



2024 Spring 6U Coaches Handbook

Game Facilities

Alto Park

Upper Alto (Fields 1-5)



Lower Alto (Fields 6-8)



1014 Burnett Ferry Road
Rome, GA 30165

Riverview Park (Behind the Levee)



255 Jewell Frost Drive
Rome, GA 30165

Hugh Selman Baseball Complex (North Floyd)



102 North Floyd Park Road
Rome, GA 30165

Practice Facilities

Armuchee Park

539 Jones Mill Road NE
Rome, GA 30165

Coosa Park

52 Krannert Drive NW
Rome, GA 30165

Etowah Park

1325 Kingston Highway
Rome, GA 30165

Garden Lakes

2903 Garden Lakes Boulevard
Rome, GA 30165

Midway Park

125 Midway Park Road SE
Rome, GA 30173

Riverside Park

215 Chatillon Road
Rome, Georgia 30161

Shag Williams Park (Shannon)

40 Minshew Road NE
Shannon, GA 30172

Wolfe Park (Lindale)

106 Park Avenue
Rome, GA 30147

Coaches' Information

Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation encourages anyone who is interested in being a positive force in a child's life to contact a recreation staff member and fill out a coaching application. Coaches are role models for teaching the fundamentals of the sport, sport skills, tactics and sportsmanship. Coaches are responsible for their personal conduct and behavior, as well as, the conduct and behavior of players. Coaches are required to follow the Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation guidelines at all times. A coach who does not follow the guidelines provided by the Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation will need to meet with the League Coordinator in order to continue to coach. All volunteer coaches shall be "at will coaches," and may be discharged by the Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation with or without cause. Only coaches who have been approved by the Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation will be allowed to go on the field of play or court during practices and games.

Guidelines for all Coaches

- Coaches participating in Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation youth sports shall:
- Be reliable, and on time. (The first to arrive and the last to leave...)
- Be responsible for distributing a game/practice schedule to parents/guardians prior to the beginning of the season.
- Have with you, the Emergency Contact Information forms for each child on the team at all practices and games that is provided on your roster given to you by RFPR.
- Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation Authority will have first aid kits at each game site, located in the concession stand.
- Be responsible for ensuring players' parents/guardians are informed of changes to the game or practice schedule. This includes cancellations the day of the game or practice.
- Ensure that each player receives playing time in games according to Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation policy on playing time. Equal participation in the program as a whole is the desired goal but is not a requirement.
- Be responsible for communicating Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation playing time policy to parents/guardians prior to the start of the season.
- Have all players and coaches shake hands after the completion of the game.
- Never play an injured or bleeding player. Think of the player first and not the team's final outcome.
- Conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times and shall refrain from directing abusive language and/or gestures toward officials, other coaches, players, fans, and spectators.
- Serve as a role model for players and spectators.
- Leave facilities in the same or better condition than when the team arrived. Be sure to clean the dugout after each game. All trash and debris needs to be in trash cans.
- Remove team from field and dugout promptly after shaking hands with opposing team so that the next team may begin their game.

Head Coach's Responsibilities

- Establish a good working relationship with parents and players, keeping them well informed of practices, games, team rules, etc.
- In efforts to be respectful of parents' time, conduct organized and punctual practices.
- Head Coaches are required to have email and text message capabilities. If not, they must designate a team parent or assistant coach who does.
- Establish a hierarchy, in the event of his/her absence.
- Confirm player eligibility. Each player must have completed the registration process of RFPR.
- Appoint assistant coaches for the team.
- Upon approval by the Sports Coordinator, have the authority to suspend or dismiss any assistant coach.
- Head Coach is responsible for proper conduct of their assistant coach and spectators.
- Ensure that only registered athletes are participating in practices.
- *The State of Georgia has amended Code 19-7-5 under the Official Code of Georgia relating to the reporting of child abuse to include volunteer coaches. Under this code, volunteer coaches are required by law to report any suspected case of child abuse. The purpose of this Code Section is to provide for the protection of children whose health and welfare are adversely affected and further threatened by the conduct of those responsible for their care and protection. It is intended that the mandatory reporting of such cases will cause the Protective Services of the State to be brought to bear on the situation in an effort to prevent further abuses, to protect and enhance the welfare of these children, and to preserve family life wherever possible. This Code Section shall be liberally construed so as to carry out the purposes thereof. If you believe a child is being abused, contact RFPR immediately.*
- If requested by the umpire or game-site Supervisor; head coaches are required to assist in ensuring the parents and/or team spectators to maintain a healthy environment.

Assistant Coach's Responsibilities

- Carry out duties as assigned by the head coach.
- Does not have the authority to discipline any participant without proper consent of the head coach.
- Will not be given the same consideration as a head coach during games.
- NEVER get involved in any discussions during the game with officials.
- Support the decisions of the Head Coach and should never publicly second-guess the Head Coach.
- Can be appointed by a Head Coach to act as a Head Coach during his/her absence.
- Be able to communicate information to parents concerning the team.
- Ultimately, all assistant coaches are under the supervision of the RFPR.

Application

Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation Authority requires every individual interested in becoming a coach to complete an application and authorization for a background investigation form (will need a copy of his/her Driver's License or State Issued photo identification). Coach's application can be found on our website: www.rfpra.com/sports and must be completed online. All applications are to be submitted and approved prior to the volunteer assisting in sporting activities. This procedure is in place to protect participants from individuals who may be unsuitable as a coach.

Background Checks

Individual volunteers found to be guilty of the following crimes will be disqualified as a volunteer as outlined below. Guilty means the applicant was found guilty following a trial, entered a guilty plea, entered a “no contest” plea accompanied by the court’s finding of guilty, regardless of whether there was a conviction or a withholding of guilt. This policy does not apply to charges that resulted in acquittal, dismissal or in an entry of “nolle prosequi”.

EVER FOUND TO BE GUILTY OF:

- All sex offenses including child molestation, rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sodomy, prostitution, solicitation, indecent exposure, etc.
- All felony violence including murder, manslaughter, aggravated assault, kidnapping, robbery, aggravated burglary, etc.

FOUND TO BE GUILTY WITHIN THE PAST 10 YEARS OF:

- All felony offenses other than violence or sex including drug offenses, theft, embezzlement, fraud, child endangerment, etc.
- Multiple misdemeanor drug offenses, simple drug possession or possession of drug paraphernalia, etc.

FOUND TO BE GUILTY WITHIN THE PAST 7 YEARS OF:

- All misdemeanor violence offenses including simple assault, battery, domestic violence, hit and run, etc.

FOUND TO BE GUILTY WITH THE PAST 2 YEARS OF:

- Two misdemeanor DUI charges with a 12-month period.

Any other misdemeanor within the past 5 years that would be considered a potential danger to children or is directly related to the functions of the volunteer including contributing to the delinquency of a minor, providing alcohol to a minor, or theft if the volunteer will be handling money.

Should any pending charges described above be discovered or brought against an applicant during the season, the applicant shall be suspended until such time as to when the charges have been cleared or dropped and reinstatement has been approved by the Athletic Director.

Selection of Coaches

Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation Authority feels that our coaches set an example not only for the kids but also the parents. Selecting quality, qualified, and well-rounded coaches is our number one priority. All coaches must complete a Coaching Application and sign the Coaches’ Code of Conduct form before a coach can be considered by the Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation.

Background checks will be completed on all coaches for every sport. All head coaches must be at least 21 years of age, and all assistant coaches must be at least 18 years of age. Spouse of coach may head coach in a different league and /or be assistant coach in the same league.

Getting Started for New Coaches

- Immediately contact each players parent/guardian on your roster, introduce yourself, and set up a “first meeting” or practice. Contact RFPR if you are unable to reach players’ parents.

- At the first meeting, ask for parent volunteers as assistant coaches and/or team parents.
- Choose a practice location that is convenient for the majority of the team. You will work with RFPR staff, if you would like to use an RFPR field. If you have use of a private field such as a school or church, you will only need to meet the restrictions outlined in this manual.
- Select a team name and jersey number and report it to RFPR for scheduling purposes prior to deadline.
- Assign player numbers and order uniforms from a vendor of your choosing. Each parent is responsible for their uniform costs. When ordering, adhere to the restrictions listed in this manual.
- In order to avoid financial hardships on coaches, coaches are instructed to assign a date at which time uniform monies are due. If parents fail to meet that payment deadline, parent should be instructed to set up payment directly with the vendor selected by the team.
- Game and practice balls, bats, helmets and practice tees are the responsibility of the team.
- Encourage players to bring their own equipment to all practices and games.
- Set aside a day and time for team pictures. RFPR is not responsible for scheduling team pictures. RFPR facilities are available for usage for team pictures.

Conduct

- Any player, coach, or spectator acting in an unsportsmanlike manner or in any way that could prove detrimental to the league will be subject to disciplinary action by Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation.
- There will be no hollering at or harassing of the players on the opposing teams by parents, players, or coaches. If a volunteer coach cannot control this situation, the game will be awarded to the opposing team. The person(s) violating this rule shall be suspended for the following game. This is a decision made by the Umpires and/or the Recreation Staff present.
- Umpires and/or Facility Supervisor will eject any coach, player, or fan from the game or vicinity of the game for misconduct. Failure to leave results in forfeiture of the game. Any coach that is ejected from a game will be suspended for the next scheduled game. Suspended coaches are not allowed in the playing facility. If a coach is ejected from two (2) games, he/she will be suspended for the remainder of the season.
- It is the parent's responsibility to make sure their son/daughter attends all practices and games. **Any child who misses 2 (or 50% of scheduled practices) consecutive practices or games can be benched by the coach for one game with the approval of the sports coordinator.** It is the coach's responsibility to notify RFPR of any child's missed games or practices.
- No alcoholic or tobacco products will be allowed at any of the Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation Authority facilities.

Team Formation / Eligibility / Weather Policy

Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation developed the following guidelines for participation / eligibility / playing time to ensure a wholesome and enjoyable recreational activity for the participants.

Team Formation/Eligibility

- **Age control date is ON or BEFORE September 1st of current year.**
- All registration fees must be paid in full before the child is allowed to participate.
- A participant **MUST** be registered with RFPR before participating in any regular season games.
- A legal aged player participating in the RFPR Baseball/Softball/T-Ball program may “play up” one (1) age division beyond their age and must be approved by the RFPR.
- A participant’s residency will not affect the player’s eligibility. There will be a nonresidents fee, which is determined by the Floyd County Commissioners with recommendations from the Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation Director.
- For Recreation based leagues, players will be required to play for a team within the district they are currently attending.
- RFPR will merge partial districts to form teams.
- All residents and non-residents are eligible to sign-up for any recreational sports regardless the participant’s talent/ability.
- Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation Staff shall have the authority to suspend any player whose conduct is considered detrimental to the best interest of the Rome Floyd Recreational Authority Programs.

Weather Policy

- Decisions regarding cancelling games due to inclement weather will be released at 2:30 PM the day of games. When games are cancelled, a text will be sent to all coaches, and we will try to put a post on all social media and the website, www.RFPRA.com.
- **In the event a game is in progress when inclement weather affects the game, the game will be deemed a “complete game” if game has reached:**
 - o **35 minutes...Coach Pitch Leagues (65 min TIME)**
 - o **45 minutes...Kid Pitch Leagues (80 min TIME)**
- Games that are rained out will be rescheduled by Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation. If there is a question of a game being played because of inclement weather, RFPR will make the decision of playing or not.
- If conditions from previous weather have rendered the fields unplayable, games will be cancelled immediately upon receipt of that information. If severe weather or rain is imminent on game day, games will not be cancelled until play conditions are unsafe.
- Rest breaks may not be combined with any other type of activity any players must be given unlimited access to hydration. These breaks must be held in a “cool zone” where players are out of direct sunlight.
- **RFPR will not reschedule any games due to extracurricular activities.**
- RFPR has adopted the GHSA practice policy as it related to practice in heat and humidity as listed below:

| WBGT | GUIDELINES |
|-------------|--|
| Under 82.0 | Normal Activities – Provide at least three (3) separate rest breaks each hour with a minimum duration of three (3) minutes each during the workout. |
| 82.0 – 86.9 | Use discretion for intense or prolonged exercise; watch at risk players carefully. Provide at least three (3) separate rest breaks each hour with a minimum duration of four (4) minutes each. |
| 87.0 – 89.9 | Provide at least four (4) separate rest breaks each hour with a minimum duration of four (4) minutes each. |
| 90.0 – 92.0 | Maximum practice is one (1) hour. There must be twenty (20) minutes of rest breaks distributed throughout the hour of practice. |
| Over 92.1 | No outdoor workouts. Delay practice until a cooler WBGT level is reached. |

*****Any adult who feels he or she cannot enjoy coaching under these rules and regulations should in all fairness to him or her and the players shall withdraw from the program. The RFPRA wishes to thank all of our volunteer coaches for their time and effort this season.**

6U Coach Pitch General Information and Rules

6U Coach Pitch is for instruction and teaching the fundamentals of baseball/softball skills. **It emphasizes the development of teamwork, good sportsmanship, and fun.** Players are exposed to active pitching by the means of the coach pitching.

General Rules

1. Team rosters will consist of no less than ten (10) players and no more than thirteen (13) players. Coaches and community leaders should encourage fewer players per team to speed up the game and give each child more one on one coaching. Players will not be added to a roster unless a team drops below the recommended number of thirteen (13) players and permission must be obtained from Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation.
2. Each team will be allowed five (5) adults in the dugout, one (1) head coach and four (4) assistant coaches (this includes "Team Moms"). Only registered players and volunteers will be allowed in the dugout during games.
3. Offense Coaches: Pitching Coach, 1st Base Coach, 3rd Base Coach, Backstop Coach
4. Backstop Coach is to return a dead ball to the pitching coach and remove bat from home plate.
5. There will be one (1) score keeper and one (1) umpire.
6. Participation Rule: one (1) completed at bat and one (1) completed (3 outs) inning defensively.
7. All players in attendance will play in the field, six (6) infielders (including pitcher and catcher) and remaining players will be outfielders. The pitcher and catcher positions are **required**. If playing short-handed, the player must come from the infield or outfield. **The team must have a battery.**
8. Six (6) infielders must remain in the infield (1st, 2nd, 3rd Basemen, Shortstop, Pitcher and Catcher).
9. All remaining players in attendance will be outfielders must remain in the outfield. o The outfield is defined as twenty (20) feet behind base paths.
10. Shorthanded Rule: Teams can begin with 8 players. Players arriving late to a game will be placed last in the batting line-up. An out will **NOT** be called if the 9th spot on the roster is vacant.
11. If a player is injured by being hit with a batted ball in the face, throat, or head, time will be called immediately. Base runners will be placed at the judgement of umpire.
NOTE: This is a judgement call and cannot be appealed or protested.
12. A team can finish a game with one less player that required to start (T-Ball/6U/8U – 10 players) (10U and up – 9 players).
13. If a player leaves the game, an out will be recorded in the batting position, provided the batter has already batted.
14. Each game will last five (5) innings or one (1) hour and five (5) minutes, whichever comes first.

