

# **Catholic Youth Organization Mission Statement**

**The Catholic Youth Organization, a ministry of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, exists to deepen relationships with Jesus Christ and one another, to celebrate the God-given gifts of each individual, and to enhance the faith formation and personal development of youth by providing athletic, camping and enrichment opportunities.**

## **CYO Athletic Program Student Athlete Code of Conduct**

The purpose of the CYO Student Athlete Code of Conduct is to ensure that student athletes understand the high expectations that have been set for them in how they conduct themselves during CYO sponsored events. This Code applies to all CYO sports and related activities and includes, but is not limited to, assessments, practices, games, and other related events/activities where a student athlete is representing the Catholic Youth Organization.

### **Student Athlete Code of Conduct**

**As a CYO student athlete, I understand and agree to abide by the following expectations:**

1. I pledge to be positive about my CYO sports experience and accept responsibility for my participation by following this Code of Conduct.
2. I understand that it is a privilege to represent CYO and my parish and proper behavior is required in practice, athletic contests, and other related activities.
3. I will encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, officials, and parents at every game and practice by demonstrating good sportsmanship myself.
4. I will maintain control of my emotions and will make no derogatory comments or gestures and will not use foul language.
5. I will treat my coaches, other players, officials, and fans with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or abilities.
6. I will not intentionally cause physical, mental, or emotional harm to another player at any time.
7. I will not threaten any coach, player, official, or spectator.
8. I will respect the game officials and accept their decisions. I understand it is not acceptable, or my place as a player to criticize or dispute their decisions.
9. I will be respectful of other schools' staff members and facilities.
10. I understand that participating in sports is a privilege and an opportunity to learn and have fun.
11. I will stand and face the flag with a respectful demeanor during the playing of the National Anthem. Failure to do so will result in a one game suspension.

### **Code of Conduct Violations**

The CYO will be responsible for reviewing, at its earliest convenience, all potential violations that come to its attention as well as handling any disciplinary action deemed necessary based on facts and circumstances. Disciplinary actions taken by CYO may include, but are not limited to, verbal warning, written warning, immediate ejection, single-game suspension, multiple-game suspension, and/or permanent ban. As needed, the Pastor and Athletic Director will be consulted as well as included in any formal communications that occur between a student athlete and the CYO Office.

### **In-Game Procedure**

Code of Conduct violations can vary and therefore will be handled on a case-by-case basis. However, the following factors will be important considerations in how violations will be handled:

- 1. It is the coach's responsibility to ensure players and fans conduct themselves appropriately and assist game officials in maintaining control. All players, parents, and attendees are required to follow a coach's, Gym/Field Manager, or AD's request to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times, especially after a warning has been issued by an official.***
2. Common sense will be used when considering what is inappropriate behavior and in determining any disciplinary action deemed necessary.
3. Disciplinary action for unsportsmanlike behavior could range from a verbal warning to suspension from one or more future CYO activities.
4. Any player who is deemed to have threatened and/or physically or verbally abused a coach, player, official, and/or spectator will be suspended immediately for a period of at least one game.
5. If a player is in violation of the Code of Conduct during a game, a game official will issue a warning to the player. This is an official's initial effort to let the player know that he/she is not displaying appropriate behavior.
6. At the discretion of the official, a player may receive an unsportsmanlike penalty prior to a warning if their behavior is deemed highly inappropriate.
7. If the player continues inappropriate behavior following the warning, the official will administer the appropriate unsportsmanlike penalty for that sport.
8. A second unsportsmanlike penalty administered by an official on a player will result in that player being ejected from the game.
9. Any player who engages in a fight before, during, or after a CYO game will be suspended for the remainder of that game, and will be suspended for the next game as well.
10. The Parish Athletic Director will be contacted and disciplinary action will be taken.

**In accordance with our Mission Statement, it is the primary goal of CYO to help every young person we serve get to Heaven! Accordingly, student athletes are expected to behave in an appropriate manner as we all strive to conduct ourselves in a way that is pleasing to Christ.**

***Every student athlete will be required to sign this Code of Conduct agreement before they will be permitted to participate in a CYO game. The parish AD will keep a signed hard copy of this contract on file.***

**ATHLETE'S SIGNATURE: As a CYO athlete, I have read through this contract and agree to abide by all expectations as stated herein. I will make every effort to abide by the CYO Mission Statement.**

**ATHLETE'S SIGNATURE - \_\_\_\_\_ DATE - \_\_\_\_\_**