

St. Francis of Assisi



Athletic Program

*St. Francis of Assisi's
CYO Mission Statement*

The Catholic Youth Organization is a parish-based program, which provides opportunities for youth to grow in faith and understanding of their Church through involvement in parish, regional, and Archdiocesan life.

The Catholic Youth Organization's five phase approach to youth ministry: athletic, social, cultural, service and spiritual, is a model of youth ministry which involves youth from elementary grades through high school in youth related activities and programs.

Through a total youth ministry concept, the Catholic Youth Organization collaborates and/or cooperates on all of the youth-related programs offered by the Parish. The emphasis of the Catholic Youth Organization is to enable and to empower youth to become responsible participants in their faith community.

Saint Francis of Assisi CYO Athletic Program

1. Approval for the CYO Athletic Program at Saint Francis of Assisi has been granted by our Pastor.

2. The Saint Francis of Assisi Athletic program is a chartered member of the Archdiocesan Youth Ministry Program.

Saint Francis of Assisi is a member of Region 25 of the Archdiocesan youth Ministry Program.

3. Athletic programs sponsored by the Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Youth Organization will at all times reflect the CYO Mission Statement of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

4. The overriding motivation of the Saint Francis of Assisi Athletic Program is the involvement of as many students as possible in athletic competition within a Christian context. Through CYO sports, students are provided with opportunities to grow in their faith through the guidance, direction and coaching of adult Christian men and women; to form friendships; and to deal graciously with both victory and defeat.

5. The following programs are currently offered:

Fall:

Flag football (Grades 3 & 4) (Boys)

Football (Grades 5 to 8) Junior Varsity & Varsity (Boys)

Cheerleading - Football (Grades 3 to 8) Junior Varsity & Varsity

Volleyball (Grades 5 to 8) Junior Varsity & Varsity (Girls)

Cross Country (Grades K to 8) (Boys & Girls)

Field Hockey (Grades 5 to 8) (Girls)

Winter:

Basketball (Grades 1 to 4) Intramural (Boys & Girls)

Basketball (Grades 5 to 8) JV & Varsity (Boys and Girls)

High School Basketball (Grades 9 to 12) (Boys & Girls)

Spring:

Baseball (Grades 5 to 8) Junior Varsity and Varsity (Boys)

Softball (Grades 5 to 8) Junior Varsity & Varsity (Girls)

Lacrosse (Grades 6 to 8) (Boys & Girls)

Track (Grades 4 to 8) (Boys & Girls)

Instructional Golf (Grades 5 to 8) (Boys and Girls)

High School Co-Ed Volleyball (Grades 9 to 12)

6. Any parent who has a question or a problem with any coach must speak directly to that coach first. If the parent receives no satisfaction, then the parent should speak to the Board moderator for that sport. If the parent still isn't satisfied with the outcome of the discussion with the Board moderator, the parent should consult with the Athletic Director. The CYO-priest-moderator is the final recourse. No other course of action will be taken for any questions or complaints.

7. Uniform Requirements – as a participant in a specific program, each student will be issued an official Saint Francis uniform. It is mandatory that the complete uniform issued to the student be worn during all games and as directed by the coach. Failure to wear the complete uniform will result in a students not being permitted to participate in a league game.

Saint Francis of Assisi CYO Student Eligibility

The following guidelines apply to children in grades 1 through 8 and those attending High School wishing to participate in a St. Francis CYO or Parish sponsored athletic activity (i.e., Flag Football, Field Hockey). The overriding principles of the eligibility guidelines are: 1) is the child receiving a Catholic religious education, and 2) is there a connection to Saint Francis Parish beyond participation in the CYO or Parish sponsored activity?

A. PARISH SCHOOL STUDENTS:

1. Any student who attends St. Francis of Assisi School, has completed the registration/medical form and has paid the appropriate fee(s) may participate with their parish-school teams.

The CYO Board will determine the general registration fee and program fees annually by the beginning of each fiscal year (July 1). A late fee will be assessed for any registration fees received after August 31st (Fall Sports), October 31st (Winter Sports) and February 28th (Spring Sports)

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

B. PUBLIC, PRIVATE NON-CATHOLIC & HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS:

1. Any public private non-catholic or home schooled student who is a registered member of the parish, is enrolled and attending CCD at Saint Francis, has completed registration/medical form, and has paid the fee is eligible to participate with St. Francis of Assisi teams (Note: students in 7th and 8th grade must have attended CCD through 6th grade)

2. It is recommended that the students in 7th and 8th grade and High School attend the Parish religious education programs (Life Teen and Teens Inc.)

3. Candidates in the RCIA program are not eligible for CYO sports until they have completed the program.

C. PRIVATE CATHOLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

1. The rules for eligibility for private catholic school students are the same as Parts A and B of the guidelines.

D. Children from St. Kevin's parish wishing to participate in SFA football are subject to the guidelines listed above.

E. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

1. All players are to be registered members of the Parish.

2. Non-Catholic Teens: In the spirit of ecumenism, a limited number of non-Catholics may participate on the Parish team. Permission is contingent on the approval of the CYO Priest-Moderator.

F. AGE & GRADE REQUIREMENTS

1. Students must meet the age and grade requirements established by CYO Central for each sport.

G. PASSING GRADES

1. Students must maintain a passing grade in conduct and academics in order to be eligible to play CYO sports. Failure in these areas disqualifies the student from CYO sports for that marking period. Parental support of this eligibility requirement is expected.

H. ELIGIBILITY

1. Questions regarding eligibility should be addressed to the CYO Athletic Director.

Catholic Youth Organization **Code of Conduct**

1. Offensive Actions

No coach, player, or spectator is to:

- a. Refuse to abide by an official's decision.
- b. Be guilty of objectionable demonstrations by throwing equipment or any other forceful action.
- c. Be guilty of heaping personal verbal abuse upon any official for an imagined wrong decision or judgment.
- d. Be guilty of an abusive verbal attack upon any player, opposing coach, official or spectator.
- e. At any time lay hands upon, push, shove, strike or threaten to strike an official, coach, player or spectator.
- f. At any time engage in a physical attack upon any player.

2. Penalty for Offensive Actions

- a. Violation of Article "a-d" is a minimum automatic five game suspension for CYO League and/or Playoff games.
- b. Violation of Article "e" by a player will result in the suspension of the offending player for one full calendar year in that particular sport.
- c. Violation of Article "f" by a player will result in suspension for ten CYO league and/or playoff games.
- d. Violation of Article "e" and "f" by a coach will result in the coach's suspension for one full year.
- e. If the suspended coach(es) or player(s) disregard stated penalties, when properly notified by the Commissioner, the team is to be permanently suspended from league competition for one full calendar year in that particular sport.

3. Drugs and Alcoholic beverages

- a. St. Francis of Assisi Parish prohibits the selling, use or possession of illegal substances (drug or alcoholic beverages) at any Church or CYO related activities.

- b. Any individual found in possession of and/or use of drugs or alcoholic beverages while involved in any church or CYO activity will be suspended from participating in sports or activities. Reinstatement will be in accordance with the requirements for reinstatement as set forth in this policy.
- c. An individual caught selling drugs/alcoholic beverages at any Church-CYO activity will be immediately reported to the police and suspended indefinitely from CYO.
- d. When a chaperone or coach observes an infraction under Rule 3 (b), the chaperone or coach will immediately contact the parent/guardian to come and remove the child.
 - (i) If the parent cannot be reached and in consideration for the safety and welfare of the child, the police and/or paramedics will be notified.
 - (ii) Parish Officials will be notified of the incident.
 - (iii) A report will be written by the chaperone or coach discovering the incident. The report will indicate the facts of the incident, time, place, persons, etc., and this will be forwarded to parish officials.
 - (iv) A report will be made to the parents/guardian as soon as practicable with suggestions and recommendations for follow-up; a list of resources and telephone numbers, if available and any requirements for reinstatement. This report should be made by one or two members of the CYO Board versed in recommending procedures and the coach/chaperone involved.
 - (v) Reports. The Pastor and/or Chaplain designate of CYO will review recommendations and follow-up.
 - (vi) Given the public nature of some of these incidents, CYO will do the utmost on our part to keep our involvement confidential.

4. Penalties/Reinstatement for Drug & Alcohol Offenses

1. First Offense:

- Suspension for three months from CYO and/or next four games of sport (with carry over into next year).
- Community Service (to be determined by Pastor and/or CYO Board).
- Assessment by a certified Drug/Alcohol Treatment Center and willingness to abide by their recommendations.

Reinstatement:

- Note from doctor or Counselor concerning status of individual.
- Proof of completion of assigned Community Service.
- Request by parents/guardian and student for reinstatement acknowledging their responsibilities.

2. Second Offense:

- Suspension from all sports and activities for one full year from date of incident.
- Community Service as determined by the Pastor or CYO Board.

Assessment by certified Drug/Alcohol Treatment Center and willingness to abide by their recommendations.

3. Association:

If an individual is found in the company of those who are involved with drugs/alcoholic beverages and it cannot be determined that they were actually using drugs/alcoholic beverages, they are guilty by association.

They will be reported to their parents.

Suspension from activities for one week.

Community Service as determined by pastor or CYO Board.

Reinstatement:

Proof of completion of assigned Community Service.

Request by parents/guardian and student for reinstatement.

Acknowledging their responsibilities.

4. Association-second Offense. Will be treated like First Offense under 4. (1) above.

5. Selling Drugs/alcoholic Beverages

The person caught selling drugs or alcoholic beverages will be reported immediately to the police and will be suspended immediately and indefinitely from any activity or association with the CYO Program.

6. Student Suspension/Expulsion

To be a member of the SFA CYO Athletic Program is a privilege – not a right. When a boy or girl puts on an SFA CYO uniform, he/she represents his/her parish. Therefore, in order to safeguard the integrity of the CYO program, he/she is expected to act in a Christian manner; to honor the Student Code of Conduct; and to contribute to the overall good of the SFA CYO sports Programs.

A student who fails to comply with the CYO guidelines – either on the Archdiocesan or local level or with a team regulation as determined by his/her coach, will be held accountable for his/her actions and dealt with in an appropriate manner.

Any student suspended from his/her school will lose eligibility in the CYO for that length of suspension.

Any student expelled from his/her school will lose eligibility in the CYO for the remainder of the school year that the expulsion occurs.

St. Francis of Assisi CYO
Classification of “A” and “B” teams

Important: All qualified students may try out for membership on our sports teams. This parish is committed to providing everyone a fair and equal chance to participate, in the spirit of the guidelines put forth in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Athletic Ministry Handbook. Unfortunately, not everyone who tries out can be accepted. The decision of the coach, in conjunction with the athletic director and/or priest moderator, is final. Ordinarily, the priest moderator will not intervene in no-selection decisions, unless the decision is arbitrary and capricious. Parents are encouraged to help their children understand that not everyone will be selected.

“A” Teams: (Most Competitive)

This level of play is designed for the skilled athlete; therefore, a student must qualify for this team. Player cuts are expected. Eligibility for this level of play is determined by general tryouts for either each grade level or grouping (e.g. 5-6 grades). Students must be registered to participate in the sport before the start of the first tryout session for all sports that will have “A” and “B” teams. The head coach for each sport along with his/her official assistants conducts the tryouts. It is strongly recommended that students attend all of the tryout sessions. The head coach may grant good faith exceptions to attending all of the tryout sessions. Student performance is rated and then evaluated by the head coach and his/her staff. From this data, the “A” team members are selected. The Athletic Director, in consultation with the coaches and the moderator, will make the final determination as to the number of students on the “A” team. SFA “A” teams then compete with other region 25 “A” teams.

Playoff games begin on a regional level and then advance to the Archdiocesan level for qualified teams. Due to the competitive nature of an “A” league, coaches are not mandated to guarantee playing time for each member during each game. Coaches at SFA, however, are encouraged to play all players as much as possible.

“B” Teams: (Instructional)

This level of play is designed for the student in need of instruction and practice in the basics of the sport. Each student should be given a fair and reasonably equitable amount of playing time during the season. This time would vary for each sport. Playing time need not be equal. Attendance and participation in practice, and overall attitude may affect a student’s playing time as deemed appropriate by the coach. In order to have a “B” team, there must be a sufficient number of players, coach(es) and available gym or field time.

At the present time, “B” leagues do not exist for the following sports offered by the CYO:

Football, cheerleading, volleyball, cross-country, baseball, softball and track

Volleyball

Although no “B” leagues exist at present, we are committed to fielding two teams at each level (Varsity, JV) in the “A” league. Depending on the number of children who wish to play and available resources, player cuts are expected. The individual coach in consultation with the parish athletic director will determine rosters. A twelve-player roster is the norm.

Basketball (5th through 8th)

At the present time, “B” leagues exist for basketball at both levels (Varsity, JV) for both boys and girls. We are committed to providing only one “B” team at each level for boys and girls. Tryouts for each “B” team will be conducted concurrently with the tryouts for the “A” team. To be considered for the “B” teams you must be registered for the sport prior to the start of the first tryout session and attend the tryouts for the “A” team. Selections for the “B” team will be made at the conclusion of the “A” team tryout, once the players for the “A” team have been selected. Depending on the number of children who wish to play and available resources, player cuts are expected. The individual coach in consultation with the parish athletic director will determine rosters. A fifteen-player roster is the norm.

Baseball

We will be fielding one JV team and one Varsity team. Depending on the number of children who wish to play and available resources, player cuts are expected. The head coach of each team will conduct tryouts. The individual coach in consultation with the parish athletic director will determine rosters. A fifteen-player roster is the norm.

Softball

We will be fielding one JV team and one Varsity team. Depending on the number of children who wish to play and available resources, player cuts are expected. The head coach of each team will conduct tryouts. The individual coach in consultation with the parish athletic director will determine rosters. A fifteen-player roster is the norm.

Cheerleading

Football – We will be fielding one JV team and one Varsity team. There are no tryouts for football cheerleading. Season runs from August through November.

Competition – We will be fielding one team composed of children from the 6th, 7th & 8th grades. There will be tryouts with a 20 member team as the norm. Season runs from October through Feb/March depending on competition schedule.

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