



Team Participation/Affiliation

Last Revised on February 24, 2023

The CYM athletic program exists to serve the children and families of the Diocese of Wilmington, both Catholic and non-Catholic. All athletes will be required to be affiliated to a parish/school in order to participate in the athletic program. "Affiliation" is the assignment of a child to the appropriate parish/school via one of the following criteria (generally in this order):

- Catholic School Student – Will be assigned to the catholic school that he or she is enrolled in
- Parish Members – Will be assigned to a parish where the parent/guardian has been registered, active members with regular financial contributions for a minimum of 60 days
- Religious Education Student – Will be assigned to the parish where he or she is actively participating in the religious education program of that parish
- Geographical Residence – Will be assigned to the parish based on parent/guardian residence
 - This address is expected to be an address that the family (athlete) currently resides at for the primary amount of the year. It should not be a business address, a granparent's address (that the athlete does not reside at) or any other address where the athlete does not reside.
 - Attempts to manipulate the residence by falsifying this information could result in expulsion from the league for the remainder of the athlete's athletic career in CYM Sports.

Important Clarifications:

1. For families that struggle to make financial contributions to the parish, documented participation in parish events, fundraisers and volunteer opportunities (other than sports) fulfills the requirement. Non-parishioners or non-Catholic participants are expected to participate in and support that parish's sports program.
2. For those affiliated by geographical residence, CYM will generally look at the residence relative to the parish boundaries in order to determine primary affiliation. However, at times the CYM Office will consider the parish/schools with the greatest need in a particular sport and reserves the right to determine the affiliation based primarily on this issue after giving due consideration to any hardships it may place on a child.
3. A child will have only ONE primary affiliation. In some cases a child may be initially eligible for more than one (active parish member at one parish but enrolled in school somewhere else); CYM will choose school first.

Specific Affiliation Rules for Schools:

1. Private Catholic Schools (ex. Mount Aviat Academy, Nativity Prep, Serviam Academy, St. Edmond's Academy, and Ursuline Academy) – To be affiliated with one of these schools, the student must be enrolled at that school.
2. Diocesan Regional Schools (ex. Christ the Teacher) – to be affiliated with these schools, the student must:
 - Be enrolled in the school or
 - Be an active parish member and/or an active member of the Religious Education Program at one of the parishes that support that school

If a student is enrolled at a different Catholic school that does not offer that sport, the principal/AD at the regional school may approve an exception to participate.

General Affiliation Rules:

- Once a primary affiliation has been created it is expected that the athlete participate for that parish/school for all sports for the duration of his/her eligibility through 8th grade. If a child's primary affiliation does not offer the sport that the child wishes to participate in, the parent/guardian may request a secondary affiliation to a different parish/school for that sport only. This request must be made in writing to the CYM Office. Assignment of a secondary affiliation will be at the discretion of the CYM Office.
- Affiliation rules established by CYM are the minimum standards and may be extended by a parish/school. Parishes/schools are permitted to have guidelines that are stricter than CYM. Parishes/Schools are permitted to restrict the number of teams or participation to its own members, but they must adopt uniform policies across all sports and not just a few.
- All athletes must have a proper affiliation before they are permitted to participate in any tryout, practice or game contest. Parent/guardians should print and sign the Athlete Authorization Form and bring to the first tryout/practice. It is the responsibility of the head coach, sport coordinator and/or the AAP/AD to confirm that each player is eligible to participate for that team according to the Affiliation rules.
- Parents/guardians should not register in a parish for the sole purpose of athletic participation.

Violations of any of these rules may result in disciplinary action taken by the CYM Office against the player, the team, the coach/coordinator and/or the AAP/AD. Actions could include warnings, suspensions or other sanctions.

Athletes Residing Outside Diocese of Wilmington:

Athletes that reside outside the physical boundaries of the Diocese of Wilmington may only participate for parish/school athletic programs within the Diocese of Wilmington if one of the following is met:

- The athlete is registered at, and the athlete's parent/guardian is making regular financial contributions to, a Catholic parish in the Diocese of Wilmington (for minimum of 60 days)
- The athlete attends a parochial or private Catholic school within the Diocese of Wilmington

- The athlete attends religious education classes at a Catholic parish in the Diocese of Wilmington

General Eligibility Rules:

- At no time will a player be permitted to participate simultaneously for more than one CYM team in the same sport.
- Academic eligibility standards will be left to the discretion of each individual parish/school.
- Individual athletes in 8th through 12th grade are prohibited from playing the same sport on a CYM team and a high school team (freshman, JV or Varsity) during the same sport season.
- An individual athlete becomes ineligible for a CYM team when he/she attends a contest with his/her high school team and is wearing the high school team uniform.

Violations of any of these may result in the player in question being deemed ineligible for all future games, forfeits for any CYM game that the player participated in and possible exclusion from playoffs or other sanctions as deemed necessary by the CYM Director of Youth Sports and/or the Athletic Advisory Committee.

Related Policies:

- 9.8** All individuals shall be classified according to parish/school affiliations and are subject to the guidelines established by said parish/school. ²²²³
- 9.8.1** CYM cannot guarantee that all individuals requesting to participate in the CYM athletic program will be placed on a CYM team. ¹⁰⁵³⁵
- 9.8.2** An individual assigned an affiliation at a parish program is subject to approval by the parish athletic association. Parishes may refuse to accept an individual assigned to a parish for a variety of reasons, such as registration may have been closed, teams are filled, or accepting an individual may adversely impact a team's eligibility for playoffs, etc. In such cases, the parish athletic association is to refer the individual back to CYM for possible placement on another CYM team. ¹⁰⁵³⁶
- 9.8.3** The CYM Office will make affiliation assignments after a review of the CYM Online Registration information for the individual. No individual may tryout, practice or play with a team until authorization has been received from CYM. ²²²⁴
- 9.8.4** It is the responsibility of a parent/guardian of a child wishing to play CYM sports to register said child at the parish/school by the deadline set by that parish/school. CYM will not consider requests for changes in affiliation if a parish/school deadline has not been met. ²²²⁵
- 9.8.5** Recruitment of players must be done carefully, conservatively, and at all times in compliance with CYM affiliation rules and policies. When talking to a prospective player, coaches and athletic associations must explain the affiliation rules, and make

clear to the player and his/her parents that those rules may dictate assignment to a different parish/school. No coach, coordinator or athletic association member has the authority by him/her self to decide on any athlete's affiliation. ²¹⁴⁴

9.8.6 Church Bulletins, School News Letters, Parish/School websites, and posting signs on church/school property are all appropriate means of advertising and recruitment that may be done at any time, without explicit permission. An athlete's affiliation must still be presented to the CYM office before any final parish/school affiliation is decided. ²¹⁴⁵

9.8.7 Any advertising beyond normal parish means, or outside of normal parish communications and property, may still be permitted. However, the CYM office must be notified of those methods of communication before they occur, and all communications must list the phone number of the CYM Office (302-658-3800). Parishes and schools will be held to the same affiliation rules, and players outside of their boundaries may not be assigned to their parish/school. ²¹⁴⁶