



With change there will always be growing pains and difficulties adjusting to a new system of how to do things, including becoming familiar with new rules and regulations.

This idea is no different when it comes to the new youth sports league within the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, the Greater Cincinnati Catholic Youth Sports league (GCCYS). As we all are aware, this new league was created in the fall of 2015 to replace the old CYO league in accordance with the new Charter on Catholic Youth Athletics. The Charter was approved and promulgated by Archbishop Schnurr.

Since then, many positive changes have been made to bring youth sports back to where Catholic Christians at the elementary and junior high school level should be when it comes to bringing sports and our faith together.

It is the goal of the Archdiocese for Catholic Youth Athletics to further the mission of the Catholic Church by providing sports experiences for youth that are firmly rooted in the Catholic faith tradition, based on the goals for Catholic youth ministry, and aligned with the evangelizing mission of the Catholic Church.

With that being said, where do we find common ground in sportsmanship on the field/court and in our faith life? St. Paul tells us in Ephesians that we need to be Christ like in all we do, not only when we are in Church or at work, but also in the stands and on the gridiron.

When fans yell at officials, threaten coaches, or boo opponents, it is creating a hostile or disrespectful atmosphere that influences the behavior of the children, both for those participating in the event and those sitting in the stands.

Everyone (including fans, parents, grandparents, spectators, coaches, etc.) in Catholic Youth Athletics must abide by the "Code of Conduct" (<http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Code-of-Conduct.jpg>). Every parent ought to have a copy of "10 Things Parents of Athletes Need To Know" (<http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/10Things200.jpg>) and a copy of the Code of Conduct.

An additional spiritual reminder to all Athletic Boosters, coaches, and parents we must not forget that prayer is one of the most important parts of our faith life and an integral part of the formation of our children. Please remember to pray at all practices and before all games.

Let this be our prayer: let the living Christ be the center of all that we do and are in Catholic Youth Athletics. Amen!

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GCCYS Board