

Roundtable Discussions

Participation is key!



Submitted by Peers

Lighting park amenities and paved trails for night usage – **Justin Pierce**

Locking facilities/fields outside of scheduled use vs open to public. We deal with irresponsible dog owners, and unauthorized field usage but Commissioners are big on public access. Where is the balance? – **Justin Pierce**

Athletic coaches and background screening. For your leagues what policies are you putting into place to comply with the new requirement for level 2 background screening (going into effect 1/1/2025) – **Kevin Kirwin**



Athletic Coach Background Screening



2023 Legislation

SB 676 – signed into law as Chapter 2023-220

Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1), paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (2), and subsection (4) of section **943.0438**, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

943.0438 Athletic coaches for independent sanctioning authorities.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) “**Athletic coach**” means a person who:

1. Is authorized by an independent sanctioning authority to work as a **coach, assistant coach, manager, or referee**, whether for compensation or as a volunteer, for a youth athletic team based in this state; and
2. **Has direct contact with one or more minors on the youth athletic team.**



2023 Legislation - continued

(2) An independent sanctioning authority shall:

- (a) Conduct a level 2 background screening under s. 435.04 of each current and prospective athletic coach. The authority may not delegate this responsibility to an individual team and may not authorize any person to act as an athletic coach unless a level 2 background screening is conducted and does not result in disqualification under paragraph (b).

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2023/0435.04>

This statute is where offenses that would exclude someone will be listed.



2023 Legislation - continued

(b)1. **Before January 1, 2026**, or a later date as determined by the Agency for Health Care Administration for the participation of qualified entities in the Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse under s. 435.12, disqualify any person from acting as an athletic coach as provided in s. 435.04. The authority may allow a person disqualified under this subparagraph to act as an athletic coach if it determines that the person meets the requirements for an exemption from disqualification under s. 435.07.

2. **On or after January 1, 2026**, or a later date as determined by the Agency for Health Care Administration, not allow any person to act as an athletic coach if he or she does not pass the background screening qualifications in s. 435.04. The authority may allow a person disqualified under this subparagraph to act as an athletic coach if the person has successfully completed the exemption from the disqualification process under s. 435.07.



2023 Legislation - continued

(4) Independent sanctioning authorities for youth athletic teams **must participate in the Volunteer and Employee Criminal History System**, as authorized by the National Child Protection Act of 1993 and s. 943.0542.



2024 Legislation

[HB 975](#) passes and is awaiting Governor's signature which is expected.

(Look at page 19 of the bill text linked above)

Section 5. **Effective July 1, 2024**, paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 943.0438, Florida Statutes, as amended by section 5 of chapter 2023-220, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

[943.0438](#) Athletic coaches for **independent sanctioning authorities**.

(2) An independent sanctioning authority shall:

(a) **Effective January 1, 2025**, conduct a level 2 background screening under s. 435.04 of each current and prospective athletic coach. The authority **may not delegate this responsibility to an individual team** and may not authorize any person to act as an athletic coach unless a level 2 background screening is conducted and does not result in disqualification under paragraph (b).



2024 Legislation - continued

What is an “Independent Sanctioning Authority” – according to F.S. 943.0438 (1)(b)

(b) “Independent sanctioning authority” means a **private, nongovernmental entity** that **organizes, operates, or coordinates a youth athletic team** in this state if the team **includes one or more minors** and is **not affiliated with a private school** as defined in s. [1002.01](#).



Submitted by Peers

DATA....data....data. How/is your agency using data to position your department in operating/capital budget requests? – **Pattie Roberts**

What can we do as a profession, to encourage/promote a return to higher education institutions of degrees for parks and recreation? – **Pattie Roberts**

FL's population is exploding: How is your agency keeping up with staffing levels and facilities? – **Pattie Roberts**

Parks and Recreation Master plans and General Obligation bond being passed. How were they advertised? Things you would do differently? - **Elgin Hicks**

Is anyone working on signage to implement HB 1365 regarding unauthorized camping/sleeping on public spaces? – **Jennifer Cirillo**





HB 1365 – Chapter 2024-11

(b)1. “Public camping or sleeping” means:

- a. Lodging or residing overnight in a temporary outdoor habitation used as a dwelling or living space and evidenced by the erection of a tent or other temporary shelter, the presence of bedding or pillows, or the storage of personal belongings; or
- b. Lodging or residing overnight in an outdoor space without a tent or other temporary shelter.

2. The term does not include:

- a. Lodging or residing overnight in a motor vehicle that is registered, insured, and located in a place where it may lawfully be.
- b. Camping for recreational purposes on property designated for such purposes.



Because we are curious...

How many agencies are moving to paying bills/invoices with ACH payments? Is this something FRPA needs to research for the future payment of dues/event registrations?





THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!