

2021 – 2022 CYO POINTS OF EMPHASIS

WE PRAY (*Spirituality*)

We Emphasize That God Is with Us

- **PRAYER:** Prayer is encouraged and CYO activities will begin with prayer. In team sports, the home team will lead a prayer prior to each game with both teams assembled at center court. At track and cross country meets, all participants and coaches assemble for prayer prior to each meet. Parish/school CYO programs encourage prayer at team practices and consider hosting an annual parish CYO Mass.
- **PARISH AND SCHOOL MINISTRY:** CYO is part of an overall program of youth ministry in the parish. CYO teams should be involved in parish life and in parish activities. Catholic children should be encouraged to be active in other parish ministries and in religious education programs.



WE PLAY (*Sportsmanship*)

We Emphasize Good Sportsmanship

- **IN OUR TEAMS:** Coaches emphasize good sportsmanship by modeling sportsmanlike behavior, setting sportsmanship goals and demanding proper conduct.
- **BY OUR SPECTATORS:** Spectators at CYO events must practice good sportsmanship by cheering positively and by never shouting derogatory remarks to coaches, opposing players, other spectators, or game officials. Coaches must communicate, instruct and emphasize good spectator behavior, explaining proper spectator behavior as in the *CYO Code of Conduct*. Coaches will be responsible for the behavior of their spectators and act immediately to stop any poor or unruly behavior.
- **TO OUR REFEREES:** Coaches, players, and spectators should never show disrespect to officials. Coaches, players or spectators may never approach game officials after a contest for explanations of calls or to comment on the game.

We Display Good Sportsmanship

- **PLAYING EVERYONE – A LOT:** Each child is *guaranteed* minimum playing time and coaches should be certain that all players receive playing time *beyond the minimum*.
- **NOT RUNNING UP SCORES:** Contests are more fun when the score is close. There is no place in CYO to humiliate an opponent. Coaches are responsible to use game tactics to not run up the score.

• **FOLLOWING RULES:** CYO eligibility rules are designed so that CYO teams are parish-based or Catholic school-based, not "club" or city teams. Games are played by the rules and in the spirit of the rules, ensuring friendly, fair and fun competition.

• **KEEPING CYO FUN!:** Emphasis is on fun for the players, not as a spectator sport. Coaches must always be positive, praising and instructing, not shouting negatively or demeaning players. Good coaches build self-esteem by emphasizing the skills and social aspects of sports, not by concentrating on winning. Parents must not place undue pressure on their children to succeed. Keep the game in perspective.



WE SERVE *(Service to Others)*

We Are Called to Christian Service

• **WITH OUR TEAMS:** CYO teams are Christian communities. Teammates and other teams are treated with respect and dignity. Taunting, baiting and rough play are not tolerated.

• **TO OTHERS:** As part of our call to serve, each team is asked to plan and participate in an annual service project for the parish, school or local community, giving to others.

