

Catholic Youth Organization Mission Statement

The Catholic Youth Organization, a ministry of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, exists to deepen relationships with Jesus Christ and one another, to celebrate the God-given gifts of each individual, and to enhance the faith formation and personal development of youth by providing athletic, camping and enrichment opportunities.

CYO Athletic Program Coaches Code of Conduct

The purpose of the Coaches Code of Conduct is to ensure that coaches protect, teach, and serve as positive role models for our student athletes as well as represent the Archdiocese appropriately. The CYO athletic program intends to promote the physical, moral, mental, social, emotional, and faith formation of all student athletes. Coaches have a tremendous influence in the development of our student athletes and are an integral part of this process. We expect every coach to follow this code and abide by the CYO Mission Statement.

Coaches Code of Conduct

As a CYO Coach, I will:

1. Provide positive support and encouragement to our student athletes by placing the values of instilling the highest desirable ideals of character and having fun above winning.
2. Set the right example and promote good sportsmanship through my own behavior and attitude at all practices and athletic contests, home and away.
3. Display control and respect the authority of and decisions made by officials.
4. Make no derogatory comments or gestures and will refrain from using foul language to student athletes, coaches, officials, or spectators.
5. Refrain from criticizing student athletes for making a mistake or not winning.
6. Not physically or verbally threaten any coach, player, official, or spectator.
7. Assist in providing for student safety and welfare, ensuring all personal contact with our student athletes is appropriate and follows the guidelines of Safe and Sacred training.
8. Ensure fans conduct themselves appropriately and assist game officials in maintaining control.
9. Operate within this Code, adhere to league rules, and ensure that student athletes do the same.
10. Take responsibility for my actions and will not attempt to circumvent rules or guidelines of CYO.
11. Stand and face the flag with a respectful demeanor during the playing of the National Anthem.
Failure to do so will result in a one game suspension.

Code of Conduct Violations

The CYO will be responsible for reviewing, at its earliest convenience, all potential violations that come to its attention as well as handling any disciplinary action deemed necessary based on facts and circumstances. As needed, the Pastor and Athletic Director will be consulted as well as included in any formal communications that occur between a coach and the CYO Office.

In-Game Procedure

Code of Conduct violations can vary and therefore will be handled on a case-by-case basis. However, the following factors will be important considerations in how violations will be handled:

1. **It is a coach's responsibility to ensure players and fans conduct themselves appropriately and assist game officials in maintaining control. Good sportsmanship is a top priority!**
2. Common sense will be used when considering what is inappropriate behavior and in determining any disciplinary action deemed necessary.
3. Disciplinary action for unsportsmanlike behavior could range from a verbal warning to suspension from one or more future CYO activities, including a permanent ban.
4. Any coach who is deemed to have threatened and/or physically or verbally abused a coach, player, official, and/or spectator will be suspended immediately for a period of at least one game and will be required to meet with CYO staff before coaching in another game.
5. If a coach is in violation of the Code of Conduct during a game, a game official will issue a warning to the coach. This is an official's initial effort to let the coach know he/she is not displaying appropriate behavior.
6. At the discretion of the official, a coach may receive an unsportsmanlike penalty prior to a warning if his/her behavior is deemed highly inappropriate.
7. If the coach continues inappropriate behavior following the warning, the official will administer the appropriate unsportsmanlike penalty for that sport to the team.
8. A second unsportsmanlike penalty administered to the coach by an official will result in the coach being ejected from the game, he/she will be required to leave the premises.
9. The Parish Athletic Director will be contacted and disciplinary action will be taken.
10. As stated above, it is the coach's, Gym/Field Manager's, and Athletic Director's responsibility to ensure that players and fans conduct themselves appropriately. If a parent or attendee supporting your team is in violation of the code of conduct, a game official will present a warning to the coach, and the game will be paused. It is the coach's responsibility to inform the Gym/Field Manager or AD that a warning has been given to the team, as well as who the parent or attendee is that is responsible for the warning. Either the Gym/Field Manager or AD will need to address the parent/attendee and ask for their cooperation. If that parent/attendee continues to display inappropriate behavior, the official will administer an unsportsmanlike penalty to the team and the parent/attendee will be required to leave the premises. This will serve as a TECHNICAL FOUL AND WILL BE ASSESSED TO THE TEAM AND THE APPROPRIATE PENALTY WILL BE ENFORCED (i.e.- free throws and ball out of bounds or 15 yard penalty, etc.). If the official feels the coach is instigating or supporting poor conduct by others, an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty will be enforced on the coach.

***** It is IMPERATIVE that Coaches, ADs, and Coordinators let parents know before the season begins that this is the procedure that will be followed. It is important for parents/attendees to know that unsportsmanlike conduct on their part will impact the team in a negative way! It is our hope that Parish Priests will also be involved in sharing these expectations.**

In accordance with our Mission Statement, it is the primary goal of CYO to help every young person we serve get to Heaven! We rely heavily on you to use your platform as a coach to model appropriate behavior to assist in this quest. Thanks for your understanding and support!

Each coach will be required to sign this Code of Conduct agreement before he/she will be permitted to coach in a CYO game. The parish AD should keep a signed copy of this agreement on file.

COACH'S SIGNATURE: As a CYO Coach, I have read through this contract and agree to abide by all expectations as stated herein. I will make every effort to abide by the CYO Mission Statement.

COACH'S SIGNATURE - _____ DATE - _____

