



**GIRLS AND BOYS GRADE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL
BASKETBALL POLICIES**

Twentieth Edition

RESPONSIBILITY FOR PARISH OR CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL PROGRAMS

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

The following rules and policies related to CYO basketball programs are designed to establish standards to which parish and consolidated school basketball 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 2023
Diocese of Harrisburg

Posted December 3, 2023

**DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG
CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION
ADMINISTRATION**

Zachary Haney

DIRECTOR, DIOCESAN OFFICE FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

4800 Union Deposit Road

Harrisburg, PA 17111

Phone: (717) 657-4804 Ext. 307

E-mail: zhaney@hbgdiocese.org

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Web sites:

www.hbgdiocese.org/youngchurch

www.leaguelineup.com/hbgcyo

www.leaguelineup.com/hbghscy

**DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG
CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION
ATHLETIC POLICIES**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE I – PURPOSE 1
 SECTION 1. Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Name..... 1

ARTICLE II – DIOCESAN CYO ADMINISTRATION 1
 SECTION 1. Director, Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry 1
 SECTION 2. Diocesan CYO Director 1

ARTICLE III – PARTICIPATION 1
 SECTION 1. CYO Areas..... 1
 SECTION 2. CYO Divisions 1
 SECTION 3. CYO Structure 1

ARTICLE IV – FUNCTION OF THE PARISH PASTOR AND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL PRINCIPAL..... 2

ARTICLE V – FUNCTION OF THE PARISH OR SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION 2

ARTICLE VI – BASKETBALL SEASON 2
 SECTION 1. Official CYO Basketball Season 2
 SECTION 2. Maximum Games Allowed 2
 SECTION 3. Team Participation in Other Basketball Programs..... 2

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS 2

ARTICLE VIII – FINANCING 2

ARTICLE IX – ROSTERS 3

ARTICLE X – CYO COACHES, BENCH PERSONNEL, SCHEDULED VOLUNTEERS 3
 SECTION 1. Clearances and Criminal Record Checks 3
 SECTION 2. Coaching Requirements..... 3
 SECTION 3. Registration of CYO Coaches 4

ARTICLE XI – PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS..... 4
 GRADE SCHOOL LEVEL (Sections 1-5)..... 4
 SECTION 1. Age..... 4
 SECTION 2. Grade Level 4
 SECTION 3. Parish Requirement 4
 SECTION 4. Religious Education Requirements..... 4
 SECTION 5. Mandatory New Participant Waiting Period Requirement..... 4
 SECTION 6. Decision Between School and Parish 4
 SECTION 7. Period of Participation (Five-Season Eligibility Rule) 5
 SECTION 8. Waiver of the Five-Season Eligibility Rule..... 5
 HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL (Sections 9-13) 5

SECTION 9. Age 2023.....	5
SECTION 10. Grade Level	5
SECTION 11. Parish Requirement	5
SECTION 12. Religious Education Requirements.....	5
SECTION 13. Participating on Another Basketball Team.....	5
ALL LEVELS (Section 14)	5
SECTION 14. Participating with an Adjoining CYO Parish Basketball Program	5
ARTICLE XII – TEAM PARTICIPATION AND GAME RULES	5
GRADE SCHOOL LEVEL	6
SECTION 1. Varsity.....	6
SECTION 2. Junior Varsity.....	6
SECTION 3. Intermediate I.....	6
SECTION 4. Intermediate II	6
SECTION 5. Novice I	7
SECTION 6. Novice II.....	7
HIGH SCHOOL	7
SECTION 8. High School Junior Varsity	7
ARTICLE XIII – CONSOLIDATION OF CYO BASKETBALL PROGRAMS.....	8
ARTICLE XIV – BY-LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS OF INDIVIDUAL CYO LEAGUES	8
ARTICLE XV – CHEERLEADERS.....	8
ARTICLE XVI – ORIENTATION PROGRAM.....	8
ARTICLE XVII – TOURNAMENTS	8
ARTICLE XVIII – SCHEDULING REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS	9
ARTICLE XIX – CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES, PLAYERS, AND SPECTATORS	9
SECTION 1. Drug Free Program.....	9
SECTION 2. Offensive Actions.....	9
SECTION 3. Penalties for Offending Coaches and Players	9
SECTION 4. Acceptable Standards for Spectators.....	9
SECTION 5. Responsibility and Penalties Related to Spectator Behavior	9
ARTICLE XX – PENALTIES FOR TEAM NON-COMPLIANCE	10
SECTION 1. Failure to File a Roster by December 1 st (grade school league) or January 1 st (high school league).....	10
SECTION 2. Violation of Diocesan Clearances Policy	10
SECTION 3. Violation of Starting Date.....	10
SECTION 4. Ineligible Player.....	10
SECTION 5. Hosting a CYO Activity During Diocesan Preliminary and Final 8 Tournaments	10
SECTION 6. Exceeding Thirty (30) Game Maximum	10
SECTION 7. Violation of Scheduling Requirements and Limitations	10

SECTION 8. If a Suspend Coach Disregards Stated Penalties 10
Posted December 13, 2023

ARTICLE XXI – OPEN DIOCESAN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS 10

- SECTION 1. Purpose 10
- SECTION 2. Tournament Administration 10
- SECTION 3. Hosting Open Diocesan Basketball Tournaments 11
- SECTION 4. Eligibility..... 11
- SECTION 5. Tournament Format 11
- SECTION 6. Tournament Sites 11
- SECTION 7. Tournament Entrance Application..... 11
- SECTION 8. Tournament Entrance Fee..... 11
- SECTION 9. Tournament Program 11
- SECTION 10. Tournament Food Concession Facilities..... 11
- SECTION 11. Awards to be Presented Grade..... 11
- SECTION 12. Tournament Profits..... 12

ARTICLE XXII – HOSTING A DIOCESE-SPONSORED TOURNAMENT 12

ARTICLE XXIII – FIRST AID 12

ARTICLE XXIV – MEDICAL FORMS..... 12

ARTICLE XXV – TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION..... 12

ARTICLE XXVI – CHECKING ACCOUNTS AND SAVINGS ACCOUNTS..... 12

ARTICLE XXVII – PROCEDURES FOR CLARIFICATION OF QUESTIONS AND MANAGEMENT OF DISPUTES..... 12

ARTICLE XXVIII – DIOCESAN CYO REVIEW BOARD 13

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF COACHING..... 15

**DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG
CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION
BOYS AND GIRLS ATHLETIC POLICIES**

ARTICLE I – PURPOSE

CYO is a parish-based basketball 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 program are the same as enumerated in [Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry](#):

1. To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in the 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.

(See www.nfcym.org to order this document)

SECTION 1. Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Name

The CYO Basketball Program identifies a parish or consolidated school activity controlled and supervised by the pastor or his agents. Use of the name CYO indicates the parish program respects the purpose and philosophy of the Catholic Youth Organization, a basketball 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 sport (basketball), which it directly sponsors on a diocesan-wide basis. However, the Diocese does reserve the right to prohibit use of the CYO name by any activity that substantially conflicts with the purpose and philosophy of the Catholic Youth Organization.

ARTICLE II – DIOCESAN CYO ADMINISTRATION

SECTION 1. Director, Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry

The Director of the Diocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry 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 Ministry](#).

It is the Director's role to oversee the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Basketball Program and to ensure that it follows the policies established by the Pennsylvania State Board of Diocesan CYO Directors and all related diocesan policies. The Diocesan Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry appoints the Diocesan CYO Director and the Diocesan CYO Review Board. The Youth Director works closely with the Diocesan CYO Director.

SECTION 2. Diocesan CYO Director

The Diocesan CYO Director is responsible for administrating the CYO Basketball Program in the Diocese of Harrisburg. It is the CYO Director's responsibility to oversee all areas of the Diocesan Basketball Program to ensure that they are conducted in conjunction with the policies set forth by the Pennsylvania State Board of Diocesan CYO Directors and the Diocese of Harrisburg. The CYO Director represents the Diocese on the State CYO Board, as well as reviews and approves all by-laws, rules, and regulations submitted to the CYO Office by the CYO leagues. The Diocesan CYO Director is responsible for the registration of all coaches in the program, their training and the Orientation Program.

ARTICLE III – PARTICIPATION

All Catholic parishes, as well as any consolidated grade school authorized by the Diocesan Secretariat for Education, are eligible to participate in the CYO basketball program, provided there is approval from the parish pastor or the consolidated school principal.

8/2015 Interpretation: The term "Catholic" is inclusive not only of parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg, but also those parishes of Churches in union with the Roman Catholic Church within the geographical boundaries of the Diocese: The Byzantine Catholic Church.

SECTION 1. CYO Areas

The Diocesan CYO grade school level is geographically divided into three CYO Areas: Adams/Harrisburg, Lancaster/York, and Northumberland. 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 a boys league and a girls league or the area can stay as one league. The Diocesan CYO high school level is comprised of all girls and boys team in the Diocese as one league.

SECTION 2. CYO Divisions

CYO leagues with a large number of teams, may, at their discretion and with the approval of the Diocesan CYO Director, divide their league into divisions.

SECTION 3. CYO Structure

ADAMS/HARRISBURG AREA CYO: Comprised of parishes and consolidated grade schools from the Adams and Franklin Deaneries in addition to the Cumberland/Perry, Dauphin, and Lebanon Deaneries.

LANCASTER/YORK AREA CYO: Comprised of parishes and consolidated grade schools from the North Lancaster, South Lancaster and York Deaneries.

HARRISBURG AREA CYO: Comprised of parishes and consolidated grade schools from the Cumberland/Perry, Dauphin, and Lebanon Deaneries.

NORTHUMBERLAND AREA CYO: Comprised of parishes and consolidated grade schools from the Northern and Northumberland Deaneries.

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

ARTICLE IV – FUNCTION OF THE PARISH PASTOR AND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Each parish pastor or consolidated school principal must give final approval for a CYO Basketball Program to exist in the parish or a consolidated grade school. The pastor or consolidated school principal is responsible for verifying the eligibility of all participants in the program and must sign all rosters for the CYO Area and Diocesan use. The pastor and the principal have the ultimate responsibility of 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 Ministry and that they coach according to those principles.

ARTICLE V – 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 Youth 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 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 2013 State Legislature Law. All athletic associations should also be aware of and educate all coaches regarding concussion laws. Correct paperwork for the cardiac arrest forms will be available on the Diocesan CYO website. A link for a free concussion education program will also be made available.

ARTICLE VI – BASKETBALL SEASON

SECTION 1. Official CYO Basketball Season

The official CYO basketball season runs from November 1st through the weekend of the last State CYO School Basketball Tournament. CYO teams are not restricted from individual activities after this period; 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, leagues, or tournaments by CYO Areas, divisions or parishes is prohibited except within the official CYO season.

(See Article XX – Penalties for Team Non-Compliance)

SECTION 2. Maximum Games Allowed

During the official CYO basketball season a team may play a maximum of thirty (30) games. This includes all CYO regular season games as well as exhibition and/or independent tournament games. In the case of a weekend tournament (weekend is defined as a consecutive Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) the tournament will count as one game. For 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 (30) game limit. For further clarification, contact the Diocesan CYO Director.

(See Article XX – 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 XX – Penalties for Team Non-Compliance)

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

An 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 prior to the beginning of each basketball season. This would include all grade school and high school leagues. It is mandatory that all CYO League Presidents/Commissioners, or their designee, as well as a representative from all participating parishes and consolidated grade schools attend this meeting. It is the intention of the CYO office to have all necessary forms, rosters, diocesan schedules and information needed 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.

ARTICLE VIII – FINANCING

All CYO girls and boys programs in the Diocese are assessed a fee of \$50 per season to be used in defraying the operating expenses of the Diocesan CYO. This fee is assessed for each boys and each girls program hosted by a parish or consolidated school. It will be the responsibility of the CYO League Commissioner/President to collect these fees and submit them to the Diocesan CYO Director by the respective date. For grade school programs the deadline will be December 1st. For high school programs the deadline will be January 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 and/or tournaments.

ARTICLE IX – ROSTERS

Every team representing the Diocese of Harrisburg must file a roster with their League President/Commissioner by the date stated in the respective League Bylaws. The League President/Commissioner must file the rosters for every team in their league by the respective date. For grade school leagues the deadline will be December 1st. For high school leagues the deadline will be January 1st. The roster will be an interactive form **and must be filled in online** and printed out. ROSTERS MAY NOT BE HANDPRINTED. Missing information will cause the roster to be returned. The following rules pertain to team rosters:

1. The roster must be certified by their parish pastor or consolidated school principal and religious education coordinator on the official form provided by the Diocesan CYO Director.
2. The roster must include the participants' name, mailing address, Catholic parish, date of birth, age, grade and school the participant is attending.
3. Only coaches that are in FULL compliance with the Diocese of Harrisburg Youth Protection Program can be put on the roster. Coaches can be added once their clearances have been completed.
4. This roster will be closed on December 1st of each season for grade school leagues and January 1st for high school leagues. 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 team roster shall be unlimited.
(See Article XX - Penalties for Team Non-Compliance)

Note: A team representing the Diocese at the Pennsylvania State CYO Grade School or High School Tournament must reduce their roster to 15 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 X – CYO COACHES, BENCH PERSONNEL, SCHEDULED VOLUNTEERS

According to State mandates, all employees or volunteers who have direct contact with children must hold clearances that are less than **5** years old. Clergy and employees with older clearances have until December 31, 2015 to renew them and volunteers have until June 30, 2016.

Effective JULY 25, 2015 Governor Wolf has waived the \$20 in fees 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.

No coach, bench 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, 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.

Anyone, employee or volunteer, involved in overnight trips MUST have provided 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 or on the bench.

(See Article XI for Player/Manager Eligibility Requirements)

In addition to the following, parish and consolidated school programs are expected to be in full compliance with the Diocese of Harrisburg Youth Protection Program. This includes criminal record checks, creating a safe environment training, and knowledge of the diocesan code of conduct. (See www.hgdiocese.org/protect)

SECTION 1. Clearances and Criminal Record Checks

The Diocese of Harrisburg requires all individuals, including all adults working within the Diocesan CYO Basketball 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, the pastor or consolidated school principal may delegate tasks, as he or she deems appropriate.

The following requirements are essential in the selection of a coach:

1. HEAD COACH - Must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.
2. ASSISTANT COACH – Must be at least 18 years old and graduated from high school. An assistant coach under the age of 21 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. (CHANGED November 13, 2011).
3. 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.
4. If non-Catholic, must be a member in good standing of another faith, known to his/her pastor, and active in the life of his/her faith community.
5. Must be individuals rooted in faith, willing to support Gospel values and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Once coaches are selected, they are expected to maintain the quality of their faith commitment and their willingness to uphold the teachings of the Catholic Church. 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 Basketball Program.

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

SECTION 3. Registration of CYO Coaches

1. 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 Tournament. **If a parish does not have all of their coaches registered with the Diocesan CYO Director, they will not be allowed to participate in any CYO games, leagues, or tournaments.**

ARTICLE XI – PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Note: In this policy, the word participant refers to both student managers and players. Student managers must meet all eligibility requirements of the team for which he/she is managing. CYO Basketball is 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.

GRADE SCHOOL LEVEL (Sections 1-5)

SECTION 1. Age

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

SECTION 2. Grade Level

Participants must be in the eighth grade or lower. Students repeating eighth grade may petition their CYO league to be declared eligible to participate so long as all other eligibility requirements have been met and the student's school will certify that the repeating of the grade is not athletically motivated.

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 XI, Sections 4, 6, and 14. 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 Basketball in the Diocese of Harrisburg, 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 and is a registered member 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 and be a registered member of the parish for which they play/manage
- d. HOME SCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Be a baptized Catholic who receives Religious Education classes at home and is a registered member of the parish for which they play/manage.

SECTION 5. Mandatory New Participant Waiting Period Requirement

New participants, who were not eligible to play previously, and did not play for their registered parish program the previous CYO basketball season must wait one entire CYO basketball season before playing competitive CYO basketball (JV or Varsity). They will be permitted to play non-competitive basketball (Novice or Intermediate) during the season-long waiting period. If no appropriate non-competitive level is offered at the new parish, the league may assign them to play at another parish program for that year. This applies to all new participants unless they meet one of the following exceptions:

- a. ADDRESS CHANGE: The participants' physical and primary address has changed and they now live closer to their new parish. They must also be able to verify that the participant received Catholic religious education at their previous parish or school during the previous school year.
- b. FIRST YEAR SCHOOL STUDENT: The participant is a first year student at a parochial school. They must also be able to verify that the participant received Catholic religious education at their previous parish or parochial school during the previous school year.
- c. PRIOR YEAR CYO PARTICIPANT: Prior year CYO Participants who transfer parishes but don't have proof of a change in their physical and primary address can participate in their prior parish's competitive program during the one year waiting period.

SECTION 6. 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 CYO League must be notified.

- Posted December 3, 2023
- e. The decision shall be considered final regardless as to whether this would require a transfer or remaining on the same team. The student cannot change teams after the decision has been made, during the current year or any year thereafter.
 - f. The provisions of Article XI Section 5 in regards to transferring shall still be applied as necessary.
 - g. This provision may only be invoked once during a student's five year eligibility period regardless of the decision's outcome.

SECTION 7. Period of Participation (Five-Season Eligibility Rule)

All participants in the CYO Basketball Program will be limited to five consecutive seasons of eligibility in grades four through eight, whether the participant actually participated or not. Prior participation in lower grades on a CYO basketball team will not be considered in the five-season rule. 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.

SECTION 8. 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, 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

HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL (Sections 9-13)

SECTION 9. Age

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

SECTION 10. Grade Level

Participants must be in the twelfth grade or lower. All participants in the CYO high school division will be limited to four years of eligibility in grades nine through twelve. Should a participant be required to repeat a grade, the four seasons rule shall continue and no additional season will be allowed. This rule applies to all participants no matter how many years they have participated with the CYO team.

SECTION 11. 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 XI, Sections 12 and 14.

SECTION 12. Religious Education Requirements

In order to participate in the CYO Basketball Program of the Diocese of Harrisburg, a student must meet one of the following Religious Education Requirements:

- i. CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL: Be a baptized Catholic attending a Diocesan Catholic high school and a registered member of the parish for which they play/manage. Player may also be a non-catholic student attending a catholic high school if that player attended a catholic grade school. This player is eligible to participate with the parish team where they attended grade school.
- ii. PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM: Be a baptized Catholic who attends Parish Religious Education classes and is a registered member of the parish for which they play/manage.
- iii. RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA): Be enrolled in and participating in the RCIA (Adapted for Children) Process and be a registered member of the parish for which they play/manage

SECTION 13. 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.

ALL LEVELS (Section 14)

SECTION 14. 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 the opportunity to participate. It will be the decision of the CYO League in which that player resides as to where the student will participate. When the CYO parish program where the student will participate is determined, the CYO Area President/Commissioner must notify, in writing, the Diocesan Director. For the high school level, it will be the responsibility of the president and the league board to determine where each player can 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 XII – TEAM PARTICIPATION AND GAME RULES

Leagues that have a low number of players 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 approved by the Director of the CYO. By choosing to make exceptions to Article XII, the league may not be eligible for participation in Diocesan sponsored tournaments. Leagues that do not have an Intermediate I level, may "swing" players from JV to varsity using the same rules listed below.

GRADE SCHOOL LEVEL

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 XI) 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 his/her name must be listed on bottom of 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. 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 will be used during girls' varsity 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 XI) 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 will be used during girls' Junior Varsity 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 XI) 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 will be used during girls' Intermediate I 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

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 XI) 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 15 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. All Diocesan CYO girls and boys Intermediate II basketball games shall consist of four six-minute quarters. Overtime quarters shall be

limited to three minutes.

7. A Regulation Women's Basketball will be used during girls' Intermediate 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 XI) 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 Area may establish policies at the Novice level related to the length of play and format of the contest (for example: 4 quarters, 2 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

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: 4 quarters, 2 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.

HIGH SCHOOL

SECTION 7. 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 XI) is ineligible to participate in the CYO grade 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.

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

SECTION 8. High School Junior 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 XI) 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 varsity program, but his/her name must be listed on both rosters. ~~Varsity participants also appearing on the Junior Varsity roster should be restricted to players that receive limited playing time with the 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.
- 4 All Diocesan CYO girls and boys high school junior varsity basketball games shall consist of four seven-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.

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

ARTICLE XIII – CONSOLIDATION OF CYO BASKETBALL PROGRAMS

Any Catholic parish that cannot sustain a CYO Basketball Program may request that the league in which they participate finds another parish or parishes that would like to form a single CYO Basketball Program. The consolidation of parish programs requires specific and substantial documentation showing that the 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. The following must occur for this to take place:

1. The league must make sure that the consolidation of programs will not overburden an already strong CYO parish program, therefore giving them unfair competitive advantage or deny participants the opportunity to play because of excessive numbers.
2. 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.
3. The parish CYO program that is asked to consolidate must provide written acceptance letters from the pastor and Athletic Association President.
4. All decisions and evidence must be presented to the Director of CYO prior to November 1st of the current year for the grade school level and December 1st for the high school level.

ARTICLE XIV – BY-LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS OF INDIVIDUAL CYO LEAGUES

All CYO Leagues participating in the Diocesan CYO Basketball Program must have these Bylaws as their foundation. CYO Leagues may establish policies to regulate their individual leagues and may be more restrictive than these bylaws. **CYO Leagues are required to submit to the Diocesan CYO Director a copy of their by-laws, rules and regulations by November 1st (grade school level) or December 1st (high school level) of each season for approval.**

(See Article XX – Penalties for Team Non-Compliance)

ARTICLE XV – CHEERLEADERS

It is the responsibility of the participating parishes and/or the CYO leagues to set policies and standards for their individual cheerleading programs. 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, provided they do not shed their material.

ALL CHEERLEADING SQUADS MUST SUBMIT A ROSTER TO THE DIRECTOR OF CYO FOR THE DIOCESE AND ALL COACHES MUST HAVE ALL CLEARANCES AND REGISTER AS A COACH ON THE DIOCESAN WEBSITE.

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.

ARTICLE XVI – ORIENTATION PROGRAM

In an effort to assist the CYO coaches and other bench personnel in their dual role of teacher-coach, all coaches and other bench personnel are required to attend the diocesan sponsored Orientation Program prior to their first season. The following rules must be followed for ALL coaches in the CYO program.

1ST TIME COACHES - All new coaches must attend the New Coach Orientation Program or complete the American Sport Education Program's (ASEP) Catholic Coaching Basketball Essentials Program. These programs will include legal issues of coaching and CYO philosophy and will be offered several times from September to the end of November. ALL coaches must attend this orientation before they will be allowed to coach in any CYO practice or game. Registration for these courses will be made available on the Diocesan CYO website. A nominal fee will be charged for the New Coach Orientation Program and coaches who complete the ASEP program will also be assessed this fee in addition to fees charged by ASEP.

RENEWAL PROGRAM – Within 5 years of attending the New Coach Orientation Program, all coaches must attend an approved CYO Renewal Program. Coaches will be able to choose from a variety of topics including an X and O session, conditioning your athlete and other topics related to coaching the youth of our Diocese. All sessions will include a topic on CYO philosophy.

No coach or bench personnel will be permitted to participate in the Diocesan CYO Basketball Program including games, leagues, or tournaments unless he/she complies with the established standards of the Orientation Program and the Renewal Program.

ARTICLE XVII – 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. No 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 Tournaments (includes prelims, Div II & final 8) 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 XX – Penalties for Team Non-Compliance)

ARTICLE XVIII – SCHEDULING REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS

In the scheduling of athletic events, a conversation is to be had 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, practice, or open gym) may begin in the Diocese of Harrisburg, before 1 PM on Sundays, during school hours, or on the following days: Christmas, 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 Areas.

(See Article XX – Penalties for Team Non-Compliance)

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

The primary purpose of CYO basketball is to provide opportunities for youth to grow in faith and understanding of their Church through involvement in parish and diocesan life. Secondly, the purpose is to teach young men and women the fundamentals of basketball, including good sportsmanship, healthy competition, and cooperative team play. In light of the importance of these aspects on 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 Diocese of Harrisburg CYO Basketball.

SECTION 1. Drug 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 this program.

SECTION 2. Offensive Actions

No coach or player 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 and Players

1. Violation of number 1 through 4 by a coach or player: Minimum automatic 30-day suspension.
2. Violation of number 5 and 6 by a coach: Minimum automatic suspension of offending coach for 1 full year from participating in the CYO Basketball Program.
3. Violation of number 5 by a player: Minimum automatic suspension of offending player for 1 full year from participating in the CYO Basketball Program.
4. Violation of number 6 by a player: Minimum automatic suspension of offending player for 14 days, which must include at least 2CYO league and/or playoff games.
5. If a suspended coach or player disregards stated penalties, when notified by a proper CYO Area officer, the team is to be suspended from the Diocesan CYO Basketball Program for 1 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. Do not coach from the stands.
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

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 person-in-charge.
3. 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. 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. 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. 1stQtr at 2:07 mark, etc.)

2. In cumulative fashion, the second unsportsmanlike technical foul issued to a participant 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-week suspension that must include at least 1 CYO league/playoff game.
4. A fourth unsportsmanlike conduct technical foul will result in a 1-month suspension. This will include all practices and games.
6. A fifth unsportsmanlike technical foul will result in a 1-year suspension from all CYO activities. A coach receiving their fifth unsportsmanlike technical foul will also be required to attend the Diocesan Certification Program prior to any CYO involvement.
7. Any player or coach removed from a game for any reason will be ineligible to play in the next game.

ARTICLE XX – PENALTIES FOR TEAM 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 Roster by December 1st (grade school league) or January 1st (high school league)

****THIS POLICY WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED****

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.

(See Article IX – Rosters)

SECTION 2. Violation of Diocesan Clearances Policy

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 14 days, which will include all practices and games.

SECTION 3. Violation of Starting Date

All coaches of the offending team will be suspended from all CYO participation for a period of 30 days.

(See Article VI – Basketball Season)

SECTION 4. Ineligible Player

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 will be suspended from all CYO participation for a period of 30 days.

(See Article XI – Participant Eligibility Requirements)

SECTION 5. Hosting a CYO Activity During Diocesan Preliminary and Final 8 Tournaments

Offending head coaches and assistant coaches of the particular team will be suspended from all CYO activities for 1 full year.

(See Article XVII – Tournaments)

SECTION 6. Exceeding Thirty (30) Game Maximum

Offending head coaches and assistant coaches of the particular team will be suspended from all CYO activities for a period of 1 full year.

(See Article VI – Basketball Season)

SECTION 7. Violation of Scheduling Requirements and Limitations

Offending head coaches and assistant coaches will be suspended from all CYO activities for 14 days for the first offense and 1 full year for any subsequent offenses.

(See Article XVIII – Scheduling Requirements and Limitations)

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 Basketball Program for 1 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 if warranted. The Director may also prescribe penalties for violations not listed.

ARTICLE XXI – 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 boys champion will then represent the Diocese of Harrisburg at the Pennsylvania State CYO High School Basketball Tournament. Further, these tournaments will stress the importance of team play, fairness and good sportsmanship according to Catholic principles.

SECTION 2. Tournament Administration

Grade School - 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.

High School - 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. Seeding will be based upon regular season records. Once the regular season is concluded teams will be placed on a preset bracket. The CYO director will establish the brackets for the Diocesan Tournament. This will include times and locations of all games.

SECTION 3. Hosting Open Diocesan Basketball Tournaments

Organizations wishing to host an Open Diocesan Basketball Tournament must submit a written proposal at least one year in advance of the tournament date. All requests should be sent to the Diocesan CYO Director. The selection of tournament host 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.

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 tournaments will be held together on two or three consecutive weekends. The first and second weekend will be for the Preliminary Tournament games and will be single elimination. The number of games needed for the Preliminary Tournament will be determined by how many entries there are in each tournament. The Preliminary Tournament will be played until there are eight girls and boys teams remaining. The eight girls and eight boys teams will then go on to the Final 8 Tournament. All of the games of the Final 8 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.

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 6 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 changing of these games, times or sites by anybody except the Diocesan CYO Director.

SECTION 7. Tournament Entrance Application

Grade School - A Tournament Entrance Application will be posted on the Diocesan CYO website along with all other detailed information the first week in January. It will be the coach's responsibility to return this completed application, roster and entrance fee, to the Diocesan CYO Director if their team wishes to participate in the tournament. This registration and payment must be received by the published deadline.

High School – Application is not necessary since teams are invited to the tournament. A team roster must be submitted to the Director of CYO before the tournament starts.

SECTION 8. Tournament Entrance Fee

Grade 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 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.

High School – Each team will be responsible to pay one official at their first Diocesan Tournament game. This fee is to help defray the operating cost of the tournament. No other registration fee is required.

SECTION 9. Tournament Program

The official tournament program must include team rosters, game schedule for the entire tournament, food concession menu with prices and acknowledgements to the Bishop, the Diocesan CYO Administration and the tournament committee.

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 15 per team, Bishop's Award, game ball, and scorebook.

2. SECOND THROUGH EIGHTH PLACE

Team Award and Individual Awards - limited to 15 per team.

Posted December 3, 2023

High School

1 TOURNAMENT CHAMPION

Team Award, Individual Awards- limited to 15 per team.

2 SECOND PLACE - Individual Awards - limited to 15 per team.

SECTION 12. 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 XXII – HOSTING A DIOCESE-SPONSORED TOURNAMENT

Teams wishing to host a Diocese-Sponsored Tournament must submit a written proposal on the form provided to the CYO Director. The selection of the site will be 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 XXIII – 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. The First Aid Kit should be placed in the area of the team's bench for their use.

ARTICLE XXIV – 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.

(For more information see Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry Domestic Travel Policy at www.hbgdiocese.org/youngchurch)

ARTICLE XXV – TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION

The pastor or consolidated school principal must be informed of all 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 and Young Adult Ministry 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.

ARTICLE XXVI – 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 a financial statement prior to July 1st each year. This statement must show all incomes and expenses from the past year, as well as all balances in any accounts.
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 XXVII – PROCEDURES FOR CLARIFICATION OF QUESTIONS AND MANAGEMENT OF DISPUTES

1. Disputes or questions related to Parish/Consolidated School CYO Basketball Programs should first be directed to the parish pastor and/or consolidated school principal for resolution on the local level.
2. Disputes or questions related to CYO League By-Laws or rulings should be directed, in writing, to the league officers.
3. In the spirit of the gospel, all persons should attempt to resolve questions and disputes at the local level. Where that is not possible, a written appeal may be directed to the Diocesan CYO Director within 20 working days of the original incident or decision under dispute. **This appeal must occur after contact with the pastor or consolidated school principal AND the CYO League Commissioner/President. All documentation used during the above process must accompany this appeal.** The Diocesan CYO Director will review the documentation

provided and will respond within 5 working days.

4. The aggrieved party may submit a written appeal to the Diocesan CYO Review Board within 5 working 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 2/3 majority.
5. There is no appeal beyond the Diocesan CYO Review Board.

ARTICLE XXVIII – DIOCESAN CYO REVIEW BOARD

The Diocese of Harrisburg CYO Review Board shall consist of: The Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, the Director of CYO and all of the CYO League Commissioners/Presidents. The Diocesan Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry and the Diocesan CYO Director may choose to add one Ad Hoc member to the Diocesan CYO Review Board.

Reporting of Abuse by School Employees

School employees are required to report to their school administrator suspected abuse of a student by a school employee. The school administrator immediately makes the report to both local law enforcement officials and the district attorney.

If the suspected perpetrator is the administrator to whom the report would be ordinarily made, then the school employee is to bypass the administrator and immediately report the suspected abuse to both local law enforcement officials and the district attorney.

Abuse by a school employee is also reported to the 24-hour Child Line and to the county child protective services agencies.

Content of the Report

The written report should include:

- The names and addresses of the child and the parents or other persons responsible for the care of the child.
- The county in which the suspected abuse occurred.
- The age and sex of the subjects of the report.
- D** The nature and extent of the suspected child abuse, including evidence of prior abuse to the child or a sibling.
- The reasons for suspecting child abuse.
- The name of the alleged perpetrators of the suspected abuse and evidence of prior abuse by those persons.
- The relationship of the alleged perpetrator to the child.
- The family household composition.
- The source of the report.
- The person making the report and where the person can be reached.
- A statement of the child's parents regarding the suspected abuse and a statement or admission of abuse by the alleged perpetrator.
- The actions taken by the reporting source, including:
 - The taking of photographs and X-rays.
 - The taking of protective custody.
 - Notification to the coroner.
 - The hospitalization of the child.

Remember: There is to be no investigation of the suspected abuse conducted at the parish or school level, and there may be no interference with any official investigation that may be conducted as a result of the report.



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's 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 don't 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 and Young Adult Ministry
4800 Union Deposit Road
Harrisburg, PA 17111

Phone: 717-657-4804
Fax: 717-657-4041
www.hbgdiocese.org/youngchurch