

VII. PARTICIPANTS

A. Player Eligibility

1. Any boy or girl who meets the CYO eligibility requirements must be given the opportunity to participate on a CYO parish team. The philosophy of the CYO program does not include any "cutting" of children who wish to participate on a team. Parishes may enter more than one team in any offered activities. The CYO office will help in any way possible to enter as many teams as necessary to insure full participation.
2. Elementary School - All players must be members of the sponsoring parish and/or educational system of that parish in order to play on the parish team. The parish pastor/al leader will determine who is eligible to play on his/her parish teams. If the pastor/al leader's determination is challenged or unclear, the CYO Office will have the ultimate say regarding player eligibility.
3. High School - All players must be members of the sponsoring parish in order to play on the parish team. A player may not participate on a parish team other than the one in which his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) are registered members. As in the elementary school leagues, the parish pastor/al leader will determine who is eligible to play on his/her parish teams, but the CYO Office will have the ultimate say regarding player eligibility.
4. Private Catholic School - All students who are enrolled in a private Catholic elementary school are eligible to play in the CYO program. If the school does not offer a team in a particular sport, the student may choose to participate for a neighboring (based on the residential address of their family) parish team.
5. If the parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) of a player are registered members of more than one parish, the player must designate the parish in which he/she will participate in the CYO program for the current school year. This will be decided by virtue of the parish at which they play their first sport (e.g. If a girl plays volleyball in the fall, then she will play for the same parish for the remainder of the school year unless a physical move of residence takes place).
 - a. A player is not permitted to switch from the designated parish during the course of the school year unless that parish does not sponsor a team in a particular sport.
 - b. This rule also pertains to a player who attends school at a parish other than the one in which his/her parents are registered members.
 - c. If a family has joined more than one parish without physically moving residences within the past twelve months, the CYO Office may review each case individually consulting with the pastor, the family in question, and the CYO Advisory Committee. The CYO Office will make a final decision regarding eligibility and the athlete's parent and/or coach will be notified. There is no appeal process once this decision is made.
6. When a parish does not have a team in a particular sport, a boy or girl from that parish may request to play on a neighboring parish team.
 - a. This is done by obtaining a "Transfer Request Application" (See form in Appendix XIV) from the CYO Office, completing all of the required information and submitting it for approval prior to the team roster deadline for that sport.
 - b. It should never be assumed that the Transfer Request will automatically be approved once the form has been submitted with the required signatures. The CYO Office will review the request and make a decision regarding a player's eligibility within 5 business days of submission to the CYO Office, notifying the applicant's parent and/or coach.
7. If a player's family physically moves residences from one parish to another during a particular season, he/she has the option of switching parish teams up to the midpoint of that season. After the season's midpoint, the player must stay with his/her original team.
8. No player may be listed on more than one CYO team roster for a particular sport. Any player who participates in a CYO contest for a team, other than the one for which they are rostered, will be suspended for at least an equal amount of games for which they participated in illegally. The head coach of the team which used the illegal player will be suspended for at least five games and the team may be suspended from any post-season play.

9. Use of an ineligible player results in an automatic forfeit to the opposing team in all games in which the said player participated.
10. Late additions to the roster are permitted (by submitting "Late Roster Addition" form (Appendix XVIII) and appropriate player fee) only up to the midpoint of the regular season, unless otherwise specified in the league rules.
11. No player may play for an OHSAA or MHSAA member school team (junior high or high school) and a CYO team in the same sport during the same school year.

B. Grade & Age Divisions of Players

1. The PEE WEE DIVISION includes athletes from Kindergarten & 1st grade ONLY when referring to cross country. The PEE WEE DIVISION includes athletes from 1st & 2nd grades ONLY when referring to soccer.
2. The MINOR DIVISION includes athletes from the 3rd & 4th grades ONLY when referring to soccer & softball. If the player has reached his/her 11th birthday before August 1, 2010, he/she will not be eligible to play in the Minor soccer and softball divisions. The MINOR DIVISION includes athletes from the 2nd & 3rd grades when referring to cross country. If the player has reached his/her 10th birthday before August 1, 2010, he/she will not be eligible to participate in the Minor cross country division. (This division applies only to soccer, softball and cross country).
3. The CADET DIVISION includes players from the 5th & 6th grades ONLY. If the player has reached his/her 13th birthday before August 1, 2010, he/she will not be eligible to play in the Cadet division. 4th graders are permitted to participate in the Cadet division in cross country, softball and track *as well as the Tri-Deanery League volleyball (new in 2009-2010) and basketball (new in 2010-2011)*.
4. The JUNIOR DIVISION includes players from the 7th & 8th grades. If a player has reached his/her 15th birthday before August 1, 2010, he/she will not be eligible to play in the Junior division. A 5th or 6th grader may play on a Junior team, but may not move back down to the Cadet division during the same season (in the same sport).
5. The HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION includes players from the 9th-12th grades. A student who has reached his/her 19th birthday before August 1, 2010 will not be eligible to participate. No one whose class has graduated from high school may play in this division.
6. The following sports are offered by CYO for the age groups listed below. No student in a grade lower than the lowest grade listed for each sport will be permitted to participate in that sport. Grade school students may participate only in grade school leagues, just as high school students may participate only in high school leagues.

Basketball	-	<i>4th - 12th grade boys & girls</i>
Cheerleading	-	<i>5th-8th grade boys & girls</i>
Cross Country	-	<i>Kindergarten - 8th grade boys & girls</i>
Football	-	<i>5th - 8th grade boys</i>
Soccer	-	<i>1st - 8th grade boys & girls</i>
Softball	-	<i>3rd - 8th grade girls</i>
Track	-	<i>4th - 8th grade boys & girls</i>
Volleyball	-	<i>5th - 12th grade girls (4th grade in Tri-deanery league)</i>
7. Any exception to these division rules must be approved in writing by the Diocesan Director of CYO Athletics and/or the Assistant Director of CYO Athletics.