

**DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG
CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION (CYO)
GIRLS GRADE SCHOOL BASKETBALL
HARRISBURG AREA BYLAWS**

ARTICLE I ORGANIZATION

This organization shall be formally referred as the DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION (CYO) GIRLS LEAGUE or informally referred as HARRISBURG CYO GIRLS LEAGUE.

The Harrisburg Girls League is under the jurisdiction of The Diocese of Harrisburg GIRLS AND BOYS GRADE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL POLICIES and must abide by the rules and regulations mandated [HERE](#).

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

The purpose of the HARRISBURG CYO GIRLS LEAGUE shall be to promote athletics, Christian values, good sportsmanship and good citizenship to the youth participants of the parishes.

ARTICLE III MEMBERS

Any parish in the Dauphin, Cumberland, Lebanon, *Adams, Franklin & York* counties is eligible to apply for entry into the League. All teams who wish to gain entry in the league must request such to the Commissioner at the September meeting prior to the upcoming regular season. Failure to do so will make them ineligible for League play that season. The League will accept newly consolidated programs resulting from combining existing programs if the parish *authorities* and the Diocese of Harrisburg approve the program consolidation. Approval for entry will require a two-thirds majority vote of the *existing members*.

ARTICLE IV LEAGUE ADMINISTRATION

SECTION 1 OFFICERS

The League administration is made up of an Executive Board that consists of a Commissioner, Treasurer, Secretary and Official Liaison. The Executive Board which shall be responsible for all matters related to the operations of the League. These responsibilities include such matters as investigating and deciding protests, league rule violations and parish player/coach/parent misconduct. If an Executive Board member is a coach or coordinator of the team or parish involved in the protest or schedule change, that person shall *recuse* themselves from voting on the issue in question. If the Board is deadlocked, then a vote is conducted from the group of coordinators with the majority vote ruling. Only one parishioner per parish can serve on The Executive Board at any given time. Each position will be elected by a majority vote of the League Coordinators or other parish representatives who are in attendance at the yearly spring meeting. The Executive Board members will serve for a two year period as defined as June 1-May 31.

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The Commissioner/Treasurer will be elected during odd years and the Secretary/Official Liaison will be elected during even years.

SECTION 2 TEAM ROSTERS

There is no maximum limit to the number of players a team may roster but there is minimum number of five. Each regular season team roster must be submitted to the Commissioner per the established due date. The Commissioner will review the roster for accuracy and completeness and submit them to the Director of CYO Basketball at the Diocese of Harrisburg on or before December 1 of each year.

SECTION 3 SCHEDULE

A. RESPONSIBILITY

The Executive Board is responsible to develop and distribute a regular season schedule each year. The schedule will include games for all levels of play for teams that were entered by the parish coordinators at the fall league meeting. The schedule will include game dates, location, times, and home and visitor teams. The schedule, when complete, will be distributed to the parish representatives who in-turn are expected to supply copies to all interested parties of their parish program. Additionally, this schedule will be posted to the league website and revised as needed. The number of times each team plays each other will be determined by the Official Liaison at the time of scheduling.

B. SCHEDULE CHANGES

Changes to the League schedule will be accepted at the discretion of the Official Liaison. Failure to provide appropriate evidence that a reschedule is absolutely necessary, could result in a forfeit. After publication of the League playing schedule, any changes must be submitted by the HOME team representative to the Official Liaison, no later than three days in advance of the new date. This notification should include a new date, time and game location. The change must be agreed upon between the parish coordinators and the head coaches involved. The minimum three day notice is necessary to ensure there is adequate time to notify the referee association to allow for communication to the referees. If the three day notice is not provided and the referees show up for a cancelled game, the home team will be responsible to pay the referee fees.

C. GAME CANCELLATIONS

Game cancellations, for reasons other than routine rescheduled games, must be conveyed to the, Official Liaison no later than three hours before the game or games were scheduled to be played. Any cancellations must be agreed upon by the coordinators and these decisions are expected to be communicated to all interested/affected parties through any means possible. The Secretary will be responsible to ensure the website is updated. The Official Liaison will be responsible to ensure the referee association is contacted. All cancelled games (except weather cancellations for Instructional levels) are expected to be rescheduled at the earliest convenience of each parish and coordinated through their respective coordinators.

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D. GAME FORFEITS

A team found to using an ineligible player shall forfeit any game in which said player participated in. A team not appearing for a game within 15 minutes of its scheduled start time shall forfeit the game, unless in the opinion of the Executive Board, there was valid reason for not appearing on time. A home team that changes a scheduled game without prior knowledge and agreement with the visiting team's coordinator and/or head coach shall forfeit the game. If a team forfeits a game, the forfeiting team will be responsible for any referee fees, if any apply.

SECTION 4 PENALTIES

A. PROTESTS / COMPLAINTS

Protests and/or complaints where game results and/or Bylaws are in question shall be submitted in writing to the Commissioner within forty-eight hours of the protested issues/contest. A fee of \$10 should accompany the protest, the proceeds of which shall enter the general fund of the League. A written response to the protest will be rendered to the submitting party and other parties involved as soon as all the facts are gathered by the Executive Board and a decision is finalized. The League will only accept complaints that violate league rules.

B. SANCTIONS

Sanctions will be imposed for any action not consistent with league philosophy and/or approved operating procedures. Sanctions will apply to any action that is deemed ethically inappropriate or which shows lack of commitment to the league first and foremost. Ignorance is not a defense. Deliberate "intent" and past behavior will be considered in all events being reviewed for sanctions. A \$100 fine will be levied against a parish for a first offense and up to a one year suspension, for that level of play, may be imposed. If the inappropriate behavior/actions continue, the program will incur the fine plus a one year program suspension for all levels of play related to that parish. The parish senior and coordinator will be notified of the fine and suspension action for any offense.

C. SUSPENSIONS – COACHES AND PLAYERS

Upon receiving an unsporting technical foul assessed during a contest to a Novice Head Coach (assuming they are using their ability to stand in the coaching box,) the coach must immediately sit for the remainder of the contest. In addition, they will receive a one (1) game suspension for the first and second technical foul received that season. Upon receiving a 3rd technical foul, they will lose their ability to use the coaching box for every contest thereafter that season in addition to other penalties assessed per the Diocese Bylaws.

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D. APPEAL PROCESS

Programs have the ability to appeal a suspension to the Executive Board. Detailed information must be presented by all parties involved to the Executive Board for their review. All appeals will be resolved within one (1) week of the incident in question. All decisions are the sole responsibility of the Executive Board and are final.

ARTICLE V MEETINGS

Two (2) meetings ***will be*** scheduled ***each year***; Fall (***approximately*** September) and Spring (***approximately*** May.) The Fall meeting ***may cover business related to the upcoming season of play; program consolidations, facility availability, Sacrament blackout dates, number of teams per level per parish and league tournament scheduling/site availability,*** The ***Spring*** meeting ***may cover*** issues related to League guidelines/rules changes, evaluation of and/or complaints from the previous season and election of the Executive Board for the upcoming year. Additional meetings ***may*** be conducted to address special situations ***as needed.***

Each ***current League Member Parish Coordinator*** (participated in the most recent season) is entitled to one (1) vote when a call to vote is required. A majority carries a motion. A vote by proxy is not recognized.

ARTICLE VI EXECUTIVE BOARD

SECTION 1 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. LEAGUE COMMISSIONER

The League Commissioner shall be the chief officer and be responsible for ensuring the league by-laws are enforced. The Commissioner will preside over league meetings; require parishes, by an established due date, to submit the number and type of teams they expect to participate each season and provide corresponding rosters for each team. The Commissioner and other board members will establish play dates and gym locations for all tournaments. These tournaments will be held in accordance with guidelines established by the executive board, parish coordinators and be in compliance with the Diocese of Harrisburg CYO Rules. The Commissioner has the latitude to delegate any responsibilities as deemed necessary and appropriate to executive board members or any other qualified person. The Commissioner will be reimbursed for League expenses incurred.

B. LEAGUE SECRETARY

The Secretary will be responsible for recording the league minutes and submitting them to the Commissioner for review and distribution. The Secretary will provide oversight to the League website which includes, but not limited to, the League game results, standings, and general updates in a timely manner. Additionally, the Secretary will provide assistance to the Executive Board as the need arises. The Secretary will be reimbursed for expenses League incurred.

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C. LEAGUE TREASURER

The Treasurer will be responsible for calculating, collecting, and depositing yearly league fees; disbursement of monies to the referee association and general League expenses as needed with oversight from the Commissioner. Additionally, the Treasurer will provide assistance to the Executive Board as the need arises. The Treasurer will be reimbursed for expenses incurred. The Treasurer will be responsible for payment of all fees associated with the League website.

D. OFFICIAL LIAISON

The Official Liaison will work closely with the parish coordinators to create and distribute the yearly regular season game schedule in a timely manner. All issues related to referees will be the Official Liaison's responsibility.

ARTICLE VII LEAGUE STRUCTURE & ADMINISTRATION

SECTION 1 FINANCIAL

A. LEAGUE FEES

The league fees collected from each parish will be calculated by the number of teams each parish schedules for the upcoming season. The total of fees charged will be the amount needed to cover costs associated with conducting the yearly league tournaments (referee fees and trophies/awards), the fees required to be paid to the Diocese CYO Program, referee association fees, and general operating costs as determined by the Executive Board. The yearly parish fee is due with roster submittals. Any fees submitted late will be assessed a \$50 late charge. Any program that has not submitted the total amount of fees and/or late fees by December 1 (start of regular season), may, at the discretion of the Executive Board, not be allowed to play until payment is submitted. If the lack of payment persists, the program could be eliminated from the schedule for the entire regular season and League tournament play, at the discretion of the Executive Board.

B. PLAYER INSURANCE

Insurance is the sole responsibility of each parish as they relate to their players, coaches and other participants participating in the CYO program. Executive board members cannot be held liable.

C. REFEREE PAYMENT

The home team coach is responsible to pay the referee fees on the floor at game time. All games at all levels of play must have two referees for each game. The Officials Liaison is responsible to schedule the referees.

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**ARTICLE VIII RULES & REGULATIONS
SECTION I GENERAL**

- Multiple *Competitive level teams* (require the approval of the *League* by a majority vote at the Fall meeting.
- Competitive levels must be filled BEFORE Instructional level teams are filled. Exceptions can be requested and will be reviewed by the Executive Committee and if deemed acceptable, voted on by the League.
- In order to field multiple teams at any Instructional level you must field at least One (1) team at the corresponding Competitive level; Varsity & Intermediate I and JV & Intermediate II. Exceptions can be requested and will be reviewed by the Executive Committee and if deemed acceptable, voted on by the League.
- In order to field multiple teams at the Novice level you must field at least one (1) team at the Intermediate II level. Exceptions cannot be requested.
- A player can be rostered on both the Competitive and Instructional team rosters simultaneously; Varsity & Intermediate I or JV & Intermediate II. No player can start both a Competitive & Instructional game on the same day. A Novice player can ONLY be rostered on a Novice roster.
- *All Competitive level teams must designate five (5) starters each game on their roster. These players are expected to be the best skilled players on the Competitive level team. The designated starters cannot play in an Instructional level game on the day they start. A non-designated starter cannot start an Instructional level game if they started a Competitive level game on the same day.*
- All Competitive level games MUST be rescheduled. EXCEPTION if a League mandated decision is issued.
- All games will be played according to NFHS/PIAA rules with some exceptions at each level.
- Games at every level will have two PIAA referees scheduled to officiate.
 - A game can be started if only one referee appears for any level of play.
 - If no referees show up for a scheduled game at other than the Novice level, wait fifteen minutes past the scheduled start time and then cancel the game. Immediately notify the Official Liaison of the problem. The Official Liaison will contact the referee assignor to discuss and resolve the issue.
 - If no referee's show up for a Novice game, coaches from both teams can agree to use any persons they feel comfortable with using so the scheduled game can proceed
- Every effort will be made to schedule all games One (1) hour Fifteen (15) minutes except Novice will be One (1) hour
- No games will start later than 8 PM
- All Head Coaches are ONLY permitted to stand when requesting a time out. **EXCEPTION-** Novice Level.

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A. HOME TEAM

- Must provide an experienced time clock operator located at the scorer's table
- Must provide an experienced scorekeeper located at the scorer's table who will be designated as "official."
- A first aid kit to be located at the scorer's table. **Failure to furnish a first aid kit may result in a forfeiture of the game.**
- Must provide a Game Manager to monitor crowd control and other potential outside elements and is responsible for the overall security of the property, assets and everyone attending the games.
- ***Must provide basketballs for the use of the Visiting Team***
- Submit all Competitive level scores through the League website ***within 48 hours of game completion.***

B. VISITING TEAM

- Must provide an experienced scorekeeper located at the scorer's table

SECTION 2 VARSITY – Competitive-8th Grade and below

- NFHS/PIAA rules apply at all times with the following exception:
 - Mercy Rule will go into effect when a team reaches thirty (30) point lead ant time in the 2nd half of the game. Clock stops on timeouts, injured player, disqualifications & between quarters.
- Standings are maintained on League website
- The League champion will not result from the Varsity team with the best regular season record but rather the League standings will be used to establish the League tournament brackets.
- All games cancelled at this level are expected to be rescheduled.
- No playoff games will be scheduled whereby more than one team is tied for the best regular season record.

SECTION 3 INTERMEDIATE I – Instructional -8th Grade and below

- NFHS/PIAA rules apply at all times with the following exception
 - Mercy Rule will go into effect when a team reaches thirty (30) point lead ant time in the 2nd half of the game. Clock stops on timeouts, injured player, disqualifications & between quarters.
 - ***INSTRUCTIONAL LEVEL OF PLAY*** requires all players to be given approximately ***EQUAL*** playing time with limited discretion given to the coach
 - Overtime – 3 minute sudden death

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- This level of play is not expected to reschedule if games are cancelled.

SECTION 4 JUNIOR VARSITY – Competitive-6th Grade and below

- NFHS/PIAA rules apply at all times with the following exception:
 - Mercy Rule will go into effect when a team reaches thirty (30) point lead ant time in the 2nd half of the game. Clock stops on timeouts, injured player, disqualifications & between quarters.
- Standings are maintained on League website
- The League champion will not result from the JV team with the best regular season record but rather the League standings will be used to establish the League tournament brackets.
- All games cancelled at this level are expected to be rescheduled.
- No playoff games will be scheduled whereby more than one team is tied for the best regular season record.

SECTION 5 INTERMEDIATE II – Instructional - 6th Grade and below

- NFHS/PIAA rules apply at all times with the following exception
 - Mercy Rule will go into effect when a team reaches thirty (30) point lead ant time in the 2nd half of the game. Clock stops on timeouts, injured player, disqualifications & between quarters.
 - ***INSTRUCTIONAL LEVEL OF PLAY** requires all players to be given approximately **EQUAL** playing time with limited discretion given to the coach.*
 - Twenty-Two (22) minute running clock
 - The clock will stop during timeouts, injury situations, disqualified players and in the last minute of each half.
 - Overtime – 3 minute sudden death
 - ONLY Man-to-Man defense is allowed in the front court.
- This level of play is not expected to reschedule if games are cancelled.

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SECTION 6 NOVICE – 5th Grade and below

- NFHS/PIAA rules apply at all times with the following exception
 - Mercy Rule will go into effect when a team reaches thirty (30) point lead ant time in the 2nd half of the game. Clock stops on timeouts, injured player, disqualifications & between quarters.
 - ***INSTRUCTIONAL LEVEL OF PLAY** requires all players to be given approximately **EQUAL** playing time with limited discretion given to the coach.*
 - Twenty (20) minute running clock
 - The clock will stop during timeouts, injury situations, disqualified players and in the last minute of each half.
 - No Overtime
 - No Full Court Press Allowed
 - No Zone Defenses Allowed-Man-to-Man ONLY
 - On change of possession in the backcourt, all defensive players must move back behind the 3-point arc of the offense’s front court. The ball must break the plane of the offensive team’s 3-point arc before the defense can play the ball. Upon the 1st time the ball breaks the plane of the 3-point arc, the defensive pressure can be applied anywhere in the front court.
 - Does not allow a star player of one team to continually rotate to the ball handler of the opposing team.
 - No Double-teaming Allowed
 - **EXCEPTION**-double teaming allowed inside the key
 - Each team is awarded one (1) 30 second and (1) 60 second time out per half.
 - Unused timeouts do not carryover from the first to the second half.
 - Players will be permitted to step over the free throw line as part of their follow-through on foul shots as long as they begin behind the line and make a reasonable attempt to adhere to the rules.
 - All foul shots will be one and one only.
 - A Head Novice Coach may stand within the confines of the coaching box during a contest.
- This level of play is not expected to reschedule if games are cancelled
- No league champion will be declared at end of the season.
- No foul shots will occur until after the 10th team foul or starting with the 11th foul.

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ARTICLE IX TOURNAMENTS

The League may sponsor tournaments for their member parishes. It is recommended member parishes do not schedule tournaments that will compete at the same level or corresponding level as to detract from parish participation in league tournaments.

SECTION 1 ELIGIBILITY & PARTICIPATION

All parishes who have a team participating at any level will be assessed for League sponsored tournaments at the beginning of each season as part of their League fee. Participation in any League tournament is optional. All tournament fees are non-refundable if the team chooses not to participate.

SECTION 2 SEEDING & STRUCTURE

The regular season results for the competitive levels will be used to develop the seeding for all tournaments. The tournament seeding will give an advantage to teams with the highest regular season League records. Only the Executive Board can develop or modify League tournament brackets. Any and all available information will be used to develop fair brackets for all instruction level tournaments. Tournament formats will be subject to availability of facilities and time constraints. It is recommended that a double elimination tournament format be used for competitive levels and a single elimination tournament format be used for instructional levels.

SECTION 3 AWARDS

Award proposals will be reviewed yearly and discussed at the Fall meeting. Team trophy and/or individual awards (up to 15 per team) may be given to tournament champions only. A team trophy may be given to 2nd and 3rd place finishes. The winner of the competitive level tournaments will be declared the League winner for that season. No league winners will be recognized for Instructional level tournaments.