

October 6, 2011

Greetings~

As an athletic director for a participating parish or school in CYO Athletics, I realize that you have a number of responsibilities. Primary among them, as it is for us in our office, is ensuring that the youth who participate in our program have a safe, enjoyable experience. We want our youth to strive for and to become *Champions*, to maximize their potential and to utilize to the fullest the gifts that God has given them, not only for their benefit but for the larger community.

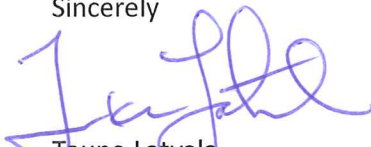
One of the main ways we can achieve this purpose is the education and formation of our coaching community. As outlined in the "*Renewing the Vision*" document by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, there are 8 components of comprehensive youth ministry in the Catholic Church. The first one is the *Ministry of Advocacy*. One of the elements of this component is that leadership receives high quality preparation and continuing education. In the case of athletics, the most direct leadership position we have working with our youth are our coaches. It is rooted in this component that we have a number of training requirements for our coaches in CYO Athletics.

We realize that as volunteers, these committed coaches in CYO Athletics are balancing many personal and professional obligations which allow them to serve this critical role. However, we also feel that the training requirements below will equip them to be the best coach they can be and to ensure our primary purpose of a safe, enjoyable experience for our athletes.

1. The basic requirements are listed below but the full explanation of each can be found in the CYO Athletics manual or online. Please note that it is highly recommended that you do your own coaches meeting each season to communicate your internal policies and ways of operating;
2. Please communicate these requirements to all members of your community who have responsibility in or oversight of CYO Athletics (coaches, coordinators, administrators);
3. Please ensure that all your coaches meet these requirements in a timely manner and that you document – coaches who do not meet these requirements will not be eligible to coach;
4. In addition, please use as a tool, the **Summary of Coach Training Requirements for CYO Athletics** that can be adapted for use in your own parish or school. Please emphasize the SPR field certification required for only baseball and soccer coaches.  
<http://seattleoyyam.org/programs/cyo-athletics/athletic-directors>.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely



Tauno Latvala  
Director of CYO Athletics

## Training Requirements for Coaches in CYO Athletics

### **Safe Environment Program (SEP)**

This is an archdiocesan requirement for all those who volunteer with youth and vulnerable populations. It is designed as a means to eradicate sexual abuse. Because coaches are in the lives of our youth, equipping them to see the signs, understand them and know how to address them is paramount. The goals of this program are threefold: to protect the youth, to protect volunteers from false allegations and to protect the programs involving youth. First time volunteers must take the Called to Protect, in person training within 90 days of first contact. Returning coaches must take an online refresher every year. Coaches who are not up to date on their training are not eligible to coach.

<http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/SEP/Default.aspx>

### **Play Like A Champion Today® (PLC)**

This is a requirement of CYO Athletics for ALL coaches, both head and assistant. This is rooted in a desire to have all coaches trained in the same program of "Sports as Ministry", "Coaches as Youth Ministers". 1<sup>st</sup> year coaches have until the next season they coach (same or different sport) to be trained. Returning coaches who are not trained prior to their second season will not be eligible to coach. Trainings take place after each coaches meeting. To register for a training, simply fill out the excel spreadsheet found online and submit to CYO Athletics. Parishes or schools can offer to host trainings to increase access and convenience but must have a minimum of 15 coaches to be conducted.

<http://seattleoyyam.org/programs/cyo-athletics/coaches/play-like-a-champion>

### **Lystedt Law**

This is a requirement of the State of Washington for coaches, parents and participants in regards to education about, identification of and return to play protocols for concussions. CYO Athletics shows the required video at each coaches meeting. Education for coaches who do not attend the coaches meeting, parents and players should be addressed at the parish or school level. There are signature forms that must be signed by parents and athletes. These should be maintained at the parish or school level.

<http://seattleoyyam.org/programs/cyo-athletics/coaches/the-lystedt-law>

### **Archdiocesan coaches meetings**

These meetings are required by CYO Athletics and a representative coach from each team is required to attend. Rule changes, points of emphasis, program requirements and philosophy, the required Lystedt Law video are all covered during this meeting. For the sports of soccer, basketball and volleyball, there are two meetings. A team representative need attend only one of these meetings for their sport. The representative coach is expected to communicate the information shared at this meeting with all appropriate parties.

Failure to have a coach representative at the coaches meeting will result in a suspension of the head coach and a game forfeiture determined by CYO Athletics.

<http://seattleoyyam.org/programs/cyo-athletics/coaches>