

CYO GENERAL ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

This document is designed to provide information for parishes and individuals participating in the CYO program at the Grade School (Cadet, 56 and 4th grade), and High School (Freshman-Sophomore and Junior-Senior) levels.

There may be rules accompanying each activity which may impose additional limitations or provide for participation by additional youth not specified in this general description. However, this document should enable the parish, coaches, and parents to determine in the vast majority of cases whether a potential participant is eligible. These standards have been approved by the Indianapolis CYO Board of Directors, working through its Athletics Policy Committee, and are in effect until further notice.

Applications for exceptions to these standards may be made to the Athletics Policy Committee of the CYO Board of Directors. If the exception requested concerns participation in a specific activity, application must be received by the Athletics Policy Committee no later than three weeks prior to the start of that activity's season. Any such application must be made in writing to the CYO Office. All particulars of school and residence circumstances, age, grade and any other factors, including but not limited to roster size, which are pertinent to the proposed exception must be included in the application. If any uncertainty concerning the eligibility of a potential participant remains after reading these standards, the CYO Office should be contacted.

HIGH SCHOOL AGE GROUP

1. **Age and Grade** - Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors in high school who have not reached the age of 19 before the completion of the athletic season in which they are competing, which includes the following summer. A potential participant who is not presently attending regular high school also is eligible to participate during the school year and including the following summer as long as this person falls within the age rule outlined above and the class with which he or she completed grade school has not graduated from high school. Any student over this stated age limit, who wishes to participate, must submit a written request to the CYO Office for review at least three weeks prior to the start of an athletic season.

CADET AGE GROUP

1. **Age and Grade** - Fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade students who have not reached the age of 16 before the completion of the athletic season in which they are competing. Any student over this stated age limit, who wishes to participate, must submit a written request to the CYO office for review at least three weeks prior to the start of an athletic season.
 - a. **Special Note:** If a student has completed the 8th grade and has graduated with his or her class from grade school, that student is no longer eligible to participate in the CYO grade school athletic program.

56 AGE GROUP

1. **Age and Grade** - Fifth and sixth grade students who have not reached the age of 14 before the completion of the athletic season in which they are competing. Any student over this stated age limit, who wishes to participate, must submit a written request to the

CYO office for review at least three weeks prior to the start of an athletic season. (Fourth graders are eligible for some 56 sports. Check with the parish athletic director or CYO Office).

4th Age Group

- 1. Age and Grade** - 4th grade students who have not reached the age of 12 before the completion of the athletic season in which they are competing. Any student over the stated age limit, who wishes to participate, must submit a written request to the CYO Office for review three weeks prior to the start of an athletic season. (Fourth graders are eligible for some 56 sports. Check with the parish athletic director or CYO office).

3rd Grade Age Group

- 1. Age and Grade** - 3rd grade students who have not reached the age of 11 before the completion of the athletic season in which they are competing. Any student over the stated age limit, who wishes to participate, must submit a written request to the CYO Office for review at least three weeks prior to the start of an athletic season.
 - a. Boys Football, Girls Kickball and Cross Country are the only CYO sports that allow 3rd graders to participate
 - b. Failure to abide by this rule can lead to various consequences, including team disqualification

Parish and School Affiliation — In order to participate in CYO sports, all participants must be either a student enrolled in a Catholic school or a child residing in a household registered in and participating in a Catholic parish. A participating household is determined by official registration on the parish roster. However, pastors, at their discretion, may also require attendance at Mass and or active participation in the religious education or youth ministry programs offered by the parish.