

Expected Behavior for Parents, Participants, Coaches and Spectators

Participants Name: _____

Parish: _____ County: _____

Office of Sports and Spirituality Philosophical Statement

Our purpose is to provide an opportunity for young people to play sports by participating in any or all of the above programs in a county structured environment, which works closely with the individual parish teams. We are here to foster the development of the whole young person in the sense of a sound mind in a sound body. The aim is to develop the physical well being of our youth and to develop and have particular athletic skills. We emphasize the importance of a Christian atmosphere, one in which the players, coaches and fans will be able to see Christ reflected in each other. We aim to do this in the most pleasant and safe surroundings available and with the complete cooperation and support of those adults who share our aims for our young people.

THE OVERRIDING RULE OF OUR ATHLETIC PROGRAM

We are all working with young people. Although there are specific and thorough guidelines named herein, we always are within the general rule that all of our actions are to be guided by the common sense rules of fair play. Also, it makes our jobs easier if we constantly keep in mind that we are here for the children as models of Jesus Christ to be emulated.

Please read the ENTIRE document. Then each player, parent and Coach MUST SIGN and return to your Coach or AD so it can be filed in the Archdiocesan Youth Ministry Office !

I (We) understand that these are the expected behaviors that I should try to model and emulate. Please also know that I understand by signing this paper that not only am I responsible for myself but also of those I bring to participate as well as additional family members that may attend various other sporting events. Please also know that I have read the above and understand that by not following the above guidelines I risk severe penalties on myself as well as the children that are participating.

Participant's Signature

Date

Parent's Signature

Date

Coach's Signature

Date

The **CYO/REACH Athletic Ministry** is a program that, through the vehicle of sports, aids youth to become better Christians and to become friends with other youth throughout the archdiocese. CYO/Youth Ministry activities should be examples of the meaning of Christian sportsmanship. The guiding principle behind the enforcement of this code is that the behavior of everyone involved in CYO/Youth Ministry Athletics should not detract from the children's enjoyment of the sport. It is the goal of the Office of Sports and Spirituality to have the coaches, fans and players react to each other as if Jesus Himself were standing there, and to see His reflection in each other.

Respect the “**R.E.A.C.H.**” Program of the CYO Athletics-
Moral Teaching of Fair Pay.

Respect: Never do anything to embarrass our team or league. We are representatives of our parish and our faith.

Evangelization: By being witnesses and remembering that we are a Catholic league and act as Jesus calls us to act.

Acceptance: We refuse to bend the rules to win. We show respect to all league officials even when we disagree.

Competition: A worthy opponent is a gift from God that brings out our best behavior and skills.

Holiness: We live up to the standards taught to us by our parents, who have shared their faith but walking as Jesus walked.

Acceptable Standards of Coaching Behavior

Set a good example for participants and fans to follow, exemplifying the highest moral and ethical behavior.

Respect the judgment of officials, abide by rules of the event.

Treat opposing coaches, participants and fans with respect.

Instruct participants in sportsmanship and demand they display good sportsmanship;

Coach in a positive manner, reflecting Christian values.

Remain seated on the bench at all times except in the instances in the National Federation Rulebook.

Acceptable Standards of Participant Behavior

Treat opponents with respect; shake hands prior to and after contest.

Respect the judgment of officials and abide by the rules of the contest. Accept seriously the responsibility of representing the school and parish by displaying positive behavior at all times.

Play in a positive manner, reflecting Christian values. Do not bait or taunt opponents.

Acceptable Standards of Spectator Behavior

Remember that the players are children and are playing for their enjoyment, not yours.

Remain seated in the spectator area during the games. Respect decisions made by contest officials. Be a role model by positively supporting teams and not shouting instructions or criticism to the players, coaches or officials. Do not coach from the stands; Make no derogatory comments or gestures to players, coaches, parents of the opposing team, officials or league administrators.

Definition of Verbal/Physical

Verbal Abuse is the use of language to manipulate, control, ridicule, insult, humiliate, belittle, vilify, and show disrespect and disdain to another, and is often a component of other types of abuse. Verbal Abuse is comprised of any of the following:

Accusing / Blaming: Accusing and blaming another for one's own outbursts, expressions of anger, bad moods, mistakes, and failures. **Example:** *"If you weren't so lazy, forgetful, sloppy, and inattentive, I wouldn't get so mad!"*

Covert / Subtle

Seemingly sincere, expressed in a loving and concerned manner, but placing all blame and fault on the other person in an excusive or condescending manner.

Example: *"It's OK, we have problems talking to each other because you really aren't capable of understanding the whole picture. I'll just compensate for that."*

Denial

The inability to admit and take responsibility for one's actions and words concurrent with accusations and blame directed at the one abused. **Examples:** *"I never said that, you can't get anything straight", "You're lying, making that all up to make me look bad", "Where did you get that crazy idea?"*

Discounting / Dismissive ness

Denigration and/or denial of the experience, skills, maturity, and abilities of another; often marked by distortion and/or fabrication. **Examples:** *"You call that art? Even a chimpanzee could do better than that!"*,

Humiliation

Public or private intentional shaming and embarrassment of any kind. **Example:** *"oh, you need to be tolerant of him, he doesn't know any better"*

Manipulation

Appealing to and/or using another's sense of responsibility or obligation to achieve a personal goal. **Example:** *"If you cared for the youth, you would..."*

Name Calling / Epithets

All name calling, and epithets directed at another are abusive.

Ridicule

Making fun of and otherwise "putting down" another person or group based on their appearance, gender, competency, beliefs, ethnicity, culture, or religion.

Example: *"He will never amount to anything because he is just a <fill in the blank>"*

Physical Abuse is the non-consensual infliction of pain and bodily harm to another. Examples: Physically hitting, striking, slapping, or pushing another as an expression of frustration, impatience, dislike, anger, or fear; throwing an object at or using an object to hit another.