

CYO
GENERAL ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

This document is designed to provide information for parishes and individuals participating in the CYO program at the Grade School (Cadet, 56 and 4th grade), and High School (Freshman-Sophomore and Junior-Senior) levels.

There may be rules accompanying each activity, which may impose additional limitations or provide for participation by additional youth not specified in this general description. However, this document should enable the parish, coaches and parents to determine in the vast majority of cases whether or not a potential participant is eligible.

These standards have been approved by the Indianapolis CYO Board of Directors, working through its Athletics Policy Committee, and are in effect until further notice.

Applications for exceptions to these standards may be made to the Athletics Policy Committee of the CYO Board of Directors. If the exception requested concerns participation in a specific activity, application must be received by the Athletics Policy Committee no later than three weeks prior to the start of that particular activity's season. Any such application must be made in writing to the CYO Office. All particulars of school and residence circumstances, age, grade and any other factors, including but not limited to roster size, which are pertinent to the proposed exception must be included in the application.

If any uncertainty concerning the eligibility of a potential participant remains after reading these standards, the CYO Office should be contacted.

CADET AGE GROUP

1. **Age and Grade** - Fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade students who have not reached the age of 16 before the completion of the athletic season in which they are competing. Any student over this stated age limit, who wishes to participate, must submit a written request to the CYO office for review at least three weeks prior to the start of an athletic season.
2. **Parish and School Affiliation** - All full-time students of the parish school and all registered members of the participating parish.
3. **Non-Affiliated** - Each team will be allowed **one student (1)** not registered in the parish or a student of the school. However, this individual must have legal residence within the official parish boundaries. For the 2010-2011 school year, the only non-affiliates eligible to play are those who were legally on parish team rosters for the 2009-2010 school year. **No new non-affiliates can be added to parish teams for the 2010-2011 school year.**

56 AGE GROUP

1. **Age and Grade** - Fifth and sixth grade students who have not reached the age of 14 before the completion of the athletic season in which they are competing. Any student over this stated age limit, who wishes to participate, must submit a written request to the CYO office for review at least three weeks prior to the start of an athletic season. (Fourth graders are eligible for some 56 sports. Check with the parish athletic director or CYO Office).
2. **Parish and School Affiliation** - All full-time students of the parish school and all registered members of the participating parish.
3. **Non-Affiliated** - Each team will be allowed **one student (1)** not registered in the parish or a student of the school. However, this individual must have legal residence within the official parish boundaries. For the 2010-2011 school year, the only non-affiliates eligible to play are those who were legally on parish team rosters for the 2009-2010 school year. **No new non-affiliates can be added to parish teams for the 2010-2011 school year.**

4th GRADE AGE GROUP

1. **Age and Grade** - 4th grade students who have not reached the age of 12 before the completion of the athletic season in which they are competing. Any student over the stated age limit, who wishes to participate, must submit a written request to the CYO Office for review three weeks prior to the start of an athletic season. (Fourth graders are eligible for some 56 sports). Check with the parish athletic director or CYO office).
2. **Parish and School Affiliation** - All full-time students of the parish school and all registered members of the participating parish.
3. **Non-Affiliated** - Each team will be allowed **one student (1)** not registered in the parish or a student of the school. However, this individual must have legal residence within the official parish boundaries. For the 2010-2011 school year, the only non-affiliates eligible to play are those who were legally on parish team rosters for the 2009-2010 school year. **No new non-affiliates can be added to parish teams for the 2010-2011 school year.**

3rd Grade Age Group (34 Football and Girls Spring Kickball Only)

1. Age and Grade - 3rd grade students who have not reached the age of 11 before the completion of the athletic season in which they are competing. Any student over the stated age limit, who wishes to participate, must submit a written request to the CYO Office for review at least three weeks prior to the start of an athletic season.
2. Parish and School Affiliation - All full-time students of the parish school and all registered members of the participating parish. Registration in the parish must have occurred at least one year prior to the start of a sport season. If it is determined that parish registration has taken place in order for a student to become eligible to play sport at that parish, the student may be declared ineligible.
3. Non-Affiliated - Each team will be allowed one **student (1)** not registered in the parish or a student of the school. However, this individual must have legal residence within the official parish boundaries. For the 2010-2011 school year, the only non-affiliates eligible to play are those who were legally on parish team rosters for the 2009-2010 school year. No new non-affiliates can be added to parish teams for the 2010-2011 school year.

HIGH SCHOOL AGE GROUP

1. Age and Grade - Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors in high school who have not reached the age of 20 before the completion of the athletic season in which they are competing, which includes the following summer. A potential participant who is not presently attending regular high school also is eligible to participate during the school year and including the following summer as long as this person falls within the age rule outlined above and the class with which he or she completed grade school has not graduated from high school. Any student over this stated age limit, who wishes to participate, must submit a written request to the CYO Office for review at least three weeks prior to the start of an athletic season.
2. Parish Affiliation - All registered members of the participating parish. Registration in the parish must have occurred at least one year prior to the start of a sport season. If it is determined that parish registration has taken place in order for a student to become eligible to play sports at that parish, the student may be declared ineligible.
3. Non-Affiliated - No non-affiliates will be allowed to participate in the CYO girls and boys high school basketball leagues. Please refer to the CYO Boys and Girls Basketball Rules.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS AND CONSIDERATIONS AFFECTING THE CYO ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

1. Any public school student in the grade school program must obtain written permission from the principal of his or her school on the official CYO Principal Release Athletic Form in order to participate.
2. The fact that a parish does not operate a grade school shall not make such a parish ineligible to conduct a Cadet or 56 age group program.
 - A. There may be individual cases involving youth affiliated with another parish or school who want to participate because their own parish or school does not sponsor that particular activity. These individuals may participate for a bordering parish when that parish is willing to grant permission.
 - B. The CYO will charge a fee to each parish for each team entered into the league and a fee for each participant on a roster.
 - C. CYO participants and coaches are required to register for CYO athletic programs through the CYO website, www.cyoarchindy.org once each school year to be eligible for participation. After logging on to the website parents click on the Register Child link and coaches click on the Coach Registration link to register. If coaches and participants do not register through the CYO website they cannot be added to a team as a coach or to a roster as a participant.
 - D. After a parent has registered the child through the CYO website they must download and print a physician's examination form from the site. These mandatory physical forms, once completed by the physician, will then be turned into the parish athletic director and are to be kept on file at the parish or school and are valid for the entire school year.
 - E. In all leagues no protest other than those concerning player's eligibility violations will be accepted by the CYO Athletics Policy Committee. Protests must be filed with the CYO Office in writing not more than 48 hours after the eligibility violation is discovered.
 - F. In all leagues a team involved in a violation of any of these eligibility rules may be penalized as follows: the player is removed from the squad; the team forfeits all games in which this player has participated; the school is put on probation for six months; and the head coach is subjected to suspension. All such violations shall be subject to review by the Athletics Policy Committee of the CYO Board of Directors.

The CYO Board of Directors allows teams or groups sponsored by organizations and churches other than Catholic parishes to participate in certain CYO programs. In all such cases the sponsoring organization must make application to the CYO Office for permission to participate. The normal affiliation requirements do not apply to these teams or groups, except that any affiliated participants wishing to participate as part of the team or group must receive the permission of his or her parish pastor. All requirements concerning age and grade, however, are applicable. The CYO Office reserves the right to determine that a

reasonable equitable competitive situation exists and establish other criteria for participation before any application to participate can be approved.

SPECIAL NOTE: In addition to the general eligibility standards for participation in CYO sports and the specific eligibility rules for each sport, all student athletes are subject to the academic policies of the sponsoring school or parish. Scholastic eligibility is always the prerogative of the Catholic school administrator.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CONCERNING CASTS, BRACES, HEADGEAR, JEWELRY, ETC.

Rule: A guard, cast or brace made of hard and unyielding leather, plaster, pliable (soft) plastic, metal or any other hard substance, even though padded, is not permitted on the finger, hand, wrist or forearm. Supports are permitted on other parts of the body (an elbow brace shall not extend more than halfway down the forearm) if in the judgment of the official, they are not considered dangerous. Officials will require any sharp edges or points on a support/brace to be covered or padded.

- A player wearing a cast on her hand which is padded is illegal equipment.
- A player wearing a flexible plastic support on the forearm is illegal equipment
- A player wearing a thick layer of sweatbands on the forearm is legal.
- A player wearing a knee brace which has exposed plastic supports is legal as long as the official does not consider it dangerous.
- A player wearing a knee a brace with an exposed sharp edge is illegal unless the sharp edge is properly covered or padded.
- A player wearing a padded mask covering a broken nose is legal.

NOTE: any sharp edges or points on a support/brace must be covered or padded.

Rule: Hair devices made of soft material may be worn to control the hair. Hair adornment made of soft material may be worn

- A player with her hair tied back with a ribbon is legal.
- A player with her hair tied back with metal barrette covered with tape is illegal equipment
- A player with her hair tied back with a bandana folded is legal.
- A player with her hair tied back with a bandana covering the entire head is illegal equipment
- A player with a reflective, sparkling headband is legal

Rule: Players shall not wear jewelry (including during pre-match warm-ups)

- A player wearing jewelry that is or becomes visible (belly button/tongue/ears) is illegal. No tape or coverings of any type over jewelry is ever acceptable.

Rule: Players shall not wear body paint or glitter on their hair, face, uniform or body.

- A player wearing a temporary tattoo on her cheek is legal.