

2015 – 2016 CYO POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. SPIRITUALITY

We emphasize that God is with us by –

- **PRAYER:** Prayer is encouraged and CYO activities will begin with prayer. In team sports, the home team will lead a prayer prior to each game, with both teams assembled at center court. At track and cross-country meets, all participants and coaches assemble for prayer prior to each meet. CYO programs should encourage prayer at team practices and should consider hosting an annual parish CYO Mass.

- **PARISH AND SCHOOL MINISTRY:** CYO is a part of the overall program of youth ministry in the parish. CYO teams should be involved in parish life and in parish activities. Catholic children should be encouraged to be active in other parish ministries and in religious education programs.



2. SERVICE

We emphasize our call to Christian Service –

- **WITH OUR TEAMS:** CYO teams are Christian communities. Teammates and other teams are treated with respect and dignity. Taunting, baiting and rough play are not tolerated.

- **TO OTHERS:** As part of our call to serve, each team is asked to plan and participate in an annual service project for the parish, school or local community, giving to others.



3. SPORTSMANSHIP

We emphasize good sportsmanship –

- **WITH OUR TEAMS:** Coaches must emphasize good sportsmanship by modeling sportsmanlike behavior, setting sportsmanship goals and demanding proper conduct.

- **BY OUR SPECTATORS:** All spectators at CYO events must practice good sportsmanship by cheering positively, never shouting derogatory remarks to coaches, opposing players, other spectators, or game officials. At their Preseason Parent Meeting, coaches must emphasize good spectator behavior by explaining the proper spectator behavior in the CYO Code of Conduct. Coaches are responsible for the behavior of their spectators and should act immediately to stop any unruly behavior.

- **TO OUR REFEREES:** Coaches, players, and spectators should never show disrespect to officials. Coaches, players or spectators may never approach game officials after a contest for explanations of calls or to comment on the game.

We display good sportsmanship –

- **BY PLAYING ALL:** Each child is *guaranteed* a minimum amount of playing time. Coaches should be certain that all players receive playing time *beyond the minimum*.

- **BY NOT RUNNING UP SCORES:** Contests are more fun when the score is close. There is no place in CYO to humiliate an opponent. Coaches are responsible to use game tactics to ensure that scores are not run up.

- **BY FOLLOWING ELIGIBILITY RULES:** CYO eligibility rules are designed so that CYO teams are parish-based or Catholic school-based, not "club" or city teams. *Children should not practice nor participate on a team until the parish athletic director verifies their eligibility.* Use of an ineligible player, *knowingly or unknowingly*, shall result in forfeiture.

- **BY KEEPING CYO FUN!** CYO is fun for players and is not a spectator sport. Coaches must always be positive, praising and instructing, not shouting negatively or demeaning players. Good coaches build self-esteem by emphasizing the skills and social aspects of sports, not by concentrating on winning. Parents must not place undue pressure on their children to succeed. The game is kept in perspective.

