

Participation Guidelines

For Players/Coaches/Parents

President of Organization

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Manager/Secretary

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Board of Directors

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Secretary

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Objective/Mission Statement

The Richmond Ruckus Youth Sports Organization (Girl's Fast-Pitch Softball & Boy's Baseball) ("Ruckus") shall compete in supervised, sanctioned, competitive softball/baseball tournaments, games, and exhibitions for girls and boys. Bearing in mind that the attainment of exceptional athletic skills or winning games is not paramount, the emphasis will be on participation, sportsmanship, and the physical and mental development of each participant. In realizing that molding our youth into future citizens is equally important, we hope to provide the most important thing – "Opportunities to Excel" – not only on the field, but also off.

Policies/Rules

The following rules and policies will be the guidelines for all Ruckus players:

1. Teams will not carry more than 18 players on their roster. The addition of new players can happen at any time the coach deems necessary.
2. Participation in all other softball & baseball travel teams outside of the Organization is not allowed at any time unless prior approval is given by the Head Coach of the team in question, at his/her discretion. However, school activities are all excluded from this rule.
3. Players are not guaranteed a specific amount of playing time. Any concerns or disagreements need to be taken up with the Head Coach of the team away from the field, practice field, and away from all other players.
4. Out-of-town travel to Showcase Tournaments: It is the Head Coach's decision to have either team rooms or have the player to stay with the parent. It is also the Coach's decision to set and enforce a curfew for the team. Any player who breaks team curfew or team policies will have to deal with the Head Coach.
5. Any player can and has the right to talk to the Player Rep if he/she feels that he/she is not getting a fair shake (after he/she has already spoken to the coaches).
6. Players understand there is zero tolerance for drugs and alcohol at any level. The Organization will not tolerate any abuse of this rule. You understand that we as an Organization with teams that play in National events, are subject to random drug testing.
DO NOT take the risk of team disqualification from any and all tournaments or events for your failure to pass a random drug test. If a player fails the drug test that is asked of him/her or he/she declines to take the test, the player will be asked to leave the Organization immediately, and refunds will not be issued.
7. The Organization's colors are purple, teal, black and white. The only exception is the color pink for Breast Cancer Awareness. Any changes to the Organization's

colors and logo must be approved by the board. All uniforms (including helmets) will have the following Richmond Ruckus logo or lettering:



Or

(In Block or Cursive lettering):

Ruckus

or

Richmond Ruckus

Player Responsibilities

All player selections will be final by the Head Coach. Prospective players will be evaluated on their overall athletic skills and their academic skills. The player will remain on the team until he/she is age ineligible or displays improper conduct on or off the field. Players and parents are expected to fully support all coaches and players on the team. Negative comments about a player or a coach can result in dismissal from the team.

1. Academic excellence will be expected from all players.
2. To attain the highest goals, all players and coaches will give 110% at all practices and games.
3. All players are expected to attend all practices and other events. Practices are not optional unless otherwise designated by the Head Coach. All players must be dedicated and prepared to be at every tournament that is on the schedule. If you must be absent from a tournament or a practice you must speak to the Head Coach prior to the date. Anyone missing a tournament or practice without prior approval can be dismissed from the team.
4. Positive attitudes are a must at all times to be a "Winner".
5. We expect that all Richmond Ruckus players – when at practice, at games, in uniform, or at any and all Richmond Ruckus events – will conduct themselves with the highest of all standards at all times. They are a reflection of the Organization, and they carry our sponsors name proudly.
6. All players are expected to attend all fundraisers.

Family Responsibilities

1. A player's family is the most important foundation. They need your support at all times on and off the field. Praise – do not criticize. Find the positive – not the negative. Listen – don't yell.
2. Each family is expected to participate in all Richmond Ruckus fundraisers.
3. Families need to plan vacations and other activities so as not to conflict with the team tournament schedule. Any conflicts need to be cleared immediately with the coaches and approved. Every player is vital to this organization and a missing link causes a very weak chain.
4. Each family needs to show proof of health and accident insurance for their child. Richmond Ruckus insurance is only a supplemental policy. In the event of an injury, the parents will be responsible for any deductibles required by either policy.
5. Pot stirrers will not be tolerated and will be asked to leave the team without any refund.
6. Any equipment that is issued out to the player is considered on loan and will be returned within 72 hours of dismissal (whether voluntary or involuntary) from the team or a fee of \$500.00 will be incurred.
7. Any player who left the Organization and has done any type of fundraising or had funds paid into the team account understands that the money stays with the team, unless the player transfers to another team within the Organization. Quitting forfeits the money.

Coaches' Responsibilities

- To provide teams for highly talented fast-pitch softball and baseball players to showcase their talents and abilities.
 - To provide a positive environment for all players
 - To provide quality coaching that will help each player attain her maximum level of talent.
 - To provide the opportunities to be seen by college scouts at the showcases and in media guides.
 - To provide a safe atmosphere no matter where we are in or out of town.
- ***IMPORTANT: The Board has the right to release any Coach for actions on or off the field found unsuitable for the organization. Also, once released as a Coach, you may not coach in the Organization and you may not use the Ruckus name or logo in any form (i.e. gold, elite, showcase, color, etc.). If released, all equipment and gear needs to be returned within (5) days (i.e. trailer, equipment, uniforms, etc.) The checking account must be closed, and all financial records must be turned in to the Secretary of the Organization with any money in the account as it is property of the respective team.

Agreement

We have read and understand both the meaning and the spirit of the above and agree to abide by these general guidelines.

Coach:

Date:

Player:

Date:

Parents(s):

Date:

We, the parent(s)/guardian(s) of

_____ know that participation in fast-pitch softball and baseball may result in serious injuries. I/we know that protective equipment does not prevent all injuries to players and do hereby waive, release, absolve, indemnify, and hold harmless the Richmond Ruckus Organization and all their Sponsors.

Parent(s)

Date:
