706-629-0177 <a href="mailto:ktownsend@calnet-ga.net">ktownsend@calnet-ga.net</a>
	South Regional - All Ages	Tift County	Jeff Howard 229-382-3262 <a href="mailto:Jeff.howard@tiftcounty.org">Jeff.howard@tiftcounty.org</a>

### YOUTH VOLLEYBALL

November 10-11, 2017

Division	Agency	Contact
All Ages	Bremen	Jeremiah Ray 770-537-4222 <a href="mailto:jray@bremenga.gov">jray@bremenga.gov</a>

### YOUTH GYMNASTICS

NO BIDDERS

### ADULT VOLLEYBALL

NO BIDDERS

### YOUTH CHEERLEADING

NO BIDDERS

### DIVING

NO BIDDERS



## SAMPLE

### GRPA PRE-TOURNAMENT COACHES/STAFF MEETING

1. **Introductions**
  - a. Local Staff
  - b. Head Official
  - c. Check for team sign in, registration, completed hotel information
  - d. Make sure that copies of Birth Certificates are available in case of protest
  
2. **Facility Tour**
  - a. Name of Facility
  - b. Office Location
  - c. Hospitality Room
  - d. Dressing Rooms
  - e. Parking
  - f. First Aid
  - g. Restrooms
  - h. Concessions
  - i. Seating arrangements
  
3. **GRPA Rules and Philosophy**
  - a. Explanation of classification
  - b. Explanation of rules for specific sport and age group. *Give out a copy of rules*
  - c. Questions and answers
  
4. **Explanations by Officials**
  - a. Introduce Chief Official
  - b. Sportsmanship expected and demanded from players, coaches and fans
  - c. Q & A
  
5. **Miscellaneous**
  - a. Beverages, towels, trash
  - b. Laundry-locations
  - c. Game time-Forfeit Time
  - d. Home/Visitors Designation
  - e. Local Staff Assistance

**NOTE:**

**This is a sample pre-tournament format.**

**Please remember that the purpose of such a meeting is to orient everyone on the local facilities and to inform coaches and staff of the fact that games will be played strictly by GRPA Rules and Regulations and not local rules. Advise every one of where the athletic manual is located at the tournament and where the rules are in the book.**

## **GRPA Athletic Manual**

# **RULE I – PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS**

### ***ARTICLE I – ELIGIBILITY OF AGENCIES***

#### **SECTION A – GRPA MEMBERSHIP**

1. Agencies must be members in good standing and all fees paid with the GRPA, Inc., to participate in the functions of its athletic programs.
2. An agency is defined as any agency organized for the purpose of providing recreation and parks services for a particular community and aligning its aims and objectives consistent with those of GRPA, Inc. To be eligible for agency membership, an agency must employ a full-time salaried director and sponsor a variety of activities and programs which are well distributed throughout the year.
  - a. An agency may join as a provisional member if approved by the Board of Trustees and may participate in all activities for a period of two years.
3. To become a member of GRPA, agencies must make application to the GRPA Membership Committee and be approved by the Board of Trustees. Annual membership dues are required and must be paid to the

**GRPA, Inc.**  
1285 Parker Road  
Conyers, GA 30094-5957

Further information may be obtained by calling  
(770) 760-1403 or FAX (770) 760-1550

4. An agency shall be eligible to participate in athletics upon the receipt of the GRPA membership fee and all district fees after membership has been approved. (NOTE: Each GRPA district establishes its own entry deadlines for GRPA athletic activities on a district level. Therefore, to be eligible for athletic participation, new agencies must be approved for membership and request entry for the athletic playoffs prior to the district entry deadline. Such requests for entry are to be made to the respective District Commissioner or the designated person and must be approved by the Board of Trustees) New agencies can participate provided they are approved prior to the appropriate district athletic draw.

## GRPA Athletic Manual

### *ARTICLE II – ELIGIBILITY OF INDIVIDUALS AND TEAMS*

#### **SECTION A – LOCAL PARTICIPATION**

1. Teams and individuals participating in the athletic functions of GRPA must be an integral part of an agency's local program before they are eligible to represent that agency in GRPA competitions **with all youth achieving the age of 7 by the age control date for a particular athletic event.**
  - a. An "integral part of an agency's local program" is defined as individuals who participated during their current season in the activity in question and under staff supervision of that agency. Participation means registering and being a part of that agency's program as required by the local Director.
  - b. Agencies shall not recruit players for the sole purpose of competing in GRPA athletic functions.
  - c. An all-star team must be composed of players from teams that are an integral part of an agency's local program. Likewise, any individual that represents an agency in GRPA competition in track & field, swimming, diving, tennis, golf, and gymnastics must also be an integral part of the agency's local program.
  - d. If an agency enters a team (only team from agency/ no all-star selection completed in age division) that will advance straight to state the agency must provide proof of participant registration through the agency entering the team. This documentation is due at district entry meeting/deadline and signed off by the district athletic chairman.
2. Eligibility involving local participation is left to the integrity of the agency director. The Director shall be prepared to make available substantial proof of local participation through such means as score books, registration materials, agency records, news releases, or such other evidence requested by the State Athletic Committee Chair or the District Commissioner from the agency's district.
3. In the absence of enough participation locally to constitute a league, an agency may contract with another agency to allow participation of a team or must hold an announced public registration in that activity to establish eligibility of local participation.
4. All youth sports teams must have with their teams at least one certified coach or full-time staff person who is a member of GRPA. This person must be on the playing area (dugouts, bench, etc.) and available at all times, except under extenuating circumstances which will be determined by the tournament director.
5. Per the "Return to Play Act of 2013", effective January 1, 2014, all agencies are required to provide concussion education material to all youth participants and their parents. The verification of compliance to this law is affirmed by the signature of the agency director on the GRPA roster.

**Refer to pages 18-19 for approved certification programs.**

## GRPA Athletic Manual

### SECTION B – PARTICIPATION BOUNDARIES

1. a. **For Adult Open Division:** All players must be an integral part of an agency's local program. Players must live or work/attend school full-time in the State of Georgia.
- b. **For Industrial Competition:** the firm or plant must participate as an integral part in the agency's program during the current season. Players must live or work full-time in the state of Georgia.
- c. **For Church Competition:** the church must participate and be an integral part of the agency's program. The church's physical location must be in the state of Georgia
- d. **For Youth Competition:**
  - (i) All players must participate in the county in which they reside/live (with a parent or legal guardian) or go to school full-time. If the participant's parents are divorced and the Court has awarded joint custody of the child, the participant's eligibility shall be determined by where he/she attends school. Youth cannot establish eligibility by employment. Summer school or part-time employment will not be used to determine eligibility requirements from Grades K-12. **Check individual sport sections for eligibility requirements.**
  - (ii) Youth teams may play in either class A, B or C according to their county's population or per their appeals to another classification.
  - (iii) If a current full-time GRPA professional of 1 or more years of a GRPA member agency has a child who plays in that agency's program but does not attend school or reside in that county, he or she will be eligible for youth GRPA competition in all sports.
- e. **Youth Team Sports**

For all team sports allow within district lines for individuals to compete in the nearest or adjoin departments with the following restrictions:

  - a. Home County or Agency has no program.
  - b. Cannot cross district lines.
  - c. Cannot pass over a program to participate in another agency.
  - d. Must participate in the sport program in the host agency.
  - e. Host agency must endorse participant.
  - f. Participant must be approved by District Athletic Chair. Once approved, they are legal throughout District and State.
  - g. Host agency must notify the District Athletic Chair with list and Home County of each crossover participant. The district must forward info to the State Host and Athletic Chair.

### 2. Eligibility Definitions

- a. **RESIDE:** Shall mean the permanent residence of a participant within a geographic locale, such as a city or a county for a period of sixty (60) days prior to the beginning of the State Tournament. Exception: Under extenuating circumstances, children may participate provided residency is established with a parent and/or legal guardian, but must meet all other criteria for participation. Once a player meets criteria as a resident and plays in District,

## GRPA Athletic Manual

he/she is eligible through State to play in youth and adult programs. The construction of a home or dwelling in anticipation of moving from one county to another, or the signature of a lease in anticipation of moving from one county to another does not constitute eligibility. The actual date of occupancy shall constitute the completion of a move. Ownership of land, buildings, property, dwellings, or the possession of a post office box in more than one county does not constitute eligibility and in no case does the possession of a post office box constitute eligibility.

- (i) The enrollment in a school in advance of attendance at no time constitutes the establishment of eligibility. Eligibility is established once actual attendance has begun. Registering to be home schooled does NOT make you eligible for GRPA until that county's Board of Education starts classes.
- b. **WORK:** Shall mean the ongoing, gainful employment, on a full-time basis, enjoyed by a salaried employee. Service contract employment, investment, stock-holdings, etc., shall not be constructed to mean "gainful employment." A person shall be employed for a period of forty-five (45) days prior to the beginning of the State Tournament and must work a minimum of 30 hours per week. In "multi-location" industries or branch offices, a person shall not claim "multi-county" eligibility status. He shall be deemed for the work eligibility according to the following tests: (a) his branch location, (b) his assignment per personnel directory, (c) extraction of transportation, (d) receipt of pay, not the source of payroll, and (e) location of his primary office. A salesman and/or a person in specialized services who travels an area, district, or region, such as an insurance person or road test engineer, shall deem his permanent residence as his work locale, unless he meets all previous tests.
- c. **ATTEND SCHOOL FULL-TIME** – shall mean a student of a full-time elementary or secondary education system or facility. Post-secondary students (college or vocational) shall mean those students attending college or vocational school on a full-time basis. A full-time student must attend at least three quarters per year or two semesters with a minimum of twelve (12) hours per quarter/semester to be considered a full-time student. Summer school will not be used to establish eligibility for Grades K-12. Students who are home schooled must play in county of legal residency or in county they are registered with the board of education as home schooled.
  - (i) The enrollment in a school in advance of attendance at no time constitutes the establishment of eligibility. Eligibility is established once actual attendance has begun. Registering to be home schooled does NOT make you eligible for GRPA until that county's Board of Education starts classes.

### SECTION C – PROFESSIONAL AND SEMI-PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES

1. Students who participate on a college or university's varsity, 14 & Under varsity, or freshmen team, which competes with other colleges, are not eligible for GRPA competition in the same sport .
2. If a local league is organized which allows participation by inter-collegiate team members of the same sport, the local league must be sanctioned by the NCAA. (Example: Summer Basketball League)
3. Regardless of intercollegiate participation during the normal school year, a college or university student is eligible for summer athletic functions sponsored by GRPA, provided the student is not

## GRPA Athletic Manual

currently representing a college in competition between other schools, and provided he/she meets all other GRPA eligibility requirements.

4. No professional athlete will be allowed to participate in that sport during the time they are under professional contract.

### **SECTION D – SCHOOL TEAM PARTICIPATION (NEW SCHOOL TEAM PARTICIPATION RULES BEGAN IN 2016)**

1. No boy or girl in the ninth grade that is 15 years of age or older may participate in the same sport of GRPA competition and school activities during the same period of time if the school activities are with another school or with students from another school or with students from another school (even within the same system) that the child does not attend regularly. This applies to both public and private schools. Middle School/9<sup>th</sup> grade athletes that are 14 years of age or younger are eligible to participate in GRPA Athletics. No participant that is on a varsity high school sport roster, **except Summer Sports**, is eligible to participate in GRPA Athletics, provided all other GRPA eligibility requirements are met.
  - a. “Periods of time” shall be interpreted to mean from the time a player participates with a school team until the end of the GRPA season in that sport. Note: periods of time shall include activities from August 1 through May 31.
  - b. School clubs are not affected. (Example: Hi-Y, 4-H, FHA, etc.)
  - c. A child in the ninth grade that is 15 years of age or older shall be allowed to participate in a school team’s immediate preseason tryouts provided the school has announced it as a tryout. If the child fails to make the team, the child may then participate with a recreation agency; and if all other eligibility requirements are met, may also compete in GRPA functions provided that during these immediate preseason tryout sessions, the participant in question did not represent his or her school as a team member in a game with another school.
  - d. These restrictions apply to both public and private school. Special Note: Participation is defined as dressing out, listed on roster, or sitting on bench or sideline in team uniform, (whether the player enters game or not). If a player makes the team and quits before the team’s first game against another school, he/she is eligible for GRPA play.
2. When a recreation agency and a school jointly co-sponsor an athletic program by sharing the expenses for such a program, through use of each other’s facilities, or by registering participants at community schools or community recreation centers, the participants in such a program shall be eligible for GRPA competition only if the following stipulations are in actual effect:
  - a. A child shall be allowed to play in GRPA competition if an athletic activity at school is intramural in nature (involving only students from one school not school board or district) and there is absolutely no competition with another school during school term at the local school.
  - b. Recreation youth teams (all age groups) may not participate in any kind of game or scrimmage with a school team. A team that plays or scrimmages a school team will not be eligible for GRPA competition.

## GRPA Athletic Manual

3. When a school team's current athletic program's season is completed (all state playoffs in that particular sport are completed), a student who participated in that completed sport shall be allowed to participate in a GRPA function involving a different sport provided the participant meets all other GRPA eligibility requirements. NOTE: Once the normal school year ends after the spring semester, a player may represent an agency during the summer months in the same sport in which he or she represented a school during the school year, provided the participant has not yet begun participating in a school-sponsored athletic event, such as football preseason drills in August effective as of dates established by the Georgia High School Association. (Examples: Tennis in July or August, and swimming in August.)

### SECTION E – ADULT, CHURCH, INDUSTRIAL, AND OPEN DIVISIONS

1. For church adult divisions in basketball, softball, and volleyball, participants must be minister-approved members. Church must be physically located in the State of Georgia.
  - a. The church team's official GRPA Roster must be approved by the signature of the sponsoring church's minister. The signature of the agency director or superintendent shall appear next to the signature of the minister.
  - b. Only church teams are eligible to represent an agency in GRPA Church Divisions. No all-star teams are allowed, but a church is allowed to "pick up" additional players who did participate with a team in the agencies local program from that church during the regular season and for the purpose of playing in GRPA church competition. No league all-stars may play. Players must have competed in the agency's local sport-specific program and meet all other GRPA requirements to participate in church play.

**CHURCH**—A GRPA church team is a team composed of people from one church (no all-star league team) or people from several teams all from the same church who are all minister-approved members of that church. The requirement for the church membership is determined by the local church, its pastor/minister and/or governing board.

A church is an organization set up to conduct public worship services conducted at a congregation and led by the clergyman. This organization must be recognized by a national, state, or local religious ministerial association to be considered a church. A group of people from an organization set up for the purpose of conducting civic responsibilities will not be considered a church for GRPA competition.

If a player meets all the qualifications to be a legal church team player on more than one church team, then he/she may play with either team but not both.

2. For industrial adult divisions, participants must be a bona fide employee of one company or government located in the State of Georgia. Players may have competed as a team under one GRPA agency. Players must have competed in the agency's local softball, basketball, or volleyball program and meet all other GRPA requirements to participate in industrial play.
  - a. To qualify as a bona fide employee, a person must work the minimum number of hours per week, which is no less than 30 hours worked in the industry by the average full-time employee.

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- b. A player who has established seniority at his job and is temporarily laid off may continue to represent his team in the industrial division or until he or she takes or receives another full-time job.
  - c. Official GRPA Rosters for industrial teams must be approved by the signature of the sponsoring industry's personnel director. The signature of the agency director or superintendent shall appear next to the signature of the personnel director.
3. Open Division – All players must be an integral part of the local agency's program and must live or work/attend school full time in the State of Georgia.
- a. Players may participate on more than one GRPA team in separate divisions of the same sport provided they meet qualifications of each division. Equalizer, unlimited, and no home are subdivisions of one division. A player may not play in more than one subdivision.

### ***ARTICLE III – OFFICIAL ROSTERS AND ACCEPTABLE BIRTH RECORDS***

#### **SECTION A – OFFICIAL ROSTERS (A copy of the roster can be found on [www.grpa.org](http://www.grpa.org))**

**NOTE:** Picture IDs for adult players are required and shall be checked at each level of tournament play. Copies of picture IDs shall be accepted. The ID or copies shall be available at all times during competition. IDs must be government issued and may be listed under acceptable birth certificates in this manual, as long as they have a current picture on the ID. No player will be eligible to participate in district and/or state tournament until a picture ID or copy is presented to the host. **All rosters regardless of sport must be typed and in alphabetical order or agency will be fined \$40 (forty dollars).** Birth records should be in the same order. Individual sports submitting rosters must have each age group on a separate roster in Alphabetical Order with Birth Records in same order.

1. Official Rosters from GRPA are made available to agencies by each District Athletic chairman (member of State Athletic Committee) and/or the District Commissioners. They are also available on the GRPA website. These rosters shall be completed in accordance the information requested on the Official Roster, shall be certified by the agency director and other special persons required, and shall be presented with acceptable birth records (and team fees, if any) to the Tournament Director, or any State Athletic Committee Member, or the District Commissioner at a tournament for verification. This shall occur prior to the first activity of that agency in GRPA competition. Teams hosting state events should have their rosters verified prior to district level competition. Such Official Rosters are mandatory for all teams participating in GRPA athletic functions. All players must be verified before competing in his/her first game. Youth participants can only be submitted on one GRPA Roster per sport/event.
  - a. In the absence of an agency director, the next highest-ranking recreation staff person may certify his or her agency's team's Official GRPA Roster, and in doing so, assumes the same responsibility as the agency director in certifying that the players whose names appear on the Official Roster meet all GRPA eligibility requirements and that there is no fraudulent attempt to play persons who are otherwise ineligible. Regardless of the staff person who certifies the Official Roster, The Agency Director shall remain fully responsible for the eligibility of the players on his agency's team.
  - b. Additional signatures certifying the Official Roster are required in the following divisions:
    - (i) The minister of a church whose league team is to represent an agency in Adult Basketball and Softball in State Church Divisions.



## GRPA Athletic Manual

- (ii) The personnel Director of a company or government whose league team or company all-star team is representing an agency in the Adult Basketball and Softball Industrial Divisions.
  - c. It is mandatory that the signature of a third person who is a GRPA professional member from another agency be affixed to the Official Roster when the agency director and the person verifying the roster (tournament director, state athletic committee, or the district commissioner) are from the same agency.
  - d. All adult and youth team players must be present at team/roster check in prior to the first game of the tournament. The tournament director will visually cross check each player with the names on the roster. If a player is not present at team check in, that player must check in with the tournament director prior to playing in the tournament.
  - e. Per the “Return to Play Act of 2013”, effective January 1, 2014, all agencies are required to provide concussion education material to all youth participants and their parents. The verification of compliance to this law is affirmed by the signature of the agency director on the GRPA roster.
  - f. All head and assistant coaches that are coaching youth teams participating in all levels of GRPA Athletics must have undergone a criminal background check through their Department. By signing the teams GRPA roster, the Department Director or their designee attests that this has taken place.
2. The Tournament Director, State Athletic Committee member, or District Commissioner shall personally examine each team’s Official Roster and acceptable birth records of every player to be approved. He/she shall verify the Official Roster by affixing his/ her signature and date.
- a. The verified or approved Official Roster shall be acceptable and official throughout all levels of GRPA competition, and after the initial verification of acceptable birth records, shall be the only required record for a team to present during GRPA competition.
    - (i) In all team sports, teams are allowed to add up to 3 players to their roster when advancing to a state tournament. This can only be done if there is enough room on the original roster to add the names. Any additions must be made and submitted to the state host prior to their team’s first game of the state tournament.
  - b. At the request of GRPA Tournament Director at any level of competition, at the request of a State Athletic Committee Member at any level of competition, or at the request of a participating agency’s District Commissioner at the district level of competition, the staff member accompanying the agency’s team shall make available, prior to the game time or during the game, his own agency’s copy of the team’s Official Roster, provided one of the other three duplicate copies or original is not available at the playoff or tournament.
3. There are four (4) copies of the Official Roster and the copies are to be distributed by the person who verifies the Roster and affixes his or her name by the District Tournament Director as follows: (Note: all copies mailed within 48 hours.)

## GRPA Athletic Manual

- a. WHITE ORIGINAL mailed to State Athletic Committee Chair with a district tournament report form within forty-eight hours.
- b. YELLOW COPY – (second page) mail advancing teams only to State Host. The District Tournament Director is to designate the District Representative(s) on this copy as champion or runner-up.
- c. PINK COPY – (third page) mailed to District Athletic Chair with a district tournament report form within forty-eight hours.
- d. ORANGE COPY – (fourth page) is team copy.

### SECTION B – ACCEPTABLE BIRTH RECORDS

1. Birth certificate, certified abstracts of birth, certified or notarized hospital birth records, notification of birth, notification of registration, certificate of registration and regulatory military identification cards, government ID from US Department of Immigration and Naturalization, Passports, Adoption records, notarized Correctional Institution records, or clearly processed and readable copies of such shall be considered and referred to as acceptable birth records for GRPA competition. Also, Georgia Department of Public Safety Personal ID Cards issued for check cashing, etc., are acceptable if date of birth is affixed.
  - a. Driver's License and Learner's Permit from any state shall be acceptable birth records for participants.
  - b. If a name change is involved which is different from the Acceptable Birth Records, a copy of the court order granting the name change must be also presented. An official written statement notarized by a notary public and approved by signature from a parent or guardian may be substituted if a copy of the court order cannot be obtained. Such a court order copy or an official notarized statement shall not be considered as acceptable birth records, but only as evidence that the acceptable birth record presented is the true and accurate birth certificate, certified abstract of birth, hospital record, military identification or copy of such, etc.
2. The Tournament Director, State Athletic Committee Member, or District Commissioner shall personally examine each team's Official Roster and acceptable birth records of every player to be approved. Adult players shall furnish identification according to the rule. Adult rosters must be signed by the Tournament Director, State Athletic Committee Member or District Commissioner.

Failure of a protested individual to produce proper identification prior to his/her team or the protesting team's next scheduled game shall result in forfeiture of the game in question. **Note:** if a game is in progress the game shall be continued without stoppage except to protest. Fee will be returned if protest is upheld.

- a. After the Official Roster is verified by the signature, it cannot be changed under any circumstances, and no additional names may be added except in the case of the player pickup rule in adult softball.
- b. The fourth copy of the Official Roster (orange) shall be returned to the person in charge whose name appears on the roster, or to his assigned representative, along with all acceptable birth records. This shall be done immediately after verification. Only the agency team's copy of the Official Roster (orange) shall be necessary for GRPA competition at all levels

## GRPA Athletic Manual

following the initial verification. Acceptable birth records are required only at the initial verification of the Official Roster in youth competition. ID's may be requested at any time during adult competition if requested through proper procedures.

3. All procedures involving GRPA Official Rosters and Acceptable Birth Records shall be completed prior to an agency team's first appearance in GRPA competition. Any special requests to verify rosters at a later time shall not be granted by the Tournament Director, State Athletic Committee Member, or District Commissioner.
4. Any team qualified to go straight to the State Tournament must have their roster signed prior to the first game of the State Tournament.

### *ARTICLE IV – GRPA TOURNAMENTS AND PLAYOFFS*

#### **SECTION A – STATE HOST TOURNAMENT FEES**

1. Any agency hosting a GRPA State Tournament will pay the GRPA office a fee for the right to host a GRPA State Tournament. The state host will then collect and keep all state entry fees to help offset their expense of the portion that goes to the GRPA office. The host will pay all expenses including awards, game balls, officials, lights, scorers, etc.

**\* Fees are to be paid to the GRPA office within 30 days after the State Tournament.**

#### **SECTION B – TEAM COMMITMENT**

1. For those Districts entering GRPA state level of competition and who do not fill their commitment to send a team or teams to the State Tournament will be responsible for forfeits, fines and trophies if the withdrawal causes the cancellation of the tournament/event.
2. If a team qualifies at district level for State and does not fill their commitment in State then that District may drop down in numerical finish to secure a team. They may only draw from teams in the District Tournament.
3. All teams in GRPA competition must be accompanied to tournaments or playoffs by at least one adult recreation staff person (preferably a full-time, salaried professional who is a GRPA member), or a responsible adult personally appointed by the agency director. This person is to attend the game in which his agency's team is participating and will make himself/herself available to the Tournament Director as the responsible person-in-charge of his or her agency's team and is the only person who can formally protest a game or an ineligible player.
4. The defending adult sports champion teams (agency) in all sports are committed to participate in the next GRPA State Tournament unless their district withdraws them at the team-entry meeting for their particular sport. The particular team that is the defending champion does not have to play, but the agency may send another team to represent them. **Defending youth sports champion teams do not defend their titles.**
5. If the particular team that is the adult defending champion does not play locally or does not go to State, then the agency may send another team. In adult sports state tournament the defending champions must play as the defending champion and cannot play as a district representative.

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6. District tournaments must play by GRPA Athletic Manual rules if teams are advancing to state level tournaments or competition.
7. An agency team that plays in district and qualifies for the state tournament must play as state host if that agency is hosting state unless that agency has another team to host that did not play in the district tournament. Adult sports defending champion or their agency must play as defending champions.

### **SECTION C – TOURNAMENT ORGANIZATION**

1. GRPA competition is conducted at two (2) levels as established by the rules in this Athletic Manual. The two levels are referred to as District and State.
  - a. The District level includes all the entered agency teams which are within the boundaries of the district.
  - b. The State level consists of one district representative and the State Tournament Host, except adult team sports, which shall include host and returning champion. Adult Basketball /Softball: Teams that participate in their district tournament are eligible to participate in the State tournament. All eligible teams wishing to participate in the state tournament must contact the state host 10 days prior to the state tournament. The host team and returning champion are also entered in the state tournament.
  - c. If a tournament bracket is not filled then the district of the host team will have first choice to add another team. Then the other districts will be given the opportunity to enter another team.
2. Each district may determine its own method of obtaining a district representative to state levels of competition. If an agency enters a team (only team from agency/ no all-star selection completed in age division) that will advance straight to state the agency must provide proof of participant registration through the agency entering the team. This documentation is due at district entry meeting/deadline and signed off by the district athletic chairman. The following are recommended for district levels.
  - a. Tournaments with double-elimination methods for softball and baseball.
  - b. A playoff or tournaments with single-elimination methods for basketball and football. In all single-elimination tournaments, there will be no third place award.
  - c. The best 2 of 3 matches in volleyball.
  - d. Meets on a district-wide basis for track and field, swimming and diving, tennis, and golf.
  - e. Sub-District tournaments may be used.
3. State-level tournaments and playoffs are to be set up in brackets by the State Athletic Bracket Committee with not more than eight (8) teams in youth except for baseball (16), softball (16), and in individual sports events such as track and field, tennis, and swimming and diving, and

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golf. When all districts are not represented in a State Tournament, the State Athletic Committee Bracket Committee shall arrange the bracket pairings as nearly as possible to the aforementioned guideline, and in accordance with his own judgment. In youth sports, when classifications are combined, the number of teams can exceed eight.

4. For a state tournament to make in team sports, a minimum of four teams must be entered and/or the host agency discretion to proceed. However, state tournaments from different classifications may be combined if there are not enough teams to make individual tournaments.
5. No game shall start before 7:00 PM Monday – Friday during any Adult State Tournament. See specific sports for starting times and restrictions.
6. In Youth State Tournaments, no games can start before 5:00 p.m., except for summer sports which shall not begin before 2:00 p.m. on the first day of tournament. For District level tournaments, the first games shall not begin prior to 10:00 a.m. No new game shall begin after 10:00 PM on weekdays during the school year. All games will be scheduled to start no later than 10:00 PM on Friday and Saturday nights but may be played in emergency situations (rain, game delays, etc.)
7. No youth activities can be originally scheduled on Sunday (exception tackle football).
8. **Adult:** State Host and Defending Champion must play in the first round on the first day, if brackets are full. Brackets should be made such that teams travelling the longest distance should be given the last games. However, home teams may play games other than the first game of the tournament
9. **Adult:** If brackets are full, the Host Team must play a District Champion and Defending Champion must play a District non-champion. Adult team tournaments have been expanded to allow any team which participated in a district tournament to enter the state tournament. Team entries must be entered by their agency or district representative by the date established by the tournament host to participate. Teams advancing to state whose district tournament did not make must comply with the roster submittal deadlines. Also included in the bracket will be the State Host and the agency from which last year's defending champion was located. The Defending Champion's agency shall defend the title.
10. Every GRPA level of competition shall be conducted by a Tournament Director appointed by the Host Agency Director Committee member of the District Commissioner. The Tournament Director of a sub-district, district or state tournament must be a full-time recreation department employee and member of GRPA. The Tournament Director will not participate in the tournament in any capacity, except as director of the tournament. The duties of the tournament director are as follows:
  - a. To assure that necessary arrangements for the tournaments are made to include notification of pairings, game times, awards, facilities inspection, reservations, security and crowd control, advance publicity, equipment made available, and any other preparations deemed appropriate for GRPA athletic functions. Pairings are to be arranged by the District for District competition, and by the State Athletic Committee for State competition.
  - b. To verify Official Rosters and to examine the acceptable birth records with State Athletic Committee Members and the District Commissioner. All adult and youth team players must be present at team/roster check in prior to the team's first game of the tournament. The

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tournament director will visually cross check each player with the names on the roster. If a player is not present at team check in, that player must check in with the tournament director prior to playing in the tournament.

- c. To collect team athletic fees.
  - d. To conduct the tournament or playoff in a professional manner befitting GRPA.
  - e. To release appropriate local, regional and statewide publicity.
  - f. To declare a district representative for state or a state champion in accordance with the tournament or playoff level.
  - g. To forward copies of Official Rosters, team fees and results to appropriate persons specified in Article III of this rule.
  - h. To evaluate the tournament or playoff and make the recommendation in writing for improvement to members of the State Athletic Committee.
11. Every GRPA level of competition shall provide some method of protest or appeals procedure to be approved by the district for district competition, and by any member of the State Athletic Committee for state levels.
- a. The Tournament Director shall coordinate any protests or appeals and shall serve as the odd-numbered member of any tournament protest committee, which must be made up of a minimum of three people and should be listed in tournament information. Only a Protest Committee will be used for misinterpretation of the game rules. All other complaints or protest (to include but not limited to ineligible players, illegal players, ineligible pitchers, etc.) will be ruled on by the tournament director with any appeals going to the next level authority.
  - b. Any protest or appeal at the state level of competition shall be subject to review by the State Athletic Committee, and its chairman shall be notified of any such proceedings.
  - c. At his/her discretion, the State Athletic Committee Chair may establish a State Protest Committee for tournaments and may appoint the members to serve on such a special Protest Committee. The Host Agency shall be responsible for travel and accommodation expenses incurred by assigned members of such a Protest Committee, and reimbursements must be within ninety (90) days after a statement and proof of expenditures or receipts are rendered by the person incurring the expenses.
  - d. The State Athletic Committee shall serve as the final authority on all protests or appeals, and its decisions shall be binding to all parties concerned without further appeal.

### **SECTION D – TOURNAMENT PLANNING AND HOST RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. The Host agency to which the State Tournament, Playoff or Meet is awarded shall send all pre-planning information pertaining to the particular event to the State Athletic Committee Chair.

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This information must be received no later than two (2) weeks prior to the date of opening of the Tournament, Playoff or meet.

- a. A coaches and/or staff representative meeting must be provided prior to the tournament for the purpose of rule clarification and tournament information being distributed prior to the teams' first game. **(The mandatory coaches meeting should be 1 hour prior to each team's first game)**
  - b. Penalty of \$25 will be assessed if a coach or staff representative does not attend this meeting. The penalty is only for youth team sports.
2. In the hosting of a state level event, the following must be provided and/or accomplished:
- a. Agencies hosting a state level event must provide the following:
    - (i) Adequate hotels within 30 miles.
    - (ii) Rooms shall be within city or county and preferably with a national chain.
    - (iii) A minimum of 50 rooms required per eight teams.
    - (iv) Documentation must be provided to verify room space availability.
  - b. Sufficient number of fast-food service and restaurants available to handle the anticipated number of teams.
  - c. Adequate medical facilities within a reasonable distance.
  - d. All State hosts MUST e-mail, and post on GRPA website all pertinent information concerning GRPA State Tournaments. E-mail copies of plans to District Athletic Chair and District Tournament Host at least two (2) weeks prior to the opening day of the tournament. These should contain:
    - (i) List of motels, restaurants, and medical facilities
    - (ii) Map of facilities and access routes
    - (iii) Tournament brackets showing dates, pairings, times
    - (iv) Must provide a list of the Protest Committee
  - e. A designated person is recommended to welcome each team upon its arrival for the purpose of:
    - (i) Seeing that the teams are settled in their respective accommodations satisfactorily
    - (ii) Being a goodwill ambassador for GRPA, the local community, and the host agency throughout the entire tournament.
  - f. Adequate parking at the tournament site.
  - g. Visible and operational scoreboards and emergency backup equipment in case of failure.
  - h. Officials per requirements of manual.
  - i. Suitable drinking fountains, restroom facilities, concessions, seating for players and spectators.
  - j. A public address system with an acceptable adult announcer for the duration of an event.

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- k. Adequate maintained facilities, which meet minimum requirements as stated in GRPA Athletic Manual. (Fields should be brought up-to-standard preceding each game where a tournament consists of multi-games).
- l. Sufficient number of adult staff who are competent and familiar with GRPA procedure.
- m. The Host Department should send news releases to the media in the area at least two (2) weeks prior to the staging of the event to insure attendance.
- n. A written follow-up action report shall be mailed to the State Athletic Committee Chair to contain:
  - (i) Complete copy of brackets and results including scores
  - (ii) Recommendation in changes or action
  - (iii) Problems in detail and recommendation for the corrective measures to be taken.
- o. Agencies hosting a state softball/baseball tournament must provide fields with adequate lighting for night play.



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# HOSTING STATE EVENTS

### SECTION A – WHO MAY HOST AND COST TO HOST

1. Any full-time agency, in good standing, may bid to serve as the State Host for a tournament/event in which that agency is represented.
  - a. Any agency awarded a bid will pay, to the GRPA office, a fee known as a “rights fee”. The successful bidder will be billed by the GRPA office. **(Refer to fee structure on pages 32-33)**
  - b. **All awards for GRPA state tournaments must be purchased from the official awards vendors that are approved by the State Athletic Committee and Board of Trustees.** The State Host will pay all expenses to include awards (which are sent by the State), game balls, required equipment to run an event, officials, lights, personnel, etc.
  - c. The State Host will retain all entry fees to offset its expense.

### SECTION B – BIDDING TO HOST STATE EVENTS

1. Hosts for GRPA state-level events shall be determined by the State Athletic Committee at a meeting for that purpose.
  - a. Accepted procedures for submitting a bid to host a state athletic event must include the submission of a completed bid form found at the end of this manual. Generally, all agencies are notified of the submission deadline by various methods well in advance of the deadline. A representative of each bidding agency is encouraged to be in attendance at the bid meeting to present the bid on behalf of the agency. **Bids to host GRPA state athletic championships are due to the State Athletic Committee Chair (See pages 178 -179) by October 1.**
  - b. An oral bid can be presented and accepted at this meeting ONLY IF no written bid acceptable to the State Athletic Committee is received. Such bid can be taken only through a department representative or a State Athletic Committee member of that agency’s district.
  - c. The State Athletic Committee reserves the right to reject any bid.
  - d. Before any state tournament is awarded, the facility should be inspected by a member of the state athletic committee to make sure the facility meets GRPA state tournament standards.

### SECTION C – RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HOST

1. The Host Agency shall provide a minimum number of competent adults for scorers, a Tournament Director (GRPA Member) and approved game officials in accordance with Rule II, Article IV,
  - a. For Track and Field, there will be a Meet Director, starter, clerk of the course, head finish judge-timer and finish judge timers (lane inspectors), head field judges (each field event), and scorers. Other assistants are also desired.

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- b. For Golf and Tennis, only a tournament director and scorer are needed. In tennis, however, players may call their own lines and scores unless either player requests a judge. In such a case, the Tournament Director shall assign a competent adult, who may also be a competitor in another age division to judge a match. Such a judge must be from a neutral agency.
  - c. For Swimming and Diving, there will be a starter, stroke and turn judges, finish judges, timers, scorers, clerk of course, awards personnel, announcer, diving judges and other deemed necessary by the host agency.
2. The Host Agency shall be responsible for proper conduct of spectators. GRPA Sportsmanship Statement must be read prior to all district and state tournament contests. For individual sports, it should be read a minimum of three times per day.

### **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.”***

3. The Host Agency shall be responsible for providing the required balls/equipment, etc., in accordance with the rules of this manual and under the rules of a governing body or organization adopted as such by GRPA.
4. The Host Agency shall be responsible for providing the facilities that meet GRPA specifications for conducting the event.
5. The Host Agency shall be responsible for releasing publicity for the event.
6. The Host Agency shall be responsible for supplying scrimmage vests in events where jerseys need to be opposite colors. A coin toss shall be conducted and the winner shall have the option of whether to wear the scrimmage vests or original jerseys.
7. The mandatory coaches meeting should be one hour prior to team’s first game.
8. All Championship play tournament information: brackets, hotel information and related information will be available through the GRPA website.

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# RULE II – REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS

### ARTICLE I – VIOLATIONS

#### SECTION A – FORFEITURES, PROTESTS, AND APPEALS

1. Only the State Athletic Committee Members for any level of GRPA competition, the Tournament Director for his/her own level of GRPA competition, and the District Commissioner for district competition have the authority to forfeit any GRPA events or games prior to, during, or immediately following (if won by the agency in question) the events, provided however, such forfeiture is based on sufficient evidence of a violation of the rules in this Athletic Manual or in violation of a directive issued by the State Athletic Committee or its Chair.
2. Whenever the question of guilt remains, the forfeited agency has the right to appeal such a forfeit decision if done immediately and prior to the next scheduled game for the other team involved and which advanced because of the forfeit. If the forfeiture occurred at the district level, all appeals are made to the District Commissioner, his assigned representative, or the District Athletic Chair (member of the State Athletic Committee), as determined by the respective district by-laws.

If the forfeiture occurred at the state level, all appeals are to be made to the State Athletic Committee Chair, or in their absence, the Past Chair, then the Chair-Elect or the Chair's assigned representative.

At any time an ineligible player is found (with proof) to have participated in GRPA competition, the team is disqualified from further play. The team is subject to action by the District, State, or both. This can be enforced either during or after the event or between district and state tournaments. Note: In individual sports, the penalty applies to the individual participant.

Protests shall be processed in the same manner except that the burden of proof in a protest rests with the protesting agency. The protesting agency may be assisted in its investigation by the members of the State Athletic Committee, the Tournament Director, and/or the District Commissioner.

- a. If the appeal or protest is made by an agency at the district level, the District Commissioner or his assigned representative shall take the appropriate action in accordance with the district's by-laws. Disputes regarding the athletic functions within a district will be acted upon by the State Athletic Committee Chair. Decisions rendered by the State Athletic Committee shall be final and binding to all parties.
- b. If the appeal or protest is made by an agency at the state level, the State Athletic Committee Chair or in their absence, Past Chair, then the Chair Elect or the Chair's assigned representative shall take appropriate action, which at his own discretion, may include polling members of the State Athletic Committee. The agency making the appeal or protest shall reimburse the State Athletic Committee Chair for any expenses incurred for such action within ninety (90) days after a statement is rendered.

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- c. Appeals and protests are acceptable only under the aforementioned procedures and only by the recreation staff adult or responsible adult accompanying the agency team as stated in Rule 1, Article IV, Section B, paragraph 3. Players, parents, spectators, or other such non-recognized official agency representatives may not appeal decisions or protests. A protest fee of \$50 must be paid at time of protest for each rule interpretation protested and per each individual in player eligibility cases.
  - d. Protests are allowed on rule misinterpretation and illegal players only. No protest is allowed on judgment calls.
3. Any problems in a tournament other than a game rule misinterpretation protest may be corrected by the tournament director when found or noticed.

### SECTION B – FORFEITS

1. A team that forfeits its first game in a State Tournament can continue to participate in remaining games if they call in advance or have some representatives present.
2. In the event of a double forfeit in a State Tournament, a coin will be flipped between the two teams to determine a winner and loser.
3. Forfeit, withdrawal, and non-notification fees:
  - a. In the event of a forfeit or withdrawal after the bracket is drawn in a state competition, the team will be required to pay the entry fee to the state host and a forfeit fee of \$375.00 with \$125.00 of that fee going back to the state host from the GRPA Office. This fee applies to no shows and intentional forfeits. The agency that forfeits will be placed on probation from that sport for one (1) year. The agency may appeal probation before the State Athletic committee. (See page 31)
  - b. Teams that do not notify State Host will be charged a full entry fee payable to the State Host and a forfeit fee of \$375.00 payable to the GRPA Office with \$125.00 going to the State host from the GRPA Office. Teams and players may be suspended from GRPA play for unsportsmanlike conduct and/or forfeits. (See page 31)
  - c. Districts entering GRPA state level of competition that do not fill their commitment to send a team or teams to the State Tournament will be responsible for forfeits, fines and trophies if the withdrawal causes the cancellation of the tournament/event.
4. **Game time is forfeit time.**

### SECTION C - PROBATIONS, SUSPENSIONS, AND FINES

1. Agencies found in violation of this Athletic Manual or in violation of directives issued by the State Athletic Committee or its Chair may be placed on probation or suspension for any period of time to be determined by the State Athletic Committee, which shall give full consideration of the offense.
  - a. The State Athletic Committee may take immediate action per the manual or may request a full report from the agency prior to rendering a decision. The agency involved may request a hearing and appeal to the committee after the decision or penalty is levied. This appeal or request must be done within thirty (30) days of the meeting and prior to the next regularly

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scheduled meeting of the State Athletic Committee. If no appeal or request to appear is requested the action will stand as ruled and no further action may be taken later.

- b. The State Athletic Committee vote, regarding suspensions and probations, must include a majority of the members present. The Chair is empowered to vote in the case of a tied majority vote. The committee may suspend adult teams and individuals who are “no shows” at the state level tournament and put the agency on probation the first year and after second year suspend that agency for a no show in the same sport.
- c. Suspension shall include the barring from any or all GRPA athletic functions. With probation shall include a warning, reprimand, and/or conditional allowances for continued participation in any or all GRPA athletic functions.
- d. If an illegal player participates in any program, the player and team are suspended for one year and the agency may be probated or suspended.

### **SECTION D – CLARIFICATIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS**

1. The Chair of the State Athletic Committee is empowered with the authority to make clarifications and interpretations of rules and regulations found in this Athletic Manual, provided the majority of the State Athletic Committee does not vote in disagreement with the clarification or the interpretation rendered by the Chair.
2. Violations shall include, but are not limited to the following:
  - a. The use of ineligible players.
  - b. Failure to appear ready to play by the announced game time of a scheduled tournament or playoff.
  - c. Failure to continue to play when directed to do so by the Tournament Director, State Athletic Committee Member, or on district level, by the District Commissioner or District Athletic Committee.
  - d. Rules infractions.
  - e. Unsportsmanlike conduct or any conduct or appearance deemed by the State Athletic Committee as detrimental to the best interests of the Georgia Recreation and Park Association, Inc. its professionals, or its affiliate organizations.
  - f. Any other activity or lack of activity deemed inappropriate or illegal by the State Athletic Committee in accordance with the Rules of this Athletic Manual.

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### ***ARTICLE II – AWARDS***

#### **SECTION A – PROCEDURES FOR BIDDING STATE AWARDS**

1. All bid awards shall be decided by the sealed bid process, and advertising for such bid notices shall be through the normal channels of GRPA, Inc. to include, but not limited to, publication of notice in the Recreation and Parks in Georgia, “Recreation and Park Matters”, bulk mailings, special mailings, and any other method of notice which may be deemed feasible by the State Athletic Committee Chair and the Executive Director.
2. Requests for bid information shall be made in writing to the GRPA, Inc., administrative office, or to the State Athletic Committee Chair. Bids shall not be accepted unless these parties have written record of a bid request.
3. Bids must be received no later than seven days prior to the announced time for the meeting of the State Athletic Trophy Committee to begin at which bids will be opened. This meeting will generally be held in January. Illustrative samples of the award that the company or its bidding representative is offering for selection shall be presented on the same day of the bid opening.
4. The bid will be presented to the apparent, best bidder. (NOTE: The lowest bid does not necessarily mean that it is the best bid). All successful and non-successful bidders will be notified no later than ten (10) days after the date of opening bids.
5. The State Athletic Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to use any other method in selecting award suppliers, with the approval of the GRPA Board of Trustees.

### ***ARTICLE III – OFFICIALS FOR GRPA COMPETITION***

#### **SECTION A – DISTRICT AND STATE LEVELS (Additional officials may be used per national governing body guidelines)**

1. The rules in this section shall apply to all district and state levels except swimming and diving, track and field, tennis and volleyball.
  - a. “Certified Official” is defined as a qualified game official in his fifth year (or more) of membership with a certified officials’ association acceptable by the Georgia High School Association and designated by GHSA standards as a Certified Official.
  - b. “Approved Official” is defined as a qualified game official in his third (or more) year of membership with a certified officials’ association acceptable by the GHSA and designated by GHSA standards as an Approved Official.
  - c. “Registered Official” is defined as a qualified game official in his first or second year of Association and designated by GHSA standards as a Registered Official.
  - d. “Game Official” are those who are in control of the game itself, during its length of play and those who actually officiate the game.
  - e. “Assistant Officials” are those who assist the game officials as scorers, timers (except football), judges, statisticians, starters, or other such necessary supplementary game assignees.

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- f. “Competent Adult” is defined as a person 18 years of age or older who is considered proficient for assistant officials’ positions and duties as scorers, timers, judges, statisticians, starters, or in other such necessary supplementary assignments.
  - g. Softball officials must be ASA or GHSA approved.
2. Game Officials shall be uniformly attired in accordance with accepted GHSA and other affiliate standards.
  3. Game Officials should be given a copy of the GRPA rules pertaining to the sport they are officiating. These rules should be reviewed by the Tournament Director and discussed in pre-tournament meeting with officials.
  4. Game Officials and Assistant Officials are the responsibility of the Host Agency as to their assignments for games, unless otherwise directed by the State Athletic Committee or its Chair.
  5. The Tournament Director for all state levels of competition shall be a competent adult who has professional membership in the GRPA. He or she is to be assigned by the Host Agency who shall submit his name to the State Athletic Committee Chair for approval prior to the assigned state level of competition. In addition to the responsibilities of the Tournament Director, he or she shall also have the authority to forfeit any game if the Host Agency does not provide the necessary arrangements for games, unless unavoidable circumstances exist and are deemed uncontrollable by the Tournament Director.

The Host Agency shall be responsible for reimbursement of the Tournament Director’s expenses for travel and accommodations; payable within ninety (90) days after a statement of expenses is rendered to the Host Agency.

### ***ARTICLE IV – TYPE AND NUMBER OF REQUIRED OFFICIALS & PERSONNEL***

#### **SECTION A – DISTRICT COMPETITION**

1. A minimum of two registered officials must be used for all district games, except in swimming and diving, track and field, and football. Football must use four (4) registered officials. Individual sports are decided by the districts, and all other personnel are decided by the districts.

#### **SECTION B – STATE COMPETITION**

1. Officials for state GRPA competition are required as follows:
  - a. **BASKETBALL GAMES**
    - (i) A minimum of two approved or certified game officials that are members of GHSA or NFA.
    - (ii) A minimum of two competent adults as assistant officials to serve as scorer and timer.
    - (iii) Tournament Director as prescribed by this manual.

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### **b. BASEBALL GAMES**

- (i) A minimum of two Approved or Certified GHSA Game Officials or NBC Umpires in their third year or more of membership in the NBC and a member of a chartered NBC Umpires Association.
- (ii) A minimum of one competent adult as a scorer.
- (iii) Tournament Director as prescribed by this manual, and to assist the umpire-in-chief in verifying acceptable playing equipment, including the bats.

### **c. SOFTBALL GAMES**

- (i) A minimum of two Approved or Certified GHSA or ASA game officials in their third year or more of membership in GHSA or ASA and a member of a chartered ASA Umpires Association. (Fast-pitch softball officials must be trained in fast-pitch softball.)
- (ii) A minimum of one competent adult as a scorer per game.
- (iii) Tournament Director as prescribed by this manual and to assist the umpire-in-chief in verifying acceptable playing equipment, including the bats.

### **d. FOOTBALL GAMES**

- (i) A minimum of four Approved or Certified Game Officials for state level competition.
- (ii) A minimum of three Approved or Certified Officials for district level competition.
- (iii) Tournament or playoff director as prescribed by this manual, and to conduct official weigh-ins, approve game preparations and field conditions, and to supervise the game itself.

### **e. VOLLEYBALL MATCHES**

- (i) A minimum of two (2) officials per court shall be employed for state GRPA competition.
- (ii) They must be USVBA certified or working toward certification.

### **f. TRACK AND FIELD MEET**

- (i) The State Athletic Committee shall serve as the Games Committee (Jury of Appeals), and the Chair or his assigned representative shall serve as Referee for the State Meet.
- (ii) A minimum number of competent adults to serve as Starter, Clerk of the Course, Head Finish Judge Timer, Finish Judge Timers (lane inspectors), Head Field Judges (for each field event competition), and Scorers as approved by State Athletic Committee.
- (iii) Other Officials to serve as assistant starters, finish judges, marshals, field judges, event recorders, scorers, meet announcers, and any other personnel deemed necessary. These are recommended, although not required.
- (iv) Meet Director as prescribed by this manual.

### **g. SWIMMING AND DIVING MEET**

- (i) Four Registered Officials to serve as the starter, stroke and turn judges, and field judges. These four officials are to be approved by the State Athletic Committee and shall have no connection with any agency team represented at the State Meet (US Swim and National Federation Swim Officials accepted).



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- (ii) The Host Agency shall be responsible for providing all officials necessary for the proper management of the State Meet, including diving judges, timers, scorers, clerk of course, awards personnel, announcer, and others as deemed necessary.

### **h. STATE TENNIS MEET**

- (i) The Host Agency shall provide a minimum number of Competent Adults in accordance with this manual. Players may call their own lines and scores, unless either competitor requests a judge. In this case, the Tournament Director shall assign a competent adult who may also be a competitor in another age division to judge the match. Such a judge shall not be a representative from either of the agencies represented.
- (ii) Tournament Director as prescribed by this manual.

### **i. SOCCER**

- (i) A minimum of two (2) certified officials shall be employed for State GRPA competition. The State Athletic Committee must approve these officials prior to the State Tournament. If two officials are used they both must be at least 18 years old. If three officials are used the center official must be at least 18 years old but the other two may be younger (but older than the age group they are officiating).

### **j. GOLF**

- (i) The host shall provide a minimum number of competent adults to serve as Tournament Director and scorer.

### **k. GYMNASTICS**

- (i) The host shall provide a minimum number of competent adults to serve as Tournament Director and judges.

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# **RULE III – ATHLETIC CLASSIFICATION**

### ***ARTICLE I – PURPOSE***

In order to expand recreation athletic competition within the Georgia Recreation & Park Association, Inc., and to encourage new and smaller agencies to participate, the GRPA agency membership approved, in 1972, a system by which recreation agencies that participate in the GRPA athletic programs are classified for youth team events.

### ***ARTICLE II – LIMITATIONS***

Classification is limited to all youth team events: 8 & Under, 10 & Under, 12 & Under, 14 & Under, and 17 & Under divisions in all sports shall be classified **except as mentioned in each sport section.**

Individual and dual events such as track and field and swimming shall have two classifications. “A” will consist of all class “A” agencies and “B/C” shall consist of all others. There will be no classification for soccer, tennis, golf, or diving. Adult team sports shall not be subject to classification.

### ***ARTICLE III – METHOD OF CLASSIFICATION***

#### **SECTION A – NUMBER OF CLASSIFICATIONS**

There shall be three (3) classifications designated as Class “A”, “B”, and “C”. Some sports may combine classes to provide opportunities for play. Some sports (soccer, basketball, etc.) may have more or less classes. Check sport sections for further information.

#### **SECTION B – DETERMINATION OF CLASSIFICATION**

The classification of any agency shall be determined by the figures of youth populations from the latest United States Bureau of the Census tabulation and shall be reviewed, usually every five years, upon availability of updated figures.

#### **SECTION C – STANDARDS FOR CLASSIFICATION**

Classification shall be based on the following:

1. Class A – Agencies in counties of 15,000 youth population or more (17 and under).
2. Class B – Agencies in counties of less than 15,000 youth and more than 5,000 (17 and under).
3. Class C – Agencies in counties of 5,000 or less youth population (17 and under).
4. All state, federal, private, military, or other related organizations participating are subject to youth population criteria to meet classification guidelines for 17 and under.

## **GRPA Athletic Manual**

### ***ARTICLE IV – APPEALS***

#### **SECTION A – CLASSIFICATION APPEAL**

1. All agencies will remain in their class per standards (listed in manual) unless appeal is made to the State Athletic Committee. Appeal is allowed by agency or district and must be submitted to Hardship at least two weeks prior to October State Athletic Committee meeting.
2. Appeals may be made according to the following rules:
  - a. All classification appeals must go to the State Hardship Committee by due date with District recommendation. State Hardship Committee will present to Athletic Committee where a 2/3 vote for approval is required.
  - b. If an agency wants to drop one class, they must be approved by a majority vote of the district and state athletic committee.
  - c. Any agency wanting to move up a classification must be approved by majority vote of the district and the State Athletic Committee.
  - d. Decisions made in October may be appealed at the Presidents Assembly. These appeals must be passed by a 2/3 vote of the State Athletic Committee.
  - e. Agencies who wish to change classification for specific individual sports (swimming and track and field) may appeal in writing to the State Athletic Committee Chairman by September 1. The district's recommendation must also be included in the appeal. The decision will be made at the October meeting, and if denied, can be appealed at the Presidents Assembly.
  - f. Agency requesting classification changes, if approved, will remain in said classification until such time that the Agency or District requests their classification status change. Any request for classification change should be submitted the SAC Chair and to the Hardship Committee with District recommendation for consideration. In those instances the September Deadline will still apply. If no change in classification is requested they will stay in approved classification until the district or agency requests said change.
  - g. Counties with more than one functioning department may be placed in a lower classification only through the appeal process.
  - h. Any agency that does not operate and maintain their youth teams/leagues cannot appeal to a lower classification.

## GRPA Athletic Manual

### GRPA STATE AGENCY CLASSIFICATION

#### *First District*

Class A	Class B	Class C
Augusta/Richmond County	Burke County	Cochran-Bleckley County
Columbia County	Effingham County	Eastman-Dodge County
	Dublin-Laurens County	Evans County
	Lyons (Toombs County)	Glennville (Tattnall County)
	Rincon (Effingham County)	Hawkinsville-Pulaski County
	Statesboro-Bulloch County	Jefferson County
	Swainsboro-Emanuel County	Johnson County
	Thomson-McDuffie County	Lincoln County
	Vidalia (Toombs County)	Metter-Candler County
	Toombs County	Jenkins County
	Twin City – (Emanuel Co)	Reidsville (Tattnall Co)
		Soperton (Treutlen County)
		Screven County
		Wheeler County
No agency – Warren Co.		Glascocock County

#### *Second District*

Class A	Class B	Class C
Chatham County	Glynn County	Alma-Bacon County
Savannah (Chatham County)	Camden County	Appling County
Bloomingtondale (Chatham)	Douglas-Coffee County	Pierce County
South Bryan County	Fort Stewart (Liberty Co.)	Brantley County
Garden City (Chatham County)	Wayne County	North Bryan County
		Jeff Davis County
Pooler (Chatham County)	Liberty County	Long County
Port Wentworth -Chatham Co	Ware County	Charlton County
		Pearson (Atkinson County)
		McIntosh County
No Agency -		Telfair County
		Patterson (Pierce County)

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***Third District***

<b>Class A</b>	<b>Class B</b>	<b>Class C</b>
Albany (Dougherty County)	Sumter County	Adel-Cook County
Columbus (Muscogee County)	Bainbridge (Decatur County)	Turner County
Valdosta-Lowndes YMCA	Crisp County	Berrien County
Albany Area YMCA	Grady County	Blakely-Early County
	Lee County	Brooks County
	Mitchell County	Cusseta-Chattahoochee Co.
	Moultrie-Colquitt County	Terrell County
	Sylvester-Worth County	Dooly County
	Thomasville YMCA	Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County
	Tift County	Lanier County
	Bainbridge-Decatur YMCA	Macon County
	Valdosta (Lowndes Co.)	Irwin County
		Ellaville-Schley County
		Miller County
		Wilcox County
No Agencies – Clay, Baker, Echols, Stewart, Talbot, Webster, and Taylor Co.		Buena Vista (Marion County)
		Marion County

***Fourth District***

<b>Class A</b>	<b>Class B</b>	<b>Class C</b>
Clayton County	Carroll County	
College Park (Fulton County)	Carrollton (Carroll County)	Bowdon (Carroll County)
Coweta County	Harris County	Heard County
East Point (Fulton County)	Hapeville (Fulton County)	Manchester (Meriwether County)
Fayette County	Thomaston-Upson County	Mt. Zion (Carroll County)
Forest Park (Clayton County)	Villa Rica (Carroll County)	Pike County
Peachtree City (Fayette County)	Holy Ground Baptist Church (Carroll County)	Temple (Carroll County)
Spalding County	Union City	Meriwether County
Summit YMCA (Coweta County)		
Troup County		
Carrollton (Carroll County) – Swimming Only		
Fairburn (Fulton County)	No Agencies -	
Tyrone (Fayette County)		

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***Fifth District***

<b>Class A</b>	<b>Class B</b>	<b>Class C</b>	
Acworth (Cobb County)	Calhoun (Gordon County)		
Bartow County	Catoosa County		
Cartersville (Bartow Co.)	Cedartown (Polk County)		
Cherokee County	Murray County		
Hiram (Paulding Co.)	Gordon County		
Woodstock (Cherokee Co.)			
Cobb County	Lafayette (Walker County)		
Dalton (Whitfield County)	Rockmart (Polk County)		
Douglasville (Douglas Co.)	Summerville (Chattooga Co.)		
Douglas County	Gilmer County		
Kennesaw (Cobb County)	Coosawattee River Resort (Gilmer Co.)		
Marietta (Cobb County)	Bremen (Haralson Co.)		
Paulding County	Fannin County		
Rome-Floyd County	Haralson County		
Canton (Cherokee Co.)	Pickens County		
Euharlee (Bartow County)	Trion		
Smyrna (Cobb County)	Tallapoosa (Haralson Co.)		
Whitfield County			
			No Agencies – Dade Co.

***Sixth District***

<b>Class A</b>	<b>Class B</b>	<b>Class C</b>
Covington (Newton County)	Baldwin County	Greene County
Decatur (DeKalb County)	Peach County	Hancock County
DeKalb County	Jones County	Jasper County
Doraville (DeKalb County)		Morgan County
Henry County	Washington County	Putnam County
Bibb County	Perry (Houston County)	
Brookhaven (DeKalb County)	Warner Robins – Track Only	
Warner Robins (Houston Co.)	Butts County	
Rockdale County	Monroe County	
Dunwoody (DeKalb County)	NO Agencies – Crawford, Taliaferro & Twiggs County	
Robins AFB Youth Center		
Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites		
Walton County		

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***Seventh District***

<b>Class A</b>	<b>Class B</b>	<b>Class C</b>
Atlanta Athletic Club (Fulton County)	Auburn (Barrow & Gwinnett Counties)	Banks County
Alpharetta (Fulton County)	Barrow County	Commerce
Athens-Clarke County	Elbert County	City of Jefferson
Sugar Hill (Gwinnett County)	Dawson County	Lumpkin County
Atlanta (Fulton County)	Franklin County	Oglethorpe County
Cumming (Forsyth County)	Habersham County	Rabun County
Duluth (Gwinnett County)	Hart County	Towns County
Forsyth County	Jackson County	Union County
Fulton County	Madison County	White County <b>YMCA</b>
Gainesville (Hall County)	Oconee County	
Gwinnett County	Stephens County	
Hall County	YMCA of GA Piedmont/Brad Akins Branch (Winder/Barrow Co.)	
Newtown Recreation (Fulton County)		
Johns Creek (Fulton Co.)	YMCA of GA Piedmont/Bell Family Branch (Hart Co.)	
Milton (Fulton Co.)		
Norcross (Fulton Co.)	Pleasant Grove Baptist Church (Elbert County)	
Sandy Springs (Fulton Co.)		
Roswell (Fulton County)		
Snellville (Gwinnett County)		
South Gwinnett Athletic Assn		
JA Walters Family YMCA (Hall County)		

**GRPA Athletic Manual**

**CENSUS SHEET (Based on 2010 Census data)**

<i>COUNTY</i>	<i>17&amp;U</i>	<i>COUNTY</i>	<i>17 &amp; U</i>	<i>COUNTY</i>	<i>17&amp;U</i>	<i>COUNTY</i>	<i>17 &amp; U</i>
Appling-D2	4687	Dodge-D1	5078	Liberty-D2	19163	Taylor-D3	2182
Atkinson-D2	2429	Dooly-D3	3163	Lincoln-D1	1647	Telfair-D2	3317
Bacon-D2	2829	Dougherty-D3	24303	Long-D2	4426	Terrell-D3	2301
Baker-D3	801	Douglas-D5	37470	Lowndes-D3	26981	Thomas-D3	11135
Baldwin-D6	9721	Early-D3	2906	Lumpkin-D7	6233	Tift-D3	10350
Banks-D7	4636	Echols-D3	1182	McDuffie-D1	5688	Toombs-D1	7662
Barrow-D7	19561	Effingham-D1	14891	McIntosh-D2	3082	Towns-D7	1644
Bartow-D5	26842	Elbert-D7	4699	Macon-D3	3258	Treutlen-D1	1714
Ben Hill-D3	4673	Emanuel-D1	5740	Madison-D7	6861	Troup-D4	17834
Berrien-D3	4937	Evans-D1	2838	Marion-D3	2098	Turner-D3	2206
Bibb-D6	40131	Fannin-D7	4523	Meriwether-D4	5212	Twiggs-D6	1859
Bleckley-D1	2952	Fayette-D4	28135	Miller-D3	1433	Union-D7	3801
Brantley-D2	4897	Floyd-D5	23405	Mitchell-D3	5828	Upson-D4	6408
Brooks-D3	3850	Forsyth-D7	53355	Monroe-D6	5946	Walker-D5	16226
Bryan-D2	8858	Franklin-D7	4947	Montgomery-D1	2080	Walton-D6	22617
Bulloch-D1	14394	Fulton-D7	220019	Morgan-D6	4431	Ware-D2	8570
Burke-D1	6575	Gilmer-D5	6224	Murray-D5	10660	Warren-D1	1371
Butts-D6	5322	Glascocock-D1	814	Muscogee-D3	48611	Washington-D6	5043
Calhoun-D3	1319	Glynn-D2	19269	Newton-D6	28888	Wayne-D2	7465
Camden-D2	13639	Gordon-D5	14900	Oconee-D7	9317	Webster-D3	711
Candler-D1	2815	Grady-D3	6428	Oglethorpe-D7	3561	Wheeler-D1	1403
Carroll-D4	28074	Greene-D6	3284	Paulding-D5	43124	White-D7	6189
Catoosa-D5	15922	Gwinnett-D7	234348	Peach-D6	6314	Whitfield-D5	29241
Charlton-D2	2641	Habersham-D7	10287	Pickens-D5	6651	Wilcox-D3	1786
Chatham-D2	59919	Hall-D7	50132	Pierce-D2	4896	Wilkes-D7	2352
Chattahoochee-D3	3053	Hancock-D6	1716	Pike-D4	4842	Wilkinson-D6	2324
Chattooga-D5	5853	Haralson-D5	7224	Polk-D5	11032	Worth-D3	5333
Cherokee-D5	58945	Harris-D4	7622	Pulaski-D1	2582		
Clarke-D7	20425	Hart-D7	5622	Putnam-D6	4604		
Clay-D3	716	Heard-D4	3053	Quitman-D3	515		
Clayton-D4	74974	Henry-D6	59749	Rabun-D7	3434		
Clinch-D2	1842	Houston-D6	37493	Randolph-D3	1729		
Cobb-D5	176148	Irwin-D3	2318	Richmond-D1	49335		
Coffee-D2	11097	Jackson-D6	16029	Rockdale-D6	22923		
Colquitt-D3	12603	Jasper-D6	3475	Schley-D3	1503		
Columbia-D1	33866	Jeff Davis-D2	4159	Screven-D1	3692		
Cook-D3	4682	Jefferson-D1	4266	Seminole-D3	2008		
Coweta-D4	34885	Jenkins-D1	2235	Spalding-D4	16210		
Crawford-D6	2867	Johnson-D1	2086	Stephens-D7	5942		
Crisp-D3	6118	Jones-D6	7483	Stewart-D3	951		
Dade-D5	3593	Lamar-D4	3865	Sumter-D3	8303		
Dawson-D3	5091	Lanier-D3	2771	Talbot-D3	1462		
Decatur-D3	7072	Laurens-D1	12496	Taliaferro-D6	323		
DeKalb-D6	165362	Lee-D3	7923	Tattnall-D1	5410		



## GRPA Athletic Manual

# RULE IV – YOUTH AND ADULT BASKETBALL

### ARTICLE I – ELIGIBILITY

#### SECTION A – AGE DIVISIONS

1. There are six (6) age divisions for boys and girls and seven (7) divisions for adults. The divisions are: (Cutoff Date as “age prior to January 1)
  - a. 8 & Under Division (must be 7 by age control date)
  - b. 10 & Under Division for boys and girls
  - c. 10 & Under Major Division (Class A/B/C combined - 10’ goal)
  - d. 12 & Under Division for boys and girls
  - e. 14 & Under Division for boys and girls
  - f. 17 & Under Division for boys and girls
  - g. Men’s Division for men ages 18 and over
  - h. Women’s Division for women ages 18 and over
  - i. Men’s Church Division for men ages 18 and over
  - j. Men’s Industrial Division for men ages 18 and over
  - k. Women’s Church Division for women ages 18 and over
  - l. Men’s Division for 35 and over ages
  - m. Men’s Division for 40 and over ages.
2. For all team sports allow within district lines for individuals to compete in the nearest or adjoin departments with the following restrictions:
  - a. Home County or Agency has no program.
  - b. Cannot cross district lines.
  - c. Cannot pass over a program to participate in another agency.
  - d. Must participate in the sport program in the host agency.
  - e. Host agency must endorse participant.
  - f. Participant must be approved by District Athletic Chair. Once approved, they are legal throughout District and State.
  - g. Host agency must notify the District Athletic Chair with list and Home County of each crossover participant. The district must forward info to the State Host and Athletic Chair.
3. There shall be three (3) classifications in youth competition: A, B, C - **Exception- 10 & Under Major will play a combined class district and state.**

## **GRPA Athletic Manual**

4. Youth coaches must be certified by one the following programs: NYSCA, ACEP, GHSA, SIMPLY THE BEST, or EXCELLENCE PLUS.
5. Any player or coach ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for one game, in addition to the game from which ejected; or, in the case of an individual event within a meet or match, for the duration of that event.

### ***ARTICLE II – REGULATIONS***

#### **SECTION A – GOVERNING RULES**

1. Games in basketball at all levels of play are governed by the current rules and regulations of the GHSA Constitution and By-laws and the National Federation Edition of Basketball Rule Book with the exceptions as may be found in this manual.
2. Per the “Return to Play Act of 2013”, effective January 1, 2014, all agencies are required to provide concussion education material to all youth participants and their parents. The verification of compliance to this law is affirmed by the signature of the agency director on the GRPA roster.
3. All head and assistant coaches that are coaching youth teams participating in all levels of GRPA Athletics must have undergone a criminal background check through their Department. By signing the teams GRPA roster, the Department Director or their designee attests that this has taken place
4. Use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone, is not permitted in changing areas, rest rooms, or locker rooms. The use of audio or visual recording devices is not allowed in resolution of protested matters.

#### **SECTION B – LENGTH OF GAMES**

1. All youth and adult games shall consist of 8-minute quarters, except 8 & Under and 10 & Under which will be 6-minute quarters. Overtime for youth and adult games shall be 4 minutes and 3 minute overtime for 8 & Under and 10 & Under.

#### **SECTION C– SPECIAL PROVISIONS**

1. A team must have at least four players in all divisions to start a game. A team can continue with four players except in the case of an ejection
2. Basketball Free Throw: In both boys and girls ages 10 & Under and 12 & Under, the lane assignments are the same. In age groups 10 & Under and up, the bottom block will be left open. 8 & Under division free throw line will be 12 feet and the bottom block will be filled.
3. Cannot start Youth Tournament before 5:00 PM on the first day of the tournament.
4. During the school year youth cannot start a new game after 10:00 PM on Monday through Thursdays. All games will be scheduled and start no later than 10:00 PM on Friday and Saturday nights but may be played in emergency situations (rain, game delays, etc.)
5. Cannot start Adult Tournament before 7:00 PM on Monday through Friday.

## GRPA Athletic Manual

6. **Mercy Rule** - In Youth basketball if, in the fourth quarter, a team gains a twenty (20) point advantage the clock will run continuously for the balance of game except during time-outs. If the losing team gets within ten (10) points during the last quarter, the clock will be operated by regulation for the remainder of the game.
7. No youth teams shall be required to play more than **three (3)** games in a day. A mandatory rest time is required between games –it shall be 3 hours in a single elimination tournament - if teams vote to start early, the game cannot start in less than 2 hours without special circumstances. ( i.e. weather, travel times, approaching storms)
8. No more than 3 coaches or non-players are allowed on team bench.

### ARTICLE III – EQUIPMENT

#### SECTION A – APPROVED EQUIPMENT

1. Shoes shall be smooth and soft-soled for athletic use.
2. The approved basketballs for all divisions are as follows:
  - a. For the youth 8 & under, 10 & under, 12 & under, and all female divisions, the basketball must be the adopted GHSA ladies ball (285 or 28.5) size and weight. It may be synthetic or leather. The ball should be at least a 5-ply nylon-wound carcass or better. The ball will be furnished by the Tournament Host and the same ball will be used throughout the tournament. Teams are responsible for their own warm-up balls.
  - b. For all divisions except 8 & under, 10 & under, 12 & under and Women, a regulation-sized basketball that meets the current standards of the Georgia High School Association shall be used.
3. Mandatory uniforms shall be matching jerseys with factory type legal numbers only on front and back described in the Georgia High School Association Rule Book. *Legal numbers consist of 0, 00 (0 and 00 cannot be used on same team) 1-5, 10-15, 20-25, 30-35, 40-45 and 50-55.* It is legal for players to wear matching color or white t-shirts only under game jerseys.
  - a. No other youth sports organization patches will be allowed on uniforms in GRPA tournaments. Penalty – Illegal Equipment
  - b. Emblem/Logo/Picture Placement: GRPA waives the GHSA and NFHSA penalties for logos and clipart placement on basketball uniforms. No technical foul will be administered.
4. The Host Agency shall be responsible for supplying scrimmage vests in events where jerseys need to be opposite colors. A coin toss shall be conducted and the winner shall have the option of whether to wear the scrimmages vests or original jerseys.

#### SECTION B – PLAYING COURT REQUIREMENTS AND SPECIAL 8 & UNDER AND 10 & UNDER RULES

Court specifications and height of goals shall be in accordance with the Georgia High School Association standards found in the National Federation Basketball Rule Book, except 8 & Under and 10 & Under Divisions which is as follows:

## **GRPA Athletic Manual**

1. Height of goals – 8 ½ feet (Exception – 10 & under Major A/B/C will play on 10' goals)
2. Length of quarters – 6 minutes
3. Free throw line – 15 feet – 10 & under  
12 feet – 8 & under
4. Size of lane – 12 feet wide
5. Size of ball leather or synthetic – 28.5 in. or 285
6. 3 pt. Shot – same as other youth division rules.

### ***ARTICLE IV – GAMES AND AWARDS***

#### **SECTION A – DISTRICT**

1. District level competition in basketball is to be completed as follows:
  - a. All youth divisions (8 & under, 10 & under, 12 & under, 14 & under and 17 & under) by the Saturday before the State tournament. All adult divisions by the Saturday before their State Tournament.

### ***ARTICLE V – OFFICIALS AND PARTICIPANTS***

#### **SECTION A – GAME OFFICIALS**

1. A minimum of two officials who are members of a GHSA-approved association and GHSA must be used in all district tournaments. Host may use additional officials as approved by the national governing body.
2. A minimum of two (2) Approved Game Officials (qualified game officials in their third year or more of membership with a certified officials association acceptable by the GHSA standards and designated by GHSA as an approved Official for basketball) shall be employed for GRPA competition.
3. No official who has played during the season in the host's local league may officiate in the District or State tournament.

### ***ARTICLE VI – PROTESTS AND APPEALS***

**For More Information regarding Protests and Appeals See:  
Rule I, Article IV, Section C-11 for protest committee organization and responsibility –  
(Pages 53-54) and Rule II, Article I, Section A – (Pages 60-61)**

### **GRPA YOUTH BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT**

1. Youth Basketball State tournaments will be a one game pool seeded into a single elimination bracket. The entry fee will be \$200.00

## GRPA Athletic Manual

# RULE V – TRACK AND FIELD

### ARTICLE I – ELIGIBILITY

#### SECTION A – AGE DIVISIONS

1. There are four age divisions for both boys and girls (Cutoff Date as “age as of December 31 of current year **EFFECTIVE 2018: Age Prior to May 1**)
  - a. 8 & Under (Must be 7 by the age control date)
  - b. 10 & under
  - c. 12 & under
  - d. 14 & and under
2. Allow within district lines for individuals to compete in the nearest or adjoining departments with the following restrictions:
  - a. Home county or agency has no track and field program.
  - b. No recruiting by the adjoining agency.
  - c. Cannot cross district lines
  - d. Host agency endorsed participant
  - e. Cannot pass over a program to participate in another agency.
  - f. Must participate in the sport program in the Host agency program.
  - g. If a participant lives in an “A” class county, they cannot compete in “B/C” county. They must compete in the nearest “A” county. “B/C” may compete up in “A”.
  - h. Host agency must notify the District Athletic Chair with list and home county of each crossover participant. The district must forward info to the State Host and Athletic Chair.
  - i. Participants must be approved by District Athletic Chair and any and all protest of crossovers must be done prior to district competition. Once approved, they are legal throughout District and State.
  - j. To allow a participant to compete for the same team in GRPA that they do year round, as long as it is a GRPA agency team. The participant must have an AAU membership card at participant check-in. A 90 day turnover period would be required for AAU membership and meet AAU guidelines.

## GRPA Athletic Manual

3. Youth coaches must be certified by one the following programs: NYSCA, ACEP, GHSA, USA TRACK, or SIMPLY THE BEST.
4. Any player or coach ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for one game, in addition to the game from which ejected; or, in the case of an individual event within a meet or match, for the duration of that event.

### SECTION B – ENTRIES

1. In the State Meet an agency may not submit more than three (3) entries per event in each age division, but only one 4 X 100 relay and one 4 X 400 relay. (APPROVED RULING: A district, by majority vote and consent of at least one of its State Athletic Committee Members, may decrease or increase the number of entries in district level competition.)
2. A district not conducting a district track and field meet may allow one agency to represent its district at the State Meet with no more than two entries.
3. Individual competitors may not be entered in more than three (3) individual events, two (2) field and one (1) running or vice versa, plus the 2 relays in that age division.
4. Three entries per district to the State Meet. In all events, a maximum of three (3) entries will be accepted in any classification. **Any ties at the district or agency competition must be decided before entries are sent to the state host.** Four (4) or more entries will not be accepted by the state host.
5. In relays, two alternate runners can be listed and they are the only ones who can substitute in case of injury or sickness.

## ARTICLE II – REGULATIONS

### SECTION A – GOVERNING RULES

1. GRPA will not utilize starting blocks.
2. The National Federation (National Alliance Edition) Track and Field Rules is the official guide for GRPA meets, with exceptions as may be stated in this manual.
3. All participating agencies are required to attend one of the statewide track meetings/webinars to cover the rules and regulations for the state track meet. Agencies that do not attend must pay a fine of \$200 to the GRPA office. It is **“Strongly Recommended”** that both an agency member and track coach from each agency or team attend track meeting/s/webinar to ensure that all necessary parties are clear on any rule changes or clarifications.

Have host produce a Power Point that highlights guidelines for track participation and display power point on GRPA website 60 days in advance of track meet or have someone tape a video that is put on the GRPA website and have it displayed on the website.

4. Per the “Return to Play Act of 2013”, effective January 1, 2014, all agencies are required to provide concussion education material to all youth participants and their parents. The verification of compliance to this law is affirmed by the signature of the agency director on the GRPA roster.

## GRPA Athletic Manual

5. All head and assistant coaches that are coaching youth teams participating in all levels of GRPA Athletics must have undergone a criminal background check through their Department. By signing the teams GRPA roster, the Department Director or their designee attests that this has taken place.
6. Use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone, is not permitted in changing areas, rest rooms, or locker rooms. The use of audio or visual recording devices is not allowed in resolution of protested matters.

### SECTION B – EVENTS

1. Events in each age division are:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Age Group</u>	
50 Meter	7-10 Only	Preliminaries & Finals
100 Meter	All	Preliminaries & Finals
200 Meter	All	Preliminaries & Finals
400 Meter	All	Preliminaries & Finals (8 & under will be a final)
800 Meter (staggered start)	All	Finals Only
1600 Meter (waterfall start)	10-12-14	Finals Only
3200 Meter (waterfall start)	12-14	Finals Only
4 X 100	All	Finals Only
4 X 400	10-12-14	Finals Only
Standing Long Jump	All	Finals Only
Softball Throw	All	Finals Only
Shot Put	10-12-14	Finals Only
Mini-Javelin	12-14	Finals Only
Discus	12-14	Finals Only
Running Long Jump	All	Finals Only
High Jump	10-12-14	Finals Only

2. The order of events at the State Track Meet is as follows:
  - a. Friday – 4:30 PM Host Welcome and Parade of Athletes
  - b. Friday – 5:00 PM – Events will begin.

**Event order to be determined by State host and must be approved by the State Athletic Committee no later than their March meeting.**

- c. Awards are to be presented immediately following each event final.

### SECTION C – SPECIAL PROVISIONS

1. Relay teams in district level competition who qualify for the State Meet should run in the State Meet except in case of injury.
  - a. Relay teams will be assigned lanes by random selection prior to the start of the meet.

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- b. No International exchange zones in 4x100 relay.
  - c. Relay members must be on roster and in same age group.
  - d. Names of relay entries must be submitted to the state host prior to the state entry deadline with the understanding they can be changed prior to their competition due to their illness or injury.
  - e. Two alternate runners can be listed for each relay and they are the only ones that can substitute in case of injury or sickness.
2. If there is a tie by two or more competitors they will then draw lots for medal or other awards and privileges (unless other provisions have been made.)
  3. In the event of a tie at any height or distance in the finals of a field event, places shall be awarded as follows:
    - a. For places in jumping for height (high jump):
      - (i) The competitor with the lowest number of trials for the height at which the tie occurs shall be awarded at the highest place.
      - (ii) If the tie still remains, the competitor with the lowest total number of misses throughout the competition (up to and including the height last cleared, shall be awarded the higher place.
      - (iii) If after the above a tie still remains, the competitor with the lowest total number of trials (whether successful or not) throughout the competition up to and including the highest height cleared, shall be awarded the higher place.
      - (iv) If the tie remains after applying all of the above and:
        - (A) If it concerns first place, the competitors tying shall have one more attempt for the height at which they failed, and if no decision is reached, the bar shall be lowered or raised by intervals of one inch in the high jump, and each competitor shall try once at each height until the winner is determined.
        - (B) If it concerns any place other than first, the competitors shall be awarded the same place in the competition and medals, ribbons, awards or privileges determined by lot as in ties for track events.
      - (v) No misses shall be charged to a competitor for a pass height.
      - (vi) In all field events, each competitor will take alternative trials in successive order by entry list (i.e., no competitor will be allowed to take three successive trials.)
      - (vii) A run by or run up is not a try if done within the time frame.



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- (A) For places determined by distance (standing long jump, running long jump, softball throw and shot put):

- (1) If the distance resulting from the best performance of competitors is identical, the higher place is awarded to the competitor whose second best performance is better than the second best performance of any other competitor tied for that particular place.

4. Each competitor shall be allowed three trials in the finals of all field events (two at each height in the high jump). All state level field events are finals. All field events shall be run in a manner as not to allow an individual to use all their tries in succession unless they were at another event and all others have completed their tries. If they must try in succession they will be allowed up to two (2) minutes rest between tries.
- a. Starting Heights for high jump are as follows:

Boys		Girls	
10 & U	3'0	10 & U	3'0"
12 & U	4'0"	12 & U	3'6"
14 & U	4'6"	14 & U	4'0"

In the high jump, the bar shall be raised in 2" increments until only 4 jumpers are left, then raised by 1" increments until a winner. The jumpers must attempt to jump within 30 seconds after their name is called or a try will be charged.

5. In all track events, two false starts shall constitute disqualification of the runner guilty of the infraction.
6. Shot Put Rules
- a. The shot shall be put from the shoulder with one hand only and the competitor shall not allow the shot to pass behind or below the shoulder during the attempt. No harness or mechanical device attached to the hand or arm shall be used. Taping the wrist, palm or back of the hand is permissible. It is also permissible to tape only two fingers, provided they are adjoining and taped tightly together. However, there shall be no connecting tape device nor covering between the fingers and palm or back of the hand, or between the fingers and the wrist.
- b. The put must be made from the circle. It is a foul if the competitor, after stepping into the circle, fails to pause before starting his put, or touches the circle, (not including the inner face of the stop board or the band if one is used) or the ground outside the circle, or the top of the stop board with any portion of his or her body or apparel before the put is marked. It is also a foul if the shot falls outside of the sector, or if the competitor, after having completed his or her put, does not leave the back half of the circle.
- c. A foul put is not measured but is counted as a trial. Measurement is from the nearest edge of the first mark made by the shot to the point on the inside of the stop board nearest such a mark.
- d. All participants will throw the same shot put.
7. Standing Long Jump
- a. A competitor may (1) rock forward and backward lifting heels and toes alternatively from the surface but may not lift either foot completely from the ground nor slide it along in any

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direction of the ground; (2) both feet must be parallel to each other and equal distance from the scratch line before jumping; (3) both feet must leave the ground at the same time.

- b. The jumper shall take off from behind the scratch line. If the jumper's shoe extends over the scratch line or makes a mark in front of it, the jump shall not be measured, but shall count as a trial.
  - c. Each jumper is entitled to three jumps. Each jump shall be recorded. The contestant with the longest jump will be considered the winner.
  - d. The standing long jump will be done in sand. Each legal jump shall be measured from the scratch line or its extension to the point touched by the person or apparel of the jumper which is nearest the scratch line.
8. Softball Throw
- a. Ball throwing competition may be conducted with a rubber, leather, or synthetic cover 12" softball shall be used for all throws. All participants will use the same type of ball as furnished by the host.
  - b. The throw may be from either a stand or with a run-up.
  - c. Stepping over or on the line constitutes a foul. A contestant is permitted one run-up without releasing the ball. Failure to release the ball on a second run-up shall constitute a trial.
  - d. Each thrower will be allowed three trials. The longest throw will be considered the winner.
9. Places will be determined by second or third place throws or jumps if the first ones is a tie.

### ***ARTICLE III – EQUIPMENT***

#### **SECTION A – APPROVED EQUIPMENT**

1. Shoes are mandatory for all track and field events. Shoes must comply with USA Track and Field rules as stated in Section 6 A-1a. (may not exceed ¼" metal spikes) If discovered in the bullpen with illegal shoes, a warning will be given. Shoes identified as illegal at the finish line will cause disqualification of the participant from that event.
2. Equipment to be provided by the Host Agency for GRPA Track and Field Meets shall include the following:
  - a. Scorer's table located in an area favorable to the meet officials and conducive to accurate and timely recordings and results and posting events. It is recommended that a loud public address system be available.
  - b. A 6-lb. shot put.
  - c. Rakes, measuring instruments, and if necessary a modified take-off board designed or marked according to regulation, but closer to the jumping pit for younger age divisions in the broad jump event.

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- d. In the softball throw – six softballs are required. The specifications are: a rubber, leather, or synthetic cover 12” softball A visible tape with the feet and inches marked on it must be stretched on the ground to measure the distances of all competitors.
- e. Standards and, if necessary, modified standards designed or constructed according to regulations to allow jumpers in younger age divisions to jump at lesser heights than the usual minimum of four feet found on most regulation standards, crossbars and landing pits filled with soft material other than sand or sawdust and modified as necessary to allow younger age divisions to reach at least the height of the landing pit in the high jump.
- f. Track event equipment: starting pistol with .22 or .32 caliber black powder cartridges, one or more whistles for the chief finish judge and starter or clerk of the course, stopwatches (minimum six to eighteen with extras in case of malfunction), legal batons for relays and any other necessary equipment. Optional equipment would include finish yarn, and judges’ stand and lane indicators. One (1) .22 or .32 caliber pistol will be used for starts.
- g. Timing:
  1. Fully-automatic electronic timing shall be required for State level Track competition, and is highly recommended for District competition. Times shall be reported to two decimal places only (100ths of a second). Times shall be listed in hundredths only. All state records shall be reported to the hundredth of a second with no rounding off.
  2. Back-up timing systems shall be available at all times when electronic timing is being used. Stopwatches (minimum six to eighteen with extras in case of malfunction) This could consist of (a) a manual backup built into the timing system plus one watch per lane or (b) three watches per lane. A minimum of one (1) across-the-board finish judge or picking judge shall be used at all times with either backup system.

### SECTION B – UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

1. Agency team members, including all boys and girls, should wear like jerseys. Agency boys’ team must be dressed alike and the girls must be dressed alike from the waist up. No other youth sports organization patches will be allowed on uniforms in GRPA tournaments. Penalty – Illegal Equipment
2. It is mandatory that team members be in uniform while actually competing in events. (APPROVED RULING: It is conceivable that an agency with limited supply of same color jersey could continuously exchange these jerseys prior to the start of an event, but such a practice shall not be allowed during the conduct of an event among competitors still actively jumping, throwing, or running.)
3. No jewelry is allowed. (A watch is not considered jewelry and may be worn) Hair beads and/or pony tail ties with decorative balls shall be considered jewelry.

### SECTION C – AREA REQUIREMENTS

1. Effective 2004, the track shall be eight lanes, (\*see below) but the length of the track is often influenced by the available space, but a 1/4-mile or 400 meter track is standard. It has two straight sides and two curved ends. The length of the straight sides is approximately the same length as the curved ends. Field events are usually conducted inside the oval track and non-

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competing participants, coaches, attendants, and spectators are provided an assembly area outside the track.

NOTE: The putting circle for the shot put event shall have an inside diameter of seven feet. The circumference shall be marked with a metal, wood or plastic band which shall not rise more than  $\frac{3}{4}$ " above the level of the circle or if the circle has a surface of concrete, asphalt, wood or other hard material, a painted line two inches wide may be substituted for the band. A concrete surface with a  $\frac{1}{64}$ " roughness is recommended. A stop board shall be firmly fixed at the front inner edge of the circle 4" height and 4  $\frac{1}{2}$ " width and 4' length which should be the boundary lines extended.

### *ARTICLE IV – MEETS AND AWARDS*

#### **SECTION A – STATE**

1. All entries to the State Meet must be done by the District Host.

NOTE: Participants in relays can be changed between preliminary and finals if an injury occurs in the relays only.

2. In each preliminary (qualifying heats) running event in each age division, except the 800-meter and the 1600 meter runs, there will be two or three heats in the State meet. Lane assignments will be determined by the host, with equal first and second place entries in each heat if possible. The State Host Agency and State Athletic Committee Chair shall make heat assignments as deemed necessary.
3. The 200 meter dash will be run on a curve, the 800m will use a staggered start, and the 1600m and 3200m will use a waterfall start.
4. Each District's Meet Director (designated Tournament Director) is responsible for submitting state entries prior to the State Meet to be in the hands of the State Host by 5:00 PM Tuesday. Entries shall consist of the following information:
  - a. District
  - b. Age Division, Sex, Event, and
  - c. Place in District, First and Last Name, Agency, Time-Distance-Height.
5. Awards- Medals will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> place and ribbons awarded for 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> place. State meet host must provide an awards podium for 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> place. "A", "B/C" Meet: Awards will be given to the top eight finishers in each event from the finals. Awards given are per state awards contract and cannot be substituted or changed. If emergencies arise then the state athletic committee chair in consultation with the GRPA Executive Director will determine what course of action to take. . Medals to be given for each place shall have red, white, and blue drape in plastic cases with clear lid. Award cases and ribbons MUST be labeled by place and must have swimmers name, place, time and date (HY-TEK Meet Manager can produce and stick label on back cover or ribbon tab).

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### EXAMPLE:

Second District: 10 year old girls, 50 meter dash

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Canya Comegetme, Sigsbee, 7.5 seconds.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ima Gonnagetu, Whoville, 7.6 seconds.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Shesa Prettygirl, Willacoochee, 7.7 seconds.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Hesa Richboy, Funston, 7.8 seconds.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Itsa Gonnarain, Unsocial Circle 7.9 seconds.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Ucan Runfast, Gratis, 8.0 seconds.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Swing Andamiss, Dudley, 8.1 seconds.
- 8<sup>th</sup> U.R. Outtahere, Dawgville, 8.2 seconds.

## ARTICLE V – OFFICIALS

### SECTION A – HOST

The Host shall provide a minimum number of competent adults in accordance with Rule II, Article IV to serve as Meet Director, starter, clerk of the course, head finish judge-timer and finish judge-timers (lane inspectors), head field judges (for each field event competition), and scorers other assistant officials are not required, but are recommended as specified in Rule II, Article IV. The Host shall be responsible for providing areas and equipment, releasing publicity, and organizing competition for the meet.

### SECTION B – OFFICIALS

The State Athletic Committee shall serve as the Games Committee (Jury of Appeals), and the Chair or his assigned representative shall serve as Referee for the State Meet. Each District Commissioner is encouraged to provide a similar authority for district meets.

### SECTION C – COMPETITIONS AND ATTENDANTS

1. Attendants, coaches, spectators, parents or persons not designated as meet officials shall not accompany a competitor to the starting line or during a race. Any competitor will be disqualified if, in the opinion of the judges or meet officials, he or she has in any way been aided by a coach, teammate or anyone connected directly or indirectly with the team concerned. Such aid would include running alongside a teammate, being stationed at various points near the track, or located near any field events for the purpose of aiding or coaching the competitor after the race or field event has started. The degree of enforcement shall be announced by the Meet Director prior to the Meet.

## ARTICLE VI – PROTESTS AND APPEALS

Protests and appeals are authorized only under the stipulations found in this manual.

**For More Information regarding Protests and Appeals See:**

**Rule I, Article IV, Section C-11 for protest committee organization and responsibility – (Pages 53-54) and Rule II, Article I, Section A – (Pages 60-61))**

## ARTICLE VII – DEFAULTS

Any default that is not reported to the State Host at least three days prior to the State Meet will result in that agency being fined \$10.00 per person, this shall be per meet not per event. No alternatives or changes are allowed at the Meet. [Relay team counts as one (1) default. Youth are fined but not suspended.] Note: No alternative or changes are allowed at the State Meet.

NOTE: The top eight (8) over all times from the preliminary heats will advance to the finals.

NOTE: Subject to change by Host to adjust heats

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# RULE VI – YOUTH AND ADULT TENNIS

### ARTICLE I – ELIGIBILITY

#### SECTION A – AGE DIVISIONS

1. There are six age divisions for youth and three age divisions for adults divided by NTRP. Adult age prior to December 31 and Youth age prior to September 1.

a. **Youth- Two Divisions – Recreational and Open (USTA Rules)**

**Recreational** – All youth rules as outlined below.

**USTA Divisions** - All playing rules, court dimensions, racquet sizes, and balls must abide by USTA.

7 & 8 Year Olds (must be 7 by age control date)

10 & Under

12 & Under

14 & Under

16 & Under

18 & Under

b. **Adults**

18 and Over – 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5

40 and Over – 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5

55 and Over – 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5

All Adult Divisions will consist of Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles, and Mixed Doubles. Players can compete in 2 events.

18 & Over Divisions are open to men and women who have reached age 18 prior to, or during, the calendar year in which the player plays his/her first league match. Each draw consists of 4 doubles levels. Levels currently available are 3.0 – 4.5 men and women.

40 & Over Divisions are open to men and women ages 40 and over. Each draw consists of 4 doubles levels. Levels currently available are 3.0 – 4.5 men and women.

55 & Over Divisions are open to men and women ages 55 and over. Each draw consists of 4 doubles levels. Levels currently available are 3.0 - 4.5 men and women.

The Adult program for GRPA Tennis will use the **NATIONAL TENNIS RATING PROGRAM (NTRP)**

The National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) is the official system for determining the levels of competition for GRPA and USTA leagues. The USTA NTRP Computer Rating System assigns ratings based on play in the local league and at championship levels during the current league year. GRPA and USTA uses this system to determine player skill-level eligibility for the various league types.

The USTA publishes Early Start Ratings in July each year. These ratings are used for GRPA Seasonal Tournament. Before December 1 of each year, the USTA publishes the Year-End Ratings.

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NTRP computer ratings are managed exclusively by the USTA. GRPA does not set or control NTRP ratings. For complete information about NTRP, visit the USTA's NTRP webpage at <http://www.usta.com/Play-Tennis/USTA-League/Information/ratings/> .

Players with no current computer rating must self-rate. Players with expired ratings will not be allowed to self-rate at a lower level than their last valid NTRP rating. For information about self-rating, see the USTA's website: [www.usta.com/Play-Tennis/USTA-League/Information/About NTRP](http://www.usta.com/Play-Tennis/USTA-League/Information/About-NTRP). Also see the *Frequently Asked Questions* items regarding NTRP ratings for additional information.

2. Allow within district lines for individuals to compete in the nearest or adjoining departments with the following restrictions:
  - a. Home agency/county has no tennis program.
  - b. No recruiting by the adjoining agency.
  - c. Cannot cross district lines
  - d. Host agency endorsed participant
  - e. Cannot pass over a program to participate in another agency.
  - f. Must participate in the sport program in the Host agency program.
  - g. If a participant lives in an "A" class county, they cannot compete in a "B/C" county. They must compete in the nearest "A" county. "B/C" may compete up in "A"
  - h. Host agency must notify the District Athletic Chair with list and home county of each crossover participant. The district must forward info to the State Host and Athletic Chair.
  - i. Participants must be approved by District Athletic Chair and any and all protest of crossovers must be done prior to district competition. Once approved they are legal throughout District and State.
3. Youth coaches must be certified by one of the following programs: NYSCA, ACEP, GHSA, SIMPLY THE BEST.
4. Any player or coach ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for one game, in addition to the game from which ejected; or, in the case of an individual event within a meet or match, for the duration of that event.

### SECTION B – ENTRIES AND FEES

1. Any agency may submit no more than four (4) entries per event in each age division. (APPROVED RULING: A district by majority vote and consent of at least one of its State Athletic Committee Members may increase or decrease the number of entries in district level competition.)

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2. A district not conducting a district tennis tournament may allow one agency to represent its district at the State Tournament.
3. Entry fee(s) must accompany entries (\$10.00/event for youth). All Adult Divisions will be \$30/doubles teams. Entries are invalidated if fees are not sent.
4. Alternates will be allowed on GRPA rosters for doubles competition with a maximum of one alternate in doubles and in mixed doubles: one male, one female.
5. A player is allowed to participate in all three categories of competition. This rule will supersede the USTA rule concerning the number of allowable matches per day.

### ***ARTICLE II-REGULATIONS***

#### **SECTION A – GOVERNING RULES**

1. GRPA tennis tournaments are governed by the current rules and regulations of the United States Tennis Association (USTA), with the exceptions as may be found in this Manual.
2. Per the “Return to Play Act of 2013”, effective January 1, 2014, all agencies are required to provide concussion education material to all youth participants and their parents. The verification of compliance to this law is affirmed by the signature of the agency director on the GRPA roster.
3. All head and assistant coaches that are coaching youth teams participating in all levels of GRPA Athletics must have undergone a criminal background check through their Department. By signing the teams GRPA roster, the Department Director or their designee attests that this has taken place.
4. Use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone, is not permitted in changing areas, rest rooms, or locker rooms. The use of audio or visual recording devices is not allowed in resolution of protested matters.

#### **SECTION B – EVENTS**

1. Events in each age division for male and female are:
  - a. In all youth divisions: (1) Singles, (2) Doubles and (3) Mixed Doubles
  - b. In all adult divisions: (1) Singles and (2) Doubles and (3) Mixed Doubles
2. The Order of Events at the State Tournament shall be determined by the State Host, with approval of the State Athletic Committee’s Chair.

#### **SECTION C – SPECIAL PROVISIONS**

1. The best 2 out of 3 sets using the No-Add system shall be used in all matches, up to the semi-final and final matches.
2. Regular scoring will be used in the semi-finals and finals.



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3. The twelve-point tiebreaker shall be used in all matches.
4. Adult Scoring
  1. All Doubles matches will be two out of three sets; a 10 point match tie-break in lieu of a third set (**first to 10 win by 2 points**).
  2. For any set tied at 6 games all, play a 12 point set tie-break (first to 7 win by 2 points). The player/team that begins serving the tie-break must RECEIVE serve at the beginning of the next set.
  3. **The Coman Tiebreak Procedure** - The Coman Tiebreak Procedure is the same as the present tiebreak (set or match), except that ends are changed after the first point, then after every four points (i.e., after the 5th, 9th, 13th, 17th points, etc.), and at the conclusion of the tiebreak. The scoring in the Coman Tiebreak Procedure is the same as a traditional set or match tiebreak, and the procedure for playing the Coman Tiebreak is the same as a set or match tiebreak. For example, if the Coman Tiebreak Procedure is used when the set score is 6-6, the player whose turn it is to serve shall serve the first point from the deuce court; after the first point, the players shall change ends and the following two points shall be served by the opponent(s) (in doubles, the player of the opposing team due to serve next), starting with the ad court; after this, each player/team shall serve alternately for two consecutive points (starting with the ad court), changing ends after every four points, until the end of the tiebreak game.

### **When will it be used?**

GRPA will use the Coman Tiebreak Procedure at all GRPA Adult District and State Championships for all set and match tie breaks. Use of the Coman Tiebreak Procedure is encouraged during local league play.

### **Principal Advantages**

- A. Fairness – By changing ends more frequently, the effects of the elements (sun, wind, etc.) are distributed more evenly between the two opponents as opposed to playing six consecutive points before changing ends.
- B. In doubles, the server will always serve from the same end of the court, rather than having to serve from both ends
- C. Change sides on odd games unless both players/doubles teams agree to change only between sets. Change ends at the end of each set unless the total number of games in a set is an even number (e.g. 6-4, 6-2, etc.), in which case the change is not made until the end of the first game of the next set.

## ***ARTICLE III – EQUIPMENT***

### **SECTION A – APPROVED EQUIPMENT**

1. Shoes are mandatory for all tennis events. Only smooth-soled tennis shoes may be worn on Grasstex and Laykold surfaces.
2. Equipment to be provided by the Host Agency for GRPA tennis tournament shall include the following:

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- a. Scorer's table located in an area favorable to the tournament officials and conducive to accurate, timely recording of results and posting scores. It is recommended that an information table near the scorer's table and a public address system is made available.
- b. A minimum of six quality-surfaced tennis courts, marked in accordance with USTA regulations shall be made available for GRPA tennis matches. It is recommended that a minimum of twelve Grasstex or Laykold surface tennis courts be made available for the GRPA State Tennis tournament.

### **SECTION B – UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS**

Contemporary playing attire for tennis to include tennis shoes, shorts or skirts and blouses, or suits for women is acceptable for GRPA competition. No other youth sports organization patches will be allowed on uniforms in GRPA tournaments. Penalty- Illegal Equipment

### ***ARTICLE IV – MEETS AND AWARDS***

#### **SECTION A – STATE**

1. There will be two classifications for tennis:
  - a. The Youth Divisions will be set by State Host – TBA
  - b. The Adult Divisions will be set by State Host – TBA
  - c. Any revision of dates must be approved by the State Athletic Committee Chair.
2. The top four finishers in singles, doubles, and mixed doubles for all youth age divisions at the district level shall qualify for the State Tournament. Alternates to GRPA rosters will be allowed for doubles competition with a maximum of 1 alternate in mixed doubles 1 male; 1 female.
3. Each youth entrant shall furnish one (1) can of USTA approved balls per match, with the winner receiving an unopened can and the loser receiving a can of used balls. The Adult host will provide USTA approved balls.
4. Pairings or seedings for the State Tournament shall be determined by the State Host. Acceptable seeding practices will be allowed. District level first place finishers shall not be required to play each other in the opening round. Byes, if available will be given to district first place finishers. The two district representatives will be placed in opposite brackets so they will not meet until the finals. Distance and travel time should be considered in setting up the bracket times. (*Cannot start Youth State Tournament before 8:30 AM on weekdays and cannot start Adult State Tournament before 7:00 PM on weekdays*)
5. District tennis competition shall be completed by at least 14 days prior to State tournament.
6. The youth tournament draw will include the winner and runner-up of each district. There are no limits of District entries in adult divisions. Adults must enter through the local GRPA member agency. Roster requirements are consistent with all other events as stated in this manual for adult competition.

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7. Entries shall consist of the following:
  - a. District
  - b. Age Division, Sex, Event
  - c. Place in district, First and Last Name, Agency, Results

### **EXAMPLE:**

First District; 10 year old, Females, Singles:  
1<sup>st</sup> – Itsa Outtabounds – Porterdale, 6-2, 3-6, 6-4  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Hewon Matchpoint – Funky Town, 2-6, 6-3, 4-6

## ***ARTICLE V – OFFICIALS***

### **SECTION A – OFFICIALS, JUDGES, EQUIPMENT, AND PUBLICITY**

The Host shall provide a minimum number of competent adults in accordance with Rule II, Article IV to serve as Tournament Meet Director and Scorer. Players may call their own lines and scores unless either requests a judge, in which case the Tournament Director shall assign a competent adult who may also be a competitor in another age division to judge the match. Such a judge must not be a representative from either of the players' agencies. The Host Agency shall be responsible for releasing publicity and organizing competition for the tournament.

### **SECTION B – TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE**

Members of the State Athletic Committee shall serve as the Tournament Committee (Jury of Appeals), and the Chair shall serve as Associate Meet Director for the State Meet. Each District Commissioner is encouraged to provide a similar authority for district tournaments.

### **SECTION C – COMPETITORS AND ATTENDANTS**

USTA point penalty system rules regarding the conduct of players and spectators to include language, throwing or slamming balls or racquets, stalling, making comedy of a match, coaching or other outside distractions, line calls, cheating, gambling, drinking and flagrant violations will be strictly followed during warm-up and matches. Agencies shall be held accountable for the conduct of their participants and spectators.

## ***ARTICLE VI – DEFAULTS***

Any default that is not reported to the State Host at least seven (7) days prior to the State Meet will result in that agency being fined \$10.00 per person and any tennis player who withdraws from state competition will be suspended from GRPA tennis for one year. (Youth and Adult defaults, Adults ONLY suspension).

## ***ARTICLE VII – PROTESTS AND APPEALS***

Protests and appeals are authorized only under the stipulations found in this Manual.

**For More Information regarding Protests and Appeals See:  
Rule I, Article IV, Section C-11 for protest committee organization and responsibility –  
(Pages 53-54) and Rule II, Article I, Section A – (Pages 60-61)**

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# RULE VII – YOUTH BASEBALL

### ARTICLE I – ELIGIBILITY

#### SECTION A – AGE DIVISIONS

1. There are seven age divisions for Youth Baseball. The divisions are as follows: (Cutoff Date: Prior to May 1<sup>st</sup> of Current Year)
  - a. 8 & Under Division (with pitching machine) (must be 7 by age control date)
  - b. 8 & Under Coach Pitch Division (must be 7 by age control date)
  - c. 10 & Under Division (live pitching)
  - d. 10 & Under Division (with pitching machine)
  - e. 12 & Under Division
  - f. 12 & Under “Major” Division
  - g. 14 & Under Division
  - h. 17 & Under Division
2. For all team sports allow within district lines for individuals to compete in the nearest or adjoin departments with the following restrictions:
  - a. Home County or Agency has no program.
  - b. Cannot cross district lines.
  - c. Cannot pass over a program to participate in another agency.
  - d. Must participate in the sport program in the host agency.
  - e. Host agency must endorse participant.
  - f. Participant must be approved by District Athletic Chair. Once approved, they are legal throughout District and State.
  - g. Host agency must notify the District Athletic Chair with list and Home County of each crossover participant. The district must forward info to the State Host and Athletic Chair.
3. There shall be two (2) classifications in youth competition: A/ B and C - **Exception- 12 & Under Major will play a combined class at district and state.**
4. Youth coaches must be certified by one of the following programs: NYSCA, ACEP, GHSA, HIGHER GROUND, SIMPLY THE BEST, DOYLE, MVP, ASA VIP or EXCELLENCE PLUS.
5. Any player or coach ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for one game, in addition to the game from which ejected; or, in the case of an individual event within a meet or match, for the duration of that event.

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### ***ARTICLE II – REGULATIONS***

#### **SECTION A – GOVERNING RULES**

1. Games in boys baseball at all levels of play are governed by the current rules and regulations of the GHSA Constitution and by-laws and the National Federation, National Alliance Edition, Baseball Rules with the exceptions as may be found in this manual.
2. Courtesy Runners
  - a. At any time the team at-bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or the catcher. The same runner may not be used for both positions. Neither the pitcher nor the catcher will be required to leave the game under such circumstances.
  - b. The courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher can be anyone not in the current batting order. It cannot be the same person for both positions. If no subs are available then the last batted out is to be utilized as the courtesy runner.
  - c. A player may not run as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or the catcher and then be used as a substitute for another player in the half inning. (Penalty: out if discovered prior to next pitch).
  - d. In 10 & under with machine and in 8 & under, no courtesy runner for the pitcher is allowed.
3. Extra Players (EP) - A maximum of 2 EP's (Extra Players) or 1 DH (Designated Hitter) can be used at all levels of GRPA baseball. If DH is utilized then EP cannot be used. If EP is utilized then the DH cannot be used. (either or / not both)
4. Per the "Return to Play Act of 2013", effective January 1, 2014, all agencies are required to provide concussion education material to all youth participants and their parents. The verification of compliance to this law is affirmed by the signature of the agency director on the GRPA roster.
5. All head and assistant coaches that are coaching youth teams participating in all levels of GRPA Athletics must have undergone a criminal background check through their Department. By signing the teams GRPA roster, the Department Director or their designee attests that this has taken place.
6. Use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone, is not permitted in changing areas, rest rooms, or locker rooms. The use of audio or visual recording devices is not allowed in resolution of protested matters.

#### **SECTION B – LENGTH OF GAMES**

1. A regulation game shall consist:
  - a. 8 & under, 10 & under and 12 & under: 6 innings
  - b. 14 & under and 17 & under: 7 innings
2. A game which is tied after regulation play shall continue until a winner is determined.

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3. The score of a forfeited game shall be recorded as 7-0.
4. All GRPA district and state level tournament games must be played to conclusion. (EXAMPLE: Games starts on Monday and is rained out in the second inning, game resumes at the next playable opportunity regardless of length of delay or postponement from the exact point that the game was delayed or postponed). A game in progress must be completed before next game is started.
5. A game shall be considered complete after five (5) innings with eight (8) runs, four (4) innings with twelve (12) runs or three (3) innings with fifteen (15) or two (2) innings with (20) runs ahead including championship game or if-needed championship game.
  - a. A one hour and thirty minute time limit will be used in 8 & under in all games except for the championship and if games.
  - b. A one hour and thirty minute time limit will be used in 10 & under Live and 10 & under w/machine in all games except for the championship and if games.
  - c. A two hour time limit will be used in 12 & under/12 & under Major in all games except for championship and if games.
  - d. A two hour time limit will be used in 14 & under and 17 & under divisions of baseball in all games except the championship and if games.
  - e. International Tie-breaker: After the regulation game or time limit has expired the International tie-breaker will be used. The last scheduled batter will be placed on second base. This will continue until a winner is determined. Refer to ASA rule 5, Section 11.

### SECTION C – SPECIAL PROVISIONS

1. **SHORTHANDED RULE.** – Clarifications
  - a. **To start a game:**
    - A. A game may begin or finish with one less than required to start. (8 – 10 & under Live and up, 8 & under and 10 & under with Machine – 9).
    - B. The vacant position must be listed last in the batting order.
    - C. An out will be recorded when the vacant position in the batting order is scheduled to bat.
  - b. **To continue a game** once started with a full team listed on the line-up card:
    - A. If a team begins play with the required number of players as listed, that team may continue a game with one less player than is currently in the batting order whenever a player leaves the game for any reason other than ejection. (# of Players- see below)
    - B. If playing shorthanded and a substitute arrives, the substitute must be inserted immediately into the vacant spot. If the substitute refuses to enter for any reason that player becomes ineligible for the remainder of the game.
    - C. If the player leaving the game is a runner or batter, the runner or batter shall be declared out.
    - D. When the player who has left the game is scheduled to bat, an out shall be declared for each turn at bat. An inning or the game can end with an automatic out. The player who has

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left the game cannot return to the line-up. EXCEPTION: A player who has left the game under the blood rule may return even after missing a turn at bat.

E. A player that has been ejected cannot reenter the game; if removed by the umpire due to an injury, the player cannot return without a doctor's release; a player cannot re-enter if a concussion is suspected.

A team can start or continue with (8) players, unless the ninth player was ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct; then it is a forfeit. An 8 & under or 10 & under team with pitching machine can start or continue with nine (9) players, unless the tenth player was ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct; then it is a forfeit. A substitute removed may re-enter as a **legal** substitute for an injured player only if all other players have played when the team is **reduced to less than 8 players** (less than 9 players for pitching machine division).

**NOTE:** No player removed because of an ejection may re-enter. If an umpire removes an injured player, he cannot re-enter without a doctor's release. If a coach removes an injured player, he may re-enter per the substitution rules unless a concussion is suspected.

2. During the school year youth cannot start a new game after 10:00 PM Monday through Thursday except under extenuating circumstances. (weather, unusual delays, etc.)
3. The manager, coach or captain of a team making a substitution must immediately notify the Umpire-in-Chief who will suspend play and announce the change.
4. The choice of first or last at-bat (home –visitors designation) shall be determined immediately prior to a tournament game by a coin toss supervised by the Tournament Director or his/her representative, except championship game is(a) below.
  - a. In Championship Game the undefeated team will have the choice of home or visitor. In the "IF" game, home or visitor will be determined by coin toss.
5. A player is not required to sit out the next game for failure to report as a substitute, removal of a helmet after a warning, or carelessly slinging a bat after a warning. Batter is not out for carelessly slinging a bat after a warning, but is ejected. A forfeited game (not played) does not count as a sit out game.
6. ANY OF THE PLAYERS may withdraw and reenter once provided such player occupies the same batting position when he is in the lineup. The pitcher is governed by the provisions of Rule 7, Article 2 below. A substitute who is withdrawn may reenter one time in same batting order.
7. Pitching regulations: **(for examples, see case book #'s 36-42 on pages 176-177)**

**Maximum number of pitches for a tournament in ALL youth baseball will be as follows:**

**10 & Under = 120; 12 & Under = 120; 14 & Under = 160; 17 & Under = 160.**

**All other pitching rules will still apply**

a. Baseball – Pitch Count. This rule is also in effect if two different levels of competition were ever played in successive days.

**10 & Under/Live and 12 & Under Divisions:** The maximum number of pitches that can be thrown in a game/day is 85 pitches. If a team plays multiple games in one day, the total

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pitches for the day per pitcher is 85 pitches. If a pitcher pitches less than 31 pitches in game one, they are eligible to pitch in game two but the pitch count will be a cumulative total for the day. If a pitcher throws 31 or more pitches in a game and is removed from the mound, they are not eligible to return to the mound in the same game or until their required rest period is observed.

EXCEPTION: If the pitch limit is reached during an at bat, the pitcher may continue to pitch until the batter has reached base or has been declared out and/or the third out is made to complete the half inning, at which time the pitcher must be replaced. **The pitch count should continue to be documented as long as the pitcher is on the mound.** The pitch total for the game/day will remain cumulative- threw 34 pitches before outlined scenario above occurs then would have 51 pitches remaining for the game/day. However if the pitcher is removed as outlined in the provisions above they shall be eligible to pitch in subsequent game or day providing no other pitch rule has been violated. A pitcher who throws 30 or less pitches in a day requires no rest period. A pitcher who throws between 31-60 pitches in a day requires one (1) calendar day of rest. A pitcher who throws between 61-85 pitches in a day requires two (2) calendar days of rest.

**14 & Under and 17 & Under Divisions:** The maximum number of pitches that can be thrown in a game/day is 105 pitches. If a team plays multiple games in one day, the total pitches for the day per pitcher is 105 pitches. If a pitcher throws 41 or more pitches in a game and is removed from the mound, they are not eligible to return to the mound in the same game or until their required rest period is observed.

EXCEPTION: If the pitch limit is reached during an at bat, the pitcher may continue to pitch until the batter has reached base or has been declared out and/or the third out is made to complete the half inning, at which time the pitcher must be replaced. The pitch count should continue to be documented as long as the pitcher is on the mound. The pitch total for the game/day will remain cumulative- threw 44 pitches before outlined scenario occurs then would have 61 pitches remaining for the game/day. However if the pitcher is removed as outlined in the provisions above they shall be eligible to pitch in subsequent game or day providing no other pitch rule has been violated. A pitcher who throws 40 or less pitches in a day requires NO rest period. A pitcher who throws between 41-70 pitches in a day requires one (1) calendar day of rest. A pitcher who throws between 71-105 pitches in a day requires two (2) calendar days of rest. If a pitcher pitches less than 41 pitches in game one, they are eligible to pitch in game two but the pitch count will be a cumulative total for the day.

- b. **In all age groups, once a pitcher leaves the mound, he/she cannot return to the mound in that game, regardless of the number of pitches thrown.**
- c. In case of a suspended or forfeited game, the pitching regulations will still apply. The intent of this rule is for the pitchers arm to be protected. All rest periods apply.
- d. Pitches thrown count for the day the game started. A pitcher that starts a game on Wednesday and the game goes past midnight may continue to pitch in that game. If this happens, his pitch count is credited with pitches thrown on the day the game started.

**Article 2...** IF A PITCHER IS REPLACED while his team is on defense, the substitute pitcher shall pitch to the batter then at-bat, or any substitute for that-batter, until such batter is put out or reaches first base, or until a third out has been made. To insure that the requirements of this article be fulfilled the umpire will deny any coach defensive player conference which will violate it. EXCEPTION: If a pitcher is incapacitated or guilty of flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct, this rule is ignored.



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~~NOTE: Any player may be removed as pitcher and returned as pitcher only once per inning, provided the return as pitcher does not violate either the pitching, substitution, or charged conference rule. If the pitcher, because of an injury or incapacitation, is replaced as pitcher, and the above rule is not satisfied, or if his replacement requires more warm-up throws than permitted in 6-2-2-c (NFHS) he cannot return to the game as a pitcher.~~

- e. Any relief pitcher shall be allowed a minimum of ten (10) warm-up pitches regardless of whether or not he becomes the pitcher during or at the beginning of an inning. After the initial ten warm-up pitches, he may also be allowed additional warm-up pitches until such time the umpire believes the player's arm has warmed sufficiently.
- f. Balk rules shall be in effect for all divisions except the 10 & Under Live/12 & Under Baseball Division. (NOTE: the balk rules for GRPA divisions are the same as those for game played in accordance with rules adopted by the Georgia High School Association and pitchers should be made aware by team coaches or manager of these balk regulations.)
- g. The penalty for violation of using a player to pitch who is not eligible to pitch will result in forfeiture of the game provided it is reported or discovered prior to the next game of either team involved in the game in which the ineligible pitcher pitched.
- h. A player who is in the game to pitch, but has no pitching eligibility remaining for that game, may be substituted for, **if he hasn't pitched a pitch** to avoid a forfeiture of the game even if he/she has warmed up.
- i. An intentional walked batter will be awarded first base and the pitcher will be charged 4 pitches with no pitches thrown or the balance of pitches to award base.

### 8. Charged Conferences

- a. Each team when on defense may be granted no more than three (3) conferences during a game without penalty, to permit a coach or his representatives to confer with a defensive player or players, including his pitcher. A request for time for an obviously incapacitated player shall not constitute a charged conference nor shall a conference be charged whenever the pitcher is removed as pitcher. In extra-inning games, a team on defense may have one conference per inning without penalty. (1)**The penalty for using conferences in excess of times listed in (a) above shall be removal of pitcher from the pitching position for the balance of the game.**
- b. The umpire shall deny any subsequent defensive team's request for charged conference in 8 & Under/ 10 & Under baseball with machines.
- c. Each team, when on offense, may be granted not more than one charged conference per inning to permit the coach or any of that team's members to confer with base runners and/or the batter.

9. In all divisions of GRPA boy's baseball, the curve ball is permitted.

10. In all divisions of GPRA boy's baseball, double headers are permitted. NOTE: The State Athletic

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Committee recommends that tournament pairings and game time be considered when it is necessary for an agency host to schedule double-headers. No more than two (2) games per day for a team will be allowed in live pitching tournaments, except for rain delays or extenuating circumstances. **No more than three (3) games per day shall be permitted in pitching machine baseball (except for rain-delayed tournaments).** This decision will be made by the Tournament Director and approved by the State Athletic Committee.

11. 10 & Under and 12 & Under Division's modified rule for stealing bases:

- a. A modified form of base stealing shall be used in the 12 & Under and both 10 & Under Divisions.
  - (i) A base runner is required to stay in contact with the base until the pitched ball has reached home plate. At this point in the flight of the pitched ball, the runner is permitted to advance at his own risk of being thrown out.
  - (ii) The runner is automatically called out for leaving the base before the pitched ball reaches home plate. The ball is dead and all subsequent action on the pitch is canceled. All runners must return to base held at time of pitch.
  - (iii) Once a batter receives four (4) balls and is awarded first base, they may not advance beyond first base (i.e. home to first). Penalty: 1<sup>st</sup> Offense - both teams warned, 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense-runner called out.

12. Three strikes constitutes an out, and a batter is not allowed to run if the catcher misses or drops the third strike in the 10 & Under and 12 & Under Divisions. Other runners may advance at their own risk of being thrown out.

13. Headfirst slides are not allowed in any league where facemasks are required to play. The penalty for a headfirst slide in all divisions of baseball shall be an out if a facemask is worn. A dive back to a base on a pick off or base overrun is not considered a head first slide. Runners in rundown situation may not slide headfirst.

14. In the **12 & Under "Major" Division**, runners can play off the base and are allowed to steal at any point during live play including dropped third strikes.

15. In the 12 & Under Division, it is illegal for a batter to square to bunt and then draw back his bat and swing away at pitch, commonly known as Butcher Rule – Penalty: Out and all runners must return to base occupied at time of pitch. **THIS RULE DOES NOT APPLY TO 12 & UNDER MAJOR.**

### *ARTICLE III – EQUIPMENT*

#### **SECTION A – APPROVED EQUIPMENT**

1. Rubber-molded, cleated shoes are approved for use. Steel spikes are approved for 14 & Under and 17 & Under Divisions. Interchangeable cleated-shoes are allowed using the rubber molded screw-in cleats only. All shoes must be approved by umpire or Tournament Director for safety.
2. The official bat shall be round, and made of wood, metal, or other material acceptable for batting as approved by rules governing play in the GHSA. Regulation aluminum bats which meet GRPA standards are permitted in all divisions. Bat sizes for each division are as follows:

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- a. In the 10 & Under and 12 & Under, and 12 & Under “Major” Divisions, bats must not exceed thirty-three inches (33’) in length and two and one-quarter inches (2 ¼”) in diameter. The bat may be measured by an ASA bat ring. All 2 ¼ inch bats will be legal that meet the Little League (National Governing Body) rules for approved bats. These bats as specified by Little League should meet BPF and ABI guidelines as listed on the list of approved bats, GRPA will follow the list found at the following Little League web site:  
[http://www.littleleague.org/Assets/forms\\_pubs/2014LicensedBatList.pdf](http://www.littleleague.org/Assets/forms_pubs/2014LicensedBatList.pdf)
- b. Bats for 14 & Under and 17 & Under Baseball Divisions shall conform to National Federation and GHSA guidelines. The diameter at the thickest part shall be 2- 5/8” or less. The length shall be 36” or less. All bats must meet the standards set by The Georgia High School Association and The National Federation of High School Sports. The bat shall not weigh numerically more than 3 ounces less than the length. Bats on NFHS site also must include marking of BB-COR as required and may not be altered. 2 ¼” bats are not allowed in 14 & Under and 17 & Under Divisions.

**Example:** A 32” long bat cannot be less than 29 ounces in weight.

- c. There are no weight restrictions for bats in 10 & Under and 12 & Under divisions as in GHSA.
  - d. If a team is found using an ILLEGAL/ALTERED/NON APPROVED bat prior to player entering batter’s box the equipment shall be removed and play continued.  
**After player enters batter’s box a forfeit will be declared.**
3. The official ball shall be a sphere formed by yarn wound around a small core of cork, rubber, or similar material and covered with two strips of white horsehide or other authorized material tightly stitched together.
  - a. The only baseballs acceptable for District, Area, and State level competition shall be of the highest quality and meet the current standards set by the GHSA. The following stamped balls are permitted: Little League, Pony League, Official Baseball, Dixie Youth, etc. They do not have to have the NFHS stamp.
  - b. No seconds or blemishes will be allowed in any tournaments.
  - c. A minimum of six (6) premium-grade, regulation-sized baseballs as named above shall be made available for each game in Area and State tournaments.
  - d. Pearl Baseballs are not allowed for use in GRPA district and state tournaments
4. Regulation home plate, pitcher’s plate, and bases shall be used (the double base is mandatory at first base).
5. Gloves and mitts are governed by GHSA rule. Pitcher’s gloves must be of one color.
6. Catchers must wear full protective equipment, including mask with throat protector, protective helmet (protective cap in 10 & Under and 12 & Under must cover ear), body protector, shin guards, and protective cup in an athletic supporter. The umpire or tournament director shall inspect each catcher’s full protective equipment prior to the game to determine its safety. The helmets must be approved by NOCSAE.

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7. All players shall wear protective helmets while batting, running bases, and when on deck. The helmet shall be so designed as to give protection to the temples and the base of the skull as well as to the top of the head.
  - a. Face masks are mandatory for **8 & Under, 10 & Under, 12 & Under and 12 & Under Major** and recommended for all others. The penalty shall be treated as illegal equipment. Chin Straps are recommended for all divisions.
8. When an umpire orders a batter or runner to wear a head protector in accordance with the GRPA rules, or orders a catcher to wear a head protector, mask with throat protector, protective cup in a supporter, shin guards and/or body protector, the failure by the player to do so shall cause his dismissal from the game.

### SECTION B – UNIFORMS

1. A uniform for boy's baseball shall include baseball caps, jerseys numbered on back with six-inch (6") factory type, non-duplicated number, full baseball trousers, baseball hose, and shoes.
  - a. Uniform parts for the maximum fifteen (15) players must be identical in style and color except baseball trousers, which must be alike in base color. Trim is not a factor. No other youth sports organization patches will be allowed on uniforms in GRPA tournaments. Penalty – Illegal Equipment.
  - b. Managers, coaches, or team scorers who coach the bases must be attired in staff shirts or jerseys that are identical in style and color with each other. Only three adults are allowed in dugout area.
  - c. The batboy shall wear a uniform as required in this rule except that it is not mandatory his uniform be identical in style or color with other team members. Batboy must be in that age group or younger.
2. Uniforms as described above are mandatory for all District and State level tournament games.
3. Illegal uniforms will be treated as illegal equipment.

### SECTION C – PLAYING FIELD REQUIREMENTS

1. The following field specifications are required for all games:
  - a. 8 & Under, 10 & Under and 12 & Under Divisions
    - (i) Distance between bases shall be sixty (60) feet for 8 & Under and 10 & Under and sixty-five (65) for 12 & Under.
    - (ii) Pitching distance shall be forty-six (46) feet for 8 & Under and 10 & Under and fifty (50) for 12 & Under.
    - (iii) Minimum outfield distance from home plate shall be not less than one-hundred and seventy-five (175) feet, and the maximum distance shall not be more than two-hundred and twenty-five (225) feet.

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- (iv) Mounds are required (portable or permanent) with the round circle being ten (10) feet and height of six (6) inches above home plate.
- b. 12 & Under Major
- (i) Distance between bases shall be 65 feet
  - (ii) Pitching distance shall be 50 feet
  - (iii) Minimum outfield distance from home plate shall be not less than one-hundred and seventy-five (175) feet, and the maximum distance shall not be more than two-hundred (200) feet.
- (iv) Mounds are required (portable or permanent) with the round circle being ten (10) feet and height of six (6) inches above home plate.
- c. 14 & Under Divisions
- (i) Distance between bases shall be eighty (80) feet.
  - (ii) Pitching distance shall be fifty-four (54) feet.
  - (iii) Minimum outfield distance from home plate shall not be less than two-hundred and fifty (250) feet, and there is no maximum distance.
  - (iv) Mounds are required (portable or permanent) with the mound circle diameter being fifteen (15) feet and the height being eight (8) inches above home plate.
- d. 17 & Under Divisions:
- (i) Distance between bases shall be ninety (90') feet.
  - (ii) Pitching distance shall be sixty feet and six inches (60'6").
  - (iii) Minimum outfield fence distance from home plate shall not be less than three-hundred (300) feet, and there is not a maximum distance.
  - (iv) Mounds are required (portable or permanent) with the mound circle diameter being eighteen (18) feet and the height being ten (10) inches above home plate.

NOTE: Pitching distances shall be measured from the back point of home plate where the baseline intersects to the nearest edge of the pitcher's plate.

2. The batter's box, one on each side of home plate, shall measure four feet by six feet (4 X 6) for all divisions. The inside lines of the batter's box shall be 6 inches from home plate. The front line of the box shall be three feet in front of a line drawn through the center of home plate. The lines are considered part of the batter's box.
3. The coach's box for 14 & Under and 17 & Under Divisions is behind a line twenty (20) foot long line drawn outside the diamond, parallel to and fifteen (15) feet from the first and third baseline extended from the bases toward home plate. The coach's box for 12 & Under divisions is behind a line six (6) feet long drawn outside the diamond, parallel to and six (6) feet from the first and third baseline extended from the bases toward home plate. Coaches shall remain within the confines of the coach's box except during time-outs and to avoid a fielder making a play.

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4. The three-foot line is drawn parallel to and three (3) feet from the baselines starting at a point halfway between home plate and first base for all divisions.
5. It is recommended that a loudspeaker public address system and scorer's area located favorably to the umpires and conducive to accurate and timely scoring be made available for the game.
6. The Agency Host shall be responsible for seeing that the playing field requirements meet GRPA specifications.

### ***ARTICLE IV – GAMES AND AWARDS***

#### **SECTION A – DISTRICT**

1. District level competition in boys' baseball is to be completed as follows:
  - a. See calendar for district/state tournament competition on pages 34-35.

#### **SECTION B – STATE**

1. All ages will start on Tuesday and play through Saturday, except 8 & Under, 10 & Under, and 10 & Under with machine which will start on Wednesday if more than 8 teams entered.

### ***ARTICLE V – OFFICIALS AND PARTICIPANTS***

#### **SECTION A – GAME PARTICIPANTS AND OFFICIALS**

1. A boy's baseball team shall consist of nine (9) players or ten (10/11) if using two extra players, whose position shall be designated for the scorer as pitcher, catcher, first baseman, second baseman, third baseman, short stop, left fielder, center fielder, right fielder, or extra players (if used). A team's line-up and batting order are official when handed to the umpire, Tournament Director, or official scorer prior to the start of the game.
2. The use of two adults as coaches are permitted in coach's boxes provided that both are attired in accordance with GRPA boy's baseball uniform regulations.
3. All team members not actually participating in the game to include coaches and managers must stay within the confines of the dugout or dugout area except to coach the bases from the coach's box or to talk with players during a charged conference.
4. A minimum of two registered officials must be used in district level games.

### ***ARTICLE VI – PROTESTS AND APPEALS***

#### **SECTION A – PROTEST FOR BASEBALL RULES INFRACTIONS**

1. A judgment decision by an umpire on any play shall not be protested.
2. Protests on misinterpretation of the rules are allowed to the Umpire in Chief and if acceptable as valid by the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director shall coordinate any such protest

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and shall serve as the odd-numbered member of the tournament protest committee as determined prior to the game by the Agency Host in coordination with the District Commissioner for District level competition and with the State Athletic Committee Chair for State levels of competition. There is a \$50.00 protest fee. If a protest is accepted by the Tournament Director, it must be made by the team manager or responsible person in charge of the team at the time of the alleged infraction. A full explanation of the protest will be recorded by the official scorer and retained in the official scorebook for reference. All such protests are to be immediately acted upon by the protest committee and before play is continued. If the decision of the protest committee is appealed to the State Athletic Committee it must be done so in time for any action to be resolved prior to the next game of either team involved.

**For More Information regarding Protests and Appeals See:  
Rule I, Article IV, Section C-11 for protest committee organization and responsibility –  
(Pages 53-54) and Rule II, Article I, Section A – (Pages 60-61)**

3. No protest on rules interpretation will be accepted after play continues following an alleged infraction.

### **SECTION B – APPEALS**

1. Note: See Rule II.

### **8 & UNDER (7 & 8) AND 10 AND UNDER PITCHING MACHINE BASEBALL RULES**

1. All pitching will be done by an electric powered pitching machine. No two-wheel machines are allowed. The machine must be a minimum of 24” off the ground with a maximum of 36” from the bottom of the wheel. In the employment of the electric-powered pitching machine, machine height is important. If mounted on top of a mound, the legs shall be used which lowers the point of ball delivery to a normal height for the average player in this age group. If mounted on flat ground, the longer legs will be employed, again elevating the machine to the normal pitching height.
2. All rules governing 10 and under baseball in GRPA athletics will be in effect with the exception of the following:
  - a. Ball speed shall be approximately 46 miles per hour for 10 & under 10 & Under, and 40 miles per hour for 8 & Under.
  - b. A qualified official will be stationed behind the catcher to call balls and strikes. The second official will be stationed behind the machine to feed machine and act as base umpire. Machine officials will be responsible for any adjustments to the machine and will present the ball to each batter prior to feeding machine.
  - c. When a batted ball hits a pitching machine, the umpire feeding the machine, or the extension cord off the ground, it is considered a “DEAD BALL SINGLE” and batter/runner will be awarded first base with all runners moving forward if forced. If a batted ball hits a defensive player then hits the machine, the batter is awarded first base and all other runners move up one base, if forced. Ball is dead when ball hits machine.
  - d. When a thrown ball hits the pitching machine or the extension cord off of the ground, it is considered a “DEAD BALL” and played as if thrown out of bounds.

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- e. An 8' deep by 12' wide rectangle box centered on the pitching plate in which the player in the pitching position must remain until the pitch is delivered. Defensive player must have at least one foot inside the box at the time of the pitch.
  - f. A line shall be drawn in the infield at the same distance as the pitching distance. No infielder is allowed **in front of the restrictive line until after** the ball is delivered through the machine, outfielders remain in outfield grass area (**behind a sixty foot radius from the front edge of pitchers rubber**), and the pitcher must remain in the box. **Penalty: The penalty for violation of this rule is Delayed dead ball and the batting team having the choice of the result of the play or no pitch will be declared. A team warning will be issued on the 2<sup>nd</sup> offense, 3<sup>rd</sup> offense head coach ejected.**
  - g. Count remains 3 and 2 until ball is hit or a strike out occurs except each player may be intentionally walked once per game. No player may be walked any more than once per game.
  - h. Bunting is not allowed in the 8 & Under and 10 & Under w/machine divisions. **Fake bunts are not allowed. If a batter shows bunt an out will be called.**
  - i. **Stealing is not allowed in the 8 & Under division.**
  - j. In the 10 & Under w/machine division, stealing is allowed with the following limitations:
    - A. A player cannot steal home.
    - B. A base runner can steal when the ball **reaches** home plate, and then only one base advance is allowed.
      - (i) If a throw becomes an overthrow during a stolen base attempt, the one-base restriction will apply for stolen bases only (ball is dead, no advance).
      - (ii) If the machine throws a ball that is uncatchable (to wide or too high) it will be called no pitch and runners cannot advance.
    - C. Runners must maintain contact with the base until the ball crosses the plate. The penalty is an out.
    - D. If a thrown ball hits the machine or umpire feeding the machine, each base runner is awarded one base.
3. In 8 & Under and 10 & Under Division with pitching machine, four (4) outfielders shall be used. Ten players will be used on defense at the following positions: Catcher, Pitcher, first baseman, second baseman, third baseman, short stop, and four outfielders. The batting order will consist of these ten players. Additionally, one or two EP's or a DH can be utilized but not both.
  4. The infield fly rule is in effect (including 8 & Under and 10 & Under divisions).
  5. A courtesy runner may be used for the catcher only. The courtesy runner can be anyone not in the current batting order or the last batted out if no substitutions are available.
  6. When all play has ceased, the umpire will call "time" and all play will be stopped.



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### 10 AND UNDER LIVE PITCH BASEBALL SPECIAL RULES

1. The infield fly rule is in effect.
2. Courtesy runners may be used for pitcher and catcher and can be anyone not in the current batting order or the last batted out if no substitutions are available. It cannot be the same person for both positions.
3. You may steal after pitch reaches home plate; penalty for leaving too soon is OUT.
3. Nine defensive players will be used.
4. Two EP's (Extra Players) or one DH may be used batting either ten or eleven. Cannot use both.
5. In the 10 & Under Live Division it is illegal for a batter to square to bunt and then draw back his bat and swing away at pitch, commonly known as Butcher Rule-Penalty Out and all runners must return to base occupied at time of pitch.

### 8 & UNDER (7 & 8) COACH PITCH BASEBALL SPECIAL RULES

#### Pitching Rules

1. An offensive coach will pitch to his/her own team.
2. The coach may only coach the batter until he/she reaches (1st) first base or after he/she leaves (3rd) base. (Penalty: The coach will be replaced after the second occurrence for the remainder of the game)
3. The pitcher may pitch anywhere from outside of the (20) foot foul arc and the pitching circle.
4. Pitcher may not cross the foul arc or enter the pitching circle (while pitching)
5. Pitcher must keep one foot on or straddle the pitching line.
6. Pitcher must pitch over-handed. (Any batted ball that hits the pitching coach will be a dead ball and called no pitch).
7. If the pitching coach intentionally allows the ball to hit him. (Penalty: batter is out - Umpire's Judgment). No runner may advance.
8. The offensive coach (pitcher) must attempt to avoid interference and try to pick-up the batter's bat provided he/she does not interfere with the play.
9. If the offensive coach (pitcher) does not attempt to get off the field and/or interferes with the defensive player to keep him from making a play will result in the batter being called out. No runner will advance.
10. The player in the pitching position on defense shall wear a mask for safety reasons.

#### Offense

1. After (1) one warning per game, per player for slinging her/his bat, the batter will be out, a dead ball called, and no runner advance.
2. Batter will receive (5) five pitches before being declared out.
3. Batter will be called out on (3) three swinging strikes.
4. If (5th) fifth pitch is fouled, he may continue to bat.
5. If (5th) fifth pitch is fouled and caught it is an out.
6. If batter squares to bunt and then swings, he will be called out; this will be umpire's judgment.
7. Any base runner leaving the base before the ball reaches home plate is out. (Penalty: The ball is

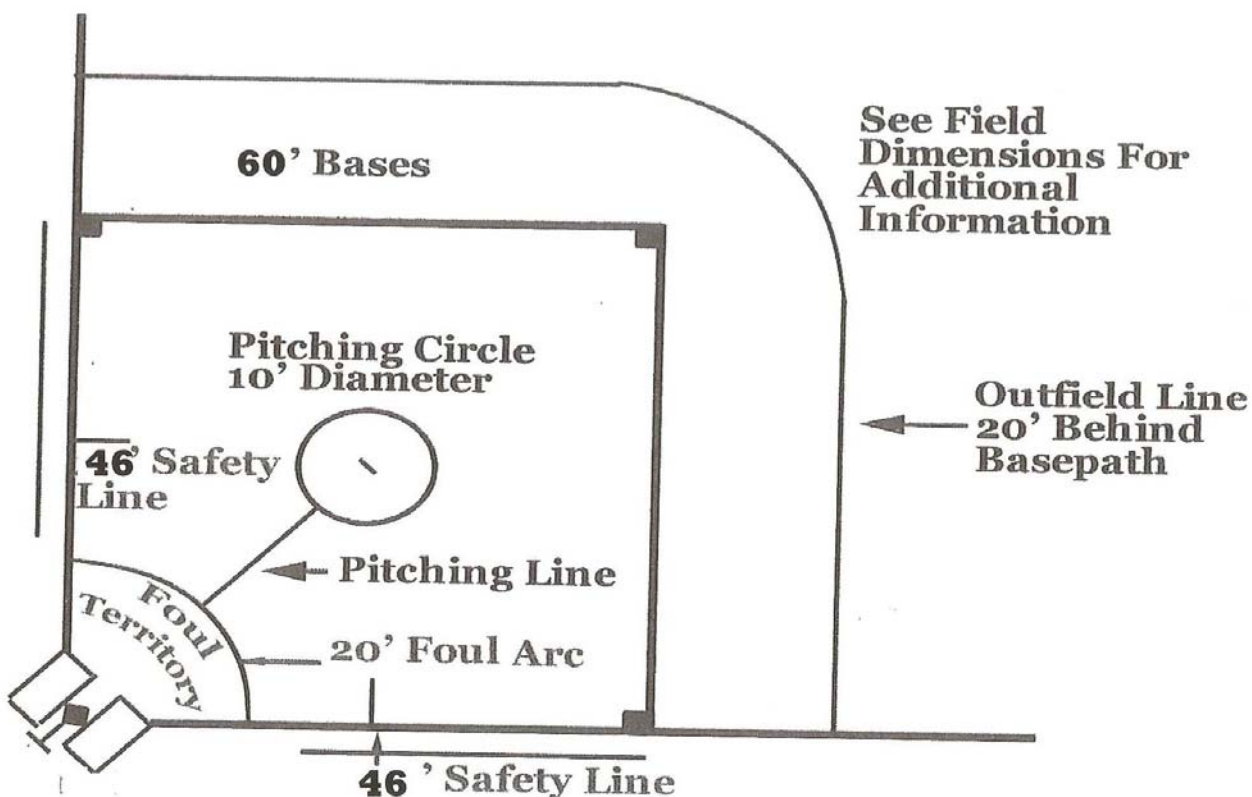
## GRPA Athletic Manual

dead and all other runners return to base occupied prior to pitch). (This is umpire's judgment).  
The pitch will not count.

8. Any runner is out when he/she does not slide or attempt to avoid the fielder who has the ball in the proximity of the base and is waiting to make a tag or if they maliciously run into a fielder.
9. Bat boys/girls will not be allowed in this Division.

### Defense

1. No rolling the ball intentionally will be allowed.
2. The infield fly rule will not be in effect.
3. Only (10) ten players on the field (6) infielders (including pitcher & catcher) and (4) four outfielders.
4. The defensive player listed as a pitcher will stay in the (10) ten foot circle until the ball is hit. The player/pitcher may have (1) one foot outside the circle. (Penalty: Offense gets choice of the play or no pitch).
5. Play shall not be stopped by the defensive team heading off or stopping the front runner. Trailing runners may advance at their own risk.
6. If a player is injured by being hit with a batted or thrown ball, time out will be called immediately. Bases will be awarded/outs will be called at the umpire's discretion based on each individual situation.



**GRPA Athletic Manual**

**RULE VIII (A) – SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL**

***ARTICLE I – ELIGIBILITY***

**SECTION A – AGE DIVISION**

1. There are twenty-two (22) divisions for slow pitch softball. The Age Divisions are as follows:  
(Youth) Cutoff Date: Prior to January 1<sup>st</sup> of Current Year; (Adult) Cutoff Date: Prior to September 1<sup>st</sup> of Current Year
  - a. 8 & Under Division 7 and 8 with pitching machine (must be 7 by age control date)
  - b. 10 & Under Division for girls ages 10 and under
  - c. 10 & Under Division for girls ages 10 and under with pitching machine.
  - d. 12 & Under Division for girls 12 and under
  - e. 14 & Under Division for girls 14 and under
  - f. 17 & Under Division for girls 17 and under
  - g. Open Women’s Division for women ages 18 and over
  - h. Open Women’s Division for women ages 30 and over
  - i. Men’s Open Division for men ages 18 and over
    - (i) No Homerun
    - (ii) Unlimited Homerun
    - (iii) Equalizer
  - j. Men’s Church Division for men ages 18 and over
    - (i) No Homerun
    - (ii) Unlimited Homerun
    - (iii) Equalizer
  - k. Men’s Industrial Division for men ages 18 and over
    - (i) No Homerun
    - (ii) Unlimited Homerun
    - (iii) Equalizer

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- l. Church Women's Division for women ages 18 and over.
  - m. Men's Division for men ages 40 and over with unlimited homerun rules.
  - n. Men's Division for men ages 50 and over with unlimited homerun rules.
  - o. Co-Ed for men and women ages 18 and older (includes Open, Church, and Industrial) unlimited division
  - p. Co-Ed for men and women ages 18 and older (Open, Church and Industrial) equalizer division.
2. For all team sports allow within district lines for individuals to compete in the nearest or adjoin departments with the following restrictions:
    - a. Home County or Agency has no program.
    - b. Cannot cross district lines.
    - c. Cannot pass over a program to participate in another agency.
    - d. Must participate in the sport program in the host agency.
    - e. Host agency must endorse participant.
    - f. Participant must be approved by District Athletic Chair. Once approved, they are legal throughout District and State.
    - g. Host agency must notify the District Athletic Chair with list and Home County of each crossover participant. The district must forward info to the State Host and Athletic Chair.
  3. There shall be two (2) classifications in youth competition: A/ B and C
  4. Youth coaches must be certified by one of the following programs: NYSCA, ACEP, GHSA, HIGHER GROUND, SIMPLY THE BEST, EXCELLENCE PLUS, DOYLE, MVP, ASA ACE.
  5. Any player or coach ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for one game, in addition to the game from which ejected; or, in the case of an individual event within a meet or match, for the duration of that event.

### ***ARTICLE II – REGULATIONS***

#### **SECTION A – GOVERNING RULES**

1. Official ASA Slow Pitch Softball Rules (for use in all championship games of ASA) printed in the current edition of the Official Guide for National ASA is accepted guide for GRPA games, with the exceptions found in this manual.
  - a. For Co-Ed ASA Class "A": rules for Co-Ed shall be adhered to except there will be no ejection for hitting more than two (2) homeruns. Outs will be called.
2. Tournaments for adult softball shall be played by the one pitch method in District and State tournaments if the tourney is delayed for an inordinate length of time. The tournament director shall use this only in cases where tournaments may be hampered from finishing on Sunday.
3. No adult church games will be played on Sunday, except under extenuating circumstances.

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4. Courtesy Runners
  - a. At any time the team at-bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or the catcher. The same runner may not be used for both positions. Neither the pitcher nor the catcher will be required to leave the game under such circumstances.
  - b. The courtesy runner can be anyone not in the current batting order.
  - c. A player may not run as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or the catcher and then be used as a substitute for another player in the half inning. If no subs are available then the last batted out is to be utilized as the courtesy runner.
  - d. In 10 and Under with machine and in 8 & Under, no courtesy runner for the pitcher is allowed.
  - e. Courtesy runners may be used in 50 and older, 40 and older divisions only per ASA rules.
5. Per the “Return to Play Act of 2013”, effective January 1, 2014, all agencies are required to provide concussion education material to all youth participants and their parents. The verification of compliance to this law is affirmed by the signature of the agency director on the GRPA roster.
6. All head and assistant coaches that are coaching youth teams participating in all levels of GRPA Athletics must have undergone a criminal background check through their Department. By signing the teams GRPA roster, the Department Director or their designee attests that this has taken place.
7. Use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone, is not permitted in changing areas, rest rooms, or locker rooms. The use of audio or visual recording devices is not allowed in resolution of protested matters.

### SECTION B – LENGTH OF GAMES

1. A regulation game shall consist:
  - a. 8 & Under, 10 & Under and 12 & Under 6 innings or one hour and thirty minute time limit will be used in all games except for the championship and if games.
  - b. 14 & Under and 17 & Under 7 innings or one hour and thirty minute time limit will be used in all games except for the championship and if games.
  - c. Adults – 7 innings or one hour except for championship and if games.
2. A game which is tied after regulation play of seven (7) innings shall continue until a winner is determined.
3. The score of a forfeiture game shall be recorded as 7-0.
4. All GRPA district and state level tournament games must be played to conclusion. (EXAMPLE: Game starts on Monday and is rained out in the second inning. From the exact point the game was delayed or postponed it shall resume at the next playable opportunity regardless of length of delay or postponement.
5. State Tournaments in softball shall be double-elimination, and it is recommended that district level tournaments also be double elimination.

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6. A game shall be considered complete after five (5) innings with ten (10) runs, four (4) innings with fifteen (15) runs, or three (3) innings with twenty (20) runs ahead including championship game and the if-needed championship game. The run rule will apply at all times in youth and adult games.
7. Equalizer/One Homerun Ahead Rule: A team cannot at any time be ahead in homeruns by more than one. The first team to hit a ball fair over the outfield fence cannot hit another one until the other team hits one to tie or one more to go ahead by one homerun. Any ball hit in excess is an out. (Clarification - home team may go up one home run in their last at bat)

### SECTION C – SPECIAL PROVISIONS

1. **Adult:** One (1) extra player (EP) on regular teams or two (2) extra players (EPs) (one male and one female in Co-Ed) may be used. All players, eleven (11) or twelve (12), must bat and any ten (10) can play defense. Defensive positions may change, but not the batting order. Co-Ed teams must still abide by male-female alignment rules. Extra players are optional before each game if placed in starting lineup.  
**Youth:** Extra Players (EP) - A maximum of 2 EP's (Extra Players) or 1 FLEX can be used at all levels of GRPA softball. If Flex is utilized then EP cannot be used. If EP is utilized then the Flex cannot be used. (either or / not both)
2. **SHORTHANDED RULE.**
  1. **To start a game:**
    - A. a game may begin or finish with one less than required to start.
    - B. The vacant position must be listed last in the batting order.
    - C. An out will be recorded when the vacant position in the batting order is scheduled to bat.
    - D. (Co-ed Slow Pitch) If a team plays shorthanded with either three players in the infield or outfield, at least one must be male and at least one must be a female.
  2. **To continue a game** once started with a full team listed on the line-up card:
    - A. If a team begins play with the required number of players as listed, that team may continue a game with one less player than is currently in the batting order whenever a player leaves the game for any reason other than ejection. Under no circumstances shall a team be permitted to bat 1) less than 8 in Fast Pitch, 2) less than 9 in slow pitch, 3) less than 10 in slow pitch when using an EP and 4) less than 11 in slow pitch when using two EP's.
    - B. If playing shorthanded and a substitute arrives, the substitute must be inserted immediately into the vacant spot. If the substitute refuses to enter for any reason that player becomes ineligible for the remainder of the game.
    - C. (Co-ed) If another player of the correct gender arrives, that player must be inserted into the line-up in the vacant spot by alternating genders.
    - D. If the player leaving the game is a runner or batter, the runner or batter shall be declared out,
    - E. When the player who has left the game is scheduled to bat, an out shall be declared for each turn at bat. An inning or the game can end with an automatic out. The player who has left the game cannot return to the line-up.
    - G. (Co-ed) The batting order must still alternate and the defensive positioning remains as required.

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EXCEPTION: A player who has left the game under the blood rule may return even after missing a turn at bat.

EFFECT: Failure to have the required number of eligible players to start or continue a game will result in a forfeit.

In slow pitch (10 players) and slow pitch with an extra player (11 players), a team may start and/or continue a game with one less player, whenever a player leaves the game for any reason other than ejection. The player who has left the game under this exception cannot return to the line-up. (Exception not used in Co-Ed.) A player on the team bench that has participated in the game may re-enter the game to replace an injured player in any spot in the batting order to avoid forfeit. An ejected player **CANNOT** re-enter.

3. The manager, coach, or captain of a team making a substitution must immediately notify the plate umpire who will suspend play and announce the change. Substitutes do not have to be listed on line-up card.
4. The choice of first or last at-bat (home – visitors designation) shall be determined immediately prior to a tournament game by a coin toss supervised by the Tournament Director or his/her representative, except championship game is(a) below.
  - a. In Championship Game the undefeated team will have the choice of home or visitor. In the “IF” game, home or visitor will be determined by coin toss.
5. During the school year youth cannot start a new game after 10:00 PM on weekdays. All games will be scheduled to start no later than 10:00 PM on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights but may be played in emergency situations (rain, game delays, etc.).
6. The third-strike foul is not an out in 10 & Under and 12 & Under competition but is an out in 14 & Under and 17 & Under.
7. Courtesy runners may be used in 50 and older, 40 and older divisions only per ASA rules.
8. Adult tournaments, except church divisions, are to be played on Saturday & Sunday. Adult Church League games will be played on Friday & Saturday and cannot start prior to 7:00 pm on Fridays.
9. Adult softball teams are allowed to utilize the ASA pick-up player rule to add up to three (3) players when advancing to a state tournament. This can only be done if there is room on the original roster to add the names.
10. All Adult Slow Pitch batters assume a 1-1 count when they step in batter’s box per ASA NGB rules.

### ***ARTICLE III – EQUIPMENT***

#### **SECTION A – APPROVED EQUIPMENT**

1. Shoes are mandatory for play in all softball games.
  - a. Rubber-molded, cleated shoes are approved for use. Steel spikes are EXPRESSLY PROHIBITED and shall be treated as illegal equipment. All other shoes must meet ASA Rule Book standards.

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- b. Smooth and soft-soled athletic shoes including tennis or basketball shoes are acceptable.
2. Softballs for GRPA competition shall be .44 COR with compression rating of 375 maximum. **Per ASA RULES, the 52/300 12" ball will be used and the 44/375 ball has been removed from Slow-Pitch Play.**
3. Regulation home plate, pitcher's plate, and bases shall be used for all girls division.
4. Helmets must be worn by batters, base-runners, and on-deck participants in youth softball. Chin straps are recommended.
5. All Youth catchers must wear mask with throat protector. The helmet must cover the ears and back of the head. Option: Wearing a chest protector is optional. **Catcher's helmet and mask shall be required for 14 & Under and 17 & Under Girls' softball to include throat protection according to GHSA regulations.**
6. The double base is mandatory for use at first base in youth divisions and approved for adult play.
7. All ASA approved bats shall be allowed in GRPA Competition. Check [www.asasoftball.com](http://www.asasoftball.com) for updated list of legal bats. **Mandatory bat testing is required for all GRPA Adult Softball Divisions. Bats not found in compliance will be tagged and removed. If bat returns to play, it will be considered illegal equipment.**
8. 12" Balls will be used in Co-Ed Softball.
9. In youth softball, no head first sliding is allowed by runner with facemask attached to helmet. Penalty: Runners will be called out.
10. Stealing is allowed per ASA guidelines.

### SECTION B – UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

1. Team uniform for softball will consist of matching or like colored jerseys with a factory-type non-duplicating number on the back at least six (6) inches in height. It is strongly recommended that all team personnel be attired alike. The basic body color determines matching jerseys. The logos, numbers, trim, etc. does not have to match if the basic color is the same. No other youth sports organization patches will be allowed on uniforms in GRPA tournaments. Penalty – Illegal Equipment.
2. Team caps are not mandatory and furthermore, if caps are worn they do not have to be matching. If caps or visors are worn they must be baseball/softball style caps with no vulgar or obscene words or graphics allowed. No plastic visors are allowed in softball. Tournament Director will make final decision.
3. Shorts are acceptable. It is recommended, but not required, that all players on a team wear the same color shorts. GRPA does not adhere to ASA pants/sliding pants rule.
4. Illegal uniforms will be treated as illegal equipment.
5. Managers, coaches, or team scorers who coach the bases must be attired in staff shirts or jerseys that are identical in style and color of each other. Only three adults are allowed in dugout area.
6. The bat boy shall wear a uniform as required in this rule except that it is not mandatory that his/her uniform be identical in style or color with the team. Bat boy must be in that age group or younger. They must also wear a batting helmet.



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### SECTION C – PLAYING FIELD REQUIREMENTS

1. The following field specifications are required for all games:

- a. Girls Division

**Distance between bases shall be:**

10 & Under – sixty (60) feet

12 & Under – sixty (60) feet

14 & Under and 17 & Under – sixty-five (65) feet

**Pitching Distance shall be:**

10 & Under – forty (40) feet

12 & Under – forty-six (46) feet

14 & Under and 17 & Under – fifty (50)

feet

**Minimum outfield distance from home plate**

10 & Under – shall not be less than one-hundred and seventy-five (175) feet

12 & Under – one-hundred and seventy-five (175) feet

14 & Under and 17 & Under – Two-hundred and twenty-five (225) feet

- b. Adult/Co-ed Divisions

- (i) Distance between bases is 70'

- (ii) Pitching distance 50'

- (iii) Minimum outfield distance for men is 300'.

- (iv) Minimum outfield distance for women is 265'.

- (v) Minimum outfield distance for Co-Ed is 300'.

- (vi) In all co-ed divisions, there will be a 200' line in the outfield that the outfielders must remain behind until the female batter makes contact with the ball. The penalty for outfielders being over the line will be that all base runners advanced forward one base and the batter awarded first base.

2. The batter's box, coaches' boxes and three-foot line halfway from home plate to first base shall be in accordance with current ASA rules.
3. It is required that a loud-speaker public address system and scorers' area located favorably to the umpires and conducive to accurate and timely scoring be made available for the game.

### *ARTICLE IV – GAMES AND AWARDS*

#### SECTION A – DISTRICT

1. District level competition in girls' softball is to be completed as follows:
  - a. 10 & Under, 12 & Under, 14 & Under, and 17 & Under Divisions district levels are to be completed by the Saturday before the State Tournament.
  - b. District level competition in all divisions of adult softball is to be completed by the Saturday before the State Tournament.

#### SECTION B – STATE

1. **Procedure:** In the event a state tournament cannot be completed within the scheduled time frame and more than 40 percent of the scheduled games have been completed, the following procedures may be used to break ties among teams in the same spot in the bracket. The tournament may be extended by the Tournament Director after conferring with the State Athletic Committee Chairman.
  - a. The team which advanced the farthest in the winner's bracket.

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- b. Win-lose records, except among undefeated teams.
- c. If only two teams are tied for a position and have played each other, the winner of that game.  
EXCEPTION: If Championship must be played or the teams shall be declared co-champions.
- d. The teams shall be ranked according to the fewest runs allowed per game played.
- e. If a tie still exists, the team shall be ranked according to the most runs scored per game played.
- f. If a tie still exists, by a coin toss.

### ***ARTICLE V – OFFICIALS AND PARTICIPANTS***

#### **SECTION A – GAME OFFICIALS**

1. A minimum of two (2) Approved or Certified Amateur Softball Association game officials in their third year or more of membership in ASA and a member of a chartered ASA Umpires Association or GHSA Umpires must be used in district and State play.

#### **SECTION B – PLAYERS AND OTHER TEAM MEMBERS**

1. All team members not actually participating in the game, to include coaches and manager, must stay within the confines of the dugout or dugout area except to coach the bases from the coach's box or talk with players during a called time.
2. No player may play both fast and slow pitch softball during GRPA competition.
3. A team can start or continue a game with one less player when a player leaves a game for any reason other than ejection.

### ***ARTICLE VI – PROTESTS AND APPEALS***

#### **SECTION A – PROTESTS FOR SOFTBALL RULES INFRACTIONS**

1. The judgment decision by an umpire on any play shall not be protested.
2. Protests on misinterpretations of the rules are allowed to the Umpire-in-Chief and if accepted as valid by the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director shall coordinate any such protest and shall serve as the odd-numbered member of the Tournament Protest Committee as determined prior to the game by the Agency Host in coordination with the District Commissioner for District level competition and with the State Athletic Committee Chair for State levels of competition. If a protest is accepted by the Tournament Director, it must be made by the certified coach or responsible person in charge of the team at the time of the alleged infraction. A full explanation of the protest will be recorded by the official scorer and retained in the official scorebook for reference. All such protests are to be immediately acted upon by the Protest Committee and before play is continued. If the decision of the Protest Committee is appealed to the State Athletic Committee, it must be done so in time for any action to be resolved prior to the next game of either team involved.

**For More Information regarding Protests and Appeals See:  
Rule I, Article IV, Section C-11 for protest committee organization and responsibility –  
(Pages 53-54) and Rule II, Article I, Section A – (Pages 60-61)**

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3. No protest on rules interpretation will be accepted after the next legal or illegal pitch.

### SECTION B – APPEALS

NOTE: See Rule II Article I – pages 58-60

### 8 & UNDER AND 10 AND UNDER PITCHING MACHINE SOFTBALL RULES

All rules governing 10 and under and 8 & Under (7 & 8 year olds) in GRPA athletics will be in effect with exceptions of the following:

1. All pitching will be done by an electrically powered pitching machine using an underhanded delivery from thirty-five (35) to forty (40) feet over the top.
2. The arch of the pitch shall be adjusted by the umpire in charge to be no lower than six (6) feet and no higher than ten (10) feet. The judgment of these heights shall be left to the discretion of the umpires with the final authority being the Tournament Director. If a Jugs Jr. machine is used, ball should be placed in machine from the top.
3. Qualified officials will be stationed behind home plate and behind the pitching machine. Officials behind the machine will feed the machine and act as base umpire. Machine umpires will be responsible for any adjustments and for presenting the ball to each batter prior to feeding the machine.
4. When a batted ball hits a pitching machine, the umpire feeding the machine, or the extension cord off the ground, it is considered a “DEAD BALL SINGLE” and batter/runner will be awarded first base with all runners moving forward if forced. If a batted ball hits a defensive player then hits the machine, the batter is awarded first base and all other runners move up one base, if forced. Ball is dead when ball hits machine. When a thrown ball hits the pitching machine or the extension cord off the ground, it is considered a “DEAD BALL” and played as if thrown out of bounds.
5. An 8’ deep by 12’ wide rectangle box centered on the pitching plate in which the player in the pitching position must remain until the pitch is delivered. Defensive player must have at least one foot inside the box at time of the pitch.
6. Players in pitchers position must be within six (6) feet of the pitching plate but never any closer than forty (40) feet of home plate when the pitch is delivered. *A half circle shall be drawn at the pitching machine for the infielder to start prior to a pitch.*
7. No base on balls allowed. Count remains 3 and 2 until ball is hit or a strikeout occurs.
8. Players will be eligible for only one 10 and under and 8 & Under softball division.
9. Ten (10) defensive players shall be used in accordance with the following positions: one (1) each for catcher, pitcher, first base, second base, third base, and short stop; and four (4) outfielders.
10. The extra players may be used in accordance to ASA rules.
11. A one hour and thirty minute time limit will be used in all games except for the championship and if games.
12. When all play has ceased, the umpire will call “time” and all play will be stopped.

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# RULE VIII (B) – FAST PITCH SOFTBALL

### ARTICLE I – ELIGIBILITY

#### SECTION A – AGE DIVISION

1. There are six (6) divisions for fast pitch softball. The Age Divisions are as follows: (Cutoff Date: prior to January 1<sup>st</sup> of Current Year)
  - a. 8 & Under Division for girls ages 7 and 8 (Must be 7 by age control date)
  - b. 8 & Under Coach Pitch Division for girls youth ages 7 and 8 (must be 7 by age control date)
  - c. 10 & Under Division for girls ages 10 and under
  - d. 10 & Under Division for girls ages 10 and under (with pitching machine)
  - e. 12 & Under Division for girls ages 12 and under
  - f. 14 & Under Division for girls ages 14 and under
  - g. 17 & Under Division for girls ages 17 and under
2. For all team sports allow within district lines for individuals to compete in the nearest or adjoin departments with the following restrictions:
  - a. Home County or Agency has no program.
  - b. Cannot cross district lines.
  - c. Cannot pass over a program to participate in another agency.
  - d. Must participate in the sport program in the host agency.
  - e. Host agency must endorse participant.
  - f. Participant must be approved by District Athletic Chair. Once approved, they are legal throughout District and State.
  - g. Host agency must notify the District Athletic Chair with list and Home County of each crossover participant. The district must forward info to the State Host and Athletic Chair.
3. There shall be two (2) classifications in youth competition: A/ B and C
4. Youth coaches must be certified by one of the following programs: NYSCA, ACEP, GHSA, HIGHER GROUND, SIMPLY THE BEST, EXCELLENCE PLUS, DOYLE, MVP, ASA ACE.
5. Any player or coach ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for one game, in addition to the game from which ejected; or, in the case of an individual event within a meet or match, for the duration of that event.

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### ***ARTICLE II – REGULATIONS***

#### **SECTION A – GOVERNING RULES**

1. Official ASA Fast Pitch Softball Rules (for use in all championship games of ASA) printed in the current edition of the Official Guide for National ASA is accepted guide for GRPA games with the exceptions found in this manual.
  - a. The use of National Federation and current GHSA rules and regulations for pitching requirements pertaining to only having to have the pivot foot (one foot) in contact with the pitching plate is allowed.
2. Courtesy Runners
  - a. At any time the team at-bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or the catcher. The same runner may not be used for both positions. Neither the pitcher nor the catcher will be required to leave the game under such circumstances.
  - b. The courtesy runner can be anyone not currently in the batting order. It cannot be the same person for both. If no subs are available then the last batted out is to be utilized as the courtesy runner.
  - c. A player may not run as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or the catcher and then be used as a substitute for another player in the half inning.
  - d. In 10 and Under with machine and in 8 & Under, no courtesy runner for the pitcher is allowed.
3. Extra Players (EP)
  - a. Extra Players (EP) - A maximum of 2 EP's (Extra Players) or 1 FLEX can be used at all levels of GRPA softball. If FLEX is utilized then EP cannot be used. If EP is utilized then the FLEX cannot be used. (either or / not both)
4. Per the "Return to Play Act of 2013", effective January 1, 2014, all agencies are required to provide concussion education material to all youth participants and their parents. The verification of compliance to this law is affirmed by the signature of the agency director on the GRPA roster.
5. All head and assistant coaches that are coaching youth teams participating in all levels of GRPA Athletics must have undergone a criminal background check through their Department. By signing the teams GRPA roster, the Department Director or their designee attests that this has taken place.
6. Use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone, is not permitted in changing areas, rest rooms, or locker rooms. The use of audio or visual recording devices is not allowed in resolution of protested matters.

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### SECTION B – LENGTH OF GAMES

1. A regulation game shall consist of:
  - a. 8 & Under, 10 & Under, and 12 & Under six (6) innings.
  - b. 14 & Under and 17 & Under seven (7) innings.
  - c. All Fast Pitch Softball will have a 1:40 minute time limit, exception: 10 & Under pitching machine: 1:15 minute time limit, and then revert to the ASA Rule 5, section 11. The game clock shall start at the first pitch of the game. Exception – Championship and “if” games.
2. International Tie-breaker: After the regulation game or time limit has expired the International tie-breaker will be used. The last scheduled batter will be placed on second base. This will continue until a winner is determined. Refer to ASA rule 5, Section 11.
3. The score of a forfeiture game shall be recorded as 7-0.
4. All GRPA district and state level tournament games must be played to conclusion. (EXAMPLE: Game starts on Monday and is rained out in the second inning – game resumes at the next playable opportunity regardless of length of delay or postponement from the exact point that the game was delayed or postponed.)
5. State Tournaments in softball shall be double-elimination, and it is recommended that district level tournaments also be double-elimination.
6. A game shall be considered complete after five (5) innings with eight (8) runs, four (4) innings with twelve (12) runs, three (3) innings with fifteen (15) runs or two (2) innings with twenty (20) runs ahead including championship game and the if-needed championship game. The run rule will apply at all times.

### SECTION C – SPECIAL PROVISIONS

1. SHORTHANDED RULE.
  - a. ***To start a game:***
    - A. a game may begin or finish with one less than required to start.
    - B. The vacant position must be listed last in the batting order.
    - C. An out will be recorded when the vacant position in the batting order is scheduled to bat.
  - b. ***To continue a game*** once started with a full team listed on the line-up card:
    - A. If a team begins play with the required number of players as listed, that team may continue a game with one less player than is currently in the batting order whenever a player leaves the game for any reason other than ejection. Under no circumstances shall a team be permitted to bat 1) less than 8 in Fast Pitch, 2) **less than 10 in fast pitch** when using two EP’s.

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- B. If playing shorthanded and a substitute arrives, the substitute must be inserted immediately into the vacant spot. If the substitute refuses to enter for any reason that player becomes ineligible for the remainder of the game.
- C. If the player leaving the game is a runner or batter, the runner or batter shall be declared out.
- D. When the player who has left the game is scheduled to bat, an out shall be declared for each turn at bat. An inning or the game can end with an automatic out. The player who has left the game cannot return to the line-up.

EXCEPTION: A player who has left the game under the blood rule may return even after missing a turn at bat.

EFFECT: Failure to have the required number of eligible players to start or continue a game will result in a forfeit.

A team can start and/or continue a game with eight players, whenever a player leaves the game for any reason other than ejection. In addition, whenever the player who has left the game under this exception cannot return to the line-up (exception not used in co-ed). A player on the team bench that has participated in the game may enter the game to replace an injured player in any spot in batting order when all players have played. No player removed by an umpire from the game because of injury or ejection may re-enter.

A substitute removed may re-enter as a **legal** substitute for an injured player only if all other players have played when the team is reduced to less than 8 players (less than 9 players for pitching machine division).

- 2. The manager, coach or captain of a team making a substitution must immediately notify the plate umpire who will suspend play and announce the change. Substitutes do not have to be listed on line-up card.
- 3. The choice of first or last at-bat (home – visitors designation) shall be determined immediately prior to a tournament game by a coin toss supervised by the Tournament Director or his/her representative, except championship game is(a) below.
  - a. In Championship Game the undefeated team will have the choice of home or visitor. In the “IF” game, home or visitor will be determined by coin toss.
- 4. During the school year youth cannot start a new game after 10:00 PM on weekdays. All games will be scheduled to start no later than 10:00 PM on Friday and Saturday nights but may be played in emergency situations (rain, delay of game, etc.).
- 5. A maximum of 2 EP’s (Extra Players) will be allowed in GRPA softball.
- 6. No team may play more than 3 games in a day except under extenuating circumstances. (weather, power failure, etc.)
- 7. A substitute will be allowed to re-enter one time during a game.

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### *ARTICLE III – EQUIPMENT*

#### **SECTION A – APPROVED EQUIPMENT**

1. Rubber-molded, cleated shoes are approved for use in 8 & Under, 10 & Under, and 12 & Under divisions. Steel spikes are EXPRESSLY PROHIBITED and shall be treated as illegal equipment in the 8 & Under, 10 & Under and 12 & Under divisions. **Steel cleats are allowed in the 14 & Under and 17 & Under divisions of fast-pitch softball.** All other shoes must meet ASA Rule Book Standards. Smooth and soft-soled athletic shoes including tennis or basketball shoes are acceptable.
2. A minimum of three new ASA approved softballs must be available for each game. The official ball shall be that as permitted for play in ASA. 12 & Under and up will hit 12” softballs, and 10 & Under youth will hit 11” softballs core .47 Optic Yellow ball. (pg. 62 H/I) The Georgia ASA ball rule is in use. Allow ASA and/or GHSA approved ball and it must be Optic yellow with raised seam .47 cor. (375maximum) and can have a synthetic cover. The 10 and Under with machine ball may be smooth seam.
3. Regulation home plate, pitcher’s plate, and bases shall be used for all girls divisions.
4. Gloves or mitts may be worn by any player as long as the glove or mitt meets National Federation Standards.
5. Helmets with face mask must be worn by batters, base-runners, and on deck participants in youth softball. No player can play without a face mask. The penalty will be treated as illegal equipment. Chinstraps are recommended. No head first sliding is allowed. A dive back to a base is not considered a slide.
6. Youth catchers must wear mask with throat protectors and a catcher’s helmet with ear flaps or a batting helmet with a wire face guard and throat protector. (The helmets must cover the ears and back of the head. (Wearing a chest protector and shin guards is MANDATORY.)
7. The double base is Mandatory for first base.
8. Check [www.asasoftball.com](http://www.asasoftball.com) for complete and up-to-date list of legal bats.

#### **SECTION B – UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS**

1. Team uniforms for softball will consist of matching or like-colored jerseys with a factory-type non-duplicating number on the back at least six (6) inches in height. It is strongly recommended that all team personnel be attired alike. The basic body color determines matching jerseys. The logos, numbers, trim, etc., do not have to match if the basic color is the same. No other youth sports organization patches will be allowed on uniforms in GRPA tournaments. Penalty – Illegal Equipment.
2. Team caps are not mandatory. If caps or visors are worn they must be baseball/softball style caps with no vulgar or obscene words or graphics will be allowed. Tournament Director will make final decision. Caps do not have to match.



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3. Shorts are acceptable. It is recommended, but not required, that all players on a team wear the same color shorts. GRPA does not adhere to ASA pants/sliding pants rule.
4. Illegal uniforms will be treated as illegal equipment.
5. Managers, coaches, or team scorers who coach the bases must be attired in staff shirts or jerseys that are identical in style and color of each other. Only three adults are allowed in dugout area.
6. The bat boy/girl shall wear a uniform as required in this rule except that it is not mandatory that his/her uniform be identical in style or color with the team. Bat boy/girl must be in that age group or younger. They must wear batting helmets.

### SECTION C – PLAYING FIELD REQUIREMENTS

1. The following field specifications are required for all games:
  - a. Girls Division
    - (i) **Distance between bases shall be:**
      - 8 & Under & 10 & Under – Sixty (60) feet
      - 12 & Under – Sixty (60) feet
      - 14 & Under and 17 & Under – Sixty (60) feet
    - (ii) **Pitching distance shall be:**
      - 8 & Under and 10 & Under with machine – Forty (40) feet
      - 10 & Under/Live – Thirty-five (35) feet
      - 12 & Under – Forty (40) feet
      - 14 & Under – Forty (43) feet
      - 17 & Under – Forty (43) feet
    - (iii) **Minimum outfield distance from home plate:**
      - 10 & Under – shall not be less than one-hundred and fifty (150) feet/maximum of 225'
      - 12 & Under – one-hundred and seventy-five (175) feet/maximum of 225'
      - 14 & Under and 17 & Under – two-hundred (200) feet/maximum of 225'
2. The batter's box, coach's boxes, and three-foot line halfway from home plate to first base shall be in accordance with current ASA rules.
3. It is required that a loud-speaker public announcement system and scorer's area located favorably to the umpires and conducive to accurate and timely scoring be made available for the game.
4. The Agency Host shall be responsible for seeing that the playing field requirements meet GRPA specifications.

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### ARTICLE IV – GAMES AND AWARDS

#### SECTION A – DISTRICT

1. A minimum of two (2) registered ASA or GHSA officials must be used in district level games.
2. District level competition in girls' softball is to be completed as follows:
  - a. 8 & Under, 10 & Under, 12 & Under, 14 & Under, and 17 & Under Divisions district levels completed by the Saturday before the State Tournament.

#### SECTION B – STATE

1. **Procedure:** In the event a state tournament cannot be completed within the scheduled time frame and more than 40 percent of the scheduled games have been completed, the following procedures may be used to break ties among teams in the same spot in the bracket. The tournament may be extended by the tournament director after conferring with the State Athletic Committee Chairman.
  - a. The team which advanced the farthest in the winner's bracket.
  - b. Win-lose records, except among undefeated teams.
  - c. If only two teams are tied for a position and have played each other, the winner of the game will be declared champion. EXCEPTION: If Championship is not played and teams did not play each other in tournament, then they shall be declared co-champions.
  - d. The teams shall be ranked according to the fewest runs allowed per game played.
  - e. If a tie still exists, the team shall be ranked according to the most runs scored per game played.
  - f. If a tie still exists, by a coin toss.
  - g. There shall be no mound on the field for State Tournaments.

### ARTICLE V – OFFICIALS AND PARTICIPANTS

#### SECTION A – GAME OFFICIALS, PLAYERS, AND OTHER TEAM MEMBERS

1. A minimum of two (2) approved or Certified ASA or GHSA game officials in at least their third year or more of membership in ASA or GHSA and of a chartered ASA or GHSA Umpires Association must be used.
2. All team members not actually participating in the game, to include coaches and manager, must stay within the confines of the dugout or dugout area except to coach the bases from the coach's box or talk with players during a called time.

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### ARTICLE VI – PROTESTS AND APPEALS

#### SECTION A – PROTESTS FOR SOFTBALL RULES INFRACTIONS

1. The judgment decision by an umpire on any play shall not be protested.
2. Protests on misinterpretation of the rules are allowed to the Umpire-in-Chief and if accepted as valid by the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director shall coordinate any such protest and shall serve as the odd-numbered member of the tournament protest committee as determined prior to the game by the Agency Host in coordination with the District Commissioner for District level competition and with the State Athletic Committee Chair for State Levels of competition. If a protest is accepted by the Tournament Director, it must be made by the certified coach or responsible person in charge of the team at the time of the alleged infraction. A full explanation of the protest will be recorded by the official scorer and retained in the official scorebook for reference. All such protests are to be immediately acted upon by the Protest Committee and before play is continued. If the decision of the Protest Committee is appealed to the State Athletic Committee, it must be done so in time for any action to be resolved prior to the next game of either team involved.

**For More Information regarding Protests and Appeals See:**

**Rule I, Article IV, Section C-11 for protest committee organization and responsibility – (Pages 53-54) and Rule II, Article I, Section A – (Pages 60-61)**

3. No protest on rules interpretation will be accepted after the next pitch (legal or illegal).

#### SECTION B – APPEALS

NOTE: See Article I of Rule II.

#### **8 & UNDER AND 10 AND UNDER PITCHING MACHINE FAST PITCH SOFTBALL RULES**

All rules governing 8 & Under (7 & 8 year olds) and 10 and under in GRPA athletics will be in effect with exceptions the following:

1. All pitching will be done by an electric powered pitching machine using an underhanded delivery from forty (40) feet at 37 mph except for 8 & Under, which will be forty (40) feet at 34 mph. The machine must be a minimum of 12” off the ground with a maximum of 24” from the bottom of the wheel. In the employment of the electric-powered pitching machine, machine height is important. The machine will be mounted on flat ground and the short legs will be used.
2. If a Jugs Jr. machine is used, ball should be placed in machine from top.
3. A qualified official will be stationed behind the catcher to call balls and strikes. The second official will be stationed behind the machine to feed machine and act as base umpire. Machine officials will be responsible for any adjustments to the machine and will present the ball to each batter prior to feeding machine.
4. When a batted ball hits a pitching machine, the umpire feeding the machine, or the extension cord off the ground, it is considered a “DEAD BALL SINGLE” and batter/runner will be awarded first base with all runners moving forward if forced. If a batted ball hits a defensive player then hits the machine, the batter is awarded first base and all other runners move up one base, if forced. Ball is dead when ball hits machine. When a thrown ball hits the pitching machine or the extension cord off the ground, it is considered a “DEAD BALL” and played as if thrown out of

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bounds.

5. An 8' deep by 12' wide rectangle box centered on the pitching plate in which the player in the pitching position must remain until the pitch is delivered. Defensive player must have at least one foot inside the box at time of the pitch.
6. No player shall be intentionally walked more than once per game. Count remains 3 and 2 until ball is hit or a strike-out occurs.
7. Players will be eligible for only one 8 & Under or 10 and under division.
8. Ten defensive players shall be used in accordance with the following positions: one (1) each of catcher, pitcher, first baseman, second baseman, third baseman, and short stop; and four (4) outfielders.
9. Two EP's (Extra Players) may be used in accordance to GRPA rules.
10. Bunting is allowed in 10 & Under w/machine. A line shall be drawn in the infield at the same distance as the pitching distance. No infielder is allowed **in front of the restrictive line until after** the ball is delivered through the machine, outfielders remain in outfield grass area, and the pitcher must remain in the box. **Bunting is not allowed in the 8 & Under division.**

**Penalty: The penalty for violation of this rule is Delayed dead ball and the batting team having the choice of the result of the play or no pitch will be declared. A team warning will be issued on the 2<sup>nd</sup> offense, 3<sup>rd</sup> offense head coach ejected.**

**Fake bunts are not allowed. If a batter shows bunt and then swings, an out will be called.**

11. Stealing is allowed with the following limitations:
  - a. A player cannot steal home.
  - b. A base runner can steal when the ball reaches home plate, and then only one base advance is allowed.
    - (i) If a throw becomes an overthrow during a stolen base attempt, the one-base restriction will apply for stolen bases only (ball is dead, no advance).
    - (ii) If the machine throws a ball that is uncatchable (too wide or too high) it will be called no pitch and runners cannot advance.
  - c. Runners must maintain contact with the base until the ball crosses the plate. The penalty is an out.
  - d. If a thrown ball hits the machine or umpire feeding the machine, each base runner is awarded one base.
  - e. **Stealing is not allowed in the 8 & Under division.**
12. Infield fly rule is in effect.
13. A courtesy runner may be used for catcher only.
14. Youth Softball with machine– when play has ceased the umpire will call time and all play will be stopped in machine pitch softball. The ASA look back rule does not apply in pitching machine softball.

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### **10 AND UNDER LIVE FAST PITCH SOFTBALL SPECIAL RULES**

1. Infield fly rule is in effect.
2. Helmets with face mask are required. A player cannot play without a face mask. The penalty will be treated as illegal equipment.
3. Runners may steal per ASA guidelines. Penalty is an out if leave too soon.
4. Nine (9) defensive players will be used (three outfield players).
5. A courtesy runner may be used for catcher or pitcher.

### **8 & UNDER (7 & 8) COACH PITCH SOFTBALL SPECIAL RULES**

#### **Pitching Rules**

1. An offensive coach will pitch to his/her own team.
2. The coach may only coach the batter until she reaches (1st) first base or after she leaves (3rd) base. (Penalty: The coach will be replaced after the second occurrence for the remainder of the game)
3. The pitcher may pitch anywhere from outside of the (20) foot foul arc and the pitching circle.
4. Pitcher may not cross the foul arc or enter the pitching circle (while pitching)
5. Pitcher must keep one foot on or straddle the pitching line.
6. Pitcher must pitch under-handed and may be without arch, but with moderate speed. (Any batted ball that hits the pitching coach will be a dead ball and called no pitch).
7. If the pitching coach intentionally allows the ball to hit him/her. (Penalty: batter is out - Umpire's Judgment). No runner may advance.
8. The offensive coach (pitcher) must attempt to avoid interference and try to pick-up the batter's bat provided he/she does not interfere with the play.
9. If the offensive coach (pitcher) does not attempt to get off the field and/or interferes with the defensive player to keep him/her from making a play will result in the batter being called out. No runner will advance.

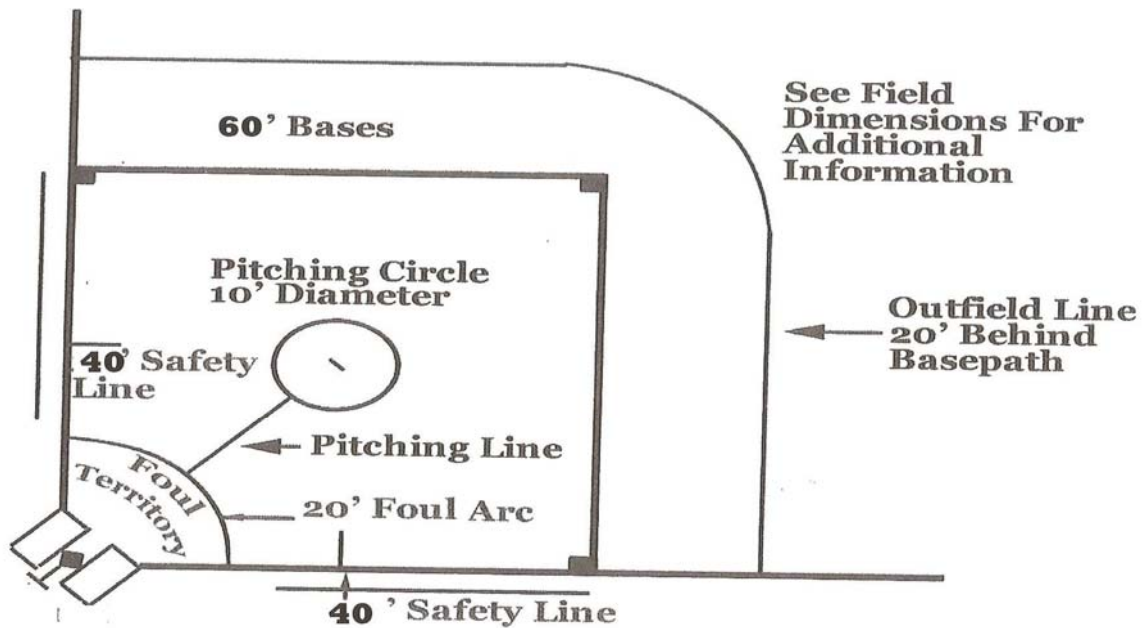
#### **Offense**

1. After (1) one warning per game, per player for slinging her bat, the batter will be out, a dead ball called, and no runner advance.
2. Batter will receive (5) five pitches before being declared out.
3. Batter will be called out on (3) three swinging strikes.
4. If (5th) fifth pitch is fouled, she may continue to bat.
5. If (5th) fifth pitch is fouled and caught it is an out.
6. If (5th) fifth pitch or (3rd) third strike is bunted foul the batter is out.
7. If batter squares to bunt and then swings, she will be called out; this will be umpire's judgment.
8. Any base runner leaving the base before the ball reaches home plate is out. (Penalty: The ball is dead and all other runners return to base occupied prior to pitch). (This is umpire's judgment). The pitch will not count.
9. Any runner is out when she does not slide or attempt to avoid the fielder who has the ball in the proximity of the base and is waiting to make a tag or if they maliciously run into a fielder.
10. Bat boys/girls will not be allowed in this Division.

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### Defense

1. No rolling the ball intentionally will be allowed.
2. The infield fly rule will not be in effect.
3. Only (10) ten players on the field (6) infielders (including pitcher & catcher) and (4) four outfielders.
4. The defensive player listed as a pitcher will stay in the (10) ten foot circle until the ball is hit. The player/pitcher may have (1) one foot outside the circle. (Penalty: Offense gets choice of the play or no pitch).
5. Play shall not be stopped by the defensive team heading off or stopping the front runner. Trailing runners may advance at their own risk.
6. If a player is injured by being hit with a batted or thrown ball, time out will be called immediately. Bases will be awarded/outs will be called at the umpire's discretion based on each individual situation.



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# RULE IX – YOUTH SWIMMING AND DIVING

### ARTICLE I – ELIGIBILITY

#### SECTION A – CLASSIFICATIONS

1. Allow within district lines for individuals to compete in the nearest or adjoining departments with the following restrictions:
  - a. Home or county agency has no swimming program.
  - b. No recruiting by the adjoining agency.
  - c. Cannot cross district lines.
  - d. Host agency endorsed participant.
  - e. Cannot pass over a program to participate in another agency. (Exception: see j. below).
  - f. Must participate in the sport/program in the Host agency/program.
  - g. If the participant resides in class “A” County, he/she cannot compete in “B/C” county.
  - h. Host agency must notify the District Athletic Chair with list and home-county of each crossover participant. The district must forward the information to the State Host & State Athletic Chair.
  - i. Participants must be approved by their District Athletic Chair. Any and all protest of crossovers must be done prior to district competition. Once they are approved they are legal throughout district and state.
  - j. When a private agency is the only provider of a program and a participant must purchase a membership plus pay fees then the participant will be allowed to participate with an agency across county lines.
  - k. If a swimmer lives within a subdivision that encompasses multiple counties or agencies, that swimmer can choose the agency to compete with.
  - l. To allow a participant to compete for the same team in GRPA that they do year round, as long as it is a GRPA agency team. The participant must have a USA swim membership card presented at the time of participant check-in. A 120 day turnover period would be required for USA swimming membership as outlined in USA swimming guidelines.
2. Class A – Agencies of 15,000 youth population or more.
3. Class B/C – Agencies of less than 15,000 youth population or any agency who appealed B or C.
4. There is no classification for diving. Class A, B, and C will compete as one group at one State Meet.

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5. All state, federal, private, military, or other related organizations participating are subject to youth population criteria to meet classification guidelines.

### SECTION B – AGE DIVISIONS

1. There are five (5) age divisions for boys and girls. The age divisions are as follows: (Cutoff Date - age prior to June 1.)

<i>Swimming</i>	<i>Diving</i>
a. 7-8	7-8
b. 9-10	9-10
c. 11-12	11-12
d. 13-14	13-14
e. 15-18	15-18
2. Relay participants in District competition may qualify for the State Meet by Agency name only. Names of relay participants are required, and relay participants may be changed, added or substituted, provided that their names appear on their Agency's Official GRPA Roster and that they did not participate in a different age division. Agencies must send in qualifying individual results and they can only be entered in the state meet in the events they swam in the qualifying meets.
3. Participants in swimming relays cannot change from preliminaries to finals unless due to illness or injury. A relay team found to contain an ineligible swimmer or swimmers shall be disqualified. Substitutes must come from alternates listed on roster.
  - a. If a swimmer misses an event during finals, they are disqualified from the remainder of the meet in their individual event(s) and relays. For relays if alternate is listed and present he/she may replace disqualified swimmer.
  - b. During relays the person cannot change but stroke/order can change.
4. Youth coaches must be certified by one of the following programs: NYSCA- swimming, ACEP, GHSA, US SWIMMING or American Red Cross Safety Training for Swim Coaches in conjunction with any nationally recognized life guard certification program, NCAA COACHES, ASCA or staff member.
5. Any player or coach ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for one game, in addition to the game from which ejected; or, in the case of an individual event within a meet or match, for the duration of that event/meet (upon the discretion of the meet director and/or meet referee).

### SECTION C – ENTRIES

1. All rosters and meet entries shall be submitted by the district or qualifying meet host utilizing Hy-Tek or Meet manager by the date specified by the State Host. The district host must complete state meet entries and submit entry sheet to be double checked by each of the teams from the district, before submitting to the state host. If submitted electronically you must also submit hard copy. Swimming Rosters must be typed and in alphabetical order. Each age group shall be on a separate roster.



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2. A district having only one team participating in swimming and diving may enter the State Meet, provided all rules and regulations concerning entry and eligibility as described in this Manual are met.
3. Individual competitors may enter a max of two individual swimming events and two relay events, including one freestyle and one medley relay. Diving competitors may enter two events in which he/she qualified for at the agency or district meet. (See Swim PowerPoint for Mixed relay)
4. Relay teams must be composed of members from one Agency team, and not a district-wide relay team or participants from more than one Agency Team. Names of relay entries must be submitted to the state host prior to the state entry deadline with the understanding that they can be changed prior to their competition. Agencies are allowed two alternates per relay event (to be used in the event of injury or sickness) and these alternates must already be on the official GRPA roster.
5. Relay Cards must be provided to the agency rep or coach for each team in the coach's packets upon arrival at the facility. If the team/agency does not utilize the relay cards or the approved computer change form to indicate any changes, they will have no recourse to challenge any changes to the relay including the order of the swimmers other than what was submitted at the entry deadline.
6. All agencies must enter swimmers as a team on Official Roster Forms. Entries must be made by Agencies and not to be entered by associations, leagues, or individual teams.
7. The Recreation Agencies will be responsible for the entries and all monies getting to and being paid to the State and to the State Host.
8. If an individual competitor swims up in an age division for relay competition, he/she may swim their individual events in their age-eligible division throughout the entire meet. However, if an individual swims up in an age division for one relay (example - free), they must also compete up an age division if entered in second relay (example - medley). Swimmers cannot compete in different age divisions for different relays.
9. In all events, a maximum of three (3) entries will be accepted in any classification. **Any ties at the district or agency competition must be decided before entries are sent to the state host.** Four (4) or more entries will not be accepted by the state host.

### Class "A" Agencies:

1. Agencies with 1500 or more competitive swimmers and divers that are registered locally to participate in GRPA competition shall be awarded three (3) entries in each swimming event and unlimited entries in each diving event at the State Meet without district competition. (Participants in swim lessons and "open swim" do not count toward this total)
2. Districts who have agencies with 1500 or more competitive swimmers and divers within their district will be awarded three (3) entries in swimming and three (3) entries for each diving event in the state meet. All other districts will be awarded three (3) entries in each swimming event and unlimited entries in each diving event at the State Meet. (Participants in swim lessons and "open swim" do not count toward this total)

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3. For agencies utilizing this provision, a certified letter must be signed by the agency director stating the agency has 1500 competitive swimmers (7 years and above) participating in their swim program. District must approve and send to state prior to the district swim entry meeting or June 1<sup>st</sup>, whichever comes first. (Participants in swim lessons and “open swim” do not count toward this total)
4. For 1500+ agencies, custom relay times will be allowed for state relay entries provided that the individual event times used to make the custom relay times were swam at the qualifying meet. If custom relay times are submitted, the 1500+ Agency submitting the relay entries must clearly indicate to the State Host where the custom times were derived (highlight the times in the qualifying meet results). If individual event times are not available or submitted from the qualifying meet, the relay must be entered in the state meet as No Time (NT).
5. **All meet entries must be submitted by the district or qualifying meet host utilizing Hy-Tek or Meet manager. 1500+ agency entries should be on one entry file with one agency name. Swimmers from 1500+ agencies must be listed by their agency team’s name on the state entries rather than the community team’s name that may have been used at the qualifying meet.**

### Class “B & C” Agencies:

1. Each district shall be awarded three (3) entries in swimming and unlimited entries in diving events at the State Meet.

## ARTICLE II – REGULATIONS

### SECTION A – GOVERNING RULES (US SWIMMING AND DIVING)

1. The GRPA State Swimming and Diving Meet shall be governed by this Manual. In any situation which may not be covered by this Manual, the Meet Director, in consultation with the GRPA State Athletic Committee Chair if he deems it necessary, shall have the authority to make the final decision.
2. All situations not specifically covered by this Manual concerning meet regulations, shall be handled in accordance with the current US Swimming and US Diving Rule Book.
3. Both GRPA state meets will file applications with US Swim to have the meet classified as a US Swim Observed Meet so the times will be recognized.
4. All participating agencies are required to attend one of the statewide swim meetings/webinars to cover the rules and regulations for the state swim meet. Agencies that do not attend must pay a fine of \$200 to the GRPA office. It is **“Strongly Recommended”** that both an agency member and swim coach from each agency or team attend swim meeting/s/webinar to ensure that all necessary parties are clear on any rule changes or clarifications.

Have host produce a Power Point that highlights guidelines for swim participation and display power point on GRPA website 60 days in advance of swim meet or have someone tape a video that is put on the GRPA website and have it displayed on the website.

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5. Per the “Return to Play Act of 2013”, effective January 1, 2014, all agencies are required to provide concussion education material to all youth participants and their parents. The verification of compliance to this law is affirmed by the signature of the agency director on the GRPA roster.
6. All head and assistant coaches that are coaching youth teams participating in all levels of GRPA Athletics must have undergone a criminal background check through their Department. By signing the teams GRPA roster, the Department Director or their designee attests that this has taken place.
7. The practice of Deck Changing is prohibited at all GRPA events. Swimmers participating in deck changing would be in violation of the USA Swimming Rule concerning deck changing and could be subject to removal from further competition in the meet.
8. Use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone, is not permitted in changing areas, rest rooms, or locker rooms. The use of audio or visual recording devices is not allowed in resolution of protested matters.

### SECTION B – EVENTS

1. Swimming events in each age division for boys and girls are as follows: (Length of competition in yards)

(A) 7-8 and 9-10	(B) 11-12, 13-14, and 15-18
<u>Yards / Style</u>	<u>Yards / Style</u>
50 / Freestyle	100 / Freestyle
100 / Medley Relay	200 / Medley Relay
100 / Medley Relay (Mixed)	200 / Medley Relay (Mixed)
25 / Freestyle	50 / Freestyle
25 / Breast Stroke	50 / Breast Stroke
100 / Individual Medley	100 / Individual Medley
25 / Back Stroke	50 / Back Stroke
25 / Butterfly	50 / Butterfly
100 / Freestyle Relay	200 / Freestyle Relay
100 / Freestyle Relay (Mixed)	200 / Freestyle Relay (Mixed)

2. “A”, “B/C” Meet
  - a. Using an eight (8) lane pool, swimmers shall be seeded in preliminary heats according to US Swimming guidelines. The top eight (8) times [top six (6) times in a six lane pool] from the preliminaries shall advance to the Finals. If there are eight (8) [six (6) in a six lane pool] or less swimmers in an age group entered in a single event, that event will be swam as a timed final during the preliminary heats.
3. Schedule of Competition (“B” – “C” State Championship will have swimming only.)

### Finals for all age groups

Friday	7:00 AM	Swimming Warm-ups for 7 & 8 and 10 & Under
	9:00 AM	Open Ceremonies and Swimming Preliminaries for 7 & 8 and 10 & Under

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	4:00 PM	Or three hours following completion of preliminaries swimming finals
Saturday	7:00 AM	Swimming warm-ups for 12, 14 and 18 & Under
	9:00 AM	Swimming preliminaries for 12, 14 and 18 & Under
	4:00 PM	Or three hours following completion of preliminaries swimming finals

### SECTION C – SPECIAL PROVISIONS

1. All rules for swimming the strokes, for starts and turns, and for relays, shall be taken directly from the current US Swimming Rule Book.
2. Swimmers less than 13 years of age cannot wear swim suits that go below the knees or extend below the shoulders.
3. Dive-over starts shall be permitted for preliminaries with the final decision to be made in consultation with the meet referee. Dive-over starts are not permitted during the finals.
4. Mixed Gender Relays must consist of two (2) males and two (2) females.
5. The use of a bullpen is optional and shall be determined by the meet host/tournament director.
6. Each team will be allowed 2 coaches on the swim deck at a time. Larger teams will be allowed an additional coach on deck at a ratio of 1 for every 25 swimmers up to a max of 4 coaches.
7. Each team shall receive 6 current copies of both the heat sheets and entry sheets by 7 am each day of the meet. At the discretion of State host if less than a ratio of 1 to 20 swimmers.
8. No other youth sports organization patches will be allowed on uniforms/swim caps in GRPA tournaments. Penalty- Swimmers who fail to comply will be subject to USA swimming rules and will be barred from competition until they comply but are not subject to disqualification. EXCEPTION: THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE SWIM SUITS.
9. Rules for Diving:
  - a. All rules for dives and conduct of events shall be in accordance with the rules as outlined in the US Diving Rules Book, except as noted otherwise herein.
  - b. Divers may qualify for one- and three-meter events.
  - c. Diving sheets are due by 6:00 PM the night prior to competition.
  - d. Diving order of events: determined by host.

### SECTION D – DIVING COMPETITION

1. Diving Requirements shall be as follows:
  - a. 7-8, 9-10 Age Group (1 and 3 Meter) – five (5) total dives
    - (i) Front Approach and Jump DD 1.0

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- (ii) Back Approach and Jump DD 1.0\*
- (iii) 101 DD 1.7
- (iv) Two (2) optional each from different groups DD as listed
- b. 11-12 Under Age Group (1 and 3 Meter) – five (5) total dives
  - (i-a) Front approach and jump DD 1.0  
OR
  - (i-b) Back approach and jump DD 1.0\*
  - (ii) 101 DD 1.7
  - (iii) Three (3) optional each from different groups DD as listed
- c. 13-14 Under Age Group (1 and 3 Meter) – six (6) total dives
  - (i) Three (3) voluntary dives from different groups DD 1.7
  - (ii) Three (3) optional dives from a minimum of 2 different groups DD as listed
- d. 15-16 Under Age Group (1 and 3 Meter)
  - (i) Three (3) voluntary dives from different group DD 1.7
  - (ii) Four (4) optional dives from a minimum of 3 different groups DD as listed
- e. 17-18 & Under Age Groups (1 and 3 Meter)
  - (i) Four (4) voluntary dives from different groups DD 1.7
  - (ii) Four (4) optional dives from a minimum of 3 different groups DD as listed.

\*On three meter, the back approach will be replaced by a front line-up DD 1.0.

### *ARTICLE III – FACILITY/EQUIPMENT/TIMING*

#### **SECTION A – FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT**

1. The facility for the State Meet shall meet standards as set forth by US Swimming and US Diving for an 8 (eight) or 6 (six) lane pool.
2. The pool shall be equipped with acceptable pool depths, **starting blocks on both ends**, lane dividers, backstroke flags, and a recall rope. If a pool cannot have starting blocks on both ends of the pool, then touch pads will be required at both ends.
3. The diving well will be a minimum of 12 feet deep. The springboard shall be 20 inches wide and 16 feet long, level, and covered (the whole length) with an adequate nonskid material. A mechanically and readily adjustable fulcrum between dives is required.
4. All other items as necessary for the successful operation of the meet, such as adequate seating, restrooms, concessions, watches, pistols, etc., shall be provided by the Host Agency for District and State Competition.

#### **SECTION B – TIMING**

1. Fully-automatic electronic timing with touch pads shall be required for State level swimming competition, and is highly recommended for District competition. Times shall be reported to two decimal places only (100ths of a second). Times shall be listed in hundredths only. All state

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records shall be reported to the hundredth of a second with no rounding off.

- Two back-up timing systems shall be available at all times when electronic timing is being used. This could consist of (a) a manual backup built into the timing system plus one watch per lane or (b) three watches per lane. Two across-the-board finish judges shall be used at all times with either backup system.
- For timing adjustments and malfunctions, refer to the USA Swim Rules.**

### *ARTICLE IV – MEETS AND AWARDS*

#### **SECTION A – DISTRICT**

- No additions or substitutions are allowed after entries have been submitted. Entries are final once they have been submitted to the State Host. Agencies and Districts have the sole responsibility of verifying the accuracy of each entry.
- A copy of the district results will be forwarded to the State Host along with the State entries. Official rosters are to be signed by the tournament director from district competition. Birth certificates are not required from district competition. EXCEPTION: Agencies with over one-thousand five-hundred (1500) swimmers conducting their own qualifying meet must submit an official roster signed by the agency director along with birth certificates for verification. The State Host will verify the information for accuracy and sign the roster.
- Each agency will be allowed only two (2) coaches on the deck during the state meet.
- The name and contact information of the District Swim Meet Coordinator, each participating team's department representative, and all swim coaches who participated in the district competition, must be faxed or emailed to the state host within forty-eight (48) hours of the conclusion of the district meet.

#### **SECTION B – STATE**

- Seeding of all preliminaries will be done in accordance with US Swimming guidelines. The finals shall be seeded (in accordance with US Swimming guidelines) with the eight (8) fastest times [six (6) fastest times in six lane pool] from the preliminaries in both the "A" and "B,C" State Meet. The diving order will be drawn by lot. Places will be awarded by time for swimming or total score for diving.

#### **SECTION C – AWARDS**

- "A", "B/C" Meet: Awards will be given to the top eight finishers in each event from the finals. Individual medals will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Ribbons will be awarded for 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> place. State meet host must provide an awards podium for 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> place. **Awards given are per state awards contract and cannot be substituted or changed.** If emergencies arise then the state athletic committee chair in consultation with the GRPA Executive Director will determine what course of action to take. Medals to be given for each place shall have red, white, and blue drape in plastic cases with clear lid. Award cases and ribbons **MUST** be labeled by place and must have swimmers name, place, time and date (HY-TEK Meet Manager can produce and stick label on back cover or ribbon tab).

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### ***ARTICLE V – DISQUALIFICATIONS AND PROTESTS***

1. A participant may be disqualified from an event for failure to swim a stroke correctly or exhibiting unsportsmanlike conduct. Any protest or clarification of this decision must come from the participant's coach or Agency representative only. No parents shall be allowed to file a protest or approach any official while the Meet is in progress, subject to the disqualification of the swimmer for the duration of the meet. A protest shall be filed with the Meet Director, who then has the authority to take it to the State Athletic Committee, if he deems necessary, or make a ruling on the spot. Judgment disqualifications cannot be protested (i.e., disqualifications on a stroke) per USA Swimming regulations.
2. A swimmer will be disqualified if two or more judges agreed that a false start occurred by the same swimmer (dual confirmation). The swimmer would be notified at the end of the race.

**For More Information regarding Protests and Appeals See:  
Rule I, Article IV, Section C-11 for protest committee organization and responsibility –  
(Pages 53-54) and Rule II, Article I, Section A – (Pages 60-61)**

### ***ARTICLE VI – OFFICIALS AND THEIR DUTIES***

#### **SECTION A – HOST OFFICIALS**

1. The Host Agency shall be responsible for providing all officials (US Swim and National Federation High School Swim Officials Accepted) necessary for the proper management of the State Meet, including starter, stroke and turn judges, finish judges, timers, scorers, clerk of course, awards personnel, announcer, diving judges, and any others deemed necessary by the Host Agency.

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### SWIMMING ORDER OF EVENTS

<b>Friday</b>			<b>Saturday Cont'd</b>		
<i>EVENT</i>	<i>STROKE &amp; DISTANCE</i>	<i>AGE GROUPS</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>STROKE &amp; DISTANCE</i>	<i>AGE GROUPS</i>
1	50 Free	7 - 8 Girls	49	200 MR	18 & Under Girls
2	50 Free	7 - 8 Boys	50	200 MR	18 & Under Boys
3	50 Free	9 - 10 Girls	51	200 MR	18 & Under Mixed
4	50 Free	9 - 10 Boys	52	50 Free	11-12 Girls
5	100 MR	7 & 8 Girls	53	50 Free	11-12 Boys
6	100 MR	7 & 8 Boys	54	50 Free	13-14 Girls
7	100 MR	7 & 8 Mixed	55	50 Free	13-14 Boys
8	100 MR	10 & Under Girls	56	50 Free	15-18 Girls
9	100 MR	10 & Under Boys	57	50 Free	15-18 Boys
10	100 MR	10 & Under Mixed	58	50 Breast	11-12 Girls
11	25 Free	7 - 8 Girls	59	50 Breast	11-12 Boys
12	25 Free	7 - 8 Boys	60	50 Breast	13-14 Girls
13	25 Free	9 - 10 Girls	61	50 Breast	13-14 Boys
14	25 Free	9 - 10 Boys	62	50 Breast	15-18 Girls
15	25 Breast	7 - 8 Girls	63	50 Breast	15-18 Boys
16	25 Breast	7 - 8 Boys	64	100 IM	11-12 Girls
17	25 Breast	9 - 10 Girls	65	100 IM	11-12 Boys
18	25 Breast	9 - 10 Boys	66	100 IM	13-14 Girls
19	100 IM	7 - 8 Girls	67	100 IM	13-14 Boys
20	100 IM	7 - 8 Boys	68	100 IM	15-18 Girls
21	100 IM	9 - 10 Girls	69	100 IM	15-18 Boys
22	100 IM	9 - 10 Boys	70	50 Back	11-12 Girls
23	25 Back	7 - 8 Girls	71	50 Back	11-12 Boys
24	25 Back	7 - 8 Boys	72	50 Back	13-14 Girls
25	25 Back	9 - 10 Girls	73	50 Back	13-14 Boys
26	25 Back	9 - 10 Boys	74	50 Back	15-18 Girls
27	25 Fly	7 - 8 Girls	75	50 Back	15-18 Boys
28	25 Fly	7 - 8 Boys	76	50 Fly	11-12 Girls
29	25 Fly	9 - 10 Girls	77	50 Fly	11-12 Boys
30	25 Fly	9 - 10 Boys	78	50 Fly	13-14 Girls
31	100 Free Relay	7 & 8 Girls	79	50 Fly	13-14 Boys
32	100 Free Relay	7 & 8 Boys	80	50 Fly	15-18 Girls
33	100 Free Relay	7 & 8 Mixed	81	50 Fly	15-18 Boys
34	100 Free Relay	10 & Under Girls	82	200 Free Relay	12 & Under Girls
35	100 Free Relay	10 & Under Boys	83	200 Free Relay	12 & Under Boys
36	100 Free Relay	10 & Under Mixed	84	200 Free Relay	12 & Under Mixed
<b>Saturday</b>			85	200 Free Relay	14 & Under Girls
			86	200 Free Relay	14 & Under Boys
			87	200 Free Relay	14 & Under Mixed
37	100 Free	11-12 Girls	88	200 Free Relay	18 & Under Girls
38	100 Free	11-12 Boys	89	200 Free Relay	18 & Under Boys
39	100 Free	13-14 Girls	90	200 Free Relay	18 & Under Mixed
40	100 Free	13-14 Boys			
41	100 Free	15-18 Girls			
42	100 Free	15-18 Boys			
43	200 MR	12 & Under Girls			
44	200 MR	12 & Under Boys			
45	200 MR	12 & Under Mixed			
46	200 MR	14 & Under Girls			
47	200 MR	14 & Under Boys			
48	200 MR	14 & Under Mixed			



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# RULE X – YOUTH AND ADULT GOLF

### ARTICLE I – ELIGIBILITY

#### SECTION A – AGE DIVISIONS

1. There are seven age divisions for competition in golf. The age divisions are as follows:  
(Cutoff Date - age prior to August 1)
  - a. 7 & 8 year old Boys and Girls (Must be 7 by age control date)
  - b. 11 and Under Boys and Girls
  - c. 13 and Under Boys and Girls
  - d. 15 and Under Boys and Girls
  - e. 18 and Under Boys and Girls
  - f. 19 and Over men and women  
(Adults will be a two-day tournament with handicap first day and play tournament next day.)
  - f. 55 and over men and women.
2. Allow within district lines for individuals to compete in the nearest or adjoining departments with the following restrictions:
  - a. Home agency has no program.
  - b. No recruiting by the adjoining agency.
  - c. Cannot cross district lines.
  - d. Host agency endorsed participant.
  - e. Cannot pass over a program to participate in another agency.
  - f. Must participate in the sport program in the Host agency program.
  - g. If live in an “A” class county you cannot compete in “B/C” county. Must compete in nearest “A” county. “B/C” may compete up in “A”
  - h. Host agency must notify the District Athletic Chair with list and home county of each crossover participant. The district must forward info to the State Host and Athletic Chair.
  - i. Participants must be approved by District Athletic Chair and any and all protest of crossovers must be done prior to district competition. Once approved, they are legal throughout District and State.

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3. Youth coaches must be certified by one of the following programs: NYSCA, ACEP, GHSA, or SIMPLY THE BEST.
4. Any player or coach ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for one game, in addition to the game from which ejected; or, in the case of an individual event within a meet or match, for the duration of that event.

### **SECTION B – ENTRIES AND FEES**

1. An agency may not submit more than five (5) entries per division in each age classification. (APPROVED RULING: A district by majority vote and consent of at least one State Athletic Committee member may increase or decrease the number of entries in district level competitions).
2. A district not conducting a district golf tournament may allow multiple agencies to represent the district at the state tournament.

## ***ARTICLE II – REGULATIONS***

### **SECTION A – GOVERNING RULES**

1. GRPA golf tournaments shall be governed by current rules and regulations of the United States Golf Association (USGA), with the exceptions as may be found in this manual.
2. Per the “Return to Play Act of 2013”, effective January 1, 2014, all agencies are required to provide concussion education material to all youth participants and their parents. The verification of compliance to this law is affirmed by the signature of the agency director on the GRPA roster.
3. All head and assistant coaches that are coaching youth teams participating in all levels of GRPA Athletics must have undergone a criminal background check through their Department. By signing the teams GRPA roster, the Department Director or their designee attests that this has taken place.
4. Use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone, is not permitted in changing areas, rest rooms, or locker rooms. The uses of audio or visual recording devices are not allowed in resolution of protested matters.

### **SECTION B – EVENTS**

1. Events in GRPA golf tournaments shall have divisions for male/female in the following competition format: **All divisions: Individual competition**
2. The tournament hosts with the approval of the State Athletic Committee shall determine the pairings and tee times for all divisions.

### **SECTION C – SPECIAL PROVISIONS**

1. GRPA golf tournaments shall be scored without regard to handicap in all Youth Divisions. Adults will use handicap system to determine division of play only.

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2. Players in all youth divisions shall walk the course. Any player in the youth division shall be able to use a pull cart. Players in adult divisions shall be required to ride.
3. Competition in all divisions except 11 and under shall consist of 18 holes, one-day play.

Adult Men and 18 & Under Boys Golf – blue tees.

Boys 13 & Under, Boys 15 & Under, and 55 & Over – white tees.

Boys 11 & Under, All Female divisions except for 7 & 8 year olds – red tees

7 & 8 Boys and Girls – 100 Yards from green on Par 3's, 150 Yards from green on Par 4's and 200 Yards from green on Par 5's

4. Youth – morning tee times.  
Adult – morning and/or afternoon tee times.
5. Double par is the highest score allowed on any hole in GRPA district and state tournament play.
6. No other youth sports organization patches will be allowed on uniforms in GRPA tournaments.  
Penalty – Illegal Equipment

### ***ARTICLE III – EQUIPMENT***

#### **SECTION A – APPROVED EQUIPMENT**

1. Equipment to be provided by the host agency for GRPA golf tournaments shall include the following:
  - a. Scorer's table located in an area favorable to the tournament officials and conducive to accurate and timely recording of results and posting scores. It is recommended that an information table near the scorer's table and loud speaker public address system be made available.
  - b. An adequate number of golf carts to be made available for use in adult competition.

### ***ARTICLE IV – TOURNAMENT AND AWARDS***

#### **SECTION A – DISTRICT**

1. Each district shall have the right to conduct its own golf tournament in a manner approved by the majority of the participating district agencies and provided any exceptions to the rules in this manual are approved by a district's State Athletic Committee Member. District or host agencies are responsible for all district awards.

#### **SECTION B – STATE**

1. All state golf tournaments (youth and adult) shall be set by the State Host
2. Any revision of dates must be approved by the State Athletic Committee Chair.
3. All first and second place finishers in all divisions at the district level shall qualify for the state tournament. Others are allowed at the discretion of the State Tournament Host.

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4. Each district's Tournament Director is responsible for submitting state entries to be in the hands of the state host fourteen (14) days prior to the state tournament. Failure to meet this shall result in DISTRICT DISQUALIFICATION from the state tournament.
5. Entries shall consist of the following:

### **Example:**

District; Age, Division, Sex; District Place  
First & Last Name, Agency, Result

## ***ARTICLE V – OFFICIALS***

### **SECTION A- OFFICIALS**

1. Members of the State Athletic Committee shall serve as the Tournament Committee (Jury of Appeals) and the Chair shall serve as Associate Tournament Director for the state tournament. Each District Commissioner is encouraged to provide a similar authority for district tournaments.

### **SECTION B – COMPETITORS AND ATTENDANTS**

1. USGA rules regarding the conduct of players and spectators to include language, throwing or slamming of equipment, slow play, cheating, gambling, drinking, and flagrant violations will be strictly adhered to.

## ***ARTICLE VI – DEFAULTS***

Any default will result in that agency being fined \$10.00 per person and any participant that withdraws from State competition will be suspended from GRPA golf competition for one year. (Youth violations responsible only for default fee. Adult violations responsible for default fee and suspensions.)

## ***ARTICLE VII – PROTESTS AND APPEALS***

Protests and appeals are authorized only under stipulations found in this manual.

**For More Information regarding Protests and Appeals See:  
Rule I, Article IV, Section C-11 for protest committee organization and responsibility –  
(Pages 53-54) and Rule II, Article I, Section A – (Pages 60-61)**

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# RULE XI – YOUTH AND ADULT VOLLEYBALL

### ARTICLE I – ELIGIBILITY

1. There are nineteen divisions of play (Cutoff Date - age prior to September 1.) participant must be 7 years old by the age control date. The divisions are:

#### YOUTH

- |                     |                    |                     |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| a. 8 & under co-ed  | f. 8 & under boys  | k. 8 & under girls  |
| b. 10 & under co-ed | g. 10 & under boys | l. 10 & under girls |
| c. 12 & under co-ed | h. 12 & under boys | m. 12 & under girls |
| d. 14 & under co-ed | i. 14 & under boys | n. 14 & under girls |
| e. 17 & under co-ed | j. 17 & under boys | o. 17 & under girls |

#### ADULT

- a. Women
  - b. Men's Open
  - c. Co-ed
  - d. Church Co-ed
2. For all team sports allow within district lines for individuals to compete in the nearest or adjoin departments with the following restrictions:
- a. Home County or Agency has no program.
  - b. Cannot cross district lines.
  - c. Cannot pass over a program to participate in another agency.
  - d. Must participate in the sport program in the host agency.
  - e. Host agency must endorse participant.
  - f. Participant must be approved by District Athletic Chair. Once approved, they are legal throughout District and State.
  - g. Host agency must notify the District Athletic Chair with list and Home County of each crossover participant. The district must forward info to the State Host and Athletic Chair.
3. A participant is allowed to compete in either women's or men's divisions in addition to the co-ed division.
4. Any player or coach ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for one game, in addition to the game from which ejected; or, in the case of an individual event within a meet or match, for the duration of that event.

### ARTICLE II – REGULATIONS

#### SECTION A – GOVERNING RULES

1. The accepted guide for adult volleyball at all levels is governed by the current rules and regulations of the USVA, authorized by the International Volleyball Federation, with the exceptions as may be found in this manual is the accepted guide.
2. Per the "Return to Play Act of 2013", effective January 1, 2014, all agencies are required to provide concussion education material to all youth participants and their parents. The verification of compliance to this law is affirmed by the signature of the agency director on the GRPA roster.

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3. All head and assistant coaches that are coaching youth teams participating in all levels of GRPA Athletics must have undergone a criminal background check through their Department. By signing the teams GRPA roster, the Department Director or their designee attests that this has taken place.
4. Use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone, is not permitted in changing areas, rest rooms, or locker rooms. The use of audio or visual recording devices is not allowed in resolution of protested matters.

### SECTION B – LENGTH OF GAMES

1. A regulation game will be fifteen points, although a team must win by two.
2. A match will consist of the best two out of three games.
3. Scores of forfeits will be recorded as 15-0 each game of the match and 3-0 for the match.

### SECTION C – SPECIAL PROVISIONS

1. No game in State Tournament can start before 7:00 PM on weeknights.
2. A team must have six (5) players to start or continue a game. They may continue with (5) as long as the player leaves for any other reason than ejection.
3. A coin toss will determine the choice of team area or the service. The winner of the toss chooses either playing area or the right to serve first.
4. In co-ed tournament play a minimum of three (3) females must be in the game at all times.
5. Substitution – refer to U.S.V.B.A. Official Rules.
6. All protests will be settled before the next live ball.
7. a. **Score of Defaulted Game** If a team does not have sufficient players to start a game, or fails to play after the first referee requests play to begin, that team loses by default.  
b. **Commentary Scoring and Results of the Game** - If a team defaults a game due to **failure to have sufficient players to start** a game at the scheduled time, the score shall be recorded as 15-0. The team may call no timeouts until the legal number of players is present to play. An interval of up to 10 minutes shall be allowed for the team to have sufficient players to play the next game. If the team has six players present prior to the expiration of this interval, play shall begin immediately. If, after the 10 minute interval, a team does not have at least six players present and ready to play, the match shall be declared a default. If a match is forfeited then the team will be placed in the loser's bracket.
8. The net height will be:
  - 8 & under co-ed – 6'
  - 10 & under co-ed – 6'
  - 12 & under co-ed – 7'5"
  - 14 & under co-ed – 7'5"
  - 17 & under co-ed – 8'
  - Men - eight (8) feet
  - Women - seven (7) feet five (5) inches for women
  - Co-ed - eight (8) feet

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### ***ARTICLE III – EQUIPMENT***

#### **SECTION A – APPROVED EQUIPMENT**

1. The game ball will be a U.S.V.B.A. approved ball and shoes are mandatory.

#### **SECTION B – UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS**

1. A uniform for adult volleyball is defined as a team shirt or jersey with numbers on the front or back identical in style and color with players on the same team. No other youth sports organization patches will be allowed on uniforms in GRPA tournaments. – Penalty – Illegal Equipment

#### **SECTION C – COURT REQUIREMENTS**

1. The court will be set to regulation U.S.V.B.A. official dimensions. Any changes must be approved by the State Athletic Chair.

### ***ARTICLE IV – GAMES AND AWARDS***

#### **SECTION A – DISTRICT**

1. District level competition in all divisions of Volleyball is to be completed by the second Sunday in November.

#### **SECTION B – STATE**

1. All Divisions shall begin the next weekend unless it falls on a holiday weekend (must be approved by the State Athletic Committee.).

### ***ARTICLE V – OFFICIALS AND PARTICIPANTS***

#### **SECTION A – HOST**

1. Host Agency shall provide a minimum number of competent adults for scorers, Tournament Director, and a minimum of two (2) officials approved by the State Chair.
2. The Host Agency shall be responsible for providing U.S.V.B.A. approved volleyballs.

#### **SECTION B – GAME OFFICIALS**

1. A minimum of two (2) sanctioned USVBA officials per court shall be used in district and state level GRPA competition. All officials should be either USVBA certified or in the process of certification.

### ***ARTICLE VI – PROTESTS AND APPEALS***

#### **SECTION A – PROTESTS AND VOLLEYBALL RULES INFRACTION**

1. The judgment decision by an official on any play shall not be protested.
2. Protest on misinterpretation of the rules are allowed to the referee and if accepted as valid by the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director shall coordinate any such protest and shall serve as the odd-number member of the Tournament Protest Committee as determined prior to the game by the Agency Host in coordination with the District Commissioner for District level

## **GRPA Athletic Manual**

competition and with the State Athletic Committee Chair for State levels of competition. If a protest is accepted by the Tournament Director, it must be made by the certified coach or certified staff in charge of the team at the time of the alleged infraction. A full explanation will be given by the protest committee before play is continued. If the decision of the protest committee is appealed to the State Athletic Committee, it must be done so in time for any action to be resolved prior to the next game in which either team is involved.

**For More Information regarding Protests and Appeals See:**

**Rule I, Article IV, Section C-11 for protest committee organization and responsibility – (Pages 53-54) and Rule II, Article I, Section A – (Pages 60-61)**

3. No protest on rules interpretation will be accepted after play continues following the alleged infraction.



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# RULE XII – YOUTH SOCCER

### ARTICLE I – ELIGIBILITY

#### SECTION A – AGE DIVISIONS

1. There are twelve age divisions of play: (Cutoff Date - age prior to August 1)
  - a. 7 Yr. Old Coed/Under 8 (Must be 7 by the age control date)
  - b. Under 10 - Male/Coed
  - c. Under 12 - Male/Coed
  - d. Under 14 - Male/Coed
  - e. Under 16 - Male/Coed
  - f. Under 18 – Male/Coed
  - g. 7 Yr. Old Girls/Under 8 (Must be 7 by the age control date)
  - h. Girls Under 10
  - i. Girls Under 12
  - j. Girls Under 14
  - k. Girls Under 16
  - l. Girls Under 18
2. For all team sports allow within district lines for individuals to compete in the nearest or adjoin departments with the following restrictions:
  - a. Home County or Agency has no program.
  - b. Cannot cross district lines.
  - c. Cannot pass over a program to participate in another agency.
  - d. Must participate in the sport program in the host agency.
  - e. Host agency must endorse participant.
  - f. Participant must be approved by District Athletic Chair. Once approved, they are legal throughout District and State.
  - g. Host agency must notify the District Athletic Chair with list and Home County of each crossover participant. The district must forward info to the State Host and Athletic Chair.
3. Youth coaches must be certified by one of the following programs: NYSCA, ACEP, GHSA, GYSA, or SIMPLY THE BEST.

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4. Any player or coach ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for one game, in addition to the game from which ejected; or, in the case of an individual event within a meet or match, for the duration of that event.

### **SECTION B – CLASSIFICATION**

1. **(Combined Class A, B and C)** – This shall be for teams that are an integral part of competition in local league play for their local member recreation agency.

## ***ARTICLE II – REGULATIONS***

### **SECTION A – GOVERNING RULES**

1. Youth soccer at all levels is governed by the current rules and regulations of GHSA, GYSA and U.S. Youth Soccer except as noted in this manual.
2. Per the “Return to Play Act of 2013”, effective January 1, 2014, all agencies are required to provide concussion education material to all youth participants and their parents. The verification of compliance to this law is affirmed by the signature of the agency director on the GRPA roster.
3. All head and assistant coaches that are coaching youth teams participating in all levels of GRPA Athletics must have undergone a criminal background check through their Department. By signing the teams GRPA roster, the Department Director or their designee attests that this has taken place.
4. Use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone, is not permitted in changing areas, rest rooms, or locker rooms. The use of audio or visual recording devices is not allowed in resolution of protested matters.

### **SECTION B – LENGTH OF GAMES**

1. Regulation games shall consist of two (2) 30-minute halves in the 7 yr. old & Under 10 division.
2. Regulation games shall consist of two (2) 30-minute halves in the Under 12 division.
3. Regulation games shall consist of two (2) 35-minute halves in the Under 14 division.
4. Regulation games shall consist of two (2) 40-minute halves in the Under 16 and Under 18 divisions.
5. All matches have a minimum of 5 minutes at half-time.
6. For GRPA District and State playoff games, if no team has won the match at the end of regulation play, one 10-minute overtime period will next be used to break the tie. The teams will exchange ends after 5-minutes of play and a 2-minute interval. The 10-minute overtime is played to conclusion as there is NO golden goal.

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If no goals are scored during the overtime play, a best of 5 FIFA kicks from the penalty mark will be taken to determine the winner. If still tied at the end of the 5 kicks, sudden death kicks (if the first team makes their kick in sudden death the second team will have the opportunity to match the goal) from the penalty mark will take place with each team naming a new five players to take the kicks. If the score is still tied after exhausting all players on the roster, the first five players may be named to kick again.

### 7. Inclement Weather Plan:

- a. Play as many games as possible as scheduled
- b. Move game times back and start later
- c. If game times have to be moved back play reduced time periods not to be less than 20 minutes.
- d. Consider playing on Sunday if teams and facility are available
- e. If Sunday is not an option and teams do not want to return another weekend then we would go to penalty kicks as a last resort.
- f. Penalty kicks should only be utilized as a last resort and GRPA prefers that they be used after games have been able to start but cannot be completed. If no other choice remains then penalty kicks would be utilized to determine the winner.

### 8. Soccer Mercy Rule

In accordance with the National Federation allowance for a state adoption when there is a competitive imbalance between the teams, the match will be shortened as follows:

1. If a team is *seven (7)* or more goals down at the midpoint of the first half, that will be considered the end of the half, and the teams will play a twenty (20) minute second half.
2. If a team is *seven (7)* or more goals behind at halftime, the second half will be restricted to twenty (20) minutes.
3. When a team is *ten (10)* or more goals behind in the second half, the game will be terminated.

## SECTION C - SPECIAL PROVISIONS

1. A team may finish with the number listed below as long as the player did not leave the game by ejection.

Age	Start Game	Finish Game
7	6 (6v6)	5
U10	6 (6v6)	5
U12	8 (8v8)	6
U14	11(11v11)	10
U16	11(11v11)	10
U18	11(11v11)	10

### 2. Substitutions

- a. A substitute who desires to enter the game shall be at the center line or report to the scorer, giving his/her jersey number and the number of the player being replaced. If the entry is made at a time other than between periods, the scorer shall cause the timer to signal immediately after the whistle has sounded. The substitute shall remain at the center line or the scorer's table until an official beckons the player onto the field of play.

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- b. When there is no official scorer and time, incoming substitutes shall report directly to the nearest official from the official area or be at the center line.
  - c. Either team may substitute:
    - (i) Between Periods
    - (ii) On a goal kick
    - (iii) When play is stopped for an injury (the injured player shall be replaced)
    - (iv) When a player is cautioned
    - (v) Disqualification of a player
  - d. A team having gained possession of the ball for a throw-in or corner kick may substitute as many players as it desires provided each player is at the center line and has reported before the ball goes out of bounds. The team causing the ball to go out of bounds shall not substitute at this time.
  - e. When a team repeatedly substitutes to consume time, an official shall order the timer to stop the time clock during such substitutions and shall notify the coach of the offending team the repetition may be construed as unsportsmanlike conduct.
  - f. A player leaving the field of play during the progress of the game without the consent of an official (except through normal movement of play) shall be guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct unless stopping play to assess the penalty would be an advantage to the offending team.
  - g. Entry onto the field of play by a substitute, trainer, or coach is prohibited without the approval of an official.
  - h. When play has stopped, one of the players on the field may change places with the goalkeeper. Any time the goalkeeper is changed, an official shall be notified.
3. No new game should be originally scheduled after 10:00 PM on weekdays. All games will be scheduled and start no later than 10:00 PM on Friday and Saturday nights but may be played in emergency situations (rain, game delays, etc.)

### ***ARTICLE III – EQUIPMENT***

#### **SECTION A – APPROVED EQUIPMENT**

- 1. Shoes are mandatory for play in all divisions of soccer as specified by GHSA Rule Book.
  - a. Ages Under 14 and above may wear screw-in cleats, but Under 12, Under 10, & 7 year must wear shoes with rubber-molded cleats or smooth, soft-soled shoes, such as tennis or basketball shoes.
- 2. The approved soccer balls for division are as follows:
  - a. The 7 year old divisions will use a #3 hand-sewn synthetic ball
  - b. The Under 10 & Under 12 divisions will use a #4 hand-sewn synthetic ball.
  - c. The Under 14, 16, and 18 divisions will use a #5 hand-sewn synthetic leather ball.

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### SECTION B – UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

1. A uniform for youth soccer shall be a jersey, shoes, stockings and shin guards. No other youth sports organization patches will be allowed on uniforms in GRPA tournaments. – Penalty – Illegal Equipment
2. A jersey or team shirt must be alike in style and color with players on the same team and must have factory type numbers on the front or back.
3. The jersey of the goalkeeper shall be distinctly different from that of any teammate, opponent, or referee and does not require a number.
4. It is recommended that each team have 2 sets of uniform shirts of different colors.
5. The Host Agency shall be responsible for supplying scrimmage vests in events where jerseys need to be opposite colors. A coin toss shall be conducted and the winner shall have the option of whether to wear the scrimmages vests or original jerseys.

### SECTION C – PLAYING FIELD REQUIREMENTS

1. The following field specifications are required for all games:

<b>Division</b>	<b>Field Width</b>	<b>Field Length</b>	<b>Goals</b>
7 year old	30 Yard Min. 40 Yard Max.	50 Yard Min. 60 Yard Max.	6' High Min. - 7' High Max. 12' Wide Min. – 21' Wide Max.
U10	40 Yard Min. 50 Yard Max.	60 Yard Min. 70 Yard Max.	6' High Min. - 7' High Max. 18' Wide Min. – 21' Wide Max.
U12	40 Yard Min. 60 Yard Max.	60 Yard Min. 100 Yard Max.	6' High Min. - 7' High Max. 18' Wide Min. – 21' Wide Max.
U14, U16 & U18	50 Yard Min. 80 Yard Max.	100 Yard Min. 130 Yard Max.	8' High 21' Wide

### ARTICLE IV – GAMES AND AWARDS

#### SECTION A – DISTRICT

1. District level Competition in all divisions of Youth Soccer is to be completed by the last Saturday in November.

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### **SECTION B – STATE**

1. State Tournaments in all Divisions of Youth Soccer will be held the first weekend in December.

### ***ARTICLE V – OFFICIALS AND PARTICIPANTS***

#### **SECTION A – HOST**

1. The Host Agency shall provide a minimum number of competent adults for scorers and timers, a Tournament Director, and two (2) officials approved by the State Athletic Chair. The referee will be responsible for keeping the official time.
2. The Host Agency shall be responsible for proper conduct by spectators.
3. The Host Agency shall be responsible for providing the game ball in accordance with GRPA specifications in these rules.
4. The Host Agency shall be responsible for seeing that the playing field requirements meet GRPA specifications.
5. The Host Agency must supply mesh scrimmage vest in the case that teams have the same jersey color.

#### **SECTION B – GAME OFFICIALS**

1. A minimum of two (2) officials must be employed for state level GRPA competition. These officials must be approved prior to the tournament by the State Athletic Chair. It is recommended that these officials be GHSA or USSF certified.

### ***ARTICLE VI – PROTESTS AND APPEALS***

#### **SECTION A – PROTESTS FOR SOCCER RULES INFRACTIONS**

1. The judgment decision by the referee on any play shall not be protested.
2. Protests on misinterpretation of the rules are allowed to the referee and if accepted as valid by the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director shall coordinate any such protest committee as determined prior to the game by the Agency Host in coordination with the District Commissioner for District level competition and with the State Athletic Committee Chair for state levels of competition. If a protest is accepted by the Tournament Director, it must be made by the team coach or responsible person in charge of the team at the time of the alleged infraction. A full explanation of the protest will be recorded by the official scorer and retained for reference. All such protests are to be immediately acted upon by the protest committee and before play is continued. If the decision of the protest committee is appealed to the State Athletic Committee, it must be done so in time for any action to be resolved prior to the next game of either team involved.

**For More Information regarding Protests and Appeals See:  
Rule I, Article IV, Section C-11 for protest committee organization and responsibility –  
(Pages 53-54) and Rule II, Article I, Section A – (Pages 60-61)**

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**RULE XIII – YOUTH FOOTBALL**

**ARTICLE I – ELIGIBILITY**

**SECTION A – AGE DIVISION**

**A child must attain the age of 7 for District & State Competition in any event or sport of GRPA, prior to the age control date for that event or sport.**

1. There are nine (9) age divisions for youth football.  
(Cutoff Date - age prior to September 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year)

<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>Ball Carrier Max Weight</u>	<u>Age Control Date</u>
7 Year Old	Unlimited	Prior to September 1 <sup>st</sup>
8 Year Old	Unlimited	Prior to September 1 <sup>st</sup>
8 & Under	100 lbs.	Prior to September 1 <sup>st</sup>
9 Year Old	Unlimited	Prior to September 1 <sup>st</sup>
10 Year Old	Unlimited	Prior to September 1 <sup>st</sup>
10 & Under	125 lbs.	Prior to September 1 <sup>st</sup>
11 Year Old	Unlimited	Prior to September 1 <sup>st</sup>
12 Year Old	Unlimited	Prior to September 1 <sup>st</sup>
12 & Under	150 lbs.	Prior to September 1 <sup>st</sup>

2. For all team sports allow within district lines for individuals to compete in the nearest or adjoin departments with the following restrictions:
  - a. Home County or Agency has no program.
  - b. Cannot cross district lines.
  - c. Cannot pass over a program to participate in another agency.
  - d. Must participate in the sport program in the host agency.
  - e. Host agency must endorse participant.
  - f. Participant must be approved by District Athletic Chair. Once approved, they are legal throughout District and State.
  - g. Host agency must notify the District Athletic Chair with list and Home County of each crossover participant. The district must forward info to the State Host and Athletic Chair.
3. Youth coaches must be certified by one of the following programs: NYSCA, ACEP, GHSA, USA FOOTBALL, SIMPLY THE BEST or EXCELLENCE PLUS.
4. Any player or coach ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for one game, in addition to the game from which ejected; or, in the case of an individual event within a meet or match, for the duration of that event.

**SECTION B – ENTRIES**

1. Any agency may enter as many teams as their district allows, provided the State Athletic Committee does not set a limit on the number.

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2. Host agency will have the option of entering a host team in the state “regional” football tournament. The host team must win the regional in order to advance to the State Championship game.
3. Districts may designate a roster deadline, if and only if, it conducts a season schedule. This deadline must be prior to the final scheduled district game.

### *ARTICLE II – REGULATIONS*

#### **SECTION A – GOVERNING RULES**

1. Youth football at all levels is governed by the current rules and regulations of the Georgia High School Association Constitution and By-Laws and by the National Federation Edition of Football Rules for the current year, with exceptions as noted in this Manual.  
- no electronic communication devices allowed.
2. Per the “Return to Play Act of 2013”, effective January 1, 2014, all agencies are required to provide concussion education material to all youth participants and their parents. The verification of compliance to this law is affirmed by the signature of the agency director on the GRPA roster.
3. All head and assistant coaches that are coaching youth teams participating in all levels of GRPA Athletics must have undergone a criminal background check through their Department. By signing the teams GRPA roster, the Department Director or their designee attests that this has taken place.
4. Use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone, is not permitted in changing areas, rest rooms, or locker rooms. The use of audio or visual recording devices is not allowed in resolution of protested matters.

#### **SECTION B – LENGTH OF GAMES**

1. A regulation game shall consist of four (4) 8-minute quarters.
  - a. Each team shall be allowed three (3) time outs per half.
  - b. Half-time shall consist of no more than 10 minutes.

**GRPA State Play limits the number of football games per team to two games per day with a minimum of a 3 hour rest period between games. If extenuating circumstances exist the state chair or designee must be notified.**

#### **SECTION C – SPECIAL PROVISIONS**

1. A team must have ten (10) players to start or continue a game. They can continue the game if the removed player leaves for any reason other than ejection. There is a roster limit of 30 players and once the roster has been submitted, it becomes official and no changes can be made. Teams should have records of all check-ins from district thru state play. Team Book/Information should consist of GRPA roster with jersey numbers and birth certificates in alphabetical order.
2. **Traditional:** The maximum weight limit for any player to receive a hand-off or pass from scrimmage is 150 pounds (12 & Under), and 125 pounds (10 & Under) and 100 pounds (8& Under). Any player ineligible to carry the ball must wear a red stripe (unless a team has red



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helmets and then the stripe will be white) diagonally on the back of their helmet. Maximum weight players must play on the line (players not eligible to run the ball must play tackle to tackle) and must be in a 3 or 4 point stance. Coaches will be responsible for maintaining the stripes and making sure players are in the correct playing position. Illegal participation, by a maximum weight player, during the game will result in the player being removed for minimum one game (4 quarters) suspension, and a minimum two games (8 quarters) suspension for the head coach. **Players with striped helmets are eligible to punt and kick on kick-offs/field goal attempts.**

- a. A player's weight is defined as that weight which is determined by approved or certified scales when the player weighed at their official weigh in. No player will be allowed to totally strip for a weigh in and must have at least gym shorts on at all times. Players should be in alphabetical order for weigh-ins and a coach should be present with their roster and birth certificates in alphabetical order, as well.
- b. Weights shall be determined prior to the game on digital scales or balance type scales, furnished by the Host team. Spring scales are not acceptable.
  - (i) The Official Weigh-in shall be conducted two hours prior to game time. Players not making the weight limit at the Official Weigh-in shall be permitted a second or alternate weigh in conducted one hour prior to game time.
  - (ii) Teams not desiring to weigh-in two hours prior to game time shall be permitted to weigh-in one hour prior to game time but no alternate Weigh-in will be allowed.
  - (iii) Failure to meet the weight requirements at alternate Weigh-in shall constitute game ineligibility to carry/handle the ball.
  - (iv) Players absent from their first game must weigh in prior to any following or subsequent games. **All players must weigh in at all levels of GRPA play.** Once weight requirement has been met for that level of play, players will not be required to reweigh during same level of play.
    - Players attempting to make weight after district may reweigh at regionals.
    - However, players that do not make weight at district or regionals may not make weight for state finals.
    - Teams going straight to State must meet all weight requirements**\*If a player is found to have not weighed in, penalty for player and/or coach will be as follows: Penalty-EJECTION FROM FACILITY AND PLAYER EJECTION FOR THE REMAINDER OF TOURNAMENT.**
  - (v) All players will be weighed regardless of position and the actual weight will be recorded on the official roster prior to the first game played. There are NO weight protests once an official weight is recorded at each level of GRPA play.

If a player is deemed ineligible, as a result of removing or tampering with the stripe placed on the helmet during weigh-in or failure to report jersey change in an attempt to be deceptive, the player and coach ejections and/or disqualification of team from tournament.

All protests regarding rule interpretation must be made prior to the conclusion of the game.

Penalty: Team will be assessed a timeout or an unsportsmanlike penalty.

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If the player is found to be overweight at official weigh-in, they will be ineligible to carry or advance the ball in that game. They may weigh in again for the next game.

**THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTION TO READING OF OFFICIAL SCALES!**

**Any team(s) found utilizing ineligible players will be penalized either by player ejection and/ or team forfeiting the game.**

### **Weight Clarification/Interpretation:**

Players with striped helmets are eligible to play on kickoff and return team. They may also kick on punt and kick on kick-offs/field goal attempts. Please remember if this is not the scenario then the penalties outlined in the manual will still apply. The child in the example above must have been eligible to carry the ball.

Striped players may recover a fumble or intercept the ball; however they cannot advance the ball. Play is dead once recovery by a striped player occurs. If player attempts to run the ball, it will be spotted at point of intercept or recovery.

- c. All players whose names appear on the Official Roster must have met the weight requirement prior to the State Championship finals to be eligible to handle ball.

**APPROVED RULING:** If one of the teams to play in a State Championship does not have a game within one week of the State Championship game, players shall be allowed to weigh for official purposes at the Official Weigh-in of the game in which the team's opponent for the Championship games is determined, or on that same day by a State Athletic Committee Member not associated with the team agency.

3. **Mercy rule** – Beginning in the fourth quarter or any time in the fourth quarter a team gains a 21-point lead the clock will run continuously for the balance of the game except after touchdowns and during timeouts, injuries, penalties and scores. If the losing team gets within seven points the clock will return to regulation.
4. The playing field shall be 100 yards in length for 12 & Under, and 80 yards for 8 & Under and 10 & Under. Kick-offs will be from the 30 yard line for 10 & Under and 40-yard line in 12 & Under divisions. There will be no kick-offs in the 8 & Under division. The ball will be placed on the 20 yard-line to begin play.
5. All kick-offs out-of-bounds will be placed on the 35 yard-line or at the point of the out-of-bounds whichever is greater. If the receiving team fumbles the kick-off out-of-bounds, the ball will be placed at that point.

The offensive team must verbally state their intention of punting before leaving their huddle. After a verbal declaration of punting, the clock will stop until the change of possession. There will be **no punts in the 8 & Under division**, the ball will be marked 30 yards from the line of scrimmage or half the distance from inside the 20-yard line by the referee. The ball cannot be spotted deeper than the 10-yard line. **10 & Under division punts** will be a dead ball kick; all defensive players will take a knee during the kick except for one defensive punt receiver. The ball will be spotted where the receiver catches or controls the ball. All punts must be from long snapped formation. Delay of game can still be called even though punts are dead ball. In **12 & Under division**, starts out as a dead ball and once the punter is in control of the snapped football the official blows the whistle and the play becomes live, the defense must have seven men on the line of scrimmage and two players whom cannot be no more than 5 yards off the line of scrimmage, this allows for two punt receivers for the punt return team. The intent of the rule is to

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keep teams from developing a wedge prior to the ball becoming live, and to help aid in the realism of the punt return portion of the game. By Rule, 12 & Under Division Punts become live once the official whistles in that the punter has control of the snapped football which at that moment makes the punt returnable or gives the opportunity for a blocked punt. **No fake punts will be allowed.**

6. All coaches are required to stay within the boundaries of the coaching box with noted exceptions in the 8 & Under and 10 & Under divisions – one coach is allowed in the huddle of the offensive and defensive team. Once the huddles are broken, the coaches are to back up at least 10-yards. Coaches on the field are not allowed to communicate/talk to their players after the huddle is broken (penalty is 5 yards). No coaches will be allowed on the field in the 12 & Under division. The coaches' box extends from the 25-yard line to the 25-yard line. There is a limit of 5 coaches on the sideline and all 5 should have the same color shirt on.
7. The time allowed to snap the ball after it has been declared ready for play is 30 seconds. **In the 8 & Under division, the football may be placed parallel to the line of scrimmage to assist in snapping the ball.**
8. **OVERTIME: In the 8 & Under division ONLY;** If a game ends in a tie, the 10-yard line overtime procedure will be used with the ball being placed on the 10-yard line with each team getting a series. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Overtime will use 10 yard procedure and 3<sup>rd</sup> overtime the ball will be placed on the 3 yd line, each team will be given ONE play to score (no extra point attempts in 3<sup>rd</sup> OT or any successive OT periods).
9. **OVERTIME: In the 10 & Under and 12 & Under divisions;** If a game ends in a tie, the 10-yard line overtime procedure will be used with the ball being placed on the 10-yard line with each team getting a series. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Overtime will use 10 yard procedure and 3<sup>rd</sup> overtime or any successive OT periods, each team must attempt a two point conversion (kick).
10. In the 8 & Under division, a defensive player is not allowed to line up over the center. As a result of this rule, there will be no quarterback sneaks. The QB must be led by a running back if running up the middle. The QB may run outside the guards and there are no direct snaps to anyone other than the quarterback. The penalty for this infraction is the same as illegal formation.
11. Defensive linemen must be in a 3 or 4 point stance – any player tackle to tackle is considered a lineman on the line-of-scrimmage. Linebackers (tackle to tackle) must be off the line-of-scrimmage – depth must be the back of the farthest lineman position. The penalty for this infraction is the same as being off sides.
12. Extra Points and Field Goals: **Players with striped helmets are eligible to punt and kick on kick-offs/field goal attempts.**

**8 & Under Football** – 1 point for passing/running in the end zone from the 3 yd line  
2 points for passing/running in the end zone from the 5 yd line

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- 10 & Under Football** – 1 point for running or passing  
2 points for kicking thru the uprights

(Dead Ball with no rush, defense can raise hands and try to block only – no jumping. The ball must be snapped to holder whom places on standard orange kicking tee and holder does not have to hold ball while ball is being kicked; in fact, kicker can actually adjust ball after being placed on kicking tee by holder) Ball would be placed on the regulation 3 yard line on a 100 yd. field. On an 80 yard field, a field goal attempt would be from 13 yards off the face of the goal/uprights.

Field Goal attempts have the same rule except team awarded 3-points

- 12 & Under Football** – 1 Point for running or passing  
2 Points for kicking thru the uprights

(Dead Ball with no rush, defense can raise hands and try to block only – no jumping. The ball must be snapped to holder who holds football on a kicking block or ground for the extra point, once the official sees that the snapped ball is in place by the holder; the official blows the whistle and the kicker must immediately kick the extra point) Ball is placed on 3 yard line. Penalty is delay of game.

Field Goal attempts - the same rule except team awarded 3-points

### *ARTICLE III – EQUIPMENT*

#### **SECTION A – APPROVED EQUIPMENT**

1. Shoes are mandatory for play in youth football games.
  - a. Shoes which have plastic, nylon, hard rubber or other synthetic materials, and which have cleats which are detachable are not allowed.
  - b. Shoes with rubber-molded cleats are permissible, as are smooth, soft-sole shoes such as tennis or basketball shoes.
2. The approved footballs are as follows (teams may use their own ball as long as it meets the below specifications):
  - a. **12 & Under:** Wilson TDY; Spaulding J2Y; McGregor MSJ; Rawlings KRB; Voit CF7S; Wilson F1544; or other youth size football.
  - b. **10 & Under:** Wilson TDJ or any other 14 & Under size football.
  - c. **8 & Under:** Wilson K2 or equal

#### **SECTION B – UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS**

1. A uniform for youth football shall include helmet with face guard, 2 or 4 point chin strap snaps, shoulder pads, football pants with pads protecting the hips, thighs and knees, and jersey with numerals on front and back. It is mandatory that all players wear such uniforms. No other youth sports organization patches will be allowed on uniforms in GRPA tournaments. – Penalty – Illegal Equipment

## **GRPA Athletic Manual**

2. Mouth pieces must be worn by all players in the game and meet current GSHA requirements. They should be attached to the helmet and visible to the game officials. They cannot be clear.
3. GRPA waives the GSHA position numbering system requirements.
4. The Host Agency shall be responsible for supplying scrimmage vests in events where jerseys need to be opposite colors. A coin toss shall be conducted and the winner shall have the option of whether to wear the scrimmage vests or original jerseys.

### **SECTION C – PLAYING FIELD REQUIREMENTS**

1. The playing field and surrounding immediate area shall be in accordance with the specifications of the GSHA rules. Please refer to C-4 in this section.
2. The Host Agency shall be responsible for seeing that the playing field requirements meet the proper specifications.

## ***ARTICLE IV – GAMES AND AWARDS***

### **SECTION A – METHOD OF TEAM ENTRY**

1. The State Athletic bracket Committee will set the state-wide pairings after the Fall meeting (October). The State Committee may, at its opinion, restrict the number of entries from an agency. The agency must meet all eligibility requirements of a GRPA member.
2. The process of selecting finalists will be single-elimination.
3. The State regionals and finals of Class “A” and “B” will be awarded by bid process at State President’s Assembly. State finals will be rotated on an odd/South and even/North as selected by the State Athletic Committee. District 1, 2, and 3 are considered South. District 4, 5, and 7 are considered North. District 6 will be based on location of entries/regional host.
4. Awards as determined by State Athletic Committee Bid- Team trophy for first and second and individual medals for first and second place.

## ***ARTICLE V – OFFICIALS AND PARTICIPANTS***

### **SECTION A – HOST**

1. The Host Agency shall provide a minimum number of competent adults to serve as a statistician, a play-off director, and approved game officials in accordance with Rule II Article IV. The statistician must be agreeable by both agencies playing the game prior to kickoff and he shall keep all necessary records for the game.
2. The Host Agency shall be responsible for proper conduct of spectators.
3. Teams may provide their own game ball as long as it meets GRPA specifications.
4. The Host Agency shall be responsible for seeing that the playing field requirements meet GRPA specifications.

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### **SECTION B – GAME OFFICIALS**

1. A minimum of four Approved or Certified Game Officials (qualified game official in their third year or more of membership with a certified officials association acceptable by the Georgia High School Association and designated by GHSA Standards as an approved official for Football) shall be employed for State level GRPA competition. District levels must use at least three (3) Officials as stated in Rule II, Article IV, Section B.

### ***ARTICLE VI – PROTESTS AND APPEALS***

**For More Information regarding Protests and Appeals See:  
Rule I, Article IV, Section C-11 for protest committee organization and responsibility –  
(Pages 53-54) and Rule II, Article I, Section A – (Pages 60-61)**

**Exception: Weigh-ins would follow procedures listed herein.**

## **GRPA Athletic Manual**

### **RULE XIV – FLAG FOOTBALL**

#### ***ARTICLE I – ELIGIBILITY***

##### **SECTION A – AGE DIVISION**

1. For Adults: 18 & over (age prior to December 1 of current year).

#### ***ARTICLE II – REGULATIONS***

##### **SECTION A – GOVERNING RULES**

1. The accepted guide for GRPA tournament games, with the exceptions found in this manual, is the Official NIRSA (National Intramural Recreational Sports Association) printed in the current edition of the rules and official's manual.
2. Any player or coach ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for one game, in addition to the game from which ejected; or, in the case of an individual event within a meet or match, for the duration of that event.
3. Per the "Return to Play Act of 2013", effective January 1, 2014, all agencies are required to provide concussion education material to all youth participants and their parents. The verification of compliance to this law is affirmed by the signature of the agency director on the GRPA roster.
4. Use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone, is not permitted in changing areas, rest rooms, or locker rooms. The use of audio or visual recording devices is not allowed in resolution of protested matters.

##### **SECTION B – LENGTH OF GAMES AND GAME MANAGEMENT**

1. A regulation game shall consist of 44 minutes, divided into two halves of 22 minutes each with the clock running. The last 2 minutes of each half shall be regulation clock. The half time shall consist of 5 minutes. When overtime is used, there will be a 3-minute intermission.
2. All games will be scheduled and start no later than 10:00 PM on Friday and Saturday nights but may be played in emergency situations (rain, game delay, etc.)
3. All GRPA district and state games must be played to conclusion.
4. State tournaments in Flag Football shall be Round Robin Pool Play as described in Rule XIV Article V Section A. Brackets and pool shall be drawn by State Athletic Committee's Bracket committee.
5. All team members not actually participating in the game must stay within the confines of the team area as specified by host agency.
6. A minimum of three (3) approved officials for district play and four (4) on the state level.

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### *ARTICLE III – PROTESTS AND APPEALS*

1. The judgment decision by an official on any play shall not be protested.
2. Protests on misinterpretation of the rules are allowed to the head referee. The Tournament Director shall coordinate any such protest and shall serve as the odd-numbered member of the Tournament Protest Committee as determined prior to the game by the agency host in coordination with the district commissioner for district level competition and with the State Athletic Chair for state level competition. All such protests are to be immediately acted upon by the Protest Committee and before play is continued.

**For More Information regarding Protests and Appeals See:**

**Rule I, Article IV, Section C-11 for protest committee organization and responsibility – (Pages 53-54) and Rule II, Article I, Section A – (Pages 60-61)**

3. No protest on rule interpretation will be accepted after the next snap of the ball.
4. For appeals see Rule II Article I of this manual.

### *ARTICLE IV – EQUIPMENT*

#### **SECTION A – APPROVED EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS**

1. Rubber-molded, cleated shoes are approved for use. Smooth and soft-soled athletic shoes including tennis shoes or basketball shoes are acceptable.
2. Balls – Host to furnish.
3. Flags will be provided by host. Flags will be the triple threat or equivalent quality with three flags per belt.
4. Team uniforms for Flag Football will consist of matching or like-colored jerseys with factory-type non-duplicating numbers on the back at least six inches height. No other youth sports organization patches will be allowed on uniforms in GRPA tournaments. – Penalty – Illegal Equipment
5. Illegal uniforms will be treated as illegal equipment.
6. Shorts or pants worn must be without pockets or belt loops.

#### **SECTION B – PLAYING FIELD REQUIREMENTS**

1. The following field specifications are required for all games:
  - a. Adult Division:
    - (i) Playing field shall be 40 yards wide and 100 yards long; four 20 yard sections and two 10 yard end zones. As specified in rule 1-2 NIRSA rule book.
    - (ii) The agency host shall be responsible for seeing that the playing field meets GRPA and NIRSA specifications. Site selection committee may alter field dimensions as needed.



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### ARTICLE V – FLAG FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT FORMAT

#### SECTION A – ROUND ROBIN POOL/TIE BREAKER

1. The top 2 teams from each three team round robin league will advance to the championship playoffs, which are single eliminations.
2. All forfeits will be governed by NIRSA rules.
5. If a two-way tie exists, it will be decided by who beat whom in head-to-head competition.
4. If a three-way tie exists, it will be decided as follows:
  - a. Forfeit – a team that forfeits is dropped to the lowest possible play among the three tied teams.
  - b. The difference between total points scored versus total points allowed. For example A defeated B 7-0, B defeated C 7-6, and C defeated A 13-6.

<u>Team A</u>	<u>Team B</u>	<u>Team C</u>
7 0	0 7	6 7
6 13	7 6	13 6
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
13 13	7 13	19 13
Diff = 0	Diff = -6	Diff = +6

Thus team C finishes first, team A finishes second and team B does not qualify.

- c. If two teams have the same point differential, then who beat whom in head-to-head competition will determine playoff placement.
- d. If two teams have scored the same number of points, then head-to-head competition will determine playoff placement.
- e. If all three have scored the same number of points, then the fewest points allowed will determine playoff placement.
- f. If two teams have allowed the same number of points, then head-to-head competition will determine playoff placement.
- g. If all three teams have allowed the same number of points, then the following procedure will be used:
  - (i) The three teams will play a round robin (A vs. B, B vs. C, and C vs. A) tournament using the NIRSA National Collegiate Flag Football Rulebook Tie game procedure (Rule 3-2-5).
  - (ii) Win-loss record, then point differential, points scored and points allowed (see items B-G above) will determine playoff placement.
  - (iii) If a tie still exists, a coin toss will be held with the odd team being eliminated.
5. The host will post all results as soon as possible so all teams will know in advance who will play whom in the final single elimination round.

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# RULE XV – Cheerleading

### *ARTICLE I – ELIGIBILITY*

#### **SECTION A – AGE DIVISIONS**

1. There are four age divisions for cheerleading (Cutoff Date as “age as of December 31 of current year)
  - a. 7 & 8 & Under Division (Must be 7 by the age control date)
  - b. 10 and under 10 & Under Division
  - c. 12 and under 12 & Under Division
  - d. 14 and under 14 & Under Division
2. Allow within district lines for individuals to compete in the nearest or adjoining departments with the following restrictions:
  - a. Home county or agency has no program.
  - b. No recruiting by the adjoining agency.
  - c. Cannot cross district lines
  - d. Host agency endorsed participant
  - e. Cannot pass over a program to participate in another agency.
  - f. Must participate in the sport program in the Host agency program.
  - g. If live in an “A” class county you cannot compete in “B” or “C” county. Must compete in nearest “A” county. “B” or “C” may compete up in “A”.
  - h. Host agency must notify the District Athletic Chair with list and home county of each crossover participant. The district must forward info to the State Host and Athletic Chair.
  - i. Participants must be approved by District Athletic Chair and any and all protest of crossovers must be done prior to district competition. Once approved, they are legal throughout District and State.
6. Youth coaches must be certified by one the following programs: NYSCA, ACEP, GHSA, or SIMPLY THE BEST.
4. Any player or coach ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for one game, in addition to the game from which ejected; or, in the case of an individual event within a meet or match, for the duration of that event.

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### ***ARTICLE II – REGULATIONS***

#### **SECTION A – GOVERNING RULES**

1. GRPA meets are governed by the current rules and regulations set by the National Federation Spirit Rules Book and the GHSA Competitive Cheerleading Manual minus the exceptions as may be stated in this manual.
2. Per the “Return to Play Act of 2013”, effective January 1, 2014, all agencies are required to provide concussion education material to all youth participants and their parents. The verification of compliance to this law is affirmed by the signature of the agency director on the GRPA roster.
3. All head and assistant coaches that are coaching youth teams participating in all levels of GRPA Athletics must have undergone a criminal background check through their Department. By signing the teams GRPA roster, the Department Director or their designee attests that this has taken place.
4. Use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone, is not permitted in changing areas, rest rooms, or locker rooms. The use of audio or visual recording devices is not allowed in resolution of protested matters.

#### **SECTION B – SPECIAL RULES**

- A. Cheerleading is a sport in each classification.
- B. All cheerleading competitions must be conducted according to the rules of the “National Federation Spirit Rules Book” and the “GHSA Competitive Cheerleading Manual.”  
NOTE: National Federation rules dealing with safety are to be followed in any cheerleading practice or performance. It is recommended, but not mandatory, that cheerleaders practice stunts on one or more 6'x42' cheerleading mats prior to performing stunts in a team routine.
- C. A competitive cheerleading team is comprised of a maximum of sixteen performers.
  1. A team mascot (if used) is included as one of the sixteen performers.
  2. A department may have a roster greater than sixteen performers, and may use any combination of eligible cheerleaders in any competition in each specific division.
  3. All team members must be dressed in the adopted uniform that displays the department identification (i.e., letter, monogram, mascot symbol, etc.) EXCEPTION: The mascot is exempt from this rule.
- D. The competitive area is a 42'x42' blue cheerleading mat, and the routine must be performed within the boundaries of the competitive area.
  1. A full set of cheerleading mats (42'x42') must be used in all competitions.
  2. Only coaches, competitors, and officials are allowed in the competitive area.
  3. Only team members may act as spotters.
  4. Non-competitors may not assist during the routine.
  5. All mats should be placed on the floor horizontally facing the judges. Center of the mat should be marked with tape. The floor will be considered out-of-bounds.

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- E. The competitive routine must include both cheer and dance.
  - 1. Tumbling skills are permitted only within the body of the routine.
  - 2. Tumbling skills may not be performed as a part of the entrance to or exit from the competitive area.
  - 3. Pom-poms are the only props allowed in a competitive routine.
- F. The length of the routine shall be a maximum of two minutes and thirty seconds (2:30) for the 12 & Under and 14 & Under divisions and two minutes (2:00) for the 8 & Under and 10 & Under divisions, timed by an official timer.
  - 1. The routine must begin within thirty (30) seconds of the head judge's signal. Failure to do so shall result in a five-point deduction for delay of the meet.
  - 2. Teams may begin from any position inbounds, and the time of the routine will begin with the first word, musical sound, or movement of any team member.
  - 3. The routine ends on the last word, musical sound, or movement of any team member.
  - 4. If the routine ends with a pyramid, the final dismount is not timed.
  - 5. There is no minimum/maximum time limit for music in the routine.
  - 6. If the routine is longer than the allotted time, a deduction of five (5) points for every fifteen (15) second period or portion thereof will be assessed.
- G. Each team is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the music in its routine.
  - 1. The Director must review the music to be used in the department's routine, and must stipulate that the music is in good taste for children and acceptable for the morals of their community.
  - 2. Each department must furnish a high-quality tape/CD of their music. NOTE: It is recommended that each department bring an identical back-up tape/CD.
  - 3. The coach or team representative is responsible for starting and stopping the music during the competition.
  - 4. Departments are responsible for furnishing their own equipment and music for use in the practice/warm-up area.
- H. Competitive routines shall be judged according to the following criteria:

### 1. Cheerleading Fundamentals

#### a. Jumps

Degree of Difficulty                      5 points

Execution                                      7 points

#### b. Standing Tumbling

Degree of Difficulty                      5 points

Execution                                      7 points

#### c. Running Tumbling

Degree of Difficulty                      5 points

Execution                                      7 points

#### d. Partner Stunts

Degree of Difficulty                      7 points

Execution                                      10 points

#### e. Pyramids/Tosses

Degree of Difficulty                      7 points

Execution                                      10 points

#### f. Dance

10 points

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- g. Cheer/Chant 10 points
- h. Formations/Transitions 5 points
- i. Showmanship 5 points
- 2. Deductions will be made for the following:
  - a. NFHS Rules Violations (minor) -5 points
  - b. NFHS Rules Violations (major) -10 points
  - c. Sportsmanship -10 points
  - d. Improper uniforms -5 points
  - e. Falls -5 points
  - f. Tumbling outside of the Routine -5 points
  - g. Boundary violations -5 points
  - h. Delay of meet -5 points
  - i. Time infractions (overtime) -5 points for each 15 seconds or portion thereof
- 3. Disqualifications will be made for the following:
  - a. Illegal substitution (ineligible member or non-team member)
  - b. Too many members on a competitive squad
  - c. Unauthorized props
- I. Winners in the competitions will be determined by the highest point total from the judges after the highest score and the lowest score have been dropped.
  - 1. In case of a tie, all judges' scores will be totaled.
  - 2. If a tie still remains after all scores have been totaled, all judges will determine the ranking of the tied teams to break the tie.
- J. Prior to any disqualification for a rules violation, the Head Judge must call a conference at the conclusion of competition, and the majority of the judges must agree the violation occurred.
- K. In all competitions, all judges must be registered with the GHSA and must have completed the GHSA training program.
  - 1. A minimum of five judges and two safety judges will be used at all competitions, plus scorers and timer.
  - 2. Judges must be secured by certified school personnel by contacting the assigning officer of a local judges' association.

### *ARTICLE III – EQUIPMENT*

#### **SECTION A – APPROVED EQUIPMENT**

- 1. Shoes are mandatory for all cheerleading events.
- 2. Equipment to be provided by the Host Agency for GRPA Cheerleading competitions shall include the following:
  - a. Scorer's table located in an area favorable to the officials and conducive to accurate and timely observation. It is recommended that a loud public address system be available.
  - b. At least one 42' X 42' blue cheerleading mat (preferably one additional for warm-up)

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### **SECTION B – UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS**

1. Team members should wear like-uniforms. No other youth sports organization patches will be allowed on uniforms in GRPA tournaments. – Penalty – Illegal Equipment
2. It is mandatory that team members be in uniform while actually competing in events.
3. No jewelry is allowed.

### **SECTION C – AREA REQUIREMENTS**

1. Ample spectator seating should be provided for the event.
2. Locker rooms should be provided for changing.

### ***ARTICLE IV – MEETS AND AWARDS***

#### **SECTION A – STATE**

1. State championships will be held one weekend after the GHSA state championships in November.

### ***ARTICLE V – OFFICIALS***

#### **SECTION A – HOST**

The Host shall provide a minimum number of competent adults in accordance with Rule II, Article IV. The Host shall be responsible for providing areas and equipment, releasing publicity, and organizing competition for the meet.

#### **SECTION B – COMPETITIONS AND ATTENDANTS**

1. Attendants, coaches, spectators, parents or persons not designated as meet officials shall not accompany a competitor to the mat. Any team will be disqualified if, in the opinion of the judges or meet officials, they have in any way been aided by a coach, teammate or anyone connected directly or indirectly with the team concerned.

### ***ARTICLE VI – PROTESTS AND APPEALS***

Protests and appeals are authorized only under the stipulations found in this manual.

**For More Information regarding Protests and Appeals See:  
Rule I, Article IV, Section C-11 for protest committee organization and responsibility –  
(Pages 53-54) and Rule II, Article I, Section A – (Pages 60-61)**

## GRPA Athletic Manual

# RULE XVI – Youth Lacrosse

### ARTICLE I – ELIGIBILITY

1. There are ten divisions of play (Cutoff Date - age prior to September 1.) The divisions are:

#### GIRLS

- f. 8 & Under (Must be 7 by the age control date)
- g. 10 & under 10 & Under
- h. 12 & under 12 & Under
- i. 14 & under 14 & Under
- j. 17 & under 17 & Under

#### BOYS

- a. 8 & Under (Must be 7 by the age control date)
  - b. 10 & under 10 & Under
  - c. 12 & under 12 & Under
  - d. 14 & under 14 & Under
  - e. 17 & under 17 & Under
2. For all team sports allow within district lines for individuals to compete in the nearest or adjoin departments with the following restrictions:
    - a. Home County or Agency has no program.
    - b. Cannot cross district lines.
    - c. Cannot pass over a program to participate in another agency.
    - d. Must participate in the sport program in the host agency.
    - e. Host agency must endorse participant.
    - f. Participant must be approved by District Athletic Chair. Once approved, they are legal throughout District and State.
    - g. Host agency must notify the District Athletic Chair with list and Home County of each crossover participant. The district must forward info to the State Host and Athletic Chair.
  3. A participant is allowed to compete in either women's or men's divisions in addition to the co-ed division.

### ARTICLE II – REGULATIONS

#### SECTION A – GOVERNING RULES

1. The accepted guide for all levels is governed by the current rules and regulations of US Lacrosse; the national governing body of lacrosse with the exceptions found in this manual. The national governing body rules can be found at the following web address - [http://www.uslacrosse.org/the\\_sport/rules.phtml](http://www.uslacrosse.org/the_sport/rules.phtml)
2. Any player or coach ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for one game, in addition to the game from which ejected; or, in the case of an individual event within a meet or match, for the duration of that event.
3. Per the “Return to Play Act of 2013”, effective January 1, 2014, all agencies are required to provide concussion education material to all youth participants and their parents. The verification of compliance to this law is affirmed by the signature of the agency director on the GRPA roster.

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4. All head and assistant coaches that are coaching youth teams participating in all levels of GRPA Athletics must have undergone a criminal background check through their Department. By signing the teams GRPA roster, the Department Director or their designee attests that this has taken place.
5. Use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone, is not permitted in changing areas, rest rooms, or locker rooms. The use of audio or visual recording devices is not allowed in resolution of protested matters.

### **SECTION B – LENGTH OF GAMES**

1. 17 & Under and 14 & Under Division — Four 10-minute stop-time quarters. In the event of a tie, two 4-minute “sudden victory” overtime periods will be played. If after two overtime periods the score is still tied, additional sudden-victory overtime periods may be played until a winner is determined (provided time permits and coaches and officials are in agreement).
2. 8 & Under and 10 & Under Divisions — Four 12-minute running-time quarters. In the event of a tie, one 15-minute running-time overtime period will be played, with the team in the lead at the end of the overtime declared the winner. This is **not** a sudden victory period. If the score is still tied at the end of the overtime period, the game will end as a tie.

### **SECTION C – SPECIAL PROVISIONS**

All special provisions are found in the US Lacrosse rules.

## ***ARTICLE III – EQUIPMENT***

### **SECTION A – APPROVED EQUIPMENT**

Approved equipment is found in the US Lacrosse rules.

### **SECTION B – UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS**

Uniform requirements are found in the US Lacrosse rules. No other youth sports organization patches will be allowed on uniforms in GRPA tournaments. – Penalty – Illegal Equipment

### **SECTION C – FIELD REQUIREMENTS**

Field requirements are found in the US Lacrosse Rules. Any changes must be approved by the State Athletic Chair.

## ***ARTICLE IV – GAMES AND AWARDS***

### **SECTION A – DISTRICT**

1. District level competition in all divisions of Lacrosse is to be completed by the second weekend in May.



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### **SECTION B – STATE**

1. All divisions will begin the next weekend (3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in May) unless it falls on a holiday weekend (must be approved by the State Athletic Committee.).

### ***ARTICLE V – OFFICIALS***

#### **SECTION A – HOST**

1. Host Agency shall provide a minimum number of competent adults for scorers, Tournament Director, and a minimum of two (2) officials approved by the State Chair.
2. The Host Agency shall be responsible for providing all match related supplies.

#### **SECTION B – GAME OFFICIALS**

1. A minimum of two (2) sanctioned officials shall be used in district and state level GRPA competition. All officials should be either certified or in the process of certification.

### ***ARTICLE VI – PROTESTS AND APPEALS***

#### **SECTION A – PROTESTS AND RULES INFRACTIONS**

1. The judgment decision by an official on any play shall not be protested.
2. Protest on misinterpretation of the rules are allowed to the referee and if accepted as valid by the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director shall coordinate any such protest and shall serve as the odd-number member of the Tournament Protest Committee as determined prior to the game by the Agency Host in coordination with the District Commissioner for District level competition and with the State Athletic Committee Chair for State levels of competition. If a protest is accepted by the Tournament Director, it must be made by the certified coach or certified staff in charge of the team at the time of the alleged infraction. A full explanation will be given by the protest committee before play is continued. If the decision of the protest committee is appealed to the State Athletic Committee, it must be done so in time for any action to be resolved prior to the next game in which either team is involved.

**For More Information regarding Protests and Appeals See:**

**Rule I, Article IV, Section C-11 for protest committee organization and responsibility – Pages 53-54) and Rule II, Article I, Section A – (Pages 60-61)**

3. No protest on rules interpretation will be accepted after play continues following the alleged infraction.

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# RULE XVII - GYMNASTICS

### *ARTICLE I – ELIGIBILITY*

#### **SECTION A – AGE DIVISIONS**

1. There are four age divisions for both boys and girls (Cutoff Date as “age as of December 31 of current year)
  - a. 8 & Under for 7 and 8 only (Must be 7 by the age control date)
  - b. 10 & Under
  - c. 12 & Under
  - d. 14 & Under
2. Allow within district lines for individuals to compete in the nearest or adjoining departments with the following restrictions:
  - a. Home county or agency has no gymnastics program.
  - b. No recruiting by the adjoining agency.
  - c. Cannot cross district lines
  - d. Host agency endorsed participant
  - e. Cannot pass over a program to participate in another agency.
  - f. Must participate in the sport program in the Host agency program.
  - g. If live in an “A” class county you cannot compete in “B/C” county. Must compete in nearest “A” county. “B/C” may compete up in “A”.
  - h. Host agency must notify the District Athletic Chair with list and home county of each crossover participant. The district must forward info to the State Host and Athletic Chair.
  - i. Participants must be approved by District Athletic Chair and any and all protest of crossovers must be done prior to district competition. Once approved, they are legal throughout District and State.
  - j. A participant may compete for the same team in GRPA that they do year round, as long as it is a GRPA agency team. The participant must have an AAU membership card at participant check-in. A 90 day turnover period would be required for AAU membership and meet AAU guidelines.
3. Youth coaches must be certified by one the following programs: NYSCA, ACEP, GHSA, USA GYMNASTICS, or SIMPLY THE BEST.

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4. Any player or coach ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for one game, in addition to the game from which ejected; or, in the case of an individual event within a meet or match, for the duration of that event.

### *ARTICLE II – REGULATIONS*

#### **SECTION A – GOVERNING RULES (AAU GEORGIA GYMNASTICS)**

<http://www.gaaaau.net/gymnastics%20girls.htm>

1. The GRPA State Invitational Gymnastics Meet shall be governed by this Manual and Georgia AAU Gymnastics policies and procedures. In any situation which may not be covered by this Manual, the Meet Director, in consultation with the GRPA Athletic Committee Chair shall have the authority to make the final decision.
2. **For More Information regarding Protests and Appeals See: Rule I, Article IV, Section C-11 for protest committee organization and responsibility – (Pages 53-54) and Rule II, Article I, Section A – (Pages 60-61).** All situations not specifically covered by this Manual concerning meet regulations, shall be handled in accordance with the current AAU Georgia Gymnastics Rule Book.
3. Any rules and regulations not covered within this manual, AAU Georgia Gymnastics, and AAU National Gymnastics will automatically revert to USA Gymnastics.
4. Per the “Return to Play Act of 2013”, effective January 1, 2014, all agencies are required to provide concussion education material to all youth participants and their parents. The verification of compliance to this law is affirmed by the signature of the agency director on the GRPA roster.
5. All head and assistant coaches that are coaching youth teams participating in all levels of GRPA Athletics must have undergone a criminal background check through their Department. By signing the teams GRPA roster, the Department Director or their designee attests that this has taken place.
6. I. Use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone, is not permitted in changing areas, rest rooms, or locker rooms. The use of audio or visual recording devices is not allowed in resolution of protested matters.

### *ARTICLE III – GAMES AND AWARDS*

#### **SECTION A – COMPETITION RULES**

1. All competition rules will be provided by the state host.

#### **SECTION B – AWARDS**

1. All awards will be provided by the state host.

## GRPA Athletic Manual

### GRPA STATE ATHLETIC CASEBOOK

1. If the defending state champion adult team cannot participate in the next GRPA State Tournament, can the agency send another adult team to represent them?  
*Yes. As long as the team is an integral part of their program*
2. During the course of the regular season, an open league player moves their residence outside the Agency's boundaries prior to district competition, but after the official roster has been verified. Is the player eligible?  
*Yes. As long as the player plays and is an integral part of the local agencies league.*
3. Whose watch determines the official game time?  
*Tournament Director's*
4. Can an agency's staff representative protest a player's eligibility if the agency's team is not participating in a game against the team with the protested player?  
*Yes. As long as they have proof and they have an entry in the same tournament.*
5. Define or give examples of the definition or status of a "professional athlete." Does this include out of country teams and competition?  
*It includes anyone who is accepting money for playing a sport.*
6. A GRPA agency has failed to pay their state or district dues or any outstanding fees of any kind (entry fees, forfeit fees, host fees, etc.) Are they eligible for current GRPA competition or can they host a state tournament/event?  
*No. Not until all dues, fees, or fines are paid.*
7. Who has the authority and responsibility to cancel, move, and/or reschedule a state tournament?  
*The Tournament Director may reschedule games in a tournament, but the State Athletic Committee must make the decision to cancel or move from any agency or reschedule a state tournament to another site.*
8. What other protests may be made by an agency's representative even though their team is not involved in the ball game?  
*No protest except ineligible players may be made by anyone not involved in the game.*
9. When the various copies of the roster (white, yellow and pink) are mailed to the appropriate persons, do all roster forms get mailed or only the district champion and district runner-ups copies?  
*All copies should be mailed within 48 hours.*
10. If the minister of a church or personnel director of a business is not available to verify a roster, who will be the next person recommended to verify the roster?  
*The associate pastor, chair of deacons, board, assistant personnel director, plant manager, or the next ranking individual at the church or business.*

## GRPA Athletic Manual

11. If a child's identity is questioned, what proof will be acceptable for identification?

*All accepted identification documents as listed in the manual. The burden of proof is on the protestor.*

12. If a team does not have entry fee paid prior to their 1<sup>st</sup> game in state competition, should the team be allowed to play?

*If the tournament director has a reason to believe there might be a problem collecting then no, otherwise, bill the department later.*

13. If a district commits a team to state competition and their team withdraws to cause the cancellation of the state tournament, who is penalized?

*The district is responsible and must pay all fees including awards.*

14. If a player represents one district in a subdivision of GRPA competition, can he represent another district in that same subdivision or division even if that player's team did not win the district tournament before hand?

*No*

15. A player dresses out for a school team, but he never has any playing time. He then quits the school team. Can he represent an agency in GRPA competition?

*Yes provided all eligibility is met.*

16. County does not have an agency, can little Johnny or Susie play on closest agency's district team?

*Yes, with restrictions. See Rule I, Article II, Section B- 1e on page 45. Also check the eligibility guidelines found each sport.*

17. If the adult player who was protested has not provided proof of name and address by game's end, is that player ineligible? Does that make the team ineligible? If team is ruled ineligible, what action should be taken by tournament director?

*The protested player must show identification prior to the next game of either team. IF this is not done, then the player and the team are ineligible and the tournament director should remove the team from the tournament.*

18. A player works for a company that has multi-branch office. Can the player represent any agency where the offices are located? (i.e. – ABC Airlines has offices in many Georgia cities, who can he or she legally represent?)

*No. He/she must play only in the county where they work. If he/she works in more than one county then he/she must play where he/she lives.*

19. What is the penalty and/or forfeit imposed when a team or individual is found guilty of using an ineligible player?

*Forfeit of the game/individual event*

## GRPA Athletic Manual

20. If a child only has a baptismal record as proof of birth, is this acceptable for verification?

*No. See Rule I, Article III, Section B-1*

21. What formal proof of a child's adoption is required for GRPA competition?

*Court Records*

22. If, at State competition, the host has not received the roster from district competition, is the team representing the district eligible to play?

*Technically no, but the Tournament Director must make the final decision and do what he/she feels is required.*

23. A school basketball player has completed his/her current season before Thanksgiving Holiday. The Recreation Department's season will not begin until January 1<sup>st</sup>, is the player eligible to represent the Recreation Department in GRPA competition? (This does happen in some middle school programs.)

*Yes provided all eligibility is met.*

24. Is a school record acceptable for birth verification?

*No*

25. Team where all players live in one county plays in another county because their county doesn't have enough teams for a league. Can they represent the county they live in at district?

*Yes, if local recreation department will enter and considers them as part of his/her program.*

26. If a player advances to state competition in two (2) sub-divisions of two (2) different districts, which team has he/her made ineligible?

*The player would be ineligible for both, because he/she can only be on one roster. Both teams would remain eligible if he met all other requirements.*

27. If a child participates in a higher age in local competition, can he/she participate at district and state levels of play?

*Yes.*

28. In state tournament competition, if only one official is available, should the game be started?

*Yes. Tournament Director will make this decision.*

29. On a GRPA official roster form for adult competition, does the person's birth date have to be listed on the roster form?

*Yes. Roster should be filled out completely.*

## GRPA Athletic Manual

30. If an adult player is asked to provide proof of identification, and he/she does not have a driver's license or picture ID, what other proof is acceptable?

*Any identification as listed in the manual.*

31. If a professional sport's league is on strike, can the player represent a Recreation Department in GRPA competition?

*Not in the sport from which he/she is on strike.*

32. Can names be added on rosters signed at any level of competition?

*District, No. In all team sports, teams are allowed to add up to 3 players to their roster when advancing to a State tournament. This can only be done if there is enough room on the original roster to add the names. Any additions must be made and submitted to the State host prior to their team's first game of the State tournament.*

33. Agency does not have a league, team does not play anywhere else, can agency form a team to play at district?

*Yes. If the director says team is an integral part of their program.*

34. Can a red-shirted college player on scholarship represent an agency in the sport he is red-shirted in?

*No.*

35. Does GRPA have any authority over local play before district or state competitions?

*No. Absolutely not!*

36. Baseball: If a pitcher pitches in less than the designated number of pitches requiring one day rest then (a) goes to another position or (b) leaves the game for a substitute, can he go back to the pitcher's position that game?

*No for both (a) and (b). See Rule VII, Article II, Section C, 1.7.b. (page 98)*

37. Baseball: Does a pitcher who throws with either arm get to have twice the pitch allotment in a tournament or waive the rest period?

*No. Pitches are per player, not per arm.*

38. Baseball: A game starts Wednesday and is rained out/suspended, both teams' pitcher threw more than 31 pitches (10 & Under & 12 & Under divisions) or 41 pitches (14 & Under & 17 & Under divisions), can they pitch in the same continued game on Thursday?

*No. They must have a required rest because of exceeding the pitch count on Wednesday. Pitching regulations apply per day and/or game, therefore one or two days of rest are required, the only exception being if this number was reached by finishing a batter.*

## GRPA Athletic Manual

39. Baseball: If a pitcher pitches to one batter and then switches positions with the third baseman (a) can the first pitcher come back to the mound in that same inning and (b) can he return later in the game?

*No for both (a) and (b). See Rule VII, Article II, Section C, 1.7.b. (page 98)*

40. Baseball: Can a pitcher in youth baseball, if he pitches (31) thirty-one or more for 10 & Under, 12 & Under, 12 & Under major and forty-one (41) or more for 14 & Under and 17 & Under in the first game of a day, legally pitch the balance of his maximum limit in the second game of that day?

*No. Pitches are tabulated per pitching assignment.*

41. Can a player pitch who pitched 30 or less (10 & Under, 12 & Under, 12 & Under Major) or 40 pitches (14 & Under and 17 & Under) or less in a game, then play a second game the same day, and then pitch remaining pitches?

*Yes*

42. Can a pitcher that reaches 30 pitches (10 & Under & 12 & Under divisions)/40 pitches (14 & Under & 17 & Under divisions) and then completes the batter (which gives them 35/45 pitches or more for the game) be eligible to pitch the following game on the same day?

*Yes. If the pitch count limit is reached during an at-bat, the pitcher may continue to pitch until the batter has reached base or has been declared out and/or the third out is made to complete the half inning. The pitch count should continue to be documented however, the pitchers remaining eligibility to pitch in the 2nd game will be the maximum pitches allowed per day minus the total number of pitches thrown including the excess pitches to retire the final batter. If game is next day all pitching regulations apply and pitch count starts with zero.*

43. If a coach is disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct in a youth game and he is the only “certified coach or recreation representative” at the game site, can the team continue to play?

*Yes. The Tournament Director should appoint an adult to be with the team. IF unsportsmanlike problems continue then the game could be forfeited.*

44. In adult softball, a player is wearing a cap the tournament director considers inappropriate because of what is written on it; can the player or team appeal his decision?

*No. Tournament directors make the decision with no appeal. The player can remove it or not play. If player refuses he will be ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct.*

45. Volleyball: If a team is five (5) minutes late for a game, is the team forfeited for the entire match?

*No. The team will have ten (10) minutes to find a team ready to play for the first game of the match, but they will start the match down one (1) game in the best of two (2) of three (3) matches. If they are more than ten (10) minutes late, they forfeit the match.*

46. Can a participant that does not play in district be allowed to play in a state tournament?

*Yes. If he or she was on the roster prior to district competition and has proper documentation or picture ID at their first appearance, in the next level they are eligible to participate.*



# GRPA Athletic Manual

## GEORGIA RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION 2018 STATE TOURNAMENT BID FORM

Please complete and submit this bid form to the 2017 State Athletic Chairman (Missy Bailey) by **October 1<sup>st</sup>**.  
Hosts will be selected by a majority vote of the State Athletic Committee.

Department Submitting Bid: \_\_\_\_\_

Tournament/Sport \_\_\_\_\_

Classification (**Circle One**) A B C Age Division: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Site(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Recent GRPA Tournament at above site(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Tournament Director: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Housing Information:** Number of motels/hotels \_\_\_\_\_

Number of rooms available \_\_\_\_\_

Will you have a block of rooms for specific tournaments at a good rate? \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a medical facility in close proximity to your host facility? \_\_\_\_ If yes, please provide facility name and approximate distance from your facility. \_\_\_\_\_

### **BASKETBALL/VOLLEYBALL INFORMATION:**

Approximate Seating Capacity: \_\_\_\_\_

Court Dimensions: 94 X 50 \_\_\_\_\_ 84 x 50 \_\_\_\_\_

Court Surface: \_\_\_\_\_ Hardwood \_\_\_\_\_ Synthetic \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Are There: \_\_\_\_\_ Restrooms \_\_\_\_\_ Telephones \_\_\_\_\_ Concessions \_\_\_\_\_ Scoreboard

\_\_\_\_\_ Dressing Rooms \_\_\_\_\_ PA System \_\_\_\_\_ Drinking Fountain \_\_\_\_\_ Professional Staff

### **BASEBALL/SOFTBALL INFORMATION:**

Are Fields Lighted: \_\_\_\_\_ What Type of Lights \_\_\_\_\_

Fence Distances: \_\_\_\_\_ Left \_\_\_\_\_ Center \_\_\_\_\_ Right

Are There: \_\_\_\_\_ Restrooms \_\_\_\_\_ Telephones \_\_\_\_\_ Concessions \_\_\_\_\_ Scoreboard

\_\_\_\_\_ Press Box \_\_\_\_\_ PA System \_\_\_\_\_ Dugouts

Who maintains fields? \_\_\_\_\_

Will you charge admission? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, how much? \_\_\_\_\_ Will you have a program? \_\_\_\_\_

Additional information about the facility: \_\_\_\_\_

**(Both pages of the Bid Form must be completed and submitted)**

## GRPA Athletic Manual

### SWIMMING:

How many lanes? \_\_\_\_\_

Starting blocks on both ends of pool?  Yes  No

Indoor or Outdoor Pool? \_\_\_\_\_

Timing Pads?  One end of pool  Both ends of pool

How many seats for spectators? \_\_\_\_\_

Size of the Pool: \_\_\_\_\_

Are there backstroke flags at both ends of the pool?  Yes  No

### DIVING:

How many one-meter boards? \_\_\_\_\_

How many three-meter boards? \_\_\_\_\_

How many seats for spectators? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe facilities: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### GOLF:

Name of Course: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you own?  Yes  No

9 Holes or 18 Holes? \_\_\_\_\_

Will course be closed for our tournament only?  Yes  No

**FLAG FOOTBALL:** How many fields? \_\_\_\_\_

**TACKLE FOOTBALL:** How Many fields? : \_\_\_\_\_

### SOCCER:

How many fields? \_\_\_\_\_

Do the fields meet national standards?  Yes  No

If not, what size? \_\_\_\_\_

### TRACK/FIELD:

How many lanes? \_\_\_\_\_

How many seats for spectators? \_\_\_\_\_

Any other comments:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Agency Director** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Department Athletic Representative** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Received by Athletic Chairman** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

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**GRPA Athletic Manual**

**GRPA OFFICIAL ROSTER DISPERSEMENT**

The Tournament Director certifying this roster will be responsible for dispersing the copies within 48 hours of completion of tournament.

- White Original** Mailed to State Athletic Chairman with a district tournament report form.
- Yellow Copy** Mailed to State Host, designating District Representatives.
- Pink Copy** Mailed to District Chairman with a district tournament report form.
- Gold Copy** Returned to Person in charge of team. (Teams should present their copy at all levels of play)

**Note: If you do not have the pre-printed 4-part roster with colored sheets as stated above, please be sure to send photocopies to the respective persons.**

**Definitions**

**CHURCH** A GRPA church team is a team composed of people from one church (no all-star league team) or people from several teams all from the same church who are all minister approved members of that church.

A church is an organization set up to conduct public worship services conducted as a congregation and led by the clergyman. This organization must be recognized and led by national, state or local religious ministerial association to be considered a church. A group of people from an organization set up for the purpose of conducting civic responsibilities will not be considered a church for GRPA competition.

**INDUSTRIAL** For industrial adult divisions, participants must be bonafide employees of one company or one branch of a government. Players must have competed as a team under one GRPA agency. Players must have competed in the agency’s local program as an integral part of that program and meet all other GRPA requirements to participate in industrial play.

- a. To qualify as a bonafide employee, a person must work the minimum number of hours per week which is no less than 32 hours worked in the industry by the average full-time employee.

**OPEN** All players must participate in the local agency programs and be an integral part of that program.

\*\*\*\*\*

**SEE EACH SECTION IN THE MANUAL FOR COMPLETE DEFINITIONS**

***The GRPA roster can also be downloaded from the GRPA website.***



## GRPA Athletic Manual

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