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CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT LEAGUE MANUAL

GENERAL INFORMATION/MEMBERSHIP

All Catholic Parishes or Catholic Elementary Schools/Academies within the Archdiocese of Detroit have the privilege of being members of the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO). Members may remain in good standing, providing they abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the CYO.

SPORTSMANSHIP

An act of conducting oneself in a true Christian manner regardless of any and all extenuating circumstances. The Parish/School will be held responsible for the behavior of its coaches, students, participants, and spectators.

PURPOSE OF THE CYO ATHLETICS

1. To re-affirm and expand our commitment and involvement in the promotion of quality athletics for all of our member Parishes/Schools of the Archdiocese of Detroit.
2. To regulate competition among member Parishes/Schools of the Archdiocese of Detroit.
3. To provide opportunities for participation and competition based on the education and physical well being of all participants.
4. To insure a fair and equal opportunity for all member Parishes/Schools of the Archdiocese of Detroit and their participants to experience positive opportunities in athletics.
5. To promote safety, crowd control, sportsmanship and sports education.

CYO ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

The CYO Athletic Department shall be in control of all athletic contests and events. The CYO Athletic Department shall have full authority to enforce and interpret all rules and regulations. The final decision on all matters not covered in the CYO league manual shall be decided by the CYO Athletic Department.

SERVICES

Services provided to the members of the CYO:

1. Athletic programs are coordinated and implemented through the CYO Athletic Department. The CYO Athletic Department is under the supervision of the CYO Executive Director.
2. To assist Parishes/Schools of the Archdiocese of Detroit in planning and developing athletic programs by:
 - a. Building levels of competition.
 - b. Scheduling of league and assisting with non-league scheduling.
 - c. Contracting and assigning officials.
 - d. Assisting in obtaining athletic sites.
 - e. Promotion and management of play-offs and championship events.
 - f. In-service/education of coaches and athletic directors.

ROLE OF THE CYO ATHLETIC TASK FORCE

1. Maintain the promotion of Christian values, fair play, sportsmanship, and leadership consistent with the vision of the agency.
2. Seek the greatest good for the greatest number so as to ensure that competition is conducted in a sportsmanlike atmosphere.
3. Provide advice and support to staff in the achievement of objectives.

PASTOR/PRINCIPAL

The Pastor is the chief authority of their respective Parish/School and is directly responsible for the athletic program. The Pastor may designate the Principal as chief authority. It is the duty of the Pastor/Principal to derive from the athletic program a full measure of educational value in developing good sportsmanship.

PARISH/SCHOOL ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

The Parish/School Athletic Director is the official representative of the Parish/School activities. The Athletic Director represents the Parish/School coaching staff and athletes, implements and carries out the policy of administering the Parish/School athletic program. The Athletic Director has the responsibility to conduct the Parish/School's athletic programs in accordance with league regulations.

CYO LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS

These rules and regulations apply to all member Parishes/Schools of the Archdiocese of Detroit for both boys and girls athletic competition. Parishes/Schools that sponsor teams voluntarily accept as binding all rules and regulations.

1. **Manager/Coach** of teams is responsible to the CYO Athletic Department, Pastor, Principal, and Athletic Director.
2. **Final Management** is under the direction of the CYO.
3. **Noisemakers** are prohibited at all indoor CYO sporting events. Noisemakers include, but are not limited to: megaphones, thundersticks, cowbells, sirens, clackers, cans/bottles with marbles, rocks or coins inside, and various other creative devices.
4. **Alcohol** is prohibited at any CYO events.
5. **Tailgating** is prohibited at any CYO events.
6. **Video Taping** - Parishes/Schools not in an event or contest may **NOT** film or videotape other member Parishes/Schools contests/events.
7. **Score Reporting** – By Monday morning each Parish/School must send in the results of all CYO home games from the previous week regardless if you won or lost by mailing, faxing or emailing the CYO Weekly Home Game Score Report Sheet to:

CYO Athletics 313-963-9791
12 State Street OR OR athletics@cyodetroit.org
Detroit, MI 48226 313-963-7179

It is the Athletic Directors responsibility to ensure that all CYO home game scores are being reported to the CYO Office.

8. **Coaches of Teams:**
 - A. Head Coaches must be 18 years of age or older - a person 18 years of age or older must be present at all activities (i.e. games, practices).
 - B. Coaching staff members may be reprimanded, censored, placed on probation or suspended for violation of the rules and regulations or for poor sportsmanship, by the CYO Athletic Department.
 - C. Athletic Directors and Coaching staff members are required to attend scheduled meetings called by the CYO Athletic Department. Athletic Directors and/or Pastors/Principals will be notified of meeting attendance. Repeated absence could result in progressive penalties.
9. **Sportsmanship:**
 - A. The Parish/School and its athletic staff will be held responsible for the behavior of its coaches, athletes and spectators. Principles of good sportsmanship and Christian values must be foremost in athletics.
 - B. Teams should not run up a score in any sport at any level. In one-sided games, it is ethical that the team with the advantage use substitution, altered play and sportsmanlike conduct to avoid injury, embarrassment and harassment of members of competing teams.
 - C. All athletes and parents/guardians should be informed of the specific expectations with regard to sportsmanship, conduct, and behavior. Forms are available from the CYO office and are to be completed for every athlete and kept on file at the Parish/School.
10. **Officials:**

The CYO shall assign all officials for league home contests in all sports, unless there is no assignor for that sport, then home teams will have to obtain their own officials. The CYO will also assign all non-league officials, with advance request. Home teams will have the option of obtaining their own MHSAA (FIFA - Soccer) registered officials for Baseball, Cross Country, Softball, Soccer, and Track. Home team pays officials no more or no less than the set CYO fees. In the event a contracted basketball official does not show up for a game, the home team shall compensate the official who works the game alone with additional monies totaling ½ the fee.

The CYO does not view game video tapes to review officials' calls or interpretations of the rules.
11. **Schedules:**
 - A. Date, time, and site of league contests shall not be changed after the Final Schedule is printed without the approval of:
 1. CYO Athletic Department.
 2. Payment of previous contracted officials to the CYO office.
 3. Approval of competing teams.
 - B. All changes in schedules must be approved by the CYO Athletic Department.
 - C. Cancellations of contests can only be made when emergency conditions exist and the cancellation or change is approved by the CYO Athletic Department.

- D. Any Parish/School not completing the scheduled league contests and league commitments (Play-offs, Tournaments, Meets, Matches, League, Non-league, or Cross-overs), may not be eligible for League Play-offs, Meets, Matches, Division Championships, and awards; and may be suspended, in all sports, from league schedules for one (1) year, or assessed other penalties.
 - 1. Parishes/Schools in violation shall not be allowed to compete with member Parishes/Schools in good standing.
 - 2. This rule encompasses all boys and girls sports.
 - 3. The CYO Athletic Department may approve and grant cancellation when judged necessary.
- E. Check with your competing team one (1) week in advance to see if all necessary arrangements have been made for your contest: time, place, seating, admission, color of jerseys, parking, locker rooms, crowd control, security, etc.
- F. It is a violation of CYO regulations for a Parish/School to schedule a contest in an attempt to alter the "next contest or day of competition penalty" imposed for ejection. Questionable judgements to the published schedule shall be determined by the CYO Athletic Department.
- G. Sunday Morning Game Policy - The CYO upholds the importance of worship and the responsibility of athletes to participate in Sunday liturgy. In order to further Catholic life and practice among athletes, the CYO will schedule games on Sunday after 12:00 p.m. with no exceptions.

12. Ejections:

Any player, coach or spectator ejected from one (1) game will serve a minimum mandatory suspension of at least one (1) game. Any player, coach or spectator receiving a second (2nd) ejection will serve a minimum mandatory suspension of at least two (2) games. The suspension will be served during the next regularly scheduled CYO game (including play-offs). Ejected athletes may attend the suspended game(s) in street clothes. Ejected adults are not permitted to attend suspended game(s). Parish/School Athletic Directors are responsible for monitoring ejection(s) and enforcing game suspension(s). Any player, coach or spectator receiving a third (3rd) ejection will serve a mandatory suspension for the rest of the season.

13. Forfeits, Canceling a Sport or Team:

- A. Penalties for forfeits: A program once indicating participation in a sport, to the CYO office, failing to fulfill any scheduled contests may be fined. In the event any Parish/School forfeits more than three (3) contests in one (1) year, that team may not be eligible to compete in league championships at that seasons end or on a league championship basis for one (1) year, in that sport.
- B. Parishes/Schools canceling a sport, after the preliminary schedules have been printed, shall forfeit any entry fee.
- C. When a team is dropped after alignments have been printed, the Pastor/Principal must sign and send a letter to the CYO Athletic Department stating the reason the team is discontinued. The Parish/School must also notify all opponents.

14. Financial:

- A. Passes: No passes will be honored, except the passes issued by the CYO Athletic Department. These league passes are to be honored at any game, either league or non-league and are to be used by the Coach/Pastor/Principal only.

B. Admission Maximum Fees:

Students	\$2.00
Adults	\$3.00
Family	\$8.00

Children eight (8) and under are to be admitted FREE when accompanied by a parent. Members of the clergy are to be admitted without charge upon identification.

15. Limitations of Competition:

SPORT	SCRIMMAGES	DAILY LIMITATIONS	WEEKLY LIMITATIONS
Baseball	XXXXXXXXXXXX	2 games per day	XXXXXXXXXXXX
Basketball	XXXXXXXXXXXX	1 game per day	2 games per week
Bowling	XXXXXXXXXXXX	3 games per day	XXXXXXXXXXXX

Cheerleading	XXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXX
Cross Country	XXXXXXXXXXXXX	1 meet per day	2 meets per week
Football	1 pre-season 1 per week in-season	1 game per day	1 game per 5 days
Lacrosse	1 pre-season 1 per week in-season	1 game per day	2 games per week
Soccer	XXXXXXXXXXXXX	1 game per day	3 games per week
Softball	XXXXXXXXXXXXX	2 games per day	XXXXXXXXXXXXX
Track	XXXXXXXXXXXXX	1 meet per day	XXXXXXXXXXXXX
Volleyball	XXXXXXXXXXXXX	18 games per day	XXXXXXXXXXXXX

◆ THE CYO WEEK IS DEFINED AS MONDAY THROUGH SUNDAY

16. Tournament Participation:

All tournaments sponsored by CYO Parishes/Schools must have the approval of the CYO Athletic Department and be registered with the CYO office. These rules apply to all teams in CYO.

A. Baseball & Softball Tournaments:

1. No tournaments are permitted during the regular season.
2. One (1) pre-season and one (1) post-season tournament is allowed.
3. No CYO team may participate in any post-season tournament as long as they are still participating in the CYO play-offs. Dual participation in post-season tournaments is prohibited.

B. Basketball Tournaments:

1. One (1) pre-season, one (1) Christmas, and one (1) post-season tournament is allowed.
2. Tournaments are limited to eight (8) teams and participating teams are limited to three (3) games.
3. No games are permitted after the date of the CYO Basketball Championships.
4. No CYO team may participate in any post-season tournament as long as they are still participating in the CYO play-offs. Dual participation in post-season tournaments is prohibited.

C. Soccer Tournaments:

1. No tournaments are permitted during the regular season.
2. One (1) pre-season and one (1) post-season tournament is allowed.
3. Tournaments are limited to eight (8) teams and participating teams are limited to three (3) games.
4. No CYO team may participate in any post-season tournament as long as they are still participating in the CYO play-offs. Dual participation in post-season tournaments is prohibited.

D. Track & Cross Country Invitationals:

1. No invitationals are permitted during the regular season.
2. Teams may participate in one (1) pre-season invitational.
3. 5/6th grade participants may participate in one (1) post-season tournament as long as they do not participate in the CYO Championship meet.

- E. Volleyball Tournaments
1. No tournaments are permitted during the regular season.
 2. Two (2) pre-season and one (1) post-season tournament is allowed.
 3. No tournament should exceed eight (8) hours in length or extend beyond 8:00 p.m.
 4. Tournaments are limited to twelve (12) teams.
 5. The number of games in a day may not exceed eighteen (18).
 6. No CYO team may participate in any post-season tournament as long as they are still participating in the CYO play-offs. Dual participation in post-season tournaments is prohibited.

17. Play-offs and Championships:

- A. A CYO member team, participating in play-offs, may not schedule a contest at play-off or championship sites without the written approval of the CYO Athletic Department.
- B. Parishes/Schools may not schedule any non-league contest at any level on the dates of play-offs or championships in that sport.

18. Awards:

A team award will be given to each Parish/School winning their respective division title. Awards may be picked up at the CYO office after the season is completed in that sport.

19. Eligibility: (Participants Membership/Enrollment)

The following athletes are eligible for CYO League Membership:

A. In Parish/School Ruling:

1. Registered Catholic members of a sponsoring Parish.
2. A student of a sponsoring Catholic Parish Elementary School.
3. A student of a sponsoring Archdiocesan approved Catholic Elementary School or Academy.

B. Out of Parish/School Ruling:

In the event that a member/student is not eligible under A. 1, 2, or 3 above: A participant whose home Parish or School/Academy does not sponsor a sport is eligible to participate with an adjoining Parish or School/Academy under the following guidelines:

1. A statement verifying that the participant is registered in the adjoining Parish must be signed by the Pastor of the adjoining Parish (Form A) OR
2. A statement verifying that the participant attends the adjoining Catholic Parish Elementary School must be signed by the Principal of the adjoining School (Form A) OR
3. A statement verifying that the participant attends the adjoining Archdiocesan approved Catholic Elementary School or Academy must be signed by the Principal of the adjoining School (Form A).

FORM A: Must be submitted to the CYO office along with the team registration sheets.

NOTE: The CYO Athletic Department is empowered to determine Parish/School eligibility when no adjoining Parish/School sponsors such an athletic program.

4. Once a participant qualifies and plays, under guidelines B. 1, 2, or 3, then for the balance of that School year, that participant MUST play all other sports for that same Parish/School if he/she qualifies under the exception. In the event, that same Parish/School does not sponsor a team in that later sport the participant may re-acquire eligibility under the exception. (A participant can only qualify and play in one adjoining Parish/School when the home Parish/School does not offer a particular sport).

When in doubt as to the eligibility of an athlete, check with the CYO Athletic Department after consulting the league manual. Parishes/Schools may not agree to waive any rule and play athletes who are not eligible.

C. Registered Membership Limitations:

No CYO player may be a registered member of more than one (1) Parish at the same time. In the event that a player is registered in two (2) Parishes, the CYO Athletic Department will determine which registration is valid and where the athlete is eligible.

D. Dual Membership Ruling:

In the event that a participant is qualified to play with both a Parish and School, that participant may initially choose to play with either, but must participate with the initial choice for the balance of the School year, for all later teams as long as the initial choice sponsors a team.

E. Eligibility Requirements for CYO Purposes:

Catholic is defined as a person who is baptized Catholic.

F. Age Limitations:

1. Eighth Grade League: Players whose 15th birthday falls on or after September 1st of the current School year are eligible for the balance of the School year. Players cannot be enrolled in any grade higher than the eighth (8th) grade.
2. Sixth Grade League: Players whose 13th birthday falls on or after September 1st of the current School year are eligible for the balance of the School year. Players cannot be enrolled in any grade higher than the sixth (6th) grade.
3. Fourth Grade League: Players whose 11th birthday falls on or after September 1st of the current School year are eligible for the balance of the School year. Players cannot be enrolled in any grade higher than the fourth (4th) grade.

G. Sports Registration Sheets:

1. To be eligible, a player must be registered with the CYO.
2. Registration sheets as provided by the CYO, listing eligible players, must be submitted to the CYO office **prior to the start of the season**, signed by the Pastor/Principal, Athletic Director, and Coach. Caution should be exercised in completing registration forms with accuracy ensuring that only eligible players are listed.
3. **Once the season starts, Parishes/Schools will receive a forfeit loss for every game played until the registration sheets are in.** At the discretion of the CYO Athletic Department, clerical errors may be corrected.

H. Roster Changes and Play-offs:

1. Eligible players may be added anytime during the regular season but not during the play-offs. Additions shall be submitted to the CYO office, in writing, at least 24 hours prior to participation in a contest.
2. To be eligible for play-offs a player must be added prior to the last regular season game.
3. 5/6th grade players must participate in at least one (1) 7/8th grade game in order to participate in the play-offs. (They may not play on two (2) different level teams during a one (1) week period).
4. A player may be moved up from the 5/6th grade team to the 7/8th grade team or from a number #2 team to a number #1 team. If the 5/6th grade player moves back to the 5/6th grade team, that player must stay there for the remainder of the season, same ruling for the number #2 team players.
5. Players in the 4th grade league cannot move up to the 5/6th grade team or the 7/8th grade team, players must stay on the 4th grade team for the season.

I. Physical Examinations/Assumption of Risk Forms:

1. All athletes, participants, and tryout candidates should be informed, in very specific terms, of the possibilities of injury. "Assumption of Risk" and "Concussion Awareness" forms are available from the CYO office and are to be completed for every athlete and kept at the Parish/School.
2. All athletes participating in athletics must have a current physical examination record on file in the Parish/School office. (Current is defined as on or after April 15th of the current School year).

J. Scholastic Standards:

Players must maintain proper scholastic standards as established by each Parish/School.

K. Limited Team Membership:

1. A player may not be registered simultaneously with more than one (1) team of the same sport in the CYO League. After a player has been listed on a team, he/she may not be transferred to another team within the same Parish/School

- CYO program without permission from the CYO office.
2. A student who, after participating in an athletic contest as a member of a CYO athletic team, participates in any athletic competition in the same sport during the same season, is ineligible. This rule applies specifically to Junior High School, Middle School, Recreation Leagues, P.A.L. Teams, Michigan Youth Teams, AAU Teams/Leagues or any other organized league including organized neighborhood leagues.

L. Penalties for Use of Ineligible Player(s):

1. Use of ineligible player(s) will result in forfeiture of all games in which such player(s) participated; awards and trophies shall be returned.
2. Players found to have participated with another team shall be immediately ineligible for the CYO team for the balance of the current season including play-offs.

M. Registration and Transfers:

1. Parish Membership:
In order for an athlete to be eligible to participate, Parish membership must be established on or before the following dates in order for a participant to be eligible to play in the following sports seasons:
 - May 1st - Fall Season
 - July 1st - Winter Season
 - Dec.1st - Spring Season

Transfers: An athlete who transfers after the deadline from one Parish to another Parish is ineligible to participate in an athletic contest, UNLESS the athlete qualifies under one or more of the following exceptions:

Exceptions:

1. An athlete moves into a new Parish with the persons with whom he or she was living during his or her last year.
 2. An athlete who has not been living with a parent or parents and moves into a new Parish to reside with his or her parents, the single parent if divorced or legally separated, or only living parent who already resides in the Parish.
 3. An athlete is the ward of the court or state and is placed in a Parish by court order. Guardianship does not fulfill this requirement.
 4. An athlete transfers to another Parish because his or her Parish ceases to operate.
 5. An athlete of parents who are divorced or living under an order for separate maintenance moves from one Parish into a new Parish with or to one of those parents, and the pastor of each of the two Parishes involved approves of and then certifies the reason for the move as it relates to the divorced/separated parents. The transfer is permitted under this exception one time and must be approved by the CYO Athletic Department before the athlete competes in athletic competition.
- * Athletes qualifying under exception 1, 2, 3, or 4 above may elect to complete the season at the previous Parish attended. However, the next season must be played at the new Parish.

School Enrollment:

Students transferring into a Catholic Grade School shall become immediately eligible to participate in the athletic program of the new School. Students transferring in season (e.g. in the middle of the School year) may elect to complete that season at the previous School attended. However, the next season must be played at the new School.

20. All matters of rules and regulations not covered in the CYO League Manual shall be decided and administered by the CYO Athletic Department.

CYO RESTRICTIONS ON COACHES AND ATHLETIC TEAMS:

- ◆ Each CYO season is defined as beginning on the first allowable day of practice in that sport and ending on the athletes last day of competition in that sport.

1. **In Season** – is defined as beginning on the first allowable day of practice in that sport and ending on the athletes last day of competition in that sport.
 - a. A coach cannot coach a CYO team and coach another organized league team in the same sport during the same season.
2. **Out of Season** - is defined as a period of time during the School year outside of the CYO defined season for a sport. Sports activities out of season are permitted provided the following conditions:
 - a. No use of Parish/School transportation.
 - b. No use of Parish/School warm-ups and/or uniforms.
 - c. No payment of fees with Parish/School funds.
 - d. No mandatory practices.
 - e. No use of Parish/School name or nickname.
 - f. Outside of the CYO defined season for a sport, a coach may coach in that sport a maximum of four (4) athletes from the same Parish/School from the beginning of the School year through the last day of the School year. (This does not allow two coaches to coach 8 athletes, and so on).
3. **Summer** - is defined as from the last day of the School year for that student to the first allowable day of Fall practice.
 - a. No use of Parish/School transportation.
 - b. No use of Parish/School warm-ups and/or uniforms.
 - c. No payment of fees with Parish/School funds.
 - d. No mandatory practices.
 - e. No use of Parish/School name or nickname.
 - f. A coach may coach a sport for a maximum of fifteen (15) dates from the same Parish/School from the last day of the School year through August 1.
4. **Open Gyms** - are permitted but must adhere to the following principles:
 - a. Diversity of Parish/School students -- open to all students
 - b. Diversity of activity -- offer a variety of sports activities
 - c. Athlete conducted -- athletes choose from offered activities. Any coach of a sport who is present shall not coach, instruct, critique, direct, or evaluate.
 - d. Recreational emphasis -- not an organized program of instruction and/or competition.
5. **Conditioning Programs** - prior to the start of the season may occur 1 week before the first day of practice but must adhere to the following principles:
 - a. No sport specific drills or equipment (i.e. no basketballs, football dummies, volleyball net, soccer net).
 - b. No sport specific instruction.
 - c. No cuts are made until actual tryouts begin and candidates are given ample opportunity to demonstrate their ability.

VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

Violations of CYO rules, regulations, or sportsmanship standards may subject a member Parish/School, coach, player, individual, team, or program to penalties, included but not limited to, all of the following:

1. Censure
 2. Probation
 3. Probation without competition
 4. Forfeiture
 5. Suspension from CYO play-offs for Parish/School, coach, player, individual, team, or entire program.
 6. Expulsion
- ◆ Penalties may be imposed for any number of days, seasons, or years.

SUSPENSION

The CYO shall have the right to suspend members. Members shall not be permitted to compete, in any sport, with suspended members. Individual coaches, athletic directors, sports programs or Schools found in violation of rules and regulations may be censured, placed on probation or suspended.

Members may be suspended for:

1. Violation of the rules and regulations of the league.

2. Violations by Parishes, Schools, individual coaches, and or athletic directors.
3. Non-payment of fees.
4. Failure to carry out a complete league schedule.
5. Failure to fulfill sanctioned CYO commitments and responsibilities.

PROTESTS OF ELIGIBILITY RULES – APPEAL PROCEDURE POLICY

All protests must be signed by the Pastor/Principal and Athletic Director and filed in writing at the CYO office. It is recommended that protests involving eligibility, be filed prior to the date of the first play-off game.

- INVESTIGATION - The CYO Athletic Department shall investigate the alleged violation(s) of the rule(s) of the CYO Athletic League.
- RECOMMENDATION - The CYO Athletic Department shall then render a decision in writing within seven (7) days of acknowledgement of the rule(s) infraction(s) and will be mailed to all interested parties.
- APPEALS TO THE CYO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - Appeals to the above decision may be made, postmarked within seven (7) days upon receipt of the decision received by the CYO Athletic Department. Upon such notice, the CYO Executive Director shall investigate the alleged violation(s) of the rule(s) of the CYO Athletic League and look at the recommendation made by the CYO Athletic Department.
- APPEAL DECISION - The CYO Executive Director may adopt the decision of the CYO Athletic Department, may modify it or may reject it in whole or part. The decision of the CYO Executive Director will be forwarded to all interested parties. Decisions are final.

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