

ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD
Office of Religious Education
CYO BASKETBALL RULES
JULY 1, 2010-JUNE 30, 2011

Revised September 29, 2010



OBJECTIVES AND COACHING RESPONSIBILITIES

The main objective of all CYO sports is the formation of Christ-like youth. Athletics, as such, do not automatically assure attainment of that objective. They must be properly motivated and conducted; otherwise no real benefit would be derived from their participation. **Our CYO mission is to:**

- ❑ Foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each person involved in athletics.
- ❑ Draw athletes to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the faith community
- ❑ Empower athletes to become disciples of Jesus Christ who witness to their faith through sports by living/working/ playing for justice, peace, and human dignity

To that end, all basketball coaches are highly encouraged to take the ASEP/ Catholic Coaching Essentials on-line course to raise their awareness of the relationship between sports and faith formation. **Starting Sept 2010 it is mandatory for Head coaches to take this course at a cost of \$19.99. Results will be tracked.** http://www.asep.com/asep_content/org/AOH.cfm.

Due to liability issues, Head coaches must be at least 21 years old. Assistant coaches must be at least 18 years old. All CYO Basketball coaches and assistant coaches must:

1. Be background checked by their school or parish
2. Attend a Virtus training session “*Protecting God’s Children*”
3. Read and sign-off on the Archdiocesan “Policies and Procedures for the Protection of Children and Youth” and The “Code of Ministerial Behavior”
4. Complete a Coaches Registration form

We are a Deanery structured organization with individual Deanery Director supervision. There are 17 Deaneries within the Archdiocese of Hartford. We have combined deaneries - by invitation- into various leagues to allow for wider opportunities for the athlete’s spiritual, social, physical, and faith development. If a deanery wishes to play within a specific league, they must conform to the rules of the league which may or may not include three point play, two referees, admission at the door, etc. Inclusion in a league is on a probationary basis for at least one year.

While placement in the ORE or NE tournament is based on a team’s record, having a winning record does not guarantee participation. Conduct of the player, the team, and the coach are factored into a team’s acceptance to a tournament. Additionally, Priests and School Principals have the right and responsibility to limit the amount of games or the amount of tournaments attended by a team that represents that school or parish.

Deanery Directors and CYO Head Coaches are spiritual role models. They are responsible for their own conduct and language as well as the conduct and language of their players and assistant coaches. **Profane language or unsportsmanlike conduct has no place in CYO.** Any improper conduct may be cause for at least one year’s suspension of the offender from Deanery or Archdiocesan/ New England competition as determined by the Deanery, League, Archdiocesan Office, and/or the New

England Advisory Board. *“Christian sportsmanship is an expectation: Let the players play; let the coaches coach; let the officials officiate; let the spectators be pleasant. Dare to Soar.”*

We urge all parish/school directors and coaches to give each athlete a meaningful experience of the game and to utilize the following pledge to be sure they and their players have an appropriate understanding of the proper attitude to utilize while competing in faith-based sports:



CYO PLEDGE OF SPORTSMANSHIP

- I promise to be loyal to God, my country, my church, and to the integrity of the game of basketball; to be faithful and true to all my obligations as a Catholic, a citizen, an athlete, and a representative of my school or parish. I will strive earnestly to be a person of whom Jesus, my church, my family, and my country may be justly proud
- I pledge myself to live a clean, honest, and upright life and to promote by word and example a clean wholesome sport; to avoid obscene, profane, vulgar language and behavior, and to encourage others to do like wise.

ARCHDIOCESAN AND DEANERY COORDINATOR AUTHORITY

Archdiocesan

The Archdiocesan Office of Religious Education will govern and oversee the ORE Basketball tournament (generally in March) and the New England Tournament (generally in April) with ultimate authority regarding rulings, protests, or disputes. This includes the authority to suspend or evict, if necessary, any participants (contestants, coaches, or spectators) that, in the coordinator's judgment, are potentially detrimental to the success of that program or event. This can extend to entire teams, and/or the cancellation of a specific program, if necessary.

Deanery

Deanery Directors (DD) coordinate, oversee, and govern all CYO Deanery events or programs with similar ultimate authority regarding rulings, protests, and/or disputes. Again, this includes the authority to suspend or evict, if necessary, any participants including contestants, coaches, and/or spectators, which in the Deanery Director's judgment are potentially detrimental to the success of that program or event.

Deaneries will not be permitted to relax Archdiocesan or National Federation rules or enact new rules without prior written approval from the Archdiocesan Coordinator. Requests for approval should be submitted, in writing, to the Archdiocesan Coordinator prior to the start of the season in question (preferably before the Fall meeting of DD). Any team and/or Deanery failing to obtain authorization may be forbidden from entering any Archdiocesan game or competition in the season in question. It should be understood, that if a Deanery receives written authorization or chooses to relax or enact new rules, it must conform to Archdiocesan/New England rules in order to compete in Archdiocesan/New England competition. A team can be considered by the deanery/league director to be ineligible for either of these tournaments due to roster or other violations.

The Deanery (or the League) provides a Protest or Hearing Board. All decisions of the Deanery/League Protest Board are final. In Deanery/League matters, there is no appeal beyond the Deanery/League Board.

GENERAL RULES

- All CYO Basketball competitions are held for boys only and girls' only teams. No boy can participate on a girl's team and no girl can participate on a boys' team.
- Registration fee for qualifying teams in the ORE tournament will be \$65.00 per team per division and are due **by the date set at the Fall Meeting**. There is a \$10.00 late fee and placement is not guaranteed. Only those teams who have submitted a roster to their Deanery Director by the league deadline, and whose coaches have been verified to have passed the background check, and taken the PGC session will be eligible to participate in the post-season tournaments. Deanery Directors must submit all rosters to the ORE by December 30th.
- Players must meet all the age, grade, and school/parish membership requirements listed under CLASSIFICATIONS AND DIVISIONS.
- ALL PLAYERS MUST SUBMIT A **PHOTOCOPY** of his/her birth certificate to provide proof of age upon registration at the school/parish. (A Baptismal certificate or school record are also acceptable.) Coaches must keep these photocopies with their rosters. **DO NOT SUBMIT BIRTH CERTIFICATE TO THE OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** unless requested.
- In order to protect the health and welfare of the participants: No team can play more than one game in a single day. In the event of a league emergency, which absolutely requires the playing of two games in a single day, at least four (4) hours must elapse between games. No team can play more than four (4) games during a given week.
- Youth are discouraged from playing on two competitive teams so that more kids have an opportunity to play the game. Too much time spent on any sport at this age can adversely affect young people's health, work in school, family and free time. Please consider this when making schedules. A suggested season consists of 20 regular season games and 2 Tournaments.

CLASSIFICATIONS (Player Eligibility Rules)

Teams may be entered into CYO Basketball Competition as **SCHOOL TEAMS** or **PARISH TEAMS**. A given player may participate only in one (1) classification.

Parish Teams

A **Parish Team** is made up of players from only one (1) parish **NO MULTI-PARISH TEAMS ARE ALLOWED**- this includes parishes that have been linked. **BUT** - note that parishes that share the same pastor are considered ONE parish-This is a new rule as of October 2009. The parish team cannot use participants from a school who are not parish members. Parish team participants must be active registered members of the parish he/she is representing. If a player is registered in a parish, but not a resident of that parish, then that registration must be pre-dated two (2) years before he/she can represent that parish in CYO competition. All Parish Team participants must attend CCD/ Religious Education/Formation or Catholic School. Exceptions must be submitted in writing

▪ **Non-Catholic Participation on Parish Teams**

The basic intent of non-Catholics participating in any activity is to prevent separation of a group of youngsters who are frequently together even though one or two of them are not of Catholic faith. Parish teams are allowed a **maximum of two (2) non-Catholics per team** consistent with the basic intent stated above and still meeting requirements of age and residence.

A non-Catholic participating on a parish team must attend CCD or Catholic School as is necessary for other participants and conform to all of the player eligibility rules. In addition, a letter presenting the circumstances surrounding all non-Catholics who are not attending a Catholic parochial school but will be included on a parish team's roster for participation must be sent to the Deanery Director - who will pass on to the Archdiocesan Coordinator -prior to the beginning of the season or event.

▪ **JUNIOR AND INTERMEDIATE PARISH TEAMS**

Junior and Intermediate teams are made up of players of high school age who are registered parish members of the one (1) parish that they are representing. A participant must compete only within that parish of which he/she is an active and registered member or school he/she regularly attends on a full-time basis. The following are not eligible to participate on a competing parish team:

- Members of high school teams (Varsity, Junior Varsity or Freshman)
- Members of prep academy teams for the year/season under contention.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL TEAMS

A **SCHOOL TEAM** may be a multi-parish team but must be made up only of participants who attend that school on a full-time basis (parish participants who do not attend that school are not allowed). In the school division, any bonafide student of that school, Catholic or non-Catholic may participate in CYO.

DIVISIONS (Age and Grade Requirements)

For a participant to compete in the High School Junior Division, he/she must be at least 12 years of age by December 31 and less than 17. For a participant to compete in the High School Intermediate Division, he /she must be at least 14 years of age and less than 19. There are six (6) divisions of competition. **Please keep track of birthdates so that a player does not exceed his/her age bracket during the season causing the team to be ineligible:**

- **5/6 SCHOOL DIVISION (JV)**

Players must be students in grade six (6) or under, attend the school they are representing, must be at least 8 years of age and less than 13 years of age as of December 31 of the season in question.

- **5/6 PARISH DIVISION (JV)**

Players must be students in grade six (6) or under, registered parish members of the parish they are representing, and be at least 8 years of age and less than 13 years of age as of December 31 of the season in question.

- **7/8 SCHOOL DIVISION (Varsity)**

Players must be students in grade eight (8) or under, attend the school they are representing, and be 10 years of age and less than 15 years of age as of December 31 of the season in question.

- **7/8 PARISH DIVISION (Varsity)**

Players must be students in grade eight (8) or under, registered members of the parish they are representing, and be 10 years of age and less than 15 years of age as of December 31 of the season in question.

- **JUNIOR PARISH DIVISION**

Players must be registered members of the parish they are representing and be 12 years of age and less than 17 years of age as of December 31 of the season in question.

- **INTERMEDIATE PARISH DIVISION**

Players must be registered members of the parish they are representing, students who have not completed eight (8) consecutive semesters of high school (commencing with entrance into 9th grade), and must be 14 years of age and less than 19 years of age as of December 1st of the season in question.

OFFICIAL GAME RULES

Play will be regulated by the latest edition of the National Federation of State High School Associations Basketball Rules Book (except where otherwise noted).

These books can be ordered through the ORE. 860-243-9465 ext 18 (Shannon Perzan)

UNIFORMS - All players must wear: same colored, standard basketball uniforms; legally numbered front or back (6,7,8,9, are illegal numbers). If T-shirts are worn, they must be same color as team shirt.

BASKETBALL - The smaller official basketball (minimum 28½ to 29 inches in circumference) will be used for all games in the girls' divisions. Regulation size ball for all other divisions.

3 POINT LINE - a 3 point play will be allowed in all divisions. The line should be 19 feet 9 inches from the center of the hoop.

PRESSING (all levels, Girls and Boys, ORE and NE)

There is "no pressing" rule once a team is ahead by 20 points in the second half. 1st violation will result in a warning. 2nd violation will result in a technical foul. 3rd violation will result in a forfeit.

TOURNAMENT GAME TIME DURATIONS - (Girls and Boys)

- 5/6 SCHOOL/PARISH DIVISION - **Four SEVEN (7)** minute periods
- 7/8 SCHOOL/PARISH DIVISION - **Four SEVEN (7)** minute periods
- JUNIOR AND INTERMEDIATE DIVISION - **Four SEVEN (7)** minute periods

GAME FORFEITURE

A game will be considered a forfeit in the case of:

- Unsportsmanlike conduct of a team
- Use of an ineligible player
- Failure to begin a game within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled time
- Failure to complete an interrupted game at the request of the officials

PARTICIPANT SUSPENSION RULES

- Any participant banished from an official CYO game is suspended from competing in the next CYO league or play-off game played by his/her team.
- Two banishments in one season will automatically result in the barring of that participant from CYO competition for a complete year, from the date of the second banishment.

RULES FOR PROTESTS

A protest will be considered by the **PROTEST AND HEARING BOARD** (Deanery or League) only when it pertains to variance from rules of Classification and Eligibility, or misapplication of rules of play. No protest will be considered if it concerns official judgment of play (any judgment call). Videotape **will not** be allowed in any judgment and/or officiating decision. All protests must be filed **in writing** within forty-eight (48) hours of the incident in question to either the Deanery or League Coordinator, as appropriate.

- The Deanery Protest and Hearing Board will hear protests or provide hearings for events or programs at its level. Its decision is final.

PLAY-OFF ELIGIBILITY RULES

Each team must participate in a minimum of eight games in an organized league to participate in Deanery or Archdiocesan Play-offs.

ORGANIZED LEAGUE

An organized league is a league consisting of teams of the same classification and division. Each deanery can have a school league and a parish league if it has more than one team in each classification and division.

School or parish teams may, if they so desire, participate in a "mixed league" of school and parish teams. No team is required to play in a "mixed league" to qualify for the Archdiocesan play-offs. However, a team must participate in its own deanery's school or parish organized league if it has one.

Teams may supplement their schedules in order to meet (or exceed) the eight game minimum requirements by playing other teams in or outside of their own deanery. If a team chooses not to play in its own deanery's school or parish-organized league, it may not represent that deanery or any other deanery in the Archdiocesan play-offs.

- Participants must have participated in at least 25% of his /her CYO games to be eligible for Deanery or Archdiocesan play-offs.
- Players who play on a JV team and a Varsity team must declare their "official" team **BEFORE** the playoffs begin.
- Team rosters, appropriately signed (including proof of players age) must be submitted by the deadline set by the Deanery Coordinator. To participate in the Archdiocesan play-offs, the Deanery Directors must submit these rosters to the Office of Religious Education by Dec 30th
- All rosters must reflect the name of one Head coach and at least one Assistant coach.
- The Deanery representative in the Archdiocesan play-offs must be a team within the boundaries of that Deanery or consolidated deanery/league. The number of teams within a consolidated deanery/league that go to the ORE/Archdiocesan tournament depends on the number of participating teams within a league (Girls and Boys).
- A team participating in Deanery or Archdiocesan competition is forbidden to play or sponsor any other tournament for the same sport during the same time frame, until the Archdiocesan play-offs are completed (unless an exception is granted).
 - **2011 ORE tournament is the weekends of March 11-13th, 18-20th.**
 - **2011 NEW ENGLAND tournament is April 1-3rd in DIOCESE of MANCHESTER, NH**

- Game schedules could cause a conflict among games of the same sponsorship (parish vs. school). Every effort will be made to avoid that situation but there are no guarantees.



“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.” – Philippians 4:8-9 NAB