

DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN CODES OF CONDUCT

The following *Codes of Conduct* are intended to provide a framework of expectations for the behavior of all persons involved in any CYO event. CYO activities should be examples of the meaning of sportsmanship and Christian values. The guiding principle behind the enforcement of these codes of conduct is that the behavior of everyone involved in CYO should contribute to the positive environment for all of the youth participants.

All spectators, parents and family members, coaches and players/participants are expected to conduct themselves according to CYO standards of behavior. The codes of conduct serve as a behavioral guideline for all to follow, and appropriate consequences will follow violations of these codes of conduct. Key elements of the player, parent, coaches, and spectator codes of conduct are found on the following pages. Each coach, player/participant and parent/guardian will be presented with a CYO Athletics Code of Conduct at the beginning of their athletic/academic season. All parties are required to sign the document and return it to their CYO Director or coach, as appropriate, who will keep it on record for the athletic year.

Coaches Code of Conduct

With Almighty God as my witness, I hereby pledge to abide by the following Contract/Covenant:

- ❖ I will remember that I am a role model as a Christian and a good citizen for my participants, and as such I will always conduct myself in a mature manner, exercise good sportsmanship and always play by the rules in spirit and in word.
- ❖ I will foster an environment where all children will be given the ability to play and develop skills. I will do all in my power to discourage a “win at all costs” attitude.
- ❖ I will treat each participant as an individual, remembering the potential difference in emotional and physical development for the same age group.
- ❖ I will strive to remove all avoidable perils of competition by the application of intelligent and thoughtful cooperation with other coaches, officials, participants and spectators.
- ❖ I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all my participants.
- ❖ I will do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my participants.
- ❖ I will ensure that I am knowledgeable in the rules of each activity I coach, and I will teach these rules to my participants.
- ❖ I will use those coaching techniques appropriate for each of the skills I teach.
- ❖ I will remember that I am a youth coach and that the activity is for the children and not adults.
- ❖ I promise to review and practice the necessary first aid principles needed to treat injuries to my participants.
- ❖ I will not question any official’s decision. I will direct all my concerns to the District Commissioner.
- ❖ I will refrain from using profane, obscene or vulgar language at all times.
- ❖ I will not foster nor tolerate my participants using unnecessary and unChristian tactics against opposing participants **or own teammates**. I will uphold the spirit of Christian sportsmanship. I will not look for loopholes in rules and ways to exploit such in word, deed or omission.
- ❖ I will reinforce and encourage a Christian environment and experience not only by my conduct, but by instructing parents and spectators about proper conduct when needed, and to support all official actions against disruptive and/or inappropriate behavior.
- ❖ I will use the activity for the welfare and character building of all participants, not for my own personal gain or satisfaction.
- ❖ I will not be guilty of personal verbal abuse or physical attack upon any participant, opposing coach, official or spectator for any real or imagined wrong decision or judgment.
- ❖ I will keep my personal opinions of any participant, coach, official or spectator out of public discussion during the activity. In an attempt to maintain and foster a Christian environment after said game. I will refrain from said comments immediately after the game. I understand that I am free to express my personal comments, opinions etc. at appropriate times and places.
- ❖ I will not be guilty of gestures indicating objection to decisions by officials or coaches such as throwing equipment or any other forceful action. Furthermore, I will not tolerate said behavior among my participants, assistant coaches and fans.
- ❖ I will respect the property of another team and the facility being used for the activity.

Violation of the Code may result in a minimum penalty of removal from a game or a maximum penalty of an indefinite suspension from all Diocesan CYO Programs. Suspension from any program within the Diocese will also result in simultaneous suspension from all Diocesan Youth Programs. A temporary suspension may be imposed upon a coach for egregious violations while the matter is justly investigated. Violations are subject to review OYYAM.

Coach’s Printed Name and Signature

Date

Participants' Code of Conduct

With Almighty God as my witness, I promise to adhere by the following Contract/Covenant:

1. I will encourage good sportsmanship from my fellow players, coaches, officials and parents at every game, scrimmage and practice.
2. I will always participate in a positive manner, reflecting Christian values.
3. I will always treat teammates, opponents, coaches, officials and parents with respect and will expect to be treated accordingly.

NO PLAYER SHALL:

1. Refuse to abide by an official's decision.
2. Be guilty of gestures indicating his/her objections to decision by officials or coaches, etc., such as throwing equipment.
3. Be guilty of inflicting any abuse upon any official for any real or imaginary wrong decision or judgment.
4. Be guilty of an abusive verbal attack upon any player, coach, official, or spectator.
5. At any time lay hands upon, push, shove, strike, or threaten to strike an official, coach, or spectator.
6. Be guilty of a physical attack as an aggressor upon any player.
7. Show disrespect for the property of another team or the facility being used for the contest by activities such as vandalism or destruction of property.

Penalties: Within 2 consecutive calendar years:

1st offense	3 game suspension
2nd offense	10 game suspension
3rd offense	dismissal from CYO program

Note: Games that are scheduled but not played due to weather or other circumstances do not fulfill the suspension.

Violation of the above conduct rules should be reported in writing to the Diocesan CYO District Commissioner within 48 hours. Investigation and discussion of violation will occur, penalty determined and then approved by the District Priest Chaplain. If a penalty is levied, OYYAM must be informed, in writing, within one week of the decision.

Districts must abide by these minimum standards. They are free to have District regulations, which may be more restrictive.

Participant's Name and Signature

Date

Parental/Guardian Name and Signature

Date

Spectators' Code of Conduct

With Almighty God as my witness, I promise to adhere by the following Rules and Guidelines:

Before the Game:

1. Make a commitment to Honor the Game in action and language no matter what others may do.
2. Tell your child before each game that you are proud of him or her regardless of how well he or she plays.

During the Game:

1. Fill children's "Emotional Tank" through praise and positive recognition so they can play their best.
2. Don't give instructions to players during the game. Let the coach correct player mistakes.
3. Cheer good plays by both teams.
4. Mention good calls by the official to other parents/spectators.
5. If an official makes a "bad" call against your team? Honor the Game. BE SILENT.
6. If another parent on your team yells at an official? Gently remind him or her to Honor the Game.
7. Don't do anything in the heat of the moment that you will regret after the game. Ask yourself, "Will this embarrass my child or the team?"
8. Remember to have fun! Enjoy the game.

After the Game:

1. Thank the officials for doing a difficult job for little or no pay.
2. Thank the officials for their commitment and effort.
3. Don't give advice. Instead ask your child what he or she thought about the game and then LISTEN. Listening fills Emotional Tanks.
4. Tell your child again that you are proud of him or her, whether the team won or lost.

Failure to abide by these rules and guidelines will result in corrective action by the Diocese, which may include a warning, be asked to leave the facility or suspension from further games.

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<http://www.positivecoach.org/>

Parents' CYO Sports Pledge

I/We, the undersigned, am/are registering my/our son/daughter in a Catholic athletic program, which will emphasize Christian values during practice and games. Although my/our child's team will practice hard and play their games to the best of their ability, faith in Jesus Christ - not just winning - will be the most important goal of the season.

I/We realize that my/our child is to behave in a Christian manner throughout the season, and that family and friends who come to his/her games are also to act in a manner appropriate for a program dedicated to living the faith we profess. Any violation will result in removal from the event, and/or refused admittance to CYO-sponsored events. A spectator is understood to mean anyone in attendance at an event, including parents, family members, and/or friends. Any spectator who displays poor sportsmanship, or interferes with the conduct of a CYO event may be removed from the event by an official/referee, their team coach, a host-site gym supervisor, a CYO District Commissioner or Administrative Official. In such situations, it is the discretion of the CYO District Commissioner, following discussion with OYYAM, as to whether a spectator will be barred from attendance at subsequent CYO events.

I/We also realize that my/our child will be expected to attend Sunday Mass weekly as well as Holy Days of Obligation and be enrolled in a Catholic School or attend the Parish Religious Education Program (including Youth Ministry Program). Realizing the profound influence my/our example has on our child(ren), I/we will attend Sunday Masses and Holy Days of Obligation as a strong witness of my/our faith.

I/We realize that inappropriate behavior on the part of my/our child, **or family members**, could result in my/our child's suspension from the team. (see Participants' and Spectators' Code of Conduct).

I/We pledge to do my/our part to witness to Christian values at home and at games, to support the coaches in their attempt to develop the team into a faith community, and to take seriously the faith dimension of the team's efforts.

Child's Name: _____

Parental/Guardian Name and Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parental/Guardian Name and Signature: _____

Date: _____