



# Archdiocese of Newark

OFFICE OF THE VICAR GENERAL & MODERATOR OF THE CURIA

August 30, 2018

Entering the  
Third Millennium,  
proclaiming in faith and love  
the mission of  
Christ the Redeemer!

Dear Pastors and Principals,

In an effort to reduce legal and risk management possibilities, and to create consistency throughout and within the Archdiocese, Cardinal Tobin has expressed a desire to have a single set of guidelines and procedures for our Archdiocesan grammar schools and parishes in regards to youth athletics being offered by our institutions.

Over the last year and half there have been many meetings with members of the Archdiocesan staff, principals, fellow priests and ourselves to offer the best solution and most viable option to ensure that we can meet the Cardinal's request and still maintain the vehicle of sports for our youth.

During this process, a survey was conducted out of our Archdiocesan School's Office. The survey revealed that our parishes and schools have been participating in over 20 various leagues which were not sanctioned or governed by the Archdiocese of Newark. Many of these leagues were started and carried out by well-intentioned people looking to create avenues for youth to be active, build community, or to meet a specific need in that area of our Archdiocese.

In response to this broad consultation and the survey that was a part of it, the recommendation to meet Cardinal Tobin's charge is to create ONE vehicle for athletics in the Archdiocese of Newark. The Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry (OYYAM) would be the ones to organize and oversee this process, given their vast experience in running sports leagues in the Archdiocese. Such an arrangement would ensure consistency across the board and create one body and one set of guidelines and rules for all to follow. Cardinal Tobin has accepted this recommendation and asked that it be implemented as follows:  
It will be done in a step process with several phases – with some sports and leagues being moved under the Archdiocesan umbrella immediately, and others within the coming year.

## Phase One

- The Tri County Girls Volleyball League in Bergen County will come under the supervision of the OYYAM as of September 1.
- ALL BASKETBALL LEAGUES in all four counties of the Archdiocese will come under the OYYAM supervision with the plans for the creation of a Hudson County league to be started.
- All leagues moved under the OYYAM umbrella, or created in this phase will begin to fill out and use OYYAM forms and paperwork, pay OYYAM league fees and follow the overall guidelines of the OYYAM in regards to Athletics including no co-ed teams in any sports and follow the all play rule of all players must play a minimum of time in all games.

## Phase Two

- As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 ALL Parishes and Schools will only be allowed to participate in Archdiocese of Newark leagues run by the OYYAM for all sports seasons of Fall, Winter and Spring in any and all sports.
- This means that as of July 1, 2019 all parishes and schools that choose to offer ANY type of athletics must be run through the Archdiocese of Newark OYYAM, following the guidelines, rules and policies of the OYYAM. At this point all parishes and schools will play in OYYAM leagues, using OYYAM paperwork and OYYAM guidelines.

## ARCHDIOCESAN CENTER

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**Phase Three**

- In addition to Volleyball, Basketball the OYYAM will start to offer additional offerings such as Soccer, Track and Field, Baseball, Softball and additional sports to be named.

**Phase Four**

The creation of training workshops for coaches and Athletic Directors, leadership training days and more events to highlight Athletics in parishes, schools and the Archdiocese.

For all of this to take place, the Cardinal has approved the hiring of staff to oversee and carry out this process, helping to bring athletics to a new level here in the Archdiocese. This would include:

- The hiring of a full-time Associate Director of Athletics reporting to the Director of OYYAM.
- The hiring of two Seasonal Coordinators of Athletics, each assigned two counties to work with in regards to all Athletics.
- The creation of in each county a County Athletics Committee. This body would consist of pastors, principals, PCL's, AD's and volunteers of at least five (5) people.

These County Committees would look to ensure all of our policies, guidelines, procedures and such are being consistently followed. They would participate in an annual meeting of the Schools Office Athletic Committee and the OYYAM Athletic Staff

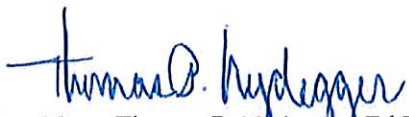
During the upcoming weeks and months, the OYYAM will be reaching out to some of the leagues to start the needed steps of moving all under the Archdiocesan umbrella. As with anything, this will be growing process, but the staff of the OYYAM will work to make this as easy as possible.

We are sure you might have some questions in regards to all of this. Tom Conboy, our Director of the OYYAM, is planning to meet with principals at the Principals Gathering to be held at the Archdiocesan Center on Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. He will also be meeting with all priests at the upcoming Clergy Appreciation Events to be held at the St. John Paul II Youth Retreat Center on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Tom and his staff will make a short presentation on this process and then be available for questions.


However, in the interim, if you have any immediate or pressing questions Tom can be reached either via email at [Tom.Conboy@rcan.org](mailto:Tom.Conboy@rcan.org) or at his office at 201-998-0088 ext. 4146.

As we begin this process, we are excited for this new venture in our Archdiocese and the possibilities that can come from it. Tom and his staff are truly looking to make athletics more than just a score on a scoreboard, but a means for not only community and leadership, but for evangelization as well!

Peace in our Lord,

  
Rev. Msgr. Thomas P. Nydegger, Ed.D  
Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia

  
Dr. Margaret Dames  
Superintendent of Schools  
Secretary for Education

  
Tom Conboy  
Director, OYYAM