

**HARRISBURG AREA CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION  
BOYS' GRADE SCHOOL BASKETBALL LEAGUE**

*"Winning and Losing – a CYO Perspective"*

TO: Harrisburg Boys' CYO League Participants

FROM: Harrisburg Boys' CYO League Board  
Tom Herweg, Commissioner  
Denny Ritchie, Treasurer  
Joe Paese, Secretary  
Rick Kanaskie, Secretary

RE: Code of Conduct

In response to an alarming number of reports and complaints pertaining to unsportsmanlike conduct within our league, the elected Board of the Harrisburg Boys' CYO League has convened a Special Meeting to discuss this problem with the participating programs.

It has become apparent that the phrase "Winning and Losing – A CYO Perspective" is not receiving the necessary emphasis in all of our programs. Complaints and comments are coming from officials, coaches, parents and spectators with unprecedented regularity. The number of complaints received after only three weeks of the regular season has prompted the need to review and discuss appropriate actions within the CYO.

The 1st attachment to this memo is reprinted from the League By-Laws and is presented as a reminder of violations and accompanying penalties that are currently enforced by the League. Unfortunately, measures have already been taken to enforce the provisions pertaining to violations of the League's By-Laws. It is the Board's goal to increase each program's awareness as to acceptable behavior so that further measures will not be necessary.

The 2nd attachment to this memo outlines new measures that are proposed to serve as an incentive to refrain from the types of activities that are being reported at an alarming rate. Technical Fouls resulting from Unsportsmanlike Conduct have no place in the CYO and must be corrected immediately. The CYO's reputation must remain beyond reproach. Unfortunately, this is no longer the case. As a result, the measures in the 2<sup>nd</sup> attachment are proposed as a deterrent to unacceptable behavior.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT - COACHES AND PLAYERS**

The main function of this league is to teach young men in grade school the fundamentals of basketball. The league is also responsible for their attitude toward sportsmanship, competition and team play. In light of the importance of these aspects on the development of youth, the Diocesan Director of Basketball wishes to outline the rules governing the conduct of the coaches and players in this program. These rules of conduct will become the responsibility of the individual CYO Areas for enforcement. Failure to abide by these rules could result in expulsion of the individual teams or league from participating in the CYO program in the Diocese of Harrisburg.

### **OFFENSIVE ACTIONS:**

No coach or player is to:

- 1 . Refuse to abide by an official's decisions.
2. Be guilty of objectionable demonstrations by throwing equipment or other forceful actions.
3. Be guilty of heaping personal verbal abuse upon any official for any real or imaginary wrong decision or judgment.
4. Be guilty of an abusive verbal attack upon any player, opposing coach, official or spectator.
5. At any time lay hands upon, push, shove, strike, or threaten to strike an official, coach or spectator.
6. Be guilty of physical attack as an aggressor upon any player.
7. Be ejected by an official from any game as the result of an unsportsmanlike technical foul.

### **PENALTIES:**

1. Violation of number 1 through 4 by a coach or player:  
Minimum automatic 14-day suspension, which must include at least 2 CYO league and/or playoff games.
2. Violation of number 5 and 6 by a coach:

Minimum automatic suspension of offending coach for 1 full year from participating in the CYO program.

3. Violation of number 5 by a player:  
Minimum automatic suspension of offending player for 1 full year from participating in the CYO program.
4. Violation of number 6 by a player:  
Minimum automatic suspension of offending player for 14 days, which must include at least 2 CYO league and/or play off games.
5. Violation of number 7 by a coach or player:  
Minimum automatic 7-day suspension, which must include at least 1 CYO league and/or playoff game.

If a suspended coach or player disregards stated penalties after notification by the League Commissioner, the particular team will be suspended from the CYO program in the Diocese of Harrisburg for one full year. If necessary, penalties will carry over into the next season.

## CODE OF CONDUCT – TECHNICAL FOULS

- 1) Every Technical Foul must be reported by the offending program. This information is to be provided to the League Commissioner and must include the following information:
  - a) Location and time of game
  - b) Offending team
  - c) Coach's name
  - d) League Level
  - e) Time of the Infraction (e.g. 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr at 2:07 mark, etc.)
  
- 2) In cumulative fashion, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Unsportsmanlike Technical Foul issued to a participant will generate a letter to the Coach reminding him of the principles of CYO coaching. A copy of this letter will be provided to the Program Coordinator and Pastor of the Sponsoring Parish.
  
- 3) A 3<sup>rd</sup> Unsportsmanlike Conduct Technical Foul will result in a minimum 1 week suspension that must include at least 1 CYO League/Playoff game. A copy of this suspension will be provided to the Program Director and Sponsoring Parish Pastor.
  
- 4) A 4<sup>th</sup> Unsportsmanlike Conduct Technical Foul will result in a 1 month suspension and the requirement that the offending coach attend the Diocesan Certification Program prior to coaching in the following season.
  
- 5) A 5<sup>th</sup> Unsportsmanlike Technical Foul will result in a 1 year suspension from all CYO activities and the Coach will be required to attend the Diocesan Certification Program prior to any CYO involvement.

The failure to self report any Technical Foul will be viewed as a violation of CYO procedures that could result in sanctions against the non-reporting program including suspension of offending coaches. Continued failure to self-report infractions will result in increased suspensions. A 2<sup>nd</sup> failed report will result in a 2 week suspension from all CYO activities. While it is hoped that no further measures will be needed, the Board reserves the right to declare forfeits in games where programs continually refuse to abide by Harrisburg Boys' CYO League rules.