

The CYO Athletics Champion Committee

A group of parents within a team community who partner with the coach(es) to embrace their role as parents and work to support the coach(es) in their efforts to create a fun environment and to maximize the potential of each individual and the team so that all may achieve the status of “Champion”.

The goals of the CYO Athletics Champion Committee are simple:

1. To create parent intra-group accountability, responsibility, pride and motivation to create a positive climate that supports Champions.
2. To establish norms for appropriate parent/fan behavior in line with the communicated expectations of the coach, parish/school athletic director, CYO Athletics and the Catholic Church.
3. To uphold these norms when they are challenged by disruptive spectators from their own team.
4. To support all the participants and the officials at each game so that the competition takes place in an environment focused on growth, development and fun, not the result on the scoreboard.

The responsibilities of the CYO Athletics Champion Committee may include:

1. To create a supportive climate on the sidelines/in the stands.
 - a. Volunteer to read the pre-event statement or call other fans to attention for the pre-event statement and prayer.
 - b. Encourage athletes to focus on their team, their coach and their competition.
 - c. Know each child by name and cheer for both teams for effort and play and express appreciation and gratitude for the game officials.
2. To facilitate communication among all of the parents and coaches.
 - a. Volunteer to coordinate communication tree for game day or other needs.
 - b. Respond to coach communication in a timely and complete manner.
3. Partner with the coach or support the efforts of the coach(es) to identify a way to challenge (with sensitivity) the few fans who may be creating a toxic climate.
 - a. Perhaps develop as a team community a single word or phrase that reminds others about the message of the pre-event statement or our role as fan vs. coach or referee.
 - b. Reach out to other fans by introducing each other before, during and after games so that any concerns can be dealt with from a place of relationship instead of a sense of judgment.
4. Partner with the coach or support the efforts of the coach(es) to identify concrete ways of supporting young players to set and achieve goals.
 - a. Reinforce the goals as a primary focus that leads to development and growth;
 - b. Focus on the steps needed to achieve the goals, both team and individual not winning or losing;
5. Partner with the coach or support the efforts of the coach(es) to identify concrete ways of supporting young players to develop caring relationships.
 - a. Support the coach by building community within the entire team by planning events to do together as a team and/or team community: a service project, a movie night or a trip to a local HS, college or pro sports game
 - b. Collaborate with the coach to organize a pre-season or post-season gathering for the team community
6. To work with the coach or support the efforts of the coach(es) to identify concrete ways of supporting young players to establish ownership within the group.
 - a. Reinforce the team expectations and guidelines as communicated by the coach
 - b. Ensure athletes’ full participation in the life of the team community for both practices and games
7. To model the behaviors of a champion, both on and off the field.