

July 30 2024

Dear CYO Athletics Participating School,

The Archdiocese of Seattle expanded the Safe Environment Program (SEP) in 2007 in response to requirements of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to prevent child sexual abuse in the Catholic Church. Participation in this program is mandated for all those who work with minors and vulnerable adults. This encompasses both paid staff and volunteers who work in programs involving these populations.

The main purpose of the SEP for CYO Athletics is to ensure we are doing everything in our power to protect our youth. The goals are threefold:

1. To protect the children who participate in our programs;
2. To protect staff and volunteers from false allegations;
3. To protect the programs that we are all so committed to as opportunities for the personal and communal growth of our young people.

The Safe Environment Program equips those who work or volunteer directly with young people the ability to recognize the signs of abuse and to feel more comfortable acting upon such information. Along with putting into policy practices that eliminate opportunities for sexual predators to get into our programs, we believe that this awareness can make a tangible difference in the lives of our young people.

As an independent school, you are not bound by the policies of the Archdiocese of Seattle. However, as a participant in the CYO Athletic program of the Archdiocese of Seattle, you must meet the safe environment requirements as outlined in the *Charter for the Protection of Children & Young People* (USCCB, 2005).

By now you may have heard that the Safe Environment Office transitioned to the VIRTUS training and management database. Please be aware, that as an independent school this transition does not affect your safe environment protocols. This means, as mentioned above that you are responsible for all administration, record keeping, and costs associated with fulfilling the Safe Environment requirements outlined in the Charter for the Protection of Children & Young People. Which include criminal background checks, abuse prevention policies and abuse prevention training for your employees and volunteers. These requirements will be met in accordance with your organization's own policies and procedures.

We ask that you have an appropriate school representative sign the Participant Agreement for CYO Athletics included with this letter and return to me. Please contact me at if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

William Woodworth

Asst. Director CYO Athletics

**PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN NON-ARCHDIOCESAN SCHOOL AND
CYO ATHLETICS, CORPORATION OF THE CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP OF SEATTLE**

The purpose of this Agreement is to specify the context for participation in CYO Athletics for

Name of School

hereafter referred to as the participating school. CYO Athletics is a program run out of the Office of Discipleship as established by the Corporation of the Catholic Archbishop of Seattle (CCAS).

1. **SAFE ENVIRONMENT COMPLIANCE:** Participating school certifies that all individuals with ongoing unsupervised contact with minors have successfully completed a cleared criminal background check; received safe environment training (child abuse prevention) and have agreed to follow the participating school's policies for child protection. This is as required by Articles 12 and 13 of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. A copy is available at the CYO Athletics office.
2. **INDEMNIFICATION:** The participating school agrees to protect, indemnify, defend and hold harmless CCAS and CYO Athletics against and from any and all claim(s) or cause of action arising out of loss, damage, or injury to persons or property resulting from any accidental, negligent or other actionable fault of the participating school caused by the participating school's use, event, activity/activities, maintenance, or occupancy of the premises, and whether or not such loss, damage, or injury was caused by participating schools guests, family members, volunteers, helpers, partners, vendors, associates, officers in connection with participating schools use, event or activity/activities.

This agreement shall be returned to CYO Athletics prior to any teams and/or individuals participating in the program year and shall be completed prior to each program year which begins in the fall.

Authorized School Representative Signature

Date

Name of Authorized School Representative

Position of Authorized School Representative

Street Address

Telephone

City

State

Zip Code

Authorized School Representative Email