GRADE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC POLICIES

Twenty-First Edition
November 2024

"Sports contribute to the love of life, teaches sacrifice, respect and responsibility, leading to the full development of every human person." St. Pope John Paul II

RESPONSIBILTY FOR PARISH OR CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CYO ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

The management and supervision of all parish or consolidated school CYO athletic programs are the responsibility of the Pastor or consolidated school principal.

The following rules and policies related to CYO athletic programs are designed to establish standards to which parish and consolidated school programs must conform if using the CYO name.

By signing the Annual Roster, Pastors and Principals or C/DREs attest to compliance with this policy at the local level.

Promulgated: November 2024 Diocese of Harrisburg

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DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG
CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION
ATHLETIC POLICIES

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DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG CYO
ATHLETIC POLICIES

ARTICLE 1 – PURPOSE

CYO is a parish-based athletics program, providing opportunities for youth to grow in faith and understanding of the Catholic Church through involvement in parish and diocesan life. It encompasses a comprehensive model for the total development of the individual through a six-phase approach to youth ministry: athletic, social, cultural, catechetical, service, and spiritual. As with any ministry to our youth, the three goals of a Catholic Youth Sports are the same as enumerated in Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministries:

> First, empowering young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ,
> Second, drawing them into responsible participation in the Catholic Church,
> Third, fostering their personal and spiritual growth.

SECTION 1. Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Name

The CYO identifies a parish or consolidated school activity controlled and supervised by the pastor or his agents. Use of the name CYO indicates the parish programs respect the purpose and philosophy of the Catholic Youth Organization, an athletics program of the Diocese of Harrisburg. This document contains athletic policies and rules of conduct for coaches, players, and spectators. The Diocese of Harrisburg assumes responsibility for enforcing compliance with the policies only in the sports (currently, basketball, track, and cheerleading) which it directly sponsors. However, the Diocese does reserve the right to prohibit use of the CYO name by any activity that conflicts with the purpose and philosophy of the Catholic Youth Organization. ***Within the Diocese of Harrisburg, use of the term "Catholic" relative to an athletics program other than the CYO is prohibited.***

ARTICLE 2 – DIOCESAN CYO ADMINISTRATION

SECTION 1. Director, Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministries

The Director of the Diocesan Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministries (YYAM Director) supervises and coordinates activities in response to the spiritual and social needs of youth throughout the diocese. The Office incorporates the essential components from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishop's document Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministries. The Director oversees the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Athletics Program and ensures that it follows the policies established by the Pennsylvania State Board of Diocesan CYO Directors and all related diocesan policies. The YYAM Director appoints the Diocesan CYO Director and the Diocesan CYO Review Board. The YYAM Director works closely with the Diocesan CYO Director.

SECTION 2. Diocesan CYO Director

The CYO Director reports directly to the YYAM Director and is responsible for:

1. Administrating the CYO Athletics Program in the Diocese of Harrisburg;
2. Ensuring all areas of the Diocesan Athletics Program are conducted in conjunction with the policies set forth by the Pennsylvania State Board of Diocesan CYO Directors and the Diocese of Harrisburg;
3. Representing the Diocese on the State CYO Board;
4. Reviewing and approves all by-laws, rules, and regulations submitted to the CYO Office by the CYO leagues;
5. Registering all coaches in their respective sports programs and training them via the orientation program;
6. Administering tournaments and meets sponsored by the Diocese of Harrisburg.

ARTICLE 3 - PARTICIPATION

All Catholic parishes and any consolidated grade school authorized by the Diocesan Secretariat for Education, are eligible to participate in the CYO Athletics Program, provided there is approval from the parish pastor or the consolidated school principal. The term "Catholic" includes parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg and those parishes of Churches in union with the Roman Catholic Church within the geographical boundaries of the Diocese (the Byzantine Catholic Church as an example). Schools approved by the Diocesan Secretariat for Catholic Education and operating in the Catholic tradition may also be accepted for participation (Our Lady of the Cross as an example).

SECTION 1. CYO Areas

A CYO Area is a grouping of parishes or consolidated schools from the same general region. At the grade school level, each area may be further divided into leagues for basketball and leagues for track or the area can stay as one league. The Diocesan CYO high school basketball level is comprised of all girls and boys teams in the Diocese as one league.

SECTION 2. CYO Divisions

With the approval of the CYO Director, CYO leagues may divide their league into divisions as they deem appropriate.

SECTION 3. CYO Structure

HARRISBURG/CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA AREA CYO: Comprised of parishes and consolidated grade schools from the Adams, Cumberland/Perry, Dauphin, Franklin, and Lebanon Deaneries.
LANCASTER/YORK AREA CYO: Comprised of parishes and consolidated grade schools from the North Lancaster, South Lancaster, and York Deaneries.
NORTHUMBERLAND AREA CYO: Comprised of parishes and consolidated grade schools from the Northern and Northumberland Deaneries.
NOTE: Any area that cannot sustain competition due to a lack of nearby teams can join with another CYO Area, at their discretion and with the approval of the Diocesan CYO Director.

HIGH SCHOOL CYO: Comprised of any interested parish from the Diocese of Harrisburg.

ARTICLE 4 – FUNCTION OF THE PARISH PASTOR AND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
Each parish pastor or consolidated school executive pastor along with the principal must give final approval for a CYO Athletics Program to exist in the parish or a consolidated grade school and are responsible for verifying the eligibility of all participants in their program(s) and must sign all rosters for the CYO Area and Diocesan use. They are ultimately responsible for selecting and ensuring that all coaches working with the youth of their program are thoroughly knowledgeable of the goals and purposes of an athletic program in context of Catholic Youth Ministries and that they coach according to those principles.

ARTICLE 5 – FUNCTION OF THE PARISH OR SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
The parish or consolidated grade school Athletic Association shall cooperate with and maintain the regulations of the Diocesan CYO Office, as well as the league they play in, as it relates to athletic ministry in the Diocese of Harrisburg. Each parish or consolidated school Athletic Association serves at the discretion of the parish pastor or consolidated school principal and, therefore, is responsible to respect the established policies as set forth by the pastor and parish pastoral council or the principal and school board. The pastor or principal shall be informed and approve of all activities of the Athletic Association. The pastor or consolidated school principal may delegate certain tasks to the Athletic Association, such as selection of coaches. The pastor or consolidated school principal, however, is at all times, responsible for the overall CYO program(s) in their parish or school.

Parish or consolidated school athletic associations are responsible to govern the completion of all cardiac arrest forms for players and coaches as outlined in the Commonwealth's Act 73 of 2020. For more information, see: https://nfhslearn.com/courses/sudden-cardiac-arrest. All athletic associations should also be aware of and educate all coaches regarding concussion laws as outlined in the Commonwealth's Act 101 of 2011. Cardiac arrest forms will be available on the Diocesan CYO website. A free concussion education program is available here: https://www.train.org/cdctrain/course/1089818/details

ARTICLE 6 – MEETINGS
A mandatory annual pre-season meeting of all CYO League Presidents/Commissioners and representatives of all parishes and consolidated grade schools participating in this program will be held and would include all grade school and high school leagues. All CYO League Presidents/Commissioners, or their designee, as well as a representative from all participating parishes and consolidated grade schools must attend this meeting. The CYO office will have rosters, diocesan schedules, and information for the upcoming season accessible via the CYO website. Any additional information will be distributed at the preseason meeting.

The Diocesan CYO Administration may call special meetings with a seven-day written notice.

When holding their own internal meetings, leagues should provide a minimum of seven days' notice to parish/consolidated school representatives. Leagues should also provide notification to the CYO Director for attendance at meetings.

ARTICLE 7 – FINANCING
All CYO girls and boys basketball, track, and cheerleading programs in the Diocese are assessed a fee of $65 per season which defrays the operating expenses of the Diocesan CYO. This fee is assessed for each boys basketball, each girls basketball, each high school basketball, each track program, and each cheerleading program hosted by a parish or consolidated school. The CYO League Commissioner/President is responsible to collect these fees and submit them to the Diocesan CYO Director by the respective date. For grade school basketball programs, the deadline is December 1st. For high school basketball programs, the deadline is January 1st. For grade school track programs, the deadline is March 1st. CYO leagues, parishes or consolidated schools that fail to pay this fee are ineligible to participate in all Diocesan CYO activities, including games, leagues, meets and/or tournaments. Leagues may set their own registration and participant fees. Host teams are responsible to pay basketball referees via the electronic methods established by the Diocese. NO ONE MAY BE PAID IN CASH.

ARTICLE 8 – ROSTERS
Every team covered by these Diocesan Athletic Policies must file a roster with their League President/Commissioner by the date stated in the respective league's bylaws. The League President/Commissioner must file the rosters for every team in their league with the Diocesan CYO Director. For grade school basketball leagues and cheerleading, the deadline is December 1st. For high school basketball leagues the deadline is January 1st. For track leagues the deadline is April 15th. The roster is an interactive form provided by the Diocese and must be filled in online. ROSTERS MAY NOT BE HANDPRINTED. Rosters with missing information will be rejected. The following rules pertain to team rosters (See Article 17 - Penalties for Team Non-Compliance):

1. The roster must be certified by the parish pastor or consolidated school principal and religious education coordinator via the official form provided by the Diocesan CYO Director.
2. The roster must include each participant's name, mailing address, Catholic parish, date of birth, age, grade, and school the participant is attending. Coaches must include their full name as it appears on their Youth Protection badge.
3. Only coaches that are in FULL compliance with the Diocese of Harrisburg Youth Protection Program and who have been approved by their pastor can be put on the roster. Coaches can be added once their clearances have been completed. Additions must be submitted to the CYO Director in order to update rosters in hand.
4. This roster will be closed per the submission deadlines above. No additions will be allowed except in the case of a girl/boy who becomes a new member of the Catholic parish or consolidated grade school after this date, provided she/he complies with all CYO Eligibility Requirements.
5. The number of participants on a roster is unlimited, ***but teams should have a minimum of eight players listed***.

Note: A team representing the Diocese at the Pennsylvania State CYO Grade School or High School Tournament must reduce their roster to fifteen participants or be willing to assume the additional cost for food, entertainment, and awards for the number of participants over the limit. The additional athletes shall be eligible for participation in the tournament.

ARTICLE 9 – CYO COACHES, OTHER TEAM PERSONNEL, SCHEDULED VOLUNTEERS

According to State mandates, all employees or volunteers who have direct contact with children must hold clearances that are less than five years old. Costs associated with obtaining the child abuse clearance from the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the State Police (PSP) criminal background check for VOLUNTEERS who work with children have been waived by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. **No coach, other team personnel, or scheduled volunteer shall be permitted to participate in any game without proper Diocesan youth protection identification**. ALL coaches and other adult volunteers must display their valid Diocesan Youth Protection ID badge at all times while in the presence of one or more minors. The badge must be conspicuously displayed ABOVE the waist. If, on the occasion of a game or meet, any coach is found to be in the presence of a minor and not in possession of a valid Youth Protection ID badge issued by the Diocese of Harrisburg, the team will forfeit that game.

Any employee or volunteer involved in overnight trips MUST have all the necessary clearances PRIOR to attending the event.

Verification of such identification shall be the responsibility of the individual CYO league and the individual CYO program. Only players, approved managers, and those adults with proper Diocesan youth protection identification are permitted in the locker rooms, on the bench, or on the field. (See Article 10 for grade school students and Article 11 for high school students.)

In addition, parish and consolidated school programs must be in full compliance with the Diocese of Harrisburg Youth Protection Program which includes criminal record checks, creating a safe environment training, and knowledge of the diocesan code of conduct. (See https://www.youthprotectionhbg.com.)

SECTION 1. Clearances and Criminal Record Checks

The Diocese of Harrisburg requires all individuals, including all adults working within the Diocesan CYO Athletic Program, who have direct supervisory access to minors on a regular and on-going basis, whether full-time, part-time, or volunteer, to possess/complete the following:

- PA State Police Criminal History Check
- PA Child Abuse History Check
- Coaches or volunteers who currently live in another state or have resided in another state within the past ten years must also obtain an FBI Criminal Record Check.
- Disclosure Statement
- Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse: Mandated and Permissive Reporting In Pennsylvania Online Training course

SECTION 2. Coaching Requirements

Recruitment and selection of coaches is primarily the responsibility of the parish pastor or the consolidated school principal; however, they may choose to delegate these tasks. The following requirements are essential in the selection of a coach:

1. All coaches must be individuals rooted in faith, willing to support Gospel values and the teachings of the Catholic Church. If Catholic, must be a practicing Catholic, in good standing, known to his/her pastor, participate fully in the sacramental life of the Church, and active in the life of the parish. If non-Catholic, must be a Christian and a member in good standing of another faith, known to his/her pastor, and active in the life of his/her faith community.
2. HEAD COACH - Must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age and Catholic.
3. ASSISTANT COACH – Must be at least 18 years old and not currently enrolled in high school. An assistant coach under the age of twenty-one cannot run practice or games by themselves, there MUST be a coach who is at least 21 years of age with the team at all times.

Once coaches are selected, they are expected to maintain the quality of their faith commitment. Those who fail to meet these requirements or obligations, may, at the discretion of the pastor or principal, be dismissed from coaching or participating in the Diocesan CYO Athletic Program.

Note: Coaches, who espouse by word or action, teachings or practices contrary to the Catholic faith, will be dismissed.

SECTION 3. Registration of CYO Coaches

The parish or consolidated school must list all coaches in full compliance on the roster form for approval by the pastor and Diocesan CYO Director. Additions can be made to this list at any time during the year except one month prior to the Diocesan Basketball Tournament or the All-League Track Meet. **If a parish does not have all of their coaches registered with the Diocesan CYO Director, the non-registered coach(es) will not be allowed to participate in any CYO games, leagues, meets, or tournaments.**

ARTICLE 10 – ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADE SCHOOL STUDENTS (ALL SPORTS)

CYO Athletic Programs are designed for girls and boys, student managers and players in the Diocese who meet certain requirements related to age, grade level, parish registration, and participation in religious education. Each student manager must meet all eligibility requirements of the team for which he/she is managing. In this policy, the word participant refers to both student managers and players.

SECTION 1. Age

Participants must not have reached their 15th birthday before September 1st of the scholastic year for which a roster is being filed.

SECTION 2. Grade Level

Participants must be in the eighth grade or lower. Specific to track, participants must be in the third grade or higher.

SECTION 3. Parish Requirement

Participant's parents or legal guardians must be a registered member of the parish for which they play by September 1st of the current

school year, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 10, Sections 4, 5, and 6. This does not apply to non-Catholics, in a Catholic school setting, who are unable to register at the parish since they are not Catholic.

SECTION 4. Religious Education Requirements

In order to participate in CYO Athletic Programs a student must meet one of the following Religious Education Requirements:

a. PAROCHIAL SCHOOL: Be a baptized Catholic or a non-Catholic attending the Catholic School for which they play/manage.
b. PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM: Be a baptized Catholic who attends Parish Religious Education classes of the parish for which they play/manage.
c. RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA): Be enrolled in and participating in the RCIA (Adapted for Children) Process of the parish for which they play/manage. Successful graduates of this process meet the requirement.
d. HOME SCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Be a baptized Catholic who receives religious education classes at home with the pastor's permission and is a registered member of the parish for which they play/manage.

SECTION 5. Decision Between School and Parish

In certain circumstances, the parish that a student's parents or legal guardians attend may differ from that of the school the student is enrolled in. In this circumstance, the student must make a binding decision between the two potential programs (school or parish) with the following criteria:

a. The decision must be made prior to the next full season following the occurrence of the parish/school incongruity.
b. Occurrence of parish/school incongruity is defined as resulting from one of the following conditions 1) the family transfers parishes while the student continues to be enrolled at the original school or 2) the child begins to attend a different school while the family remains members of the same parish.
c. The decision shall be implied by the listing of the student on a particular roster at the start of the next full season.
d. Should the decision result in a transfer of teams, the receiving program commissioner must notify the CYO League.
e. The student cannot change teams after the final decision has been made, during the current year or any year thereafter regardless of the decision's outcome.

SECTION 6. Period of Participation (Five-Season Eligibility Rule)

All participants in CYO Athletic Programs will be limited to five consecutive seasons of eligibility in grades four through eight, whether the participant actually participated or not. Should a participant be required to repeat a grade (See Section 2 – Grade Level), the five-season rule shall continue, and no additional season will be allocated to the participant. Prior participation in lower grades will not be considered in the five-season rule.

SECTION 7. Waiver of the Five-Season Eligibility Rule

The Diocesan CYO Director may waive the five-season eligibility rule in cases of long-confining illness or injury which results in 90 days of absence or more from school, and which causes the participant to be confined to an institution or his/her home, and which necessitates repeating a grade. Parish pastors or consolidated school principals may, by written petition to the Diocesan CYO Director, request that an additional season be granted to a participant, who is repeating a grade for this reason only. The Diocesan CYO Director will forward these requests to the Diocesan CYO Review Board for a decision.

SECTION 8. Participating with an Adjoining CYO Parish Program

1. For a Catholic parish that does not sponsor a particular CYO program or has a limited program that does not offer all levels of play: any student whose parents or legal guardian are registered members of such a parish is eligible to participate in an adjoining parish's CYO program. The individual CYO Leagues are compelled to provide them with the opportunity to participate. It will be the decision of the CYO League, subject to approval of the CYO Director, as to where the student will participate. Traditional combined parishes should be allowed to participate as one team/program.
2. If at any time in the future his/her parish sponsors a CYO program or has enough players to participate in levels they previously could not or becomes part of a consolidation with another program, the player will be given the option of where he/she wishes to participate. In this case, the following MUST be followed to maintain eligibility.
    a. A letter from a representative of the parish CYO Program, requesting the option, must be sent to the particular CYO League President/Commissioner.
    b. The letter of request must be accompanied by a letter from the participant's parents or legal guardian and both parish pastors involved.
    c. The CYO League President/Commissioner must receive all correspondence by November 1st (grade school basketball and cheerleading) or December 1st (high school basketball) or March 1st (track) of the year the player wants to participate. Only after the above procedures are followed will any consideration by the CYO League President/Commissioner be given. The Diocesan CYO Director must be notified, in writing, by the CYO League President/Commissioner of all approved options made in their area.
    d. A player cannot change teams after a league decision has been made, in the current year or any year thereafter.

ARTICLE 11 – ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS (BASKETBALL)

CYO Athletic Programs are designed for girls and boys, student managers and players in the Diocese who meet certain requirements related to age, grade level, parish registration, and participation in religious education. Each student manager must meet all eligibility requirements of the team for which he/she is managing. In this policy, the word participant refers to both student managers and players.

SECTION 1. Age

Participants must not have reached their 19th birthday before September 1st of the current year for which a roster is being filed.

SECTION 2. Grade Level
Participants must be in the twelfth grade or lower.

SECTION 3. Parish Requirement
Participant's parents or legal guardians must be a registered member of the parish for which they play by September 1st of the current school year, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 11, Sections 4 and 14.

SECTION 4. Religious Education Requirements
To participate in the CYO Basketball Program of the Diocese of Harrisburg, a high school student must meet one of the following Religious Education Requirements:

a. CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL: Be a baptized Catholic or a non-Catholic attending a Diocesan Catholic high school.
b. ENROLLED PARISH MEMBER: Be the child of a parent or legal guardian who is a member of the parish for which they play/manage.

SECTION 5. Period of Participation (Four-Season Eligibility Rule)
All participants in CYO Athletic Programs will be limited to four consecutive seasons of eligibility in grades nine through twelve, whether the participant actually participated or not. Should a participant be required to repeat a grade the four-season rule shall continue, and no additional season will be allocated to the participant. Prior participation in lower grades will not be considered in the four-season rule.

SECTION6. Waiver of the Four-Season Eligibility Rule
The Diocesan CYO Director may waive the four-season eligibility rule in cases of long-confining illness or injury which results in 90 days of absence or more from school, and which causes the participant to be confined to an institution or his/her home, and which necessitates repeating a grade. Parish pastors or consolidated school principals may, by written petition to the Diocesan CYO Director, request that an additional season be granted to a participant, who is repeating a grade for this reason only. The Diocesan CYO Director will forward these requests to the Diocesan CYO Review Board for a decision.

SECTION 7. Participating on Another Basketball Team
Any girl/boy who is on an interscholastic varsity, junior varsity, or freshman basketball team after the start of the Diocesan CYO High School season is ineligible to participate in CYO basketball for that season.

SECTION 8. Participating with an Adjoining CYO Parish Basketball Program

1. Any student whose parents or legal guardian are registered members of a Catholic parish that: 1) does not sponsor a CYO basketball program or 2) has a limited program, one that does not offer all levels of play, this student is eligible to participate in an adjoining parish's CYO basketball program. The individual CYO Leagues are compelled to provide them with the opportunity to participate. It will be the decision of the CYO League, subject to approval of the CYO Director, as to where the student will participate. Traditional combined parishes should be allowed to participate as one team/program.
2. If at any time in the future his/her parish sponsors a CYO program or has enough players to participate in levels they previously could not or becomes part of a consolidation with another program, the player will be given the option of where he/she wishes to participate. In this case the following MUST be followed to maintain eligibility:
    a. A letter from the parish CYO Basketball Program, requesting the option must be sent to the particular CYO League President/Commissioner.
    b. The letter of request must be accompanied by a letter from the participant's parents or legal guardian and both parish pastors involved.
    c. The CYO League President/Commissioner must receive all correspondence by November 1st (Grade school level) or December 1st (High school level) of the year the player wants to participate. Only after the above procedures are followed will any consideration by the CYO League President/Commissioner be given. The Diocesan CYO Director must be notified, in writing, by the CYO League President/Commissioner of all approved options made in their area.
    d. A player cannot change teams after a decision has been made, in the current year or any year thereafter.

ARTICLE 12 – BY-LAWS OF INDIVIDUAL CYO LEAGUES
All CYO Leagues participating in Diocesan CYO Athletic Programs must have these Athletic Policies as their foundation. CYO Leagues may establish policies to regulate their individual leagues. CYO Leagues are required to submit to the Diocesan CYO Director a copy of their by-laws annually. Grade school basketball leagues must submit their by-laws by October 1st. High school basketball leagues must submit their by-laws by November 1st. Grade school track leagues must submit their by-laws by February 1st. (See Article 17 – Penalties for Team Non-Compliance)

ARTICLE 13 – COACHES SEMINAR/EDUCATION PROGRAM
ALL currently badge-approved basketball and cheerleading coaches will be required to attend a pre-season Coaches Seminar to be held prior by the Diocesan CYO Director. ALL currently badge-approved track coaches will be required to attend their own pre-season Coaches Seminar to be held by the Diocesan CYO Director. Dates for these meetings will be announced as soon as they are determined. Topics will include such things as a review of the Diocesan Athletic Policies, the youth protection program, PIAA rules, first aid, and other topics related to coaching the youth of our Diocese. All sessions will include discussion of the CYO philosophy and how this pertains to each and every coach, player, and spectator in the CYO.

Coaches who fail to attend the appropriate meeting for their sport will be required to register for and view the recorded seminar and pass a review exam to confirm completion. Coaches who fail to attend the mandatory meeting and fail to successfully view/pass the recorded session prior to the start of their season will be deemed ineligible for the season.

New first time coaches designated AFTER the date of the Coaches Seminar described above are required to register for and view the recorded seminar and pass a review exam to confirm completion. Coaches who fail to successfully view/pass the recorded session will be deemed ineligible for the season.

It is critically essential that coaches recognize the importance of placing Catholic values front and center in their programs. Bringing the youth entrusted to the CYO closer to God should be every coach's number one goal and should be reflected in everything we do. Promoting Christ-centered values like teamwork and perseverance helps young people deepen their understanding of their faith. Coaches can play a key role in helping to make disciples both on and off the field by engaging athletes and their families in the life of their parishes, thus creating a sense of belonging to a faith community that provides a strong Catholic identity. Instilling this mission is the goal of the Coaches Seminar.

ARTICLE 14 – TOURNAMENTS

All teams covered by these Athletic Policies who wish to host a tournament must submit an Official Tournament Application Form to the Diocesan CYO Director and obtain approval to do so. All tournaments, whether composed entirely of CYO teams or not, must receive approval from the Diocesan CYO Director. The host organization is responsible for all non-CYO teams participating in these tournaments. All teams entering a tournament are required to check with the Diocesan CYO Director to ensure that the tournament has been approved.

SECTION 1. Basketball Tournaments

No basketball tournaments, other than those hosted by the Diocesan CYO, are permitted after the last weekend in February. All teams and CYO leagues covered by these Athletic Policies are restricted from hosting any CYO or non-CYO tournaments, fun weekends, all-star games, or any type of play-off games during the same weekends as the Diocesan Basketball Tournaments (includes prelims and finals) or State CYO Tournaments when our Diocese hosts them. The first responsibility of any team must be to their CYO League, any tournaments or exhibition games must be secondary. If a conflict arises it should be worked out through the CYO League or Diocesan CYO Director. CYO Leagues may petition the CYO Director for an exception to all for League Tournament Contests to be held during the preliminary rounds of the Diocesan Tournament in the event of inclement weather or other unforeseen conflict. (See Article 17 – Penalties for Team Non-Compliance)

SECTION 2. All League Track Meet

No track meets may be scheduled by a league participant that conflicts with the Diocesan All-League Meet. The first responsibility of any team must be to the All-League Meet.

ARTICLE 15 – SCHEDULING REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS

Any teams or leagues seeking to schedule athletic events must consult with the parish pastor or consolidated school principal regarding dates for the celebration of the sacraments of First Holy Communion, First Penance, Confirmation, and annual Eucharistic devotions. No CYO athletic events (games, meets, practice, or open gym) may begin in the Diocese of Harrisburg, before 1 PM on Sundays, during school hours, or on the following days: December 8th, Christmas, January 1st (Mary, Mother of God), Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday, or Ascension Thursday. League Commissioners/Presidents will monitor the scheduling of all athletic events in their respective CYO Programs. (See Article 17 – Penalties for Team Non-Compliance)

ARTICLE 16 – CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES, PLAYERS, AND SPECTATORS

The primary purpose of any CYO program is to provide opportunities for youth to grow in faith and understanding of their Church through involvement in parish and diocesan life. Secondarily, the purpose is to instruct young men and women the fundamentals of their sport, including good sportsmanship, healthy competition, and cooperative team play. Considering the importance of these aspects to the development of youth, the following rules govern the conduct of the coaches, players, and spectators in this program. Enforcement of these rules of conduct is the responsibility of the individual CYO Leagues. Failure to abide by these rules could result in expulsion of the CYO Program or CYO League from participating in the Diocese of Harrisburg CYO Program.

SECTION 1. Drug/Alcohol Free Program

Any player or coach found to be under the influence or in the possession of drugs or alcohol during practices or games will be suspended from further participation in CYO Athletic Programs.

SECTION 2. Offensive Actions

No coach, player, or spectator is to:

1. Refuse to abide by officials' decisions.
2. Be guilty of objectionable demonstrations by throwing equipment or any other forceful action.
3. Be guilty of heaping personal verbal abuse upon any official for any real or imaginary wrong decision or judgment.
4. Be guilty of an abusive verbal attack upon any player, opposing coach, official or spectator.
5. At any time, lay hands upon, push, shove, strike, or threaten to strike an official, coach or spectator.
6. Be guilty of physical attack as an aggressor upon any player.

SECTION 3. Penalties for Offending Coaches or Players

1. Violation of number 1 through 4 by a coach or player: Minimum automatic thirty calendar day suspension.
2. Violation of number 5 and 6 by a coach: Minimum automatic suspension of offending coach for one full year from participating in CYO Athletic Programs.
3. Violation of number 5 by a player: Minimum automatic suspension of offending player for one full year from participating in CYO Athletic Programs.
4. Violation of number 6 by a player: Minimum automatic suspension of offending player for fourteen calendar days, which must include at least two CYO league and/or playoff games in basketball or at least one meet and/or the All-League Meet.

5. If a suspended coach or player disregards stated penalties, when notified by a proper CYO officer, the team is to be suspended from Diocesan CYO Athletic Basketball Programs for one full year.
6. If necessary, penalties will carry over into the next season.

SECTION 4. Acceptable Standards for Spectators

Acceptable standards of spectator behavior include:

1. Remembering that the players are children and are playing for their enjoyment, not yours.
2. Remaining seated in the spectator area during the games.
3. Respecting decisions made by contest officials.
4. Being a role model by positively supporting teams and by not shouting instructions or criticism to the players, coaches, or officials.
5. Making no derogatory comments or gestures to players, coaches, parents of the opposing team, officials, or league administrators.

SECTION 5. Responsibility and Penalties Related to Spectator Behavior

Poor spectator behavior is totally unacceptable and antithetical to the spirit and goals of the CYO. Accordingly, penalties will now be imposed on any spectator ejected from a contest and on the team that spectator is associated with (this applies to scorebook-keepers and time-keepers as well).

1. Participating teams and coaches are responsible for the conduct of their spectators.
2. 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 game manager.
3. Any spectator ejected from a contest by the referee will be barred from attending any Diocesan Athletic Program event for a period of thirty calendar days.
4. Any specific spectator ejected by a referee twice in a season will be barred for the remainder of that season.
5. The teams associated with ejected spectators are responsible for enforcing 3 & 4 above. Failure to do so may lead to the team forfeiting the remainder of the season and being barred from Diocesan tournament and/or the All-League Meet.
6. Any spectator who interferes with the conduct of a CYO activity may, at the discretion of the spectator's parish, league, or the Harrisburg Diocese, be barred from attendance at subsequent CYO activities.

Special Note: In addition to the code of conduct listed above, coaches and players are expected to abide by the Codes of Conduct in the Diocese of Harrisburg Youth Protection Program. (See www.hbgdiocese.org/protect)

SECTION 6. Specific to Basketball: Unsportsmanlike Technical Fouls Player/Coach

1. All unsportsmanlike technical fouls must be reported within 24 hours of the game in which they were received (this includes all league, tournament, and non-league games). This must be reported to the Commissioner/President of the appropriate league by the offending coach or the league representative. The Commissioner/President must forward this report immediately to the Diocesan CYO Director. This report must include the following information:
   a. Location and time of game
   b. Offending team
   c. Coach's name
   d. League level
   e. Time of the infraction (e.g., 1st Qtr at 2:07 mark, etc.). It is important that coaches inform their scorebook-keeper of this provision, so this specific information is not lost.
2. In cumulative fashion, the second unsportsmanlike technical foul issued to a participant will result in a minimum 1-week suspension that must include at least 1 CYO league/playoff game, all practices, and will generate a conversation reminding the participant of the principles of CYO:
   a. Player – will be handled by the parish program.
   b. Coach – will be handled by the league Commissioner/President or representative.
3. A third unsportsmanlike conduct technical foul will result in a minimum 1-month suspension that must include at least 4 CYO league/playoff games, all practices, and will require a meeting between the parish pastor, coach, and/or player to discuss expectations.
6. A fourth unsportsmanlike conduct technical foul will result in a 1-year suspension from all CYO activities. A coach receiving their fourth unsportsmanlike technical foul will also be required to attend the Diocesan Certification Program prior to any further CYO involvement.
7. Any player or coach removed from a game for any reason will be ineligible to play or coach in the next game.

Note: The Diocesan CYO Director may impose more severe penalties for the violations listed in this article. The Director may also prescribe penalties for violations not listed.

ARTICLE 17 – PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

The Diocesan CYO Director has the authority to impose the prescribed minimum penalties for the listed violations:

SECTION 1. Failure to File a Timely Roster (See the specified dates in Article 8)

Offending coaches (head coaches and assistant coaches) of the particular team will be suspended from all CYO participation and the team shall forfeit all CYO games until a roster is filed.

SECTION 2. Violation of Diocesan Clearances Policy (As Stated in Article 9)

No coach is allowed to participate in games or practices until they are in full compliance with the Diocese of Harrisburg Youth Protection Program. Any head coach who allows a coach who is: 1) not cleared or 2) a coach who is not on the roster, to participate will be suspended for a period of fourteen calendar days, which will include all practices and games.

SECTION 3. Violation of Specified Season Starting Date (as Stated in Articles 24 or 30)
Sponsorship of games, meets, or tournaments by CYO Areas or divisions is prohibited except within the official CYO season. All coaches of an offending team will be suspended from all CYO participation for a period of thirty days.

SECTION 4. Use of Ineligible Player (as determined by Article 10 or Article 11)
All games that the ineligible player appeared in will be forfeited and the player will be suspended for the remainder of the season. The head coach and the assistant coaches of the particular team may be suspended from all CYO participation for a period up to thirty days subject to the discretion of the CYO Director based on the pertinent facts of the case.

SECTION 5. Hosting CYO Activity During Diocesan Basketball Tournament/All-League Track Meet (as Stated in Article 14)
Offending head coaches and assistant coaches of the particular team will be suspended from all CYO activities for one full year.

SECTION 6. Exceeding Thirty Game Maximum in Basketball as Stated in Article 24
Offending head coaches and assistant coaches of the particular team will be suspended from all CYO activities for a period of one full year.

SECTION 7. Violation of Scheduling Requirements and Limitations as Stated in Article 15
Offending head coaches and assistant coaches will be suspended from all CYO activities for fourteen calendar days for the first offense and one full year for any subsequent offenses.

SECTION 8. If a Suspended Coach Disregards Stated Penalties
When properly notified by the Diocesan CYO Director, the team is to be suspended from the CYO Athletic Program for one full year. If necessary, penalties will carry over into next season.

Note: The Diocesan CYO Director may impose more severe penalties for the violations listed in this article. The Director may also prescribe penalties for violations not listed.

ARTICLE 18 – FIRST AID
All participating programs in the Diocesan CYO Basketball Program are responsible for providing team first aid. This first aid should be in the form of a First Aid Kit. At a minimum, the kit should contain gloves, bandages, wound closure strips, dressing pads, adhesive tape, safety pins, antiseptic, ice packs, and eye pads. Each team in a contest should provide their own first aid kit in a readily available location, preferably the team bench.

ARTICLE 19 – MEDICAL FORMS
A Parental Permission and Consent to Treat Form must be completed for every student, under the age of eighteen, participating in CYO basketball and must be kept by the head coach in a location that is easily accessible during every practice, game, or trip. Each parish is responsible for their own forms.

ARTICLE 20 – TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION
The pastor or consolidated school principal must be informed of all organized team travel arrangements, including transportation, housing, and chaperones. Only trips approved by the pastor or consolidated school principal are covered by the diocesan liability insurance plan. All travel is governed by the Diocese of Harrisburg Youth Protection Program (www.hbgdiocese.org/protect) ***and the Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministries Travel Policy. (www.hbgdiocese.org/youngchurch)***

The Diocese encourages the use of public, licensed carriers or school buses chaperoned by responsible adults to transport teams. If a private passenger vehicle is used, a signed Volunteer Driver Information Sheet must be completed for each vehicle and kept on file in the parish or consolidated school office.
The pastor or consolidated school principal must verify the following:

1. The driver must be at least twenty-one years of age.
2. The driver must possess a valid, non-probationary driver's license.
3. The vehicle must have a valid registration.
4. The vehicle must have a valid state inspection sticker.
5. The vehicle must be insured for a minimum $300,000 Bodily Injury/Property Damage Combined Single Limit; $35,000 Combined Single Limit for Uninsured Motorist; $35,000 Combined Single Limit for Underinsured Motorist.

Note: this section is intended to cover travel for practices, games, tournaments, and/or other team activities.

ARTICLE 21 – CHECKING ACCOUNTS AND SAVINGS ACCOUNTS
All financial operations of the parish or consolidated school CYO Basketball Program and all CYO leagues must conform to the diocesan standards and practices. This involves the following procedures:

1. The pastor or consolidated school principal must be a signatory to any bank accounts.
2. The pastor or consolidated school principal is to receive the monthly balance statement for any account.
3. All leagues must provide the CYO Director with a financial statement quarterly. This statement must show all incomes and expenses during the quarter, as well as all balances in any accounts. Authorized check-signers must be identified with this statement.
4. The address on the account is to be that of the parish office or consolidated school office.
5. Checking accounts must require two signatures for all expenditures.
6. Accounts are subject to audit along with other parish or consolidated school fiscal operations and programs.

7. The maximum balance in an organization/activity bank account, including all leagues, is $3,000. Any funds in excess of this amount must be deposited in a specifically designated account through the parish in the Diocesan Savings and Loan Fund. Interest will be accrued daily on such accounts for the benefit of the parish/parish elementary school activity or organization that have access to the money when needed.

ARTICLE 22 – CLARIFICATION OF QUESTIONS AND MANAGEMENT OF DISPUTES PROCEDURES

STEP ONE: In the spirit of the gospel, all persons should attempt to resolve questions and disputes at the local level. Disputes or questions related to Parish/Consolidated School CYO Athletic Programs should first be directed to the parish pastor and/or consolidated school principal for resolution on the local level if possible.

STEP TWO: Unresolved disputes at Step One or disputes or questions related to CYO League By-Laws or rulings should be directed, in writing, to the league officers for resolution if possible.

STEP THREE: Unresolved disputes at Step Two may be directed in writing to the Diocesan CYO Director within twenty-one calendar days of the original incident or decision under dispute. This appeal must occur after exhausting resolution attempts in Steps One and Two. All documentation used during the above process must accompany this appeal. The Diocesan CYO Director will review the documentation provided and will respond in writing within seven calendar days of receipt.

STEP FOUR: The aggrieved party may submit a written appeal to the Diocesan CYO Review Board within seven calendar days of the Diocesan CYO Director's decision. The Diocesan CYO Review Board will determine whether or not to hear the appeal. This written appeal and the case file from the previous hearing will be considered. New evidence will not be considered on appeal. Decisions will be made by a simple majority.

ARTICLE 23 – DIOCESAN CYO REVIEW BOARD

The Diocese of Harrisburg CYO Review Board shall be chaired by the Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries. The Director shall select one uninvolved league president and one Ad Hoc member to serve on the review board to adjudicate unresolved issues. There is no appeal beyond the Diocesan CYO Review Board.

ARTICLE 24– BASKETBALL SEASON

SECTION 1. Official CYO Basketball Seasons

The official CYO grade school basketball season runs from November 1st through the weekend of the last State CYO Grade School Basketball Tournament. The official high school basketball season runs from January 1st through either the diocesan tournament or the state tournament, whichever is later. CYO teams are not restricted from individual activities outside these periods; however, teams that participate in other basketball activities before the beginning, or after the completion of the official CYO basketball season are solely under the jurisdiction of their individual parish or consolidated grade school. Sponsorship of games, meets, leagues, or tournaments by CYO Areas, divisions or parishes is prohibited except within the official CYO season. **(**See Article 17 – Penalties for Team Non-Compliance)

SECTION 2. Maximum Games Allowed

During the official CYO basketball season a team may play a maximum of thirty games. This includes all CYO regular season games as well as exhibition and/or independent tournament games. In the case of a weekend tournament (defined as a consecutive Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) the tournament will count as one game. Example: Playing the first tournament game on Tuesday, the second game on Thursday, and the third and fourth games on Saturday and Sunday equal three games total. (Tuesday = 1, Thursday = 1, Saturday and Sunday = 1 day) Post-season CYO League play-off games and Diocesan and State CYO Tournaments do not count against the thirty-game limit. For further clarification, contact the Diocesan CYO Director**. (**See Article 17 – Penalties for Team Non-Compliance)

Note: A game is defined as any contest that meets any of the following criteria:

1. A score is kept.
2. The teams are in uniform.
3. PIAA officials are used.

SECTION 3. Team Participation in Other Basketball Programs

During the Official CYO basketball season, CYO teams may also participate in other organized games, recreation leagues and/or tournaments, provided that participation in these activities does not interfere with the Diocesan or the league CYO or cause the team to exceed the maximum thirty (30) game limit allowed during the official CYO basketball season. However, CYO teams are forbidden, at all times, from being members of a Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (P.I.A.A.) sanctioned basketball league or solely participate in another basketball program other than the Diocesan CYO. (See Article 17 – Penalties for Team Non-Compliance)

ARTICLE 25 – TEAM PARTICIPATION/CONSOLIDATION OF CYO BASKETBALL PROGRAMS

Leagues that have a low number of players at a specific classification may create rules that are necessary for their league to be able to provide a CYO opportunity to the parishioners in their Deanery. These special exceptions must be submitted by the League Commissioner in writing and approved by the Director of the CYO. By choosing to make exceptions to Article 12, the league may not be eligible for participation in Diocesan sponsored tournaments.

Any Catholic parish that cannot sustain a CYO Basketball Program on their own due to insufficient numbers may request that the respective league finds another parish willing to accept their children into their CYO Basketball Program. The consolidation of two parish programs requires documentation showing that a parish could not sustain a CYO program on its own, thereby denying the youth of its parish the opportunity to participate in the CYO program. Such documentation shall include census information as to the number of youth in the parish and the number of youth interested in CYO participation via consolidation.

The following must occur for consolidation to be considered:

1. The parish CYO program that requests consolidation must provide written requests from the pastor and Athletic Association President and present all documentation to the League President/Commissioner early enough to provide the league an opportunity to hear the request and provide a solution. If not enough time is given, the league may make the ruling effective the following year.
2. A parish CYO program willing to take on the additional children must provide written acceptance letters from the pastor and Athletic Association President. They must also provide census information for their own program and the number of anticipated returning players per classification from the previous season.
3. The league must select a parish from those willing to assimilate children into their program. The league must avoid creating an unfair competitive advantage by creating an overly large program. Combining two smaller programs is preferred to combining one large and one small program.

Once the league has made their selection, all documentation and an explanation for the decision must be presented to the Director of CYO prior to October 15th of the current year for the grade school level and November 15th for the high school level. The CYO Director shall issue a decision within seven calendar days of submission.

ARTICLE 26 - GRADE SCHOOL BASKETBALL CLASSIFICATIONS

SECTION 1. Varsity

1. This is a competitive program for participants in the eighth grade or lower who have not reached their fifteenth birthday before September 1st of the year in which a roster is being filed. Any student who does not meet the eligibility requirements (Article 10) is ineligible to participate in the CYO grade school level.
2. Any participant listed on a Varsity roster is also eligible to participate in the Intermediate I program but must also be listed on that roster.
3. All Varsity games shall be played in accordance with the playing rules of the National Federation of High School Basketball Rule Book and the P.I.A.A., except as modified and published prior to the start of each basketball season. One exception is the Restrictive Coaching Rule (the bench rule) will be followed.
4. All Diocesan CYO girls and boys varsity basketball games shall consist of four six-minute quarters. Overtime quarters shall be limited to three minutes.
5. A Regulation Women's Basketball (28.5") will be used during girls' games; a Regulation Men's Basketball (29.5") will be used during boys' games.

PENALTY: Failure to meet any of the requirements listed above may result in suspension of coaches and forfeiture of games.

SECTION 2. Junior Varsity

1. This is a competitive program for participants in the sixth grade or lower who have not reached their thirteenth birthday before September 1st of the year in which a roster is being filed. Any student who does not meet the eligibility requirements (Article 10) is ineligible to participate in the CYO grade school program.
2. Any participant listed on a Junior Varsity roster is also eligible to participate in the Intermediate II program, but his/her name must be listed on both rosters. Junior varsity participants also appearing on the Intermediate 2 roster should be restricted to players that receive limited playing time with the junior varsity team and need additional skill development.
3. All Junior varsity games shall be played in accordance with the playing rules of the National Federation of High School Basketball Rule Book and the P.I.A.A., except as modified and published prior to the start of each basketball season. One exception is the Restrictive Coaching Rule (the bench rule) will be followed.
4. All Diocesan CYO girls and boys Junior Varsity basketball games shall consist of four six-minute quarters. Overtime quarters shall be limited to three minutes.
5. A Regulation Women's Basketball (28.5") will be used during girls' JV games; a Regulation Men's Basketball (29.5") will be used during boys' JV games.

PENALTY: Failure to meet any of the requirements listed above may result in suspension of coaches and forfeiture of games.

SECTION 3. Intermediate I

1. This is an instructional program for participants in the eighth grade or lower who have not reached their fifteenth birthday before September 1st of the year in which a roster is being filed. Any student who does not meet the eligibility requirements (Article 10) is ineligible to participate in the CYO grade school program.
2. This program should help the participants further their basic skills, focusing on team building and sportsmanship.
3. In order to emphasize the instructional nature of the Intermediate I program, please Note:
   a. All Players are expected to play ¼ of each game at the minimum.
   b. Teams may not full court press once they are ahead by 20 points.
   c. Score may be kept during games between Intermediate Teams.
   d. Leagues and teams will not report or keep win-loss records or standings.
   e. No league champion will be determined.
4. Any participant listed on a Varsity roster is also eligible to participate in the Intermediate I program, but his/her name must be listed on both rosters. Varsity participants also appearing on an Intermediate I roster should be restricted to players that receive limited playing time with the varsity team and need additional skill development.
5. All Intermediate I games shall be played in accordance with the playing rules of the National Federation of High School Basketball Rule Book and the P.I.A.A., except as modified and published prior to the start of each basketball season. One exception is the Restrictive Coaching Rule (the bench rule) will be followed.
6. All Diocesan CYO girls and boys Intermediate I basketball games shall consist of four six-minute quarters. Overtime quarters shall be limited to three minutes.

7. A Regulation Women's Basketball (28.5") will be used during girls' IM-1 games; a Regulation Men's Basketball (29.5") will be used during boys' IM-1 games.

PENALTY: Failure to meet any of the requirements listed above may result in suspension of coaches and forfeiture of games.

SECTION 4. Intermediate II (Note: Before a parish or consolidated school can enter multiple IM II teams they must enter an IM I team.)

1. This is an instructional program for participants in the sixth grade or lower who have not reached their thirteenth birthday before September 1st of the year in which a roster is being filed. Any student who does not meet the eligibility requirements (Article 10) is ineligible to participate in the CYO grade school program.
2. This program should help the participants further their basic skills, focusing on team building and sportsmanship.
3. In order to emphasize the instructional nature of the Intermediate II program, please Note:
   a. All Players are expected to play ¼ of each game at the minimum.
   b. Teams may not full court press once they are ahead by fifteen points.
   c. Score may be kept during games between Intermediate Teams.
   d. Leagues and teams will not report or keep win-loss records or standings.
   e. No league champion will be determined.
4. Any participant listed on a junior varsity roster is also eligible to participate in the Intermediate II program, but his/her name must be listed on both rosters. Intermediate II players also appearing on the Junior varsity roster should be restricted to players that receive limited playing time with the junior varsity team and need additional skill development.
5. All Intermediate II games shall be played in accordance with the playing rules of the National Federation of High School Basketball Rule Book and the P.I.A.A., except as modified and published prior to the start of each basketball season. One exception is the Restrictive Coaching Rule (the bench rule) will be followed.
6. Each CYO League may establish policies at the IM-II level related to the length of play and format of the contest (for example: four quarters, two halves or running clock).
7. A Regulation Women's Basketball (28.5") will be used during girls' IM-II games; a Regulation Men's Basketball (29.5") will be used during boys' IM-II games.

PENALTY: Failure to meet any of the requirements listed above may result in suspension of coaches and forfeiture of games.

SECTION 5. Novice I

1. This is a recreational/instructional program for participants in the fifth grade or lower who have not reached their twelfth birthday before September 1st of the year in which a roster is being filed. Any student who does not meet the eligibility requirements (Article 10) is ineligible to participate in the CYO grade school program.
2. This program is designed to emphasize skill development. All participants play in an organized league focusing on basic skills, team building, values, and sportsmanship.
3. In order to emphasize the recreational/instructional nature of the Novice I program, please Note:
   a. All Players are expected to play ¼ of each game at the minimum.
   b. Score may be kept during games between Novice Teams.
   c. Leagues and teams will not report or keep win-loss records or standings.
   d. No league champion will be determined.
4. All Novice I games shall be played in accordance with the playing rules of the National Federation of High School Basketball Rule Book and the P.I.A.A., except as modified and published prior to the start of each basketball season. One exception is the Restrictive Coaching Rule (the bench rule) will be followed.
5. Each CYO League may establish policies at the Novice level related to the length of play and format of the contest (for example: four quarters, two halves or running clock).
6. A Regulation Women's Basketball (28.5") will be used by all boys and girls Novice I teams.
7. Novice I teams are restricted from using full-court pressing at any time throughout the course of the game.
8. Teams are required to drop behind the mid-court line under the following restrictions:
   a. Any inbound play in the backcourt
   b. Any change of possession resulting in but limited to a rebound or steal (teams must drop back when a referee determines offense is in control)
9. Any game between Novice Teams may be officiated by coaches or volunteers. All scheduled volunteers must have proper Diocesan youth protection identification.

PENALTY: Failure to meet any of the requirements listed above may result in suspension of coaches and forfeiture of games.

SECTION 6. Novice II (Note: Before a parish or consolidated school can enter multiple Novice II teams they must enter a Novice I team.)

1. This is a recreational/instructional program for participants in the fourth grade or lower who have not reached their eleventh birthday before September 1st of the year in which the roster is being filed.
2. This program is designed to emphasize skill development. All participants play in an organized league focusing on basic skills, team building, values, and sportsmanship.
3. In order to emphasize the recreational/instructional nature of the Novice II program, please Note:
   a. All Players are expected to play ¼ of each game at the minimum.
   b. Score may be kept during games between Novice Teams.
   c. Leagues and teams will not report or keep win-loss records or standings.
   d. No league champion will be determined.
4. All Novice II games shall be played in accordance with the playing rules of the National Federation of High School Basketball Rule Book and the P.I.A.A., except as modified and published prior to the start of each basketball season. One exception is the Restrictive Coaching Rule (the bench rule) will be followed.

5. Each CYO Area may establish policies at the Novice level related to the length of play and format of the contest (for example: four quarters, two halves or running clock).
6. A Regulation Women's Basketball (28.5") will be used by all boys and girls Novice II teams.
7. Novice II teams are restricted from using full-court pressing at any time throughout the course of the game.
8. Teams are required to drop behind the mid-court line under the following restrictions:
   a. Any inbound play in the backcourt
   b. Any change of possession resulting in but limited to a rebound or steal (teams must drop back when a referee determines offense is in control)
9. Any game between Novice Teams may be officiated by coaches or volunteers. All scheduled volunteers must have proper Diocesan youth protection identification.

PENALTY: Failure to meet any of the requirements listed above may result in suspension of coaches and forfeiture of games.

ARTICLE 27 - HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL CLASSIFICATIONS

SECTION 1. High School Varsity

1. This is a competitive program for participants in twelfth grade or lower who have not reached their nineteenth birthday before September 1st of the year in which a roster is being filed. Any student who does not meet the eligibility requirements (Article 11) is ineligible to participate in the CYO high school program.
2. Any participant listed on a varsity roster is also eligible to participate in junior varsity program, but his/her name must be listed on both rosters.
3. All varsity games shall be played in accordance with the playing rules of the National Federation of High School Basketball Rule Book and the P.I.A.A., except as modified and published prior to the start of each basketball season.
4. All Diocesan CYO girls and boys high school varsity basketball games shall consist of four eight-minute quarters. Overtime quarters shall be limited to four minutes.
5. A Regulation Women's Basketball (28.5") will be used during girls' Varsity games; a Regulation Men's Basketball (29.5") will be used during boys' Varsity games.

PENALTY: Failure to meet any of the requirements listed above may result in suspension of coaches and forfeiture of games.

SECTION 2. High School Junior Varsity

1 This is a competitive program for participants in eleventh grade or lower who have not reached their nineteenth birthday before September 1st of the year in which a roster is being filed. Any student who does not meet the eligibility requirements (Article 10) is ineligible to participate in the CYO high school program.
2 All junior varsity games shall be played in accordance with the playing rules of the National Federation of High School Basketball Rule Book and the P.I.A.A., except as modified and published prior to the start of each basketball season.
3 All Diocesan CYO girls and boys high school junior varsity basketball games shall consist of four eight-minute quarters. Overtime quarters shall be limited to four minutes.
4 A Regulation Women's Basketball (28.5") will be used during girls' junior varsity games; a Regulation Men's Basketball (29.5") will be used during boys' junior varsity games.

PENALTY: Failure to meet any of the requirements listed above may result in suspension of coaches and forfeiture of games.

ARTICLE 28 – OPEN DIOCESAN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS

SECTION 1. Purpose

Grade School - The main purpose of the Open Diocesan Basketball Tournament is to allow all varsity girls and boys CYO grade school basketball teams the opportunity to compete for the title of Diocesan CYO Basketball Champions and have these champions represent the Diocese of Harrisburg at the Pennsylvania State CYO Grade School Basketball Tournament. Further, these tournaments will stress the importance of team play, fairness, and good sportsmanship according to Catholic principles.

High School - The main purpose of the Open Diocesan Basketball Tournament is to provide the top varsity girls and boys CYO high school basketball teams the opportunity to compete for the title of Diocesan CYO Basketball Champions. The champions will then represent the Diocese of Harrisburg at the Pennsylvania State CYO High School Basketball Tournament if one is held. Further, these tournaments will stress the importance of team play, fairness, and good sportsmanship according to Catholic principles.

SECTION 2. Tournament Administration

The Diocesan CYO Director will be responsible for the management of these tournaments. The Diocesan CYO Director will be designated as chairperson of the tournament. This chairperson has the authority to appoint other people in positions to assist in the operation of the tournament. The CYO Area Presidents/Commissioners will be solely responsible for the seeding of all teams. Once these seeds are established, they will be placed on a preset bracket. Their decision regarding seeds is final and will not be open to discussion. The CYO director will establish the brackets for the Preliminary Tournament and the Final 8. This will include times and locations of all games.

SECTION 3. Hosting Open Diocesan Basketball Tournaments

The CYO Director can offer the opportunity to host an Open Diocesan Basketball Tournament to Diocesan high schools or parishes with facilities capable of hosting a tournament of this size. The host organization must follow all of the provisions of Article 29. The selection of tournament host will be the decision of the Diocesan CYO Director and shall be final.

SECTION 4. Eligibility

Grade School - All Diocesan CYO grade school varsity basketball teams must meet the following requirements before applying for entry into the Open Diocesan Basketball Tournaments:

1. Only CYO varsity teams in compliance with Diocesan Athletic Policies shall be eligible to participate in these tournaments.
2. Teams must have participated in a CYO basketball league within their designated CYO Area.
3. Only those who were listed on the varsity roster during the regular season are eligible to play in the Open Diocesan Basketball Tournaments.

High School – Teams will be selected for the Diocesan high school tournament based on their finish within the high school CYO league. Players must be listed on the high school varsity or junior varsity roster to be eligible for the Diocesan Tournament.

SECTION 5. Tournament Format

Grade School - Both the girls and boys Diocesan Tournaments will be held together, if possible, on the same weekend. If more than eight teams apply for either or both tournaments, single elimination play-in games will be scheduled as needed during the week before the final eight team play begins. The number of play-in games will be determined by how many entries there are in each tournament. Eight girls and eight boys teams will then go on to the Diocesan Championship Tournament. All of the games of this tournament will be played at the same site, except for the opening round of games, when two sites in the same area will be used if needed. The first round of the Diocesan Championship Tournament will be single elimination. The semi-finals and finals will determine first through fourth place in the tournament.

High School - Both the girls and boys tournaments will be held at the same location during the same weekend(s). Brackets will be a single elimination tournament. When possible, the boys tournament will consist of twelve teams and the girls will consist of six teams. These numbers are based on the number of teams entered in the CYO high school league and may change at any time.

SECTION 6. Tournament Sites

Grade School - For the Preliminary Tournament, the Diocesan CYO Director will centralize all of the games to one particular area. For the Final 8 Tournament a predetermined site will be used for all games. On all weekends of play, a suitable playing facility is required. Any acceptable site, approved by the Diocesan CYO Director, can be utilized by the host organization. The Diocesan CYO Director will set the sites and times of all games. There shall be no change of these games, times, or sites by anyone except the Diocesan CYO Director.

SECTION 7. Tournament Entrance Application (Grade School & High School)

A Tournament Entrance Application will be provided by the CYO Director along with all other detailed information at least twenty-one days prior to the start of the tournament. It will be the coach's responsibility to return this completed application and a roster to the Diocesan CYO Director if their team wishes to participate in the tournament. This registration and payment made through the Diocesan payment system must be received by the published deadline.

SECTION 8. Tournament Entrance Fee (Grade School & High School)

The Diocesan CYO Director determines the Tournament Entrance Fee. There will be one fee for all activities of the Diocesan Tournament – teams that move on to the Final 8 tournaments (if applicable) will not be charged an additional fee. This fee is used to help defray the operating cost of the tournament and must be received with the Tournament Entrance Application. If a team fails to participate in the tournament, there is no refund of their entrance fee.

SECTION 9. Tournament Program

The official tournament program will include team rosters, game schedule for the entire tournament, and acknowledgements to the Bishop and the Diocesan CYO Administration. Parishes and consolidated schools will be encouraged to support the tournament program by purchasing space in the program and providing ad copy. Proceeds from the program shall be used to off-set Diocesan costs related to the tournament.

SECTION 10. Tournament Food Concession Facilities

Organizations who host the Open Diocesan Basketball Tournament must provide food concession facilities, which must remain open during the entire tournament.

SECTION 11. Awards to be Presented Grade School

1. TOURNAMENT CHAMPION

Team Award, Individual Awards - limited to fifteen per team, Bishop's Award, game ball, and scorebook.

2. SECOND AND THIRD PLACE

Individual Awards - limited to fifteen per team.

SECTION 12. Awards to be Presented High School

1 TOURNAMENT CHAMPION

Team Award, Individual Awards- limited to fifteen per team.

2 **SECOND PLACE -** Individual Awards - limited to fifteen per team.

SECTION 13. Tournament Profits

A tournament such as this entails a great deal of expense such as officials, awards, postage, telephone, and other related expenses. The entrance fees do not defray the entire cost of running a tournament. As a result, the sponsoring host organization is required to submit 50% of the tournament gate receipts for both weekends to the Diocesan CYO Director. All food concessions are excluded from any

profit sharing. Any other profits generated by the tournament will be shared with the Diocesan CYO. The details of this arrangement will be outlined in writing in advance of the tournament by the host organization and the Diocesan CYO.

ARTICLE 29 – HOSTING A DIOCESE-SPONSORED BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Teams wishing to host a Diocese-Sponsored Tournament must submit a written proposal on the form provided to the CYO Director at least thirty days in advance of the tournament start date. The selection of the site will be the decision of the Diocesan CYO Director. Before the Diocesan CYO Director allows an organization to host the tournament, assurance of the group's ability to arrange suitable crowd control, food concessions, parking, and any other details necessary for a good tournament will be submitted to the director. All decisions by the Diocesan CYO Director will be final.

Any host organization is required to submit 50% of the tournament gate receipts to the Diocesan CYO Director. All food concessions are excluded from any profit sharing. The details of this arrangement will be outlined in writing in advance of the tournament by the host organization and the Diocesan CYO.

ARTICLE 30 – TRACK

SECTION 1. Official CYO Track Season

The official CYO track season begins with the second full week of March. Meets may begin the last weekend of March. The season shall end by May 30th. The scheduled dates and times of meets will be determined by the commissioner(s) in conjunction with input from head coaches. CYO teams are not restricted from individual activities outside this period; however, teams that participate in other track activities before the beginning, or after the completion of the official CYO track season are solely under the jurisdiction of their individual parish or consolidated grade school. Sponsorship of meets or tournaments is prohibited except within the official CYO season. (See Article 17 – Penalties for Team Non-Compliance)

SECTION 2. Team Participation in Other Track Programs

During the Official CYO track season, CYO teams may also participate in other organized meets, provided that participation in these activities does not interfere with regular season meets. However, CYO teams and/or participants are forbidden, at all times, from being members of a Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (P.I.A.A.) sanctioned track team. (See Article 17 – Penalties for Team Non-Compliance)

SECTION 3. Track Classifications

Teams shall compete at the following grades/levels:

- Junior Varsity Girls 4th through sixth grades
- Junior Varsity Boys 4th through sixth grades
- Varsity Girls 7th through eighth grades
- Varsity Boys 7th through eighth grades

ARTICLE 31 – CHEERLEADING

SECTION 1. Official CYO Cheerleading Season

The official CYO cheerleading season begins November 1st. The season ends with the last weekend of state basketball tournaments. During the season, it is the responsibility of the participating parishes to set policies and standards for their individual cheerleading programs. Note: cheerleading programs shall follow the roster requirements of Article 8 and the grade school eligibility rules as listed in Article 10.

SECTION 2. Safety

No cheerleading squad will be allowed to cheer on the floor (including sidelines) unless under the supervision of an adult. Violation of safety rules could result in squad suspension from further participation in any CYO activities for the remainder of the season. The following safety rules must be strictly adhered to by all cheering squads when cheering at CYO basketball games.

1. No cheerleader will stand on another person.
2. No flips are permitted from another person.
3. Mounts are not allowed.
4. Trampolines and/or mini tramps shall not be used.
5. Pom-poms will be allowed in the gymnasium.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF COACHING

1. Lose with class. Anyone can be a good winner.
2. Always give your opponent credit for the win.
3. Never blame the officials.
4. Always shake hands with the other team after the final whistle. It is a game, not a war.
5. Never swear at or in any way abuse your players. Always treat them like young ladies or gentlemen.
6. Never allow your players or coaches to use profanity. There is no place for that on a basketball court.
7. Always take the blame for a loss, for only you as head coach could have changed the outcome.
8. Always be loyal to your team and coaching staff, for they are your family.
9. Remember you are a CYO coach. You do not have the budget of a Penn State or Notre Dame team.
10. Enjoy the game, your players, and your coaching staff. They could have chosen anyone to coach them. They chose you.

BILL OF RIGHTS FOR YOUNG ATHLETES

1. Right to participate in sports.
2. Right to participate at a level commensurate with each child's maturity and ability.
3. Right to have qualified adult leadership.
4. Right to play as a child and not as an adult.
5. Right of children to share in the leadership and decision-making of their sport participation.
6. Right to participate in safe and healthy environments.
7. Right to proper preparation for participation in sports.
8. Right to an equal opportunity to strive for success.
9. Right to be treated with dignity.
10. Right to have fun in sports.

Diocese of Harrisburg

Secretariat for Catholic Life and Evangelization

Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministries

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Approvals

11/6/24

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Vicar General

11/6/24

Deacon Gregory Amarante
Secretary for the Secretariat of
Catholic Life & Evangelization

11/6/24

Zachary Haney
Director for Youth & Young Adult Ministries