

Flint River Academy Athletic Mission

The purpose of the Athletic Department is to encourage the development of the student athlete by striving to achieve excellence in the areas of commitment, discipline, fitness, and sportsmanship. We believe that the principles and lessons learned in the classroom and at home can be put into practice through athletics.

It is the goal of the Athletic Department to pursue and reflect the philosophy and mission statement of Flint River Academy (FRA). To achieve that goal, it is vital that the Athletic Department **work in tandem with the teachers and administration** to provide supportive and challenging environments with clear goals and high expectations.

While we delight in a winning team, FRA does not place that as the cornerstone of our program. FRA students are students first, then athletes who know the joy of participation, tough competition, and winning.

We will build champions for God, family, and country.

Athletic Mission

The Flint River Academy athletic department encourages the development of the student-athlete by striving to achieve excellence in the areas of commitment discipline, fitness, and sportsmanship. We believe that the principles and lessons learned in the classroom and at home can be put into practice through athletics.

Flint River takes pride in its athletic teams and programs, which encourage student participation, support, and total physical effort on the fields of play. While we delight in a winning team, Flint River does not place that as the cornerstone of our program. Flint River students are students first, then athletes who know the joy of participation, competition, and winning. We will play every game/match/event and practice with sportsmanship and integrity.

Athletic Purpose

Flint River Academy is committed to developing and maintaining an outstanding and competitive athletic program. It is the goal of the athletic department to work in tandem with teachers and administration to provide supportive and challenging environments with high expectations. Our program is designed to:

Provide unifying activity open to the entire school and community through participation as team members or as spectators.

Assist in the development of relationships with other schools and communities.

Provide a vehicle for personal growth and development among students.

Contribute to the development of school spirit.

Develop the concept of teamwork and an understanding of subordinating personal desires in the interest of a productive, cooperating effort.

Test capabilities and help determine limits of physical ability and endurance.

Develop self-esteem and the ability to deal with adversity.

Develop control of emotions in tense situations.

Develop the ability to handle success and cope with failure.

Develop an understanding of the lessons that can be learned from mistakes while striving for excellence.

Athletic Expectation and Objectives

It is expected that everyone associated with FRA athletics will support and encourage our players as well as one another. We cheer for Flint River Academy and not against the other teams. At FRA athletic excellence shall include the following personal benefits:

1. Provide personal enjoyment and a sense of accomplishment.
2. Develop the concept of teamwork and an understanding of subordinating personal desires in the interest of a productive cooperative effort.
3. Test capabilities and help determine limits of physical ability and endurance.
4. Develop self-esteem and the ability to deal with adversity.
5. Develop control of emotions in tense situations.
6. Develop the ability to handle success and cope with failure.
7. Provide an understanding of the importance of thorough knowledge of fundamentals in any endeavor and the value of proper preparation for effective performance.
8. Develop an understanding of the lessons that can be learned from mistakes while striving for excellence.

Coaches' Ethics

Role of Coaches

Coaches are one of the significant components of our athletic program as we strive for excellence. They have the responsibility of molding the attitudes, behaviors, and desires of our student athletes. In order to be considered an effective coach and role model, our coaches must be thoroughly knowledgeable in their sports, capable of detailed preparation, able to motivate athletes, to make adjustments during competition, and to provide positive situations for our student-athletes.

Coaches' Ethics

Coaches are given the privilege and responsibility of to be the face of Flint River Academy. How we carry ourselves as coaches often times is the definition to students, parents, and the community what it means to be a part of Flint River Academy. With that being said, it is essential that we maintain a high standard of character and respect for our parents, players, fellow coaches, teachers, administration, and other schools. Good sportsmanship is of the utmost importance.

Coaches must demonstrate their acceptance of the leadership role in matters of respect, authority, and general behavior.

Coaches should continually strive to increase their knowledge of their sport and teaching methods by attending clinics, workshops, and collaborating with experienced coaches in their sport.

Coaches should maintain fair and unprejudiced relationships with players and parents.

Coaches should support their colleagues' programs and not infringe upon another coaches' season.

Coaches should collaborate with other coaches to implement department wide scheduling of programs.

Coaches are expected to attend all department, school, and association meetings as required. As conflicts arise, coaches should contact school administration in a timely manner.

Coaches are required to uphold the school standard on rules pertaining to on campus use of tobacco, alcohol, and drug use.

Coaches should refrain from the use of profanity in front of students and athletes.

Coaches Responsibilities

GISA Policy

Coaches must be familiar with all GISA policies concerning their sports. Coaches should be up to date on information regarding rules, meetings, start dates, allowable off season activities, and scheduling rules. All varsity coaches and assistant coaches are required to attend the GISA rules clinic concerning their sport.

Scheduling

Game schedules will be published prior to the start of every season. Changes can sometimes be unavoidable, and the change or correction will be announced to players and parents as soon as possible to ensure no inconvenience.

Coaches are responsible for making their own schedules. In some cases, the Athletic Director will assist in the scheduling process.

It is important that coaches consult the school calendar and do their best to avoid conflicts.

Contracts are required for football, softball, basketball, and baseball. They are highly recommended for other sports as well.

Coaches should turn in the schedules to the Athletic Director and Head Master as soon as completed.

The Athletic Director will be responsible for scheduling officials.

If there are any changes in the schedule, coaches must contact the Athletic Director and Head Master as soon as possible for approval of change of schedule.

Coaches should contact opposing teams on their schedules to verify dates, times, and locations. Contracts will help eliminate or lessen conflicts, issues, and financial losses.

Off Season Scheduling

Coaches are encouraged to conduct off-season workouts and promote individual and team camps. Coaches are encouraged to send all levels of their programs to camps.

Scheduling off-season workouts should be done in coordination with the entire athletic and school calendar in mind. The sport of season will have priority over all other sports.

Scheduling and use of the gym is done on a first come, first serve basis. Should two programs need the gyms at the same time in the offseason, then the two must share gym space. In sports seasons will have priority use for any athletic facility.

Schedule priority for spring practices will be given to teams whose sport falls next on the academic calendar. For example, March and April will be allocated for baseball, track, tennis, golf and May for football, softball, cheerleading and June for basketball. Again, the sport in season has priority over all other sports.

It is important for coaches to find the best camp for the most reasonable price, knowing that Flint River relies on the same athletes to attend multiple camps.

Any offseason scheduling should be approved by the Athletic Director and Head Master.

Tryouts

Tryouts need to be announced several weeks in advance. Coaches should remind all prospective players that they need a physical form and medical insurance form on file to participate. Prospective participants will not be allowed to tryout if these forms are not on file in the office. Students will need to be academically eligible to be considered for tryouts.

Coaches should have a detailed plan and evaluation method if conducting tryouts.

Once a team is selected, coaches should turn in rosters for the approval of the Athletic Director and Head Master.

Pre-Season Parent Meetings

Coaches should meet with parents once teams have been selected to discuss policies and procedures before the season starts.

Parents should be informed of program expectations, eligibility, scheduling, and communication protocol.

Coaches should emphasize the need for communication and sportsmanship for all parties involved in the program.

Practices

Coaches are expected to have well-organized practices that have a plan toward meeting the instructional needs for the team.

Coaches should have a written plan, should be on time, and not exceed scheduled practice times.

Coaches should check with the Athletic Director when scheduling facilities.

Sunday practices are not allowed without the approval of Headmaster.

Practices during exams week are highly discouraged. There will be no practices or sporting activity past 5:00 p.m. during exams week.

Coaches have discretion over allowing an athlete game playing time due to attendance at practice.

Coaches are required to make athletes have a ride home from practice. Athletes should be picked up before the coach leaves.

Eligibility

GISA requires an eligibility report on all student-athletes.

Coaches will regularly check for academic progress on all athletes. Coaches own the student athletic's grade and will be proactive to ensure the student is doing everything required to maintain his/her eligibility.

Coaches will be notified by administration if an athlete is ineligible.

As needed, coaches will organize study halls for athletes whose grades are in poor standing.

Athletes who are deemed ineligible are not allowed to participate in any organized team workouts or function in or out of season until eligibility has been reestablished. See page on FRA eligibility.

Fundraisers

Fundraisers are designed to supplement program needs. Coaches are allowed to for their program but a detailed plan of fundraising must be submitted to the Athletic Director and Head Master approval.

No fundraiser that carries the Flint River name will be allowed without the approval from the Head Master and Board of Directors.

Equipment and Uniforms

Coaches are responsible for ordering, maintaining, and storing equipment needed for their sport.

Sports equipment is not to be used without supervision.

Coaches are responsible for the distribution and collection of all team uniforms.

Coaches should work with the Athletic Director on uniform needs on all levels of the program. Players are responsible for the loss or damage of uniforms. Report cards, transcripts, etc. will be held until player has returned or paid for any missing uniform or equipment.

Athletic Fees for each sport are subject to change on a yearly basis. See page 3 of Enrollment Contract.

Transportation

The Athletic Director will work with the coaches and transportation director on travel arrangements.

Coaches are responsible for filling out and distributing travel forms.

Coaches are responsible for scheduling athletes' dismissal times and are encouraged to schedule reasonable dismissal times for travel.

At least one coach should be on the bus when athletes are being transported to events.

Coaches are discouraged from to drive their vehicle to an away contest unless they are not on site as bus leaves, or are hauling equipment. Coaches will not be reimbursed for this type of travel mileage.

All travel to and from games will be with the team on the bus with following exceptions:

1. Traveling with parents back from a game with prior approval of coach.
2. Return travel with parents of a friend with accompanying approval in writing from the parents.
3. Special situations, which have prior approval from the coach, Athletic Director, and Headmaster.

Coaches are responsible for the removal of equipment and cleaning of bus upon return home.

Scheduling transportation for summer camps or workouts is done on a first come, first serve basis. The sports in season will have scheduling priority.

Evaluations

At end of every season, coaches are encouraged to evaluate their entire program.

Staffing and equipment needs should be made known to the Athletic Director and Head Master.

Coaches are required to evaluate their assistant and sub varsity coaches.

At the end of every season, the Athletic Director will meet with each varsity coach and evaluate his or her overall program.

Discipline

Team and player discipline is the responsibility of the coaching staff.

Should player or parent issues arise, coaches should deal with them as quickly as possible. If a meeting is needed, coaches should arrange to have a fellow coach or the Athletic Director present.

Player dismissal is a serious matter. A player should only be dismissed if his or her action threatens the entire team and only after every avenue of communication between coach, player, parent, and administration has been exhausted.

Any student receiving an out-of-school suspension or in school suspension will not be allowed to participate in any aspect of their sport for each day of the suspension.

Description of Flint River Academy Athletic Program

Affiliation

Georgia Independent School Association

Programs Offered

1. High School (grades 9 – 12 grades with 8th grade eligible)

At the JV level of development of skills and traits, more emphasis will be placed on the development of the individual athlete and team success. Coaches are encouraged to play everyone in most games. However, circumstances may prohibit them from doing so, such as the athlete's individual ability, poor or negative attitude, and/or lack of commitment to the team.

At the Varsity level, we desire to further develop character, athletic skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship as we strive to field high quality and competitive teams in all sports. Emphasis is placed more on winning, as playing time is not guaranteed at this level.

Boys

Fall: football

Winter: basketball, cheerleading

Spring: baseball, track & field, tennis, golf

Girls

Fall: softball, cheerleading

Winter: basketball, cheerleading

Spring: track & field, tennis, golf

2. Middle School (6th – 8th grades)

At the Middle School level our desire is to provide quality instruction in the beginning the early development of the athletes' talents. This instruction is fulfilled through teaching fundamental skills, developing character traits such as

persistence, dependability, dedication, self-control, teamwork, and emphasizing the active participation of each athlete.

All student athletes who are actively involved, such as attending all practices, will be given adequate playing time, at the coaches' discretion. This does not mean equal playing time, but coaches are strongly encouraged to play everyone in each game.

Boys

Fall: football

Winter: basketball, cheerleading

Spring: baseball, track & field, tennis, golf

Girls

Fall: softball, cheerleading

Winter: basketball, cheerleading

Spring: track & field, tennis, golf

Flint River Academy Organizational Hierarchy

Organizational Structure

Board of Directors

Headmaster- oversees the total school program, which includes athletics and extra-curricular activities

Assistant Headmasters

Athletic Director- administrates and supervises the athletic program

Head Coaches- oversees the entire program of his/her sport, including instruction; aiding the JV and MS level coaches with development, practices, systems of play, etc.

Assistant Coaches- assists and supports the head coaches in the implementation of their programs and their programs in practices, games, etc.

Selection of Coaches

Flint River Academy will hire and retain coaches at all levels based on the following criteria:

They must agree with and uphold the philosophy of FRA and the athletic program.

They must be the best qualified, knowledgeable, and experienced person available.

All non-staff coaches (including parent coaches) must meet the following requirements:

- a. Approval of Athletic Director and Head Master
- b. Complete a background check.

Selection of Assistant Coaches

Any assistant coach, whether a school staff member or a volunteer, must be approved through the Headmaster, athletic director, and the head coach.

Assistant coaches will subscribe to the same code of conduct as expected from the head coach.

If parents have volunteered or have been asked to help a coach, the duties of the parent must be clear and must not conflict with the coaching philosophy of the coach.

All volunteer coaches must fill out an application to be able to assist in any sport. The head coach, athletic director and headmaster will evaluate each applicant.

Athletic Handbook Acknowledgement

I have read and acknowledge all aspects of the FRA Athletic Handbook.

Athlete/Student Signature Date

Parent/Guardian Signature Date