
Governance for GCCYS

Prepared for: GCCYS

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Governance

1. Membership
2. Board Members
3. Combinations and Mergers
4. Team
5. Players/Eligibility
6. Coaches
7. Parents / Fans
8. General Oversight
 - a. Protests
 - b. Grievances
9. Violations

1. Membership

- a. Meetings of members must be held by a general quorum policy.
 - i. Attendance of fifty percent plus 1 will be needed from the sitting active board members
 - ii. Attendance of 30% of the general voting membership is needed to make a quorum.
 - iii. For voting meetings, 51% of present voting members is needed for passage of any motions/bylaws. Each active member school/parish shall have one vote, when in attendance; there shall be no voting by proxy.
- b. Programs / Schools wishing to become members of the GCCYS must fill out the New Membership Application and submit it to the board prior to the specified date. Such time shall be given so the voting membership of the GCCYS can vote on the new membership/schools in a general meeting. Information on the application shall be made available to the general members prior to a vote.
- c. All members of the GCCYS must follow the Archdiocese Charter on Youth Athletics.
 - i. <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/4-1-14-Online-YA-Charter.pdf>
- d. The Archdioceses Charter on Youth Athletics binds all other governance regarding youth athletics unless otherwise specified in this document.

2. Board Members

Each board member will reside on the GCCYS for a 2-year term and must be approved in a general voting session for the league. After 2 consecutive terms a board member may NOT submit for a third term unless no other members are seeking the position. The GCCYS members will include but not limited to the following areas:

- a. President
- b. Vice President
- c. Treasure
- d. League Operations
- e. Coordinator
- f. Rules
- g. Governance

3. Combinations and Mergers

- a. In a merger, only one member will be deemed the sponsoring member, be listed on the competition schedule and be responsible for administration of the team.
- b. A merger agreement is valid for one athletic team or program for one season only.
- c. All athletes from the parties to the merger are required to participate on the approved merged team(s).
- d. If a school or parish will know that they will need to merger with another member, they will be directed to fill out a Merger form provided by the GCCYS Board. This form will be used for players, teams and programs.
- e. Only current members of the GCCYS can merge together to form a team/program.
- f. Players that cannot play on their home school/parish due to roster constraints but still wish to play in the current season, the GCCYS will find a program for those players.
 - i. Precedence of Geography and divisions will be taken into consideration for placement.
- g. All mergers must be handled through the GCCYS.
- h. Every player will be given the opportunity to play.

4. Teams

- a. Rosters are to be submitted to the GCCYS by a date specified by the GCCYS Board.
- b. Every player must have the liability waiver signed prior to roster acceptance.
- c. A process established and executed by the GCCYS governance subcommittee will validate final rosters.

5. Players

- a. Any flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct is just cause for suspension from playing in the GCCYS. Good sportsmanship is expected at all times by players. Inappropriate behavior at any time during a GCCYS function is just cause for penalty.
- b. Sportsmanship is a primary focus of the GCCYS. Players are expected to respect their opponents. It is inappropriate for players and coaches to use insulting or demeaning language (trash talk / bullying) or other language deemed inappropriate by GCCYS staff, site supervisors, event directors, commissioners, or contest officials before, during or after games.

c. Player Eligibility

- i. To be eligible to play in the GCCYS, a player must be recognized as a registered member of his/her parish or attend the parish school that is listed in the membership of the GCCYS.
- ii. If a family/player belongs to multiple parishes and attends one of the parish's schools, they will play for the parish school if the sport is offered.
- iii. A special exception meeting will be held by governance once per season to hear special circumstances to who might have a conflict to eligibility.
- iv. The GCCYS offers programs for students in the 3rd – 8th Grades and we do not offer or permit players in any other grades to participate.

1. Age limitations to be eligible to participate are:

- a. 3rd grade you may not be 10 prior to August 1st of the current academic year.
- b. 4th grade you may not be 11 prior to August 1st of the current academic year.
- c. 5th grade you may not be 12 prior to August 1st of the current academic year.
- d. 6th grade you may not be 13 prior to August 1st of the current academic year.
- e. 7th grade you may not be 14 prior to August 1st of the current academic year.
- f. 8th grade you may not be 15 prior to August 1st of the current academic year.
- v. Violations of any of the listed eligibility rules will result in dismissal of the offending player(s)
- vi. Flagrant violations will result in the forfeiture of all games in which an ineligible player participated and in some cases, further sanctions may be imposed by the board.
- vii. A player must only appear on a GCCYS roster once in the specific sport in a season.

- viii. Any player that played for a parish program but did not attend that parish school or an affiliate parish school and the next year decides to move to a different parish program will lose one year of eligibility and must sit out that year. The only exception to this would be if that player attends the parish school to which the player is transferring. A player must petition the governance committee for exception due to extenuating circumstances. The committee will have the final say.
- ix. Players will default to the previous seasons program to establish program residency.
- x. Any player that is expelled from school is immediately ineligible for the remainder of the season and post season.
- xi. Unaffiliated participants will follow 4.2.1 of the Archdiocese Charter and are permitted to play if all Charter actions have taken place. The GCCYS will follow the mergers section of the league for placement.

6. Coaches

- a. If a head coach is ejected from a game and does not leave quietly or there is no registered assistant coach, the team must forfeit that game.
- b. All coaches must adhere to the Archdiocese Charter on Youth Athletics. They are required to follow the entire Charter. Coaches Code of Conduct can be found:
 - i. Section 8.21, 8.2.2, 8.2.3, 8.2.4
 - ii. Section 6.2.9, 6.2.10, 6.2.11, 6.2.12, 6.2.13
- c. All coaches that have contact with the players during a game or practice must have a concussion-training certificate completed before practice or games are held. Only the CDC or the NFHS certifications will be accepted. Coaches must carry these certificates on their person at practices, games and tournaments.
 - i. <http://nfhslearn.com/courses/38000> (Preferred)
 - ii. <http://www.cdc.gov/HeadsUp/youthsports/training/index.html>
 - iii. Understand that Links my change and websites moved, but the principle of CDC or NFHS certificates will remain current.

7. Parents/Fans

- a. It is expected that all players, parents, spectators and all other persons associated with member teams will conduct themselves as an example of Christian behavior. They do this through Christian leadership, demonstrating good sportsmanship, and providing high quality athletic programs.
- b. GCCYS staff, site directors, event directors, commissioners, and contest officials have the authority to remove from the premises any players, coaches and or spectators who display inappropriate behavior. If the offending person does not leave, the contest will be suspended.

8. General Oversight – Protest and Grievance

1. Definitions

- 1. A grievance is a written concern or disagreement with the administration of the GCCYS athletic program including eligibility of a participant or conduct of an individual involved in a GCCYS competition.
- 2. A protest is a written objection directly associated with the sport rules and/or athletic contest. Protests involving disputed calls by game officials are not considered for appeal. The decisions and interpretations of rules by contest officials are final.

Protest and Grievance Process

- 3. Within three (3) days of the incident or before the next scheduled game in the athletic schedule, the initiator of the grievance or protest must submit the issue in writing to

the GCCYS Board along with a \$50.00 filing fee. The Pastoral Designee and member administrator must sign the document.

4. The GCCYS Board will notify all parties that are deemed to have an interest in the grievance or protest.
5. The GCCYS Board will determine pertinent facts through the use of phone interviews, in-person conferences, written reports or other means.
6. The GCCYS Board will issue a written decision resolving the issue.
7. If a GCCYS Board member is involved in the grievance or protest, they must remove themselves from the process until it is completed.
8. If the decision of the GCCYS is in favor of the appealing member, the filing fee will be refunded.

8. Violations

- a. The penalties that are imposed by the GCCYS for violations of these rules include, but are not limited to:
 - i. No further action
 - ii. Warning
 - iii. Probation
 - iv. Forfeiture of playoff or tournament participation privileges
 - v. Forfeiture of game or games
 - vi. Temporary or permanent suspension or removal of a player, coach, parent or spectator
 - vii. Suspension of current/future event sanction privileges
 - viii. Suspension of the team for a set number of games or for the season
 - ix. Suspension of athletic contests when the relationships between two or more teams have become so quarrelsome and unsportsmanlike as to jeopardize the parish and public welfare.
 - x. Suspension of membership in the GCCYS.
- b. Penalties assessed by the GCCYS upon members for violation of these bylaws will vary with the nature of the violation.