



GLYNN COUNTY RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT

Athletics Division

323 Old Jesup Road; Brunswick, Georgia 31520

(912) 554-7780 / Fax: (912) 267-5744

WEATHER HOTLINE: (912) 554-7781

Email: glynnrec@glynncounty-ga.gov

***Our Mission:** To provide quality, year round recreational activities, facilities, and services that are safe, fun, and enhance the quality of life for all.*

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES for Coaches, Parents and Athletes

DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

- a.) USA- Amateur Softball Association- this non-profit association provides the national league rules and regulations for the playing of adult and youth softball.
- b.) Age control date- This date determines the age of an athlete in order to place him/her in the appropriate sport league. Each sport has its own age control date. Example: If a boy turns 11 before the age control date, according to the GCRPD rules, he must play in the Midget League.
- c.) FIFA- Federation Internationale de Football Association- this non-profit association provides rules and regulations for adults and youth participating in soccer (soccer is also known as football in all other countries).
- d.) GCRPD- Glynn County Recreation and Parks Department.
- e.) GRPA- Georgia Recreation and Parks Association- this association oversees the Recreation and Parks activities in the state of Georgia.
- f.) NFHS- National Federation of State High School Association- this association provides the rules, regulations and case studies for the coordination and administration of interscholastic activities of high school students. These rules are used in baseball, football, and basketball.
- g.) NAYS- National Alliance for Youth Sports- this non-profit agency governs NAYS certified coaches and PAYS parents/guardians.
- h.) School Events- Activities directly sponsored by a school system. Athletic activities are excluded from this definition.
- i.) Unsportsmanlike conduct- this behavior includes, but is not limited to the following: negative cheering, kicking, striking, spitting, use of profanity, taunting, bullying, obstructing, lying, excessive celebration, faking an injury, inappropriate touching, etc. to/at a player, coach, official, spectator, or a GCRPD staff member. This also includes damage to property.

GOVERNING AUTHORITY

1. The Recreation and Parks Manager (“Manager”) of the GCRPD reserves the right to all final decisions.
2. The governing authority will be the assigned representative who is an employee of the GCRPD.
3. The governing rules for each sport will be determined as follows: first by the GCRPD, second by the GRPA athletic manual, and third by the National Federation of High School Sports/FIFA for soccer, USA for softball.

PLAYER REGISTRATION

1. All persons who register a child during the registration period will be placed on a team if they have complied with all parent/guardian and player responsibilities prior to the draft. This includes presenting a copy of the child’s birth certificate, acknowledging receipt of the Parent/Athlete Concussion Fact Sheet, and completing all registration requirements.
2. Persons who register after the registration period will be placed on a hold list. People placed on the hold list will be placed on a team if and when a spot becomes available. People on the hold list are not guaranteed placement on a team. No players will be added to a team who has played more than 50% of its scheduled games. If the number of players on a team roster falls below the minimum number of players (see chart on page 3) after the team has played 50% of its scheduled game through no fault of the coach or other players, GCRPD reserves the right to add a player(s) to the team to increase the roster size to the minimum number.
3. Parents will not be allowed to pick a team to place their child on.
4. A person must play in the age group determined by the GRPA/GCRPD age control date. The age control dates for GCRPD’s sports are as follows:
 - ❖ Baseball- Age prior to May 1st.
 - ❖ Softball- Age prior to January 1st.
 - ❖ BlastBall and T-Ball- Age prior to March 1st.
 - ❖ Soccer- Age prior to August 1st.
 - ❖ Football- Age prior to September 1st.
 - ❖ Cheerleading- Age prior to September 1st.
 - ❖ Basketball and Track- Age prior to January 1st.

NOTE: GRPA age control date will change to age prior to September 1st for all sports beginning with the Winter 2018-2019 season.

5. A parent may request that his/her child move up one (1) year in age. (Example: A child who is 8 by the age control date can move up to the 9-10 league). The child must have played previously with GCRPD. Playing up one year is only allowed if the league is not full otherwise. Requests to play up will be considered by GCRPD. GCRPD in its sole discretion will determine if it is in the safety and best interest of the child and program for a player to play up a year.
6. Once a child has been placed on a team, that child must remain on that team for the remainder of the season. A child who moves up a league prior to team formation cannot move back to a younger age group after team rosters are finalized.
7. If a child moves up a league during regular play they cannot play down a league during All-Star competition.
8. A refund will not be given if the child has participated in a game or has been issued a uniform unless authorized by the GCRPD Manager or his/her assigned staff.

TEAM PLACEMENT

1. The number of teams will be determined after the registration period ends.
2. GCRPD staff will note all team placement requests with no made guarantees. The coaches will make their final decisions during the draft.
3. A parent has the right to request that his/her child not be placed with a certain coach with the approval of the GCRPD. The Manager may require a meeting with the parent to discuss previous actions to warrant this request.
4. A parent cannot request that their child be placed with a certain coach or other child.

PLAYER PARTICIPATION

1. All players must play the amount of time specified below for each sport.
 - ❖ Baseball- All subs (players sitting on the bench) will play every other inning.
 - ❖ Softball- All subs (players sitting on the bench) will play every other inning.
 - ❖ T-Ball- All children will bat and play every inning.
 - ❖ Soccer- All children will play half of each half.
 - ❖ Football- All children will play either offense or defense.
 - ❖ Basketball- All children will play half of each quarter.
2. Coaches do have the right to keep a child from participating due to disciplinary reasons. The GCRPD staff person, scorekeeper, officials and parent must be notified of the child's name and the reason **before the game begins.** Coaches not following these guidelines on reporting before the game will require the coach to follow all participation rules as outlined herein.
3. Any coach who does not follow the player participation guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action including but not limited to removal by the GCRPD and possibly forfeiting that game.
4. Any coach who plays an illegal player will be subject to disciplinary action. All games in which illegal players have played will be forfeited by the team.
5. GCRPD has established the minimum, maximum, and target number of players for each team per sport. These numbers are as follows:

SPORT	AGE GROUP	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM	TARGET
Baseball	ALL	10	13	11
Softball	ALL	11	13	12
Blast Ball	3-4 yr	10	10	10
T-Ball	5-6 yr	10	13	12
Soccer (Little Kickers)	3-4 yr	6	8	8
Soccer (Instructional)	5 yr	6	8	8
Soccer (American)	6-7 yr	8	12	10
Soccer (National)	8-9 yr	12	16	14
Soccer (International)	10-11 yr	12	16	14
Soccer (Golden Isles)	12-13 yr	14	16	15
Soccer (Glynn)	14-17 yr	14	16	15
Football (Flag)	5-6 yr	10	12	11
Football (Little Bits)	7-8 yr	14	18	16
Football (Mites)	9-10 yr	14	18	16
Football (Midgets)	11-12 yr	14	18	16
Basketball	ALL	6	8	7

LEAGUE RULES

League rules will be given out at the coaches meeting or at the draft prior to each sport. If rules discussed at the draft warrant a revision to the rules, a new updated set of rules will be given to each head coach prior to the season.

BALL PARK RULES

1. There will be a GCRPD staff person located at all facilities. If you have a problem, please ask the staff for assistance.
2. No one is allowed on the score stands, in the scoring room or scoreboards boxes.
3. No climbing or sitting on the fences or score stands.
4. Parents and spectators must stay off of the playing field. Only designated adults assigned by the coach may be allowed in the dugouts and player areas.
5. The lights will be turned off after the last game or scheduled practice.
6. Smoking is allowed in designated marked locations only.

CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

The GCRPD Staff will determine all disciplinary actions. GCRPD staff will contact Glynn County Police Department if needed for assistance in removing players, parents, spectators, and/or coaches who violate park rules, GCRPD rules, and/or the Code of Conduct. Such conduct may include but is not limited to the following: pose a threat to others or themselves, demonstrate threatening or vulgar behavior, act in a manner that puts others in harms way, uses foul or threatening language, etc.

PLAYER CONDUCT

1. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. Any player ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct must sit out the next scheduled game that is played. GCRPD in its sole discretion may implement further disciplinary action if the unsportsmanlike conduct is deemed to be of a violent or threatening nature.
2. Players are not permitted to use tobacco, alcohol, and profanity at any GCRPD facility.
3. All players must be in team uniform.
4. Any players ejected from a game for fighting may be suspended/ejected indefinitely from league play.

RAINOUT POLICY

1. The GCRPD will make all final decisions regarding rainouts and field playability.
2. If a rainout is unavoidable, the GCRPD Athletics Division will make the announcement on our **Weather Hotline at 4:00 PM**. All head coaches are required to contact his/her players/parents and advise them of any game cancellations.

PARENT CONDUCT

Parents must sign the "Parents Code of Conduct" prior to each sporting season. Violation of the Parent Code of Conduct may result in suspension from the playing facility. The length of the suspension will depend on the severity of the violation or inappropriate conduct.

SPECTATOR CONDUCT

All spectators are expected to adhere to all park rules and the same rules of sportsmanship as players, parents, and coaches. Any spectator who engages in unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended from the playing facility. The length of the suspension will depend on the severity of the violation or inappropriate conduct.

COACHES CONDUCT

1. All coaches must sign a “Coaches Code of Ethics” prior to each sporting season.
2. **COACHES WILL SHOW SPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT AT ALL TIMES.** Each coach shall adhere to all points of emphasis as outlined in the “Coaches Code of Ethics” at all times. Failure to adhere to the “Coaches Code of Conduct” and/or to follow GCRPD park and league rules may result in removal as a volunteer coach with suspension from coaching for a specified period of time, and/or suspension from coaching indefinitely. The length of time of the suspension will be dependent on the severity of the violation or inappropriate conduct. Coaches suspended for the remainder of the season must meet with GCRPD management before being considered for future coaching opportunities.
3. Any coach ejected from a game will not be allowed to coach the next scheduled game played.
4. Any coach ejected from two games will be suspended for the remainder of the season.
5. Any coach ejected from a game or suspended for the season will not be allowed to coach an All-Star team.
6. Any coach that pulls his/her team off the playing field will be suspended indefinitely.
7. **Coaches will be responsible for player and parent conduct.**

COACHES SELECTION

1. Final coaching assignments will be decided by the GCRPD.
2. If a team does not have a coach, a GCRPD staff person will coach until a coach is designated.

ELIGIBILITY

1. No individual shall be denied the right to submit an application for volunteer service with youth for any open position. However, GCRPD has the right and responsibility to select candidates it feels are the best qualified.
2. Anyone may complete the Volunteer Coach Application at the beginning of the registration period for that sport to be a possible volunteer coach. All persons desiring to coach an All-Star team in any program is required to be certified by NAYS through the Glynn County Recreation and Parks Department.
3. At least one coach will be certified for each team.
4. All potential coaches must pass Glynn County’s criminal background check prior to being considered as a coach for a team. Background checks are conducted at least once per year. GCRPD reserves the right to conduct random background checks on volunteers during the athletic season.

GCRPD will observe the following policy in selecting coaches for each sport. GCRPD reserves the right to select coaches based off of previous actions/complaints that were registered to a coach for any previous year. The number of coaches selected by GCRPD shall be based on the number of

registrants. Only coaches in good standing shall be considered for coaching positions. Guidelines for selecting coaches are as follows:

- ❖ A returning head coach from the previous season in that same age division shall be considered first;
- ❖ An assistant coach who desires to become a head coach that coached in that same age division the previous year is next;
- ❖ A returning head coach from a different division shall be considered next for selection;
- ❖ A returning assistant coach from a different age division shall be considered next;
- ❖ A new coach or one that has not coached for at least one (1) year will be considered next.

GCRPD management personnel has the right in their sole discretion to make any and all decisions pertaining to eligibility of coaches. This decision shall be final.

DRESS CODE

GCRPD will require the coaches in any sport to dress accordingly and properly. The following guidelines for coach's attire will be enforced. Any coach not following these guidelines will be removed from coaching in the GCRPD programs.

- ❖ No article(s) of clothing (including hats and ball caps) shall contain any advertisement of any alcohol or tobacco products;
- ❖ No article(s) of clothing shall have any language/illustrations that is racial, contains obscene language or language/illustrations that are not in a positive tone and are not appropriate for children;
- ❖ Shorts may be worn on the field that are at a proper length and that are not revealing in any way;
- ❖ Clothing shall be worn in a manner appropriate for children and youth.

GCRPD management personnel reserves the right to make a final decision on proper attire.

COACHES TRAINING PROGRAMS

MANDATORY CONCUSSION TRAINING

All coaches are required to complete the free online concussion training course offered by the CDC listed below, or if currently a certified coach through NAYS – complete the training offered by NAYS listed below.

Coaches must provide GCRPD with a copy of the printed certificate verifying that he/she completed the online concussion training prior to the start of the season. These can be sent via email to glynnrec@glynncounty-ga.gov or dropped off at the GCRPD Main Office (located at 323 Old Jesup Road, Brunswick, GA 31520) Monday-Friday between 8:30am-5:30pm.

Online Training Course Options:

- CDC Heads Up: Concussion in Youth Sport
<https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/training/index.html>
- NAYS Concussion Training for NYSCA Coaches
<http://www.nays.org/nyscaonline/preview/concussion-training.cfm>

RECOMMENDED TRAINING – MANDATED REPORTERS

Georgia law requires recreational volunteers to report suspected child abuse. More information about this law can be found at this link: http://www.georgialibraries.org/dir_mtg/12_2012/Mandatory-reporting-child-abuse-Nov-2012.pdf.

Volunteers need to be informed of their responsibilities pertaining to this law and know what signs to look for in order to spot abuse. With that said, GCRPD's Athletics Division recommends that all volunteer coaches complete the **Free Online Training Course listed below**:

- Mandated Reporters: Critical Links in Protecting Children in Georgia

<https://www.prosolutionstraining.com/menu/?clearFilter>

*Please note that this course is under the Health and Safety Section and the link should take you directly to the list of courses. You will need to set up an account and login to add the program to your cart.

COACHES MEETING

1. A preseason coaches' meeting will be held on the night of the league draft or on another night specified by the GCRPD. The league rules, draft procedures, All-Star selection, and any new rules or ideas that a coach would like to discuss needs to be brought up at this meeting.
2. Program Evaluations will be given out to each coach at the end of the season to be returned to the GCRPD.

COACHES' RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The coach or team representative is responsible for informing team members and parents of the rules and regulations. This includes enforcement of the rules and regulations.
2. Coaches will handle administrative arrangements for teams. The coach will serve as the liaison between the team and the GCRPD.
3. It is the coach's responsibility to contact the players he/she selects in the draft within 48 hours after the draft.
4. Coaches must supervise practices. Practice schedules will be given out at the draft or shortly thereafter. The GCRPD will schedule preseason practices for teams; the number of teams in a league will determine the number of practices. Any additional practice(s) will be left to the coach to schedule. The GCRPD limits a coach/team to only three events per week, i.e. three practices, one practice and two games, or two practices and one game. No practices can be scheduled before 5:30 p.m. during the work week. The GCRPD will not schedule any practices once the season starts.
5. The coach is responsible for game assembly, organization, and supervision of their team. Coaches should be ready; with team rosters completed and turned in, to start a game 15 minutes before scheduled game time. For Football, all head coaches will bring all players on his/her team to the weigh-in room prior to playing their first game. Players not making weight limits will be required to play on the line and will not be allowed to carry the ball.
6. It is the coach's responsibility to contact his/her players to notify them about rainouts.
7. If a coach cancels a GCRPD scheduled practice, they must notify their team and must also notify the GCRPD.

8. Coaches cannot penalize players for not attending Sunday practices or practices more than what is outlined in our policies and procedures.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK PROCEDURES

All Coaches, Head Coach and Coaching Assistants must successfully pass Glynn County's Criminal Background Check before being considered for a coaching position. Completed forms are sent to the County Sheriff's Office. Only the Recreation and Parks Manager, or his/her designee, may deliver or retrieve the forms to and from the County Sheriff's Office.

If any of the disqualifying offenses (listed below) are discovered during the Criminal Background check, the following procedures will be implemented:

- a. The Recreation and Parks Manager will notify the individual he/she did not pass the background check and is ineligible to coach a team.
- b. The individual has three (3) business days from notification of the issue to request a meeting with the Recreation and Parks Manager to discuss the matter and request an appeal of the decision.
- c. The Recreation and Parks Manager will schedule a meeting with the individual as soon as possible after being contacted, ideally within the next three (3) business days.
- d. The individual will have no contact with the team before the above stated meeting.
- e. Each incident on the Background Check will be reviewed.
- f. GCRPD will notify the individual within three (3) business days of the outcome of the request for appeal. The decision of GCRPD will be the final decision.
- g. Individuals who successfully appeal the denial of coaching will be placed on probation for a period of time to be determined by GCRPD. During the probationary period, GCRPD reserves the right to conduct periodic background checks on the individual.

Disqualification and Disqualifying Offenses:

No applicant shall be eligible to serve as a volunteer if the background check reveals a criminal record for the offenses listed below. For the purpose of this policy, a "criminal record" shall mean the individual has been convicted of, arrested for, or is currently charged with any of the offenses listed. The individual will be declared ineligible to coach for GCRPD.

- a. Any crimes against children.
- b. Any sexual offenses.
- c. Contributing to the delinquency of a minor.
- d. Any offenses involving alcohol within the last three (3) years.
- e. Any offenses involving drugs within the last five (5) years.
- f. Any offense involving lewd conduct.
- g. Any offense involving family/domestic violence.
- h. Criminal attempts to commit any above-named offenses.
- i. Any felony not listed above.
- j. Any other crimes that bear upon fitness to have responsibility for the safety and well-being of children.

The above is intended to be illustrative and is not inclusive of all offenses that could be included in these criteria. Any other incident found on Criminal Background Check will be subject to review by GCRPD and could lead to immediate dismissal.

Approval: Any applicant whose records fail to reveal a criminal record or a pending charge shall be approved, unless denied based on some other policy of GCRPD. Approval shall be valid for a period

not to exceed twelve (12) months. Applicants who successfully pass the background check are not guaranteed a volunteer position with GCRPD. The background check is just one step in the process.

EQUIPMENT CHECKOUT/RETURN

1. The GCRPD will supply equipment that is needed for each sport.
2. The coach must sign for the equipment and return it as issued.
3. The equipment should be returned to the main recreation office after the last scheduled game.
4. Any equipment not returned is subject to be replaced by the coach or charged accordingly. This debt must be cleared up before they are allowed to coach in any other GCRPD program.

TROPHIES AND TEAM PARTIES

The GCRPD is not responsible for the setting up or buying of any team trophies, or parties. Anything extra given to players will be at the expense of the coaches and parents.

PICTURES

The GCRPD is not responsible for team pictures. It is the GCRPD's recommendation for all coaches to have their team and individual pictures at the beginning of the season so they are returned to the team before the end of the season. It is not the responsibility for GCRPD staff to distribute trophies, pictures or awards for a coach or team.

FORFEITS

For all games scheduled after 5:30 p.m., game time is forfeit time. Unforeseen circumstances will be at the discretion of the GCRPD.

PLAYER DRAFT POLICY

For all sports through the GCRPD, the following draft procedures will be administered:

1. **All Head and Assistant Coaches** will be selected prior to the draft. Any volunteer who wishes to be a coach must submit a coach's application before or during the registration period for that sport.
2. All players on the draft roster will be evaluated prior to the selection process.
3. All **head coaches and assistant coaches** will have their child placed on the draft roster in a slot determined by the GCRPD (only one assistant coach per team) so that there is consistency in equal ability players on each team. Exception: head and assistant coaches' children who do not attend evaluations will be placed in the first and second round slots. GCRPD wants to have all teams once selected, as equal as possible as far as player ability is concerned.
4. All **coaches** will draw a "draft order chip" to signify the draft order in which they will draft. The team with chip #1 will draw first if they do not have a player already placed in the first round slot due to their child or the **assistant coach's** child pre-draft rating placement. Team #2 will go next and so forth. Once all teams have selected a first round pick or have a player placed in the first round slot, the team with the highest draft chip number will begin the second round and we will continue drafting in reverse order (from the highest chip # to the #1 chip). This process will be done until all players are drafted from the draft roster.

5. If a child does not participate in any on-site evaluation, he/she will not be drafted with those that do. After the draft is over, those players not attending a mandatory evaluation will have their names placed in a hat and drawn out by the coaches.
6. The draft will be open and a coach may select any player from the draft roster no matter what the age is or his/her ability level is.
7. No child can request to play for a particular coach.
8. A parent may request that his/her child NOT play for a particular coach but this must be approved by the Recreation and Parks Manager or his/her designee.
9. No swapping of players will be done after the draft is over (unless approved by GCRPD). A coach found playing (practice or games) a player not officially on his/her official GCRPD roster will be required to meet with GCRPD management to determine if any future coaching privileges will be allowed.
10. Official GCRPD Rosters will be printed out for each team designating its Official Team. No other player may be on the field during practices or games that are not on the official GCRPD roster.
11. GCRPD reserves the right to modify draft procedures in the best interest of Glynn County.
- 12. Only the head coach and/or ONE assistant coach are allowed in the draft room. No other parent, coach or child will be allowed in the draft room.**

PRACTICE TIMES

1. The coaches shall coordinate with the GCRPD for practice times and places. If additional practice times are desired other than those assigned by GCRPD, it will be up to the coach to locate and secure those facilities desired.
2. The coach shall make a diligent attempt to practice all skill areas of their respective sport throughout the practices, so that the youth in your program have a chance at bettering their skills for that sport.
3. The Recreation and Parks Manager or his/her designee shall reserve the right to make any decisions pertaining to the practice times, places, and/or content.

GAME CANCELLATIONS AND RESCHEDULING

1. Game cancellations due to inclement weather will be updated on our **Weather Hotline at 912-554-7781**. **A decision regarding evening programs will be made at 4:00 PM.** It is the coach's responsibility to contact his/her players.
2. In case of inclement weather and if sufficient time warrants, the GCRPD will notify the Head Coach or the Assistant Coach if the games have been cancelled.
3. If a game is cancelled due to inclement weather or unforeseeable circumstances, all efforts will be made to reschedule that game. However, due to time restraints and/or field usage conflicts, some games may not be made up. It will be the decision of GCRPD when and if games are made up. The Program Coordinator over the league will notify each Head Coach in regards to the status of rescheduling a game (make-up date, time, and location) in a timely manner.
4. Other than due to inclement weather, conflicts with school events or school functions are the only other time in which games will be rescheduled. However, for a game to be rescheduled, a team must drop below the minimum number of players needed to play.

5. The GCRPD must approve any game rescheduling in advance. High school or middle school athletic activities will not be considered a school function (i.e. Glynn Academy vs. Brunswick High basketball game). Coaches must give the GCRPD advanced notice as well as a list of the players involved in the function (See the guidelines listed below).
 - a. Give a list of players involved at least one week in advance of the scheduled game;
 - b. Give a description of the school function along with the name of the school;
 - c. The information should be received within seven (7) days prior to the game he/she is requesting to be changed;
 - d. NOTE: A school dance or sporting event is NOT considered a school function for GCRPD purposes.
6. Coaches will not be allowed to swap games times or dates.

PROTESTS

1. All protests should be handled on site by GCRPD Athletics staff.
2. If a protest cannot be handled at the site, then a written report from the head coach should be made to include time of protest, score when protest was made, who made the protest, and reason for the protest.
3. Upon filing a protest, the head coach must submit a check for \$25.00 and a written explanation on what he/she is protesting within 24 hours. The GCRPD staff person involved will also submit a written report.
4. Once the protest has been filed there will be a three-person committee (GCRPD Athletic staff) formed to review the protest.
5. If the committee upholds the protest, then the coach will get their \$25.00 back and the game will resume from the point of the protest. If the game is ruled a forfeit then it will not be replayed.
6. If the committee overrules the protest then the game will stand as played and he/she will not get their \$25.00 back.

ALL-STAR PROGRAM

1. The GCRPD participates in some post season GRPA play.
2. All coaches participating in any post season GRPA event will follow all guidelines as outlined in the GCRPD Policies and Procedures. Failure to do so will result in an automatic removal as the all-star coach.

ALL-STAR GUIDELINES

1. GRPA and the National Federation of High School Associations (USA for softball and U.S. Youth Soccer for soccer) govern the All-Star programs.
2. If anyone wants a copy of the GRPA rules they should contact the GCRPD or visit the GRPA website at www.grpa.org.

ALL-STAR ELIGIBILITY (GRPA Rules on Eligibility of Individuals and Teams – excerpted from Article II, Section A or the GRPA Athletic Manual)

1. Teams and individuals participating in 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 competition with all youth achieving the age of 7 by the age control date for a particular 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 (Manager).
 - 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.
 - 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 by 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 other such evidence requested by the State Athletic Committee Chair or District Commissioner from the agency’s district.

NOTE: GCRPD requires that a player has to play in the designated league for the season to be eligible for the All-Star program (i.e. a child playing Midget Baseball can play with the Midget All-Star team only). To be eligible for GCRPD all-star teams, a player must have participated in the designated league more than 50% of the regular season of games. Players added after the all-star nomination deadline are not eligible to be nominated or play for an all-star team.

ALL-STAR COACH SELECTION

1. The all-star coach will be selected through an election process that includes all coaches in the league that are in good standing with GCRPD and members of GCRPD Athletics staff. Each coach in the respective league will be asked to cast a vote for a fellow coach that is in good standing with GCRPD that he/she feels is deserving of the honor. GCRPD Athletics staff will cast two (2) votes for a coach of the respective league. GCRPD Athletics staff have the authority to break any potential ties.
2. The head coach of an All-Star team must be NAYS certified.

ALL-STAR PLAYER SELECTION

1. All head coaches will be asked to nominate as many players as he/she would like from the league for the All-Star program. A meeting will then be set up with all head coaches and GCRPD staff.
2. A representative from each team (either head coach or assistant coach) must attend the All-Star meeting. If a representative is not present, it could result in a loss of coaching privileges in the future.
3. The coaches will collectively (by vote) agree on a specified number of players, not to exceed the maximum roster limit, with the All-Star coach filling the final three (3) picks of the roster with whomever they want from the nomination list.
4. If a player quits the All-Star team, the coach must contact a representative from the GCRPD Athletics staff before selecting another player from the nomination list. No player may participate in any all-star event if he/she was not a part of our program during the year.

LIGHTNING PREDICTION SYSTEM POLICY & PROCEDURES

GCRPD utilizes a Lightning Prediction System at the North Glynn Recreation Complex and at the Neptune Park Fun Zone on St. Simons Island, Georgia.

This system detects the static buildup in the atmosphere in which lightning forms. If the static buildup gets above a pre-set amount in the system, an audible alarm and strobe light will be activated for 15 seconds. This will be done prior to the lightning having enough static electricity to form within the set detection zone and give patrons in the park advance notice of incoming bad weather with lightning.

The system will monitor the storm and determine if it is going away from the sensor or towards it. It has a pre-set radius to detect lightning within that radius. Lightning strikes outside that radius will not be detected by the system. This may be the reason you may still see lightning and the system not activated. Once the static buildup has dropped below the threshold for lightning to form, a second audible alarm and strobe light will be activated for three 5 second bursts signaling it is safe to return to previous activities.

Procedures for GCRPD coaches, officials, and staff to follow when the lightning detection system activates:

1. Clear the area immediately. This includes the playing field, plaza areas, dugouts, player benches, spectator seating, etc.
2. Seek shelter in a building or in a vehicle. Encourage all players and spectators to seek shelter in a building or in a vehicle.
3. Stay sheltered and do not resume activities until the "All-Clear" alarm of three 5 second bursts has sounded and strobe light returns to green.
4. GCRPD staff on-site will monitor weather conditions and will determine when and whether or not to resume play.
5. Coaches and officials will be notified when a decision has been made.

Coaches must immediately remove all players from the field (including sidelines, player benches and dugouts) when the lightning detector goes off. Coaches must not allow any player or member of their team to enter back on to the field of play until such time as the lightning prediction system sounds the all clear alarm. Players are not to remain in the dugouts when the system goes off and the field is cleared.

NOTE: If you arrive at the complex and you see the yellow strobe light blinking, this means that the lightning system has been activated and is monitoring the storm system. Do not put any children on the playing field until the all clear siren sounds three 5 second bursts and the strobe light turns off.