

**General Guidelines
for the CYM Sports Program
of the Diocese of Pittsburgh**



Promoting Gospel Values through Sports

This document supersedes all other guidelines in regards to CYM Sports in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. These new guidelines take effect October 4, 2017.

Anything not specifically covered will be addressed at the discretion of the CYM Sports Board who can amend these guidelines at any time.

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CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY SPORTS

Catholic Youth Ministry (CYM) Sports is a program of the Department for Family, Youth, and Catholic School Ministries under the Secretariat for Leadership Development and Evangelization within the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh. This handbook provides for the operation of the CYM Sports, which assumes responsibility for enforcing compliance only in those leagues that it directly organizes and coordinates. CYM Sports identifies a parish activity controlled and supervised on the parish level by the pastor.

PURPOSE AND MISSION

CYM Sports seeks to gather young people for athletic competition so that Gospel values may be witnessed. The mission of CYM Sports is to evangelize through athletics. In other words, we seek to promote Gospel values through sports. It invites parishes to make the most of the opportunities athletic competition provides for ministry to, for, with, and by youth. When doing so, CYM Sports keeps youth connected with the Church and helps them see the Eucharist being lived out in the lives of adults. Both young people and adults are challenged not to compete for the sake of winning, but for the sake of participating. Christ-like behavior, conduct, spirit, attitude and language are expected at all times from the coaches, players, officials, and spectators.

Our mission is to provide resources and support to youth ministry programs in their efforts to bring alive the three goals of comprehensive youth ministry:

1. "To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today.
2. To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community.
3. To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person."¹

¹ Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry: USCCB, 1997.

MINISTRY STRUCTURE FOR CYM SPORTS

Director for Adolescence Ministry

- Responsible for all youth ministry programming and for specific supervision of CYM Sports, its board, and coordinator.

Chairperson of the CYM Sports Board

CYM Sports Coordinator

- Coordinate the administrative activities and overall management and implementation.

CYM Sports Board

- The Director for Adolescence Ministry will appoint members to this Board in consultation with current members. The members of the Board assist in overseeing CYM Sports. The Board upholds the mission and purpose of CYM Sports through:
 - Personal contact with the teams;
 - Reviewing guidelines, procedures, and responsibilities;
 - Developing goals and objectives;
 - Addressing Lack of Christian Behavior Reports as they are filed.
- The membership of the Board includes:
 - Chairperson
 - Coordinator
 - Chaplain
 - Secretary *ex officio*
 - Representatives may also include the following:
 - Youth Minister
 - Coach
 - Parent
 - Official
 - At Large

Article I. Eligibility for Participation

Section 1.01 Team Eligibility

- (a) Teams wishing to enter CYM Sports must inquire with the Director for Adolescence Ministry, fulfill all registration requirements, and attend all mandatory meetings.
- (b) To be eligible to apply for team status, teams must be affiliated with and represent a Catholic parish within the boundaries of the Diocese of Pittsburgh.
 - (i) Each parish that has a CYM Sports team (basketball or softball) must appoint a CYM Sports Contact Person that is approved by the Director for Adolescence Ministry, by September 1/February 1 of each year. Ideally this would be the parish Youth Minister or another member of the professional staff.
 - (ii) The CYM Sports Contact Person shall attend the annual pre-season meeting concerning their duties and responsibilities.
 - (iii) The responsibilities of the CYM Sports Contact Person are: good knowledge of the General Guidelines for the CYM Sports Program of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, attendance at most – if not all – home games, investigation and reporting of all incidents that occur involving that parish’s team at both home and away games, notification to players and coaches of suspensions and penalties, responsibility for the spirituality of the team(s).
- (c) Once a team is approved, the CYM Sports Coordinator will arrange a meeting with appropriate parish representatives to review the CYM Sports Program Guidelines, and to assist in whatever way possible.
- (d) Team sponsorship
 - (i) Team sponsorship is permitted. Parishes must be careful in not soliciting sponsorship from organizations that are inappropriate for youth activities (e.g. bars). Sponsors must be pre-approved by the Pastor/Administrator and/or CYM Sports Contact Person on an annual basis.
 - (ii) Recognizing sponsors on the team t-shirt/jersey is permitted. The name of the parish must be placed on the front of the shirt and the sponsor name or insignia on the back or sleeve. The sponsor data must not be larger than ½ the size of the parish data in print type or area (if it is a logo).
- (e) Two (2) adult coaches, over the age of 21, in good standing, with the CYM Sports Board (i.e. not under suspension or disciplinary action) must accompany the team during practices and competitions.
- (f) The Pastor/Administrator of the parish is ultimately responsible for all actions of the teams that represent his parish. It necessarily follows that all Contact Persons,

coaches, players, parents, and spectators are accountable to the Pastor/Administrator.

- (g) The following items are needed, from every team prior to December 1 (Basketball) or May 1 (Softball) in order for a team to be approved and participate in the league.
 - (i) Form A/properly completed sections on team eligibility, coaches' eligibility, team registration, and safe environments policy verification.
 - 1) Adults (18 or older) who are subject to the safe environment policy must:
 - a) Complete online database application (to track compliance with the national charter),
 - b) Acknowledge that they will adhere to the standards of behavior contained in the Code of Pastoral Conduct,
 - c) Complete the Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Record Check,
 - d) Complete the Department of Public Welfare Child Abuse History,
 - e) Take Protecting God's Children training, and
 - f) Mandated Reporter Training Sessions
 - (ii) Form B/properly completed for each and every eligible player.
 - (iii) Form C/properly completed for each and every eligible player.
 - 1) The Form C/"Athletic Release" form is required for the following reasons:
 - a) It provides permission for the youth to participate.
 - b) It expresses the intention of the parish to provide adequate and responsible supervision.
 - c) It provides important information regarding where parent(s) can be reached during games.
 - d) It provides important information regarding medical insurance coverage.
 - e) It provides the parent's permission to obtain medical assistance in the event that the parent cannot be contacted.
- (h) Teams not submitting the above items mentioned above in sub-section "g" by the required deadlines will be immediately ineligible. **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.** The issues of liability and accountability are too important to be taken lightly.

- (i) A team may have unlimited players on their roster. Rosters may not be changed or altered past the date they are due.
- (j) The official roster for each team will be kept on file and is available for review upon request.

Section 1.02 Coaches Eligibility

- (a) The Ministry of Coach as presented in the “Lay Ministries Handbook”, Section 3, Page 13.
 - (i) Vision: “The volunteer coach for a parish sports program is a mature Christian person who works toward the integration of sports into the parish youth ministry program. He/she coordinates and is responsible for providing a Catholic Christian environment to practice for and participate in diocesan sponsored sports events. The coach helps promote personal growth and Christian sportsmanship in the individual youth he/she coaches and provides opportunity to share Christian community through greater participation in the parish life.”
 - (ii) Responsibilities and Tasks – The volunteer coach:
 - 1) Collaborates with the Pastor/Administrator, Contact Person, and/or Youth Minister in the selection of team members;
 - 2) Organizes and schedules time and place for practice and games in cooperation with the CYM Sports Coordinator; and
 - 3) The coach serves as a mature witness to the Christian faith.
 - (iii) Formation, Training and Criteria for Readiness: The volunteer Head Coach is required to:
 - 1) Attend the coach clinic and must renew his/her accreditation by attending the annual pre-season meeting.
 - a) Assistant coaches are welcome and encouraged to attend, but are not required.
- (b) Coaching is a noble task. We view sports as youth ministry and the coach as youth minister. Therefore, the following requirements are required and must be verified for all adults prior to coaching a CYM Sports team:
 - (i) Coach Clinic
 - (ii) Compliance with Diocesan Safe Environments Policy:
 - a) Complete online database application (to track compliance with the national charter),

- b) Acknowledge that they will adhere to the standards of behavior contained in the Code of Pastoral Conduct,
 - c) Complete the Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Record Check,
 - d) Complete the Department of Public Welfare Child Abuse History,
 - e) Take Protecting God's Children training, and
 - f) Mandated Reporter Training Sessions
- (iii) The appropriate representative from each parish team, or an adult designee, is expected at each of the following mandatory meetings:
- 1) Pre-season Meeting
 - 2) Scheduling Meeting, and
 - 3) Post-season Meeting (*if eligible*)
- (iv) Teams who fail to attend these meetings will be declared ineligible for post-season play.
- (c) The Head Coach is accountable to the Pastor/Administrator, Contact Person and/or Youth Minister since he/she is representing the parish in the forum of CYM Sports.
- (d) The Head Coach is to oversee the actions of the assisting coaches on their team to insure that they act within the purpose and mission of CYM Sports.
- (e) A coach must be at least 21 years of age. No one under that age may be considered a coach in any capacity, including scorekeeper. All bench and practice personnel must be in full compliance with the Diocesan Safe Environments Policy before they are given any formal responsibility and are permitted to be at practice or on the bench.
- (f) Finances
- (i) It is the responsibility of the Head Coach by virtue of his/her position to be accountable to the Pastor/Administrator, Contact Person, and/or Youth Minister in all financial matters dealing with CYM Sports. The financial policies established by the Diocese of Pittsburgh require the Pastor/Administrator to oversee all accounts dealing with parish organizations as well as having his name on all accounts.
- (g) Parishes may add additional requirements to those listed above.

Section 1.03 Individual Eligibility

- (a) Any youth whose residence is within the boundaries of the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh is welcome and encouraged to participate in CYM Sports.

- (b) Catholic youth must play for the parish to which they and their family are registered if their parish sponsors a team.
- (c) If the local parish does not sponsor a team, both the Catholic and non-Catholic youth must play for the parish with a CYM team that is the closest to the parish of the youth. The coach must notify in writing/e-mail the CYM Sports Board for their approval.
- (d) A non-Catholic youth must play for the Catholic parish within whose geographical boundaries his/her family resides if that parish sponsors a team. The coach must notify in writing/e-mail the CYM Sports Board for their approval.
- (e) A person is eligible to compete in CYM Sports as long as:
 - (i) They are enrolled in high school; or
 - (ii) They are being home schooled and acknowledged by the school district as such through appropriate documentation.
- (f) Individual eligibility expires September 1st following graduation or reception of a G.E.D. In the event that the youth has dropped out of high school, their eligibility expires on September 1st after their 19th birthday.
- (g) A person who is legally rostered for one team may not play for another team during the same season of that particular sport.
- (h) A person who plays for a CYM Sports team in their area because their parish does not have a team must play for the same team the following year unless the family parish membership has changed subject to section "i" below.
- (i) If the home parish of a player who has played a season for another team in their area begins to sponsor a team, then the player involved may elect to play for either the new team of their parish or the team for which they previously played. The player's choice is final for his/her remaining eligibility.
- (j) Any team using (an) ineligible player(s) will forfeit all games in which the individual(s) participated. To have "participated" means that their name appears in the scorebook for that game.
- (k) All legally rostered players will be ruled eligible after the halfway point of the season (determined by the respective CYM Sports Program Coordinator prior to the start of the season) if there was no written protest against the player.
- (l) In order to be legally rostered, all players must complete Form C/Athletic Release, and, with their parents/guardians, sign the *Athlete's Pledge*.
- (m) Parishes may add additional requirements to those listed above.

(n) Specific guidelines for basketball eligibility:

- (i) Any youth who is on the team roster for a high school (varsity, junior varsity or 9th grade) team or professional competition basketball team may not participate in CYM Basketball during that school year.
- (ii) A participant on the high school basketball team may participate in CYM Basketball for their parish ONLY if the participant quits or is cut from his/her high school team prior to December 15 of the season in question. His or her name must appear on the roster submitted to the Department for Youth and Young Adult Ministry by December 15.
- (iii) Participants may play on their school intramural teams.
- (iv) All seniors/12th graders will be ineligible to play for the Junior Varsity team.
- (v) All juniors/11th graders will be eligible to play for Junior Varsity or Varsity, but not both: juniors names may appear on only one (1) roster.

(o) Specific guidelines for softball eligibility:

- (i) Any youth who participates (is registered) in high school baseball/softball during the spring semester of the calendar year may participate in CYM Softball during the summer that follows. However, his or her name must appear on the roster submitted to the Director for Adolescence Ministry by May 15.

Article II. Discipleship

Section 2.01 Rules of Competition

(a) Basketball

- (i) National Federation of State High School Association rules will be used.
- (ii) Additional rules as determined by the CYM Sports Board.

(b) Softball

- (i) USA Softball (formerly ASA) rules will be used.
- (ii) Additional rules as determined by the CYM Sports Board.

Section 2.02 Christian Focus

- (a) Sunday, the Lord's Day, is the focus of our Church and family life. Therefore, no gym may be opened and no athletic event may begin before 1:00pm on Sundays. Games must not be scheduled in competition with parish mass schedule. Additionally, no games may be scheduled during school hours: 7:30am to 3:00pm on days when school is in session.

- (b) A Christian atmosphere is expected at all times at CYM Sports games. The home CYM Sports Contact Person and Head Coach are responsible for maintaining this Christian atmosphere. Players, fans, coaches, and officials must be informed of what is expected to maintain a Christian atmosphere. All in attendance will recite the *Lord's Prayer*.
- (c) Just prior to the prayer before the game, players and coaches must introduce themselves to the members of the opposing team and shake their hands.
- (d) Teams are expected to stress good sportsmanship (i.e. discipleship) at all times.
- (e) Players and coaches must shake hands with the opposing team after the game.

Section 2.03 Code of Conduct

- (a) No coach, player or spectator is to be guilty of:
 - (i) A forceful or objectionable (such as, but not limited to a profane gesture) action.
 - (ii) A personal verbal abuse against any official for any reason.
 - (iii) Laying hands upon, pushing, shoving, striking, or threatening an official, coach, or spectator.
 - (iv) A physical attack upon any player, coach, referee or spectator.
- (b) Penalty:
 - (i) All penalties apply as stated in the prevailing rulebook for specific athletic competitions.
 - (ii) Violation of points i – ii above by a coach or a player will result in a minimum 3 game suspension for CYM Sports Program league and/or playoff games. No one may serve as a coach in any sport while under suspension.
 - (iii) Violation of point's iii – iv above by a coach will result in a minimum suspension of the offending coach for one full calendar year from all CYM Sports Programs. Serious violence will require dismissal.
 - (iv) Violation of point iii - iv above by a player will result in a minimum suspension of the offending player for 2 months which must include at least 8 CYM Sports league and/or playoff games. Serious violence will require dismissal.
 - (v) Violation of points i – ii by a spectator will result in their immediate ejection from the game.
 - (vi) Violation of point's iii – iv by a spectator will result in their admission being denied at future CYM Sports Program gatherings.

- (vii) While on suspension, the person suspended may not participate in practices or team meetings, or attend the games in which their team participates.
 - (viii) If the suspended coach(es) or player(s) disregard stated penalties when properly notified by the CYM Sports Board, the team is to be suspended from league competition for one full calendar year in that particular sport.
 - (ix) If the season ends before completion of the penalty it will carry over into the next season for that CYM Sports Program sport.
 - (x) Players, coaches, and spectators suspended from league participation must fulfill the re-entry process while on suspension. Failure to do so will result in an extension of the suspension until the re-entry process is fulfilled.
 - 1) While on suspension a player must turn in to the Director a response to the following question: Without talking about the incident, what role should spirituality and faith play in CYM Sports? There is no length requirement on this response, but it should be at least one page.
 - 2) A suspended coach's accreditation will be revoked immediately, and he/she will have to be re-accredited by attending a Coaches Accreditation in the off-season.
 - (xi) More actions might be attached to these requirements depending on the severity of the incident.
- (c) Ejection
- (i) An ejection is the same as a disqualification with two technical fouls and/or being thrown out (ejected) of the game by an official.
 - (ii) A coach or player ejected from any game (pre-season, regular season or post-season) for a first offense is suspended for at least one (1) game including makeup, pre-season, season or post-season games.
 - (iii) A coach or player ejected from any game (pre-season, regular season or post-season) for a second offense is suspended for the remainder of the season including post-season/playoffs.
- (d) The CYM Sports Contact Person must make an appeal or protest of a ruling in writing to the Director within 24 hours of notification of the ruling. All appeals or protests must be filed with a \$35.00 fee. **NO APPEAL OR PROTEST WILL BE REVIEWED UNLESS PROPERLY FILED.** A final appeal board made up of the Secretary for Leadership Development, Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, and Associate Director will review the protest or appeal. No appeals or protests are allowed on a judgment call by a duly appointed official. The fee will be refunded if the appeal or protest is won.

- (e) The home team is ultimately responsible for matters of security and for the conduct of the spectators, the safety of the visiting team, the officials, and the visiting team's spectators. Decisions regarding safety and appropriate spectator behavior are the sole responsibility of the home Contact Person and coaches. Visiting coaches and Contact Persons must assist the home Contact Person, when situations with their spectators arise.

Section 2.04 Catholic Youth Ministry Sports Board

- (a) The term for a CYM Sports Board Member is three (3) years renewable.
 - (i) The following are permanent members of the CYM Sports Board: the Chairperson, the CYM Sports Coordinator, and the CYM Sports Chaplain.
- (b) The following are the responsibilities and duties of the CYM Sports Board regarding attendance at games.
 - (i) If assigned by the Chairperson to attend a game, a CYM Sports Board Member must wear his/her CYM Sports Board shirt; introduce himself/herself to the respective CYM Sports Contact Persons, respective coaches, officials, and home scorekeeper; and state to each the reason for attendance at a game.
 - (ii) If assigned by the Chairperson to attend a game to investigate the behavior of players, coaches, or fans, the CYM Sports Board Members are to sit at the scorer's table and they do have the ability to suspend a game or make rulings in conjunction with game officials during the game.
 - (iii) If assigned by the Chairperson to attend a game, the CYM Sports Board Member must carry with them a copy of the General Guidelines for the CYM Sports Program of the Diocese of Pittsburgh.
 - (iv) The schedule to attend games will be determined by the Chairperson on a weekly basis and a rotating schedule. The Chairperson will inform the CYM Sports Board Member of games that need to be attended in that week.
- (c) The following are responsibilities and duties of the CYM Sports Board regarding rulings.
 - (i) A quorum of the CYM Sports Board will make rulings within a 48-hour period after a Lack of Christian Behavior Report is filed with the Chairperson, unless a full CYM Sports Board Meeting is scheduled within a week of the incident.
 - 1) A quorum will consist of four (4) members of the CYM Sports Board.
 - (ii) Both teams involved in the game and officials are required to file Lack of Christian Behavior Reports in writing (e-mail) within 24 hours of being notified by the Director. If a team or official fails to file the report, the board will have no choice but to make its ruling based on the reports that have been filed. Not filing a Lack of

Christian Behavior Report will not be considered as reason for appealing or protesting a ruling.

- (iii) Lack of Christian Behavior Forms will be faxed or emailed to quorum members. Quorum members will then have 4-6 hours to respond to the forms via email. After the 4 -6 hour period the Chairperson will contact quorum members for their vote. The Chairperson will then inform the Director for Adolescence Ministry of the quorum's vote and his/her recommendation. The Chairperson will inform the quorum and the CYM Sports Contact Persons at the parishes involved of the final ruling within 24 hours.

Article III. Procedures

Section 3.01 Forfeits

- (a) A team found using an ineligible player or players will forfeit all games won in which the ineligible player(s) were involved.
- (b) All games forfeited will result in assigning a win for the opposing team and the games will count in the final standings.
- (c) Games are to start at the appointed time. If the game has not begun within fifteen minutes of the appointed time, the officials can forfeit the game to the ready team. In such cases, officials must sign the book and specify the time of departure. Coaches cannot agree to reschedule games if one team is not ready or does not have enough players – the team not ready or without an adequate number of players must forfeit the game.
- (d) The team guilty of a no show or a forfeit (prior to the official start of the game) must pay for the officials.

Section 3.02 Postponements

- (a) The assigning official must be notified two (2) hours prior to game time of a postponement and when the game is subsequently rescheduled.
- (b) In case of inclement weather, the home team is responsible for notifying the visiting team coach.
- (c) A game should be postponed if there is a potential for trouble from the players or fans.
- (d) Games should only be postponed due to inclement weather. Lack of players, not aware of parish events, school events, or community events etc. is not an acceptable reason to postpone a game. Under these circumstances, if the weather is good, the game is expected to be played, and will result in a forfeit for the team postponing the game.

- (e) In case of inclement weather, and a game is started, a coach may use his/her discretion to postpone the game for the safety of his/her team. In this circumstance, the events surrounding the game should be immediately reported to the CYM Sports Coordinator.
- (f) All postponed games must be made up by the scheduled last day of the season. No games can be made up after that date. Games not made-up by the last day of the season will result in a double forfeit in the final standings.

Section 3.03 Technical Foul, Incident, Ejection or Accident Report

- (a) All incidents occurring either before, during or after a game, or ejection involving coaches, players or spectators must be reported via a Lack of Christian Behavior Report within 24 hours by Contact Persons to the CYM Sports Coordinator.
 - (i) The umpire or referee is responsible for initially notifying the CYM Sports Coordinator, either directly or through the assigning official, then submitting a written report, for any action that takes place during a game.
- (b) Any injuries that require a physician's attention must be reported to the CYM Sports Coordinator within 48 hours.
- (c) Trips to the hospital related to a CYM Sports practice or game by a player require the presence of the Contact Person, a coach or the parent/guardian.

Section 3.04 Playoffs

- (a) Playoff seedings and pairings will be determined by the CYM Sports Board the week preceding the playoffs.
- (b) First place teams will be in one draw for seedings. Second place teams will be in a second draw, and so on.
- (c) In case of a tie for any place finish in the regular season standings, the following tie-breaking procedure shall be followed in order to seed teams in the tournament bracket.
 - (i) Results of head-to-head competition during the regular season.
 - (ii) Each team's section record versus the team or tied teams occupying the highest position in the standings. Continue down through the standings until one team gains an advantage.
 - (iii) Each team's section road record versus the team or tied teams occupying the highest position in the standings. Continue down through the standings until one team gains an advantage.

- (iv) Each team's section home record versus the team or tied teams occupying the highest position in the standings. Continue down through the standings until one team gains an advantage.
- (v) Coin flip conducted by the CYM Sports Board.
- (d) The teams will be placed in a bracket according to the draw and are expected to be able to play at the time of their assigned game.
- (e) The higher seeded team will be considered the home team.
- (f) Postponement, cancellation or resumption of playoff games is at the discretion of the representatives of the CYM Sports Board present and is final. Although an umpire or referee may delay a game, he/she cannot postpone a playoff game.

Article IV. Tournaments

Section 4.01 Hosting

- (a) All teams that wish to host a CYM Sports tournament must submit a written request to the CYM Sports Board, at least 30 days prior to the event.

Section 4.02 Participants

- (a) All teams entering a tournament are required to check with the CYM Sports Coordinator to ensure that the tournament has been approved.
- (b) No tournaments, other than those hosted by CYM Sports Programs, are permitted after the last weekend in February. All teams covered by these General Guidelines are restricted from hosting or participating in any CYM Sports or non-CYM Sports Program tournaments, All-Star Games, or any type of playoff games, during the same weekend as the Diocesan Tournaments (or State CYO Tournaments when our Diocese hosts them).

Article V. First Aid

Section 5.01 Responsibility

- (a) All teams are required to provide team first aid in the form of a kit. This kit must be placed in the area of the team's bench for their use. The kit must include materials necessary for correctly dealing with blood and open wounds. The kit also must be present at team practices.
- (b) Infections due to blood borne pathogens are a real concern for all. The contact persons, coaches, and players need to be advised on proper procedures for dealing with cuts and blood.
 - (i) OSHA has created a standard to provide a method to reduce the risk of contracting a blood borne disease on the job. The standard covers anyone who can reasonably anticipate contact with blood or potentially infectious body fluids. It is required

that each team identifies all personnel whose contact with students exposes them to blood and potentially infectious fluids. In addition the personnel are to be educated in the exposure control plan which identifies those persons covered by the standard and determine what measures will be taken to reduce the risk of exposure to blood borne pathogens on the job. Guidelines for Exposure to Blood and Other Body Fluids were developed by the Secretariat for Education, Diocese of Pittsburgh in 1995. (cf. Guidelines, 513.1; also, cf. IX. Government: Guidelines for Exposure to Blood and Other Body Fluids) Taken from the Handbook for Elementary School Principals, Diocese of Pittsburgh, 1997, #636.

Article VI. Non CYM Sports Program Athletics

Section 6.01 Parish participation in other leagues

- (a) Participation in non-CYM Sports Program organized competition is strongly discouraged. However, parishes, with the approval of the pastor or parish CYM Sports Contact Person may elect to participate. If a parish chooses to participate they must follow all previously stated guidelines in Article I – Eligibility for Participation.
 - (i) Coaches must be in possession of the necessary permission forms and medical release forms for each youth participant.

Section 6.02 Legal considerations for parish participation in non-CYM Sports sponsored programs

- (a) If youth from outside the parish participate they must also have the necessary permission forms and medical releases.
- (b) When participating in non-CYM Sports sponsored programs, it must be determined whether or not the physical environment is pursuant to our standards such as first aid, quality of the facility and adequate supervision/security.
- (c) We have no control over the accreditation of the coaches of the other teams that are not sponsored by parishes of the Diocese of Pittsburgh.
- (d) We have no control over the other teams who may not necessarily hold to our values or believe that we are about forming Catholic Christian Athletes.

Section 6.03 Basic safeguards

- (a) To safeguard the participation of all youth we ask those in charge to adhere to the following minimum guidelines for an event being held at the parish gym/field:
 - (i) Adequate supervision of one (1) adult for every seven (7) youth
 - (ii) At least two (2) persons, in full compliance with the diocesan safe environments policy, must be present at all times [Form A].

- (iii) A comprehensive roster of players with completed release forms for each individual are required for all youth participants [Forms B and C]. These forms must be kept on hand in case of an emergency.
- (iv) A telephone, preferably a cell phone, must be available in case of emergencies.
- (v) First aid supplies must be available.

Article VII. Basketball – Boys Varsity, J.V. & Girls Varsity

Section 7.01 National Federation of State High School Association rules will be used.

Section 7.02 Officials

- (a) All officials must be PIAA certified officials assigned by the coordinator of officials designated by the CYM Sports Board. Use of officials not assigned by the coordinator of officials will result in a forfeit and sanctions by the CYM Sports Board as necessary.
- (b) Officials for all CYM basketball games, league and exhibition, are to be assigned by the Coordinator of Officials, designated by the CYM Sports Board. Games played using officials not assigned by the Coordinator of Officials will result in forfeiture. Continued abuses will result in the team being removed from league for the remainder of the year.
- (c) All league games must have two officials to be paid by the home team at a rate determined by the official organization.
- (d) When officials do not show, the games must be postponed and rescheduled at another time.
- (e) If only one of the two appointed officials shows, the game may be played with one official, by mutual agreement, and he/she shall receive 1½ times the fee.
- (f) If the visiting team fails to show, then the home team will pay the full fee and the visiting team will reimburse the home team for the full amount.

Section 7.03 Equipment

- (a) The home team provides the game ball and time clock.
- (b) Each team must provide a suitable site, regulation court for its scheduled home games.
- (c) The home CYM Sports Contact Person or their designee must be in attendance.
- (d) All players of one team must have jerseys/t-shirts of the same color, free of alterations, with numbers of contrasting color in front and back. Jerseys/t-shirts must have a 4" number in front and a 6" number in back. Neither of the single digit numbers one or two shall be used, nor shall any single digit greater than five.

Section 7.04 Amendments to the N.F.H.S. rules:

- (a) The “Mercy Rule” is as follows:
 - (i) At any time in the second half, if the winning team is leading by 30 points, the clock will run continuously except for shooting fouls. Of course, the clock will stop for injury, time outs and if the referee asks for the clock to stop (e.g. if the ball rolls out the gymnasium door).
- 1) One word of caution for coaches: if you instruct your players to foul, either in a mercy rule game or a tight game late in game time, please instruct them in the proper way to foul so they are not called for a flagrant foul. Examples of a flagrant foul could be:
 - a) Grabbing an opponents’ shirt from behind.
 - b) Fouling a player without “playing the ball.”
 - c) A push.
 - d) A hard foul.
- 2) All referees should know that in a close game a team may be trying to foul and your players just need to lightly foul to stop the clock. That way, opponents should not misinterpret the intentions of the person committing the foul and no “situations” should develop.

Article VIII. Softball

Section 8.01 Amateur Softball Association of America rules will be used.

Section 8.02 Players

- (a) Ten players (5 girls and 5 boys) make up a team. A team can play with nine players but that team will take an out every time that missing player is scheduled to bat. They will play nine players with three outfielders.
- (b) The positioning must be two males and two females in the infield, two males and two females in the outfield and either a male pitcher/female catcher or a female pitcher/male catcher.
- (c) The batting order is alternating boy, girl, boy, girl, etc. or girl, boy, girl, boy, etc.
- (d) The batting order may not be changed during the game.
- (e) Extra players may be used only when fielding ten defensive players and it must be one male and one female.
- (f) Unlimited extra players may bat anywhere in the line-up and they must be declared before the game starts. One must have a boy/girl pair for each extra batter.

- (g) An extra player may enter the game in a defensive role. They must stay in the same place in the batting order.
- (h) Substitutions
 - (i) In substitutions, a male must play for a male and a female must play for a female.
 - (ii) When a player is substituted: 1) they may re-enter the game in their original batting order; and 2) they may be substituted for and re-entered one time ONLY per game.

Section 8.03 Officials

- (a) All umpires must be current USA Softball (formerly ASA) certified umpires assigned by the coordinator of umpires designated by the CYM Sports Board. Use of umpires not assigned by the coordinator of umpires will result in a forfeit and sanctions by the CYM Sports Board as necessary.
- (b) Officials for all CYM softball games, league and exhibition, are to be assigned by the Coordinator of Umpires, designated by the CYM Sports Board. Games played using officials not assigned by the Coordinator of Umpires will result in forfeiture. Continued abuses will result in the team being removed from league for the remainder of the year.
- (c) There will be one official per game. The two teams split the fee for the official.
- (d) If the visiting team fails to show, then the home team will pay the full fee and the visiting team will reimburse the home team for the full amount.
- (e) When the official fails to show up, the game will be postponed and rescheduled for a later date, or, by mutual agreement by both coaches, an adult may act as the official. However, this action is strongly discouraged.
- (f) The official will be paid the full fee even if the game does not reach 4 ½ innings of a completed game status or even if the game does not get started.

Section 8.04 Equipment

- (a) Each team provides its own equipment for play: bats, gloves, helmets, and catcher equipment.
 - (i) All bats need to have clear identifying marks and must appear on the A.S.A. Bat Testing & Certification Program “approved bats list” to ensure safety. In addition, bats should be displayed, to be seen by opposing coaches, and made ready for review by officials *prior* to each game.
- (b) The home team provides the bases and home plate.

- (c) The home team provides for each game one new ball (12" – A.S.A. certified on the ball) and one playable ball accepted by the game official.
- (d) All players should wear a uniform jersey/t-shirt with numbers on, at least, the back.
- (e) The catcher must wear a catcher's mask and helmet when behind the plate.
- (f) No metal spikes are to be worn.
- (g) Helmets must be worn at all times by the following individuals: the batter, the runner on base, the catcher, and the player-coach on 1st and 3rd base.

Section 8.05 Field

- (a) Any special ground rules for a field will be made available to all coaches before the start of the season.
- (b) Amendments to the A.S.A. rules:
 - (i) First, second and third bases must be tied down with at least one peg.
 - (ii) A lined batter's box is optional.
 - (iii) Use of foul lines is optional.
 - (iv) A double first base is used to avoid collisions. The runner tags the outside base and the first baseman tags the inside bag.
 - (v) The baseline is 65 feet.
 - (vi) The rule for the pitcher's mound is 50 feet because of the speed of the ball and the safety of the pitcher after a hit ball.
 - (vii) Orange Cones will be placed 65 feet behind first, second and third base forming an imaginary arc. Outfielders must remain behind this imaginary line until the ball is hit when making a play.

Section 8.06 Arc of the Pitch

- (a) The arc is three feet from the ground upon the release of the ball and twelve feet maximum from the ground in the path of the ball from the pitcher to home plate.

Section 8.07 Walks or Base on Balls

- (a) When a male batter is awarded a base on balls intentionally, that is four consecutive balls at the beginning of his plate appearance without a strike, the following female batter has the option to bat or take a base on balls award.

Section 8.08 Foul Balls

- (a) Any batter who fouls off two pitches after acquiring two strikes will be declared out.

Section 8.09 Innings

- (a) A regulation game will consist of nine (9) innings. The two games of a “double-header” will be seven (7) innings.
 - (i) In case of inclement weather, 5 innings is a completed game.
 - (ii) A 9-inning game is over after the seventh turn of bat if a team is ahead by 15 runs.
A 7-inning game is over after the fifth turn of bat if a team is ahead by 15 runs.

Section 8.10 Postponements

- (a) Rained-out games must be re-scheduled before the end of the season.
- (b) When an umpire arrives at the field he/she will have the final decision in postponing the game due to bad weather and/or field conditions. A coach or contact person has the option of postponing a game due to bad weather or field conditions. This must be reported to the CYM Sports Coordinator immediately, with a reason given for the postponement. The CYM Sports Board will then make a ruling on the postponement.



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