

**BISHOP LEIBOLD**  
**ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**  
**POLICY MANUAL**



*THIS MANUAL WAS OFFICIALLY ADOPTED BY THE BISHOP LEIBOLD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION ON JULY 1, 2015 AND IS REVISED AS REQUIRED.*

## Policy Manual

### **1. Purpose**

The following are guidelines and policies established by the Bishop Leibold Athletic Association in order that the volunteer coaches can fully understand their responsibility to the school children, to the Parish and school community, and to the Athletic Association. Also, this manual includes expectations for Coaches, Athletes, and Parents/Guardians. This document also serves to communicate the policies between the Athletic Association and Parents/Guardians, and school administration. It is the intent of this Policy to fully comply with the Archdiocese of Cincinnati *Charter on Catholic Youth Athletics* and any future amendments to Charter (“Charter”). If any part of this manual conflicts today or in the future with the “Charter”, the guidance in the “Charter” should prevail.

### **2. Mission**

The mission of the Bishop Leibold Athletic Association (BLAA) is as follows:

- A) To serve as the officially recognized organization which provides, promotes, directs and administers all athletic programs sponsored under the name of Bishop Leibold School, serving the St. Henry, Our Lady of Good Hope, and St. Mary’s parishioners;
- B) To promote faith, character, virtue, self-confidence, communication capabilities and leadership skills in the context of athletics;
- C) To cooperate with the Parish Leadership of St. Henry, Our Lady of Good Hope, and St. Mary’s parish and BLS Board to achieve the goals and objectives of the Parishes;
- D) To promote fund raising functions within the overall framework of the Parish Community fundraising arm in order to finance the sponsored athletic programs.

### **3. Structure, governance, operations**

The Bishop Leibold Athletic Association (BLAA) operates under the authority of the Pastor or Pastors of St. Henry and Our Lady of Good Hope. The BLAA is accountable to the Pastor(s) regarding matters including resources, finances, buildings and insurance.

The Athletic Director is responsible for the entire administration of the Athletic Program. The Athletic Director is recommended to the Pastor of St. Henry by the prior Athletic Director, and approved by that Pastor. The Pastor has the ability to remove the Athletic Director at any time. The Athletic Director should generally serve a 2-3 year term. The following positions should be filled to effectively run a successful athletic program:

- Assistant Athletic Director
- Treasurer (one bank account should have Treasurer, AD, and Pastor as signators, with Treasurer maintaining the check book). Bank statements are sent to Pastor, Athletic Director and Treasurer both for proper use of funds.
- Secretary or Secretaries (to help with paperwork on Sports)
- Sports Directors for Each Sport
- Uniform Coordinator
- Picture Coordinator

**4. Spiritual Liaison**      The BLAA shall have a designated Spiritual Liaison.

A) Selection:

- i. Catholic – the Spiritual Liaison should be an active Catholic in good standing with the Church. The Spiritual Liaison may be ordained, religious or lay, a paid staff member, or a volunteer.
- ii. Appointment – the Spiritual Liaison should be appointed by the Pastor and report directly to him or his designee.

B) Duties:

- i. Communication – Responsible for communicating the spirit, mission, goals and principles of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Charter on Catholic Youth Athletics to all in the BLAA.
- ii. Promote ministry spirit – Assist coaches in implementing a spirit of ministry, as reviewed annually at the coaches’ ministry meeting, in practices and at games throughout the season.
- iii. Resources – Provide resources, including prayers and other resources, to assist coaches in their youth athletics ministry.
- iv. Listening – be a listening ear outside of the athletics organization for coaches, parents or athletes.
- v. Grievance Committee – The Spiritual Liaison should be a member of the BLAA Grievance Committee.

**5. Philosophy**      Grade school sports are frequently the student’s only exposure to athletics as a Participant. The Athletic Association wants to provide that participation opportunity for as many students as possible. Participation in amateur athletic programs should be a learning and growth experience while providing enjoyment. All players need to actually compete in games and practices to maximize their learning experience and to develop skills. Therefore, each coach is obligated to follow the participation guidelines outlined later in the Bishop Leibold Athletic Association Policy Manual.

Athletic coaches should realize that students have other obligations and activities that may or may not be as important as athletic involvement. Family, church, school, scouting, choir, and part-time jobs all compete for the student’s time and interest. As part of the process in becoming a well-adjusted adult (maturing), the student must use good judgment in developing their athletic commitments.

**6. Player Eligibility**      The following eligibility requirements must be met in order to participate on a team.

A) Participants must be one of the following:

- i. A student attending Bishop Leibold School or a Parish member (St. Henry, St. Mary or Our Lady of Good Hope attending Religious Education) in the current school year, OR
- ii. A student of an surrounding Catholic Parish that does not offer the particular sport or does not have enough students to make a team for a given grade or age group.

- B) If a student leaves Bishop Leibold School or an athlete who is a parish member withdraws from the Religious Education (RE) Program, his or her eligibility will be terminated unless section 6(A)(ii) applies.
- C) Parents as well as students/athletes are to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the philosophy of Bishop Leibold School. Violations of the Code of Conduct may result in suspension or removal of either the parent or student from participation in athletic programs.
- D) The participant is expected to play for Bishop Leibold School the entire school year, unless the participant's family residence moves to a different locale and parish or if section 6(A)(ii) applies.

**7. Sport Registration**

- A) The Athletic Director will conduct a registration for each sport during the school year.
- B) Registration periods will be at least two weeks in duration.
- C) Registration will be coordinated by the Athletic Director and the Sport Director according to the following schedule:

| <u>Spring (Fall Sports)</u> | <u>Fall (Winter Sports)</u> | <u>Winter (Spring Sports)</u> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Soccer (CYO and SAY)        | Boys Basketball             | Boys Volleyball               |
| Golf                        | Girls Basketball            | Girls Volleyball              |
| Cheerleading                |                             | Track                         |

- D) Registration will be conducted online via the Bishop Leibold School website, under the Athletic Association tab. Registration fees can be paid by credit card online when registering or by check submitted pursuant to the registration guidelines. The Athletic Treasurer will collect and record the fees.
- E) Students will not be permitted to register for another sport if:
  - i. There are unpaid fees from any previous participation.
  - ii. There is an unresolved violation of prior Code of Conduct by Athlete or Parent/Guardian.
- F) To provide CYO with the appropriate information, it is important that each student sign up within the announced registration period. The Athletic Director uses registration to determine the number and grades/ages of teams that will compete in the upcoming season. The Sport Director must form teams with an adequate number of players, and secure the requisite number of coaches per team before the CYO league entry deadlines. Therefore, we cannot guarantee a spot on a roster for individuals who have not signed up by the announced registration deadline date.

**8. Sport Director Responsibilities**

- A) Determine equipment and uniform needs and work with the Uniform/Equipment Coordinator (if one appointed) to address these needs. This should be done several months before the season begins to assure proper time to order uniforms.
- B) Coordinate the sport registration process.
  - i. Send a flyer home with each eligible student (Bishop Leibold School and Religious Education) on first day of registration period.

- ii. Ensure registration is open on the Bishop Leibold School website.
  - iii. Place announcements in Church bulletins for at least two weeks (Sunday before start and Sunday during registration period).
  - iv. Place registration announcement in weekly/monthly school newsletter.
  - v. Place sign-up announcement on the BLS School/Athletic Association website.
- C) Complete CYO team placement form designating which league team(s) should be placed in, based on ability level of team members.
  - D) Assist the Treasurer in the collection of any registration fees submitted to the school or rectory.
  - E) In forming teams, if more players are needed to field a team, see if there are children in Bishop Leibold who are one grade higher or lower (but not below 3<sup>rd</sup> grade) that do not have their own grade team that might be eligible and interested to play. CYO allows a maximum of 2 older players to play on a lower level team, and any number of younger players to play up one grade. In some cases, you may need to contact nearby parishes or the Dayton CYO coordinator for additional players. This should only happen when the other parish is also having a similar need for players. Players cannot be “recruited” from other parishes.
  - F) Schedule evaluations/tryouts - 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade A & B teams for basketball and volleyball. In competitive leagues (A & B teams), impartial observers should be used to evaluate players and make team selections. Setup time with scheduling coordinator for use of Parish Activity Center (PAC) and send out flyers announcing evaluations to players. Based on the above mentioned evaluations/tryouts it will be the discretion of the Sport Director and Athletic Director to determine if it is in the best interest of the students to have A & B teams (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades only) or to split the teams equally.
  - G) Determine the number of teams at each level.
  - H) Select team head and assistant coaches. See Section 9 - Coaching Eligibility, and
  - I) Verify that coaches have completed VIRTUS (Child Protection Class) and have submitted to fingerprinting and background checks.
  - J) Review Athletic Participation Policy (Section 20) with coaches prior to practices starting.
  - K) Complete team rosters listing all team members and obtaining signatures of Athletic Director, Pastor and Principal.
  - L) Submit roster and entry fees (obtain check from Treasurer) to CYO office by deadline. Also include scheduling conflicts (e.g. Sacrament dates, scout outings, science fairs, etc. so that the CYO will not schedule a game in conflict.)
  - M) After a season begins, new registrations can be accepted and team members added within certain periods for each sport. Check the sport rules on the CYO website for the applicable periods.
  - N) Before the first practice, give roster lists to coaches. The lists include the parent/guardian acknowledgements for medical release and emergency contact info.
  - O) Provide notification to all coaches of date, time, and location of CYO coaches meeting. Coaches will receive game schedules at this meeting.
  - P) Assist Athletic Director’s scheduling coordinator in scheduling team practices.
  - Q) Arrange time with coaches to handout equipment and uniforms.
  - R) Schedule team pictures with picture coordinator.
  - S) Conduct Parent/Coaches meeting. Topics of meeting:
    - Behavior/Conduct (Coaches, Parents/Guardians, Players)
    - Email coach evaluation forms for all players
    - Calendar (Practice start, game start, end season)
    - Each coach should receive a copy of this Policy Manual. Make parents aware of Policy Manual and how to obtain from website (Participation guidelines, suspension policy)

- Inform coaches that any information to be supplied for publication (in newspapers, newsletters, or websites) must be reviewed by the Athletic Director.
  - Lines of communication (Coaches, Sport Director, Athletic Director)
- T) Collect uniforms and equipment at end of season. Provide uniform coordinator with list of students who did not return the uniforms or equipment.
- U) Order trophies for league/tournament winners as described in Section 19 – Awards.
- V) Provide a list of proposed “equipment needs” to the Athletic Director for the upcoming year for their specific sport.

## 9. League and Tournament Participation

- A) Approved leagues and tournaments: Athletic teams are expected to participate only in leagues approved by the Pastor or the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Catholic Youth Athletics Commission. Tournament participation is limited to tournaments sponsored by leagues, or parishes or schools within the leagues.
- B) Tournament fees: There shall be no financial or other obligation placed upon parents to participate in more tournaments than those for which the BLAA has planned and paid.
- C) Uniforms: Team uniforms are for parish and/or school sanctioned activities (e.g. games, tournaments, pep rallies, etc.). Uniforms are defined as only those that are required to be returned to the BLAA after the season has ended. Uniforms from previous years or single season uniforms are not covered under this clause.
- D) Parity between boys and girls: The BLAA should strive for parity between boys’ and girls’ athletics.
- E) Tournament limits: The BLAA should establish reasonable and not excessive tournament schedules to avoid undue burdens on families.

## 10. Coaching Eligibility

- A) The following criteria will be taken into consideration when determining eligibility to coach:
- i. Age Requirements:
    - a. Head coaches should be at least 21 years of age.
    - b. Assistant coaches should be at least 19 years of age, and a high school graduate.
  - ii. Gender Requirement: Single-sex athletic teams must have at least one adult of the same gender as the players in attendance at every practice and game.
  - iii. Other Criteria:
    - a. Virtue – Lives values and virtues of the Catholic faith whether or not a member of the Catholic Church.
    - b. Capabilities – Knowledgeable about the sport and prior coaching/volunteer experience.
    - c. Rapport – Exhibits positive rapport with both children and adults.
    - d. Maturity – Exhibits appropriate maturity (e.g. level headed, able to control temper, accepts criticism, etc.)
    - e. Commitment – Able to commit the time necessary for preparation, practices, and games.
- B) In order to coach, individuals must be in compliance and up to date with the Archdiocese of Cincinnati *Decree on Child Protection*, including attending a VIRTUS Child Awareness session and submitting to fingerprinting and a background check.
- C) Any issue, conflict or disagreement as to coaching eligibility shall be resolved pursuant to the Grievance process outlined in Section 22.

## 11. Coaches' Responsibilities

- A) Compliance with this Policy, the Coaches' Code of Conduct and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati *Decree on Child Protection*.
- B) Complete training on concussions and the requirements of Ohio law regarding head injuries.
- C) Represent the team with a high level of sportsmanship, integrity, and respect towards the players, parents, officials and opponents at all times.
- D) Support and assist in the spiritual, emotional, social and physical development of all players by providing opportunities for athletic skills training, character development, and spiritual growth.
- E) Work with the Spiritual Liaison to ensure an environment conducive to growth in faith, character, and virtues. Reinforce with the players and their families the importance of faith and religious practices.
- F) Ensure that prayer happens at each practice and game.
- G) Head coaches should ensure that assistant coaches are clear on the Code of Conduct (See Section 22). All coaches, including head coaches, are expected to sign and submit copies of the Code of Conduct affirming their commitment to it. These should be retained and kept on file at the parish, or non-parish school.
- H) Violations of this Policy, the Coaches' Code of Conduct, and/or the Archdiocese of Cincinnati *Decree on Child Protection* will be reviewed by the Athletic Director and may result in suspension or revocation of coaching eligibility.

## 12. Practices

- A) At least two adult coaches or parents must be present at all practices who have completed VIRTUS and Concussion training. For single-sex teams, one of the two adults must be of the same gender as the players.
- B) Practices should be structured in order that all team members receive equivalent instruction and practice time. In no case, except for disciplinary reasons, should a coach consistently concentrate his/her instruction time on certain players (i.e. starters or regulars) due to the exclusion of other team members. The number and duration of practices should take into consideration the grade level of the children. The Sport Director for a particular sport will decide if the number and length of practices are inappropriate.
- C) The head coach should differentiate between excused and un-excused absences. Conflicts will occur, but the coach should require that he/she be contacted whenever a child will miss a practice. Attendance problems can be avoided by publishing an attendance policy, team rosters, and the schedules for practices and games. Coaches are strongly encouraged to send home this information along with general team guidelines. A coach/parent/athlete meeting, early in the practice season is an effective way to communicate positive expectations and goals.

## 13. Games

- A) The head coach must have the assistant coach or a parent volunteer who has completed VIRTUS training available at all games.
- B) Coaches must abide by the Participation Policy in Section 21.

## **14. Scheduling Criteria**

No athletic activities (including games, practices, tournaments, and other meetings) are permitted to be scheduled or conducted during the following, whether at Bishop Leibold facilities or not:

- A) Sundays and Holy Days prior to 1:00 PM (e.g., 1:00 pm kickoff, tipoff, starting whistle, etc.) Also, no scheduling of athletic activities on-site at the Parish that would adversely affect the Parish's worship (e.g, due to noise or parking problems) during Saturday afternoon and evening liturgies.
- B) Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, or Easter Sunday
- C) When players will be attending religious education, sacramental preparation programs and the like. If conflicts occur, the religious programs, sacramental preparation programs and the like take precedence and in no case are players to be penalized for missing a practice or a game due to their attendance at a religious education or sacramental preparation program.

## **15. Gyms, Practice Fields, and other Facilities**

- A) The scheduling and renting of gyms and practice fields for games/practices must be accomplished through the Sport Director and the St. Henry Parish Office.
- B) Parish Activity Center (PAC) Guidelines
  - i. Opening of PAC for practice
    - a) The PAC door should automatically unlock for each scheduled practice and automatically lock at the end of the evening. If the doors do not open, the coach should contact the sport director in order to have the door open for that practice. The PAC door should remain closed at all times and not propped open for convenience.
    - b) The team waiting to practice should be respectful of the team still practicing and wait quietly.
  - ii. Closing the PAC
    - a) Put away all practice equipment in designated areas. (Unless another team is practicing later and using the same equipment)
    - b) Turn off the lights.
    - c) Check bathrooms, make sure lobby doors to outside are closed and latched, and turn off bathroom and lobby lights. Please leave outside/exterior lights on as a security precaution.
  - iii. To ensure the safety of those inside, avoid vandalism and ensure the safety of student athletes, it is important that coaches know who is in the Parish Activity Center (PAC) or Gym during practice times. At any time, a Coach has the right to request a person(s) to credential themselves and make a determination on whether an observer is welcome in a practice session.

## **16. Uniforms and Equipment**

- A) All new uniforms must meet the branding specifications established by Bishop Leibold. Final designs must be approved by Bishop Leibold representative and Athletic Director.
- B) Uniforms and equipment are to be issued by the Uniform Coordinator or Sports Director prior to the first game.



- C) A detailed list needs to be kept of all equipment issued in order to facilitate its collection at the end of the season.
- D) At the end of the season, coaches are responsible for collecting equipment/uniforms and forwarding them to the Uniform Coordinator. The replacement cost for lost or damaged Athletic Association uniforms and equipment will be the sole responsibility of the student and parent.

### **17. Purchasing**

- A) Required items should be requested through the Sport Director and approved by the Athletic Director.
- B) Coaches and/or parents will not be reimbursed for any purchases unless prior approval is obtained from the Athletic Director.
- C) Any large expenses (such as uniforms, equipment, etc.) need to ensure that multiple quotes are considered to be sure pricing is cost competitive.

### **18. Participation Fees**

- A) The Athletic Director will establish the fee for each sport.
- B) Fees must accompany registration for each player.
- C) If a fee cannot be paid because of a particular hardship, it should be brought to the attention of the Athletic Director, who can solely make the determination to waive the fee.

### **19. Transportation**

- A) Liability coverage for injuries incurred by a passenger in a private vehicle fall under the driver's personal auto liability insurance policy.
- B) Other than their own children, coaches and other Bishop Leibold Athletic Association volunteers must not transport one child alone.

### **20. Awards**

- A) Each team member of a team that is League Champion, League Co-Champion or League Tournament Champion will receive a trophy, unless one is provided by the league.
- B) If a team is both a league winner and a tournament winner, only one trophy is awarded.
- C) In lieu of trophies, teams may choose an alternative award, such as a plaque or t-shirt.
- D) Trophies are not awarded for an intermural program or CYO leagues where team standings are not kept.
- E) All decisions regarding the awarding of trophies, plaques, t-shirts, patches, etc. is the exclusive province of the Athletic Director.
- F) Parents and coaches should not purchase trophies or awards on their own unless prior approval is obtained from the Athletic Director.
- G) No student permanently dismissed from the team for academic or behavior reasons should receive an award if the team should win the league or tournament.
- H) There is no issuing of individual awards for most valuable player, best point average, etc. All awards are to be team based.

### **21. Participation Policy**

- A) Although Bishop Leibold administers a competitive sports program, it is within the framework of a "no-cut" policy and geared towards a two-tiered system of participation. This

two-tiered system is committed to a very strong emphasis on high levels of participation in the lower grades (1-5), while allowing a more competitive program in the upper grades (6, 7 & 8), with the exception of Girls' Cheerleading, in preparation for high school athletics.

B) Bishop Leibold Athletic Participation Policy

| <u>Sport</u>            | <u>5<sup>th</sup> Grade and under</u>  | <u>6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> Grades</u> |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| Boys & Girls Soccer     | Equal playing time*. This includes tournament play.  | Each student should play in every game.                           |
| Boys & Girls Volleyball | Each student should play a minimum of one-half of each match. This includes tournament play.   | Each student should play in every match.                          |
| Boys & Girls Basketball | Equal playing time*. This includes tournament play.  | Each student should play in every game.                           |
| Cheerleading            | Since Cheerleading is only done in 5 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> grade, it is a non-competitive sport and all students should participate equally. |   |
| Golf                    | Due to the nature of this sport, a participation policy is not applicable. It is expected, however, that reasonable participation will be promoted.    |   |
| Track                   | Due to the nature of this sport, a participation policy is not applicable. It is expected, however, that reasonable participation will be promoted.    |   |

\*Players are expected to have roughly equal playing time, which means playing at least one-half of each game. However, coaches can reduce playing time if the player has not attended practice regularly or is late to a game. As noted in 11C, attendance policies are at the head coach's discretion and should be communicated to parents and players.

Only those players listed on the team roster shall be permitted to participate in any game (regular season/tournament) unless prior approval has been obtained from the Bishop Leibold Athletic Association. Under no circumstances should someone not listed on the team roster receive playing time in a game. Violations of this policy may result in the suspension and/or permanent replacement of the coach.

**22. Grievance/complaint process**

- A) The BLAA is committed to a safe and healthy environment for children, parents, coaches and spectators at all athletic events that take place in its name. Effective communication between the athletic organization, leagues, parents and children, inspired by Christian ideals, is an essential element of Archdiocesan athletic programs. Moreover, the Catholic principle of subsidiarity calls for matters to be handled at the lowest possible level, so that grievances are best managed and settled locally between people of good faith. In order to ensure healthy and effective communications especially in situations of disagreement or conflict, the following grievance process will be utilized by the BLAA:

- B) Initially, parents should communicate any issues, concerns, or complaints to the Head Coach.
- C) If the Head Coach does not resolve the issue, or if the parent is uncomfortable approaching the Head Coach about the issue, the parent should contact the Sport Director.
- D) If the Sport Director cannot resolve the issue, he/she will bring the issue to the Athletic Director.
- E) Any matter that cannot be resolved by the Athletic Director will be brought to the attention of the Grievance Committee.
- F) Grievance Committee: the Grievance Committee of the BLAA is the group responsible for managing the grievance process. Its purpose is to effectively manage and resolve problems or conflicts in the athletics program which have been unable to be resolved at the lower levels, and have reached the point of initiating the committee process. The Grievance Committee will consist of 3-5 members, including the Spiritual Liaison, Pastor, or official designee, the Athletic Director and the Assistant Athletic Director. Decisions of the Grievance Committee are final; however, an appeal may be made to the Catholic Youth Athletics Commission of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati if: (a) due process as described in the Organizational Documents of the athletic organization has been claimed to have been violated; or (b) other non-compliance with the athletic organization's Organizational Documents and the Charter has been alleged.

### **23. Code of Conduct**

There are four sections to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Catholic Youth Athletics Code of Conduct, as follows:

#### *Spirit of Catholic Youth Athletics:*

- A) Treat everyone with respect and love according to the Great Commandments: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments." Matt. 22:37-40
- B) Demonstrate good sportsmanship, patience, manners and an attitude indicative of the spirit and mission of the Catholic Church.

#### *Adherence to Laws, Rules and Policies:*

- A) Catholic canon law and Archdiocesan laws and policies including, but not limited to, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Decree on Child Protection.
- B) Federal, State, and local laws and ordinances.
- C) The mission, goals, principles, and policies of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati *Charter on Catholic Youth Athletics*, and those of the Bishop Leibold Athletic Association and the athletic leagues.

#### *Specific Violations:*

- A) Eligibility: Violation of the eligibility policies of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Catholic Youth Athletics Charter, including using an ineligible player.

- B) Recruiting: No recruiting for athletic purposes or to enhance a team's competitive advantage is permitted.
- C) Leaving the field of play: No team may leave the field, floor, game or tournament because of dissatisfaction with the officials, or their decisions.
- D) Losing control: Coaches are expected to control their own conduct and the conduct of their players and report to the league and Commission instances where opponents, officials, parents, or fans have failed to control their own conduct.
- E) Running up the score: It is not permitted to humiliate an opposing team by playing in such a way so as to intentionally run up the score after the outcome of the game is no longer in question
- F) Inappropriate communication and behavior: The use of inappropriate, insulting, disrespectful, bullying and demeaning language or behavior before, during or after meetings, practices or games by players, coaches, officials, parents, fans, site personnel, volunteers, or others involved in any parish athletics program is prohibited. Also prohibited are physical intimidation and the use of profane, vulgar, abusive or sexually-oriented language, in oral, written or electronic forms of communication (such as texting or email), by players, coaches, officials, parents, site personnel, volunteers, or fans.
- G) Escalating behaviors: Behaviors that incite others to act in ways that are in direct conflict with the spirit of Catholic Youth Athletics are prohibited.
- H) Vandalism and theft: There will be no vandalism, theft, or destruction of property tolerated at any athletics venue.
- I) Alcohol, tobacco, illegal controlled substances: No alcohol, tobacco, or any illegal controlled substance is permitted at practices, league competitions, or tournaments where children are present (such as "tailgating" where alcohol is present). Athletic organizations are expected to establish and communicate zero tolerance policies regarding alcohol, tobacco, and illegal controlled substances at competitions, tournaments and gatherings where children are present.
- J) Weapons: Despite some state laws that allow people to carry firearms in public, no firearms or weapons are permitted at practices, league competitions, or tournaments where children are present. Athletic organizations are expected to establish and communicate zero tolerance policies regarding this at competitions, tournaments and gatherings where children are present. Weapons include any form of weapon or explosive, all firearms, and all unauthorized knives (any knife blade over 3 ½ inches is illegal to conceal).

*General Violations:*

Activities that are contrary to the mission, goals, principles, values, provisions or spirit of Catholic Youth Athletics as described in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati *Charter on Catholic Youth Athletics* are prohibited.