



Athletic Associations - Parishes and Schools

Last Revised on August 05, 2022

Athletic Associations are to be formed by each parish/school with the primary responsibility of running and governing their own Athletic Programs that will participate within the Diocese of Wilmington's CYM Athletic Program. Athletic Associations may include a number of volunteers or as few as one, depending upon the size of the parish's/school's athletic program.

All Athletic Associations are accountable to the pastor of the parish or in the case of private, regional or consolidated schools, the principal of the school. They are all also accountable to the CYM Director of Youth Sports.

Each Athletic Association must have an Athletic Association President (AAP) or an Athletic Director (AD). This person is to serve as the primary contact between the CYM Office and the parish/school.

Specific functions for the Athletic Association:

- Establish guidelines for active participation from both youth and adults. They are to outline the necessary guidelines for participation.
 - Factors for consideration can include: religious affiliation, active participation in church activities, enrolled students, etc. as well as the number of teams/participants, budgetary considerations, facility availability, etc.
- Determine which sport programs they will offer to their population
- Handle all individual coach/player registration
- Establish deadlines/timelines for registration completion consistent with program start dates (set by CYM Office)
- Set and collect all registration fees, volunteer costs
- Manage all fundraising activities
- Ensure all volunteer coaches are properly cleared with all certifications completed before they participate as a coach
- Complete all online rosters (AAP/AD must approve)
- Handle all parish/school-specific conflicts while partnering where appropriate with the CYM Office

*Parish/School Sport Coordinators, if they exist, will be able to perform some of these functions.

Athletic Associations can also choose to offer intramural/in-house programs provided they follow the guidelines set forth in the CYM Athletic Handbook. See section on Parish In-House programs for more guidance.

All policies established by any Athletic Association must minimally be as strict as the CYM policies. In addition, the Office for Catholic Youth Ministry reserves the right to overrule any Athletic Association on a decision if in the opinion of the Director of Youth Sports and/or the Athletic Advisory Committee the decision is not in the best interests of the overall program.

Related Policies:

9.0 Participation in any CYM Athletic program is not based solely on Religious affiliation. Parishes/Schools are to establish guidelines for participation and can include factors such as number of teams/participants, budgetary considerations, facility availability and similar considerations. These guidelines must be clearly stated and properly followed. ²⁰⁹⁸

9.1.0 The Office for Catholic Youth Ministry requires each parish/school to name an individual as Athletic Association President (AAP) or Athletic Director (AD). ²¹⁰⁴

9.1.1 The AAP/AD is to serve as the primary contact between CYM and each individual parish/school athletic program. ²¹⁰⁵

9.1.2 The AAP/AD (or Sport Coordinator) is responsible for approving rosters and assigning head coaches. ²¹⁰⁶

9.1.3 The Office for Catholic Youth Ministry may, for any grave reason, require the parish/school to replace their Athletic Association President/Athletic Director. ²¹⁰⁸

9.1.4 If CYM finds that the policies of a parish/school athletic association are detrimental to, or not in the best interest of, the parish, school or overall athletic program, CYM may institute sanctions up to and including refusing to accept the registration of athletic teams of that parish/school, or barring teams from participating in any more CYM contests. In such instances, individuals that wish to participate will be referred to other parishes subject to openings. ¹²¹¹⁴

9.1.5 If the conduct of players, coaches and/or spectators is found to be detrimental or that their continued participation is not in the best interest of the overall CYM program, CYM may dismiss the team from the CYM league. ¹²¹¹²

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