

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 Parent or Attendee Code of Conduct

The purpose of the Parent or Attendee Code of Conduct is to develop parental/adult support 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. Parents and attendees are an integral part of this process. We expect every parent and attendee to follow this code and abide by the CYO Mission Statement.

Parent or Attendee Code of Conduct

As a CYO parent or attendee, I will:

1. Provide positive support and encouragement to our student athletes and their team, the opposing team, and all coaches.
2. Set the right example and promote good sportsmanship through my own behavior and attitude at all athletic practices and 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 refrain from using foul language toward players, coaches, officials, or spectators.
5. Refrain from criticizing student athletes and their coach or team or any other spectators at the event, as well as game officials.
6. Refrain from interfering with the coach and respect the coach's authority and responsibilities during practices, games, and team-related activities.
7. Not threaten, either verbally or physically, any coach, player, official, or spectator.
8. Remember that coaches and parents set the example for the behavior of our children.
9. Assist in providing for student safety and welfare.
10. Be responsible for the conduct of other family members who are in attendance at the game.
11. Take responsibility for my actions and not attempt to circumvent rules or guidelines of CYO.

Code of Conduct Violations

The CYO will be responsible for reviewing, at its earliest convenience, all potential violations that come to our attention as well as handling any disciplinary action deemed necessary based on facts and circumstances. Disciplinary actions taken by CYO may include, but are not limited to: verbal warning, written warning, immediate ejection, single-game suspension, multiple-game suspension, and/or permanent ban. As needed, the Pastor and Athletic Director will be consulted as well as included in any formal communications that occur between a parent/attendee 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 the Coach's, Gym/Field Manager's, and AD's responsibility to ensure players and fans conduct themselves appropriately and assist game officials in maintaining control. All parents and attendees are required to follow an official's request to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times, especially after a warning has been issued by a referee.***
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.
4. Any parent or attendee 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.
5. If a parent or attendee is in violation of the Code of Conduct during a game, a game official will issue a warning to the coach, and the game will be paused. This is an official's initial effort to let the coach know that a parent or attendee is not displaying appropriate behavior. It is the coach's responsibility to tell the Gym/Field Manager or AD that a warning has been issued to a parent or attendee. It is then the responsibility of the Gym/Field Manager or AD to let the parent or attendee know that they have received a warning.
6. At the discretion of the official, a parent or attendee may receive an unsportsmanlike penalty prior to a warning if their behavior is deemed highly inappropriate.
7. If the parent or attendee continues to display inappropriate behavior following the warning, the official will administer the appropriate unsportsmanlike penalty for that sport to the team.
8. This unsportsmanlike penalty administered by an official will result in the parent or attendee being ejected from the game, and he/she will be required to leave the premises. This will also lead to the parent or attendee being suspended from the next game as well.
9. This unsportsmanlike penalty will be charged to the team. However, if the coach is deemed to be instigating poor conduct by the fans, the coach can also receive an unsportsmanlike penalty.
10. The Parish Athletic Director will be contacted and disciplinary action will be taken.
11. It is the parent's responsibility to make sure that other family members who are in attendance at the game follow the attendee code of conduct as well.

In accordance with our Mission Statement, it is the primary goal of CYO to help every young person we serve get to Heaven! As your child's first teacher, we rely on you and other adults present at all CYO events to model appropriate behavior to assist in this quest. Thanks for your understanding and support!

At least one parent/guardian per participant will be required to sign this Code of Conduct agreement before his/her child will be permitted to participate in a CYO game. The Athletic Director at your parish will keep a hard copy of this signed document on file.

PARENT SIGNATURE: As a CYO parent, 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.

PARENT SIGNATURE - _____ DATE - _____