



CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION
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"Mentoring today's youth...empowering strong Christian leaders."

December 15, 2015

www.cyodetroit.org

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RE: Rule Change Issue

Dear Coach, Athletic Director and Parish Priest,

Recently, I shared the Catholic Youth Organization of the Archdiocese of Detroit rule change regarding CYO Athletic League's rule to not allow participants to play travel, recreational or any other league play in the same sport during the same season.

Some of you disagree with this decision for various reasons. I have discussed this matter with many of you and read the e-mails that have been sent. I appreciate your opinions however, we simply don't agree.

CYO's mission is to enrich families and strengthen communities in southeastern Michigan through youth programs that embrace the love and example of Jesus Christ.

Our CYO Athletics is dedicated to the development of the total student athlete. Our athletic programs encourage young people to express themselves: physically, mentally, and spiritually. We provide equal opportunities for participation, competition and fair play for all member Catholic parishes/schools participants. Our program is dedicated to the development of youth as a student athlete by encouraging them to express Catholic values, sportsmanship and fair play that leads to a positive athletic experience.

We believe our programs add value to our participants that Travel or Recreational sports programs do not. The major value is our Catholic faith. That faith teaches us to value every person, regardless of level of achievement, economic status, race, etc.

Currently, our Spring sports begins on April 4th and ends May15th. As I have mentioned in my conversations with individuals, our staff will explore the possibility of moving up those dates so they do not conflict with Travel and Recreational programs but there is no guarantee as the schedule really depends on the Holy Week and Easter.

CYO decision stands as stated. We are now back in compliance with the Michigan High School League Guidelines and we intend to stay in compliance.

In closing, with the CYO Governance model, decisions regarding programs lies in the Executive Director's responsibility. The Executive Committee and/or Board can certainly provide input (which they did) but the decision remains with the Executive Director. This is the final communication regarding this issue.

Best Wishes for your school or parish program where ever you decide to participate.

Suzanne Heath, CYO Executive Director

