

CYO Eligibility – Effective 7/25/2025

20. Eligibility: (Participants Membership/Enrollment)

The following athletes are eligible for CYO League Membership:

- A. 1. Registered baptized Catholic members of an Archdiocesan Parish. (See Rule 20.N.1. for deadline dates.)
2. A student of a Catholic Archdiocesan Elementary/Middle School/Academy or an Archdiocesan approved Elementary/Middle School/Academy.
3. A registered member of a Parish and/or a student of an Elementary/Middle School/Academy approved by the CYO Athletic Program Department (*Non-Archdiocese of Detroit Parish/School/Academy Expanding of Membership Contract.*)
4. Athlete is actively participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) program to become a full, participating member of the Catholic Church. (See Rule 20.N.1. for deadline dates.) Official evidence of enrollment must be kept on file by the Athletic Director.

Religious Education (i.e. Catechism, CCD, etc.) enrollment is an individual Parish eligibility requirement and it is not an eligibility qualification in the CYO League. An athlete who is enrolled in Religious Education who does not fall under Rule 20.A. is ineligible.

B. Out of Parish/School/Academy Ruling:

Out of Parish/School/Academy ruling is **ONLY** for participants whose Parish/School/Academy does **NOT** sponsor a sport **OR** for participants that weren't selected for a team after attending a bona fide try-out session(s) at his/her home Parish/School/Academy. If a participant's home Parish/School/Academy sponsors a sport, the participant **MUST** play for that Parish/School/Academy. Participants playing at another Parish/School/Academy, with the exception of Rule 20.B., Rule 20.D. or prior approval from the CYO Athletic Program Director will be considered ineligible and penalties will be implemented.

In order for a participant to be considered for Out of Parish/School/Academy eligibility, the participant **MUST** first register with their home Parish/School/Academy. In the case where the participants home Parish/School/Academy does not sponsor a sport, that participant **MUST** inform their home Parish/School/Academy Athletic Director of their intent to play for a bordering Parish/School/Academy. The Athletic Director of that participants home Parish/School/Academy **MUST** complete *Form A,B,R* before the participant may register at a bordering Parish/School/Academy. **ONLY** Athletic Directors can request and fill out *Form A,B,R*.

A participant that misses/delays signing up for their home Parish/School/Academy by their registration deadline, for any sport, will not be eligible for the Out of Parish/School/Academy ruling.

When in doubt as to the eligibility of an athlete, check with the CYO Athletic Department.

Parishes/Schools may not agree amongst themselves to waive any rule and play athletes who are not eligible.

1. A participant whose Catholic Parish/School/Academy or a participant whose CYO approved Parish/School/Academy does not sponsor a sport is eligible to participate with a direct bordering Catholic Parish/School/Academy or a CYO approved Parish/School/Academy. For each season (Fall, Winter and Spring), the CYO Athletic Department will determine the direct bordering Parish/School/Academies that the participant will be eligible to go to using Archdiocesan Regional and Vicariate Maps. If there is no direct bordering Parish or School/Academy that sponsors a sport, the CYO will determine the second bordering Parish/School/Academies, if there is no second bordering Parish/School/Academies then the CYO will determine the third bordering Parish/School/Academies and so forth. If a direct bordering Catholic Parish/School/Academy or a CYO approved Parish/School/Academy sponsors a sport, the athlete **MUST** play for that Parish/School/Academy. The athlete cannot request to be signed off to skip over borders to play for a specific Parish/School/Academy.
2. For each season (Fall, Winter and Spring), the appropriate section of *Form A,B,R* must be completed and sent in with the *Team Registration and Photo Consent Google Sheet* when using out-of-Parish/School/Academy athletes. **ONLY** Athletic Directors can request and fill out *Form A,B,R*. Athletes, parents, coaches, family members, friends, etc. are **NOT** permitted to contact Athletic Director's to sign and/or fill out *Form A,B,R*. Any *Form A,B,R* that is not facilitated by the Parish/School/Academy Athletic Director will not be accepted. Parish/School/Academy Athletic Director's **MUST** use *Form A,B,R* for **ANY** Out of Parish/School/Academy participants prior to the athlete participating (try-outs, conditioning, practice, scrimmages, contests, etc.) or the participant will be considered ineligible, and penalties will be implemented.
 - a. **Section A – Parish/School/Academy Affiliation:** For each season (Fall, Winter and Spring), Section A must be completed and submitted with your *Team Registration*

and Photo Consent Google Sheet for any participant from a Catholic or CYO approved Parish/School/Academy that does not sponsor a CYO team. This section verifies that the participant is a baptized registered Catholic member of a Parish, enrolled in a Catholic School/Academy or enrolled in a sponsoring CYO approved Parish/School/Academy.

b. **Section B – Athletic Release Form:** For each season (Fall, Winter and Spring), Section B must be completed and submitted with the *Team Registration and Photo Consent Google Sheet*, along with Section A filled out if a participant is jumping over bordering Parish/School/Academies that do **NOT** accept out-of-Parish/School/Academy athletes. All Athletic Directors from bordering Parishes/Schools/Academies must sign Section B to release that participant.

c. **Section R – Athletic Referral Form:** For each season (Fall, Winter and Spring), Section R must be completed and submitted with the *Team Registration and Photo Consent Google Sheet* for any participant that wasn't selected for a team after attending a bona fide try-out session(s) at his/her home Parish/School/Academy and wants to participate with a bordering sponsoring Parish/School/Academy.

3. If a participant qualifies and plays for a **direct** bordering Parish/School/Academy, then for the balance of that School year that participant **MUST** play all other sports for that same **direct** bordering Parish/School/Academy as long as their original Parish/School/Academy does not sponsor a sport.

4. In the event that same **direct** bordering Parish/School/Academy does not sponsor a team in a different season (Fall Winter and Spring), the participant may re-acquire eligibility per the Out-of-Parish/School/Academy Ruling. Each season (Fall, Winter and Spring) reverts back to the original **direct** bordering Parish/School/Academy for the balance of that School year.

5. If a participant qualifies and plays for a second, third or more bordering Parish/School/Academy, they must re-acquire eligibility per the Out-of-Parish/School/Academy Ruling for each season (Fall, Winter and Spring.)

6. Any participant seeking Out of Parish/School/Academy eligibility will **NOT** be considered eligible until there is an authorized *Form A,B,R* submitted to the CYO Athletic Department.

C. **Registered Membership Limitations:**

No CYO player may be a registered member of more than one (1) Parish at the same time. In the event that a player is registered in two (2) Parishes, the CYO Athletic Department will determine which registration is valid and where the athlete is eligible.

D. **Dual Membership Ruling:**

In the event that a participant is a registered member of one Parish and a student at a different CYO eligible School/Academy, that participant **MUST** initially choose to play for either the Parish or the School/Academy, but **MUST** participate with the initial choice for the balance of the School year, for all later teams as long as the initial choice sponsors a team.

1. If the Parish/School/Academy that the participant initially chooses does not sponsor a team in the following season (Fall, Winter, Spring), the participant **MUST** play for their other member Parish/School/Academy.
2. If the participant gets cut from a team that they initially choose to play with, the participant **MUST** play for their other member Parish/School/Academy.
3. If neither the Parish/School/Academy that the participant initially chooses or their other member Parish/School/Academy does not sponsor a team in the following season (Fall, Winter, Spring), the participant **MUST** follow the guidelines of the Out of Parish/School/Academy Ruling. The borders will be determined using the participants initial choice. The same ruling applies if the participant gets cut from both the initial Parish/School/Academy or their other member Parish/School/Academy.

E. **Age Limitations:**

1. **Eighth Grade League:** Players whose 15th birthday falls on or after September 1st of the current School year are eligible for the balance of the School year. Players cannot be enrolled in any grade higher than the eighth (8th) grade.
2. **Sixth Grade League:** Players whose 13th birthday falls on or after September 1st of the current School year are eligible for the balance of the School year. Players cannot be enrolled in any grade higher than the sixth (6th) grade.
3. **Fourth Grade League:** Players whose 11th birthday falls on or after September 1st of the current School year are eligible for the balance of the School year. Players cannot be enrolled in any grade higher than the fourth (4th) grade.

There is no minimum age in CYO. Safety is a top priority and must be taken into consideration when allowing younger athletes to participate. It is the discretion of each individual athletic program to allow younger athletes to participate in their program.

F.

Years Limitations:

An athlete is eligible to participate in CYO Athletics for a maximum of four (4) consecutive years starting from the calendar year in which they complete fourth (4th) grade.

1. This rule applies regardless of the athlete's participation in CYO Athletics within each of the four (4) consecutive years.
2. This rule applies regardless of the grade that athlete achieves within each of the four (4) consecutive years.
3. This rule applies to participants regardless of where the student attends school during these four (4) consecutive years of eligibility (i.e. transfer from one School/Academy to another, transfer from Catholic to Public/Private, homeschool etc.)
4. The CYO Athletic Department may consider an exception to the maximum years for up to one (1) year for athletes (1) who, following medical documentation sufficient to establish that they had a medically documented and seriously debilitating illness or injury or a disability as defined by the Americans With Disabilities Act and/or the Persons With Disabilities Civil Rights Act, were delayed in completing their education after their initial enrollment in the fifth (5th) grade solely by reason of such injury, illness or disability; and (2) who at the time of the request for waiver are determined by the CYO Athletic Department (a) to not present a significant risk of injury to themselves, teammates or opponents, and (b) to not create a competitive advantage in comparison to teammates and opponents. The burden of proof regarding these factors rests with the Parish/School/Academy seeking the waiver; the CYO Athletic Department has no duty to conduct an independent inquiry. If the CYO Athletic Department determines in its sole discretion that it is impossible to make a determination about an athlete's competitive advantage or physical risk, it is not required to consider the request any further. A waiver may be approved in the CYO Athletic Department's sole discretion only for athletes who are documented by qualified medical professionals to have had a medically documented and seriously debilitating illness, injury or disability which was the reason for delay in education. Review of waiver requests shall be determined by the CYO Athletic Department. Decisions are final.

G.

Team Registration and Photo Consent Google Sheet:

1. *Team Registration and Photo Consent Google Sheet*, listing eligible players, must be shared with the CYO Athletic Office at cyodetroitathletics@gmail.com **prior to the start of the season.** The *Team Registration and Photo Consent Google Sheet* **MUST** be filled in completely, especially Parish Membership and current School columns. Caution should be exercised in completing the team registration with accuracy ensuring that only eligible players are listed.
For a sample google sheet go to:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1F4rfDsEotkTL6Wswx6YbZaplDIxjGkwTociQMUGy5QO/edit?usp=sharing>.
2. Each team should be listed on a separate sheet (tab) with the sheet (tab) labeled with which team it is.
3. Parental consent for photos and videos that may be utilized by the CYO/AOD for media publications must be included in/on each Parish/School/Academies registration program and/or registration form. Sample wording to add to Parish/School/Academies registration program/form:

'I hereby grant the Catholic Youth Organization of the Archdiocese of Detroit and {enter Parish/School/Academy name} permission to use photos or videos of myself and/or child taken during a CYO Athletic/Agency event. In addition, I realize photos taken may be published on our Facebook pages, newsletters, websites, etc.'

4. There is a Photo Consent box on the *Team Registration and Photo Consent Google Sheet* to check if consent is given.
5. Once the season starts, Parishes/Schools/Academies will receive a forfeit loss for every game played until the *Team Registration and Photo Consent Google Sheet* is shared with the CYO Athletic Department at cyodetroitathletics@gmail.com.
5. Programs will need to notify CYO of any additions/deletions made throughout the season before editing their *Team Registration and Photo Consent Google Sheets*. Without notification, the

original *Team Registration and Photo Consent Google Sheet* shared will be what CYO looks at for eligibility.

6. At the discretion of the CYO Athletic Department, clerical errors may be corrected.

H. Rosters, Roster Changes and Play-offs:

1. Eligible players may be added anytime during the regular league season but not during play-offs. Additions shall be submitted to the CYO Athletic Office at least 24 hours prior to participation in a contest.
2. To be eligible for play-offs, all players listed on the *7/8th Grade Team Registration and Photo Consent Google Sheet* must participate in at least 50% of the regular league season contests. (Non-League/Crossover games are not considered regular season league games.)
3. A maximum of three (3) players from a *7/8th Grade #2 or below team* (*7/8th grade only*) can be moved up to a #1 team for playoffs with the following caveats:
 - a. Their regular season is over.
 - b. They are not otherwise participating in the CYO play-offs/tournament.
 - c. They are not participating in an after-season tournament.
 - d. They may not play on two (2) different level teams during a one (1) week period (week is considered Monday-Sunday.)

They must be moved up prior to the start of playoffs, after the regular season is completed. Once playoffs start, players will not be allowed to move up.
4. *5/6th grade players* must participate in at least one (1) *7/8th grade league game* during the regular season in order to participate in the play-offs.
5. A player may be moved up from a *4th grade team* to the *5/6th grade team* or from a *5/6th grade team* to the *7/8th grade team*. In specific grade levels (*4th grade, 5/6th grade or 7/8th grade*), a #2 or below player can move up to a number above team in that specific grade level (i.e. from a #2 team to a #1 team, from a #3 team to a #2 or #1 team, from a #4 team to a #3, #2 or #1 team, etc.) If the *4th or 5/6th grade player* moves back down to their original *4th or 5/6th grade team*, that player must stay there for the remainder of the season, same ruling for #2 or below players in that specific grade level. **Exceptions:** See Rule 20.H.3. and/or Rule 20.H.4.
 - a. They may not play on two (2) different level teams during a one (1) week period (week is considered Monday-Sunday.)
 - b. They must be moved up during their regular season. If their regular season is over they cannot be moved up. **Exceptions:** See Rule 20.H.3. and/or Rule 20.H.4.
 - c. Any player change shall be submitted to the CYO Athletic Office at least 24 hours prior to participation which shall include the team the player is moving up to, the week the player is moving up and the week the player will be moved back down to their original registered team.
6. FOOTBALL ONLY:
 - a. Players in the *5th or 6th grade* may only be moved up one (1) grade level.
 - b. Players in the *4th grade league* cannot move up to the *5/6th grade team* or the *7/8th grade team*, players must stay on the *4th grade team* for the season.

I. Assumption of Risk Form, Concussion Awareness Form and Football Contracts:

1. All athletes, participants, and tryout candidates should be informed, in very specific terms, of the possibilities of injury.
2. The *Assumption of Risk Form* and the *Concussion Awareness Form* are available from the CYO Athletic Office and are **REQUIRED** to be completed by every athlete and kept at the Parish/School/Academy Office.
3. Football Only: The Football Contracts are available from the CYO Athletic Office and are **REQUIRED** to be completed by every athlete and parent/guardian and kept at the Parish/School/Academy Office for the minimum of seven (7) years.

J. Sports Physical Form

1. All student-athletes registered on a team are **REQUIRED** to have a Physical Examination completed by a physician and signed by parent/guardian. If a physical form is not completed, the student-athlete is unable to practice and/or compete.
2. All athletes participating in athletics must have a current year physical examination record on file in the Parish/School/Academy Office. (CURRENT-YEAR PHYSICAL = GIVEN ON OR AFTER APRIL 15 OF THE PREVIOUS SCHOOL YEAR).

K. Scholastic Standards:

Players must maintain proper scholastic standards as established by each member Parish/School/Academy.

L. **Limited Team Membership:**

1. A player may not be registered simultaneously with more than one (1) team of the same sport in the CYO League. After a player has been listed on a team, he/she may not be transferred to another team within the same Parish/School/Academy CYO program without permission from the CYO Athletic Department.
2. An eligible player who, after practicing with (including practice/tryouts), or being listed as a member of a CYO athletic team on the *Team Registration and Photo Consent Google Sheet*, or added during the season as a member of a CYO athletic team submitted to CYO, participates in any non-CYO athletic competition in the same sport during the same season, is ineligible. This rule applies specifically to Junior High School, Middle School, Recreation Leagues, P.A.L. Teams, Michigan Youth Teams, AAU Teams/Leagues or any other organized league including organized neighborhood leagues.
 - a. Football shall apply the Limited Team Membership rule from the point of an athlete's first participation in a practice.
 - b. **Limited Team Membership Exception*:** For Soccer, Volleyball, Cross Country, Basketball and Bowling, during the CYO season (starts the first date of tryouts/practice for each season listed on the CYO Athletic Calendar) a member of the Parish/School/Academy team in that sport may participate in a maximum of two (2) events not sponsored by his or her Parish/School/Academy in that sport while not representing his or her Parish/school/Academy. An event held on not more than three (3) consecutive calendar days is considered a single event. The limited team membership rule commences with a student's first participation in a contest or scrimmage until the last day of competition for that student (not practice.)
*** More clarification:** The limited team membership rule commences (starts) with a player's first participation in a contest which includes league games, scrimmages, non-league games, tournaments, etc. Example: For basketball, if the team is participating in a Thanksgiving Tournament that would be the start of the Limited Team Membership.
3. The **spring season** rules **allow** participation in the same sport in any other organized leagues with the exception of playing on a Junior High School, Middle School or Elementary School team with the following stipulations:
 - a. Teams are allowed one (1) league game change during the regular season that is **not due** to a Parish/School/Academy function or that **does not** constitute an emergency (i.e. weather, building conditions, school closing, etc.)

M. **Penalties for Use of Ineligible Player(s):**

1. Player(s) will be immediately ineligible for the balance of the current season including play-offs.
 - a. Use of ineligible player(s) will result in forfeiture of all games in which such player(s) participated.
2. Player(s) found to have participated with any non-CYO athletic team over the Limited Team Membership Exception allowance shall be immediately ineligible for their CYO team for the balance of the current season including play-offs.
3. Parish/School/Academies that continue to play an ineligible player(s) in any contest(s), including league/non-league games, scrimmages, tournaments, etc. after the player(s) are found ineligible will result in forfeit of all season games including play-offs and may be subject to member probation or suspension.

N. **Registration and Transfers:**

1. **Parish Membership / RCIA Program Enrollment:**

Parish membership and/or RCIA program enrollment must be established on or before the following dates in order for a participant to be eligible to play in the following sports seasons:

May 1st - Fall Season
July 1st - Winter Season
Dec.1st - Spring Season

Transfers: An athlete who transfers from one Parish to another Parish after the deadline is ineligible to participate in an athletic contest for that current season and will be required to compete at their prior Parish, UNLESS the athlete qualifies under one or more of the following exceptions:

Exceptions:

- a. An athlete makes a full and complete residential change into a new Parish with the person(s) with whom he or she was living during his or her last year.

- b. An athlete who has not been living with a parent or parents and moves into a new Parish to reside with his or her parents, the single parent if divorced or legally separated, or only living parent who already resides in the Parish.
- c. An athlete is the ward of the court or state and is placed in a Parish by court order. Guardianship does not fulfill this requirement.
- d. An athlete transfers to another Parish because his or her Parish ceases to operate.
- e. An athlete of parents who are divorced or living under an order for separate maintenance moves from one Parish into a new Parish with or to one of those parents, and the pastor of each of the two Parishes involved approves of and then certifies the reason for the move as it relates to the divorced/separated parents. The transfer is permitted under this exception one time and must be approved by the CYO Athletic Department before the athlete competes in an athletic competition.
- * Athletes qualifying under exception a, b, c, or d above may elect to complete the season at the previous Parish attended. However, the next season must be played at the new Parish.

RCIA Program Enrollment: An athlete who enrolls in a RCIA program after the deadline is ineligible to participate in an athletic contest for that current season.

Athletic Motivated Transfers:

Athletes found to transfer from one Parish to another Parish primarily for athletic reasons will be considered ineligible to participate in an athletic contest and will be required to compete at their prior Parish. A transfer for athletic reasons is defined as, but not limited to:

- a. The athlete seeks to participate with teammates or coaches with whom he/she participated in competition(s) during the preceding twelve (12) months.
- b. The athlete, or parent/guardian, or adult with whom the athlete resides, is dissatisfied with the athlete's position or amount of playing time which he/she received.
- c. The athlete, or parent/guardian, or adult with whom the athlete resides, has a problem with a coach at either a personal or professional level.
- d. The athlete, or parent/guardian, or adult with whom the athlete resides, seeks relief from conflict with the philosophy or action of an administrator or coach relating to sports.
- e. The athlete, or parent/guardian, or adult with whom the athlete resides, desires that the athlete play on a more successful or higher profile team to gain a higher level of competition.

2. School Enrollment:

Students transferring into a Catholic Grade School shall become immediately eligible to participate in the athletic program of the new School. Students transferring in season (e.g. in the middle of the School year) may elect to complete that current season (Fall, Winter or Spring) at the previous School attended. However, the next season (Fall, Winter or Spring) must be played at the new School.

- 21. All members of the CYO may not waive the rules and regulations by mutual agreement, and members must observe all such rules and regulations when competing against each other and against non-member teams.
- 22. **All matters of rules and regulations not covered in the CYO League Manual shall be decided and administered by the CYO Athletic Department and/or the CYO Executive Director.**