

CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION

PARTICIPATION VS. COMPETITION

The purpose of CYO Athletics, especially at the 5/6th grade level, is to provide a program that is in the best interest of the participants and exemplifies Christian principles. The CYO Athletic program is designed to give the opportunity to each student-athlete to develop and use skills in a chosen sport.

Each coach must be committed to instruct each child participating on a team and must provide each child with the opportunity to meaningfully contribute to the team. Each coach must help all student athletes learn the fundamentals of the sport, develop their skills, give their best efforts at all times, work together as a team, and demonstrate good sportsmanship. All of this can be accomplished through a participatory or instructional program. All CYO coaches at this level should strongly emphasize participation and skill acquisition.

Recommendations for providing maximum participation:

1. Substitute evenly (By quarters or innings).
2. Every player should have the opportunity to be a starter at least once.
3. Divide the number of minutes by the number of players.
4. Coaches could mutually agree that substitutes will play the last half of the game.
5. Add another team to allow more participation.

Coaches can use their own ideas also; teams and/or leagues can agree to use some of these procedures. It is important that Athletic Directors enforce and support maximum participation. These steps can also be used at 7/8th grade level.