

Policies for Participation in CYO Sports

In developing plans for the resumption of CYO sports, the Diocese of Oakland is required to implement the health and safety standards established by the State of California Department of Public Health and /or the county in which CYO competition will take place. The Diocese of Oakland may require compliance with written policies and modifications for each sport adopted by the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) for the 2021-2022 seasons. If there exists a conflict, the Diocese of Oakland may follow the more stringent standard. Please thoroughly read the applicable CIF guidelines which are available at <https://www.cifstate.org/landing/index>

CYO competition may be suspended and/or these protocols may be modified, based upon future public health guidance from federal, state or local governments concerning COVID-19. The Diocese will continue to closely monitor the COVID-19 transmission rates and assess the situation.

Expectations for Parents/Guardians/Student Athletes/Volunteer Coaches:

Parents, guardians, player participants, and volunteer coaches (collectively, “CYO Participants”) must work together to create a healthy sports environment to reduce the likelihood for transmission of COVID-19 during CYO competitions. These are specific policies that will reduce that risk while allowing for CYO competition to resume in 2021-2022:

IF EXHIBITING COVID SYMPTOMS: CYO participants are not permitted to participate in practice, games or matches if they are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, which may include: fever or chills, coughing, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, newly-developed loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea. By bringing a child to a practice or game, a parent/guardian is attesting that their child does not exhibit any of the above symptoms.

- **REPORTING COVID ILLNESS:** CYO participants must immediately inform the coaches, who shall in turn inform the parish/ Catholic school’s athletic directors, of any situation in which a CYO participant has been tested positive for COVID-19, or been exposed to COVID-19 and must quarantine or self-quarantine (as determined by state and county health policies). Immediate notification is the responsibility of all CYO participants. If a CYO participant receives a positive COVID-19 test, the parish/ Catholic school athletic director must immediately inform the Diocese of Oakland (Bill Ford, Director, CYO; 510-628-2187; bford@oakdiocese.org; or Gloria Espinoza, Director, Human Resources, 510-267-8359; gespinoza@oakdiocese.org) and comply with the California Dept. of Public Health and/or county rules regarding reporting and cooperation with contact tracing
- **FACE COVERINGS:** Use of PPEs (face coverings) will comply with parish, gym and county requirements. A PPE is recommended (but not required) for CYO players while playing indoors, and may be required, depending on current conditions. When not playing, all CYO players must wear PPEs while indoors. All coaches must wear PPEs while coaching indoors. All non-vaccinated spectators, and all vaccinated spectators if required, must wear PPEs indoors. PPEs must cover the nose and mouth at all times. No gaiters or bandanas are permitted. Social distancing is required for participant bench areas.

- **LOCAL FACILITY RULES TO BE FOLLOWED:** Local facilities where competitions or practices are held may have additional COVID-19 requirements. CYO Leagues and coaches will seek to determine them and advise ahead of competitions. However, any CYO competition or practice held at such sites must adhere to the rules and policies of such local facility.
- **SANITIZING SHARED EQUIPMENT:** All shared equipment (such as game basketballs, volleyball, etc.) must be sanitized by the home team prior to games or matches.
- **NO SHARING OF PERSONAL ITEMS:** CYO player participants are expected to maintain possession of their uniforms and practice clothing at all times. There is no sharing of uniforms, sweat or wrist bands, or grooming items (hairbrushes, combs, etc.) Players must bring and use only their own equipment, including towels, gloves and water bottles. Player participants are not permitted to share equipment and are expected to label their equipment with their initials.
- **PRAYER AND HANDSHAKES:** Prayer will be conducted before each competition: No holding hands, remains several feet apart, and PPE must be worn. No pre-game or post-game handshakes or body hugs. Closed fist or elbow bumps permitted. PPE must be worn post-game and social distancing observed.
- **LIABILITY WAIVER REQUIRED:** Parents or guardians of all CYO player participants must sign the liability waiver below in order for their player to be permitted to participate in CYO sports. A single, signed liability waiver will cover multiple CYO sports within a school year. A separate liability waiver must be signed for each player participant. All volunteer coaches must also sign the liability waiver to be eligible to coach. Parish/Catholic School athletic directors are responsible for retaining all signed liability waivers.
- **RETURN OF WAIVER FORM:** Eligibility to play or coach requires return of a signed liability waiver, without exception. All signed liability waivers must be returned to the parish/ Catholic school athletic director before the start of any sport's practice or season. All CYO team rosters will be consist of only those CYO participants with signed liability waivers in the possession of the parish's athletic director.
- **OBLIGATION TO COMPLY:** Participation in CYO sports is a privilege, not a right. If any CYO participants fail to follow these policies, it shall be deemed a violation of sportsmanship, and may result in consequences as set forth in the Code of Conduct.

Please sign and return one copy to the parish/Catholic school athletic director, then keep a second copy of this policy reference. Questions about these policies should be addressed to your parish/Catholic school athletic director.

Waiver and Release of Liability:

The COVID-19 pandemic has created serious, unexpected challenges for the entire world, and has directly impacted our schools and the ability of our student athletes to engage in school sports. We understand that sports are an important aspect of our student's lives and we are dedicated to providing access to sports as permitted by the California Department of Public Health and/or the county. While the Diocese of Oakland, CYO and its parishes are implementing reasonable mitigating measures, they cannot guarantee a virus-free sports environment.

The undersigned expressly understand and assume the risk of contracting COVID-19. Further, the undersigned expressly waives and releases any and all claims or lawsuits against the Diocese of Oakland, its affiliated corporations, parishes or schools, including clergy, agents and employees, arising from or related to alleged negligence concerning any type of harm or injury caused by COVID-19. This waiver of liability and release shall be enforced to the full extent permitted by California law. Parents/guardians signing this waiver and release of liability are signing both on behalf of their children and themselves. Electronic signatures shall be deemed as original signatures.

I attest that I will check my child prior each participation in any CYO activity to verify that he/she is free from COVID symptoms and will not allow participation if exhibiting symptoms.

Name of Parish/Catholic School: _____

If Completed by a Parent or Guardian for a CYO Participant:

Participant Names: _____ Grade _____

Parent/Guardian Names: _____

Parent/Guardian Signatures: _____

Date: _____

If Completed by a Coach or CYO Volunteer:

Volunteer Coach Name: _____

Volunteer Coach Signature: _____

Date: _____