

July 19, 2020

Dear CYO Parents,

Summer greetings! We write to you in the context of a pandemic that has changed all of our lives in ways that continue to unfold daily. We hope that you and your family are healthy, holy, and well as we turn our attention to getting ready for another year of CYO sports. This is the time when parishes, coaches, parents and athletes begin preparing in earnest for fall sports.

The Diocese of Cleveland CYO is beginning our 84<sup>th</sup> year and we are proud to be recognized as one of the top youth sports programs in the United States. We take seriously the task of building and passing on the CYO legacy we received that has served young people and families for generations in NE Ohio. Based on our Catholic mission and values, CYO serves more than 20,000 children each year with over 5,000 volunteers, all screened and trained, who implement CYO at the parish, school, and diocesan levels.

### **CYO in a Pandemic Environment – What has changed?**

The Covid-19 pandemic is a battle of human psychology. We all want a quick fix, a vaccine sooner rather than later, a technical solution that will allow us to get on with our lives – NOW!

Current developments remind us again and again that viral pandemics do not work that way. This pandemic requires that we change our thinking and change our behavior – how we think and what we do. That is hard work individually and together. CYO gets it that people are fearful and tired and longing for the pandemic to end. We are too. That has motivated us to work hard and prepare thoroughly.

For the last four months we have had a clear focus on our mission with the goal of doing what CYO does best this fall: *Giving young people a fun, holy, and healthy sports experience while giving them memories that can last a lifetime.*

We are monitoring safety guidelines, best practices and protocols from local and state health departments, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Ohio High School Athletic Association to provide the safest possible environment for coaches, athletes, officials, and spectators. We have also been working with great CYO Coaches and leaders and our Catholic High School coaches to look at every fall sport to make informed decisions regarding how to best operate with safety as our top priority. We have been in conversation with our Catholic Schools and Catechetical offices to work together on how best to operate safely in a pandemic environment.

*CYO Administration will continue to monitor pandemic related developments. We retain the right and responsibility to make changes in the best interest of CYO participants and their families. We will keep you informed in an ongoing basis.*

Please see the attached to learn about the general changes that will apply to all CYO sports.

This fall, students in grades 3-8 will be able to participate in CYO cross country, soccer, volleyball, cheer, football and tennis. Coach's trainings and meetings will take place virtually in August. Coaches training is

a long-standing priority of CYO. Our young people deserve coaches who are well prepared to provide the opportunity for a high quality and fun CYO experience in a Christian environment.

The detailed sport specific changes are near completion based on our best current information. These will be shared with our CYO Athletic Director's on July 23. While CYO football is organized and ready to go, it is the sport that will most likely be influenced by decisions made at higher levels (OHSAA, State of Ohio). We are attending to developments daily and we will keep you posted.

CYO Tennis will utilize instructors operating under a certified United States Tennis Association professional who knows and follows indoor tennis club safety protocols. We have strict participation limits regarding how many children can be on a court and in a session. Parents will receive CYO Tennis registration information on July 21 about our tennis programs at Center Court Tennis Club in Broadview Heights, Avon Oaks Tennis Club, and Chagrin Valley Athletic Club.

The keys to having a successful and safe season are to manage the risk and take the situation seriously. Our Catholic Church loves and cares for young people and families. As always has been the case, CYO will make every effort to find a place for every child in our parishes and schools to participate in CYO.

Please know of our prayers and gratitude for you and for your family. We ask for your prayers and support as we strive to serve the young people and families entrusted to our care.

We are eager for your safe return as soon as possible for another great year of CYO sports.

Peace be with you.

Dr. Dobie Moser  
CYO Director

Ms. Mary Ann King, M.A.  
CYO Athletic Administrator

