

GCCYS League Structure (Revised 7/01/16)

Leagues

The intention of the Archdiocese and the GCCYS is to provide a league that furthers the mission of the Catholic Church by providing sports experiences for youth that are firmly rooted in the Catholic faith tradition, based on the goals of Catholic youth ministry, and aligned with the evangelizing mission of the Catholic Church. The league is structured to help support discipleship, participation and growth in the advancing formation of the Catholic faith.

Additional information on the youth charter and decree can be found at the following locations:

Archdiocesan Charter on Catholic Youth Athletics

<http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ayatf/>

Decree on Child Protection

<http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/safe-environment-for-children-and-youth/>

Forms

League Entrance Forms

Each league member Parish/School is required to submit a league registration form for each team they plan to enroll for the upcoming season. The requested information must be received by the established date, along with the league registration fee in order to be eligible for the upcoming season.

Parishes/Schools will have an opportunity to provide parish/school conflicts for the upcoming season. GCCYS will schedule around mandatory parish/school sponsored events. Other conflicts will be taken into consideration but will be at the sole discretion of the League. Each conflict must contain detailed specifics. Any request without specifics will be rejected.

Any conflicts that arise after the forms have been submitted will be addressed on a case by case basis. Only submissions from the impacted parish/school's coordinator will be accepted for review.

Once a team has been submitted and accepted for the upcoming season any team withdrawals will result in a loss of the league registration fee. If a withdrawal occurs after the date teams can begin practicing but prior to the publishing of schedules an additional \$200 penalty will result. Any withdrawals after the publishing of the schedules will result in a \$50 forfeit fee for each game/match remaining in the season.

Rosters

Rosters must be submitted and received by the established dates. Any incomplete, required information will result in a player or team being ineligible to begin or continue play.

Players may be added or removed from the rosters up through the 5th game/match.

All players must meet the appropriate GCCYS and Archdiocese eligibility requirements. Failure to comply will result in a player being ineligible to participate. Any games/matches for which an ineligible player participates will constitute a forfeit.

Liability & Medical Forms

Each parish/school is required to complete the necessary GCCYS league liability and parish/school medical/liability forms. Any player who has not completed the required forms will be ineligible to practice or play. League liability forms must be completed prior to the first league game/match.

League Fees

Each parish/school is required to provide payment of league team fees by the established dates or risk not having their teams scheduled for the upcoming season.

Fees encountered due to dropping or adding of teams must be paid prior to the start of the season.

Fees due to forfeits must be paid immediately following the forfeit and prior to the next game.

Any outstanding balances will result in team forfeits until all fees are paid or arrangements made with the League.

Gym Availability

Each parish/school is required to provide their gym availability dates and times by the established dates. It is expected that each parish/school will have gym space to accommodate the home games for their registered teams. If insufficient gym space is available, GCCYS will attempt to schedule any remaining games into their opponent's gym or another venue. When providing gym availability, parishes and schools are asked to take into consideration the GCCYS preferred schedule priorities.

Uniforms and Equipment

All players must wear matching jerseys with identifying numbers on the front and back. All players on a team must have a unique jersey number. When a team has two jerseys colors available, they shall wear the jersey opposite in color of the opposing team.

All shorts should be of similar color and style. Unless otherwise required, any suitable gym shoe is acceptable.

Game balls will be of sufficient quality and in accordance with each sport's specific rules.

Facilities

All gyms must be in appropriate working order and provide a safe team and spectator environment. They must provide seating for each team along with a score table.

The home team or host facility is responsible to have a properly working clock and score board. They are also responsible to provide an adequately trained clock/scoreboard operator. When possible, it is strongly recommended to use an adult.

Coaches

All coaches must meet the requirements of GCCYS and the Archdiocese Charter on Youth Athletics. All coaches are required to be in compliance with the Decree on Child Protection. Coaches who are under the age of 19 and have not yet graduated from high school are not permitted to coach but may be a team aide.

Each team must have a designated head coach and must appear on the team roster. Any additional assistant coaches must also be registered. Only approved coaches are permitted to be on the sideline and perform any coaching duties.

High School aides are optional and may be used in accordance with the requirements of GCCYS and the Archdiocese Charter on Youth Athletics. High School aides are not permitted to be coaches.

All coaches are required to take the state mandated concussion training. Compliance is the responsibility of the league member booster organizations.

Schedules and Structure

Team Structure

League divisions are formed with the intention to provide athletes an opportunity to compete with others at an age and skill appropriate level. Teams will fall into three classifications

League divisions will be structured to take into account a number of variables that will include

- Team structure (Instructional, Recreational, Competitive)
- Geography
- Historical performance
- Parish/School preference

Instructional (Grades 3 thru 5)

Respecting their young age and the well-being of their families, instructional play will take place in a single league, include no more than two tournaments in addition to the league tournament, and with

teams of roughly equal skill in that sport. These teams are defined as balanced teams, where by all parish and school teams have an equal balance of skills across all teams in a given grade. Positional play is highly discouraged and all players must have “roughly equal” playtime.

Recreational (Grades 6 thru 8)

It is assumed that all Catholic Youth Athletics are recreational unless otherwise designated as competitive. These teams are defined as non-competitive teams. If a parish or school has more than one recreational team in a grade, all teams are considered balanced teams, where by all teams have an equal balance of skills across all teams. Positional play is acceptable however “roughly equal” playtime is expected except in cases of disciplinary action.

Competitive (Grades 6 thru 8)

Teams and leagues that have opted for the competitive designation where teams are formed based on skills in relationship to an athlete’s peers. Positional play is typical and play time minimums are defined by each parish or schools booster program. The league has no playtime requirements. No competitive teams may be formed prior to 6th grade unless approved by the Youth Commission and the GCCYS.

Merged teams

Athletes must play for the grade in which they are attending unless a school or parish does not have sufficient players to form a team for a given grade. In this case, athletes, from the same parish or school, may be merged to form a team. Grades 3/4, 4/5, 5/6, 6/7, 7/8 may be merged. All teams must register to play at the higher grade level.

Playing up is not permitted unless a result of a merged team. Merging of teams may not occur for the benefit of obtaining a competitive advantage. All athletes must be in grades 3rd through 8th. First and second grade players may not participate.

If a parish or school has enough players to form one large team but would like to merge in order to reduce the number of players on a team, resulting in a second team, this is permissible providing that the intention is for improving the athlete experience and not for a competitive advantage. For merged teams in 5/6, 6/7 and 7/8, the players being merged from the lower grade are to be placed on the lowest level team for the grade in which they are merging.

Reporting of Scores

The winning team must report scores within the first 48 hours following your game/match. If not reported by the winning coach, the losing coach may enter. Scores not entered will be considered a forfeit by both teams and will be assumed that the game/match never took place and both teams will be subject to the forfeit fee.

Awards and Recognition

Regular Season – The league will not be providing league trophies or medals in recognition of division champions. Member organizations and parents will be given the opportunity to purchase division champion tee shirts.

Post Season – The league will provide a team trophy to the first, second and third place finishers in each post season tournament. Member organizations and parents will be given the opportunity to purchase division champion tee shirts.

Post Season Tournament

All GCCYS member parishes and schools are eligible to play in one of the GCCYS post-season tournaments. Participation is optional and each parish or school may elect not to participate. Teams are automatically registered unless notification is provided by the completion of the 8th regular season game/match. Team records following the 8th regular season game/match will be used to determine tournament seeding. Where possible, results of the 9th or 10th game/match maybe used.

Records are determined by the number of games won/lost percentage. Tie breaks will utilize head to head followed by points differentials.

Post Season Tournament Structure

Tournaments may involve single day, multi-day, single weekend or multi-weekend formats depending on the number of teams per tournament division. There will be a minimum of two tournament divisions per grade. Additional divisions will be determined by the number of teams participating. Grades 3-5, tournaments will be based on regular season records. Grade 6-8, tournaments will be based on regular season records and skill appropriateness. All tournaments will be single elimination with the exception of determining third place. The losing teams from the semifinals from each tournament division will play one additional game/match to determine the third place finisher.

Basketball games will follow that standard 6 minute quarters. Volleyball will be based of match play, best 2 out of 3 sets.

Member Tournaments

GCCYS assumes no responsibility or role in the establishment, scheduling or governance of member sponsored tournaments. Members of GCCYS and/or parishes and schools of the Archdiocese agree to participate in accordance with the Archdiocesan Charter on Catholic Youth Athletics. It is the responsibility of the members, parishes, schools and their athletic booster's organization to provide appropriate governance. GCCYS will provide a place for league members to post their parish/school tournament information for the benefit of the all the league members.

Admission Fee

To encourage family involvement and to bring more consistency across all league members the following maximum gate fees for admission to any GCCYS member hosted game or sponsored tournament will be as follows:

Family	\$5.00
Adult	\$3.00
Student	\$1.00
Five & under	Free

Family is noted as immediate family such as the mother, father and siblings. The rates are maximum; parish/schools/boosters may choose to charge less or not at all.

Postponements, Cancellations and Conflicts

Inclement weather

Games/matches may be postponed due to extreme inclement weather where the safety of the coaches, players and spectators are at risk. It will be the responsibility of the parish/school site representative and coordinator, at the hosting school, to make the decision regarding the closing of their facility. The coordinator must provide notification to GCCYS a minimum of 90 minutes prior to the start of a game/match. All subsequent games/matches will be cancelled except in cases where it may be possible to re-open later in the day. If a host team's gym is open but the visiting team decides not to participate it will result in a forfeit. Request for postponement and reschedule will be accepted from coordinators only.

Facility failure

Games/matches may be postponed due to an unplanned facility issue. This would include but not limited to flood, fire, water line breaks and electrical failures. The coordinators must notify GCCYS immediately. Request for postponement and reschedule will be accepted from coordinators only.

Parish or School Sponsored

Schedule adjustments may be made for mandatory school or parish sponsored events. These dates should be provided prior to the start of the season. In cases of unplanned events the coordinator must provide notification a minimum of 10 days in advance. Request for postponement and reschedule will be accepted from coordinators only.

All Other

GCCYS will take reasonable measures to try and rectify scheduling conflicts between parish or school sponsored sports programs, on a collective scale, that benefits the majority of its members. It is impossible to accommodate conflicts with outside sponsored sports programs. Reschedule request for convenience will not be accepted. All other request will be considered on a case by case basis and must follow the request process as outlined in the league structure. Excessive request by a league member in a given sports season (fall, winter, spring) may result in all subsequent request being rejected. GCCYS

may suspend postponement and reschedule request if the rate of request interferes with league operations or if the process is being abused.

Request for postponement and reschedule will be accepted from coordinators only. Coordinators and coaches from all impacted teams must agree to reschedule or the game/match will be a forfeit.

Coordinators are encouraged to think about all the other families that are impacted when making a request. We ask that you be respectful of ALL league member athletes and families.

Forfeiture

Each team is expected to play all games/matches as scheduled. Teams are to be dressed and ready before their listed start time.

If a team does not show up to play or is unable to meet the requirements specified by GCCYS and/or the Archdiocese, the team will forfeit and be subject to a \$50 fee.

If a request to postpone or reschedule is provided less than 10 days in advance, a \$50 fee is applied even if the game is rescheduled.

All forfeit fees must be paid immediately following the forfeit. All fees must be paid before a team is eligible to play in the post season tournament. League members must be current on all outstanding balances or forfeit their right to register teams in any subsequent sports season.

Request for Postponement and Reschedule

Request to the league must be made a minimum of 10 days prior to the impacted game time and following the completion of the requirements below. Conflicts due to parish/school mandated events will follow the same process if not provided as a conflict during team registration.

- The conflict may not be due to convenience.
- The conflict must impact more players than the minimum number to field a team.
 - Volleyball 6 players minimum to play
 - Basketball 5 players minimum to play
- Coach conflicts are not an acceptable reason for postponement or reschedule as each team is expected to have a suitable assistant coach.
- Coordinators from each parish/school must find an alternative time and be in 100% agreement
- Coordinators from each parish/school must discuss with coaches and be in 100% agreement
- The team without the conflict has the option to accept a reschedule or the forfeit.
- Coordinators must find a new time that is at the end or beginning of existing scheduled set of games/matches.
- If the postponement and reschedule results in an unsuitable gap in time in the gym's existing schedule, coordinators must work with the other teams involved to shift their game time(s).

- Example, games schedule Friday at 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30
- 7:30 game postponed
- 8:30 game must be shifted to a 7:30 start or 5:30, 6:30 games must be shifted to later starts
- Swapping of times on the same day in the same gym, must be scheduled through the League and bound by the same postponement and reschedule requirements.
- Postponement and reschedule that create a single game in a gym will be highly scrutinized and non-acceptance should be anticipated.
- Every attempt to meet the minimum of 3 games/matches per official must be made.
- Once an agreement is made, the requesting coordinator must contact the league with all the detailed information. Currently scheduled date, time, gym, teams involved new requested date, time and gym. Additionally the detailed specifics of the conflict. This information must be provided 10 days prior to the game/match.
- Coordinators and coaches are responsible to communicate to all impacted parents and athletes prior to and following a postponement or reschedule request.
- **ONLY THE LEAGUE CAN POSTPONE OR RESCHEDULE GAMES/MATCHES.** All others will be a forfeit and subject to the forfeit fee.

Use of Substitute Players

The league permits the use of a substitute player in situations where a team has players with medical conditions, illness or general conflicts where the minimum number of players would otherwise not be achievable. The primary purpose is to provide athletes from both teams the opportunity to play.

Please make sure you are follow:

- All substitutes must be a rostered player from one of your existing parish/school teams (same sport, same season).
- All substitutes must meet the eligibility guidelines as spelled out in the league governance. You may not have an older player substitute on a lower grade team, however a younger player can substitute on a higher grade team.
- For grades 6th through 8th, a substitute may be used from a higher or lower division team. For example a “C” player can be a substitute on “A” the same as an “A” player can substitute on “C”. Every attempt should be used to obtain a substitute with the closest skill set to that of the player(s) missing.
- The team using a substitute must notify the opposing coach and officials that they are using a substitute player prior to the start of the game.
- The game is to be recorded as a forfeit.
- While playing with a substitute, will be recorded as a forfeit from a win/loss perspective, it will not be subject to any forfeit fees.
- All other league governance, structure and rules apply.