

2023 – 2024 CYO POINTS OF EMPHASIS

WE PRAY (*Spirituality*)

We Emphasize God Is with Us

- **THROUGH PRAYER:** We encourage prayer and CYO activities always begin with prayer. In team sports, both teams assemble at center court prior to the contest and the home team leads a prayer. In track and cross country meets, all participants and coaches assemble for a group prayer. There should be prayer at team practices. Parish / school CYO programs should consider hosting an annual CYO Mass.



- **PARISH AND SCHOOL MINISTRY:** CYO is part of an 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.

WE PLAY (*Sportsmanship*)

We Emphasize Good Sportsmanship



- **IN TEAMS:** Coaches emphasize good sportsmanship by modeling good behavior, setting sportsmanship goals with their teams and demanding proper conduct from everyone.

- **BY SPECTATORS:** Spectators at CYO events must practice good sportsmanship by cheering positively and never shouting derogatory remarks to coaches, opposing players, other spectators, or game officials. Coaches must communicate, instruct, and enforce good spectator behavior as in the *CYO Code of Conduct*. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their spectators and must act immediately to stop any poor or unruly behavior.

- **WITH REFEREES:** Coaches, players, and spectators should never show disrespect to officials. No one may ever approach game officials after a contest to discuss calls or to comment on the game.

We Display Good Sportsmanship

- **EVERYONE PLAYS A LOT:** Each child is *guaranteed* minimum playing time and coaches should be certain that all players receive playing time *beyond the minimum*.

- **SCORES ARE NEVER "RUN UP":** 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 not run up the score.



• **RULES ARE FOLLOWED:** CYO eligibility rules are designed so that CYO teams are parish-based or Catholic school-based, not "club" or city teams. Games are played by the rules and in the spirit of the rules, ensuring friendly, fair, and fun competition.

• **CYO IS FUN!** CYO is fun for the players who are engaged and not spectators. Coaches are always positive, praising and instructing, not shouting negatively or demeaning. Good coaches build self-esteem by emphasizing skills and social aspects of sports, not by concentrating on winning. Parents must not place undue pressure on their children to succeed. All keep the game in perspective.

WE SERVE *(Service to Others)*

We Are Called to Christian Service

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

• **TO OTHERS:** In 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.

