

BYLAW 4 – ELIGIBILITY

(Rev. July 2005)

Section 1 Eligibility to participate is determined by one of the following criteria:

- 4-1-1 Parish Eligibility** - The student's parent(s) and/or legal guardian are registered members of the parish sponsoring the team. If the parent(s) and/or legal guardians are registered members of more than one parish, the player must designate the one parish for which he/she will participate during that school year.
- 4-1-2 School Eligibility**
- A. The student attends the parish grade school.
 - B. If a student from one member parish attends another member's grade school, the athlete may participate on the team of the grade school they are attending or their member parish team (See Bylaw 4-1-4 for further limitation).
- 4-1-3 Parish School Religion (P.S.R.) Eligibility**
- A. The student regularly attends the parish PSR program in the current PSR school year and lives within the parish boundaries.
 - B. If the parish in which the student resides does not offer a PSR program and the student does not meet either the parish or school requirement, the student is not eligible.
 - C. A non-catholic student enrolled in PSR must submit a CYO Eligibility Request Form (see Bylaw 4-8-1) to the CYO Office by the team entry deadline. A student is not eligible to participate in any scrimmages /competitions until written approval is received from the CYO Athletic Administration.
- 4-1-4** The student is not permitted to switch from the designated parish or school during the course of the school year unless the designated parish or school does not sponsor a team in the particular sport.
- 4-1-5** If a student's parish/school sponsors a team in a particular sport, the student is to participate on the parish/school team and is not permitted to, or attempt to play at an adjoining parish/school or any other parish/school without prior written approval from the CYO Athletic Administration. These qualifying situations will be considered on an individual basis through communication between the member Pastoral Designee and the Area CYO Athletic Director. Note: Teams from non-member organizations are not eligible for CYO participation. (municipal leagues, community clubs, other Catholic leagues, etc.)
- 4-1-6** Situations deemed by the CYO Athletic Administration that present an unfair advantage/disadvantage within the program may be considered for rulings of eligibility/ineligibility.

- 4-1-7** Final decisions on eligibility are made by CYO Athletic Administration.
- 4-1-8** High school eligibility for CYO programs is determined by parish membership or enrollment status in a Catholic High School. The player must live within the boundaries of the member or be a member of the parish/diocesan organization sponsoring the team. Adjoining parish eligibility applies only with pastor, Pastoral Designee, and CYO Athletic Administration approval.
- 4-1-9** The parish, school or Social Service Agency has the right to establish additional criteria for eligibility and to deny team membership to any otherwise qualified individual with cause.

Section 2 Adjoining Parish

- 4-2-1** If a parish/school does not offer a CYO team in a specific sport, the student is eligible to compete for an adjoining parish team if:
 - A. the student attends his/her parish grade school, or
 - B. the student's parents or legal guardians are registered members of the home parish
- 4-2-2** Adjoining parishes are defined as those parishes that share a common boundary line.
- 4-2-3** Establishing Adjoining Parish eligibility requires completion and submission of the CYO Eligibility Request Form and approval by CYO Athletic Administration. The form may not be altered by a member or revoked by a member after the application has been approved by the CYO Athletic Administration.
- 4-2-4** The CYO Eligibility Request Form must be completed and submitted to the Area CYO Athletic Director on or before the published Team Entry deadline (See Bylaw 4-8-1 for CYO Eligibility Request Form Procedures).
- 4-2-5** The appropriate adjoining parish is determined by:
 - A. The direct ('as the crow flies') distance between the child's official residence and the adjoining parish offering a team.
 - B. The student's first request must be made for the closest adjoining parish, as measured above. If that parish does not accept the student, the student has permission to approach the second closest adjoining parish, etc.

4-2-6 Should no adjoining parish be able to accept a student, the CYO Athletic Administration will assist in placing the student in an appropriate program. A CYO Eligibility Request Form, requesting such assistance, with required signatures from the home parish/school, is due to the Area CYO Athletic Director on or before the published roster due date.

Section 3 Alternative Eligibility

4-3-1 Students residing at Diocesan youth-serving social service agencies, or attending Diocesan educational institutions or Diocesan recognized Community Centers are eligible for CYO athletics. Participants must live within the institution's boundaries or the Center's designated area limits. Students must also regularly participate in an organized on-going religious education program. It is the responsibility of the pastor or Center Director to validate participation in the religious education program.

4-3-2 A Student attending a member educational institution is eligible to participate in CYO Athletic Programs. Should one or all of these schools or institutions elect not to sponsor a particular sport in the CYO Athletic Program, the player may participate for their home parish team if the sport is offered. If the sport is not offered by the parish, the adjoining parish rule applies (By Law 4, sec. 2).

Section 4 Change of residence

4-4-1 A player moving into a parish during the course of a sports season has the option to play with the previous parish team or with the new parish team. Both situations require the submission of a Special Request Form and the approval of the Area CYO Athletic Director.

Section 5 Eastern Rite

4-5-1 Any Catholic parish not governed by the Diocese of Cleveland (Orthodox, Byzantine, etc.) may apply for membership in CYO Athletic Programs after they obtain the approval of the Area CYO Athletic Director.

Section 6 Age Limitation

4-6-1 The CYO will, whenever possible, offer leagues by age/grades divisions. In each case, the athlete must meet the age requirement on October 1 of the current school year. Divisions are:

HIGH SCHOOL	9th - 12th grades	ages 18 and under
Varsity	11th, 12th and down	
Junior Varsity	9th and 10 th grade only	

GRADE SCHOOL

Varsity	8th grade & down	ages 10-14
Jr. Varsity	7th grade & down	ages 9-13
Cadet	6th grade & down	ages 9-12
Developmental	5th grade & 4th	ages 8-11
Elemental	4th grade	ages 8-11

* Note: All divisions may not be offered in all sports or areas.

4-6-2 Third grade students are not eligible for CYO participation. Many parishes offer intramurals for such children.

4-6-3 The division a team enters is determined by the oldest member of that team.

Section 7 Recruiting

4-7-1 High School Guidelines - The Ohio High School Athletic Association Bylaw 4, Section 9 outlines the following limitations on recruitment by an OHSAA member high school:

- A. A student is considered a prospective athlete upon enrolling in the seventh grade, or the grade corresponding to the seventh grade for a student from a foreign country.
- B. The use of influence by any person connected or not connected with the school to secure or to retain a prospective athletic is not permitted and shall cause the student to be ineligible upon transfer and shall jeopardize the standing of the member.
- C. Prior to enrollment a prospective athlete may visit a member school within the district of residence of parents, provided the arrangements for the visit are cleared through the principal of the school to be visited.
- D. No (OHSAA) member representative shall initiate any communication with a prospective athlete, parents or an athlete, guardian or family member, in person or through a third party prior to enrollment.
- E. A prospective athlete shall not be offered or accept any inducement, such as free tuition, employment, books, complimentary tickets, uniforms and supplies, other than that which is provided to all students.

4-7-2 Grade School Guidelines - The use of influence by any person connected or not connected with a parish to secure or retain a prospective athlete from another member or parish/school is not permitted and shall cause the student to be ineligible upon transfer and shall jeopardize the standing of the parish/member in future CYO athletic programs.