

CYO Cadet & 56 Soccer Leagues
Rules & Regulations

Section A - Purposes & Conduct

1. The purpose of the leagues is to provide supervised competitive recreation for boys and girls in the CYO Grade School age group, thereby giving them an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of soccer and to develop spiritually, mentally and physically.
2. Any team member or coach conducting him or herself in an unsportsmanlike manner shall be liable to suspension from the league. The CYO Athletic Code of Ethics must be followed at all times and it is the responsibility of the coaches to adhere to and enforce these standards.
3. It is expected that the coach will not tolerate bad language from the players, assistant coaches or him or herself. Officials are to eject players and coaches from a game for the use of bad language or for fighting and file a report with the CYO Office. Anyone ejected cannot return to participate in that game.
4. All offenders will be subject to actions outlined in the CYO Athletic Disciplinary Policy

Section B - Special Scheduling Notes

1. No team may take it upon themselves to postpone a game. The schedule is to be strictly followed, except in extremely inclement weather. Any postponed game must be made up. The CYO Office must always be notified.
2. Games are expected to begin at times designated on the official schedule, except when the start is delayed by an incomplete game. Parishes providing fields for the CYO program have the prerogative of charging admission. A 15 minute grace period is allowed the offending team before a forfeit can be claimed.
3. Practice sessions must be conducted with the idea in mind that we are dealing with growing boys and girls. Therefore, no single practice session may exceed two hours in length, and no team may conduct supervised practice more than once a day. Coaches should also provide plenty of water for the players.
4. The CYO Office will keep league standings. Scores must be reported to the CYO website immediately following each game at www.cyoarchindy.org.
5. In all CYO leagues, our greatest concern is always the physical safety of the boys and girls.

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Section C - Eligibility

The following general eligibility rules are taken from the CYO General Eligibility Standards:

Cadet Age Group

1. **Age & Grade** - Fourth, 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.
2. **Parish & 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 sports at that parish, the student may be declared ineligible.
3. **Non-Affiliated** - Each team will be allowed one student 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 & Grade** - Fourth, 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.
2. **Parish & 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 sports at that parish, the student may be declared ineligible.
3. **Non-Affiliated** - Each team will be allowed one student not registered in the parish or a student of the school. However, this individual must have legal residence within the official parish boundaries.

Section D - General Information

1. 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.
2. In both leagues, each player on every team in the league is to pay a "Participant's Registration Fee" in order to participate in CYO Soccer. This fee is to be collected from every player by the coach or adult supervisor and transmitted to the CYO Office at the time designated by the CYO Office. The fee is over and above any other fees assessed by the CYO Office for expenses incurred by the parish, and is to be paid by the individual, preferably. If any participant is not able to pay the fee because of a need factor, that person is still allowed to participate.
3. In all leagues, a CYO Athletic Eligibility Blank for each player is to be filled out and signed by one parent (or legal guardian) and the parish moderator. These blanks have

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space for the player's birthdate to be inserted and their grade in school. (The CYO Office keeps record of the correct age and grade for all participants.) The blanks must be turned in at the time designated by the CYO Office.

A. The CYO Athletic Eligibility Blank, once completed and turned in to the CYO Office for any participant, is in effect for the entire school year, and no additional parent permission is needed for that participant in any CYO athletic activity which begins during that school year after the date the blank is filed with the CYO Office.

B. Although no further eligibility blank is required for participation in a CYO sport later in the school year, a "*Participant's Registration Fee*" is required in other sports.

C. All names of players on the team are to be listed on the furnished roster blank and this blank is to be turned in, along with the eligibility blanks and the registration fee, also at the time designated by the CYO Office.

D. In all leagues, every boy and girl who takes part in the CYO Soccer League must have a physical examination before they play in a game, recorded on the CYO Physician's Certificate, which is the eligibility blank. If possible, each parish should arrange for a group physical for the entire team at one time, or require each boy or girl to be checked by his or her family doctor. These blanks are to be turned in to the CYO Office along with the eligibility blanks at the time designated by the CYO Office.

E. A player may not begin the regular season with the Cadet team and move down to the 56 team after participating in a Cadet game. They may move up to the Cadet team after the opening of the season, but may not return to the 56 team. This rule takes effect on the opening day of the regular season.

F. 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 parish. Scholastic eligibility is always the prerogative of the Catholic school administrator. (See Catholic schools policy manual 502.2.)

G. In all leagues, players eligible to participate may be added to a roster any time during the season, as long as a properly completed eligibility blank, including the physician's certificate is submitted, and the registration fee is paid to the CYO Office.

H. In both 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 incident.

I. In both leagues a team involved in a violation of any of these eligibility rules may be penalized as follows:
the player is removed from the team; the team forfeits all games in which this player has participated; the school is put on probation for six months; and, the school is suspended from the CYO Grade School Program for one year if a second violation occurs during the

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probation period. All such violations shall be subject to review by the Athletics Policy Committee of the CYO Board of Directors.

Section E - Special Playing Rules

Play in the leagues shall be governed by the rule book issued by the National Federation of State High School Associations, with certain exceptions, which shall be listed in these rules:

A. CYO Soccer Mandatory Playing Time Rule

The following rule is intended to insure that all participants, regardless of their skill level, are given the opportunity to play a reasonable amount of time in every game. When a child signs up for the CYO program they expect, and have the right, to play in all games. Coaches need to respect all the young athletes if they are to have a rewarding experience in sports. **Athletes First - Winning Second!**

1. This rule is in effect for all CYO Soccer regular season and postseason games.
2. The CYO does not permit the cutting of players from team rosters.
3. All players listed on the official team roster and dressed for a game must play in each official game. It is up to the head coach to be sure that all team members have the opportunity to play **one-fourth of each half during a game** so that they feel they are contributing members of the team.
4. Coaches do have the prerogative to exclude a child from being in uniform for a particular game due to a disciplinary situation, an injury, absenteeism, personal, etc. In these cases, it is strongly recommended the reasons for exclusion be discussed with the child's parents. If a child is dressed for a game, they must play.
5. The substitution rules as outlined in the CYO Soccer Rules and Regulations remain in effect.
6. Any coach who violates these rules is subject to probation or suspension for a portion or all of the season. In addition, serious violations may be referred to the CYO Athletics Policy Committee for appropriate action. Depending upon the circumstances, rule violations may also result in a game being forfeited.

B. If a player is ejected by a game official for any reason authorized in Section A, or by the Rule Book, the player's team must proceed in the game with one player short. The same process will be followed for additional ejections.

C. Either team may substitute an unlimited number of players. The substitution process is as follows:

1. The coach beckons the referee regarding a substitution.
2. The referee then motions the player in the game.
3. Substitutions are only allowed at the following examples: between periods; throw-in; corner kicks; goal kick; ball crosses goal line; and when a goal is scored.
4. All youngsters should play at least one-fourth of each half during a game.

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- D. All team coaches must stay in the CYO Assigned Bench Area which is 10 yards either side of the half-line and 2 yards behind the touch line.
- E. We recommend a numbered shirt with a CYO patch sewn on the left arm of the jersey, two inches below the shoulder seam.
1. Each team is requested to bring a set of white t-shirts with them to all games. This will help if both teams wear the same color team jerseys.
 2. The goalkeeper on each team must wear a contrasting color jersey than their teammates.
- F. We recommend soccer style shoes or sneakers to be worn. No shoe with a screw-on cleat may be worn.
- G. Shin guards are required for all players.
- H. The official ball for the CYO 56 Soccer League is the #4 soccer ball. The official ball for the CYO cadet Soccer League is the #5 soccer ball. The referee shall decide which team's ball is in better condition and that ball will be the official game ball.
- I. Each team will consist of 11 players.
- J. Length of periods in each league will be as follows:
1. 56 league - each half 25 minutes;
 2. Cadet league - each half 30 minutes;
 3. Half-time must never last more than 10 minutes;
- K. If a regular season game is tied at the end of regulation play, the game will be considered a tie. No overtime period will be played. Two overtime periods, if necessary, and a shootout will be used to determine a game winner during postseason play.
- The following point system will be used to determine division champions:
1. Each team will receive 2 points for a win;
 2. Each team will receive 1 point for a tie;
 3. The total number of team points are then divided by the number of games played to determine the division champions.
- Example:
- Team A completed the regular season with a 6-1-1 record (13 points); 13 divided by 8 = 1.625
- Team B completed the regular season with a 6-1 record (12 points); 12 divided by 7 = 1.71
- Team B would be declared the division champion by virtue of a higher winning percentage

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4. If there is a tie for a division championship, head to head competition during the regular season is the first tie-breaker for determining a division champion.

L. In all league games, **two paid referees will be assigned** and both teams are to furnish a linesman.

1. If a referee does not appear by 15 minutes after the scheduled starting time, the teams should play the game with all volunteer officials, if at all possible. Each coach has the right to refuse in such an instance, but we recommend that the game be played.

2. The referee will be responsible for keeping the official time of the game.

3. If a game is played on a field with a stadium clock, then the official time will be kept on that clock.

M. **Roster Freeze Date**

All team rosters are frozen as of April 30th of each soccer season. After this deadline, no switching of players between the parish teams is allowed and no new players may be added to a roster unless a new participant has recently moved into the parish.

N. **No Jewelry Allowed**

Federation rules prohibit the wearing of jewelry of any kind while playing in a soccer game. This includes but is not limited to items such as hair or head accessories, earrings or jewelry of any kind. Also, under no circumstances shall a player be allowed to place tape or a covering of any type over a piercing.