

# ROME-FLOYD PARKS AND RECREATION AUTHORITY

## BYLAWS FOR:

### 2010 SPRING BASEBALL

The following by-laws govern the RFPRA Youth Baseball Program. Any discrepancy or rules not covered in RFPRA by-laws will be referred to National Federation of High School Rules or Major League Baseball Rules.

#### **GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION**

1. Games will be played at Etowah or at North Floyd Park.
2. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays are game days with make-up days on Wednesday and Saturday.
3. Game times are: First game of the day will start at 5:30pm in most age divisions.

#### **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY AND GUIDELINES**

1. All players must register and play for the school district in which they attend. If there is no team from their school, the player will be placed on the next closest school district. Final decisions are made by RFPRA Athletic Staff.
2. New players can be added prior to the first game of the season provided all requirements are met. The Athletic Staff MUST approve any new players. This approval is based upon the resident status of the player. (If a player moves into the county during the season, this would be an example of a permissible reason to add to the roster.) This will be the head coach's responsibility to clarify a new player's eligibility prior to participating in practices and league play.
3. **New Resident Status:** This is considered when a child moved into the County-City limits after the program's first game. The coach that has a potential new resident player must first get the Athletic Staff's approval before that child registers and/or participate in any team practices or league games. If a child is approved by the Athletic Staff as a new resident, that child may participate in the program at any point in time during the season.
4. Player fees are a requirement before any player can participate in team practices or league games. Penalty: Forfeiture of game.
5. **Non-Resident Players:** Out of county residents will pay an additional fee of \$15 to participate in RFPRA Baseball and will not be allowed to participate in post season play.
6. **Coaches are responsible for submitting each player's date of birth prior to play to the RFPRA.**

## Participation and Requirements

### Defense

- Each player must play at least two innings on defense.
- No player may sit for more than two consecutive innings of play.

### Offense

- All players in attendance will appear on the batting order and will bat accordingly.
- In ages 9-10, teams will Field 10 Players.
- In ages 11-14, teams will Field 9 Players.

### Requirements

- Players missing more than 50% of a team's scheduled practices in any given week without legitimate excuse will not be required to play in the next game. ( Coaches should remain consistent with this rule. If you sit your least skilled player for missing practice, you should sit your most skilled player for missing practice.)
- Coaches will be responsible for notifying the sport coordinator, scorekeeper, officials, and opposing head coach before the start of the game if a player is suited up but will not play due to unexcused practice absences, or a medical excuse.
- Otherwise the coach will be responsible for playing all team members that are in uniform.
- A child may not be disciplined by the coach in any way because of school performance, behavior, or any activity other than at practice or on the playing field.

2. Penalty for not complying with the participation requirements:
  - a. **FIRST OFFENSE:** A coach can be suspended from participation from his/her next game and the game in which the offense occurred can be forfeited.
  - b. **SECOND OFFENSE:** The coach will be suspended from further participation in the Youth Baseball Program for one calendar year and the game in which the offense occurred will be forfeited.
3. No volunteer coach will be allowed to cut or dismiss a child that is registered or that desires to play. Teams will be organized to accommodate all youth participants. Recruiting players from outside their areas will not be allowed.
4. Participants can play for only one recreation team and must participate in the same age division throughout the season. Players participating in the recreation program can play "Behind the Levee" or at the YMCA. Players may have the option to play in older age division.
5. Age-control date for Youth Baseball is their age **prior to MAY 1.**

## ROME-FLOYD PARKS AND RECREATION AUTHORITY POLICIES

1. There will be a ten-minute grace period for team(s) not having at least eight (8) players in uniform to start a game. Once the team with (8) players reach the 9<sup>th</sup> spot in the batting order and there is still only 8 players the team will be given an automatic out. This will reoccur every time the 9<sup>th</sup> spot comes up in the batting order. **(During a grace period the clock will not run and the time will not be counted against the game time.)** A grace period will only be granted for the first game of the day. No grace period for any game(s) following. Teams with less than (8) uniformed players will result in the game being forfeiture to the opposing team. **The maximum number of players per team will be 15.**
2. The length of games for each division will be as follows:
  - 4-5 T-Ball: 3 innings or 1 hour
  - 5-8 year old coach pitch: 5 inn or 1 hour, 15 min.; 9-14 year old: 6 inn or 1 hour, 30 min.
  - In case of inclement weather, an official game will be 3 innings or 2 1/2 innings if the home team is leading.
  - NOTE: game time/clock starts at the end of the home plate meeting with coaches and umpires.
3. FIELD AND BALL SPECIFICATIONS:
  - a. The distance between bases shall be:
    - i. 4-5 Year Olds: 60 ft.
    - ii. 6-8 Year Olds: 60 ft.
    - iii. 9-10 Year Olds: 60 ft
    - iv. 11-12 Year Olds: 70 ft
    - v. 13-14 Year Olds: 80 ft
  - b. Pitching Distances:
    - i. 6, 7, 8 Year Olds: 35ft
    - ii. 9-10 Year Olds: 46 ft
    - iii. 11-12 Year Olds: 49 ft
    - iv. 13-14 Year Olds: 54 ft
  - c. Ball Specifications:

9" 5 oz. Ball with Leather cover, any brand
4. **GAME SCHEDULING: No regular-season game will be rescheduled for other commitments. Games will be rescheduled only because of bad weather.**
5. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT:
  - a. All teams must wear matching-color shirts/jerseys
  - b. Numbers must be on the back.
  - c. No two players on the same team may wear the same number/jersey.
  - d. Shoes are mandatory. Rubber-molded cleated shoes are approved for use. Steel spikes are expressively prohibited. Smooth and soft-soled athletic shoes, including tennis and basketball, are acceptable.

- e. Only the catcher and first baseman may use mitts.
  - f. A regulation baseball mask, helmet, throat protector, body protector, shin guards, and athletic protector (cup) must be worn by the catcher in ages 9-14, (helmetw/mask,chest protector t-ball and coach pitch). Failure to wear said protective equipment will result in the player's immediate removal from the catcher position.
  - g. The home team in each game is responsible for providing all official game balls.
6. INNING RESTRICTIONS: A maximum of 7runs can be scored, or three (3) outs.
7. OFFICIAL RECORD: The official score sheet (ages 6-14) is the official game record.
8. UMPIRE CONFERENCE: one, and only one, manager / coach from each team will be permitted on the playing field for a questioned call. A judgment call by an umpire is NOT questionable.
9. COACHES RESPONSIBILITY: *A coach's attitude must always be positive. A coach must not incite the spectators or players toward any official. A coach whose conduct is unbecoming will be relieved of all coaching duties for the remainder of the season. A coach does not have the authority to remove a team from the field during a game. Each head coach may have a maximum of two RFPRA approved assistant coaches. Any player or coach ejected for unsportsmanlike behavior will be ejected from that game, plus the next scheduled game (1 game suspension). Any player or coach ejected twice will be suspended for the remainder of the program.*
10. LEAGUE STANDINGS: Standings will be used to seed teams for the end of season tournament. In ages 6-14, Teams with exact records will refer to head to head competition to break a tie for first or second. If two or three teams tie for first place, a tiebreaker system will be used between the teams with exact records:
- 1. First: Runs allowed
  - 2. Second: Runs scored
  - 3. Third: Winning run margin
11. GAME STRICTNESS: The game official shall judge the degree of strictness or rule interpretation during the season.
12. PROTEST: Protest will not be allowed.
13. DISCIPLINARY OR MEDICAL PROBLEMS: In case of disciplinary or medical problems it is the coach's responsibility to notify the Athletic Staff by 2:00 P.M. game day. The Parks and Recreation Authority must clear all problems prior to game time.

15. SPECIAL CASES: The Parks and Recreation Authority reserves the right to consider special and unusual cases that occur from time to time and rule in whatever manner is considered best for the individual and the overall program.

16. BASE RUNNERS: Batters and base RUNNERS must wear helmets at all times.

17. PITCHERS:

- a. If a player pitches 4 innings or more, they will not be allowed to pitch the next day.
- b. If a player pitches 3 innings or less, they will be allowed to pitch the next day.
- c. There are no partial innings and one pitch counts as a complete inning.
- d. In tournament play, if a player pitches 6 innings or more, they will not be allowed to pitch the next day.
- e. In tournament play, if a player pitches 5 innings or less, they will be allowed to pitch the next day.
- f. Must come off the mound if the pitcher hits two batters in one inning and will not be allowed to return to the pitcher's position. If a batter is hit when swinging, it is a strike and does not count against the pitcher.
- g. Set or windup pivot foot must be on or in front of the pitching rubber.
- h. Pitchers will be allowed to throw (5) warm-up pitches before the start of all innings.
- i. A coach can visit the mound **three times during a game** without removing the pitcher. Every visit after 3 the pitcher must be removed.

18. BATTERS:

Every player that is in attendance for each game will be listed in the batting order.

Players may not be substituted in the batting order. The number of players in attendance is the number batters in the batting order. The inning ends when either: 3 outs have occurred, or the 7 run limit has been reached (whichever comes first).

19. RUNNERS:

- a. Must slide or avoid malicious contact at second and third bases and home plate during a close play. If not a player can be ejected. **(A player does not have to slide as long as they avoid malicious contact.)**
- b. A courtesy runner may only be used for the pitcher or catcher. The last batted out will be the courtesy runner. 9-14 year old divisions only.
- c. A base runner is not allowed to run out of the baseline to avoid a tag. Result will be an automatic out.
- d. Head first slides are only allowed returning back to a base. Any other slide must be attempted feet first.

20. STEALING:

- a. 4-8 year old age divisions: no stealing allowed!
- b. 9-10 year olds: A base runner will be required to stay in contact with the base until the pitched ball reaches home plate. At this point in the flight of the pitched ball, the runner is permitted to advance at his/her own risk of being thrown out. The runner(s) is automatically called out for leaving the base before the pitched ball reaches home plate.



# **YOUTH BASEBALL**

## **POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

1. In RFPRA baseball, a full game will be 5 or 6 innings (3 innings for T-Ball) or a time limit of either 1:15 or 1:30 minutes (1 hour for T-Ball). **With 10 minutes or less we cannot start another inning.** Each game (ages 9-14) will have two umpires (game can start with only one umpire) and one scorekeeper/timekeeper in the booth. Coach pitch will have one umpire and 1 scorekeeper will be used. To prevent coaches from delaying the game to meet the 10 minute deadline, you are only allowed one time out per batter in the last inning. Each time out after the first time out will result in an out.
  
2. **LINEUPS AND SUBSTITUTIONS**
  - a. All players that are in attendance will appear on the batting order and will bat accordingly.
  - b. Also RFPRA rules say that any subs being reported are to be done through the Home Plate Umpire.
  
3. **CLOSE PLAYS AT BASES** - RFPRA rules state that whenever there is a close play at a base or home, it is the responsibility of the runner to slide or attempt to avoid the tag. **NO MALICIOUS CONTACT IS ALLOWED.** The Defensive Player has every right to the base line as long as he or she has the ball. If the defensive player does not have the ball, he or she cannot block a base or plate. Under no circumstances should a child be told to run over another player!
  
4. **COACHES LOCATION ON FIELD AND DUGOUT** - One player or coach may occupy each coach's box while his or her team is at bat. When your team is in the field, a person shall not be outside the vicinity of the designated dugout, except the batter on deck warming up. **NOTE:** There is no problem with a coach standing at the end of the dugout, as long as the coach stays on the cement pad, so he or she can communicate with players in the field. Also it is required that teams have no more than 3 coaches (9-14) or 5 coaches (5-8).

# **YOUTH BASEBALL COACHES RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Actions of coaches: should not use mannerisms intended to incite the crowd.
2. Follow rules of the umpires:
  - a. They are in charge of the game, from the time they come onto the field until the time they leave.
  - b. Umpires will eject any coach, player, or fan from the game or vicinity for misconduct. Failure to leave results in forfeiture of the game. \*\*Any coach ejected from 2 games will be suspended for the remainder of the season. (Please do not force me to enforce this rule.)
  - c. The umpire has the right to discontinue a game anytime conditions are warranted with the approval of the sport coordinator.
3. Smoking or chewing tobacco is prohibited during the games and practices.
4. Dress Code: shirt, shoes (no sandals, flip-flops, etc.) socks, pants, or shorts (preferably no cutoffs.)
5. Turn in the team roster 10 minutes prior to game time (must include substitutions.)
6. The RFPRA views all games and sees how much you are teaching the youth. We also notice how well children respect and respond to you. DO NOT get caught up in the “winning at all costs” syndrome; you are there to help these kids have fun!
7. All coaches will be under the direction of the RFPRA during all practices and games. They will be expected to be ladies/gentlemen and conduct themselves in the proper manner at all times. Coaches may or may not be asked to coach again depending on their actions and attitudes.
8. All injuries should be reported to a recreation staff person immediately.
9. Coaches should always be prompt at practice and at games. If you have to miss or be late, please call the Recreation Department. Do not turn your team over to a parent or anyone else. Contact your assistant coach. The recreation staff will also assist you.
10. It is the coach’s responsibility on the following day to check make-up information at the field if games are cancelled. Makeup information will be posted on our website (RFPRA.COM) and at the main office's back door.
11. All head coaches must attend certification training and assistant coaches are encouraged to attend as well. If you do not attend the coaches’ certification course, you cannot be considered a head coach in the RFPRA Program. If your assistant attends the certification instead of you, your assistant then becomes the head coach. NO EXCEPTIONS are made for this rule.

12. Every coach (head coaches and assistants) is required to consent to a background screening to be considered for a coaching position with the RFPRA. If this consent is refused we have no choice but to refuse your request to coach in the Youth Sports Program.

## **PHILOSOPHY OF YOUTH ATHLETICS**

- It is the intent of the Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation Authority to offer youth athletic programs on an equal opportunity basis.
  - All individuals wishing to participate in any youth athletic program must not be disqualified or discouraged from doing so.
  - Teams will be organized to accommodate all that register and wish to play.
  - Participants are assigned to teams according to their school district.
  - Each player dressed out in each game must play, according to the program's participation policy.
  - Participation is most important in building character and confidence in youngsters.
- The RFPRA hopes to make every athletic activity serve as a training ground for life.
- Each child must attend at least half of the scheduled practices each week to be eligible for play.
  - If a child is disrespectful or displays disruptive conduct, the coach will be allowed to restrict him or her from play for the next game, upon approval from the Parks and Recreation Authority. A coach will not administer physical punishment to any player who displays disruptive conduct during practices or at any other time.
  - A child may not be disciplined in any way because of school related matters, or any other activity unrelated to the team practices and games.
- Coaches are members of the program organizational team.
  - Cooperation is required to maintain a quality experience for the participants.
  - Coaches must establish a good working relationship with parents, players, and the Parks and Recreation Authority.
  - Coaches will refrain from "running up" the score against the weaker opponent.
  - Children tend to see their coaches as role models. What you say and do has a tremendous effect on their personality development and self-confidence level.

This philosophy statement has been developed to give volunteers a clear understanding of how important youth are to Floyd County. By following this philosophy, you will become a valuable volunteer and a tremendous asset to your community.

## **CONDUCT OF YOUTH VOLUNTEER COACHES**

The public views youth volunteer coaches as representatives of the Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation Authority. Each volunteer should remain alert of the influence he/she is viewed by the general public. The Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation Authority shall have the authority to reprimand, suspend, or dismiss a volunteer coach as deemed necessary by the staff and Board. Recreation Board policy requires that all volunteer head coaches for youth teams be a minimum of 21 years of age. All assistant coaches must be a minimum of 18 years of age.



## RFPRA 5-8 YEAR OLD COACH PITCH BASEBALL RULES

1. Each team will be allowed five (5) adults in the dugout; one manager and four coaches. Only registered players and volunteers will be allowed in the dugout during the game.
2. All batters and runners must wear batting helmets. Catcher must wear face guard and helmet. All equipment must be kept in the dugout.
3. Safety hash mark (30) feet will be drawn on first base line and third base line in front of home plate. In-fielders must stay behind this arc until ball is hit.
4. Each batter will receive six (6) pitches to attempt to put the ball in play. He may swing on all 6 pitches. If the 6th pitch is fouled, the batter will receive another pitch, if the batter fails to put the ball into play, the batter will be out. The pitching coach will carry 3 baseballs on the field and will throw all balls in succession (the catcher will not return the balls to the coach) but an ASSISTANT coach will stand at the backstop to retrieve the baseballs. This is to help speed up the game. The pitching coach must leave fair territory once the ball is put in play.
5. If a batter throws the bat and hits another player, the batter is out. If the batter throws the bat and DOES NOT hit any other player, the TEAM will receive a warning. The next batter that throws a bat from that team will be OUT, regardless if they hit anyone or not.
6. There is NO INFIELD FLY RULE and NO BUNTING is allowed. Any base runner leaving the base before the ball reaches home plate is out. (Dead ball – umpire's decision.)
7. **The UMPIRE will call “TIME” when the lead runner is stopped from advancing.** If a runner is more than halfway when time is called, they will be awarded the next base. **Whenever time is call it will be at the umpire’s discretion.**
8. Coaches of 5-6 year olds may have only 2 coaches on defense, who must remain behind outfielders. Coaches of 7-8 year olds may have 2 coaches on defense, who is also to remain behind the outfielders.
9. The Pitching coach can only pitch from the 35ft pitching rubber. **Coaches must pitch over handed to all batters. If a batted ball touches the pitching coach it is a dead ball.**
10. **5-6 coach pitch**, all players in attendance will play on defense and be listed on the batting order and will bat accordingly. There will be seven (7) infielders that must remain in the infield. (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> baseman, short stop, pitcher, and catcher). The 7<sup>th</sup> infielder is known as a “Rover” and can play anywhere 5 yards behind the baseline. There will be unlimited outfielders that must remain twenty (20) feet behind base paths. Player listed as pitcher must remain in back of or even with pitching coach until ball is hit.
11. **7-8 coach pitch**, 10 players will take the field. All players in attendance will be listed on the batting order and will bat accordingly. There will only be (6) infielders that must remain in the infield. (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> baseman, short stop, pitcher, and catcher). There will be 4 outfielders that must remain in the outfield, twenty feet behind the base paths. Player listed as pitcher must remain in back of pitching coach until ball is hit.
12. **Overthrows** – runner may advance at their own risk on overthrows.
13. Length of Games:
  - a. 5-innings or 1-hour, 15 minutes. (75 minutes.), whichever comes first
  - b. Only 7 runs per inning may be scored, or three outs, whichever comes first.
14. There will be one umpire and 1 Scorekeeper

