

RULE CHANGES/2017 ATHLETIC MANUAL

The athletic manual is available online at 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

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.

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.

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. 1st and 2nd Overtime will use 10 yard procedure and 3rd 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 3rd OT or any successive OT periods).

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