CHRIST at the CENTER of Catholic Youth Athletics

Archdiocese of Cincinnati Charter on Catholic Youth Athletics

Archdiocese of Cincinnati
Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry
Promulgated on March 1, 2014
www.CatholicCincinnati.org/ayatf
Athletics Leader Packet

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Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, Archdiocese of Cincinnati + April 1, 2014

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Archdiocese of Cincinnati Catholic Youth Athletics Initiative
Catholic Youth Athletics Charter Implementation

Athletics Leader Packet

Getting Started

Here are some recommended implementation steps for leaders of athletics organizations/boosters:

Immediately:

1. Review the entire Charter along with the contents of this packet, and share this information with other leaders in your organization (Charter and all materials are available on the web here: http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ayatf/.

2. Discuss the mission, goals and principles of the Charter with your pastor (or principal, in the case of athletics organizations of non-parish schools), and pay special attention to the aspects of the Charter that are already in effect: the Decree on Child Protection; state law on concussions; policy on Sundays, Triduum and Religious Education; transportation policies; and the Code of Conduct.

3. Attend one of the May orientation sessions to better understand the spirit and implications of the Charter, and to explore the best ways to Charter compliance. (Sessions TBA).

4. Keep the “Victory” poster close at hand when you’re explaining the Charter and what it’s trying to accomplish. Help people understand that compliance with the Charter is not only a good thing for kids, parents, families, parents, and athletics, but also was developed by athletics leaders from across the Archdiocese, approved by the Archdiocesan Pastoral and Priests Councils, and then put into effect by the Archbishop.

5. Since compliance with the Charter involves aligning the “organizational documents” (e.g., constitution, by-laws, charter, etc.) of athletics organization with the Charter, it’s important to find the right person to take the lead on that job: ideally, someone with the gifts and time to work with words and documents. Not to worry: members of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Youth Athletics Commission will be available to assist in this project.

By July 2014:

1. Discuss with your pastor (or principal, in the case of athletics organizations of non-parish schools) the steps you’ll need to take to bring the athletics organization into full compliance with the Charter, and rough out a time line for accomplishing that on or before Mar. 15, 2015.

2. Review the role description of the Spiritual Liaison (6.2.14; pgs. 36-37) and work out with your pastor (or principal, in the case of non-parish schools) who will serve in the role.

3. Review with your pastor, or parish business manager or bookkeeper the Financial Accountability section (7.3; pg. 42) and work out next steps.

4. Since the Charter calls for all parish- or school-based youth athletics organizations to bring their organizational documents into compliance with the provisions of the Charter by Mar. 15, 2015, make sure that someone with the capabilities has that task. Compliance materials will be sent to athletics leaders at the end of the summer.

5. Establish periodic check-ins with your pastor between now and Mar. 15, 2015 so as to keep things on track, and everyone informed.
Decree on Child Protection: The Decree is in full effect for all youth athletics that happen under Archdiocesan auspices, including permission/release forms, required minimum number of chaperones, transportation policies, etc.

Section 4.3.2. Concussions: Head injuries can happen in any sport. Catholic Youth Athletics should comply with state law (see Ohio HB 143 for more details) as regards concussions, including:

(a) Before practice or play begins for each sport or season, the parent or guardian of each participating child should review and sign the head injury information sheet required by section 3707.52 of the Ohio Revised Code and available at www.healthyohioprogram.org/concussion.

(b) Before beginning to coach or officiate, coaches and officials in Catholic Youth Athletics should receive training on concussions and the requirements of Ohio law.

(c) If a player exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury while participating in practice or competition, the player shall be removed from the practice or competition by either of the following: (i) The individual who is serving as the student's coach during that practice or competition; or (ii) an individual who is serving as a referee or official during that practice or competition. Parents are expected to be notified of the injury as soon as possible.

If a player is removed from practice or competition as per 4.3.2(c) above, under Ohio law the coach or referee who removed the player must not allow the player, on the same day the player is removed, to return to that practice or competition or to participate in any other practice or competition for which the coach or referee is responsible. Thereafter, under Ohio law the coach or referee shall not allow the player to return to that practice or competition or to participate in any other practice or competition for which the coach or referee is responsible until both of the following conditions are satisfied: (i) The student’s condition is assessed by a physician or other authorized licensed health care provider; and (ii) the player receives written clearance that it is safe to return to practice or competition from a physician or other authorized licensed health care provider.

Section 5.2.6. Scheduling Criteria: Sundays, Triduum, and Religious Education: (IMPORTANT: note that the language regarding Saturday and Sunday afternoon and evenings has been further clarified):

(a) Sundays and Holy Days: No scheduling of athletics activities (including games, practices, tournaments, and other meetings) at parishes, schools or at Facilities, on or off-site, on Sundays and Holy Days before 1:00pm (e.g., 1:00pm kickoff, tipoff, starting whistle, etc.). Also, no scheduling of athletics activities on-site at Catholic parishes that adversely affect the parish’s worship (for instance due to noise or parking problems) during Saturday and Sunday afternoon and evening liturgies.
(b) Triduum: No scheduling of athletics activities (including games, practices, tournaments, and other meetings) on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday or Easter Sunday.

(c) Religious education and sacramental preparation: Athletics activities (including games, practices, tournaments, and other meetings) are not to be scheduled when the children involved normally would be attending religious education, sacramental preparation programs and the like. If conflicts occur, programs of religious education, sacramental preparation and the like take precedence. Coaches are expected to support the faith formation of their players, and in no case are children to be penalized (for example, being required to sit out all or part of a game) by coaches or athletic leaders for missing a practice or game due to participation in such programs.

**Section 7.2. Transportation:** See section 7 on Legal, Financial and Insurance Matters for provisions on transporting children.

**Section 8. Code of Conduct:** The Code of Conduct describes specific provisions that when followed will significantly improve the overall experience of Catholic Youth Athletics for players, coaches, parents and fans. Use of the Code of Conduct should not be delayed, and Boosters organization and leagues are encouraged to make these available to everyone involved in Catholic Youth Athletics.
Archdiocese of Cincinnati Catholic Youth Athletics Charter

Implementation Time Frames and Deadlines

(Important: Materials submitted in advance of deadlines are welcomed and appreciated!)

Phase One / Mar. 1-Aug. 1, 2014. Transition Team sets the stage.
1. Educate leagues, parishes, pastors, and athletics organizations about the Charter.
2. Complete by-laws, operating procedures, and resource materials.
3. Create the Youth Athletics Commission.

1. Commission provides Charter compliance self-assessment materials to:
   a. LEAGUES: League leaders and board members conduct a self-assessment based on Charter provisions, in consultation with members, and submit completed compliance materials to the Commission on or before Dec. 31, 2014.
   b. ATHLETICS ORGANIZATIONS: Leaders of athletics organizations (Boosters) conduct a self-assessment based on Charter provisions, in consultation with coaches, members and parents, signed by pastor (or principal in the case of non-parish schools), and submit completed compliance materials to the Commission on or before Mar. 15, 2015.
2. Upon approval, Commission notifies leagues and organizations, which are then in good standing with the Archdiocese for the term.
3. Commission provides resources along the way:
   a. Prayer resources
   b. First aid certification information
   c. Assistance for Spiritual Liaisons

Phase Three / Aug. 1, 2015, and thereafter. Commission, Leagues and Athletics Organizations work together on continuous quality improvement.
1. Commission fine-tunes its standard operating procedures and establishes a normal, regular pattern of expectations, communications, etc.
2. Commission membership turns over in a staggered way that provides both fresh voices and continuity.

Snapshot of Deadlines and Time Frames:

Mar. 2014 – Aug. 1, 2014: Transition team helps people understand Charter mission, goals, etc., develops by-laws and standard operating procedures, and recruits and launches the Commission.

Aug. 1, 2014: Commission provides compliance materials to leagues and athletics organizations.
   • Leagues have five months to complete the self-assessment and submit completed compliance materials.
   • Athletics organizations have 7½ months to complete the self-assessment and submit completed compliance materials.


Mar. 15, 2015: Deadline for compliance materials from athletics organizations to Commission. Commission decisions on league compliance are communicated.

July 15, 2015: Commission decisions on athletics organization compliance are communicated.


Archdiocese of Cincinnati Charter on Catholic Youth Athletics

Code of Conduct

**Spirit of Catholic Youth Athletics:** Demonstrate good sportsmanship, patience, manners and an attitude indicative of the spirit and mission of the Catholic Church.

**Adherence to Laws, Rules and Policies, including:**

- Catholic canon law and Archdiocesan laws and policies including, but not limited to, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Decree on Child Protection.
- Federal, state, and local laws and ordinances.
- The mission, goals, principles, and policies of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Charter on Catholic Youth Athletics, and those of the Organizational Documents of participating athletics organizations and leagues.

**Specific Violations:**

- **Eligibility:** Violation of the eligibility policies of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Catholic Youth Athletics Charter, including using an ineligible player.
- **Recruiting:** No recruiting for athletic purposes or to enhance a team’s competitive advantage is permitted.
- **Leaving the field of play:** No team may leave the field, floor, game or tournament because of dissatisfaction with the officials, or their decisions.
- **Losing control:** Coaches are expected to control their own conduct and the conduct of their players and report to the league and Commission instances where opponents, officials, parents, or fans have failed to control their own conduct.
- **Running up the score:** It is not permitted to humiliate an opposing team by playing in such a way so as to intentionally run up the score after the outcome of the game is no longer in question.
- **Inappropriate communication and behavior:** The use of inappropriate, insulting, disrespectful, bullying and demeaning language or behavior before, during or after meetings, practices or games by players, coaches, officials, parents, fans, site personnel, volunteers, or others involved in any parish athletics program is prohibited. Also prohibited are physical intimidation and the use of profane, vulgar, abusive or sexually-oriented language, in oral, written or electronic forms of communication (such as texting or email), by players, coaches, officials, parents, site personnel, volunteers, or fans.
- **Escalating behaviors:** Behaviors that incite others to act in ways that are in direct conflict with the spirit of Catholic Youth Athletics are prohibited.
- **Vandalism and theft:** There will be no vandalism, theft, or destruction of property at any athletics venue.
- **Alcohol, tobacco, illegal controlled substances:** No alcohol, tobacco, or any illegal controlled substance is permitted at practices, league competitions, or tournaments where children are present (such as “tailgating” where alcohol is present). Athletics organizations are expected to establish and communicate zero tolerance policies regarding alcohol, tobacco, and illegal controlled substances at competitions, tournaments and gatherings where children are present.

**General Violations:** Activities that are contrary to the mission, goals, principles, values, provisions or spirit of Catholic Youth Athletics as described in the Charter are prohibited.

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CHRIST at the CENTER of Catholic Youth Athletics

- Being Christ-centered & boldly Catholic...
- Seeing to the safety, health and well-being of children...
- Fostering virtues, character, leadership & skills for life...
- Keeping the Eucharist, Sabbath, family, fun and faith our top priorities...
- Holding to high & consistent standards with accountability...
- Serving, loving, forgiving, and evangelizing in all things...

...So that Catholic Youth Athletics IS Catholic Youth Ministry.

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