



Code of Conduct - Spectators

Last Revised on August 08, 2022

The purpose of CYM athletic programs is to promote Christian attitudes while encouraging healthy physical activity by the youth of the Diocese.

Parents and spectators have a strong influence on the behavior and attitudes of our youth athletes and those adults are held to a high standard of conduct. Spectators must remember that their behavior influences not only their children's behavior, but also a coach's willingness to volunteer, a referee's willingness to officiate and a parish's desire to host teams.

Spectators are expected to:

- Positively cheer for their child and/or team
- Encourage their team members in a positive manner
- Present positive sportsmanship towards all teams, coaches, officials and other spectators

Spectators are not expected to:

- Argue, berate or criticize officials
- Approach any coach (or the team bench area) within 24 hours of a practice or athletic contest
- Negatively discuss any athlete, coach, or official at any athletic venue
- Engage in any negative argument, discussion or shouting matches within anyone in a parking lot, field, bathroom, restaurant or other location
- Participate in or encourage unsportsmanlike conduct.

Unsportsmanlike conduct can include (but is not limited to):

- Objecting to decisions of game officials
- Disrespectfully addressing a coach, official or other spectator
- Challenging others to a fight
- Negatively speaking to or about any athlete
- Using inappropriate language/gestures
- Interrupting an athletic contest by going onto the floor or field/track or approaching a game official or coach

*CYM will monitor conduct before, during and after all athletic contests, including events that occur in public places (such as parking lots, restaurants, etc.)

Incidents of poor sportsmanship or unruly conduct will not be tolerated. Violations of this code of conduct may result in disciplinary action taken by the CYM Office that could include probation/warnings, temporary or permanent suspensions or even dismissal of the team from the league.

If any spectator is ejected from any parish or CYM athletic contest, whether sponsored by CYM or not, that spectator is banned from (at a minimum) the next two (2) athletic contests played by that team, or if the team does not play in two more contests, then the next two contests played by the athlete with whom the spectator is associated, regardless of the sport. The CYM Director of Youth Sports reserves the right to increase the punishment depending upon the situation.

Athletic Associations are encouraged to share these spectator conduct policies with all families and should ask guardians to be sure they share with other family members and friends that may be in attendance at any athletic contest.

Related Policies:

- 9.12** Spectators may not file complaints with CYM concerning game officials, coaches, players, or other spectators. Only the head coach of a team may file a complaint. If a spectator has a complaint, he or she must wait 24 hours after the game, then bring the complaint to the head coach and/or the parish/school AAP/AD. The head coach and AAP/AD will review the matter and decide how to proceed, including whether to bring the complaint to CYM. ²¹²⁷
- 9.12.1** Spectators should remember that they represent their parish/school just as much as team members or coaches. Parents, guardians, other family members and friends must be models of sportsmanship for all of our athletes. Adults are expected to demonstrate positive support for all players of both teams and treat all coaches, officials, and other spectators with respect at practices or contests. ²¹²¹
- 9.12.2** If a spectator attends an athletic contest when restricted from doing so, that spectator's team will forfeit the contest (or, if the team lost, will have its playoff win count reduced by one). A second occurrence will result in the team's exclusion from playoffs, or in the case of a non-playoff team, termination of the team's season. ²¹²³
- 9.12.3** Coaches and/or athletic associations are responsible for ensuring a spectator ban is enforced, and are expected to assist and cooperate with a referee, sports coordinator or Advisory Committee member who attends the game and acts to enforce a spectator ban. ²¹²⁴

9.12.4

Repeated or continuous inappropriate spectator conduct may result in sanctions against the team or athletic association, including forfeits, exclusion from playoffs, or dismissal from the league. ²¹²⁶

Catholic Youth & Young Adult Ministry
302-658-3800
catholicyouth@cdow.org