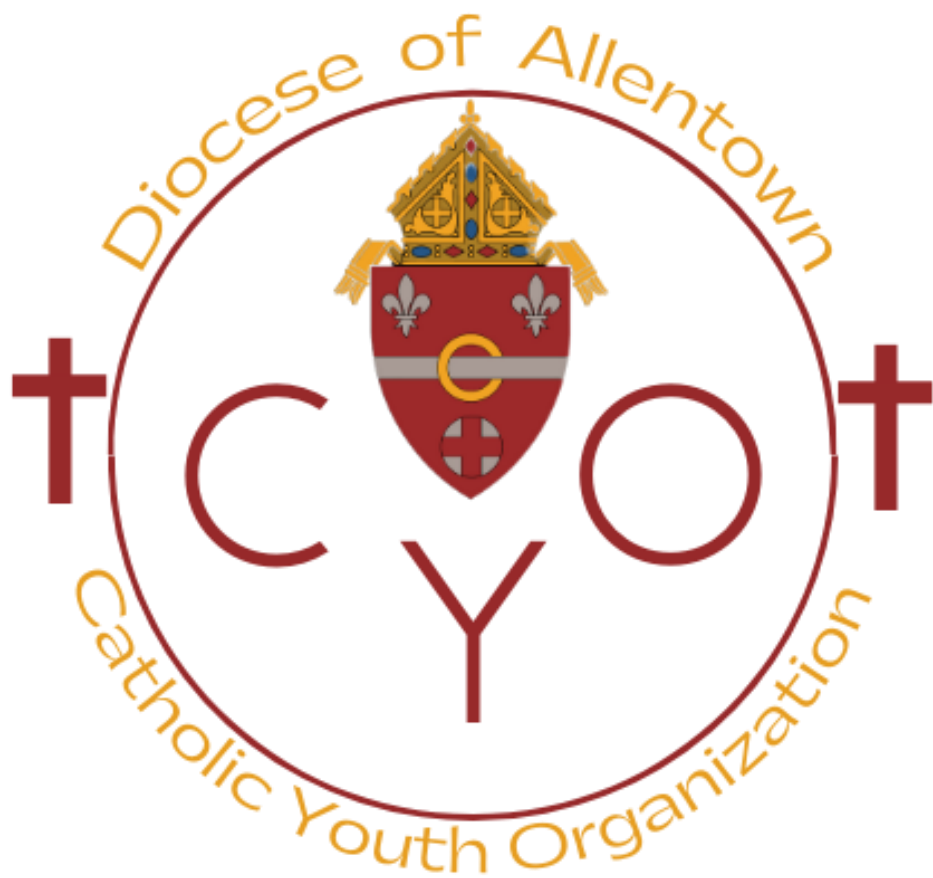
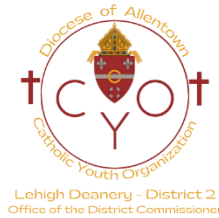


2024-2025 BASKETBALL HANDBOOK



Lehigh Deanery - District 2



November 23rd 2024

Dear Coaches and Parish CYO Personnel,

As we begin this new year of Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) basketball programming, it is important to reflect on the role of CYO as part of the larger ministry of our parishes, and the lives of the youth who participate. CYO is just one component but in most cases the largest of each of our parish's youth ministry program, and as such, provides opportunities for youth to grow in faith and understanding of the Catholic Church and our virtues. As a form of youth ministry, CYO athletics are often the first opportunity for a young person to become actively involved in parish life. As coaches, organizers, and administrators of CYO, I challenge each and everyone of you to model and challenge the youth in our charge and those who come to support our young athletes to exemplify the behavior of Jesus Christ and become life-long disciples of Christ.

I am often reminded that CYO continues to be the most prolific youth program in the Diocese of Allentown in terms of numbers of youth participation, and our Lehigh Deanery is among the highest number of total participation across our Five Deaneries. We continue to strive to provide an excellent and positive athletic experience for the youth in our diocese, but primarily also provide a vibrant arena in which our children may grow in Christ's ever-lasting love.

It is important to remember that CYO is a parish-based program open to all our youth, and as such is open to any student registered in a parish or parish school. While we recognize that many of our students have varying level of talent and skill among our programs CYO affirms the competitive nature of which is inherent in sports it is vital that we give all youth who wish to participate a chance to participate regardless of their level of talent and gifts that God has blessed them with. Remember that there are lessons and virtues to be learned and cultivated through participation in sports, such as fair play, team work, and respect. We must strive to which offer each athlete an opportunity to cultivate the character and virtue of a good Christian through active inclusion on our teams.

Being a Catholic, parish-based program, we regard active attendance at Mass and participation in the faith community fundamental and foundational to the entire life of the student and family. Parents, students, coaches, administrators, and everyone connected with CYO must strive to live the truth of our faith, in such a way that we are known to be disciples and lovers of Jesus Christ.

We ask that you read and uphold the contents of this handbook, and strive to make CYO a place where youth experience the love of God as they use their talents and gifts. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns. We wish you good luck throughout your season.

In Christ,

John O'Connell Jr

John O'Connell Jr M.A.T

District 2 (Lehigh Deanery) Commissioner

Jim Nemeth

Middle School Basketball Coordinator

Jim Knerr

High School Basketball Coordinator

CYO Mission Statement

The Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) is a parish-based academic and athletic program that falls within the parameters of a parish's comprehensive youth ministry program. CYO allows youth to discover and grow in their relationship with God, provides opportunities for youth to grow in faith and understanding of their Church, and helps them become responsible participants in their faith community through involvement in athletic and academic programs that promote the holistic development of young people.

CYO Vision

The vision of the Office of Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry (OYYAFM) through CYO is to provide parishes the support and resources necessary to carry on the effort of evangelization through organized sports and academic activities. We seek to form the students as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, and nurture their transforming relationship with our Lord. CYO activities must be rooted in their faith communities and in the Sacramental life of the Catholic Church.

Varsity Basketball (6th, 7th & 8th Grades)

Varsity Basketball is limited to grades 6, 7 and 8. Any player who is in 6th grade and is listed on both a JV and Varsity roster will not be allowed to start for the Varsity team. If said player is a starter then they can only play varsity level, 6th grade players who are double rostered may not play more than 49% or 11.5 minutes of the entire game, in the case of emergency roster issues such as 5 to 6 players present; a JV Player may play more than half the game but may only start if that player is the 5th player present and notification to the District Commissioner must be sent of this situation. A player in 6th grade should not be placed on an A Roster if a 7th or 8th grader was sent to the B Roster. It is a reminder to coaches that CYO does not condone a "Win at all Cost Mentality and opportunities should be given to all our participants through fair-play and sportsmanship in a team environment.

Game Rules for Varsity Basketball (All Divisions)

PIAA rules generally apply except where indicated differently in the Diocesan and District Rule Book.

Each Game regardless of League (Gender) or Division (A or B) will consist of Four (4) quarters lasting Six (6) Minutes each with Five (5) Minutes allowed for warmups beginning after the preceding game and Three (3) Minutes allowed for Halftime.

Overtime- In the event of a game ends in a tie a three minute overtime will be played to determine a winner.

Uniforms- Each team shall wear matching Uniform tops with numbers on the back of the jersey, so they may be clearly identified by the game officials. As it may be likely that two teams have like uniform colors it is asked that coaches identify prior to the game day which color they will be wearing to the opposing coach. In some cases a school may only have one set of uniforms. It is asked of the opposing team that if they have a similar color jersey but also have a 2nd jersey that a jersey of opposite color be worn for the game. In an event that both teams have similar jerseys and no alternate jersey it will be at the discretion of the game official on how teams will be determined. If pennies must be used it shall be determined by a coin flip conducted by the game official.

Mercy Rule- IN any game with a 20 or more-point lead, NO FULL OR HALF COURT PRESS BY EITHER TEAM is permitted. Any team with a 20 or more-point lead must take out AT LEAST 2 STARTERS from the game. Coaches should take all necessary steps to ensure that sportsmanship is upheld and scores are not being deliberately run up. Ways to limit this include the winning team limiting fast breaks and unfair player on player transition baskets (3 vs 1, 4 vs 2) as well as limiting 3 point shot opportunities.

If a game has a score differential of 35 points, a running clock shall be instituted by the game official and not stop until the end of game or the points deficit is under 35.

Scorebooks- Prior to the beginning of each contest coaches must exchange official names for the scorebooks. Each score book must have both the First & Last Name of the Players as well as the numbers. Last Names and/or Numbers only will not be accepted. Teams failing to comply with this rule will receive a forfeit for that game and coaches will receive a written warning. After two (2) offenses coaches will receive a one (1) game suspension for failing to comply with the rule. After three (3) offenses teams will be deemed ineligible for the playoffs.

Officials- Two (2) Referees shall be assigned by the District Basketball Coordinator. Referee fees are \$40.00 per team, with each team paying one of the officials. All payment must occur prior to the start of the game. Cash or Check may be used to make payment. No Electronic Payments shall be made. In the event that there is a Forfeit of game, the forfeiting team shall be responsible for the payment of both officials \$80.00, this fee shall be paid directly to the District Commissioner before the next weekend of game. Game Officials may if deemed appropriate remove any Player, Coach, or Spectator who is causing disruptions, making threatening remarks or behaviors, behaving in such a manner that the environment has become unsafe for our students, families, coaches. Furthermore, Gym Managers may request the removal of a spectator if they are causing disruptions, making threatening or inappropriate remarks to players, coaches, or fellow spectators. Gym Managers who make this determination must contact the Diocesan District CYO Commissioner immediately via email for notification.

Coach Box & Seat Belt Rule- Only the rostered head coach may coach from the standing position. If two coaches are standing during the game a verbal warning will be given to the bench. After a 2nd offense in the same game a technical may be given by the official and both coaches will be asked to remain seated during the game.

Game Officials may ask the coaches to remain seated during the games if it is deemed it is necessary for the safety of the players and officials due to various factors including a short sideline.

The standing coach will be held to a coach's box area that extends from the end of the scorers table on their side of the sideline to the end of their bench but not exceeding that area. Coaches may not enter or coach from the playing area while the game is in progress and may only enter the playing area when play has stopped by the officials.

Time outs- Three (3) Full 60 seconds Time Outs and Two (2) 30 seconds shall be granted to each team per Game.

The Ball – The appropriate PIAA Regulation Sized Balls shall be used for each league.

Coaches- Two (2) Adult Coaches should be present for all practices, if two adult coaches who are not rostered and cleared by the parish are unavailable then practice may not proceed. Two coaches should be present on the bench at games. The 2nd coach may keep the official

scorebook but may not instruct players from the scorers table. In the event that the head coach is unavailable a parent should keep the score book and the assistant coach will assume the head coaching duties. If all coaches rostered for that team have become unavailable, the game shall be ended immediately and reported to the District Coordinator and League Commissioner.

Double Rostering of Players- The Diocese of Allentown and District 2 (Lehigh County) shall allow the double rostering of three (3) total players. A 6th grader may be brought up to a Varsity team to fill a roster spot if numbers are not enough to field a team. In the A division no more than three “3” players maybe double rostered from the “B” Team to the “A” Team but may not be double rostered from “A” to “B”. Any players double rostered must be identified to the District Administrator and your Leagues Basketball Commissioner prior to the beginning of the season. Teams should denote which players are double rostered on their official rosters submitted to the diocese by an asterisk as well as in their Official Scorebooks presented to the opposing teams. In case of a “B” Team being short of players 6 graders may be brought up to the team with permission from the League Commissioner. In the event no JV players are available or eligible an “A” Reserve may be brought down to the “B” team with written permission from the League Commissioner and the game shall be considered a forfeit.

Reporting of Scores

It is the responsibility of the *Winning Coach* to report the score within 24 hours of the game ending to their designated League Commissioner via the preferred method determined by the commissioner prior to the start of the season. Failure to report scores within 24 hours will result in both a forfeit of game as well as a fine of \$25.00 to be paid by the coach to the District treasurer prior to the teams next game. For each offense of failure to report scores the fine will increase \$25.00, i.e 1st offense \$25.00, 2nd offense \$50.00 etc.

Varsity Basketball “A” Division

The “A” Division of 7th and 8th Grade Basketball shall be considered the highest level of play in District 2. Each parish who is eligible for 7th & 8th Varsity Basketball should submit one team and one team only for competition in the A Division. It is required that parishes with only one team submit this team for “A” Competition. There is no limit to number of players a team may carry but it is suggested that a cap of 12 be placed in order to allow playing time for all players.

If for any reason a “B” League is not possible do to the an inadequate number of teams at that level, “B” Teams may play in the “A” Division following “A” Rules. Eligibility for the playoff of all “B” Teams shall be at the discretion of the District Committee prior to the start of the season in consultation with the Parish CYO Director of that team. League Fees are required for “B” Teams ruled eligible for playoff qualification must be paid in full by the end of December.

Playing Time Rule for Varsity “A” Division

As dictated in the Diocese of Allentown CYO Handbook “Coaches are encouraged to give every player an opportunity to participate in all games in some capacity. **Though not mandated, when a participant signs up for the CYO program they expect, and have the right, to play in all games.** Coaches must encourage and instruct all the young athletes if they are to have a rewarding experience in sports.” (CYO Handbook Page 38, Section F)

Varsity Basketball “A” Division Playoffs

District Playoffs

District playoffs shall be conducted on the Weekend immediately following the end of the Varsity “A” Regular Season at a Location and Time determined in advanced by the District Basketball Board. An overall record of .500 including crossover games must be obtained to qualify for the playoffs. District Playoffs will consist of the Top Four (4) teams meeting the qualifying criteria of win percentage with the Highest seed playing the lowest seed. Seeding is based on intra-district games with overall record used to break ties for seeding

If there is a tie among any of the top 4 seeds, the district board will determine seeding based the following criteria, 1) Overall record including cross-over games, 2) head to head results. If both teams played twice and split the season then a coin flip will determine seeding. If the top two teams are tied and head to head results are split both teams will share co-league champion status and a Coin Flip will determine who will be the 1 seed and who will be the 2nd seed. If there is a tie for 4th place and head to head results are tied a one game playoff will take place to determine the 4th seed. Please note that points scored or points % shall not be used to determine tie breaker status as the mission of the league is to promote strong value of sportsmanship and the playing time of all kids regardless of talent and score.

Schedule for the District Playoffs will be as followed

Saturday (Day 1)

Game 1: Boys Seed #2 (Home) vs Boys Seed #3 (Away)

Game 2: Boys Seed #1 (Home) vs Boys Seed #4 (Away)

Game 3: Girls Seed #2 (Home) vs Girls Seed #3 (Away)

Game 4: Girls Seed # 1 (Home) vs Girls Seed # 4 (Away)

Sunday (Day 2- Championships)

Game 1: Winner Game 1 vs Winner Game 2 (Highest Seed will be Home Team)

Game 2: Winner Game 3 vs Winner Game 4 (Highest Seed will be Home Team)

Officiating and Official Fees for District Playoff Games

For Varsity Playoff Games there will be 3 officials assigned by the District Ref Assignors. All fees associated with the officials shall be paid for by the District Committee

Awards for League and Playoffs

Awards shall be presented for the Playoff Champion, Playoff Runner-up

Playoff Champions will receive a team trophy and individual player medals fashioned in the style of their accomplishment i.e Gold Medal for Champion. Playoff Runner-Up shall receive Silver Medal for Runner Ups

Diocesan Playoffs

One Team will represent the District at the Diocesan Tournament each year. The playoff Champion shall be our representative for the Diocesan Tournament each year.

In the years were we are awarded a 2nd representative than the League Champion will receive an automatic bid into the Diocesan Tournament with the Playoff Champion receiving the other bid. If the League and Playoff Champion are the same team, the Playoff Runner-up will be the 2nd representative.

Our District representatives will face each other in the first round of Diocesan regardless of record per Diocesan Basketball Policies.

Player Eligibility for the Playoffs

As stated in the Diocesan handbook “ A team or player participating in Diocesan CYO Playoffs may not participate in another League or Tournament during said playoffs, if those games conflict with any CYO playoff games. If a “player” participates in another league or Tournament and violates this rule, only the player is ineligible not the whole team.” (CYO Handbook Page 28, Section 2)

For a player to be eligible to participate in the District and Diocesan playoffs they must have attended 2/3RD of the scheduled games for that season.

Varsity Basketball “B” Division

The “B” Division of 7th and 8th Grade Basketball shall be considered a recreation level of play in District 2 meant to allow for any child regardless of experience or ability the opportunity to learn and grow in both the sport, as a person and as a member of our Catholic Faith. Each parish who is eligible for 7th & 8th Varsity Basketball should submit one team and one team only for competition in the A Division before placing teams in the B Division. It is required that parishes with only one team submit this team for “A” Competition. There is no limit to the amount of teams parishes submit to the “B” level. Though no Diocesan or District rule prohibits or sets roster size limits for individual organizations and teams it is highly suggested due to the requirement of equal playing time at this Division that teams consist of ten (10) but no more than twelve (12) players per team. Individual organizations may set their own requirements on roster limits. Please Note that the Diocese of Allentown and District 2 (Lehigh County) highly discourage any cuts of players from “B” Teams and that an amicable solution be found to allow players of **ALL** abilities the opportunity to participate in CYO Sanctioned Activities in their parish.

Playing Time Rule for Varsity “B” Division

The B division shall be considered due to the competitive nature a JV Activity and will abide by the JV playing time rules for all games as adopted by the Diocese of Allentown CYO Executive Board June 2018. “All players in uniform for a game must share time equally. Playing time does not need to be consecutive within a game but should total to equal time allotted for each game at the end of each game. Not to be done over a number of games, playing time is to be equal for each game individually.” (CYO Handbook Page 38, Section F Bullet JV)

Penalty for Playing Time Infractions

Infractions of the playing time policy will result in a warning for the 1st offense: If witnessed by a designated representative of CYO, a warning will consist of a verbal address to the coach following the contest in question. If the 1st offense is not witnessed by a designated representative of CYO, an investigation will be conducted. If it is found to be a valid offense, a warning will consist of a verbal address to the coach via a phone call. After the coach has received the warning, any subsequent verifiable offense of the playing time policy will result in a forfeit of the match and suspension of the coach. o A 2nd verifiable offense of the playing time policy in the same season (including playoffs) will result in a forfeit of the match for the team, two-match suspension of the coach, and the coach will need to meet with the District Commissioner and a diocesan CYO Administrative Official before coaching in the subsequent

year. **Any coach suspended from coaching a team is not eligible to be present as a fan for that CYO event.** (CYO Handbook Page 39)

Varsity Basketball “B” Division Playoffs

The Diocese of Allentown nor District 2 (Lehigh County) shall sponsor a Playoff in ANY “B” Divisions. If an Individual Parish Organization would like to host a B tournament it shall be understood that all cost for said tournament shall be the responsibility of the hosting organization as well as the securing of Referees and Game Officials. Though not sponsored by the Diocese or District it is asked that Organizations submit to the District Administrator an intent to host a end of season tournament if it is to involve CYO Organizations for insurance purposes.

Junior Varsity Basketball (4th, 5th, & 6th Grades)

Junior Varsity is for grades 4th through 6th, though primarily grades 5 & 6. The Junior Varsity Leagues shall consist of two divisions an “A” Division which shall be deemed competitive but still developmental in nature. An a “B” Division which shall be non-competitive and developmental in nature. A total of three (3) 4th graders may be rostered on a Junior Varsity Team or Double Rostered from Biddy to JV. 4th graders who start any game in any division may not be eligible for the Biddy League. Teams may submit to the District Administrator and League Commissioner a request to exceed the number of 4th graders on a given team due to special circumstances. Organizations may also submit special request to allow a 3rd grader if roster constraints make it difficult to field a team to roster on a Junior Varsity Roster but will be only allowed to play in the “B” Division, permission for a 3rd grade player shall be granted by a vote of the majority or the District Basketball Committee and after speaking directly with the parents/ guardians of that player as well as the coach of the team.

Playing Time Rule for ALL Junior Varsity Division (A & B)

“All players in uniform for a game must share time equally. Playing time does not need to be consecutive within a game but should total to equal time allotted for each game at the end of each game. Not to be done over a number of games, playing time is to be equal for each game individually.” (CYO Handbook Page 38, Section F Bullet JV)

Penalty for Playing Time Infractions

Infractions of the playing time policy will result in a warning for the 1st offense: If witnessed by a designated representative of CYO, a warning will consist of a verbal address to the coach following the contest in question. If the 1st offense is not witnessed by a designated representative of CYO, an investigation will be conducted. If it is found to be a valid offense, a warning will consist of a verbal address to the coach via a phone call. After the coach has received the warning, any subsequent verifiable offense of the playing time policy will result in

a forfeit of the match and suspension of the coach. o A 2nd verifiable offense of the playing time policy in the same season (including playoffs) will result in a forfeit of the match for the team, two-match suspension of the coach, and the coach will need to meet with the District Commissioner and a diocesan CYO Administrative Official before coaching in the subsequent year. **Any coach suspended from coaching a team is not eligible to be present as a fan for that CYO event.** (CYO Handbook Page 39)

Junior Varsity Basketball “A” Division

The Junior Varsity “A” Division shall be more competitive in nature but still be held to the understanding that the primary focus is in player development both athletically and spiritually.

Though no Diocesan nor District rule prohibits or sets roster size limits for individual organizations and teams it is highly suggested due to the requirement of equal playing time at this Level that teams consist of ten (10) but no more than twelve (12) players per team. Individual organizations may set their own requirements on roster limits.

Game Rules for Junior Varsity Basketball “A” Division

PIAA rules generally apply except where indicated differently in the Diocesan and District Rule Book.

Each Game regardless of League (Gender) or Division (A or B) will consist of Four (4) quarters lasting Six (6) Minutes each with Five (5) Minutes allowed for warmups beginning after the preceding game and Three (3) Minutes allowed for Halftime.

Overtime- In the event of a game ends in a tie One (1) three minute overtime will be played to determine a winner. If at the end of the overtime period there is no winner; the game will be considered a draw.

Uniforms- Each team shall wear matching Uniform tops with numbers on the back of the jersey, so they may be clearly identified by the game officials. As it may be likely that two teams have like uniform colors it is asked that coaches identify prior to the game day which color they will be wearing to the opposing coach. In some cases a school may only have one set of uniforms. It is asked of the opposing team that if they have a similar color jersey but also have a 2nd jersey that a jersey of opposite color be worn for the game. In an event that both teams have similar jerseys and no alternate jersey it will be at the discretion of the game official on how teams will be determined. If pennies must be used it shall be determined by a coin flip conducted by the game official.

Mercy Rule- IN any game with a 15 or more-point lead, NO FULL OR HALF COURT PRESS BY EITHER TEAM is permitted and Two (2) Starters must be removed (if sufficient bench allows). Any team with a 20 or more-point lead must take out ALL Starters (If sufficient bench allows) from the game. Coaches should take all necessary steps to ensure that sportsmanship is upheld and scores are not being deliberately run up. Ways to limit this include the winning team

limiting fast breaks and unfair player on player transition baskets (3 vs 1, 4 vs 2) as well as limiting 3 point shot opportunities.

If a game has a score differential of 35 points, a running clock shall be instituted by the game official and not stop until the end of game or the points deficit is under 35.

Scorebooks- Prior to the beginning of each contest coaches must exchange official names for the scorebooks. Each score book must have both the First & Last Name of the Players as well as the numbers. Last Names and/or Numbers only will not be accepted. Teams failing to comply with this rule will receive a forfeit for that game and coaches will receive a written warning. After two (2) offenses coaches will receive a one (1) game suspension for failing to comply with the rule. After three (3) offenses teams will be deemed ineligible for the playoffs.

Officials- Two (2) Referees shall be assigned by the District Basketball Coordinator. Referee fees are \$40.00 per team, with each team paying one of the officials. All payment must occur prior to the start of the game. Cash or Check may be used to make payment. No Electronic Payments shall be made. In the event that there is a Forfeit of game, the forfeiting team shall be responsible for the payment of both officials \$80.00, this fee shall be paid directly to the District Commissioner before the next weekend of game. Game Officials may if deemed appropriate remove any Player, Coach, or Spectator who is causing disruptions, making threatening remarks or behaviors, behaving in such a manner that the environment has become unsafe for our students, families, coaches. Furthermore, Gym Managers may request the removal of a spectator if they are causing disruptions, making threatening or inappropriate remarks to players, coaches, or fellow spectators. Gym Managers who make this determination must contact the Diocesan District CYO Commissioner immediately via email for notification.

Coach Box & Seat Belt Rule- Only the head coach or his designate may coach from the standing position. If two coaches are standing during the game a verbal warning will be given to the bench. After a 2nd offense in the same game a technical may be given by the official and both coaches will be asked to remain seated during the game.

Game Officials may ask the coaches to remain seated during the games if it is deemed it is necessary for the safety of the players and officials due to various factors including a short sideline.

The standing coach will be held to a coach's box area that extends from the end of the scorers table on their side of the sideline to the end of their bench but not exceeding that area. Coaches may not enter or coach from the playing area while the game is in progress and may only enter the playing area when play has stopped by the officials.

Time outs- Three (3) Full 60 seconds Time Outs and Two (2) 30 seconds shall be granted to each team per Game.

The Ball – The 28. 5 Ball will be used

Coaches- Two (2) Adult Coaches should be present for all practices, if two adult coaches who are not rostered and cleared by the parish are unavailable then practice may not proceed. Two coaches should be present on the bench at games. The 2nd coach may keep the official scorebook but may not instruct players from the scorers table. If the head coach is unavailable a parent should keep the score book and the assistant coach will assume the head coaching duties. If all coaches rostered for that team have become unavailable, the game shall be ended immediately and reported to the District Coordinator and League Commissioner.

Double Rostering of Players- The Diocese of Allentown and District 2 (Lehigh County) shall allow the double rostering of three (3) total players. A 4th grader may be brought up to a Junior Varsity Team to fill a roster spot if numbers are not enough to field a team. In the A division no more than three “3” players maybe double rostered from the “B” Team to the “A” Team but may not be double rostered from “A” to “B”. Any players double rostered must be identified to the District Administrator and your Leagues Basketball Commissioner prior to the beginning of the season. Teams should denote which players are double rostered on their official rosters submitted to the diocese by an asterisk as well as in their Official Scorebooks presented to the opposing teams. In case of a “B” Team being short of players 4th graders may be brought up to the team with permission from the League Commissioner. In the event no Biddy players are available or eligible an “A” Reserve may be brought down to the “B” team with written permission from the League Commissioner and the game shall be considered a forfeit.

District Playoffs

District playoffs shall be conducted on the Weekend immediately following the end of the Junior Varsity “A” Regular Season at a Location and Time determined in advanced by the District Basketball Board. An overall record of .500 including crossover games must be obtained to qualify for the playoffs. District Playoffs will consist of the Top Four (4) teams meeting the qualifying criteria of win percentage with the Highest seed playing the lowest seed. Seeding is based on intra-district games with overall record used to break ties for seeding

If there is a tie among any of the top 4 seeds, the district board will determine seeding based the following criteria, 1) Overall record including cross-over games, 2)head to head results. If both teams played twice and split the season then a coin flip will determine seeding. If the top two teams are tied and head to head results are split both teams will share co-league champion status and a Coin Flip will determine who will be the 1 seed and who will be the 2nd seed. If there is a tie for 4th place and head to head results are tied a one game playoff will take place to determine the 4th seed. Please note that points scored or points % shall not be used to determine tie breaker status as the mission of the league is to promote strong value of sportsmanship and the playing time of all kids regardless of talent and score.

Game Specific Rules for Junior Varsity Basketball “A” Division

Except as noted below, no defense is allowed beyond half court. That is, upon possession under an opposing basket, the defensive team must retreat to at least half court; no stoppage of play will occur (clock continues to run) to correct any violations.

a. Full court defense is allowed during the final 2 minutes of the 4th Qtr only so long as the pressure is not being applied by a team that has a lead of 15 points or more. In the case of over time, full court pressure is allowed in the final 2 minutes, just as regulation.

2. At any time there is a 20 or more point differential, the team that has the lead must begin to take actions to keep sportsmanship at a high level.

a. Substituting certain players out of the game

b. Eliminating fast break layups

c. Making a certain number of passes before taking a shot

d. Playing a more conservative defense

If a coach is not abiding by suggestions above and otherwise allowing the score to be run up, please contact the commissioner right away to look into the matter.

3. *Only Man to Man Defense is allowed. Zone Defense and Double Teaming is prohibited unless being utilized as part of proper Help defense, especially around the area of the basket. Defense should be picked up at the three point line to allow the ball to be advanced past half-court.*

4. Players with a 5th personal foul must be removed from the game within 30 seconds. A time-out will be charged if this is not accomplished.

District Playoffs

District playoffs shall be conducted on the Weekend immediately following the end of the Varsity “A” Regular Season at a Location and Time determined in advanced by the District Basketball Board. An overall record of .500 including crossover games must be obtained to qualify for the playoffs. District Playoffs will consist of the Top Four (4) teams meeting the qualifying criteria of win percentage with the Highest seed playing the lowest seed. Seeding is based on intra-district games with overall record used to break ties for seeding

If there is a tie among any of the top 4 seeds, the district board will determine seeding based the following criteria, 1) Overall record including cross-over games, 2) head to head results. If both teams played twice and split the season then a coin flip will determine seeding. If the top two teams are tied and head to head results are split both teams will share co-league champion status and a Coin Flip will determine who will be the 1 seed and who will be the 2nd seed. If there is a tie for 4th place and head to head results are tied a one game playoff will take place to determine the 4th seed. Please note that points scored or points % shall not be used to determine tie breaker status as the mission of the league is to promote strong value of sportsmanship and the playing time of all kids regardless of talent and score.

Final Playoff Schedule shall be made based on the determination of the Basketball Committee

Saturday (Day 1)

Game 1: Girls Seed #2 (Home) vs Girls Seed #3 (Away)

Game 2: Girls Seed #1 (Home) vs Girls Seed #4 (Away)

Game 3: Boys Seed #2 (Home) vs Boys Seed #3 (Away)

Game 4: Boys Seed #1 (Home) vs Boys Seed #4 (Away)

Sunday (Day 2- Championships)

Game 1: Winner Game 1 vs Winner Game 2 (Highest Seed will be Home Team)

Game 2: Winner Game 3 vs Winner Game 4 (Highest Seed will be Home Team)

Officiating and Official Fees for District Playoff Games

For Junior Varsity Playoff Games there will be 2 officials assigned by the District Ref Assignors. All fees associated with the officials shall be paid for by the District Committee

Awards for League and Playoffs

Awards shall be presented for the Playoff Champion, Playoff Runner-up

Playoff Champions will receive a team trophy and individual player medals fashioned in the style of their accomplishment i.e Gold Medal for Champion. Playoff Runner-Up shall receive Silver Medal for Runner Ups

Player Eligibility for the Playoffs

As stated in the Diocesan handbook “ A team or player participating in Diocesan CYO Playoffs may not participate in another League or Tournament during said playoffs, if those games conflict with any CYO playoff games. If a “player” participates in another league or Tournament and violates this rule, only the player is ineligible not the whole team.” (CYO Handbook Page 28, Section 2)

For a player to be eligible to participate in the District and Diocesan playoffs they must have attended 2/3RD of the scheduled games for that season.

Junior Varsity Basketball “B” Division

The purpose of the JV basketball league “B” Division is to provide an opportunity for CYO eligible students in the 5th and 6th grade, to develop basic basketball skills in a team environment. Though no Diocesan nor District rule prohibits or sets roster size limits for individual organizations and teams it is highly suggested due to the requirement of equal playing time at this Level that teams consist of ten (10) but no more than twelve (12) players per team. Individual organizations may set their own requirements on roster limits.

Game Rules for Junior Varsity Basketball “B” Division

PIAA rules generally apply except where indicated differently in the Diocesan and District Rule Book.

Each Game regardless of League (Gender) will consist of two 18-minute running halves with 4 minutes at the half. The clock will stop on the whistle for the **final 2 minutes of the game**.

Overtime- In the event that the game ends in a tie One (1) three minute overtime will be played to determine a winner. If at the end of the overtime period there is no winner; the game will be considered a draw.

Uniforms- Each team shall wear matching Uniform tops with numbers on the back of the jersey, so they may be clearly identified by the game officials. As it may be likely that two teams have like uniform colors it is asked that coaches identify prior to the game day which color they will be wearing to the opposing coach. In some cases a school may only have one set of uniforms. It is asked of the opposing team that if they have a similar color jersey but also have a 2nd jersey that a jersey of opposite color be worn for the game. In an event that both teams have similar jerseys and no alternate jersey it will be at the discretion of the game official on how teams will be determined. If pennies must be used it shall be determined by a coin flip conducted by the game official.

No Jewelry Shall be worn while participating in a CYO Sanctioned Game.

Mercy Rule- IN any game with a 15 or more-point lead, NO FULL OR HALF COURT PRESS BY EITHER TEAM is permitted and Two (2) Starters must be removed (if sufficient bench allows). Any team with a 20 or more-point lead must take out ALL Starters (If sufficient bench allows) from the game. Coaches should take all necessary steps to ensure that sportsmanship is upheld and scores are not being deliberately run up. Ways to limit this include the winning team limiting fast breaks and unfair player on player transition baskets (3 vs 1, 4 vs 2) as well as limiting 3 point shot opportunities.

If a game has a score differential of 35 points, a running clock shall be instituted by the game official and not stop until the end of game or the points deficit is under 35.

Scorebooks- Prior to the beginning of each contest coaches must exchange official names for the scorebooks. Each score book must have both the First & Last Name of the Players as well as the numbers. Last Names and/or Numbers only will not be accepted. Teams failing to comply with this rule will receive a forfeit for that game and coaches will receive a written warning. After two (2) offenses coaches will receive a one (1) game suspension for failing to comply with the rule. After three (3) offenses teams will be deemed ineligible for the playoffs.

Officials- Two (2) Referees shall be assigned by the District Basketball Coordinator. Referee fees are \$40.00 per team, with each team paying one of the officials. All payment must occur prior to the start of the game. Cash or Check may be used to make payment. No Electronic Payments shall be made. In the event that there is a Forfeit of game, the forfeiting team shall be responsible for the payment of both officials \$80.00, this fee shall be paid directly to the District Commissioner before the next weekend of game. Game Officials may if deemed appropriate remove any Player, Coach, or Spectator who is causing disruptions, making threatening remarks or behaviors, behaving in such a manner that the environment has become unsafe for our students, families, coaches. Furthermore, Gym Managers may request the removal of a spectator if they are causing disruptions, making threatening or inappropriate remarks to players, coaches, or fellow spectators. Gym Managers who make this determination must contact the Diocesan District CYO Commissioner immediately via email for notification.

Coach Box & Seat Belt Rule- Only the head coach or his designate may coach from the standing position. If two coaches are standing during the game a verbal warning will be given to the bench. After a 2nd offense in the same game a technical may be given by the official and both coaches will be asked to remain seated during the game.

Game Officials may ask the coaches to remain seated during the games if it is deemed it is necessary for the safety of the players and officials due to various factors including a short sideline.

The standing coach will be held to a coach's box area that extends from the end of the scorers table on their side of the sideline to the end of their bench but not exceeding that area. Coaches may not enter or coach from the playing area while the game is in progress and may only enter the playing area when play has stopped by the officials.

Time outs- Three (3) Full 60 seconds Time Outs and Two (2) 30 seconds shall be granted to each team per Game.

The Ball – The 28.5 Ball will be used

Coaches- Two (2) Adult Coaches should be present for all practices, if two adult coaches who are not rostered and cleared by the parish are unavailable then practice may not proceed. Two coaches should be present on the bench at games. The 2nd coach may keep the official scorebook but may not instruct players from the scorers table. If the head coach is unavailable a parent should keep the score book and the assistant coach will assume the head coaching duties. If all coaches rostered for that team have become unavailable, the game shall be ended immediately and reported to the District Coordinator and League Commissioner.

Double Rostering of Players- The Diocese of Allentown and District 2 (Lehigh County) shall allow the double rostering of three (3) total players. A 4th grader may be brought up to a Junior Varsity Team to fill a roster spot if numbers are not enough to field a team. Any players double rostered must be identified to the District Administrator and your Leagues Basketball Commissioner prior to the beginning of the season. Teams should denote which players are double rostered on their official rosters submitted to the diocese by an asterisk as well as in their Official Scorebooks presented to the opposing teams. In case of a "B" Team being short of players 4th graders may be brought up to the team with permission from the League Commissioner. In the event no Biddy players are available or eligible an "A" Reserve may be brought down to the "B" team with written permission from the League Commissioner and the game shall be considered a forfeit.

Game Specific Rules for Junior Varsity Boys Basketball "B"

Division

Except as noted below, no defense is allowed beyond half court. That is, upon possession under an opposing basket, the defensive team must retreat to at least half court; no stoppage of play will occur (clock continues to run) to correct any violations.

a. Full court defense is allowed during the final 2 minutes of the Half only so long as the pressure is not being applied by a team that has a lead of 15 points or more. In the case of over time, full court pressure is allowed in the final 2 minutes, just as regulation.

2. At any time there is a 20 or more point differential, the team that has the lead must begin to take actions to keep sportsmanship at a high level.

a. Substituting certain players out of the game

b. Eliminating fast break layups

c. Making a certain number of passes before taking a shot

d. Playing a more conservative defense

If a coach is not abiding by suggestions above and otherwise allowing the score to be run up, please contact the commissioner right away to look into the matter.

3. Only Man to Man Defense is allowed. Zone Defense and Double Teaming is prohibited unless being utilized as part of proper Help defense, especially around the area of the basket. Defense should be picked up at the three point line to allow the ball to be advanced past half-court.

4. Players with a 5th personal foul must be removed from the game within 30 seconds. A timeout will be charged if this is not accomplished.

Varsity Basketball "B" Division Playoffs

The Diocese of Allentown and District 2 (Lehigh County) shall not sponsor a Playoff in ANY "B" Divisions. If an Individual Parish Organization would like to host a B tournament it shall be understood that all cost for said tournament shall be the responsibility of the hosting organization as well as the securing of Referees and Game Officials. Though not sponsored by the Diocese or District it is asked that Organizations submit to the District Administrator an intent to host a end of season tournament if it is to involve CYO Organizations for insurance purposes.

Biddy Basketball (Grades 1st through 4th)

Biddy Basketball is grades 1, 2, 3 and 4 with an emphasis on grades 3 and 4. Any player who is in 4th grade and is listed on both a Biddy and Junior Varsity roster and is a starter for JV Team will not be allowed to play for the Biddy Team. Biddy basketball is focused on skill development in a controlled environment allowing kids to make mistakes and be properly corrected in a way that enhances the learning environment. It is a reminder to coaches that CYO does not condone a “Win at all Cost” Mentality and opportunities should be given to all our participants through fair-play and sportsmanship in a team environment.

Game Rules for Biddy Basketball (All Divisions)

PIAA rules generally apply except where indicated differently in the Diocesan and District Rule Book.

Each Game regardless of League (Gender) shall consist of Two Halves of Twenty (20) Minutes with stoppage for mandatory substitutions after Five (5) Minute have been played (Fifteen Minute Mark, 10 Minute Mark, 5 Minute Mark.) All players must play equally.

Overtime- There is no Overtime Period in Biddy Basketball.

Playing Rules Unique to Biddy Basketball

Defense – Only man to man defense is allowed once the first pass is made. Good man to man help defense is allowed, but players should not be habitually going to or swarming the player with the ball such as Double Teams or Triple Teams.

Upon possession under the opposing basket, the now defensive team must retreat to behind the defending 3-Point Line; no stoppage of play will occur to correct the situation but coaches are expected to address with their respective teams. After the offense sets up and makes the first pass outside the 3-point line or the ball handler penetrates inside the 3-point line, the defense is allowed to play half-court defense.

In the Case of Out of bounds from the sideline, the defense should default back to behind the 3-point line until the ball has been in-bounded by the offensive team in which than teams may return to half-court defense. This rule does not apply to in-bounding from the baseline positions.

Fast Breaks – In order to promote a more simulated game environment Offensive fastbreaks are allowed only in the 2nd half of each game. Teams who are significantly out playing their opponent should control the tempo of the game, so it does not get out of hand and encourage strong sportsmanship of their team.

3 Point Shots – 3 Point shooting is allowed in the Biddy Division but the first pass must be made prior to the shot being attempted to encourage teams to utilize set offensive plays vs. a run and shoot offense to better develop the team and strategy aspects of the game.

Uniforms- Each team shall wear matching Uniform tops with numbers on the back of the jersey, so they may be clearly identified by the game officials. As it may be likely that two teams have like uniform colors it is asked that coaches identify prior to the game day which color they will be wearing to the opposing coach. In some cases a school may only have one set of uniforms. It is asked of the opposing team that if they have a similar color jersey but also have a 2nd jersey that a jersey of opposite color be worn for the game. In an event that both teams have similar jerseys and no alternate jersey it will be at the discretion of the game official on how teams will be determined. If pennies must be used it shall be determined by a coin flip conducted by the game official.

Score Keeping- Scores for Biddy games should be kept for the purpose of teaching players game management and simulating the game environment but should be cleared after each half.

Scorebooks- Prior to the beginning of each contest coaches must exchange official names for the scorebooks. Each score book must have both the First & Last Name of the Players as well as the numbers. Last Names and/or Numbers only will not be accepted. Teams failing to comply with this rule will receive a forfeit for that game and coaches will receive a written warning. After two (2) offenses coaches will receive a one (1) game suspension for failing to comply with the rule. After three (3) offenses teams will be deemed ineligible for the playoffs.

Coach Box & Seat Belt Rule- Only the head coach or his designate may coach from the standing position. If two coaches are standing during the game a verbal warning will be given to the bench. After a 2nd offense in the same game a technical may be given by the official and both coaches will be asked to remain seated during the game.

Game Officials may ask the coaches to remain seated during the games if it is deemed it is necessary for the safety of the players and officials due to various factors including a short sideline. Per NFHS rules coaches of teams which receive a Bench Technical shall be seat-belted for the remainder of the game.

The standing coach will be held to a coach's box area that extends from the end of the scorers table on their side of the sideline to the end of their bench but not exceeding that area. Coaches may not enter or coach from the playing area while the game is in progress and may only enter the playing area when play has stopped by the officials.

Time outs- One (1) Full (Minute) Time out is given per half. Time outs do not carry over from half to half.

The Ball – The 28.5 Ball should be used in both divisions.

Coaches- Two (2) Adult Coaches should be present for all practices, if two adult coaches who are not rostered and cleared by the parish are unavailable then practice may not proceed. Two coaches should be present on the bench at games. The 2nd coach may keep the official scorebook but may not instruct players from the scorers table. In the event that the head coach is unavailable a parent should keep the score book and the assistant coach will assume the head coaching duties. If all coaches rostered for that team have become unavailable, the game shall be ended immediately and reported to the District Coordinator and League Commissioner.

High School Basketball

High School Basketball is grades 9, 10, 11, and 12. Any player who is in 8th grade and is not eligible for Middle School Varsity due to age may be rostered to the High School Team. Rostered High School Players in CYO may not also be rostered on a PIAA or School team roster at any level regardless of playing time on that team (Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshmen, Junior High)

Game Rules for High School Basketball (All Divisions)

PIAA rules generally apply except where indicated differently in the Diocesan and District Rule Book.

Each Game regardless of League (Gender) or Division (A or B) will consist of Two (2) Halves lasting Twenty (20) Minutes running clock each half with it only stopping the final minute of each half. with Five (5) Minutes allowed for warmups beginning after the preceding game and Three (3) Minutes allowed for Halftime.

Overtime- In the event of a game ends in a tie the overtime period shall be one minute with the clock stopping during dead balls.

Uniforms- Each team shall wear matching Uniform tops with numbers on the back of the jersey, so they maybe clearly identified by the game officials. As it may be likely that two teams have like uniform colors it is asked that coaches identify prior to the game day which color they will be wearing to the opposing coach. In some cases a school may only have one set of uniforms. It is asked of the opposing team that if they have a similar color jersey but also have a 2nd jersey that a jersey of opposite color be worn for the game. In an event that both teams have similar jerseys and no alternate jersey it will be at the discretion of the game official on how teams will be determined. If peenies must be used it shall be determined by a coin flip conducted by the game official.

Mercy Rule- IN any game with a 30 or more-point lead, NO FULL OR HALF COURT PRESS BY EITHER TEAM is permitted. Any team with a 30 or more-point lead must take out AT LEAST 2 STARTERS from the game. Coaches should take all necessary steps to ensure that sportsmanship is upheld and scores are not being deliberately run up. Ways to limit this include

the winning team limiting fast breaks and unfair player on player transition baskets (3 vs 1, 4 vs 2) as well as limiting 3 point shot opportunities.

If a game has a score differential of 35 points, a running clock shall be instituted by the game official and not stop until the end of game or the points deficit is under 35.

Scorebooks- Prior to the beginning of each contest coaches must exchange official names for the scorebooks. Each score book must have both the First & Last Name of the Players as well as the numbers. Last Names and/or Numbers only will not be accepted. Teams failing to comply with this rule will receive a forfeit for that game and coaches will receive a written warning. After two (2) offenses coaches will receive a one (1) game suspension for failing to comply with the rule. After three (3) offenses teams will be deemed ineligible for the playoffs.

Coach Box & Seat Belt Rule- Only the head coach or his designate may coach from the standing position. If two coaches are standing during the game a verbal warning will be given to the bench. After a 2nd offense in the same game a technical may be given by the official and both coaches will be asked to remain seated during the game.

Game Officials may ask the coaches to remain seated during the games if it is deemed it is necessary for the safety of the players and officials due to various factors including a short sideline. Per NFHS rules coaches of teams which receive a Bench Technical shall be seat-belted for the remainder of the game.

The standing coach will be held to a coach's box area that extends from the end of the scorers table on their side of the sideline to the end of their bench but not exceeding that area. Coaches may not enter or coach from the playing area while the game is in progress and may only enter the playing area when play has stopped by the officials.

Time outs- Three (3) Full 60 seconds Time Outs and Two (2) 30 seconds shall be granted to each team per Game.

The Ball – The appropriate PIAA Regulation Sized Balls shall be used for each league.

Coaches- Two (2) Adult Coaches should be present for all practices, if two adult coaches who are not rostered and cleared by the parish are unavailable then practice may not proceed. Two coaches should be present on the bench at games. The 2nd coach may keep the official scorebook but may not instruct players from the scorers table. In the event that the head coach is unavailable a parent should keep the score book and the assistant coach will assume the head coaching duties. If all coaches rostered for that team have become unavailable, the game shall be ended immediately and reported to the District Coordinator and League Commissioner.

Double Rostering of Players- The Diocese of Allentown and District 2 (Lehigh County) shall allow the double rostering of three (3) total players. A 6th grader may be brought up to a Varsity team to fill a roster spot if numbers are not enough to field a team. In the A division no more than three "3" players maybe double rostered from the "B" Team to the "A" Team but may not be

double rostered from “A” to “B”. Any players double rostered must be identified to the District Administrator and your Leagues Basketball Commissioner prior to the beginning of the season. Teams should denote which players are double rostered on their official rosters submitted to the diocese by an asterisk as well as in their Official Scorebooks presented to the opposing teams. In case of a “B” Team being short of players 6 graders may be brought up to the team with permission from the League Commissioner. In the event no JV players are available or eligible an “A” Reserve may be brought down to the “B” team with written permission from the League Commissioner and the game shall be considered a forfeit.

Reporting of Scores

It is the responsibility of the *Winning Coach* to report the score within 24 hours of the game ending to their designated League Commissioner via the preferred method determined by the commissioner prior to the start of the season. Failure to report scores within 24 hours will result in both a forfeit of game as well as a fine of \$25.00 to be paid by the coach to the District treasurer prior to the teams next game. For each offense of failure to report scores the fine will increase \$25.00, i.e 1st offense \$25.00, 2nd offense \$50.00 etc.

Playing Time Rule for High School CYO

As dictated in the Diocese of Allentown CYO Handbook *“Coaches are encouraged to give every player an opportunity to participate in all games in some capacity. **Though not mandated, when a participant signs up for the CYO program they expect, and have the right, to play in all games.** Coaches must encourage and instruct all the young athletes if they are to have a rewarding experience in sports.”* (CYO Handbook Page 38, Section F)

High School Playoffs

District Playoffs

District playoffs shall be conducted on the Weekend immediately following the end of the at a Location and Time determined in advanced by the District Basketball Board.

the district board will determine seeding based on head to head results. If both teams played twice and split the season then a coin flip will determine seeding. If the top two teams are tied and head to head results are split both teams will share co-league champion status and a Coin Flip will determine who will be the 1 seed and who will be the 2nd seed.

Officiating and Official Fees for District Playoff Games

For Varsity Playoff Games there will be 3 officials assigned by the District Ref Assignors. All fees associated with the officials shall be paid for by the District Committee

Awards for League and Playoffs

Awards shall be presented to the Regular Season Champion as well as Playoff Runner Ups and Champions

Diocesan Playoffs

One team will represent the District at the Diocesan Tournament each year. Representatives of the district will be determined by 1) Playoff Champion

In Years which we receive two representatives the League Champion will receive an automatic bid into the Diocesan Tournament with the Playoff Champion receiving the other bid. If the League and Playoff Champion are the same team, the Playoff Runner-up will be the 2nd representative.

Player Eligibility for the Playoffs

As stated in the Diocesan handbook “ A team or player participating in Diocesan CYO Playoffs may not participate in another League or Tournament during said playoffs, if those games conflict with any CYO playoff games. If a “player” participates in another league or Tournament and violates this rule, only the player is ineligible not the whole team.” (CYO Handbook Page 28, Section 2)

For a player to be eligible to participate in the District and Diocesan playoffs they must have attended 2/3RD of the scheduled games for that season.