

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

Catholic Youth Organization

Athletic Handbook

Athletic Ministry CYO

Mission Statement

CYO Sports is one component of a parish's comprehensive youth ministry program which enables the partnership of parents, coaches, priests, religious, teachers, and adult leaders to manage and support a sports program that allows youth to grow in their relationship with God and come to better understand themselves and the Catholic Faith.

Such a program:

- employs healthy and enjoyable competition to promote the sharing of gospel values among athletes, parents, and coaches.
- assists parish leadership in nourishing the emotional, spiritual, social and physical needs of young people.
- encourages young people to appreciate the gifts that they possess, and challenges them to share these gifts with their community.
- allows youth to witness the life of Christian discipleship in their coaches and adult leaders.
- encourages youth to become responsible members of their faith community.

Our Lady of Good Counsel -- CYO Athletic Program History

The CYO Athletic Program has existed in the Archdiocese since 1945. Prior to 1962, sports at OLGC was on a limited schedule and part of Region 10. In 1965, a stronger division, Region 11, was formed and OLGC was a part of this new region

OLGC CYO sponsors a variety of sports including: baseball, basketball, cross country, football, soccer, softball, track, and volleyball. Swimming is available as part of the athletic program at OLGC but is not recognized as a CYO sport by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL CYO ATHLETIC PROGRAM

1. Approval for the CYO Athletic Program at Our Lady of Good Counsel is granted by the pastor or his designate.
2. Our Lady of Good Counsel CYO Athletic Program is a chartered member of the Archdiocesan Youth Ministry Program. Our Lady of Good Counsel is a chartered member of Region 11 CYO.
3. Athletic programs sponsored by Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Youth Organization shall at all times reflect the CYO Mission Statement of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The mission statement appears on the first page of this handbook.
4. The overriding motivation of the Our Lady of Good Counsel Athletic Program is the involvement of as many students as possible in athletic competition within a Christian context. Through CYQ sports, students are provided with opportunities to grow in their faith through the guidance, direction and coaching of adult Christian men and women; to form friendships; and to deal graciously with both victory and defeat.
5. The following sport programs are offered at OLGC for the upcoming season:

FallSwimming (grades K-9*
boys/girls)

Cross Country (grades 4-8
boys/girls)

Soccer (grades 3-8
boys/girls)

Volleyball (grades 5-8 girls)

Football (grades 5-8 boys)**

Winter

**Basketball (grades 5-8
boys/girls)**

Spring

Softball (grades 4-8 girls)

Baseball (grades 5-8 boys)

Track (grades 4-8
boys/girls)

*must be able to swim one lap of an Olympic-size pool

** administered by Region 11 and known as “The Saints”

6. There are two classifications of teams for soccer, volleyball, basketball, softball and baseball.

a. **“A” Team**

This level of play is designed for a higher level of competition, therefore, a student must try-out for this team. Eligibility for this level of play is determined by general tryouts for each grade level or grouping (e.g. 5-6 grades). Tryouts are conducted by the athletic coordinator or his/her designate for each sport. Student performance is evaluated and rated by the athletic coordinator and coaches. From this data, the "A Team" members are selected. OLGC "A" teams then compete with other Region 11 "A" teams.

It should be noted that due to the more competitive nature of this league, coaches are not mandated to guarantee equal playing time for each player during games. Coaches at OLCG are

instructed to play all players during a game, unless agreed-upon disciplinary action/inaction necessitates otherwise.

b. **"B" Team**

This level is less competitive for the student but helps with instruction and practice in the basics of the sport. Each student is required a certain amount of playing time during games. The amount of time varies per sport. "B" Teams are considered part of a regional parish league. It is possible for parishes to sponsor more than one "B Team" for each sport. This number is, however, dependent upon the availability of coaches, equipment, and/or field (or gym) time.

c. **League Considerations**

In the event that a given sport does not offer a "B" league option and OLGC is fielding multiple teams, than the Sport Coordinator shall be the determining factor in team composition.

7. **Student Eligibility (Simplified)**

a. **Parish School Students**

- 1 A boy or girl who attends their parish school may participate with their parish - school team.
2. A boy or girl who attends a parish school other than their registered parish may participate with either their parish team or 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: An individual may not play soccer for the school he/she attends and then play basketball for the parish in which he/she is registered.

b. **Public School Students**

If a public school student is a Catholic and a registered member of the parish and attends PREP, the student is eligible to participate in the OLGC 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.

c. **Private Catholic School Students**

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 a passing grade in conduct and effort in order to be eligible to play CYO sports. Failure in these areas makes the student ineligible for CYO sports for that marking period.

f. **Change of Residence – After Start of Season**

If a student moves on or after the official start date of a season (August 1st, November 1st, or March 1st), he/she may participate with his/her old parish's team(s) for the remainder of that school year, or he/she may join the team of his/her new parish. If he/she chooses the latter, he/she may not return to his/her old parish's team.

8. **Student Suspension/Expulsion**

To be a member of the OLGC CYO athletic program is a privilege -- not a right. When a boy or girl puts on an OLGC CYO uniform, he/she represents a longstanding parish and Archdiocese of Philadelphia tradition. 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, and to contribute to the overall good of the OLGC CYO sport program.

A student who fails to comply with CYO guidelines -- either Archdiocesan or OLGC -- or who does not comply with team regulations as determined by the coach, will be held accountable for his/her actions and dealt with in an appropriate manner.

Any student who is expelled from day school will lose eligibility for the CYO athletic program for that school year. Suspension from student's school may result in partial or full disciplinary action.

a. **Suspension**

A serious infraction of CYO policy or the Student Code of Conduct may result in the suspension of the student.

There are two types of suspension. One is a suspension which is levied by a coach due to misconduct either during a game or practice. The other type is a suspension which is determined by the CYO Board due to multiple incidents of game misconduct, or violations which have ramifications beyond the OLGC CYO sports program (e.g. serious damage done to school or church property). A review of any such incidents will be conducted by the OLGC CYO Athletic Board. If a student receives a suspension from the CYO Board, any or all of the following sanctions shall be imposed.

1. A student/player will be ineligible for a determined number of consecutive games in league, tournament or playoff games, or the continuation into the next season's sport. The student/player must be dressed in uniform for the suspended games and remain on the bench. Rescheduled games shall count and forfeits shall not count.
2. A determined number of hours of community service will be assessed. The CYO Board will assist in making arrangements for this community service, if necessary. The CYO Board is not responsible for transportation to or from the site, or supervision of the project. A form must be signed by the organization benefiting from this community service.
3. If the infraction involves monetary retribution for damages incurred, it is the responsibility of the student's family to make this payment.

4. The student/player is ineligible for the Scholar Athlete Award.
5. The student/player remains on probation for the entire sports season. If another infraction occurs -- be it minor or major-- the student/player will be expelled from OLGC CYO sports for that school year.
6. A time period for the sanctions to be completed will also be assessed at the time of suspension.
7. Any student who is suspended from a CYO sport is ineligible for All Star play in any recognized CYO sport during that school year.

b. **Expulsion**

1. If a student/player has committed a serious infraction which is considered criminal in nature, including use or possession of alcohol and/or illegal drugs, the CYO Board reserves the right to dismiss him/her from OLGC CYO sports for that school year.
2. Any student who is expelled from his/her day school will be dismissed from the OLGC CYO athletic program for that school year. He/she must reapply to the OLGC CYO Athletic Board in order to regain their playing status. The Board reserves the right to decline this application.

9. **Coaches Responsibilities**

A CYO coach is primarily a minister to youth with a gift of reaching out to young people through athletics. CYO head coaches must be 21 years of age or older and must be present and responsible for the team at all times. Responsibilities of the CYO head coach include:

- a. Attend a Coaches Accreditation Seminar sponsored by the Archdiocesan CYO Office. All OLGC head coaches and assistants must be accredited by their second year of coaching. Head coaches and assistant coaches are also required to be in compliance with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's SAFE Environment Program which includes attending a SAFE Environment session and completing both the Pennsylvania State Police Request For Criminal Record Check and the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare Child Abuse History Clearance form.
- b. Be knowledgeable of all aspects in the CYO athletics manual and make sure that all rules and policies are faithfully observed.
- c. Attend the pre-season coaches meeting at the time and place designated by the athletic director and sport coordinator.
- d. Should conduct pre-season meetings of parents/assistants to ensure that everyone understands their responsibilities, including proper behavior at sports functions so as to be accountable for the general comportment of all present for the sports function.
- e. All rosters are to be completed by the coach and are to be checked and signed by the Athletic Director and Priest Moderator for correct dates of birth, school, grade and parish registration.

- f. Conduct themselves in a Christian manner which will reflect credit on their parish and the CYO, ensuring team members and followers do the same.
- g. Teach and guide the youth on the team with a sense of fair play, sportsmanship and acceptance of winning and losing in accordance with Christian ideals.
- h. Take care not to schedule practices or events that will interfere with holy days, religious duties and instructional classes.
- i. Inform the OLGC CYO Athletic Board of any misconduct of a student who is in violation of the student code of conduct.
- j. Implement and monitor the conditions of a student suspension if mandated by the OLGC CYO Athletic Board. A full report should be given to the OLGC CYO Board when the student's suspension is completed.
- k. Attend weekend mass and encourage, by word and example, the same for the student/players.

10. **Coach Suspension**

The OLGC CYO Athletic Board is empowered to relieve a coach of his/her position if found to be in violation of Archdiocesan and/or OLGC CYO policy. If a coach is suspended, the OLGC CYO Athletic Board reserves the right not to renew his/her coaching eligibility. Some specific violations are listed below:

- a. Failure to inform the OLGC CYO Board of any infraction (s) against the Student/Player Code of Conduct.
- b. Failure to comply with any or all of the OLGC CYO Athletic Board sanctions for a player's suspension or expulsion.
- c. Outwardly/public use of foul language or physical and/or verbal abuse by a coach towards players, referees, or others present during practices/games calls for immediate suspension.

* Failure to attend Coaches Accreditation Program may result in suspension.

** Demeaning words and/or gestures may result in suspension.

11. **Awards for Team Accomplishments**

- a. OLGC CYO teams, coaches, and student players are recognized for their participation and individual and/or team achievements at an awards ceremony during the annual OLGC CYO Sports Banquet usually held in June.
- b. **Additional Awards**
 - 1. If an OLGC CYO athletic team wins an Archdiocesan title, Regional title, or Parish League title, the OLGC CYO will purchase a special team accomplishment award (plaques, shirts, jackets, etc.). The OLGC CYO Board is open to suggestions for this award from the team, however, the Board has established and reserves the right to set a price range for this contribution. Any item bearing the name of Our Lady of Good

Counsel; Our Lady of Good Counsel CYO; OLGC; OLGC Cougars; or CYO must be approved by the Our Lady of Good Counsel CYO Board before purchase.

12. **Tournament Games**

- a. OLGC CYO follows the Archdiocesan CYO mandates regarding tournament play.
- b. The OLGC CYO Board reserves the right to limit the financial support given to teams for tournament play. If a team surpasses its limit, it becomes the responsibility of the coach to collect fees from team members. The financial support from the OLGC CYO Board is generally the cost of one tournament per team.

13. The official team name for OLGC CYO Athletic teams is Our Lady of Good Counsel (also known as OLGC) Cougars.

14. The name OLGC Cougars or Our Lady of Good Counsel Cougars is reserved for official CYO Athletic team use, or approved tournaments.

15. **Criteria for Scholar Athlete Award**

- a. A student must maintain an "A" average which is cumulative for 7th grade and for the first three quarters of 8th grade. In situations where numerical grading is used, a cumulative average of 93 and above constitutes an "A".
- b. A student must participate in a minimum of two CYO sports per year during his/her 7th grade and 8th grade. One sport per year must be on an "A" level. If a student participates in sports which are not distinguished by "A" and "B" levels, the following criteria is considered the same as "A" level:

cross-country --must have one of the top 30 times during the course of the season.

swimming --must qualify for "A" champs

track --must qualify for the "Regions"

- c. A student who fails or receives "U" (unsatisfactory) in effort or conduct during his/her 7th or 8th grade is ineligible for this award subject to review by the OLGC CYO Board.
- d. A student who is suspended from CYO sports or from his/her school during 7th or 8th grade is ineligible.

OLGC CYO – Player Code of Ethics

CYO Sports is one component of a parish's comprehensive youth ministry program which enables the partnership of parents, coaches, priests, religious, teachers, and adult leaders to manage and support a sports program that allows youth to grow in their relationship with God and come to better understand themselves and the Catholic Faith.

The team coaches should strive to encourage and value each player for their contribution to the game. The youth player should strive to master basic skills, have fun, and acquire the desire to continue to play the game at higher levels in the future.

Players should:

1. Value one's personal integrity.
2. Strive for excellence
3. Willingly abide by the spirit of the rules and "Honor the Game" in practices and in games.
4. Treat all players, officials, and coaches with respect and courtesy.
5. Graciously accept constructive criticism.
6. Exhibit dignity in manner and dress when representing OLGC CYO.
7. Recognize the value and contribution of each team member.
8. Keep the importance of winning or losing in perspective.
9. Each team player should recognize the importance of being a contributor to the team.

OLGC CYO – Code of Ethics and Conduct for Parents and Spectators

1. Respect and “Honor the Game.” Appreciate and enjoy the efforts of all participants.
2. Recognize the officials as persons of integrity and qualification, and respect their decisions accordingly.
3. Refrain from creating disturbances that would detract from the flow of the game and/or the safety of the participants.
4. Respect for all players, coaches, and officials, regardless of team loyalty, is essential for raising the standards of good sportsmanship.
5. Be a positive supporter and role model by encouraging the positive aspects of play. Refrain from sideline coaching.
6. Maintain a distance from players and coaches during games and contests. Team benches should be for use of team members only.
7. When providing post-game refreshments, remove all trash from the fields.
8. Use of name-calling, harassment of any type, or badgering is prohibited. You will be asked to leave the area.
9. Most of all always encourage each child on the field.

Student Responsibilities Contract

1. I have read and understand the rules of the Our Lady of Good Counsel CYO Athletic Handbook and I will obey them.
2. I understand that failure to obey these rules may result in disciplinary actions against me.
3. I understand that during practices and games my coaches are my supervisors. I will listen to them when they ask for my attention; obey their directions; and never show them disrespect.
4. I understand that I am to respect the calls and directions of game officials. Although I may not agree with their judgment, I must accept their decisions.
5. I understand that I am part of a team, therefore, it is very important for me to attend practices and games. I will tell my coach when I cannot make practices and games.
6. I understand that at no time may I show disrespect to coaches, other adults, my team or opposing team members; start or participate in a verbal or physical fight; or use foul language.
7. I understand that during practices and games I must not leave the school building, athletic field or track.

I _____, have read and understood all of the above points
PRINT
of this contract, I understand that failure to uphold these responsibilities may result in a review of my status and possible dismissal from the OLGC CYO Athletic Program.

Student/Player's Signature: _____ Date: _____

I _____, parent/legal guardian of _____ have
PRINT PRINT
read and understood the terms of the OLGC 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. I hereby authorize my child to enter into this contract.

Signature: _____ Date: _____