

GCCYS CODE OF CONDUCT

Greater Cincinnati Catholic Youth Sports adheres to and has adopted as its own the Code of Conduct that is published in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Charter on Youth Athletics. Each youth participant, parent, coach, volunteer or fan is expected to adhere to the requirements of the Code of Conduct, which is printed in Section I below. The GCCYS has adopted the Disciplinary Action Policy as described in this document to deal with violations of the Code of Conduct. These policies have been adopted by the GCCYS to ensure the safety of participants, coaches, referees, parents and fans while participating in GCCYS sponsored activities, and will be strictly enforced.

I. Code of Conduct (as adopted from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Charter on Youth Athletics).

1. Introduction

All who are involved in the GCCYS are expected to conduct themselves as examples of Christian behavior. This is essential and expected as a witness to the mission of the ministry of GCCYS, both on the court of play and away from it. The conduct of coaches and players in competitions has a powerful impact on the conduct of parents and fans, the love of the sport, and the reputation of the Catholic faith community. This Code of Conduct extends to all events or activities sanctioned or sponsored by the GCCYS; including but not limited to meetings, games, attendance at another team's game, camps, players' clinics, officials' clinics, and during other related activities. Any player, coach, parent or fan in violation of this Code of Conduct will be subject to disciplinary action without warning as described within this document in the Disciplinary Action Policy.

2. Spirit of Catholic Youth Athletics.

- Treat everyone with respect and love according to the Great Commandments: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments." Matt. 22:37-40
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship, patience, manners and an attitude indicative of the spirit and mission of the Catholic Church.

3. Adherence to Laws, Rules and Policies.

- Catholic canon law and Archdiocesan laws and policies including, but not limited to, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati *Decree on Child Protection*.
- Federal, state, and local laws and ordinances.
- The mission, goals, principles, and policies of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Charter on Catholic Youth Athletics, and those of the GCCYS.

4. Specific Violations.

- Eligibility: Violation of the eligibility policies of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Catholic Youth Athletics Charter, including using an ineligible player.
- Recruiting: No recruiting for athletic purposes or to enhance a team's competitive advantage is permitted.
- Leaving the field of play: No team may leave the field, floor, game or tournament because of dissatisfaction with the officials, or their decisions.

- Losing control: Coaches are expected to control their own conduct and the conduct of their players and report to the league and Commission instances where opponents, officials, parents, or fans have failed to control their own conduct.
- Running up the score: It is not permitted to humiliate an opposing team by playing in such a way so as to intentionally run up the score after the outcome of the game is no longer in question.
- Inappropriate communication and behavior: The use of inappropriate, insulting, disrespectful, bullying and demeaning language or behavior before, during or after meetings, practices or games by players, coaches, officials, parents, fans, site personnel, volunteers, or others involved in any GCCYS and/or Athletics programs involved in the GCCYS is prohibited. Also prohibited are physical intimidation and the use of profane, vulgar, abusive or sexually-oriented language, in oral, written or electronic forms of communication (such as texting or email), by players, coaches, officials, parents, site personnel, volunteers, or fans.
- Escalating behaviors: Behaviors that incite others to act in ways that are in direct conflict with the spirit of Catholic Youth Athletics are prohibited.
- Vandalism and theft: There will be no vandalism, theft, or destruction of property at any athletics venue.
- Alcohol, tobacco, illegal controlled substances: No alcohol, tobacco, or any illegal controlled substance is permitted at practices, league competitions, or tournaments where children are present (such as “tailgating” where alcohol is present). Athletics organizations are expected to establish and communicate zero tolerance policies regarding alcohol, tobacco, and illegal controlled substances at competitions, tournaments and gatherings where children are present.
- Activities that are contrary to the mission, goals, principles, values, provisions or spirit of Catholic Youth Athletics as described in this Code of Conduct are prohibited.

II. Disciplinary Action Policy.

1. *Sanctions for Non-Compliance with the Code of Conduct.*

All participants, including players, coaches, parents and fans are reminded that the GCCYS is a volunteer-run organization that strives to provide a safe environment for our student-athletes to compete with and against their friends with shared Catholic Christian values and in compliance with the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Charter on Youth Athletics. In the unfortunate event that a player, parent, or fan does not model appropriate Catholic Christian behavior while participating in or attending a GCCYS sponsored event, or otherwise violates the Code of Conduct, the following disciplinary actions may be exercised against the player, parent, and/or fan exhibiting such behavior. In the case of a violation of this Code of Conduct, a warning is **not** required to be provided to the individual by a coach, game official, or authorized leader or parish representative before disciplinary actions are taken. Any such individual may be ejected and suspended from GCCYS sponsored activities without warning as follows:

a. Ejection:

- A player, coach, parent, or fan who is ejected from an athletic contest for any reason whatsoever must immediately leave the premises (including the field of play, stands, and adjacent areas such as nearby parking lots) and shall be suspended and unable to attend the next scheduled GCCYS sponsored league athletic contest.
- If a coach, parent, or fan is ejected from an athletic contest for any reason, the youth player associated with that individual, without regard to whether or not the ejected individual is a parent of the associated player, cannot continue playing in the game and will be ejected from the athletic contest and must leave the premises. The associated youth player also may not participate in the next scheduled GCCYS sponsored league athletic contest.

- If a player is removed from an athletic contest due to accumulating fouls or other infraction covered by game rules (i.e. 5 fouls in a basketball game), that player is not required to leave the premises.

b. Suspension:

- As indicated above, any individual who is ejected from a GCCYS sponsored athletic contest shall be prohibited from attending the next game. Additional suspensions may be issued for egregious violations of the Code of Conduct and may include multiple games, practices, and other team activities at the sole discretion of the GCCYS.
- If an individual or associated youth player fails to adhere to the terms of any one-game suspension, violates the terms of an additional suspension or commits a subsequent violation of the Code of Conduct, then additional sanctions shall be imposed by the GCCYS, as follows:

<u>Violation</u>	<u>When/Where Occurred</u>	<u>Sanction</u>
First	Before, during, or after a game or practice	Ejection for the rest of the game or practice; attendance at next game prohibited.
Second	Before, during, or after a game or practice	Ejection for the rest of game or practice; attendance at next two games prohibited.
Third	Before, during, or after a game or practice	Attendance at practices, games and any other team activities is prohibited for the rest of the season.

c. Appeal:

- There is no opportunity for any individual who is subject to the terms of this Disciplinary Action Policy to appeal any Ejection or automatic one-game Suspension issued for violations of this Code of Conduct. Sanctions and discipline for serious violations of the Code of Conduct will be handled on an individual basis by the GCCYS.