

# Region 19 Application of CYO Eligibility rules:

Below is a description of how the AOP CYO Eligibility rules are applied in Region 19.

Definition of terms:

- A) **Regular Parish:** Parish with or without parish school: Parish has their own unique CYO and may or may not have a parish school.
- B) **Regional A:** Combined School/Regional School Type A: Parishes who share a “combined school” and offer CYO sports through the combined school as a combined program.
  - a. In Region 19, Holy Family Regional CYO Ministry is a Regional A program with the combination of Queen of the Universe and St. Frances Cabrini parishes.
- C) **Regional B:** Combined School/Regional School Type B: Parishes who share a “combined school” and offer CYO sports through their individual parishes.
  - a. In Region 19, St. Katharine Drexel Regional Catholic School with St. Bede parish and Assumption parish are a Regional B program. St. Bede parish has a unique CYO sports program. Assumption parish currently does not have a sports program. Neither St. Bede parish nor Assumption parish participate in a regional CYO Program under the Combined/Regional school.
- D) **Neighboring Parish:** In Region 19, a neighboring parish is defined as any other parish in region 19. (Physical shared border is not required.)

## Grade School Residence Requirements

- A) **Regular Parish:** Athlete must either be a registered member of the parish or must attend the parish school. If a child is not a member of the parish but attends the parish school, they can choose to play for either their home parish or the parish of the parish school.
  - a. Upon establishing a preference, the student-athlete must participate with the designated entity for the remainder of the CYO year.
  - b. Exception: If the chosen entity does not offer a particular sport, then the student-athlete may participate, for that sport only, with the entity that was not originally selected.
- B) **Regional A:** Athlete must either be a registered member of one of the feeder parishes for the combined school or must attend the combined school. If a child is a member of one of the feeder parishes, but does not attend the combined school, they can still participate in the combined regional CYO program.
- C) **Regional B:** Athlete must be a registered member of one of the individual parishes. They can only participate with their individual parish CYO. (For example, an Assumption parish member attending St. Katharine Drexel Catholic School, cannot participate in the St. Bede CYO.) If a child is a member of one of the feeder parishes but does not attend the combined school, they can still participate in the home parish CYO program.

## Small Parish Merger

- 1 - Parishes who face smaller participation numbers have the option to merge with another program for specific sports.
- 2 - If a parish does not field a team their member may join with a neighboring parish.

- A) The player must first communicate their interest to their parish CYO if there is no team, then the parish AD should contact the Region Sport Coordinator. The player is placed into a pool. After registrations are in, those players (free agents) are directed to a different parish depending on all registration and parish needs. In the event that the parish does not have a CYO program, the parish youth minister should contact the Region Sport Coordinator.

The following conditions must be met for merger:

- A) The combined number of unique participants competing in a specific level of CYO sports in the previous school year for all the parishes involved must be less than 25. Grade school levels are defined as Varsity Boy (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade), Varsity Girl (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade), JV Boy (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade), JV Girl (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade), Novice Boy (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade) and Novice Girl (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade). The CYO sports included are Cross Country, Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball, Softball, and Track & Field.
- a. Unique Participants is defined as all male and female athletes in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades participating in inter-parish CYO sports programs sponsored by the parish.
  - b. Unique Participants must be verifiable through the parish roster.
- B) In any of the previous two years, neither parish fielded a team of more than 18 total athletes, respectively.
- C) In the year of merger, the merged team will not have more than 18 total athletes.
- D) The following rules and procedures apply to all requests to merge parishes:
- a. Private Academies are not permitted to merge with an eligible parish.
  - b. All requests for merger must be sent to the Region Sport Coordinator and Region Coordinator. Separate requests must be sent for each sport. Approval in one sport does not guarantee approval in the other.
  - c. The attached form must be used, and the requested information must be included with the request. Requests should be emailed to the Region Sport Coordinator and Region 19 Coordinator.
  - d. Requests for approval to merge for the CYO Sport season must be submitted before the first season game.
  - e. If approved, merged teams will compete under the existing name of one of the parishes, however, separate rosters must be prepared for the different parishes and approved by the respective pastors.
  - f. Once a request for a merger is approved, the merged team must remain together for a period of two years. The unique participant rule and total number of athletes rule apply only in the first year of the merger. Merged teams must re-apply after two years competing together and may be denied in subsequent years based on the growth of their CYO programs.
  - g. Ineligible “large” parishes may be permitted to merge with an eligible smaller parish if credible hardships or other qualitative factors make such a merger the best option for the smaller parish. The decision to waive one or more conditions will be at the sole discretion of the Region 19 Coordinator.

#### High School Residence Requirements

- A) Parish Resident: All athletes must be Catholic and registered members of the parish

- B) Residents of Parishes with no Team: A parish without enough athletes to form a team may request their athletes play with a neighboring parish, The pastors of both parishes must provide written approval to the Region and AOP CYO Director.

### **Eligibility Violations**

Athletes found to be non-compliant with any of the "Eligibility Standards" outlined in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Catholic Youth Organization Athletic Ministry Handbook may face the following penalties:

- A) Immediate discharge of the athlete from the violating team and the athlete will serve a one-year suspension from all CYO sports
- B) Forfeiture of any competition in which the violating team participated with the athlete
- C) Additional penalties considered appropriate by the Region Board.