



# Diocese of Toledo

# Catholic Youth Organization

## Athletics

September 3, 2018

Dear CYO Volleyball Coach,

The complete league schedules for the 2018 CYO metro Toledo area volleyball season were posted on the CYO web site on today. Please read this schedule carefully and call us immediately if there is a problem (we have you listed for a team that you do not have or you do have a team that is not listed on the schedule).

Please note that teams from parishes with more than one team in a particular division are designated by the head coaches' last name on the schedule. Please also note that matches are not necessarily printed in numerical order by date, so **read it thoroughly**. Each team is scheduled to play at least two matches each week, but there may be times that on the schedule it looks like your team only has one. The fact that two of our parish schools (Sylvania St. Joseph & St. Pius X) are on a "Balanced Academic Calendar" which means that they have a one week break during the fall from school and many families use this time to go on vacation. We understand that this part of the schedule is not the most convenient for those parishes that are not involved in the "balanced academic calendar" and appreciate your cooperation with this matter. We also were dealing with a number of other schedule conflicts. If you have a question regarding your schedule, please e-mail our office and we will attempt to answer it.

We made a sincere attempt to honor the scheduling requests noted on team entry forms, but with the number of teams involved in metro-Toledo CYO volleyball, it was impossible to meet every request every weekend. It is also not possible to meet some of the requests which deal with the conflicts of other CYO activities (cross country, football, soccer & cheerleading). There were also more grade school teams that requested Sunday matches (or no Sunday matches) which is not always possible. Our grade school program is set up to be played mostly on Saturday. That being said, we did attempt to accommodate as many of these requests as possible.

All coaches are asked to take part in the pre-match meeting with the officials and team captains. This may help to avoid some confusion and get the match started off on the "right foot".

There will be an eight minute warm-up period in between matches (SERVING team hits for 3 minutes, RECEIVING team hits for 3 minutes and both teams share the court for serve for the final 2 minutes). The clock will start at the conclusion of the previous match. The meeting with the officials and the scorebook **MUST** be handled prior to the clock expiring. When the time has expired the two teams should meet for the pre-game prayer. Everyone must be organized for this procedure to work.

Please do your part to make sure the “CYO Team Prayer”, followed by the “Pledge of Allegiance”, is said properly prior to each match. This prayer is on the CYO website (coaches should print and make copies) and it is also located on a banner in most of our parish gyms. This is not an optional part of the match. Remember you are a “**minister to youth**” through your role as a CYO coach. Through your example of active participation in the pre-game prayer your players will follow your lead. It would also be a “positive step” for the entire CYO program if you encouraged the parents of your team members to stand and participate in the prayer, as well as the Pledge of Allegiance. We will begin and end the CYO Team Prayer with the sign of the cross and say “In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit”.

“Active participation of spectators” is a Point of Emphasis for this season. Please help our officials invite your team’s parents to **actively** recite the CYO Team Prayer with the players. It seems spectators will speak the words to the Pledge of Allegiance, but rarely does the Prayer sound audibly in the bleachers.

Please also keep your starters on the court after the Prayer, Pledge and greeting at the net. There should not be another huddle after this. Starters should immediately take the court in their positions for the line-up check, while the non-starters and coaches return to the bench.

Please arrive at the gym prepared to have an adult volunteer ready to work as a line judge. It would be helpful if you secured your line judge prior to arrival at the gym. A sign-up sheet for your parents prior to the season might help so that everyone takes a turn. Please remind your line judge that they are on the court to help out with the administration of the match and should not be out there to coach. We are working very hard to recruit and train our high school referees.

The home team (first team listed on the schedule for each match) is responsible for providing the game ball. This should be some type of white leather ball. A reminder that the volley-lite type ball will be used in all cadet (3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade) matches.

The CYO “all participation” rules are all listed in the “CYO Volleyball Rules” which can be found on the CYO website. A summary of these rules are as follows:

- All cadet players must play in either game one or two of each match for at least ten consecutive points. This does not mean ten consecutive points scored by your team, but rather ten consecutive between the two teams.
- In cadet matches (NOT JUNIOR MATCHES) after a player has served five consecutive points the team shall rotate and a new player will serve; therefore the team does not lose their serve, but a new player will serve.
- All junior players must play in either game one or two of each match for at least five consecutive points.

These rules were developed to insure that all healthy, uniformed players have the opportunity to play in each match. With rally scoring it should not be difficult to meet these minimum playing requirements. It is understood that they will make the job of the coach more difficult and that some

players may have to play positions which they would not normally play; however we are all involved in the CYO program for the kids. You (as a CYO coach/Minister to Youth) are expected to make certain that each player on your team gets to play at least the minimum as stated above, and you are encouraged to play them all even more than the minimum. Everyone wants to win, but the kids on your team will remember what you did for them as a person much longer than they will remember whether they won or lost a match this season. If it can be proven that any coach violated these “all play” rules the match may be forfeited and the coach may be suspended. This is not meant to be a “witch hunt”, but it needs to be strongly adhered to.

We are also asking that all coaches talk with parents about proper behavior at the games. There have been too many ugly stories regarding adult behavior and violence in youth sports throughout the United States over the past few years. The CYO will have zero tolerance for adults who ruin the games for the kids.

Coaches who have met the certification requirements (including a successful criminal background check on file in the Virtus system, as well as the online Concussion Awareness and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Courses) have received their CYO lanyard and name tag. Coaches should be wearing their lanyard at all games so therefore any coaches without one may be questioned by the CYO staff and not permitted to coach. All coaches who are on the bench must print their name on the CYO score sheet for each match.

One final reminder that all metro Toledo 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade athletes and their coaches are expected to attend the CYO Mass this Wednesday at Rosary Cathedral. Mass will begin at 6:30pm and families are invited to join their athletes and coaches this year.

Best of luck to you and your team this season. We hope that it will be great season for everyone involved.

**“Do ordinary things with extraordinary love.”** – St. Teresa of Calcutta

Sincerely,

CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION

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

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