



November E-Letter

In This Issue

[November Dates](#)
[Officiating Task Group](#)

Quick Links

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

About Us

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Dear CYO Athletics Community,

"Preach always. Use words if necessary."

St. Francis of Assisi is often credited with saying this. I find it appropriate to reflect on this as we head into soccer playoffs. Unfortunately, these are the times in the CYO Athletics calendar when we tend to see behavior that doesn't reflect the true nature of what we are called to be as Christian disciples.

What do we want our youth to see in us? What do we show them about what they are called to be? About how they are called to act?

No one of us is perfect. We all have moments when we wish we had been better. We all know this. Sometimes, in recognizing our own infallibility, we can better understand the imperfection of others. As members of the community of CYO Athletics, let us grant one another our faults but also raise one another to the heights of what we are most capable of.

What is the greatest sum of who we are?

- The parent who cheers and affirms good plays and effort for both teams;
- The coach who enthusiastically encourages their players to be a team, perform to their potential and is not focused on the scoreboard;
- The fan who stands up in support of the referee or game official when they haven't made their best call;
- The community that celebrates all our youth and all the gifts they bring to CYO Athletics;

This is the best of who we are. We do see this kind of "preaching" most often but thoughts of "playoffs" and "championship" can shift us to a different place.

Let us ask God for the presence and practice of the cardinal virtues of fortitude, justice, prudence and temperance so that the greatest of who we can be shines during these times of heightened competition. Our

youth will see our example, the congruence with our words and it will become second nature to who they are.

Blessings,

~Tauno Latvala
Director of CYO Athletics

November - Important CYO Athletics Dates

CYO Soccer -

November 6 - Soccer Championships at Lakeside

CYO Basketball -

November 7 - Referee Training @ St. Luke, Shoreline 7-9pm.

November 9 - Coaches Meeting @ Isaac Orr (910 Marion St. Seattle)

November 11 - Referee Training @ St. Francis, Seahurst 7-9pm.

November 13 - JV Jamboree

November 17 - 2nd Coaches Meeting @ Isaac Orr

November 20 & 21 - Basketball Season Begins

Officiating 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 and sportsmanship.

The group discussing officiating came up with a list of responsibilities and a summary of roles for five different groups in our community that we are working towards implementation:

- 1. CYO Athletics Office** - the primary role of the office staff will be to continue to develop the relationship with the assignors at the referee associations. In this relationship, CYO Athletics will create clear expectations, recommendations and hopes for the association to understand and work to achieve. CYO Athletics

will also work as the intermediary in the recruiting process, directing potential referees to trainings and contacts with the associations. CYO Athletics has also scheduled their own referee training for basketball on November 11th at St. Francis of Assisi from 7:00-9:00pm. This training will be in addition to and supplement the content from the associations training on Sunday, November 7th at St. Luke in Shoreline at 6:30pm. Interested referees should consider attending both of these trainings.

2. Parish/school athletic directors - AD's can be a primary resource and educator for the parents and coaches in their community. AD's can ensure collection of CYO Athletics Code of Conducts, and have a presence at games, to help affirm behaviors and encourage fans to be respectful of the job our officials are asked to do. If officials are not treated well, they will have little incentive to get better, or even continue to work CYO Athletics games. If referees are not encouraged to return, we will continue to have new, inexperienced referees, year after year. In addition to encouraging parents and coaches to respectfully engage officials, AD's should also be looking to recruit referees. Everyone has a role in recruiting, but AD's in particular should have a good understanding of potential referees in their community, and are encouraged to extend a personal invitation to officiate for CYO Athletics games.

3. Referee Associations - in addition to CYO Athletics' list of expectations for officials, we ask associations to be available to provide timely feedback when an incident occurs, and a referees input would help us understand what happened. The associations have been pretty good historically about this, but sometimes referees are not filling out the post-game reports as completely as they could. To help set the tone of the working relationships on game day between coaches and referees, we have asked that referees take the time to meet pre-game with each team's coach, to give our CYO Athletics coaches an opportunity to remind them of any CYO Athletics specific rules for the age group of the game.

4. Sport Commissioners - playoff games in CYO Athletics will all have a commissioner or CYO staff member present to monitor the game. This is not new, but the task group did suggest having commissioners attend more regular season games, to gauge the quality of the officials and possibly do some formal evaluation of the mechanics, professionalism and positioning of the officials. The volleyball commission has expressed interest in doing some internal recruiting, training and assigning, but not every sport commission is currently in a position where they could take on this task.

5. Coaches - CYO Athletics is preparing to develop online evaluation forms for coaches to provide feedback, within a context, regarding referee professionalism, mechanics, and effort. Just as we ask officials to be prepared to meet pre-game,

we ask coaches to be prepared to meet pre-game with the referee, and to quickly inform the referee of any CYO Athletics specific rules for the grade level. Referees in CYO Athletics often work back to back games of different grade levels and a quick reminder of any rule differences can help them make that transition easier. Coaches are also encouraged to talk with parents, at the pre-season parent meeting, and on game day to help encourage appropriate behavior towards the referees.

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