



ROSTERS & PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

TEAM ROSTERS

- Each member of a CYO Athletics team must be registered on the official roster form for his or her team and may not appear on more than one roster for the same sport.
- Minimum and maximum roster requirements can be found in the sport specific sections of this manual.
- Each team roster form must be completed in full by the coach and approved by the parish/school athletic director.
- Parishes/schools with multiple teams at a given grade and division level must split teams equally based on talent.
- Rosters of all teams must be submitted to CYO Athletics office prior to the roster deadline in each sport. In the case of late rosters, all games played after the deadline and prior to roster submittal will be forfeited.
- Names may not be added to the team rosters after the deadline date **without approval from CYO Athletics**.
- In divisions with varsity and junior varsity team designations, a player on a junior varsity team may move up to varsity (or AA to AAA) based on need/or merit provided:
 - 1) It occurs in the same grade division, and
 - 2) That said player has not been a member or played on the team to which he/she is transferring, and
 - 3) For AA to AAA requests, the AA team would need to have not qualified for playoffs.
 - 4) The parish/school athletic director requests said transfer in writing to the CYO Athletics office, and receives approval from CYO Athletics.
- All instances of a student playing in any division above their grade level or on an opposite sex team must be specifically approved by CYO Athletics.
- A player from a younger grade team may not be moved up for post season tournament play.

NOTE: The use of any ineligible player(s) either deliberately or unknowingly shall result in a forfeiture status for every game in which the player(s) took part, and the coach will be suspended for one game. Repeat offenders will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

TALENT ASSESSMENT AND SPLIT

Parishes/schools with multiple teams at a given grade and division level must split teams equally based on talent.

PRIOR TO THE SEASON:

- 1) CYO Athletics is not directly involved in assessment for teams prior to roster development;
- 2) When it is determined that parishes will have multiple teams in same grade/gender/division, representative of CYO Athletics will contact that AD/Sport Coordinator in writing to ensure clarity on policies and best practices;
- 3) Generally parishes/schools choose to have teams in different divisions for the sake of community, especially in the playoff eligible divisions. In this case, CYO Athletics would choose the divisions where teams are placed. However, parishes/schools may still choose to have multiple teams play in the same division for the sake of travel or other considerations;

BEST PRACTICES AT LOCAL PARISH/SCHOOL

- 1) These can be found on website for CYO Athletics on the “Resource” page under “AD Resources”

- 2) These are RECOMMENDATIONS. However, if an issue of talent imbalance arises within a parish/school, the documentation of the process that took place will be evaluated against these best practices – therefore documentation should be saved for any future review;
- 3) The process that is undertaken should be consistent for all grade levels within that same program – formal evaluation processes should not be utilized until 5th grade;
- 4) While this document pertains specifically to those circumstances where teams must be divided equally by talent, these best practices are still pertinent to running assessments for teams that will be split into AA/AAA or JV/Varsity, etc.

AFTER SEASON BEGINS, concerns about talent splits need to be communicated to the parish/school involved and/or CYO Athletics prior to the 3rd scheduled competition in order to engage the following prescribed review process. If complaint arises then CYO discusses process and personnel used during the split with the AD and whoever oversaw the splits.

- 1) Caution should be exercised from simply observing one team or tracking scores/standings to determine if a talent imbalance exists between two teams.
- 2) When reviewing a complaint, combination of the following will be considered:
 - a. How the assessment was conducted – review of associated documentation
 - b. What have been the scores and circumstances of games/matches
 - c. Determine level of participation of individual players from the entire roster of teams involved
 - d. Observation from representatives of CYO Athletics – commissioners, staff, etc. – which will consist of more than one game/match and more than one person;
- 3) Assessment will be made by Sport Committee and CYO Athletics staff in review of compilation of pertinent information and observation. The time for parish/school representatives to be engaged is prior to and during the review process. Because of the timelines involved, once rendered, there is no appeal of this decision;

CONSEQUENCES IF TALENT IMBALANCE IS OBSERVED

Parish/school will be notified of assessment and given the opportunity to adjust rosters during the season. These roster adjustments must be completed and new rosters submitted to CYO Athletics by the 5th scheduled competition of the season;

- 1) If parish/school makes the choice to not do this, then teams are ineligible for playoffs.
- 2) If this is attempted and teams are observed by CYO Athletics representatives to not have achieved a balance of teams in spite of roster adjustment, teams are ineligible for playoffs.
- 3) Please note: If complaint from within the parish/school comes after the 3rd scheduled competition, there is no recourse. If complaint comes from outside the parish/school after the 3rd scheduled competition, is based on more than just team records or game scores and upon review of representatives of CYO Athletics an unequal talent split is assessed, disciplinary action may result.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

CYO Athletics is intended for youth playing on their parish sponsored team. Since it is a parish-based program, it is essential that all youth actively participating in a parish be given the opportunity to be involved. Parish athletic directors should make ALL parish members aware of CYO Athletics.

- If a student has left a parish/school and still wants to participate in CYO Athletics, a written petition/request must be submitted each year. Each individual petition/request will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
- No individual player shall participate on more than one CYO Athletics team in the same sport.
- Requests to play a player up one grade division or more must be submitted **by the Drop Deadline**. Any request thereafter will not be considered.
- For each sport, athletes below the first grade of participation are not allowed to play up a grade in order to participate in CYO Athletics. Requests for exceptions will be considered on an individual basis by CYO Athletics staff and the Sports Committee involved. With regard to the Kindergarten division in soccer, kindergartners are not allowed to participate on 1st grade teams. With regard to the 3rd grade division in basketball, 3rd graders are not allowed to participate on 4th grade teams. With regard to the 4th grade division in volleyball, 4th graders are not allowed to participate on 5th grade teams.

CATHOLIC YOUTH

- All Catholic youth, regardless of school affiliation, may play for the parish in which they belong.
- Any Catholic youth attending a parish school outside his or her parish may play for either parish, but not both.

NOTE: Any student attending Villa Academy or Assumption/St. Bridget must play for his/her school team, regardless of the family's parish affiliation. If a team is not offered in a particular grade level, then, with the consent of CYO Athletics, the student may play for a neighboring parish team.

- A Catholic youth who belongs to a parish that will not be entering a team may play for a bordering parish provided:
 - 1) A letter signed by both parish athletic directors, stating their approval, is submitted to the Sports Committee with the team registration, and
 - 2) If youth is from a parish that does not participate in CYO Athletics, in the absence of a parish athletic director, approval from pastoral staff instead will be required.
 - 3) Permission to play for another parish is approved by the Sports Committee involved.

MULTIPLE PARISHES COMBINING FOR A TEAM

Instances where teams may combine for a sport, who are not combining as parish programs for all sports, must be requested to the Sports Committee. The Sports Committee will consider the following criteria before allowing the request to combine:

- A parish/school does not have viable numbers to field a team on their own.
- A parish/school does not have anyone able to coach.
- A parish/school would not have access to a practice facility without the combination.
- A parish/school is seeking to build community between neighboring parishes that historically have to combine to form viable teams.
- Creating the opportunity for players to compete at their own grade level, instead of having to play up a grade level to form viable numbers within the parish/school.
- The request must be mutually agreed upon by the parish/school AD's involved (e-mail confirmation CC'ing AD's involved in the request is acceptable).
- All registered/interested students in a grade/gender should participate at the same parish/school (either their own parish/school or the same neighboring parish/school). **NOTE:** This does not necessarily mean they will end up playing on the same team. If X kids join a neighboring parish, and there are more than one team in that grade and gender, the X kids could be split up across multiple rosters.
- Each team combination request will be reviewed independently of one another.
- Exceptions to these criteria may be granted in extraordinary cases.
- **Recommendation:** where possible, it will be helpful to share players after the parish registration deadlines so that the number of possible kids to share is a firm number instead of one that is changing.

NON-CATHOLIC YOUTH

A non-Catholic youth attending a parish school may participate in the parish CYO Athletics program.

- For non-Catholic schools participating in CYO Athletics, all youth participating on a school team must be a student at the school.
- A non-Catholic youth not attending a parish school may play for a parish, provided:
 1. They have established some official, non-athletic contact with the parish at least 2 months prior to the first game of the season, and
 2. A letter signed by the parish pastor and athletic director explaining the youth's contact with the parish, other than athletics, is submitted on time with the team registration or will NOT be considered, and
 3. Permission to participate is approved by the Sports Committee. Each request will be handled on an individual basis and the decision of the Sports Committee is final.