

**St. Agnes and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
Joint CYO Handbook**



St. Agnes and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parishes' Joint CYO Guidelines

I. Introduction:

Joint CYO is part of Region 20 of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia CYO Program.

Region 20 CYO Mission:

CYO sports is one component of a parish's comprehensive youth ministry program which enables the partnership of parents, coaches, priests, religious, teachers, and adult leaders to manage and support a sports program that allows youth to grow in their relationship with God and come to better understand themselves and the Catholic Faith.

Such a program:

- Employs healthy and enjoyable competition to promote the sharing of gospel values among athletes, parents and coaches.
- Assists parish leadership in nourishing the emotional, spiritual, social and physical needs of young people.
- Encourages young people to appreciate the gifts that they possess, and challenges them to share these gifts with their community.
- Allows youth to witness the life of Christian Discipleship in their coaches and adult leaders.
- Encourages youth to become responsible members of their faith community.

Joint CYO oversees the CYO program for St Agnes and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart parishes. The board consists of volunteers in specific positions as outlined in the bylaws of the Joint Catholic Youth Organization of St Agnes Church and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church.

Joint CYO offers the following athletic programs:

Fall

Cheerleading
Cross Country
Football
Volleyball

Spring

Baseball
Softball
Track
Co Ed HS Volleyball

Winter

Basketball
Cheerleading
HS Basketball

II. Eligibility:

Eligibility of participation is determined by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Office of Youth and Young Adults. Specific eligibility requirements are outlined in the Archdiocesan handbook issued by the Office of Youth and Young Adults.

A. Coaches:

All coaches must comply with the requirements of the Archdiocese and the Office of Youth and Young Adults. At a minimum the following must be completed:

1. Criminal Record and Child Abuse back ground checks. Required every 5 years.
2. Child Abuse clearance waiver.
3. Attend “Protecting God’s Children Awareness” seminar. Aka Virtus training. Required to attend only one time.
4. Attend the Mandated Reporter Training for volunteers.

Record of participation in Virtus, Mandated Reporter Training, and all background checks are maintained by Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish for our Joint CYO. Please contact the Athletic Director or Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Rectory office for further clarification.

B. Athletes/Players:

1. All athletes must be Catholic and a registered member of the parish which they represent.
2. Non-Catholics who are enrolled in the parish school are eligible.
3. A child must be enrolled in the Parish School, CCD Program, an Approved Catholic Home School Program, or Private Catholic School to participate in the CYO Program.

III. CYO Points of Emphasis:

- A. PRAYER** – Prayer is encouraged with young people in CYO. All CYO activities begin with prayer. The home team is responsible for leading a prayer with both teams assembled at center court prior to each game. At track and cross country meets, all participants and coaches assemble for prayer prior to each meet. Parish CYO programs should encourage prayer during team practices and consider hosting an annual parish CYO Mass.
- B. GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP** – Taunting, baiting and rough play will not be tolerated. If CYO 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.
- C. SPECTATOR BEHAVIOR** – All spectators at CYO 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 CYO 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.
- D. NO RUNNING UP SCORES** – Children have more fun when a contest is close. There is no place in CYO 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.
- E. ELIGIBILITY** – CYO eligibility rules are designed so that CYO teams are parish-based or Catholic school-based, not "club" or city teams. 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.
- F. KEEP CYO FUN!** – CYO 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 in CYO must keep the outcome of the game in perspective.

IV. Joint CYO Player, Parent, and Coach Code of Conduct Agreement:

The Catholic Youth Organization (CYO), through the vehicle of sports, provides youth with an opportunity to practice Christian attitudes and responsibilities and to become friends with other young people throughout the diocese. CYO 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 CYO should not detract from the young peoples' enjoyment of the sport.

Copies are to be distributed by coach signed by Player, Parent and Coach and returned to Athletic Director with Roster.

A. Coaches

1. 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 except in the instances in the National Federation Basketball Rule book

2. Penalties:

- Any coach refusing to abide by an official's decision, displaying objectionable behavior by throwing equipment or any other forceful action, or verbally abusing any athlete, coach, spectator or official will serve a minimum five game suspension for CYO League and/or playoff competitions. A coach may not coach another CYO team while under suspension
- Any coach who physically abuses another person will be subject to Minimum suspension for one full calendar year from all CYO sports
- Violation of above imposed penalties - If a violator disregards a penalty when properly notified, his or her team will be suspended from all competition for one full calendar year for that particular sport. The parish is responsible for enforcement.

B. Players

1. 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.

2. 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 refusing to abide by an official's decision, displaying objectionable behavior by throwing equipment or any other forceful action, or verbally abusing any athlete, coach, spectator or official will serve a minimum five game suspension for CYO League and/or playoff competitions.
- Violation of above imposed penalties - If a violator disregards a penalty when properly notified, his or her team will be suspended from all competition for one full calendar year for that particular sport. The parish is responsible for enforcement.

C. Spectators/Parents:

1. 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

2. Penalties:

- Participating teams and coaches are responsible for the conduct of their spectators
- Any spectator who displays poor sportsmanship may be 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 CYO activity may, at the discretion of the spectator's parish or league be barred from attendance at subsequent CYO activities

D. Enforcement:

The parishes and leagues, under the supervision of the Diocesan CYO Office, 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 CYO activities for their actions.

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

Signature of Player

Signature (s) of Parent (s)

Signature of Coach

Date: _____