



## September E-Letter

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### Dear CYO Athletics Community,

With the beginning of the sports season upon us, I am reminded of a quote from the Catholic philosopher and theologian, St. Augustine, whose feast day is celebrated on August 28,

"Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you."

In our prayer, we recognize our need for God. Sometimes we express our appreciation and thankfulness for the gifts and opportunities we have been given. Sometimes we petition God for help in areas of our own lives or the lives of others. In all manners of prayer, we express an awareness of our limitations and humble ourselves before God. And yet, at the same time, God expects us to be part of the actions that make up our lives. God expects us to do the work to assist Him in making our prayers a reality and empowers us with our gifts to do so.

Athletics is like this. In order to be successful as a team, teammates need to give themselves over completely and without reservation to the larger mission. It is important to know our gifts but also be aware of what limitations we have and how our teammates can fulfill the roles that we are not capable of. But we cannot solely rely on the team to carry us through. As individuals, we are also called to refine our gifts and talents and continue to utilize them so that we grow personally as does our contribution to the team. If the members of the team do not fully give themselves over to the team or strive to be the best individual contributors they can be, the team might still have some success. The team, however, cannot achieve to the maximum of its ability if both of these elements are not present. Being a true champion is about maximizing our potential, as individuals and as a team.

May we be humble enough to recognize God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and the different roles they play in our daily lives as well as how we are called forth to use our gifts in service to those in our lives and in the community.

May our young people see our example and grow to be champions as disciples as well as athletes.

~ Tauno Latvala  
Director of CYO Athletics

## September - Important CYO Athletics Dates

### CYO Soccer -

**September 11** - 4th-8th grade soccer season begins

**September 12** - Kindergarten soccer season begins

**September 14** - Second soccer coaches meeting at Isaac Orr Conference Room, 910 Marion St. Seattle (1st-3rd grades)

**September 17** - Kindergarten and 4th-8th grade soccer rosters due (last day to make any changes and finalize rosters)

**September 18** - 1st-3rd grade soccer season begins

**September 24** - 1st-3rd grade soccer rosters due (last day to make any changes and finalize rosters)

### CYO Cross Country -

**September 10** - Cross Country Team Registrations Due to the CYO Athletics Office

**September 21** - Cross Country coaches meeting at Isaac Orr Conference Room, 910 Marion St. Seattle

**September 26** - First Preliminary Cross Country Meet

## Game-Day Decorum Task Group

Back in May, CYO Athletics met with task groups consisting of parish/school athletic directors, sport commissioners, and Athletics Advisory Committee members, to discuss specific areas CYO Athletics could use some revamping. The areas of concern and discussion came from parent feedback in post-season surveys. Three task groups were formed; a group to discuss officiating, one to discuss basketball for CYO Athletics, and one for game-day decorum.

The task group that discussed decorum, focused on spectator and fan behavior. Although many CYO Athletics sporting events occur without incident, much of the discussion during the task group meeting circled around times when people felt spectators were not living up to the expectations found in the CYO Athletics [code of conduct](#). We encourage every spectator to review their commitment, to not only serve as a personal reminder, but so that fans can encourage one another to follow the code of conduct. A simple reminder to a spectator such as, "I'm sorry,

that isn't something we say at CYO Athletics events," can go a long way to reinforce the positive culture of our sports.

The task group wanted the community to be reminded of two important pieces:

1. Reminder that all coaches, parents and players are expected to behave in a manner that reflects CYO Athletics. We are an extension of the ministry of the Archbishop and thus should act accordingly and sign the appropriate code of conduct which is then kept on file at the parish;
2. The coach continues to be the primary manager of their own crowd behavior but peer parents/spectators should assist the coach in managing their own crowd.

A second discussion also came out of the decorum task group around pre-game prayer. Based on observations, and also feedback from survey results, it is apparent that not everyone is participating in a pre-game prayer. It is not that the players are not doing the prayer, but more commonly, the spectators are not "participating" in the prayer, by being quiet and listening. Coaches can only quiet a crowd so much, and so we strongly encourage parents to help the coach quiet the crowd, anticipate the prayer and be prepared to listen.

The task group came away with three important things to remember:

1. It was determined that the respectful silence by Non-Catholic schools was appropriate and they would not be required to actively participate in the prayer unless they so desired;
2. There was a desire to have the community beyond the players and coaches engage the prayer by observing a respectful silence even if they cannot hear the prayer from the sidelines or in the stands;
3. There is one prayer that will be used for the Cross Country and Track Meets, one prayer for the elementary/middle school program and one for the HS program. All can be found in the CYO Athletics manual or [online here](#).

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## Thank You!

Thank you for your commitment to CYO Athletics. If you have not received past E-Letters, they can be found on our website by [clicking here](#). Please also continue to send us stories at [cyo@seattlearch.org](mailto:cyo@seattlearch.org), the moments of grace that make our program special, and remind everyone why we do the work we do.

Sincerely,

CYO Athletics

Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry, Archdiocese of Seattle