

Administrative Information For High School CYO

I. Purpose Of Our Program

The objectives of our program are to unite the youth of our parishes and to help promote their spiritual, physical and social welfare by bringing Catholic truths, principles and ideas into their everyday life. The programs are intended to be character builders, reflecting the ideals of good sportsmanship and Christianity. Once an individual accepts the position as coach in the Diocesan Recreation Association program, he or she accepts the responsibility to implement the philosophy of the Association.

II. Prayer

After warm-ups, both teams will join on the court or on the field for a prayer. A prayer will be selected by the home team from the official prayer list, and the "Our Father". All players, coaches, parents, and spectators are encouraged to participate.

III. League Fees

The league fees will be \$50.00 per team plus \$12.00 per player per sport. Once eligibility rosters are turned in and accepted by the association, there can be no refunds. Fees that are not paid by the deadline will mean forfeiture of games until the fees are paid. The association will **NOT** accept personal checks from parents or guardians of the players participating in our programs. The **ONLY** forms of payment that are acceptable to the association are: **PARISH CHECKS, PARISH ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION CHECKS, SCHOOL CHECKS, MONEY ORDERS, and CASH.**

A forfeit fee of \$200 will be collected from each parish. If a team must forfeit a game or match, the officials will be paid from these fees. Once the fees are depleted, the parish will be asked to replenish their forfeit funds. Unused funds will carry over from sport to sport and year to year.

IV. Eligibility

All players must be members of the parish and/or attend one of the Catholic High Schools in order to play on the parish team.

v. Player Eligibility Rosters

A. All participants in the Diocesan Recreation Association program must be registered members of a parish church to participate in the sports program. Students registered and attending one of the catholic high schools are also eligible to participate.

B. All players must be members of the parish in order to play on the parish team. Parish mergers **MUST** be approved by the Diocesan Recreation Association **BEFORE** the mergers are made.

1. All individuals must participate with their own parish in any sport in

- which their own parish enters a team.
2. High school girls may merge to form 1 team from their high school, with prior DRA approval. One parish must take responsibility for the team.
 3. Anytime a player from one parish plays for a different parish, this situation shall constitute a merger and therefore, prior DRA approval must be secured.
 4. If at all possible, parishes should merge with neighboring parishes or with fellow high school feeder schools
 5. All mergers must be arranged through the parish athletic director. Parents are not to go out on their own and arrange for a merger.
 6. Parish mergers must be approved by the DRA before the mergers are made.
 7. Pastors need to sign off on all mergers. This is done on the parent consent forms.
 8. All mergers must be fair and equitable and make sense.
- C. All players must have a signed Parent Consent form on file in the DRA office prior to participating in practices or an athletic contest.
- D. A fully completed roster must be turned into the Association office before a team is eligible to play
- E. Eligibility rosters **MUST** be signed by the proper authority.
1. For teams having only students of the parish on the team, the form must be signed by **the PASTOR**.
 2. For teams having students from multiple schools, **each PASTOR must sign the form**.
- F. Players may be added to a team roster until midpoint of the season
1. The association office must be notified of any roster additions **BEFORE** the athlete is eligible to participate.
 2. All added players must complete a parent consent card, and get the **PASTOR'S** signature, and deliver all necessary **forms and fees** to the association office **BEFORE** the athlete is eligible to participate.
 3. These rules also apply to Intra-Diocesan transfers.
 4. A non-Catholic student who withdraws from a Catholic school and enrolls in Non-Diocesan school (or home school) becomes immediately ineligible upon withdrawal.

VI. Games

All games, regardless of sport, are expected to begin on time. However, if a team is not able to field the league minimum number of players at the start time, but knows that it will

be able to do so shortly thereafter, it is to inform the gym supervisor, officials, and opponents of this fact immediately.

In this situation, the Christian obligation and DRA expectation for each party is as follows:

Opponent—Other team has players arrive a few minutes late...Play a legal game based on the gym supervisor's decision (see below). Other team has remaining players arrive considerably late, or not at all...accept a forfeit and play a practice game.

Officials—Officials are required to officiate any game that is to be considered a legal game. Officials may stay to officiate scrimmage games at their own discretion.

League Commissioners—Commissioners reserve the right to reschedule the game at a later date on a case by case basis.

VII. Protests

The only protests that will be accepted must involve the eligibility of players. Our state certified officials are in complete charge of all games. The **OFFICIALS DECISION IS FINAL**. All discrepancies involving rules' interpretations must be settled during the game. If necessary, a coach will need to take a "time out" to clarify any rule. Use of an ineligible player will result in forfeiture and possible additional penalties.

VIII. Information Sheets and Conflict Forms

Hours of schedule preparation, the rescheduling of officials can cause a general hardship to many people as a result of incomplete information forms. Therefore, the association is enforcing the rule of **CHARGING THOSE PARISHES** that make changes to their information sheets after the sheets have been submitted to the Diocese or dropping a team after the league has started, **INCLUDING** tournaments.

1. A flat fee of \$100.00 will be charged to the parish.
2. Any team that forfeits a game must pay the officials for **BOTH** teams.
3. These fees must be paid to the DRA office **BEFORE** the parish will be permitted to participate in the next contest.

IX. Coaches And Spectator Conduct And Responsibilities

Coaches must be in complete control of their players, assistant coaches and spectators at all times and are expected to conduct themselves as Christian ladies and gentlemen. Use of profanity will NOT be tolerated. The penalty for use of profanity by any coach or spectator will be ejection from the game with the possibility of suspension from the Diocesan League. Any coach or spectator guilty of un-sportsmanlike conduct will be penalized under the direction of the Diocesan Athletic Director. This includes damage to property, misconduct before a game, misconduct during a game or misconduct after a game. A suspension or permanent expulsion from the league may result after a review of the incident.

x. Coaches Conduct Towards Player

In accordance with Diocesan Policy, the head coach must be at least 21 years of age. All coaches must have Protecting God's Children training and a BCI report on file with the parish office.

In accordance with Diocesan Policy, parishes must follow a strategy of "two- deep" ministry with adolescents, where at least two adults are present at all athletic activities and situations wherever possible.

Where a one-to-one activity is required, such activities should take place in an open environment. Special attention should be given to provide a safe and confidential forum while following standards of prudence.

Physical, sexual, or romantic relationships between a coach and an adolescent are unethical and are prohibited.

The coaching staff shall not make derogatory or humiliating remarks toward their own players or opponents. Constructive criticism can be made without embarrassing players. When addressing players who have made mistakes, coaches should maintain their composure and use it as a positive learning experience. Coaches who do not follow this policy are subject to the suspension rule.

xI. Player Conduct

Any player guilty of un - sportsmanlike conduct will be penalized under the direction of the league commissioner. This includes any damage to property, misconduct before a game, misconduct during a game or misconduct after a game. Any player participating in any form of fighting including pushing, shoving, kicking, etc. will be ejected immediately.

Players will also automatically be suspended for one additional game. A letter from the player's pastor must be received by the commissioner before the player may participate in another game. A greater penalty may be assessed following a review of the incident.

xII. Conduct Towards Officials

No player, coach, spectator or cheerleader may make a derogatory comment directed at an official. This rule applies to ALL levels of play. A key objective of our program is an emphasis on good sportsmanship. Comments to officials should be limited to **COACHES** asking for a call clarification to facilitate the coaching of a player. Violations of this rule shall result in a warning against the offender. In sports where penalties may be assessed (technical fouls in basketball, yellow cards in soccer, or penalties in football) these penalties will be assessed and considered to be the warning. A second violation shall result in ejection (suspension rule applies). An individual guilty of a flagrant violation may be ejected without warning.

xIII. OFFICIALS CONDUCT TOWARDS PLAYERS, PARENTS AND SPECTATORS

Officials shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession in all interactions with student-athletes, coaches, colleagues, and the public. (from the NFHS Officials Code of Ethics)

Officials must be shown respect at all times. Officials can set the standard for respect through the pre-game meeting, preventative officiating and communications with coaches. By getting emotionally involved with a player an official easily loses respect.

The importance of meeting with the coaches before and during the game cannot be stressed enough. At appropriate times, officials should take the lead by confronting a coach who is upset about a certain call.

When officials are personally attacked, they should contact the gym supervisor, talk to the coach, and the league administrator and the commissioner of officials. Officials should use their best judgment about how to react, but **they must never return anger with anger**. We ask the parents, coaches and players to treat the officials with courtesy and respect. We expect nothing less from the officials.

xiv. Code of Conduct

All coaches, parents and players must sign a code of conduct, which is to be kept on file at the parish level.

xv. Suspension Rule

Any player or coach ejected from a game/facility will automatically be suspended for at least the next game. Spectators will be suspended for at least the next two games. The suspension shall apply to players, coaches, and spectators guilty of misconduct **AFTER** a game has concluded that would have resulted in an ejection had the incident occurred during play. The suspended individual is **NOT** permitted to attend/view a game from which he or she is suspended. In addition to the suspension, a letter will be sent to the pastor of the parish notifying him of the suspension of the parishioner. (also see Player Conduct)

Additional penalties may be assessed following a review of the incident by the league commissioner. Non-compliance will cause forfeiture of the game as well as possible additional penalties. Ejection of a coach, player or spectator, must be reported by the coach of the offending team.

XVI. Any, player, coach or spectator who is ejected from a Diocesan Recreation sponsored game, match or meet cannot attend any other Diocesan Recreation games, matches, or meets until the suspensions for such ejection is served at the level in which the ejection occurred. (I.E. if spectator is ejected from their 5th grade son's basketball game, they may NOT attend their high school daughter's games until the suspension is served at the 5th grade boys' level). Penalty also applies to those who are ejected and also officiate in the Diocesan Recreation Association program. They may not officiate Diocesan Recreation Association contests until the suspension is served. If the ejection occurs in the final contest of the season the Diocesan Recreation Association

Associate Director will determine the terms of the carry-over suspension.

xvi. Damage At Playing Site

Coaches are responsible for their teams at all times. The coach or a responsible adult **MUST** accompany a team to a locker room. Damage to any building or field will be invoiced to the athletic association of the team or teams found responsible for such damage. If the guilty party is not found, then all teams present at the site will be charged equally for the damage.

xviii. Sunday Games and Practice

No athletic related activities are to begin before 1:00pm on Sunday. Under NO circumstances are games, scrimmages or practice to start before 1:00 on Sunday. DRA athletic contests held on Holy Days of Obligation must be scheduled around Mass times. For example, if the Holy Day falls on a Saturday, games will not begin until 1:00pm. If the Holy Day falls during the week, weeknight games on the Holy Day will not be held. Please check with your pastor regarding practices.

xix. Alcohol, Tobacco & Drug Policy

- A. No athletic director, coach, player, spectator, contest official, scorekeeper, timer, gym supervisor, league coordinator, etc., may engage in any form of alcohol, drug or tobacco use at a Diocesan sponsored contest.
- B. The Diocesan Recreation Association strongly urges that this policy be enforced During practices and scrimmages.
- C. The facility supervisor and contest officials shall ensure enforcement during contests.
- D. The penalty for violation of this rule during a contest shall be immediate ejection (see suspension rule) with possible additional penalties (see penalties for rules violations) pending a review by the League Commissioner.

xx. Physicals and Concussion Policy

- A. Preseason physicals are strongly recommended.
- B. Concussions, which cause short and long term negative health issues, remain at the top of our concerns for our athletes. Adolescent athletes are particularly vulnerable to the effects of concussion. A concussion is a brain injury that disrupts normal brain function. Most concussed athletes do not lose consciousness. Common symptoms include headache, fogginess, difficulty concentrating, confusion, nausea, poor balance, mood changes and thought/thinking difficulty.
- C. In accordance with OHSAA rules, "Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or Behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately

removed from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared **with written authorization** by an appropriate health care professional. (Players may not return on the same day.) In Ohio, an "appropriate health care professional" shall be a **physician**, (MD or DO) and an **athletic trainer, licensed.**"

D. "No parish shall permit a student to practice for or compete in interscholastic athletics until the student has submitted, to a parish official designated to the board or governing authority, a form signed by the parent, guardian, or other person stating that the student and the parent, guardian, or the person having care or charge of the student have received the concussion and head injury information sheet required by section 3707.52 of the Revised Code. A completed form shall be submitted each school year, as defined in section 3313.62 of the Revised Code, for each sport or other category of interscholastic athletics for or in which the student practices or competes." 3313.530 of the Revised Code (effective 4- 26- 2013)

E. Prior to the first practice of the season, all coaches must complete the online training course on concussions offered by the NFHS, or the CDC, free of charge. Access the course at www.nfhslearn.com. Or the CDC course at www.cdc.gov/concussion. Once you have completed the course, please be sure to print the certificate and give a copy to your Athletic Director to be kept on file at the parish level.

xxi. Coaching Requirements

To be a coach in our program. All Coaches must:

1. Complete the Protecting God's Children (PGC) Workshop
2. Have a qualifying BCI/ fingerprints report on file with the Diocesan Save Environment Program.
3. To be a head coach in the program you must be 21 years of age
4. Complete the NFHS online course on Concussions, and present the certificate To the parish AD.
5. Sign the Coach's Code of Conduct.

xxii. Policies and guidelines

In addition to these Administrative Rules, all Athletic Directors, commissioners and coaches should be familiar with and follow the policies and guidelines set forth in each of the following:

1. The policies and guidelines of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.
2. The 500 section of the Policies of the Office and Youth and Young Adult Ministry.