

## **ST. DOROTHY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION HANDBOOK**

**The objective of St. Dorothy's Athletic Program is to provide parish students with the opportunity to participate in organized, athletic competition based on Christian principles of fair play and sportsmanship. Through CYO sports, the students are brought together in an atmosphere that fosters the recognition of their strengths and limitations, the development of friendship and teamwork, and the ability to deal graciously with both victory and defeat.**

**St. Dorothy's Athletic Program is a member of Region 25 of the Archdiocesan Youth Ministry program and follows guidelines set forth in Archdiocese of Philadelphia Athletic Handbook.**

**Sports** - The following sports are offered at St. Dorothy's Parish:

**Fall**

- JV Football (Boys grades 5-6)
- Varsity Football (Boys grades 7-8)
- JV Field Hockey (Girls grades 5-6)
- Varsity Field Hockey (Girls grades 7-8)
- JV Soccer (Boys and Girls grades 5-6)
- Varsity Soccer (Boys and Girls grades 7-8)
- JV Volleyball (Girls grades 5-6)
- Varsity Volleyball (Girls grades 7-8)
- Cross Country (Boys and Girls grades 4-8)

**Winter**

- JV Basketball, "A" & "B" programs (Girls grades 5-6)
- Varsity Basketball, "A" & "B" programs (Girls grades 7-8)
- JV Basketball, "A" & "B" programs (Boys grades 5-6)
- Varsity Basketball, "A" & "B" programs (Boys grades 7-8)

**Spring**

- Track & Field (Girls grades 4-8)
- Track & Field (Boys grades 4-8)
- JV Softball (Girls grades 5-6)
- Varsity Softball (Girls grades 7-8)
- JV Baseball (Boys grades 5-6)
- Varsity Baseball (Boys grades 7-8)

**Team Classifications** - There are two classifications of teams for sports that may mandate such.

**"A" Team**

- Designed for higher skilled athlete, therefore a student must tryout for this team.
- Open tryouts will be held for all students for each sport. The tryouts are conducted by the coaches of each team and a player's performance is evaluated by the coaches. The coaches select the team based on their evaluations.
- The "A" league is more competitive in nature and coaches are not required to guarantee playing time for each member of the team during games. The coaches are encouraged to play all players as much as possible during a game.

**"B" Team**

- Designed as more of an instructional league. Every player is required to play a specified amount of time based on league rules during a game. The "B" teams are part of the regional parish league. St. Dorothy may enter more than one "B" team for each sport. The number of teams is based on the availability of coaches, equipment and field (or gym) time.

## **Student Eligibility**

### Parish School Students

- A boy or girl who attends St. Dorothy School may participate for their parish school team.
- A boy or girl who attends a parish school other than their registered parish may participate with their school team. However, once a student establishes a reference, the individual may not play for another parish for the remainder of the school year. Example: A student may not play soccer for the school he/she attends and then play basketball for the parish he/she is registered in.

### Public School Students

- If a public school student is Catholic and a registered member of the parish, the student is eligible to participate in the CYO Sports Program. It is recommended that the student be enrolled in the PREP program. However, if the student is a member of team at his/her school, he/she is not eligible to participate in that sport in the CYO Sports Program.

### Private Catholic School Students

- If a private Catholic school student is a registered member of the parish, he/she is eligible to participate in the CYO Sports Program at that parish. However, if the student is a member of a team at his/her school, he/she is not eligible to participate in that sport in the CYO Sports Program.
- Students must meet the age and grade requirements for each sport, as outlined in the CYO Handbook.
- Students must maintain a passing grade in conduct to be eligible to participate in the CYO Sports Program. Failure to maintain a passing conduct grade may make a student ineligible for CYO sports for that marking period. This is at the discretion of the St. Dorothy School principal.
- If a student moves on/or after August 1, November 1 or March 1, he/she may participate with his/her old parish team(s) for the remainder of the season, or he/she may join the team of his/her new parish. If he/she chooses to play for the new parish, he/she may not return to his/her old parish's team.

## **Student Suspension/Expulsion**

- To be a member of St. Dorothy's athletic program is a privilege and represents a long standing parish tradition. The students are expected to represent the parish in a Christian manner both on and off the playing field, honor the school code of conduct and comply with CYO and St. Dorothy guidelines.
- The following infractions which occur during a game or practice will result in removal from the game and suspension for at least the next game depending on the severity of the action. A 2nd infraction will result in removal from the game and a two game suspension. Each additional occurrence will result in an additional game suspension.
- Refuse to abide by an official's decision.
- A player receiving a technical foul, yellow card, unsportsman like conduct penalty or any other similar infraction.
- Be guilty of objectionable demonstrations by throwing equipment or any other forceful action.

- Be guilty of heaping personal verbal abuse upon any official for any real or imaginary wrong decision or judgement.
  - Be guilty of abusive verbal attack upon any player, opposing coach, official or spectator.
  - At any time lay hands upon, push shove, strike or threaten to strike an official, coach, or spectator.
  - Be guilty of a physical attack as an aggressor upon any player.
  - Be guilty of the use of vulgar or foul language.
- A student may be suspended or expelled from the sports program for their behavior in the school.
- A student receiving one conduct referral will be suspended from competing in his/ her next sporting event. Repetition of the behavior may result in further disciplinary action, including expulsion from the team. Suspensions and expulsions will be carried from season to season. If an athlete participates in more than one sport in a season, he/she will be suspended from both teams. This is at the discretion of the St. Dorothy School principal.
- Be guilty of the destruction of church or school property. The suspension will be based on the severity of the action.
  - Be guilty of verbally abusing or physically attacking a school authority figure, or be guilty of an offense that is considered criminal in nature. The suspension will be based on the severity of the action.
  - Any student who is expelled from his/her day school will be not be eligible for the CYO Sports Program for that school year. The student must apply to the St. Dorothy Athletic Association Board in order to regain his/her playing status. The board reserves the right to decline this application.

## **Academics**

- Students will not be removed from a team due to his/her grades. However, it is encouraged that parents monitor and determine whether or not the commitment of the sports program is negatively affecting the student's academic performance.

## **Coaches Responsibilities**

A coach is responsible for teaching athletics within a Christian context. CYO coaches must be 21 years of age or older and must be present and responsible for his/her team at all times.

### Responsibilities include:

- Attend a Coaches Accreditation Seminar sponsored by the Archdiocesan CYO Office.
- As per Archdiocesan regulations all coaches and assistant coaches must be accredited by their second year of coaching.
- Be knowledgeable of all aspects of the CYO athletics manual and to make sure all rules and policies are observed.
- Check all rosters for accuracy of birth dates, school, grade and parish registration.
- Conduct themselves in a Christian manner which will reflect positively on the parish and the CYO, and ensure the athletes do the same.
- Teach and guide the athletes with a sense of fair play, sportsmanship and acceptance of winning and losing in accordance with Christian values.
- Be responsible for the actions of team members.
- Inform the Athletic Association Board of any misconduct of an athlete which is in violation of the code of conduct.
- Take care not to schedule games or practices which will interfere with holy days, religious duties and classes.
- Conduct a parent/coach meeting prior to the start of the season.

## **Coach Suspension**

The Athletic Association Board may relieve a coach of his/her position(s) if found to be in violation of Archdiocesan or St. Dorothy's policy. Specific violations are listed below.

- Failure to inform the Athletic Association Board of any infractions by a player of CYO or St. Dorothy policy.
- Failure to comply with any or all of the Athletic Association Board's sanctions for a player's suspension or expulsion.
- Failure to attend the coach's accreditation program prior to his/her second year of coaching.
- Outbursts of anger, foul language, physical or verbal abuse towards a player, ref, opposing coach or others.

## **Team Awards**

The Athletic Association will provide a monetary contribution (to be specified prior to each school year) to all St. Dorothy teams that wins a regional championship. The teams will decide on the award.

## Student/Athlete Responsibility Contract

- I have read and understand the rules of the St. Dorothy Athletic Association Handbook and agree
- to obey them.
- I understand that failure to obey the rules will result in disciplinary actions against me.
- I understand that during practices and games my coach(es) is my supervisor. I will listen to him/her when he/she asks for my attention; obey his/her directions; and never show him/her disrespect.
- I understand that I must respect the calls and directions of the game officials. Although, I may not agree with their judgement, I must accept their decisions.
- I understand that I am part of a team, therefore it is important for me to attend practices and games. I will inform my coach when I cannot attend practices and games.
- I understand that at no time may I show disrespect to coaches, other adults including school authority figures, my team or opposing team members; participate in a verbal or physical fight ; or use foul language.
- I understand that during practices and games I must not leave the gym, field or track without notifying my coach.
- I understand that a school suspension will result in a suspension from a sporting event. I further understand that if a behavior problem continues a more serious penalty may be imposed.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ have read and understood all of  
(Print Name)  
the above points of the contract. I understand that failure to uphold these responsibilities may result in a review of my status and possible dismissal from the St. Dorothy CYO Athletic Program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student/Player's Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

I, \_\_\_\_\_, parent/legal guardian of the above  
(Print Name)  
student, have read and understood all the terms of the St. Dorothy Athletic Association Handbook. I understand that I, too, am responsible for my child's actions during his/her participation in CYO Sports. I hereby authorize my child to enter into this contract.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Legal Guardian's Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

## Coaches' Responsibility Contract

- Coaches must conduct themselves in a Christian manner and in accordance with CYO and St. Dorothy Athletic policies. Coaches must treat players, coaches and officials with respect.
- Coaches must insist on sportsmanlike behavior from their teams at all times. Foul language, unsportsman like conduct, etc. will not be tolerated. Coaches must be knowledgeable of all CYO and St. Dorothy policies and enforce all penalties given to an athlete.
- Coaches are responsible for the care of their equipment and the facilities. The gym, playing fields, bathrooms, etc. must be left in good order after use.
- Coaches are responsible for the distribution and collection of uniforms and equipment.
- Coaches must be accredited CYO coaches by their second full season of coaching.
- Coaches must fill out the player roster form and submit the form the Athletic Association president for signature and determination of player eligibility.
- Coaches must be 21 years of age or older.
- Coaches must take care not to schedule practices or games which interfere holy day observances, religious duties and classes.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and agree to honor the  
(Print Name)

Coaches Responsibility Contract. I understand that failure to uphold these points will result in review of my status as a St. Dorothy CYO Athletic Coach.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Sport \_\_\_\_\_