



Diocese of Toledo

Catholic Youth Organization

Athletics

September 16, 2009

Dear CYO Football Coach,

The CYO football league schedule for the 2009 season, a league set-up sheet, a map of the field locations at the complex and a memo on the unsportsmanlike penalty rule were all posted as of Wednesday, September 16th. Please review all of the information carefully and contact our office if you have any questions.

As is the case every season, the league assignments were tough to decide. We did the best we could to develop fair leagues and keep coaches' requests in mind. A few reminders:

1. The first team listed in each game will be the home team and is responsible for providing three adults to work the down box and chains. This team will take the bench on the north side of the field. We also ask that you encourage all of your fans to stay on the side of the field which your team is on (except for St. Francis & St. John's fields).
2. Please review the schedule carefully. The times for the Sunday games are all staggered as an attempt to ease the traffic flow. There are at least four games scheduled to be played on most Saturdays and there are even some weeknight games. We tried to honor as many scheduling requests as possible. We are now dealing with "school balanced calendar", 8th grade Washington DC week long trips and the other normal coaches scheduling requests. It seems as though every year there are more requests which makes it more difficult to honor them all. We hope that you can understand these scheduling issues.
3. All of our football coaches are encouraged to communicate with your cheerleading coach. These ladies who coach the cheerleaders put in a great deal of effort and should be respected by everyone involved in the CYO program. Please understand (and share with the parents) that the cheerleaders have the right to cheer from the sidelines. They should be positioned somewhere between the goal-line and the 25 yard line. Last year we had some cheerleaders who were disrespected by both football coaches and spectators. Please understand that everyone is out at the field because of kids and adults sometimes can disrupt this or lose site.
4. Please take time to review the change in the 17 point rule. This change was made with all of the players in mind. As was stated at the coaches re-certification session, we will have no tolerance for any coach who violates the "letter of the law" as well as the "spirit of the rule". We will not go into all sorts of examples in this letter and rely on the fact that we all understand who should not be in the game and/or touching the ball once a 17 point lead has been obtained.
5. We continue to read and hear stories about incidents of adult violence at youth sporting events. Please make certain that as a CYO coach you control your emotions and help to keep the other adults (both coaches and spectators) "in line". The CYO will have zero tolerance for adults who ruin the game for kids. Youth athletics should be a positive experience for everyone involved, but we all have to do our part to insure that this happens.

6. Please remind the parents that there will be an admission fee charged at the complex (\$1 for adults, 50¢ for students and \$2 for a family). There will be no smoking and no pets allowed inside the complex.
7. All games will be played at the beautiful “Monsignor Schmit CYO Athletic Complex”. Please make sure that no one gets confused and goes to St. Francis, Gesu or St. John’s looking for the game.
8. All coaches should wear their CYO lanyard and name tag to all games. These were issued at all CYO certification sessions this August. Any coach who does not have current CYO coaches’ certification should not be coaching.
9. Beginning on Monday, September 21st the pre-season is over and practice may not exceed six hours per week.
10. Please make sure that your players are not wearing two different color socks as part of their uniform. I realize that this is probably being done to promote team and school spirit, but it can also be looked at as a “gang identifier” which is prohibited by CYO rules.
11. All coaches should make certain that after their team shakes hands after the game their sideline gets cleaned up. There should be no water bottles, cups, left behind for someone else to pick up. We are blessed to have a very nice complex to play our games at and we all need to do our part to keep it in good shape. This also should be used to teach the players that they need to pick up after themselves.
12. A reminder to all coaches that there have been some weeknight dates which have been reserved for teams to scrimmage at the CYO Complex. These dates, as well as the procedure for securing a field are spelled out on the CYO web site under “scrimmage opportunities”.

Good Luck to you and your team. We hope that it’s a good season for everyone in the program. Remember that you are a **“Minister to Youth”** as a coach. You set the tone for each practice, each game and the season.

Your success with your players is not measured by how many games your team wins this season, but rather what you have taught your players about both the game of football and being good Christian people.

Good Luck and have fun!

Sincerely,
Catholic Youth Organization

Jeff Mielcarek
Director of CYO Athletics

Julie Dubielak
Asst. Director of CYO Athletics

Jake Wiciak
Football Commissioner

Shaping the Faith of our Youth ... Field by Field

1933 Spielbusch Avenue, Toledo, OH 43604
Phone: (419) 244-6711, ext. 611 • Fax: (419) 244-3420 • Recorder: (419) 243-4296
Web site: www.cyss.org/CYO/index.htm • E-mail: cyo@toledodiocese.org