

**APPENDIX**

**ARCHDIOCESAN**

**ATHLETIC GUIDELINES**

**Revised November 2014**

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## **Archdiocese of Newark**

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

ACCEPTABLE STANDARDS OF SPECTATOR BEHAVIOR

## **REMAIN SEATED**

IN THE DESIGNATED SPECTATOR AREA DURING GAMES

- RESPECT DECISIONS MADE BY OFFICIALS
- BE A ROLE MODEL
  - POSITIVELY CHEER FOR ALL PLAYERS
  - DO NOT CRITICIZE OFFICIALS
  - DO NOT CRITICIZE COACHES
  - DO NOT CRITICIZE PLAYERS
  - DO NOT COACH OR REFEREE
  - DO NOT MAKE DEROGATORY REMARKS/GESTURES

PLAYERS PLAY  
COACHES COACH  
REFEREES OFFICIATE

SPECTATORS WATCH  
SPECTATORS WATCH  
SPECTATORS WATCH

*The Archdiocese of Newark, through the vehicle of sports, provides youth with an opportunity to practice Christian attitudes and responsibilities and to become friends with other children throughout the diocese. Archdiocesan activities should be examples of the meaning of Christian sportsmanship. The guiding principle behind the enforcement of this code is that the behavior of everyone involved in Christian sports activities should not detract from the children's enjoyment of the sport.*

# ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SPECTATORS

*The Archdiocese of Newark, through the vehicle of sports, provides youth with an opportunity to practice Christian attitudes and responsibilities and to become friends with other children throughout the diocese. Archdiocesan activities should be examples of the meaning of Christian sportsmanship. The guiding principle behind the enforcement of this code is that the behavior of everyone involved in Christian sports activities should not detract from the children's enjoyment of the sport.*

## **Acceptable standards of spectator behavior include:**

- Remember that the players are children and are playing for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Remain seated in the spectator area during the games;
- Respect decisions made by contest officials;
- Be a role model by positively supporting teams and by not shouting instructions or criticism to the players, coaches or officials. Do not coach from the stands;
- Make no derogatory comments or gestures to players, coaches, parents of the opposing team, officials or league administrators.

## **Penalties:**

- Participating teams and their coaches are responsible for the conduct of their spectators.
- Any spectator who displays poor sportsmanship may be warned or removed from the facility by an official, their team coach, a league official or the host gym person-in-charge.
- Any spectator who interferes with the conduct of a Archdiocesan activity may, at the discretion of the spectator's parish, league, or the Archdiocese of Newark, be barred from attendance at subsequent Archdiocesan activities.

*I (We) have read the Code of Conduct. I (We) agree to follow these guidelines in my (our) participation in all Archdiocesan activities.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. **PRAYER** – Prayer is encouraged with young people in Archdiocesan leagues . Before a game or a practice a coach, player or priest could lead a simple prayer for all those involved.
2. **GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP** – Taunting, baiting and rough play will not be tolerated. If Archdiocesan sport is to reflect Christian values, coaches must emphasize good sportsmanship. Coaches will set sportsmanship goals with their teams and discuss proper conduct. Coaches and players should never show disrespect to game officials. Coaches with concerns about officiating should contact their athletic director and should never approach officials following a game.
3. **SPECTATOR BEHAVIOR** – All spectators at Archdiocesan events must practice good sportsmanship. Spectators must cheer positively and never shout derogatory remarks to coaches, opposing players or game officials. Coaches must emphasize good spectator behavior at their preseason parent meeting by explaining proper spectator behavior in the Archdiocesan Code of Conduct. Coaches, players or spectators may never approach game officials after a contest for explanations of calls or to comment on the game. Coaches are responsible for the behavior of their spectators and should act immediately to stop any unruly behavior.
4. **ALL PLAY** – The ‘all play rule’ guarantees each child **minimum** playing time. In addition, in each game, each child shall play the minimum time equal to the time of one quarter. Athletic Directors/Principals shall monitor their program's coaches for compliance. Repeated violation shall be a breach of sportsmanship. Coaches, under the supervision of their athletic directors, should be certain that **all** players receive playing time **beyond** the minimum.
5. **NO RUNNING UP SCORES** – Children have more fun when a contest is close. There is no place in Archdiocesan sports to humiliate an opponent. When ahead with a large lead in basketball, coaches are expected to not trap at half court, to play all non-starters extensively, to play a tight zone and to not fast break slowing the tempo of the game. Coaches who run up the score may be suspended.
6. **ELIGIBILITY** – Children should not practice or participate on a team until their eligibility is verified by the parish athletic director. Use of an ineligible player, *knowingly or unknowingly*, shall result in forfeiture of the games.
7. **KEEP ARCHDIOCESAN SPORTS FUN!** – Archdiocesan sports is for players and is not a spectator sport. Coaches must always be positive, praising and instructing, not shouting negatively or demeaning players. Good coaches build self esteem, emphasizing the skills and social aspects of sport, rather than winning. Parents must be supportive and not place undue pressure on their children to succeed. All who participate in Archdiocesan sports must keep the outcome of the game in perspective.

# ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT

*The Archdiocese of Newark, through the vehicle of sports, provides youth with an opportunity to practice Christian attitudes and responsibilities and to become friends with other children throughout the diocese. Archdiocesan activities should be examples of the meaning of Christian sportsmanship. The guiding principle behind the enforcement of this code is that the behavior of everyone involved in Christian sports activities should not detract from the children's enjoyment of the sport.*

## 1. COACHES

### **Acceptable standards of coaching behavior include:**

- Set a good example for participants and fans to follow, exemplifying the highest moral and ethical behavior;
- Respect the judgment of officials, abide by rules of the event;
- Treat opposing coaches, participants and fans with respect;
- Instruct participants in sportsmanship and demand they display good sportsmanship;
- Coach in a positive manner, reflecting Christian values;
- In basketball and volleyball, remain seated on the bench at all times.

### **Penalties:**

- Any coach ejected from a game because of unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for the next two games and may be subject to additional penalties.
- Any coach who physically and/or verbally abuses another person may be suspended for the remainder of the season and may be disqualified from Archdiocesan sports participation
- Any coach who physically and/or verbally abuses an official will be suspended for the remainder of the season and may be disqualified from Archdiocesan sports participation.

## 2. PLAYERS

### **Acceptable standards of participant behavior include:**

- Treat opponents with respect; shake hands prior to and after contests;
- Respect the judgment of officials and abide by the rules of the contest;
- Accept seriously the responsibility of representing the school or parish by displaying positive behavior at all times;
- Play in a positive manner, reflecting Christian values. Do not bait or taunt opponents.

### **Penalties:**

- Any player ejected from a game because of unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended from the next game and may be subject to additional penalties.
- Any player who physically and/or verbally abuses another player, participant or official may be suspended from play for the remainder of the season and may be disqualified from Archdiocesan sports competition.

### 3. SPECTATORS

**Acceptable standards of spectator behavior include:**

- Remember that the players are children and are playing for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Remain seated in the spectator area during the games;
- Respect decisions made by contest officials;
- Be a role model by positively supporting teams and by not shouting instructions or criticism to the players, coaches or officials. Do not coach from the stands;
- Make no derogatory comments or gestures to players, coaches, parents of the opposing team, officials or league administrators.

**Penalties:**

- Participating teams and their coaches are responsible for the conduct of their spectators.
- Any spectator who displays poor sportsmanship may be warned or removed from the facility by an official, their team coach, a league official or the host gym person-in-charge (site manager or Athletic Director).
- Any spectator who interferes with the conduct of a sporting event or activity may, at the discretion of the spectator's parish, league, or the Archdiocese of Newark, be barred from attendance at subsequent Archdiocesan sports activities.

### 4. ENFORCEMENT

The parishes and leagues, under the supervision of the Archdiocesan Commission, shall enforce this code. Complaints regarding violations of this code shall be first brought to the attention of the athletic directors of the parishes / schools involved. Coaches, participants or spectators may be placed on probation or suspended from Archdiocesan sports activities for their actions.

I (We) have read the Archdiocesan Code of Conduct. I (We) agree to follow these guidelines in my (our) participation in all Archdiocesan activities.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Player

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent (s)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Coach

## **Parent-Coach Meetings in Archdiocesan Elementary School Sports**

### **Objectives of the Parent-Coach Meeting**

- To familiarize parents with the purpose, goals and objectives of the Catholic-sponsored sports program.
- To enable parents to support their child in a manner positive for the child without undue pressure.
- To introduce parents to positive coaching philosophy, team rules, game and practice procedures, and allocation of playing time.
- To emphasize the need to be good spectators.
- To organize assistance from parents in supporting the team in various tasks.
- To provide an avenue for feedback and communication.
- To discuss safety concerns, inherent risks of the sport and medical considerations.

### **Outline of the Parent-Coach Meeting**

#### 1. Opening Prayer

- Welcome and Introductions (5 minutes)
- Introduce coaches to the parents and the parents to one another.

#### 2. Philosophy of the Catholic Youth Sports Program (10 minutes)

Ideas to mention:

- The Catholic-sponsored youth sports team is a ministry of the Church to provide a Christian atmosphere of play enabling young people to practice Christian values.
- Players will be treated by coaches and parents in a positive, encouraging manner to build self esteem.
- Players will be encouraged to make friends with their own teammates and with players from other parishes, to play without belittling others.
- Players and all involved should grow closer to God, the church and to each other.

#### 3. Philosophy of the Coaches (10 minutes)

Ideas to mention:

- Coaching will be positive and non critical.
- Attention will be given to all athletes regardless of talent. Each player will be treated with respect.
- Explain how playing time will be allocated among players.
- Discuss team goals for the season.

#### 4. Team Rules and Code of Conduct (15 minutes)

- Discuss team rules with expected behavior and penalties.
- Explain “Code of Conduct” for spectators (sample is attached or use league / diocesan code of conduct) and explain expected behavior for coaches, players and spectators. Discuss officials and the need to respect them at all times! Emphasize that Spectators are never to approach game officials.



5. “Nuts and Bolts” Issues (10 minutes)

Items to mention:

- Safety Issues—permission forms, first aid and safety procedures, inherent risks of the sport discussed.
- Practice schedule—schedule, procedure for changes, expected conduct, arrival and departure process.
- Uniforms—issued, returned and expected care.
- Game schedules—when to arrive, transportation, game change notification procedure.
- Transportation policy.
- Discuss ways that parents can support the team—parent volunteer responsibilities.

6. Sport Strategy and Rules (10 minutes)

Explain the strategy of the sport and those rules that parents need to be aware of to positively support their children and practice good sportsmanship themselves. Cover any rule changes from the previous year.

7. Addressing Problems (10 minutes)

Discuss what the procedure is if problem situations arise. Discuss how decisions are made on the team.

8. Additional Items/Issues from Parents

9. Closing Prayer

**ATHLETIC EVENT – Injury, Issue, Grievance, or Complaint Form**

**Name of School Teams Involved:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of League (if applicable):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Sporting Event:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Site of Sporting Event:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name and position of person completing this form:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Information: Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the event (be specific with names of coaches and student athletes included)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Did a student athlete require first aid or medical treatment:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Yes** \_\_\_\_\_ **No**

**If yes, attach a copy of diagnosis and/or treatment received.**

**If the league aware of this event:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Yes** \_\_\_\_\_ **No**

**If no, explain:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Who have you contacted in the league?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Was there ruling by the league on this event?  
Describe:**

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**What were the names of the game officials?**

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**Attach copy of officials' written report**

**\*NOTE: this report should be filed with the Archdiocesan Superintendent of Schools no more that 2 weeks after the event in question.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of person completing this form**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**Official Written Report:**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
**Official Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Official Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**