

RULE CHANGES 2018 ATHLETIC MANUAL

The athletic manual is available online at www.grpa.org under the “Athletics” tab
All page # references are from the 2017 Athletic Manual

1. All Sports

- a. remove “Excellence Plus” as an approved certification body
- b. Add the following statements to the Rule Changes section at the beginning of the manual and leave in the section for each sport:
 - i. 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.
 - ii. All the 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.
 - iii. Use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone, is not permitted in changing areas, restrooms, or locker rooms. The use of audio or visual recording devices is not allowed in resolution of protested matters.
- c. (RC #33) Add to the current rule on *page 53-54, Section C, Rule 3* as follows (in bold): 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, swimming and diving, and golf. When 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 **for Fall/Winter and sixteen (16) for summer sports.**
- d. (RC #33) In *Section B, Rule 3, page 61*, points A and B, concerning forfeit, withdrawal, and non-notification fees seem to be duplicates. A motion was made to allow past and incoming chairs to edit this section as needed.
- e. (RC #61b) From the floor (2/3 vote required): Beginning in 2019, implement an age control date of the participant’s age ON September 1st across all GRPA team sports, with the basketball age control date being September 1st, (2018 or of the previous year)
- f. (RC #62) Remove “where he/she attends school” from ADDED rule change (*page 43, Section B, Number 1d, Article I, Rule 1*) so it reads “If the player’s parents are divorced and the court has awarded joint custody of the child, the player is eligible to play for the agency/county where either parent reside.”
- g. (RC #63) Add to the beginning of every section/sport as well as to the Notes of Interest section of the manual, “There is no participation requirement for any GRPA sport.”

2. Basketball

- a. Page 75, remove “Excellence Plus”

GRPA Athletic Manual

- b. Page 77, #3, need to clarify whether it's 12 or 15 feet
- c. At both District and State level Championship Basketball games, there must be a minimum of 3 officials for all age groups. Officiating Crews **must** rotate every 3 games, preferably every 2 games.
- d. At State level Championship Basketball games, there must be a minimum of 3 officials for all age groups. Officiating Crews **must** rotate every 3 games, preferably every 2 games.

3. Track & Field

- a. P. 79, #4: Change “game” to “meet” (and change across all individual sports)
- b. Remove “Simply the Best”
- c. (RC #8-10) Adopt the following rule changes for Track and Field (*Rule 5, Article II, Section B-Events, Number 2, Page 8*).
- d. At the State Track Meet, use two bullpens (either one for A and one for B/C or one for track and one for field events).
 - i. Use two different color ID numbers (on chest), one for each classification.
 - ii. Change the order of events as submitted on page 10 of proposed rule changes.
- e. (RC # 13) Change the age control date for Track and Field back to January 1st, 2018. *Article IV, Section A, Number 5, Page 84*.
- f. (RC #14) Remove the 3200-meter entirely from Track events. *Article II, Section B, Number 1, Page 80*.

4. Baseball & Softball

- a. P. 125, #10 – Change so it is the same as the highlighted area on p. 105f.
- b. P. 118, 3a – Remove FLEX players
- c. (RC #15) *In Baseball, clarification to Rule 1, Section B, Page 101*: Uniform parts must be identical in style. Team uniform will consist of matching or like color jerseys with a factory-type, non-duplicating number (type of script does not matter).
- d. (RC #17) *Rule VII, Article III, Section C, Number 1Biii, page 102*, change wording to: 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 twenty five feet (225)**.
- e. (RC #18) Add language to Baseball, *Rule VII, #8, page 107*: 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 (**give up, get down, go around**).
- f. (RC #19) *Rule VII, Article II, Section C, Number 7F, page 98*: Add the word “Traditional” so it reads: **Traditional** Baseball Division. (RC #20) *Rule VII, Article II, Section C, Number 7D, page 98*. Remove the “Note.” NOTE: “Any player may be removed as pitcher and returned as pitcher only once per inning..... he cannot return to the game as a pitcher”.
- g. (RC #21) Raise the personnel limit for 8U Coach Pitch from 3 to 4 (dugout coach plus three other coaches on the field). *Baseball, Section A, Page 16*.
- h. (RC #33) *In Article II, Section B, Number 5, page 95*, combine both points A and B (regarding time limits for 8 & under, 10 & under Live and 10 & under w/ machine) and put in to a chart:

GRPA Athletic Manual

- i. (RC #33) *Youth Baseball, Section B, Number 2j, page 105d*: Strike from the manual
- j. (RC #33) Fast Pitch Softball, Section B, Number 10, page 125. Change to read like page Baseball on page 105.
- k. (RC #26) Make GHSA and NFHS the governing rules in Baseball and eliminate ASA (*Governing Rules, Section A, Number 1, Page 118*).
- l. All girls' softball, boys pitching machine, and coach pitch tournaments with 8 or less teams will be played in three days. With 9 or more teams they can be four days. Live pitch baseball with 8 or less teams will be four days and with 9 or more teams, they will be 5 days. Only the first round can be played on the first night.
- m. For all 10 & under pitching machine (boys and girls), it is mandatory that the pitcher only wear a face mask.
- n. Maintain USA Softball as one of the governing bodies in Softball.
- o. The first offense for a slung bat will result in a warning for that player. The player will be removed from the game for a second offense.

5. **Swimming**

- a. (RC #39) Allow individual competitors to enter a maximum of three individual swimming events and two relay events (previously 2 individual and 2 relay). *Swimming, Rule IX, Article 1, Section C, Number 4, page 130*
- b. (RC #40) Add the following clarification verbiage to *Rule IX, Article 1, Section C4, page 130* in the Youth Swimming section of the manual:
 - i. Mixed gender relays will be included for all age divisions
 - ii. Mixed gender relays consist of two (2) males and two (2) females
 - iii. Eligible competitors may swim ONE FREE and ONE MEDLEY relay. Swimmers who qualify for 2 relays cannot swim 2 Free (same gender & mixed) or 2 Medley relays.

6. **Volleyball**

- a. (Rule Change #2-7) Adopt the volleyball guidelines as written/submitted so they are in line with the national governing body, pending clarification on 6.(a)ii (clarify 18 or 12 max substitutions). *Pages 143-146*

7. **Soccer**

- a. (RC #41a) Addition to the manual in *Soccer, Section C, page 148* as follows: Heading the ball is not allowed in U8, U10 and U12 age divisions. An indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team at the spot where a player deliberately touches the ball with his/her head. If the defending team deliberately heads the ball inside the goal area, the attacking team will be awarded an indirect free kick from the edge of the goal area.
- b. (RC #42) Change the age control date for Soccer to January 1st to be consistent with GA Soccer (effective 2018 for 2018 only). *Rule: Age Divisions, Section A1, page 146*

8. **Flag Football**

- a. Article II (Regulations), Section B, #1, Addition - A regulation game shall consist of 44 minutes, divided into two halves of 22 minutes each with the clock running. The clock will stop at the 2-

GRPA Athletic Manual

minute mark of each half to announce the 2-minute warning. The clock will start again on the following snap. The first minute of the 2-minute warning will be a running clock and will only be stopped for injuries, timeouts, and scores. The clock will be stopped again at the 1-minute mark. The clock will be regulation clock for the remainder of the half.

- b. Article II (Regulations), Section B, #2, Change: Games will be scheduled for the 2nd Saturday and Sunday of December.
- c. Article II (Regulations), Section B, #3, Addition: All NIRSA Mercy Rules apply for both Pool and Bracket Play.
- d. Article II (Regulations), Section B, #6, Change: A minimum of 3 officials are required for both district and state level play.
- e. Article IV (Equipment), #2, Addition: Teams furnish game ball “at the discretion of the host.”

9. **Adult Kickball**

- a. (RC #44-51) Add Adult Kickball as an official GRPA sport using WAKA rules.

10. **Youth Wrestling**

- a. (RC #52-55) Add Wrestling as an official GRPA sport with rules GRPA and USA Wrestling

11. **Classification Charts**

- a. (RC #56-60) The SAC updated the agency classification grids as follows:
 - i. First District: Remove Waynesboro from Class B Track
 - ii. Second District: Add Liberty County to Class A for Track Only, add Waycross YMCA to Class A (they plan to appeal for 2018)
 - iii. Third District: Move Valdosta-Lowndes YMCA from Class A to Class B
 - iv. Fourth District: Remove Meriwether County, Move Fairburn (Fulton County) from Class A to Class B, move Tyrone (Fayette County) from Class A to Class B, add to Riverdale “(Clayton County)”
 - v. Fifth District: No changes
 - vi. Sixth District: Add Washington-Wilkes County as a Class C agency
 - vii. Seventh District: Remove “YMCA” from White County YMCA
- b. A motion was made to update the agency classification grids with the proposed changes and allow past/incoming chairs to make any other updates as necessary when reviewing the manual in October.