



October E-Letter

In This Issue

[October Schedule](#)
[Basketball Task Group](#)

Quick Links

[CYO Athletics Website](#)
[CYO Athletics Blog](#)
[E-Letter Archives](#)

About Us

For more information about the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, visit us online at www.seattleoyyam.org/

Dear CYO Athletics Community

I was reminded by my eldest son that the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi (October 4) was upon us recently when he told me he needed to bring a stuffed animal to pre-school for a special blessing. While St. Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of animals, he is also the patron saint of ecology. In our Christian tradition, we connect ecology with the concept of stewardship.

A Christian steward...

1. Receives God's gifts gratefully
2. Cherishes and tends our gifts in a responsible manner
3. Shares them in justice and love with others
4. Returns them with increase to the Lord

What does stewardship have to do with CYO Athletics? Plenty. But I will focus on the need for us to be good stewards of the facilities we use. Not all of the facilities we use are first class. Not all of them have synthetic turf or are regulation size or are convenient for our access. But the gifts they all make present by providing our youth a place to compete and grow as athletes and as community are abundant.

In most cases of the facilities we use, the parish or school has made them available to us as their own response to be good stewards of the gifts that they have been given.

In all cases, our gratitude should be reflected by how we treat these facilities - how we pick up trash (whether it is ours or not), how we respect those that are responsible for their care, how we follow common sense as well as communicated rules and guidelines, how we return it in better shape than when we received it.

It is unfortunate that in some situations, our CYO Athletics community has not responded in a manner of stewardship but instead in a sense of entitlement, disregarding the care of the facility or staff for their own interests, needs and convenience.

These are not the lessons of sports I grew up with. This is not the practice of our faith that has been entrusted to us. Let us be mindful of how we take care of the facilities we use so that our youth don't need to

remind us of our responsibility to be good stewards.

~ Tauno Latvala

Director of CYO Athletics

October - Important CYO Athletics Dates

CYO Soccer -

October 30 - 1st-8th Grade Season Ends. 6th-8th grade coaches must call in their scores immediately following their game, so Playoff Brackets can be finalized by 7:00pm. (206) 654-4643.

October 31 - Soccer Playoffs Begin.

CYO Cross Country -

October 10 - Kindergarten-3rd Grade Cross Country Final

October 12 - Cross Country Rosters Due to CYO Athletics

October 17 - 4th-8th Grade Cross Country Championships

CYO Basketball -

October 15 - Basketball Team Registrations Due to CYO Athletics

Basketball 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 in CYO Athletics, and one for game-day decorum.

The task group that discussed basketball focused on three specific areas of concern:

1. JV levels in 7th and 8th grade vs. regional travel.

Last year CYO Athletics created a North division and a South division for AAA basketball, similar to soccer and volleyball. When the numbers allowed for it, we tried to have 8 AAA North teams and 8 AAA South teams. All other teams were put in regional AA divisions. This change was made because in the format from 2 years ago that broke down divisions by school size, teams were more likely to play a team on the other side of the city, than the parish or school closest to them geographically.

We received so much feedback that CYO Athletics was irresponsibly causing people to drive all over the place for games, in 2009 we brought to the Spring Athletic Director Meeting a proposal to have AAA and AA broken down regionally. The result was eliminating 7th and 8th grade JV levels, to accommodate the number of teams in AAA and AA that it would require to have regional breakdowns.

Last year, when there was no JV available for teams in 7th and 8th grade to register for, we ended up having more games than normal result in talent disparity and lopsided scores. The basketball task group weighed the positives of having JV back, against the negative of increasing travel, and recommended that CYO Athletics bring back JV in 7th and 8th grade basketball. This year, after receiving this recommendation, it was decided by the Athletic Advisory Committee, teams will be able to register as a JV team in 7th and 8th grade as a result of this discussion.

2. Divisional breakdowns for 7th and 8th grades if JV is included.

Once it was recommended that JV be added back in for 7th and 8th grade, the next question was, how do the divisions breakdown? To have a viable schedule for an 8 week season, divisions must have a minimum of 8 teams in them to ensure teams do not play the same opponent multiple times (in divisions of exactly 8 teams, the first game of the season is a non-counter, and will count when they play the same teams the last week of the season).

Exactly how many teams in AA and JV will depend on the number of teams registered, but the task group recommended that 8 teams make up AAA, and that all 8 teams go to playoffs. These 8 teams will be determined based on the previous year's record and playoff performance. AA will still require winning records (4 wins in 7 counting games) to be eligible for playoffs. In addition, at the end of this year's basketball season, the top two teams in AA (the two teams that play in the AA Championship game) will move up to AAA for the 2011-2012 season. As with JV, the Athletic Advisory Committee accepted the recommendation, and this year there will be 8 teams in AAA, with all 8 teams making playoffs.

3. Maximum roster size - currently 15 players; reduce to 12?

The Maximum Roster Size policy in CYO Athletics across all sports is designed to encourage schools to split into two teams once there are a certain number of registered athletes, to maximize playing time for all athletes. In the older grades for soccer, the maximum roster size is 25 players, because at 26 players, it is determined that two teams of 13 players is reasonable. In basketball and volleyball, the maximum roster size is 15, because at 16 players, two teams of 8 is reasonable.

The task group discussed bringing the maximum roster size for basketball down to 12, thinking that a team of 13+ does not provide adequate playing time for all players. It was determined however, that in some cases, a team of 13 would be more ideal than two teams (one of 6 players and one of 7) because of other conflicts in players' schedules, injuries, or sickness, and a team of 6 players might have to forfeit some games when they are unable to get 5 players to a given game. As a

result of the discussion, there will be no changes to the maximum roster size in basketball this year in the CYO Athletics manual, but parish/school athletic directors are encouraged to try and find ways to field teams of 7 or 8 players instead of 14 and 15, to maximize playing time for the athletes, when at all possible.

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, 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