

CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION
SACRED HEART PARISH
MANOA, PA.



SACRED HEART MANOA CYO ATHLETIC PROGRAM

1. Approval for CYO athletic Program at Sacred Heart has been granted by our pastor
2. Sacred Heart CTO Athletic Program is a chartered member of the Archdiocesan Youth Ministry Program. Sacred Heart is a member of Region 15 of the Archdiocesan Youth Ministry Program
3. Athletic Programs sponsored by Sacred Heart Catholic Youth Organization shall at all times reflect the COY Mission Statement of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The mission statement appears on page 1 of this handbook.
4. The overriding motivation of the Sacred Heart Athletic Program is the involvement of as many students as possible in athletic competition within the Christian context. Through CYO sports, students are provided with the opportunities to grow in their faith through the guidance, direction and coaching of adult Christian men and women; to for friendships; and to deal graciously with both victory and defeat.
5. Following is a list of Sports Programs (and their respective seasons) offered by Sacred Heart:

Fall – August 1	Winter – November 1	Spring – March 1
Cross Country +*Grades 3 – 8 Boys/Girls	Basketball Grades 5 – 8 Boys/Girls	Softball Grades 5 – 8 Girls
Football (Starts 8 – 15) Grades 5 – 8 Boys	High School Basketball Grades 9 – 12 Boys/Girls	Baseball Grades 5 – 8 Boys
Volleyball Grades 5 – 8 Girls		Track *Grades 4 – 8 Boys/Girls
Cheerleading Grades 5 – 8 Girls		
Soccer Grades 5 – 8 Coed		

+ The 3rd Program is not sponsored by the Archdiocesan CYO

- Provided 3rd and 4th Graders meet the age requirement

6. There are two classifications of teams for some sports:
 1. **“A” Team** This level of play is designed for the skilled athlete: therefore, a student must qualify for this team. Eligibility for this level of play is determined by general tryout(s) for each grade level or grouping (i.e., 5 – 6 Grades). The Coach (es) for each sport conducts trout(s). Student performance is then rated and evaluated by the coach (es). From this evaluation, the “A” team players are selected. The number of players on a team is at the discretion of the coach with the athletic directors approval and, if necessary, the League Commissioner. Sacred Heart’s “A Teams” playoff games begin on a Regional Level and then advance to the Archdiocesan level for qualified teams. It should be noted that due to the more competitive nature of this league, Coaches are ***not*** mandated by Philadelphia Archdiocesan CYO to guarantee playing time for each team member during games. Coaches at Sacred Heart, however, are encouraged to play all players as much as possible during a game.
 2. **“B” Team**: This level of play is designed for the student in need of instruction and practice in the basics of the sport. Each student is required a certain amount of playing time during games. This time varies for each sport. “B” Team is considered part of a Regional Parish League. It is possible for parishes to sponsor more than on “B” Team. However “B” teams are dependent upon the availability of coaches, adequate number of players, equipment and/or field (GYM) time.

NOTE: All Students must try out for “A” Teams(s): in order to determine if there are sufficient numbers to sponsor “B” Teams.

7) Student Eligibility

a) Parish School Students

- i) A boy or girl who attends their parish school may participate with their parish school team.
- ii) A boy or girls who attends a parish school other than their registered parish may participate with their school team. However once an individual establishes a preference, he/she may not play for another parish for the remainder of the scholastic year.

Example: Individual may not run Track for the School he/she attends and then play basketball for the parish in which he/she is registered.

b) Public School Students

- i) If a public school student is a Catholic and a registered member of the parish and CCD, he/she is eligible to participate in the CYO sports program. However, if this student is a member of a particular team in his/her school, he/she is not eligible for that sport in his/her CYO program
- ii) Public school students must attend CCD classes for the entire school year or they are ineligible for the CYO sports program the following year.

c) Private Catholic School Students

- i) If a private catholic school student is a catholic and a registered member of the parish, he/she is eligible to participate in the CYO sports program at that parish. However, if this student is a member of a particular team in his/her school, he/she is not eligible for that sport in his/her CYO program.

d) Students must meet the age and grade requirements for each sport

- e) Students must maintain passing grade in conduct in order to be eligible to play CYO sports. Failure in these areas makes the student ineligible for CYO sports for that marking period. It is the parents responsibility to advise the students coach if a failure is received in conduct.

f) After Start of Season

- i) If a player moves after August 1, November 1, or March 1, he/she may participate with his/her old parish teams(s) for the remainder of that school year, or he/she may join the team of his/her new parish. If the player chooses the latter, the player may not return to his/her old parish's team.

Note High School Eligibility – Requirements for High school vary slightly from above. Please request details from Sacred Heart Athletic Director.

8) Student Suspension/Expulsion

To be a member of Sacred Heart CYO Athletic Program is a privilege – not a right. When a boy or girl puts on a Sacred Heart uniform, he/she represents a long-standing parish and a 50 year old tradition of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Therefore, in order to safeguard the integrity of the CYO program, he/she is expected to act in a Christian manner; to honor the student code of conduct (see student responsibilities contract) and contribute to the overall good of the Sacred Heart CTO sports program.

A student who fails to comply with the CYO guidelines – either on the archdiocesan or local level – or with the team regulations as determined by his/her coach, will be held accountable for his/her actions and dealt with in an appropriate manner.

a) Suspension

A serious infraction of CYO policy or the student code of conduct may result in the suspension of the student/player. There are two types of suspension

- i) Suspension levied by the coach due to misconduct – either during a game or practice.
- ii) Suspension by the CYO board due to multiple incidents of game misconduct, or violations which have ramifications beyond Sacred Heart CYO Sports Program (i.e. serious damage done to school, church or practice property). The CYO board will conduct a review of the incident. If the student receives a suspension from the board, any or all of the following sanctions shall be imposed.

- iii) First time suspension during a school year – student/player will be ineligible for the next game in league, tournament, or play-off games. The student /player must be dressed in uniform for the suspended game(s) and remain on the bench. Rescheduled games should count and forfeits shall not count.
- iv) For a subsequent suspension - a student/player will be ineligible for CYO sports for the remainder of the season, with possible continuation into the next season, at the discretion of the CYO board.
- v) With a Second suspension – a student/player is ineligible for the MVP or sportsmanship awards for sports played during the season in which the suspensions were incurred. With only one suspension, the student/player is still eligible.
- vi) If the infraction involves monetary retribution for damages incurred, it is the responsibility of the student/player family to make this payment.
- vii) Any student who is suspended twice from a CYO sport is ineligible for CYO all-star play in that sport season.
- viii) Suspensions may be appealed within 24 hours. For further information on the appeal process, please contact the Sacred Heart CYO president.

b) **Expulsion**

It is the student/parents' responsibility to inform their CYO coach(es) when they have been expelled from their school.

- i) Any student/player who is expelled from his/her day school will be dismissed from the Sacred Heart CYO Athletic Program for that school year. He/she must re-apply to the Sacred Heart CYO Athletic Board in order to regain their playing status. The board reserves the right to decline this application.

9) Awards for Team Participation

- a) Sacred Heart CYO Teams, Coaches and Student Players are recognized for their participation and individual and/or team achievement's at an Awards Ceremony during the Annual Sacred Heart CYO Sports Banquet. The banquet is held near the end of the school year. Each individual team coaching staff selects MVP and Sportsmanship Awards
- b) Additional Awards
 - i) If a Sacred Heart CYO Athletic Team wins a tournament or Parish League Title, the team may purchase award items at their own expense with possible financial assistance from the Sacred Heart CYO Board. However, any item bearing the name of Sacred Heart, Sacred Heart CYO, Sacred Heart Crusaders, CYO or any other names associated with Sacred Heart must be approved by the Sacred Heart CYO Board before the purchase.
 - ii) If a Sacred Heart CYO Athletic team wins an Archdiocesan Title, the Sacred Heart CYO will purchase a special Team Accomplishment Award.(plaques, Shirts, etc.). The Sacred Heart CYO Board is open to suggestions for this award. From the team; however, the Board reserves the right to set a price range for this parish CYO contribution.

10) Tournament Games

- a) Sacred Heart CYO follows the Archdiocesan CYO Mandates regarding Tournament play
- b) The Sacred Heart CYO Board reserves the right to limit the financial support given to the teams for Tournament play. If a team is in tournaments beyond the scope (financially) of the Board, the Athletic Director must approve participation prior to the coaches soliciting money from the players' parents.
- c) The official team name for the Sacred Heart CYO Athletic Teams is "Sacred Heart Crusaders". The name "Sacred Heart Crusaders" is reserved for CYO Athletic Team use, or approved Tournaments.

11) Criteria for Most Outstanding Athlete Award

- a) Two awards are offered each year; one for girls and one for boys.
- b) A student must participate in a minimum of three (3) CYO Sports per year during his/her 8th grade.
- c) A student who fails or receives a "U" (Unsatisfactory) in conduct in his/her 8th grade is ineligible for this award.
- d) A student who is suspended from CYO Sports or from his/her school during his/her 8th grade is ineligible
- e) Each 8th grade athlete is rated for ability, sportsmanship, etc. by the coaching staff of each sport in which they participate.
- f) The athlete with the overall highest rating is awarded the Most Outstanding Athlete Award.

Student Responsibility Contract

1. I understand that during practices and games, my coach (es) is/are my supervisor (s). I will listen to him/her when he/she asks for my attention; obey his/her directions and never show him/her disrespect.
2. I understand that I am to respect the calls and directions of the Officials. Although I may not agree with their judgement, I must accept their decisions.
3. I understand that at no time may I show disrespect for coaches, other adults, my team or opposing team members; start or participate in a verbal or physical fight or use foul language.
4. I understand that I am part of a team; therefore, it is very important for me to attend practices and games. I will inform my coach when I cannot attend practices and games.
5. I understand that during practices and games, I must not leave the school building, athletic field or track.
6. I have read and understand the rules of Sacred Heart CYO Athletic Handbook and I will Obey them.
7. I understand that failure to obey these rules may result in disciplinary actions against me.

I, _____, have read and understand

(Print)

all of the above points of this contract. I understand that failure to uphold these responsibilities may result in a review of my status and possible dismissal from the Sacred Heart CYO Athletic Program.

Student/Player's Signature: _____ Date: _____

I, _____, Parent/Legal Guardian of

(Print)

_____, have read and understand the terms

(Print)

of the Sacred Heart CYO Athletic Handbook. I understand that I too, am responsible and will be held accountable for my child's actions during his/her participation in CYO Sports. It is my responsibility to advise the coach if my child receives a failure in conduct. I understand that I may be required to help with CYO functions when required, such as chaperoning dances, assisting coaches, providing transportation, etc. I hereby authorize my child to enter into this contract.

Signature: _____ Date: _____