

**Archdiocese of Baltimore**  
**CYO Archdiocesan Basketball**

**Player and Parent Code of Conduct**

The Catholic Youth Organization (CYO), through the vehicle of sports, provides youth with an opportunity to practice Christian attitudes and responsibilities and to become friends with other children throughout the diocese. CYO activities should be examples of the meaning of Christian sportsmanship. The guiding principle behind the enforcement of this code is that the behavior of everyone involved in CYO should not detract from the children's enjoyment of the sport. This contract must be signed by both player and parent/guardian or the player will be unable to participate.

**Players** - Acceptable standards of participant behavior include:

- Good sportsmanship dignifies you, and your team, and the game. Practice it all times, enjoy yourself, and playing with your friends as well as your opponents. Treat opponents with respect; shake hands prior to and after contests.
- Respect the judgement of officials and abide by the rules of the contest. Referee's decisions are to be respected at all times. Never criticize or question the referee's decisions. Use athletic competition, whether victory or defeat, as a positive tool for self improvements.
- Accept seriously the responsibility of representing your school or parish by displaying positive behavior at all times. Listen to your coach and respect your teammates.
- Play in a positive manner, reflecting Christian values. Opponents are your friends who make the game possible. Taunting, baiting or rough play are not tolerated. Treat your opponents with respect and dignity. Good plays by either team should be applauded.

A player who engages in poor sportsmanship or violation of the rules and guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action. Such actions may range from temporary suspension to expulsion from the CYO program.

**Parents/Guardians** - Acceptable standards of spectator behavior include:

- CYO basketball program reflects Christian attitudes and values of good sportsmanship. Parents should be a positive example of good sportsmanship and a source of support for your child, coach, team and school or church program. Be a role model.
- Opponents make playing games possible. Your child needs your help to handle competitive pressure. Help your child learn and understand that taunting, baiting or rough play will not be tolerated. Good plays by either team should be applauded.
- Good sportsmanship includes respect for game officials. Teach your child, by word and example, to accept the official's decisions. Never shout criticisms, questions or instructions at referees. Remain seated in the spectator area during the games. Never approach an official to criticize or complain.
- Remember that the players are children and are playing for their enjoyment, not yours. Players need to focus on the directives of the team coach. Parents should refrain from coaching players from the stands.

Participating teams and their coaches are responsible for the conduct of their spectators. Any parent or guardian who displays poor sportsmanship may be removed from the facility by an official, their team coach, or a league official or host gym person in charge. Any parent or guardian who interferes with the conduct of a CYO activity may, at the discretion of the parents or guardians parish, league or Archdiocesan Basketball Committee, be barred from attendance at subsequent CYO activities.

**Enforcement**

The parishes and leagues, under the supervision of the Archdiocesan Basketball Committee, shall enforce this code. Complaints regarding violation of this code shall be first brought to the attention of the parish/school basketball coordinators involved. Participants or parents/guardians may be placed on probation or suspended from CYO activities for their actions.

***We have read the Archdiocesan Basketball Code of Conduct. We agree to follow these guidelines.***

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Players Signature

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Parent/Guardian Signature