



Diocese of Toledo

Catholic Youth Organization

Athletics

September 12, 2018

Dear CYO Football Coach,

The CYO football league schedule for the 2018 season, a league set-up sheet, a map of the field locations at the complex, directions to Harmon Field in Bellevue and St. Charles Field in Newport, and a memo on the unsportsmanlike penalty rule were all posted as of Wednesday, September 12th. Please review all of the information carefully and contact our office if you have any questions.

A few reminders:

1. The first team listed in each game will be the home team and is responsible for providing three adults to work the down box and chains. This team will take the bench on the north side of the field. We also ask that you encourage all of your fans to stay on the side of the field which your team is on. All of the different fields which we are playing games on will allow the parents to be on your team's side of the field.
2. Please review the schedule carefully. The times for the Sunday games are staggered in an attempt to ease the traffic flow. We have also scheduled games 90 minutes apart (same as last season). We tried to honor as many scheduling requests as possible. We are dealing with "school balanced calendar", 8th grade Washington DC week long trips and the other normal coaches scheduling requests. It seems as though every year there are more requests which makes it more difficult to honor them all. We hope that you can understand these scheduling issues.
3. All of our football coaches are encouraged to communicate with your cheerleading coach. These ladies who coach the cheerleaders put in a great deal of effort and should be respected by everyone involved in the CYO program. Please understand (and share with the parents) that the cheerleaders have the right to cheer from the sidelines. They should be positioned somewhere between the goal-line and the 25 yard line. Last year we had some cheerleaders who were disrespected by both football coaches and spectators. Please understand that everyone is out at the field because of kids and adults sometimes can disrupt this or lose site.
4. Please take time to review the 17 point rule. This rule was made with all of the players in mind. As was stated at the coaches' re-certification session, we will have no tolerance for any coach who violates the "letter of the law" as well as the "spirit of the rule". We will not go into all sorts of examples in this letter and rely on the fact that we all understand who should not be in the game and/or touching the ball once a 17 point lead has been obtained. There is always the possibility of

mismatches. These games make it even more important that coaches do the right thing for everyone involved in the game. No one wants to go out and get “blown out”. We have often said that if you stay around long enough you will be on both sides of the fence (in terms of the scores).

5. Please take time to review all the football rules on the CYO website. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the CYO office. Please make certain that you take time to review with your players the rule on unsportsmanlike penalties.
6. We continue to read and hear stories about incidents of adult violence at youth sporting events. Please make certain that as a CYO coach you control your emotions and help to keep the other adults (both coaches and spectators) “in line”. The CYO will have zero tolerance for adults who ruin the game for kids. Youth athletics should be a positive experience for everyone involved, but we all have to do our part to insure that this happens.
7. All games in metro Toledo will be played at the beautiful “Monsignor Schmit CYO Athletic Complex” (Bellevue & Newport/Monroe have some home games). Please make sure that no one gets confused and goes to Gesu Parish looking for the game (for example).
8. Please remind the parents that there will be an admission fee charged at the complex (\$1 for adults, 50¢ for students and \$2 for a family). There will be no smoking and no pets allowed inside the complex. We also have one of the best youth concession stands around. Please encourage parents to give this a try as well and let them know that although this is being operated by an outside group, the CYO is getting a percentage of all sales.
9. All coaches should wear their CYO lanyard and name tag to all games. These were issued at all CYO certification sessions this August or mailed to you afterward if you were missing any piece of the requirements (background check, SCA, Concussion Awareness). Any coach who does not have current CYO coaches’ certification should not be coaching.
10. Beginning on Monday, September 17th the pre-season is over and practice may not exceed six hours per week. Coaches are strongly encouraged and reminded to make sure the kids are having fun at practice. We all realize that football can be a demanding sport in terms of both physical activity and time and therefore if kids aren’t having fun they will more than likely find something else to do with their time. Always leave the players “*wanting more*”.
11. Please make sure that your players are not wearing two different color socks as part of their uniform. We realize that this is probably being done to promote team and school spirit, but it can also be looked at as a “gang identifier” which is prohibited by CYO rules.
12. All coaches should make certain that after their team shakes hands after the game their sideline gets cleaned up. There should be no water bottles, cups, etc. left behind for someone else to pick up. We are blessed to have a very nice complex at which we play our games and we all need to do our part to keep it in good shape. This also should be used to teach the players that they need to pick up after themselves.

13 A reminder to all coaches that some weeknight dates have been reserved for teams to scrimmage and/or practice at the CYO Complex. These dates, as well as the procedure for securing a field, are spelled out on the CYO web site under “scrimmage opportunities”.

14 We will pray the Rosary at the CYO Complex during the week of October 1st (Monday – Thursday) at 7:00 PM each night. You are encouraged to bring your team out one night to practice at “our” complex and then join us in the prayer for “Respect for Life”. There will be a different prayer leader each night. We hope that you will consider making this a part of your team’s season.

Good Luck to you and your team. We hope that it’s a good season for everyone in the program. Remember that you are a **“Minister to Youth”** as a coach. You set the tone for each practice, each game and the season.

Your success with your players is not measured by how many games your team wins this season, but rather what you have taught your players about both the game of football and being good Christian people.

“Do ordinary things with extraordinary love”.

– St. Teresa of Calcutta

Good Luck and have fun!

Sincerely,
Catholic Youth Organization

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Shaping the Faith of our Youth ... Field by Field

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