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November 2015

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RE: Catholic Youth Organization of the Archdiocese of Detroit  
Athletic League Rules

Dear CYO League Athletic Directors and Coaches:

Many years ago, a question regarding the CYO Athletic Program rule that restricted participants from playing Travel Sports during the CYO season was explored by the CYO Athletic Advisory Committee. After much deliberation, it was decided to allow an exception to the rule within two CYO sports (baseball and softball) played during the spring season.

Since that time the CYO Athletic Department has experienced constant difficulties with scheduling not to mention the negative impact on the CYO teams. Travel Team rules require players to attend all practices and games. As a result, Travel Team players also participating in the CYO League miss practices and games. Therefore, the non-Travel team players practiced without those teammates yet often when the actual games took place the Travel Team players were on the field while the CYO participants were benched.

Throughout this time, CYO has tried very hard to work these issues out as well as rescheduling problems while trying to provide the best athletic experience for the youth of the Archdiocese of Detroit.

CYO was asked to reconsider this rule and allow CYO participants to play on Travel Teams throughout the CYO Athletic League. After consideration of the request, examination of the pros and cons for the CYO League participants, those of us responsible for this decision have decided that it is best to return to our original rule of not allowing players in the same sport during the same season in any other organized league while participating in the CYO League. This will include baseball and softball. While this decision may result in parents having to choose between these options, we believe it is best for all participants. CYO has always believed in promoting full participation for all team members both in practice and games regardless of the level of their talent. Players can certainly share their talents and learn from one another however, that doesn't happen when they are rarely on the field together.

For those of you who make the choice to participate in the Travel Teams or any other league, we wish you the very best and have enjoyed the privilege of working with your children.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Heath,  
CYO Executive Director

Brandon Howell,  
CYO Board Chair

