

Participation and Eligibility for All Sports

1. Any and all participants (players, head coaches, assistant coaches, managers etc.) in that particular sport must be included on an official roster form.
 - a. An official roster form is one that is completed in whole and has a Principal's or Pastor's signature. The roster form is not valid without the Principal's or Pastor's signature. The signature verifies the eligibility of each participant.
 - b. Official roster forms are due in the Diocesan Athletic Office by the specified due date.
 - c. Failure to turn in an official roster form by the specified due date will result in sanctions (i.e. fines and / or possible suspension), determined by the Diocesan Athletic Office, against the offending school's athletic program.

2. All participants, listed on the roster form, must have a signed (by Parent / Guardian) Diocesan Release / Authorization Form on file in the Diocesan Athletic Office.
 - a. All forms are due in the Diocesan Athletic Office by the specified due date.
 - b. Participants are not eligible to participate without a signed Diocesan Release / Authorization Form.

3. A participation fee, to be determined by the Diocesan Athletic Office, for each participant must be submitted to the Diocesan Athletic Office by the specified due date.
 - a. Failure to submit this fee by the specified due date will result in sanctions, determined by the Diocesan Athletic Office, against the offending school's athletic program.
 - b. School checks, money orders and cash are acceptable forms of payment for the participation fee. **NO PERSONAL CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

4. **GRADE LEVEL:**

Students **MUST** be in 5th, 6th, 7th or 8th grade to participate in **inter-school** Diocesan Athletic Programs.

 - a. Students in 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade are not permitted to participate in **inter-school** Diocesan Athletic Programs; with exception to augment a JV team due to low participation numbers. (See below)
 - i. **Exceptions:**
 1. Fun Run
 2. Developmental Wrestling Program
 3. Developmental Swimming Program

 - b. A 4th grade student may participate at the Junior Varsity Level to augment a Junior Varsity team due to low participation numbers with the following criteria:
 1. A request must be submitted to the Diocesan Athletic Office.
 2. The Diocesan Athletic Office must approve the request.
 3. This request and approval of the request must be completed before the start of that sports season.

4. In addition, a written and signed letter from the school's Principal and the student's Parent / Guardian, giving permission, must be submitted to the Diocesan Athletic Office.
 5. This request and approval of the request must be completed before the start of that sports season.
 6. In addition, a written and signed letter from the school's Principal and the student's Parent / Guardian, giving permission, must be submitted to the Diocesan Athletic Office.
 7. Once a player is placed on the Varsity roster, he / she may not be moved back down and may not compete in a Junior Varsity level contest.
- c. A 6th grade student may participate at the Varsity Level to augment a Varsity team due to low participation numbers with the following criteria:
1. A request must be submitted to the Diocesan Athletic Office.
 2. The Diocesan Athletic Office must approve the request.
 3. This request and approval of the request must be completed before the start of that sports season.
 4. In addition, a written and signed letter from the school's Principal and the student's Parent / Guardian, giving permission, must be submitted to the Diocesan Athletic Office.
 5. Once a player is placed on the Varsity roster, he / she may not be moved back down and may not compete in a Junior Varsity level contest.
 6. This request and approval of the request must be completed before the start of that sports season.
 7. In addition, a written and signed letter from the school's Principal and the student's Parent / Guardian, giving permission, must be submitted to the Diocesan Athletic Office.
 8. Once a player is placed on the Varsity roster, he / she may not be moved back down and may not compete in a Junior Varsity level contest.
- d. A 5th grade student may not participate at the Varsity Level.
- e. A 7th or 8th grade student may not participate at the Junior Varsity Level.
- f. A student who is repeating 8th grade is not eligible to participate.

5. AGE:

A player must not have reached his / her 15th birthday before September 1st of the current school year to participate at the Varsity Level.

A player must not have reached his / her 13th birthday before September 1st of the current school year to participate at the Junior Varsity Level.

6. CATHOLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS:

All students, including Non-Catholic students, attending a Catholic School are eligible to participate for the Catholic School he / she attends.

7. PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION and RCIA MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Only those participants who are baptized Catholics or are enrolled in the RCIA process, are registered members of a parish, and attend religious education classes, are eligible to participate. In addition, parents or legal guardians must also be registered members of the parish in which the student attends classes. **(Non-Catholics, not enrolled in the RCIA process, but attending Religious Education classes are not eligible to participate in the CYO Program.)**

Students must participate in the religious education program for a period of one year before they become eligible to participate. Exception will be granted to Catholic parochial school students who transfer to public school and continue to attend the same parish religious education program, or to Catholic students who transfer (from out of area) into the parish and attended religious education classes or a Catholic parochial school at the previous parish. **In the case of a student transferring parishes or Catholic parochial schools as a 7th or 8th grade student, please see # 8.**

Unsatisfactory attendance in the Catholic parish parochial school or religious education program will be determined by the individual school / parish. If the pastor and his delegate (principal and / or parish religious education director) state that a student is not attending satisfactorily, that student will become ineligible to participate until such time as their attendance is deemed satisfactory.

If a student and his / her parents or guardians are members of a parish that does not offer religious education classes, that student is eligible to play for the parish at which he / she and his / her parents or guardians are registered, active members; provided that the student is attending religious education classes within the diocese.

Home School Religious Students are eligible under this section provided that the parish pastor and his delegate deem the player eligible.

All schools / parishes that sponsor a sport may also have regulations concerning religious education students that are stricter than those outlined by the diocese.

8. TRANSFERS:

If a student changes **Catholic schools** after the conclusion of his / her 6th grade year, **without moving domicile**, that student becomes eligible to participate in the athletic program for his / her new school upon verification by the Principal and Athletic Director of both schools (former and new), that the move is **NOT primarily** for athletic reasons.

-An ATHLETIC TRANSFER WAIVER REQUEST must be submitted by the new school and approved by the Diocesan Athletic Office.

-If the ATHLETIC TRANSFER WAIVER REQUEST is denied, that student becomes eligible to participate in the athletic program for his / her new school **one year from the date the student joins the new school.**

If a student and his / her parents or guardians change **Catholic parishes** (and thus where he / she attends PSR classes) after the conclusion of his / her 6th grade year, **without moving domicile**, that student becomes eligible to participate in the athletic program for his / her new parish **one year from the date the family joins the new parish.**

If a student transfers from a public school or a non-diocesan school to a diocesan school, his / her eligibility in the athletic program of the new school is dependent upon the verification by the new school's Principal that the move is **NOT primarily** for athletic reasons.

If a student transfers from a public school, a non-diocesan school or a diocesan school to a diocesan school after the first league game of the sport in season; that student is not eligible to participate in that sport until the following school year.

-A special hearing with the Diocesan Athletic Office may be requested by the principal of the new school to allow such a transfer to participate immediately. Only the principal may request this hearing.

9. If there is any question about the transfer or registration of a student, the Diocesan Athletic Office will review the case and render a final decision.
10. A player in a Diocesan Grade School league may not participate on another **school** team, in that same sport, during the same season.
11. Game and / or contest rules will be determined by local league officials and the Diocesan Athletic Office in compliance with national and / or state regulations.
12. If a team participates in a diocesan league, it is expected that the school's gymnasium or field be made available for league playoff games.
13. Requests for exceptions to any policies must be submitted in writing to the Diocesan Athletic Office.