

# Administrative Information for All Levels of Play

## I. Purpose of Our Program

The objectives of our program are to unite the youth of our parishes and to help promote their spiritual, physical and social welfare by bringing Catholic truths, principles and ideas into their everyday life. The programs are intended to be character builders, reflecting the ideals of good sportsmanship and Christianity. Once an individual accepts the position as coach in the Diocesan Recreation Association program, he or she accepts the responsibility to implement the philosophy of the Association.

## II. Prayer

After warm-ups, both teams will join on the court or on the field for a prayer. A prayer may be selected by the home team from the official prayer list, or another source, and the "Our Father". All players, coaches, parents, and spectators are encouraged to participate.

## III. League Fees

The league fees will be \$60.00 per team plus \$15.00 per player per sport. Player fees may vary in some sports (i.e. football and track) Once eligibility rosters are turned in and accepted by the association, there can be no refunds. Fees that are not paid by the deadline will mean forfeiture of games until the fees are paid. The association will **NOT** accept personal checks from parents or guardians of the players participating in our programs. The ONLY forms of payment that are acceptable to the association are **PARISH CHECKS, PARISH ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION CHECKS, SCHOOL CHECKS, MONEY ORDERS, and CASH.**

Once rosters are turned in, there are no refunds. If someone is added to the roster, an additional participation fee must accompany the parent consent form prior to the child's participation in a contest.

A forfeit fee of \$200 will be collected from each parish. If a team must forfeit a game or match, the officials will be paid from these fees. Once the fees are depleted, the parish will be asked to replenish their forfeit funds. Unused funds will carry over from sport to sport and year to year.

These funds may be used for other unpaid fees.

## IV. Grade and Age Eligibility

League	Maximum Grade	Maximum Age as of July 31 <sup>st</sup> of current school year	Eligible Grades
Varsity	Eighth	Fourteen Years of Age	Eighth, Seventh and Sixth
Jr. Varsity	Seventh	Thirteen Years of Age	Seventh, Sixth and Fifth
Sr. Reserve	Sixth	Twelve Years of Age	Sixth, Fifth and Fourth
Reserve	Fifth	Eleven Years of Age	Fifth and Fourth
Jr. Reserve	Fourth	Ten Years of Age	Fourth

The above levels may vary from sport to sport.

## V. Eligibility

Effective July 1, 2016, all participants in the Diocesan Recreation Association program must be registered members of the parish church for at least three (3) months, prior to participation in the sports program. Transferring from one parish to another will be accepted as long as the participant has been a registered parish member for at least three (3) months. Students registered and attending the parish school are eligible to participate. All players must be members of the parish and/or attend the parish school in order to play on the parish team.

No player should play in another league or tournament while playing for a parish team. **Do not ask to move a game because of club or travel ball. The answer will be no.**

The Diocesan Recreation Association (DRA) runs a program for parish teams that intends to be developmental at early age levels, but also can incorporate a competitive dimension at the junior high level and beyond. We also believe that every participant should have the opportunity to play in each event, and that having fun in participation is fostered. We are not a training camp for AAU or club sports. Coaches will teach their players the fundamentals of the sport while also teaching the athletes the basics of good sportsmanship and responsible decision-making. The rules and regulations of the DRA are meant to support these beliefs.

We recognize that parents sign up and commit their children for many activities. The nature of Diocesan sports has been trending to parishes having very lean rosters so that children can participate and enjoy having the maximum playing exposure to the sport. If your child is involved in other sports or activities, please work diligently with your team's head coach to insure no forfeitures for your team.

If an athlete is participating in another sport or activity during the same season, his or her commitment to the parish team is expected and his or her priority must be given to the DRA program over all other programs. The DRA expects the athletes to participate in the DRA games first, in all fairness to the other athletes on the team. The non-parish team coach and activities coordinators must be informed of the participation on both, as well as the expectations of the DRA Parishes **may wish to develop their own policy on this topic.**

**DRA games cannot and will not be changed to accommodate club sports, AAU contests, or other non-parish or school related activities. Parents are advised to balance their children's time among activities.**

## VI. Player Eligibility Rosters

A) Effective July 1, 2016, all participants in the Diocesan Recreation Association program must be registered members of the parish church for at least three (3) months, prior to participation in the sports program. Transferring from one parish to another will be accepted as long as the participant has been a registered parish member for at least three (3) months. Students registered and attending the parish school are eligible to participate.

Parishes may have additional requirements for participation ( i.e., Attendance at PSR classes).

## B) PARISH MERGERS

All players must be members of the parish and/or parish school in order to play on the parish team. Parish mergers **MUST** be approved by the Diocesan Recreation Association **B E F O R E** the mergers are made. The merger form must be completed and signed by the pastor and athletic director. The original parish sign-up sheets **MUST** be made available upon request.

- 1) All individuals must participate with their own parish/school in any sport in which their own parish/school enters a team.
- 2) If an individual belongs to one parish and attends school at another parish, the individual may select the parish in which he/she would like to participate.
- 3) The individual must continue to participate with the selected parish for the entire school year unless the selected parish does not enter a team.
- 4) Anytime a player from one-parish plays for a different parish, this situation shall constitute a merger and therefore, prior DRA approval must be secured.
- 5) If at all possible, parishes should merge with neighboring parishes or with fellow high school feeder schools.
- 6) **All mergers must be arranged through the parish athletic directors. Parents are not to go out on their own and arrange for a merger.**
- 7) Parish mergers must be approved by the DRA before the mergers are made.
- 8) Pastors need to sign off on all mergers. This is done on the parent consent forms
- 9) Whenever possible, all athletes from one parish at the same grade level looking to join another team must merge with the same team. Exceptions need to be approved by the DRA.
- 10) All mergers must be fair and equitable and make sense.
- 11) The DRA Board must approve certain special circumstances on mergers presented by the ADs or Commissioners.  
Examples of past and present mergers include
  - i) Northern Stallions: St. Matthias, St. Anthony and St. James
  - ii) IC-OLP: Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Peace and sometimes St. Timothy
  - iii) Western Irish: St. Mary Magdalene, Trinity, St. Cecilia, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and Columbus St. Mary
  - iv) Western Knights: Trinity, St. Mary Magdalene, OLPH and St. Cecilia
  - v) Eastern Green Wave: St. Catharine, All Saints, Holy Spirit, Cols. St. Mary
  - vi) Northwest Saints: St. Agatha, St. Timothy, St. Andrew
  - vii) Cols. St. Mary includes students from St. Joseph Montessori School
- 12) All players must have a signed Parent Consent form on file in the DRA office prior to participating in an athletic contest. If a parent consent form is missing or incomplete at the time of team turn-ins, all missing or incomplete forms will need to be submitted by the designated date in order for the student athlete to participate. Dates will be set for each sport. Starting in 2019, it is hoped that all parent consent forms will be submitted on line at <https://www.dioceseregister.com/login>

## C) A fully completed roster, including head coach and assistant coaches, must be

- submitted to the DRA office before a team is eligible to play. Completing the online teams section **does not** meet this requirement.
- D) Eligibility rosters **MUST** be signed or approved online by the proper authority. This includes the athletic director **and** the pastor.
- E) For teams having students not attending the parish school, the form **MUST be signed or approved by the athlete's PASTOR.**
- 1) For teams having only students of the school on the team, the form may be signed or approved by either the PASTOR or the school PRINCIPAL.
  - 2) For teams having students from multiple schools, **each PASTOR must sign or approve the form.**
- F) Players may be added to a team roster until midpoint of the season
- 1) The association office must be notified of any roster additions **BEFORE** the athlete is eligible to participate.
  - 2) All added players must complete a parent consent form, get the **PASTOR'S** signature or approval, and submit all necessary **forms and fees** to the association office **BEFORE** the athlete is eligible to participate.
  - 3) These rules also apply to Intra-Diocesan transfers.
  - 4) A non-Catholic student who withdraws from a Catholic school and enrolls in a Non-Diocesan school (or home school) becomes immediately ineligible upon withdrawal.
- G) It is strongly recommended that all sports rosters have a minimum of 2 extra players above minimum required player number for that sport. Basketball requires 5 so the roster size should be 7 or more.
- Volleyball requires 6 so the roster size should be 8 or more. Football requires 11 so the roster size should be 13 or more. Baseball requires 9 so the roster size should be 11.
- Softball requires 9, so the roster size should be 11. Soccer for 4th, 5th and 6th requires 8 so the roster size should be 10. Soccer for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> requires 11, so the roster size would be 13. Teams that feel they may fall short of these numbers should combine grades, merge with other parishes, or contact the Diocesan Office for assistance on mergers.
- H) All teams must be comprised of all boys or all girls. There are no co-ed teams at any level. No girls can be brought up to play for a boys' team, and vice versa.
- I) During rescheduled tournament games, all merged team's conflicts may not be able to be scheduled around. Schedulers will try their best to accommodate the conflicts, but if a team has enough players to play the game, the game may be played regardless of conflicts.

## **VII. Roster Changes**

- A) A player may be permanently moved up to a higher level at any time after gaining approval of the league commissioner. To complete this procedure, you must contact the Diocesan Recreation Office or league commissioner by phone or email. (i.e., JV to Varsity, Jr. Reserve to Reserve.) If the move is designated as permanent, the player may not return to the lower level at any time during the season.

- B) **Temporary, lateral permanent moves are permitted only at the Jr. Reserve level**, with the approval of the league commissioner or the diocesan office. A completed Roster Amendment form must be sent to the diocesan office.
- C) Players may be temporarily moved up in extreme cases, in order to prevent **forfeiture** of the contest or to bring the number of players to the **optimal number** in a particular sport. (i.e., to meet the 5 players needed in basketball, a 9-person team in softball, etc.) **A Roster Amendment Form must be completed each time a temporary or permanent move is made.**
- 1) All temporary moves must be reported to the league commissioner prior to the game or no later than 24 hours after the game. Failure of the coach to report the temporary movement of players within the 24-hour window may result in a forfeit of the game and a suspension for the coach. This applies to every game, including the championship game.
  - 2) The league commissioner reserves the right to limit the amount of times a particular player may be temporarily moved up. If a team needs to move up a player more than two times, a permanent move must be made.
  - 3) **Lateral temporary moves are permitted only at the Jr. Reserve level with the approval of the league commissioner.**
  - 4) In some sports, players moved up may be restricted in positions they are able to play. (i.e. baseball not used as a pitcher)
  - 5) In some sports, players may be restricted as to how many contests they may participate in one day.
  - 6) League commissioners may approve an additional player to be brought up, no more than 1 more than the maximum needed to play—on a case by case basis. (Commissioner may grant permission for additional players to be brought up, if there are playing time restrictions that require such a move.) **Said player is not required to meet the minimum playing time requirements. The majority of the playing time must go to the original players on the roster.**
  - 7) **Please see individual sports for more complete details**
  - 8) No permanent moves may be made for tournaments.
- D) A player is **NEVER** permitted to drop down to a lower level.

## **VIII. Games**

All games, regardless of sport, are expected to begin on time. However, if a team is not able to field the league minimum number of players at the start time, but knows that it will be able to do so shortly thereafter; it is to inform the gym supervisor, officials, and opponents of this fact immediately.

In this situation, the Christian obligation and DRA expectation for each party is as follows:  
**Opponent**—Other team has players arrive a few minutes late. Play a legal game based on the gym supervisor's decision (see below). Other team has remaining players arrive considerably late, or not at all...accept a forfeit and play a practice game.

**Gym Supervisor**—Allow the court to be used for a real or practice game depending on the results of the situation outlined above. In the event of a real game, the gym supervisor

may reduce the game time to accommodate the gym's schedule. It is not fair to place all other games behind schedule due to no fault of their own.

**Officials**—Officials are required to officiate any game that is to be considered a legal game. Officials may stay to officiate scrimmage games at their own discretion.

**League Commissioners**—Commissioners reserve the right to reschedule the game at a later date on a case-by-case basis.

## **IX. Admission to Games**

Admission to games may be \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors (55 and older) and children in grades K-12. A family in the same household will be charged a maximum of \$8. If there is hardship, families may receive passes from their parish ADs.

## **X. Protests**

The only protests that will be accepted must involve the eligibility of players. Our state certified officials are in complete charge of all games. The **OFFICIALS DECISION IS FINAL**. All discrepancies involving rules' interpretations must be settled during the game. If necessary, a coach will need to take a "time out" to clarify any rule. Use of an ineligible player will result in forfeiture and possible additional penalties.

## **XI. Information Sheets and Conflict Forms**

- A) The association has experienced difficulties with Athletic Directors submitting inaccurate information sheets and incomplete conflict dates.
- B) The practice of turning in an information sheet with a given number of teams and then changing that number of teams is a problem for those doing the scheduling. In addition, the incomplete listing of conflicts dates has caused many reschedules and missed games.
- C) Hours of schedule preparation, the rescheduling of officials and a general hardship to many people are the result.
- D) Therefore, the association is enforcing the rule of **CHARGING THOSE PARISHES** that make changes to their information sheets after the sheets have been submitted to the Diocese or dropping a team after the league has started, **INCLUDING** tournaments.
  - 1) A flat fee of \$100.00 will be charged to the parish. If money is available in the parish forfeit fund, this fee may be taken from that account.
  - 2) Any team that forfeits a game must pay the officials for **BOTH** teams. **Only Pastors, Athletic Directors, Commissioners and Principals may request rescheduling** (with the exception of weather cancellations in soccer, baseball and softball.) All church and school conflicts should be researched and submitted prior to the beginning of the scheduling process. This will ensure that these conflicts are avoided during the season. League games may be requested for rescheduling for church and school related functions.
  - 3) These fees must be paid **BEFORE** the parish will be permitted to enter a team in another league or another sport.
  - 4) Each reschedule will be considered individually. Common requests for re-schedule, which are typically denied, involve conflicts with outside leagues and social events.
  - 5) Many of our coaches, new to the DRA, incorrectly assume that they can modify

their own team schedules. It is important to note that the only valid conflicts for a given team are parish and school activities. These must be approved by the DRA. Individual Coach and player conflicts are not valid conflicts.

## **XII. Missed Meeting**

It is expected that each parish AD or a representative from that parish attend the AD/Commissioners meeting held prior to each sport season. We go over pertinent information that helps the AD co-ordinate the parish program with the Directors and Commissioners of the DRA.

It is expected that **each** parish team have a coach or representative from that parish team attend the coaches meeting held prior to each sport season. These meetings are scheduled to help the volunteer coaches understand the rules and procedures of the DRA. Parish ADs or Commissioners may attend for the coaches. It will be their responsibility to meet with the parish coaches to disseminate the information from the meeting.

We have had a large number of coaches skip the meetings where new information is given and then they are uninformed and are questioning rules that were clarified at the meetings.

Dates for all meetings are located on the DRA Website under calendar

## **XIII. Coaches and Spectator Conduct and Responsibilities**

Coaches must be in complete control of their players, assistant coaches and spectators at all times and are expected to conduct themselves as Christian ladies and gentlemen. Use of profanity will NOT be tolerated. The penalty for use of profanity by any coach or spectator will be ejection from the game with the possibility of suspension from the Diocesan League. Any coach or spectator guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct will be penalized under the direction of the Diocesan Athletic Director. This includes damage to property, misconduct before a game, misconduct during a game or misconduct after a game. A suspension or permanent expulsion from the league may result after a review of the incident.

## **XIV. Coaches Conduct Towards Player**

In accordance with Diocesan Policy, the head coach must be at least **21** years of age. All coaches must have Protecting God's Children training and a BCI report on file with the parish office.

In accordance with Diocesan Policy, parishes must follow a strategy of "two- deep" ministry with adolescents, where at least two adults are present at all athletic activities and situations wherever possible. High school students that coach are not adults and the 2 deep policy must be followed.

Where a one-to-one activity is required, such activities should take place in an open environment. Special attention should be given to provide a safe and confidential forum while following standards of prudence.

Physical, sexual, or romantic relationships between a coach and an adolescent are unethical and are prohibited.

The coaching staff shall not make derogatory or humiliating remarks toward their own players or opponents. Constructive criticism can be made without embarrassing players. When addressing players who have made mistakes, coaches should maintain their composure and use it as a positive learning experience. Coaches who do not follow this policy are subject to the suspension rule.

## **XV. Player Conduct**

Any player guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct will be penalized under the direction of the league commissioner. This includes any damage to property, misconduct before a game, misconduct during a game or misconduct after a game. Any player participating in any form of fighting including pushing, shoving, kicking, etc. will be ejected immediately. Players will also automatically be suspended for one additional game. A greater penalty may be assessed following a review of the incident.

## **XVI. Sportsmanship**

No player, coach, spectator or cheerleader may in any way distract an opponent during play. This includes, but is not limited to, free throws in basketball, a pitch in baseball or softball, a serve in volleyball, a penalty kick in soccer, or a snap in football. These are merely common instances; distractions are **PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES**. Distractions include, but are not limited to, waving arms (primarily on free throws), kicking of bleachers, booing, doing cheers (during actions listed above), intentionally coughing/sneezing, talking to an opponent, making loud noises (including bells, horns, etc.) and any other act that the official deems to be distracting for a player. Violation of this rule will result in an ejection (suspension rule applies). The official may opt for a warning prior to ejection, but the warning is **NOT** required.

No face or body painting is permitted (face decals are permitted). Participants' hair may not be spray painted or dyed in team colors.

Fans or Non Participants are not permitted on the game's playing surface before, during or after any contest.

## **XVII. Conduct Towards Officials**

No player, coach, spectator or cheerleader may make a derogatory comment directed at an official. This rule applies to ALL levels of play; however, **NO** leniency should be expected at the Reserve or Jr. Reserve levels. A key objective of our program is an emphasis on good sportsmanship. Comments to officials should be limited to **COACHES** asking for a call clarification to facilitate the coaching of a player. Violations of this rule shall result in a warning against the offender. In sports where penalties may be assessed (technical fouls in basketball, yellow cards in soccer, or penalties in football) these penalties will be assessed and considered to be the warning. A second violation shall result in ejection (suspension rule applies). An individual guilty of a flagrant violation may be ejected without warning. Coaches, parents, grandparents or any fans are not to follow officials

into the parking lot or the exterior halls to confront said official. Doing so may result in suspensions.

## **XVIII. Officials Conduct Towards Players, Parents, and Spectators**

Officials shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession in all interactions with student- athletes, coaches, colleagues, and the public. (from the NFHS Officials Code of Ethics) Officials must show respect at all times. Officials can set the standard for respect through the pre-game meeting, preventative officiating and communications with coaches. By getting emotionally involved with a player an official easily loses respect.

## **XIX. Code of Conduct**

All coaches, parents and players must sign a code of conduct, which is to be kept on file at the parish level.

## **XX. Suspension Rule**

Any player, coach, or cheerleader ejected from a game/facility will automatically be suspended for at least the next game. Spectators will be suspended for at least the next two games. The suspension shall apply to players, coaches, spectators and cheerleaders guilty of misconduct **AFTER** a game has concluded that would have resulted in an ejection had the incident occurred during play. The suspended individual is **NOT** permitted to attend/view a game from which he or she is suspended. In addition to the suspension, a letter will be sent to the pastor of the parish notifying him of the suspension of the parishioner. The league commissioner may assess additional penalties following a review of the incident. Non-compliance will cause forfeiture of the game as well as possible additional penalties. The coach of the offending team must report ejection of a coach, player or spectator.

Any, player, coach or spectator who is ejected from a Diocesan Recreation sponsored game, match or meet cannot attend any other Diocesan Recreation games, matches, or meets until the suspensions for such ejection is served at the level in which the ejection occurred. (i.e., if a spectator is ejected from their 5<sup>th</sup> grade son's basketball game, they may NOT attend their 7<sup>th</sup> grade daughter's games until the suspension is served at the 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys' level). Penalty also applies to those who are ejected and also officiate in the Diocesan Recreation Association program. They may not officiate Diocesan Recreation Association contests until the suspension is served. If the ejection occurs in the final contest of the season, the Diocesan Recreation Association Director will determine the terms of the carry-over suspension.

## **XXI. Damage at a Playing Site**

Coaches are responsible for their teams at all times. The coach or a responsible adult **MUST** accompany a team to a locker room. Damage to any building or field will be invoiced to the athletic association of the team or teams found responsible for such damage. If the guilty party is not found, then all teams present at the site will be charged equally for the damage.

## **XXII. Sunday Games and Practice; Calamity Days**

No athletic related activities are to begin before 2:00pm on Sunday. Under NO circumstances are games, scrimmages or practice to start before 2:00pm on Sunday. See the football rules for special exemption.

Teams should not arrive at the game site more than 30 minutes prior to the game time and facilities should not be opened until 30 minutes prior to game time. Coaches can be suspended if this rule is broken.

DRA athletic contests held on Holy Days of Obligation must be scheduled around Mass times. For example, if the Holy Day falls on a Saturday, games will not begin until 1:00pm. If the Holy Day falls during the week, weeknight games on the Holy Day will not be held. Please check with your pastor regarding practices.

When schools are closed due to a calamity day, whether or not a parish postpones practices or games is a decision left up to the individual parish. The Diocesan Recreation Association does not weigh in on matters pertaining to school closings during the regular season. If it is a practice, it is the parish's decision. If one parish's policy states that they cannot play, or if they feel it is unsafe to travel, then the game will be postponed.

It is very possible for parishes to hold practices and games despite school being closed, particularly when issues like fog or freezing rain can keep schools closed, but dissipate in time to allow regular after-school activities. The only circumstance under which the DRA interferes is during postseason tournaments.

## **XXIII. Alcohol, Tobacco & Drug Policy**

- A) No athletic director, coach, player, spectator, cheerleader, contest official, scorekeeper, timer, gym supervisor, league coordinator, etc., may engage in any form of alcohol, drug or tobacco use at a Diocesan sponsored contest.
- B) The Diocesan Recreation Association strongly urges that this policy be enforced during practices and scrimmages.
- C) The facility supervisor and contest officials shall ensure enforcement during contests.
- D) The penalty for violation of this rule during a contest shall be immediate ejection (see suspension rule) with possible additional penalties (see penalties for rules violations) pending a review by the League Commissioner.

## **XXIV. Firearms and weapons**

It is the policy of the Diocese of Columbus that no person may possess, have under the person's control, convey, or attempt to convey a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance at any DRA activity.

In addition, no person, other than law enforcement officers, shall possess or bring to any DRA activity any instrument or device that is designed to be used as a weapon of any nature (including but not limited to knives, clubs, explosives, etc.).

## **XXV. Evenly Divided Teams**

At the Sr. Reserve, Reserve and Jr. Reserve levels, multiple teams from a parish **must be as evenly divided as possible**. This does not apply to split grade teams. (i.e., a 5-6 team does not have to be equal to an all 6 team) The League commissioner reserves the right to review team breakdowns and resolve the situation if the need arises.

## **XXVI. Competitive and Recreation Divisions (some sports)**

**The DRA has a no cut policy.** All children are expected to play. In some sports, we offer competitive and recreation divisions to better match the skills levels of the athletes. It is expected that parishes entering only One Jr. Varsity and/ or One Varsity Team will play in leagues using Competitive rules. However, at the discretion of the league commissioner, teams could be placed in the recreational division. If a parish enters 2 or more teams at the JV Level or 2 or more teams at the Varsity Level, the additional teams can be placed in Recreation or Competitive leagues.

Recreation leagues are designed for parishes with multiple teams, or with teams comprised of players with lesser-developed skills. The league is primarily for less advanced players who can continue to develop their skills in a less competitive atmosphere. Though participation is required in both levels, more playing time is mandated in recreation leagues.

Remember, we do not cut kids. Everyone has the opportunity to play. If a parish has a competitive and recreation team, athletes may try out for the competitive team, but if the athlete does not make the competitive team, the athlete will play on the recreation team. If there are not enough players for two teams, everyone plays on the team your field.

## **XXVII Tournaments**

- A) Post-season tournaments will only be conducted in Varsity, Jr. Varsity and Sr. Reserve and Reserve levels.
- B) No post-season tournaments will be conducted for the Jr. Reserve level. Extra games will be added to the regular season schedule for these levels.
- C) No teams from the same parish are permitted to meet in the finals of the post-season tournament and a co-championship will be declared by directive of the Diocesan Recreation Board of Control, June 22, 2009.
- D) If the teams are scheduled to meet in an earlier round, the games will be played as scheduled.
- E) If a parish knows ahead of time (that they will not be able to field a team for the tournaments, please let the commissioner know prior to the seeding of teams and the team will not be scheduled to participate in the tournament. If notification happens after the seeding is completed, a \$100 penalty will be assessed to that parish.

## **XXVIII. Parents/Guardians**

- A) Parents/guardians must attend the mandatory Parent Meeting held at each parish prior to the start of the season. Attendance will be taken and kept on file at the parish.
- B) Both parents/guardians must sign a Parent Code of Conduct. The signed copy will be

kept on file at the Parish.

- C) Beginning with the 2014-2015 season, at least one parent must attend a Parent Like A Champion Today training session prior to their child's participation in the DRA sporting activities. If a parent has taken PLACT for coaches, they have met this requirement and do not have to take this training. Failure of a parent to attend the Parent Like A Champion Today training will result in the child not being able to participate for that season. Once parents take the training, the child may participate.
- D) Sessions are held at each parish. Please check your parish calendars for time and place.

## **XXIX. Physicals and Concussion Policy**

### **A) Preseason physicals are strongly recommended.**

An example of a pre-participation physical evaluation can be found on the OHSAA website. The link to the form is [https://ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Sports-Medicine/PPE\\_2019-20.pdf](https://ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Sports-Medicine/PPE_2019-20.pdf)

- B) Concussions, which cause short and long-term negative health issues, remain at the top of our concerns for our young athletes. Adolescent athletes are particularly vulnerable to the effects of concussion. A concussion is a brain injury that disrupts normal brain function. Most concussed athletes do not lose consciousness. Common symptoms include headache, fogginess, difficulty concentrating, confusion, nausea, poor balance, mood changes and thought/thinking difficulty.
- C) In accordance with OHSAA rules, "Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared **with written authorization** by an appropriate health care professional. (Players may not return on the same day.) In Ohio, an "appropriate health care professional" shall be a **physician**, (MD or DO) and an **athletic trainer, licensed.**"
- D) "No parish shall permit a student to practice for or compete in interscholastic athletics until the student has submitted, to a parish official designated to the board or governing authority, a form signed by the parent, guardian, or other person stating that the student and the parent, guardian, or the person having care or charge of the student have received the concussion and head injury information sheet required by section 3707.52 of the Revised Code. A completed form shall be submitted each school year, as defined in section 3313.62 of the Revised Code, for each sport or other category of interscholastic athletics for or in which the student practices or competes." 3313.530 of the Revised Code (effective 4- 26- 2013).
- E) Prior to the first practice of the season, all coaches must complete the online training course on concussions offered by the NFHS, or the CDC, free of charge. Access the course at [NFHS Learn | Interscholastic Education, Made Easy](#) or the CDC course at [Heads Up | HEADS UP | CDC Injury Center](#) Once you have completed the course, please be sure to print the certificate and give a copy to your Athletic Director to be kept on file at the parish level. **This certification is good for 3 years. Please check your dates of completion and be sure you are up to date on the training.**

- F) "No individual shall coach an athletic activity organized by a youth sports organization unless the individual has completed, **on an annual basis**, the sudden cardiac arrest training course approved by the department of health under division (C) of section 3707.59 of the Revised Code."

**NOTE:** A new state requirement from Ohio Senate Bill 252 (Lindsay's Law), effective March 14, 2017, affects our coaches. All individuals who coach athletic activities must annually complete a sudden cardiac arrest course approved by the Ohio Department of Health. You can access this training at

[http://progressive.powerstream.net/008/00153/SCA\\_LL\\_CoachInfo.mp4](http://progressive.powerstream.net/008/00153/SCA_LL_CoachInfo.mp4)

On the OHSAA website, you can find out more information about Lindsay's Law and access the forms needed for parents and coaches. <http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine>

### **XXX. Coaching Requirements**

To be a coach in our program, **all coaches must:**

- 1) Complete the Protecting God's Children (PGC) Workshop
- 2) Have a qualifying BCI/ fingerprints report on file with the Diocesan Safe Environment Program.
- 3) To be a head coach in the program you must be 21 years of age and have attended a Play Like A Champion Today (PLACT) workshop as well as completing the above requirements (1 and 2).
- 4) Complete the NFHS online course on Concussions, and present the certificate to the parish AD. The free course can be found at [NFHS Learn | Interscholastic Education, Made Easy](#)
- 5) Complete the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Course found at [http://progressive.powerstream.net/008/00153/SCA\\_LL\\_CoachInfo.mp4](http://progressive.powerstream.net/008/00153/SCA_LL_CoachInfo.mp4)
- 6) Sign the Coach's Code of Conduct.
- 7) No one can be the head coach of more than 2 teams. Schedulers will only try to accommodate requests from the head coach in scheduling around games.
- 8) Tournament scheduling is a difficult process. With the unpredictability of results, it may not always be possible to avoid a coaching conflict for the head coach. The assistant coach may need to step up and coach the game.
- 9) Coaches must follow and enforce all requirements due to COVID 19

### **XXXI. Safe Sport Act**

Participating adults are required to report suspicions of child abuse, including sex abuse, as soon as possible (within a 24-hour period) to the appropriate law enforcement agencies and children's services, as determined by state and federal law.

Failure to make required reports may result in criminal penalties. These range from misdemeanor charges for violating state law, to felony charges for violating federal law.

## **XXXII. Play Like A Champion Today**

- A) Play Like A Champion Today, Youth Sports Coaches, Coaching as Ministry Training. The DRA embraces the Play Like A Champion Today (PLACT) approach to Coaching. The PLACT approach to coaching as ministry focuses on three key components: coaching as a ministerial role; making spiritual and character development a priority; and building local leadership. The PLACT coach workshop, **required of all head coaches, athletic directors and commissioners**, combines reflection on the implications of being a youth minister with the GROW approach to coaching for character development.

During the 2020-21 seasons some waivers were granted for one season. Those coaches must now take the training prior to coaching in 2021-22.

- B) Play Like A Champion Today, Parent Like A Champion supports parents as the Primary educators of their children. This is accomplished by providing parents with a sports workshop, which teaches them strategies to be champion sport parents in their attitude and behaviors and enables them to positively partner with their children's coaches. The PLACT workshop, **required for parents**, explains to parents how they can support the GROW approach to athlete whole development which is being implemented by youth coaches. The workshop also focuses on specific ways in which parents can promote their children's moral, spiritual, and athletic development.

During the 2020-21 seasons some waivers were granted for one season. Those parents must now take the training prior to their child's participation in 2021-22.

## **XXXIII Policies and Guidelines**

In addition to these Administrative Rules, all Athletic Directors, commissioners and coaches should be familiar with and follow the policies and guidelines set forth in each of the following:

1. The policies and guidelines of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.
2. The 500 section of the Policies of the Office and Youth and Young Adult Ministry.
3. Diocesan Rules for each sport.
4. NFHS rules for each sport.

## **XXXIV Evaluation of Officials and Coaches**

- A) After each game, each head coach is required to complete a Game Official Evaluation Form, which are located on the DRA website.
- B) After each game, each official may complete a Coach Evaluation form.
1. These forms are found on the DRA website.
  2. This information will be used to evaluate and help schedule officials.
  3. This information can also be used to resolve possible coaching problems before a serious incident occurs.

4. This information can be used to help determine the annual Joe Sestito/Kathryn Buckerfield Sportsmanship Award.

### **XXXIII. VIDEOTAPING OF EVENTS**

- A) It is permissible for a parish team or its team representative to videotape or film a game that said team is participating in for instructional use.
- B) It is not permissible for a team or parish team representative to videotape or film games of other teams without written consent of the participating teams.
- C) Spectators can film games for family or private use.
- D) Parish teams and coaches may exchange game videos and films for coaching and scouting purposes.
- E) Violators will be subject to the suspension rule and or other penalties deemed by the commissioner.
- F) The Diocesan Social Media Policy is in effect for the DRA programs.
- G) Video recordings of events or photos by parents and/or coaches will not be viewed to overturn an official's decision. All decisions made at the sporting event by the officials are final.(See special exemption for Track Flash Timing in the Track Rules)
- H) All other video rules will comply with OHSAA and NFHS rules.

### **XXXIV. On line submission of Parent Consent forms**

Beginning in June of 2018, the DRA will utilize the online submission of parent consent forms. Parents should complete their child's form at <https://www.dioceseregister.com/login>

Athletic Directors, pastors, principals and safe environment coordinators will have access to the parish's forms and will be able to sign off on them electronically, thus eliminating the paper copies of the parent consent form. **A paper copy of the eligibility roster must still be submitted.**

## **XXXV. DRA Sports**

- Soccer—boys and girls
- Cross country—boys and girls
- Volleyball—boys and girls
- Tackle Football—boys
- Flag Football--boys
- Basketball—Boys and girls
- Track—boys and girls
- Softball –Girls
- Baseball--Boys
- CYO Volleyball for high school girls
- CYO basketball for high school girls and boys

### **Anticipated Covid Protocols**

- Students/Athletes who are experiencing illness or symptoms MUST stay home.
- For any cases of Covid, the policies of the local health department for quarantining and reporting will be followed.
- Social distancing will not be required.
- Masks will not be required, they will be optional. Policies will be in place to ensure that all who wish to wear a mask may do so comfortably and without fear.
- Regular occupancy numbers in classrooms, lunchrooms, and other spaces will resume.
- Athletic and extracurricular activities may resume their normal schedules and procedures.
- Vaccinations continue to be encouraged by the Diocese but are not mandatory.

The Covid situation, particularity information about variants, will be closely monitored and the above protocols may be amended at any time. Protocols also may be increased at any school/parish at any time depending on the local situation or local directives. Again, the protocols above reflect our current situation today and may be modified.

ADs will be notified of any changes made after the beginning of the 2021-2022 sports seasons.

It is the responsibility of the athletic directors and commissioners to ensure all coaches are aware of these rules. Ignorance of the rules by coaches, does not excuse them nor negate the enforcement of rules—especially suspensions.

**The Diocesan Recreation Association Website is found at:  
[www.columbuscatholic.org/recreation](http://www.columbuscatholic.org/recreation)**