

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.

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.

4th 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.

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.
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.

CYO GENERAL ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS - 2

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.
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.
3. Participants may be required, depending on the activity, to fill out and have signed by at least one parent or legal guardian a CYO Athletic Eligibility Form. The eligibility forms for all participants in a particular activity are to be filed at the CYO Office at a time specified.
4. 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 coach or to a roster as a participant.

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.

5. 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.
6. 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. (See Catholic schools policy manual 502.2).