

New Rule: New Mandatory New Participant Waiting Period Requirement

We are pleased to announce that the Diocese has approved a new rule. The full text of the new rule can be found in our 19th Addition of the CYO Bylaws on our website, I have also included the text below, with some explanations that will hopefully be helpful to you below that:

Mandatory New Participant Waiting Period Requirement

New participants, who were not eligible to play previously, and did not play for their registered parish program the previous CYO basketball season must wait one entire CYO basketball season before playing competitive CYO basketball (JV or Varsity). They will be permitted to play non-competitive basketball (Novice or Intermediate) during the season long waiting period. If no appropriate non-competitive level is offered at the new parish, the league may assign them to play at another parish program for that year. This applies to all new participants unless they meet one of the following exceptions:

- a. ADDRESS CHANGE: The participants' physical and primary address has changed and they now live closer to their new parish. They must also be able to verify that the participant received Catholic religious education at their previous parish or school during the previous school year.*
- b. FIRST YEAR SCHOOL STUDENT: The participant is a first year student at a parochial school. They must also be able to verify that the participant received Catholic religious education at their previous parish or parochial school during the previous school year.*
- c. PRIOR YEAR CYO PARTICIPANT: Prior year CYO Participants who transfer parishes but don't have proof of a change in their physical and primary address can participate in their prior parish's competitive program during the one year waiting period.*
- d. **2017-18 ONLY:** As this rule gets phased in, and in order to be fair, exemptions will be made for the 2017-18 season only. The one year waiting period will be waived once the pastor of that parish sends a letter stating that they believe that the new participants change in school or parish is not at all athletically motivated.*

Purpose of the New Rule

The purpose of this rule is to help curb potential recruiting in CYO. Although we do offer competitive basketball and believe in the positive effects that healthy competition can have on our players and programs, we have seen the downside. Over the years many rules (including this one) had existed previously, but were relaxed or eliminated in order to be more inclusive. Unfortunately we feel that some programs have taken advantage of this and we feel this rule is the best way to help curb this growing problem at this time. The rule was crafted with the help and input of all league commissioners in response to an overwhelming call from parents and coaches to do something.

Let's remember the purpose of CYO as written in our bylaws:

CYO is a parish-based basketball program, providing opportunities for youth to grow in faith and understanding of the Catholic Church through involvement in parish and diocesan life.

There is nothing in there about winning, crushing your opponent, hanging a championship banner or building a dynasty. We need to remind ourselves that we ultimately want these kids to have a good experience while they are with us and grow in their Catholic faith. We also want our parishes to develop a better sense of community through CYO and encourage our players to continue to be involved long after their playing days are over.

FAQ's

What levels are affected by the new rule?

This new rule only applies to JV and Varsity levels.

Does this mean kids will be excluded from playing basketball this season?

No! If a player is found ineligible for competitive basketball this season they can still play Novice or Intermediate basketball during the waiting period. If no such level is offered at your parish the league will do it's best to find a team for that player to play on this season.

Are there exceptions?

Yes, please read the full text of this rule for all exceptions, so long as the player has been receiving Catholic religious education last year and this year.

Isn't it kind of late to implement this rule?

Yes it is. Although the rule was first agreed upon in the summer the approval process has been a lengthy one, and we do apologize for that but we still feel it's important to implement this season. In order to be fair we do have one more important exception for the 2017-18 season only.

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2017-18 Only Exception

2017-18 ONLY: As this rule gets phased in, and in order to be fair, exemptions will be made for the 2017-18 season only. The one year waiting period will be waived once the pastor of that parish sends a letter stating that they believe that the new participants change in school or parish is not at all athletically motivated.

What this does is it shows us that the pastor gave special attention to each individual case and in their minds they believe that the players' primary intention in attending that school or parish is not to play basketball. We think this exception is fair given the late implementation of this rule. We also know that in CYO we have many special cases that we might have potentially overlooked in the crafting of this language, this will help out those individuals for this season. After the 2017-18 season this exception goes away and we feel your programs will have plenty of time to prepare for 2018-19. **The letter should be printed out and attached to your final roster and submitted to your league.** We also strongly recommend that you email a list of your new JV & Varsity players to your league president to aid in the process.

Moving Forward

Next season the 2017-18 exception goes away and the waiting period truly becomes mandatory. If you have any feedback regarding the rule please contact your parish rep and/or league representative. If we feel the need to modify the language in any way we will do so in a timely manner following the conclusion of this season.