

Chicago Catholic Youth League BY-LAWS

Updated; June 2025

PURPOSE

The Chicago Catholic Youth League is a not-for-profit entity, as designated by the State of Illinois. CCYL organizes sports leagues for the members of the conference, as defined below, for the purpose of fostering healthy athletic competition guided by Christian tenets among Catholic Schools in the city of Chicago. CCYL is organized to assist participating student athletes in having fun while achieving the proper balance of family, religion, academics, and athletics. CCYL membership is the Archdiocese of Chicago Vicariate Council II schools and other non-Vicariate Catholic Schools whose membership was approved in CCYL. CCYL member schools adhere to and follow many of the guidelines put forth from the Athletic Handbook of the Archdiocese of Chicago and general principles of the Play Like a Champion Today program.

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Member Schools

- **Alphonsus Academy and Center for the Arts**
- **Francis Xavier Warde**
- **Immaculate Conception-St. Joseph**
- **Hardey Prep/ Sacred Heart Academy**
- **Northside Catholic Academy**
- **Old St. Mary's**
- **Our Lady of Mount Carmel Academy**
- **Queen of Angels**
- **Saint Andrew**
- **Saint Benedict**
- **Saint Clement**
- **Saint Helen**
- **Saint Hilary - closed***
- **Saint Josaphat**
- **Saint Matthias**
- **Saint Nicholas**
- **Saint Viator**

LEADERSHIP

Section 1. Board of Athletic Directors: The Board of Athletic Directors consists of the designated representative from each member organization. Unless provided otherwise, a simple majority of the Board of Athletic Directors will determine each vote. There will be ample notification to this Board of all CCYL matters, including, but not limited to CCYL meetings, budgets, expenditures, by-laws and rule changes, grievances and any other material issue relating to CCYL. This Board may

amend and approve these by-laws as it deems appropriate. This Board will nominate all Officer positions but those persons must have official approval from Executive Board Principals before taking office. This Board will also approve all memberships and involuntary terminations. The Board of Athletic Directors will meet once a month from August through May, and any other time as decided by the board.

Section 2. Officers:

1) Chairperson or Co-Chairpersons: Elected to a three-year term of office and may be re-elected to additional terms with approval of the Executive Committee. The Chairperson or Co-Chairpersons set the agenda for and preside over all Board of Athletic Directors meetings and all Executive Board meetings. They update and set the events/deadline annual calendar. The Co-Chairpersons are the ethics point people and are responsible for conflict resolution when needed. The Co-Chairpersons participate in weekly conference calls with the Vice Chairperson and are available by phone when needed. The Co-Chairpersons send weekly email communications to the league. The Co-Chairpersons are the primary liaisons with principals, the Director of Officials and the Board of Athletic Directors. The Co-Chairpersons work with the CCYL technology manager to keep the website up to date. They are responsible for procuring competition awards. The Chairpersons are members of the Executive Board.

2) Vice-Chairperson(s): Elected to a two-year term of office and may be re-elected to additional terms. The vice- Chairperson participates in weekly conference calls with the Chairperson or Co-Chairpersons and is available by phone when needed. The vice-Chairperson is a liaison with the Board of Athletic Directors. The vice-Chairperson is part of the Executive Board. These roles can consist, but are limited to, directors of technology and specific sport directors.

3) Secretary: The Board of Athletic Directors elects the Secretary. The Secretary is elected to a two-year term and may be re-elected to additional terms. The Secretary will keep minutes for all Board of Athletic Directors Meetings and Executive Board Meetings. The Secretary is responsible for keeping and organizing all current conference minutes, board approved policies, documents, and archives. The Secretary will organize the movement of meetings throughout the year and will be responsible for reminder emails to the Board of Athletic Directors and Executive Board Members prior to Meetings. When there is a vote regarding either Board the count will be recorded in the minutes.

3) Treasurer: The Board of Directors elects the Treasurer. The Treasurer is elected to a two-year term of office and may be re-elected to additional terms. The Treasurer is responsible for all financial dealings, and recording and reporting of those dealings, for the conference including managing postseason scheduling. The Treasurer maintains the current financial records.

Section 4. Executive Board: The Executive Board will consist of the Co-Chairpersons and vice-Chairpersons, along with at least three school principals and/or pastors from member schools. All principals from member schools are expected to serve at least one year on the Executive Board. No more than 2 principals will roll off the board each year.

The Executive Board's primary responsibility will be to serve as a conflict resolution resource for any issues relating to CCYL, or on important matters referred by the Board of Athletic Directors.

When a member of the Executive Board's school is involved in an incident requiring conflict resolution or mediation, that member must recuse him/herself from the resolution or mediation process. The Executive Board will meet quarterly and when conflict resolution and mediation are required.

MEMBERSHIP PROCESS

Section 1. Application: Schools may request membership in the conference by petition to the Board of Athletic Directors (herein School will be referred to as "Member"). Such schools may be permitted member status upon submission of the following items to the Board of Athletic Directors, as defined herein:

1) A formal written request (via school Principal and athletic representatives) to become a member of CCYL, including a commitment acknowledging that CCYL will be the applicant's sole school-sponsored basketball league.

2) A statement of intention to follow all CCYL bylaws, rules, and guidelines.

To be approved as a member of CCYL, the applicant must receive a minimum vote consisting of 75% of CCYL schools in favor of the applicant's school. New member schools enter into a one year probationary period, at which time the school is offered full membership or membership is not granted.

Section 2. Continuation: Each spring, the member organizations will indicate their intention to continue their membership in CCYL by submitting the names of their respective member representatives (Athletic Directors or Athletic Representative) and alternates for the following year with current telephone numbers and e-mail addresses. School administration must also sign and date the annual calendar produced by the Chairpersons. Schools will follow this calendar and its dates. These must be returned by April 30 of each year. Failure to submit representative names, intent, and signed calendar by the set date will result in termination of membership and be considered voluntary.

Section 3. Voluntary Termination: Member organizations may terminate their participation in the conference at the end of the academic year by notifying the Board of Athletic Directors in writing. Schools who wish to reapply must wait two years and reapply as a new school would.

Section 4. Involuntary Termination: Membership may be terminated by a vote of the majority of the Board of Athletic Directors *or Executive Board with Board Principals*. The Board of Athletic Directors will vote, and may terminate a member, when a member has been found in violation of CCYL rules including, but not limited to, one or more of the following rules:

1) Members attend CCYL athletic meetings;

2) Members attend mandatory CCYL athletic director meeting(s) and/or 75% of general monthly meetings;

3) Members will have their designated representative (or alternate) at all Board of Athletic Directors meetings;

- 4) Members follow and abide by all CCYL rules, regulations and by-laws;
- 5) Members will designate CCYL as their primary league for all sports in which they field a team; and,
- 6) If a Member has more than one team per grade in a sport that CCYL offers; that Member must enter all of the teams in CCYL.
- 7) A school whose membership is terminated can not reapply for membership for a minimum of two calendar school years.

Section 5. Probation. The Board of Athletic Directors, in collaboration with the Executive Board of Member Principals, retains the authority to place a member school on probationary status. The duration of probation will be no less than one calendar year and may involve specified conditions. Following the probation period, the school's probationary status may be terminated, continued, or the involuntary termination of membership process, as outlined in Section 4, may be initiated.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Section 1. Purpose: To investigate, mediate and resolve CCYL disputes as it relates to conduct in competition (or any other matter referred by the Board of Athletic Directors to the Executive Board) and define the consequence that will be enforced when inappropriate behavior has occurred.

Section 2. Rule: All CCYL Members will display good sportsmanship and conduct consistent with Catholic teachings. In support of this rule, teams are required to take part in a moment of prayer and reflection before the start of each game.

Section 3. Procedure: CCYL will not tolerate inappropriate behavior. Inappropriate behavior has been defined as the teasing, taunting, harassing, badgering, bothering, hassling, gesturing, or other improper behavior by a coach, player, team, or fan directed at any player, player's family, coach, official or spectator before, during and after any game or event sponsored by CCYL. Examples of inappropriate behavior include, but are not limited to, racial or sexual discrimination in any form, use of profanity, cheating, fighting, and excessive physical contact.

Any person(s) or school found guilty of this behavior shall have sanctions imposed on them by CCYL. If inappropriate behavior is suspected, the following steps shall be followed:

- 1) The Athletic Director or Principal shall contact the Athletic Director and/or Principal at the other school involved in the incident within 24 hours. The school representatives will attempt to come to an acceptable resolution for the incident.
- 2) If the two schools are unable to come to an acceptable resolution, the Athletic Director or Principal shall contact the Executive Board within 72 hours of the alleged inappropriate behavior via email ("Complaint"). The email shall list the time, date, and location of the suspected behavior, and include a summary of the alleged inappropriate behavior (as well as the identification of witnesses and their telephone numbers and email addresses).

3) The Executive Board shall give a copy of the Complaint to the Athletic Director and Principal of the accused school. The accused school shall then have 72 hours to either affirm or deny the Complaint. The accused school shall have the opportunity to answer via email (and assert any counterclaim).

4) Within one week of the answer, the Executive Board will contact the Athletic Directors and Principals from each of the schools to discuss the Complaint, and meet with the schools if it deems necessary. The Executive Board shall act as a mediator and shall attempt to negotiate an equitable resolution. This resolution, if accepted by the parties, shall be put in writing and signed by the Athletic Directors and Principals of each school.

5) If the Complaint can't be resolved through mediation, the Executive Board will render its decision by majority vote.

6) If the Complaint(s) is sustained, the Executive Board will then determine the sanction. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to reprimand, forfeiture of game(s), fine, suspensions or expulsion from CCYL. All decisions and sanctions shall be put in writing. The Executive Board's decision will be considered final.

7) Conflict resolution does pertain to a rule violation.

PARTICIPATION

All teams that are registered to play in CCYL are automatically bound and committed to playing the entire schedule of games they are assigned to play, both at their home court and at any other site that they are assigned. All participants must be full-time registered students at Member schools.

LEAGUE RULES

CCYL Developmental League (Boys and Girls, Grades 4, 5, 6)

The Developmental League will use game rules as identified and approved by CCYL. Any changes to the gameplay rules will be determined by a vote of the Board of Athletic Directors prior to the beginning of the season. Players below the 4th Grade level will **not** be allowed to participate.

CCYL 7th/8th Grade League (Boys and Girls, Grades 7 and 8)

The 7th and 8th Grade League will use game rules as identified and approved by CCYL. Any changes to the gameplay rules will be determined by a vote of the Board of Athletic Directors prior to the beginning of the season

MULTIPLE TEAMS

When a member school has only one team in a grade level (7th and 8th only), that team must play in the "A" level. However, a member school may make a request to the Board of Athletic Directors to have that team placed in the "B" level. Prior year participation as a member school in CCYL is required before any change request can be made and AD available criteria must be followed in submitting for an exemption to enter just a B, or Skyline team. Schools with more than one team per level may enter as many teams as they wish in the "A" level. "A" teams will not play "B" teams, except when a level and gender (ex. 8th Grade girls) does not have enough teams as determined by

the Board of Athletic Directors at the preseason meeting. In this case, the “B” teams will participate in the “A” level. There will be two separate divisions and a separate postseason tournament. Once the season begins, the divisions will be locked in place for that season. Schools must submit rosters by the date set on the annual calendar.

SCHEDULING OF GAMES

Basketball games for the 7th/8th Grade League and Developmental League (4th/5th/6th) will begin in mid-November and conclude by the end of March. Full season game schedules will be disseminated to the participating schools several weeks prior to the start of the season. Basketball games for the 7th/8th Grade League and Developmental League will be coordinated by the ADs from CCYL at a scheduling meeting in early October. Coaches are not allowed to attend or to participate in the scheduling meeting. Only the ADs and one assistant may attend. Developmental League games will continue to be played on Saturdays and the 7th/8th Grade games will continue to be held throughout the week and on weekends. No games will be scheduled over Thanksgiving/Christmas/New Year’s break. *Football scheduling will take place at the league kick off meeting each August. Schools should come prepared with football team information. Blackout dates and times are highly discouraged and may not be honored due to our limited playing time for football.

Discipline - Ejections/Suspensions

Any player, coach, or parent ejected from a CCYL contest by an official or school administrator is then subject to a mandatory 2 game suspension, the next two contests for that team. The individual must also view the NFHS Online Sportsmanship course and review related Play Like A Champion Today literature, before they can return. This must be cleared by the school AD.

If a player, coach, or parent is ejected from a second CCYL contest that person is then subject to a mandatory 5 game suspension from CCYL contests or review of their future attendance at any CCYL event.

Further ejections will result in season long or permanent suspension from CCYL contests.

SUBMISSION OF ROSTERS

Purpose: CCYL will keep a current roster for all participating teams to verify player and coach eligibility.

1) All CCYL Athletic Directors or Representatives must submit rosters to the League PRIOR at the start of each season. The roster MUST include the name of the Head Coach and the names of all Assistant Coaches, along with their phone numbers and email addresses. The Athletic Director and Principal of each participating team shall verify their roster. All players must be listed with their name and grade level. A player may only be listed on one team, except as permitted below.

2) In the event where a basketball team has fewer than 8 players, that team may bring up players from the grade below to reach 8 players (players cannot play up two grade levels unless the school does not field a team in the grade level directly above). This may be done for the duration of the season (a season pass), or for an individual game due to a shortage of players (day pass). For example, if a 6th Grade team only has 6 players from that grade signed up to participate in basketball for that season, then that team may call up 2 players from 5th Grade for the duration of the season – this is to be referred to as a “season pass.” If a 5th Grade team, which normally has 10 players but 4 players are absent due to sickness/conflict/etc., then that team may bring up two players from the prior grade to get to 8 players – this is to be referred to as a “day pass.” Season Passes and Day Passes must be approved by the Executive Board and shared between Athletic Directors before the player(s) may participate in a game. Players on either Season or Day Passes may only play on one team in an upper grade. For example, Player A in 4th grade is not allowed to play up on both the 5th grade red team and the 5th grade blue team, even once during the course of the season.

Player(s) that are playing up may not start in a game unless there are not enough players at the select grade level. A player that plays up may only play up on one team during the course of the season.

Schools are not permitted to intentionally split teams at a grade level in order to allow talented players to play up, giving an unfair playing advantage. For example, a school with 10 7th grader players should not create two teams to allow talented 6th graders to play on both the 6th and 7th grade teams. Furthermore, if a school does not have enough players in a grade level for two teams (w/out having to borrow players from the grade below every week), then the school should field just A team. Lakefront teams can only borrow from Lakefront teams and Skyline teams can only borrow from Skyline teams in the 7th to the 8th grade. 6th graders should not play on Skyline teams.

3) Players may not play down a grade level, unless agreed to by the Executive Board – prior to the submission of the rosters. Boys may not play in the girl’s league at any time, and girls can only play on the boy’s team if the school doesn’t offer a girls team at a similar grade level. **3rd Grade students** (and below) are NOT eligible to participate in any CCYL event.

4) Students who transfer from Member schools to non-member schools are immediately ineligible for participation. Students transferring from one Member school to another Member school may be deemed eligible if the transfer occurs two weeks prior to January 1st of the given school year. All transfers will be reviewed by the Board of Athletic Directors and are subject to ruling by the Executive Board.

5) If a Member school does not have a sports program or a specific sport (hereafter referred to as primary school), their school students may be eligible to participate at an alternative member school (hereafter referred to as a secondary school). The secondary school shall be located within a reasonable proximity to the primary school and have a need for players in their program or sport. A formal request to allow the student(s) to play must be submitted to the Board of Athletic Directors before the player begins to participate. The Board of Athletic Directors will make the final determination on the player’s eligibility. If the secondary school takes a player from the primary school, they must take all players from the primary school that wish to participate.

ELIGIBILITY

Students must be enrolled full-time in their respective school and be listed on the team roster to participate in CCYL. All rosters must be confirmed and signed by each school's Principal and Athletic Director and submitted to CCYL before the first game. Any change to the original roster must also be approved by the school Principal and Athletic Director first, and then submitted to CCYL up to the date of the team's first league game. Any school that uses a player not listed on their team's roster regardless of that player's grade level will cause that team to forfeit all games that player was involved in. For teams that have submitted multiple teams at the same level, players are allowed to only play on one team. If detected, forfeits will be administered and may result in disqualification from the playoffs

AGE REQUIREMENTS

Students are ineligible to play after reaching their 15th birthday for 8th grade teams, 14th birthday for 7th grade teams, 13th birthday for 6th grade teams, 12th birthday for 5th grade teams. A player may petition the Executive Board for any discrepancies. The Executive Board shall rule on certification of any student with a discrepancy, until approval is granted, the student is ineligible.

SCORES

Scores must be reported by the Member school's athletic representative to the CCYL within 48 hours of the contest's completion.

FEES

Each Member school will be required to submit league participation fees for each one of its teams at a date to be determined prior to the start of the season. Fees will include, among other things, the costs for referees, awards\ trophies, and technology. Annual league member dues will be collected at the beginning of each school year.