



CODE OF ETHICS OF THE **PAROCHIAL ATHLETIC LEAGUE** OF THE DIOCESE OF FRESNO

PAL May 20th, 2009

We believe that the following standards of discipline should be accepted and practiced by all schools involved in PAL events:

Student Athlete Consequences

The following courses of action are mandatory for any player displaying unacceptable behavior:

Immediate Action: The player is immediately ejected by game officials and/or the coach. If permissible, the player must leave the school grounds of event area with a parent or guardian.

Follow-up Action: The player is suspended from play in his/her next athletic event. This includes not allowing the player to participate in team practices. The player may attend practices and the following game but may not participate in the event (e.g. dress-out, run drills, condition with team). The purpose of this action is to allow student athlete to understand unacceptable behavior will not only result in loss of personal playing time, but will also negatively affect team cohesion.

The Principal and Athletic Director of the school also reserve the right to extend suspension depending on the severity of the action.

Coach Consequences

The following courses of action are mandatory for any coach displaying unacceptable behavior:

Immediate Action: The coach is immediately ejected by game officials, the athletic director, or school representative at the event. The coach must leave the school grounds of event area immediately (providing that the players are under other adult supervision). If the team does not have an assistant coach, the game is forfeited. If the coach is the only adult supervision for the players, the game is forfeited and players must leave with the coach.

Follow-up Action:

The coach is suspended from coaching in his/her next athletic event. This includes not allowing the coach to attend team practices. The school is responsible for providing an assistant coach for the next game. If the school is unable to provide an assistant coach, then the following game is forfeited. The purpose of this action is to allow the coach to understand unacceptable behavior will not only result in suspension, but will also negatively affect team cohesion and possibly the team's league win-loss record.

The Principal and Athletic Director of the school also reserve the right to extend a coach's suspension depending on the severity of the coach's action.

Extended Responsibilities of Coaches and Athletic Directors

We also set forth these extended responsibilities for coaches and athletic directors:

Coaches

The coach is responsible for all players and spectators associated with the team. The coach is responsible for making sure that his/her players and spectators display proper sportsmanship and good conduct throughout any athletic event. The coach must exercise control over players and spectators at all times. It is the coach's responsibility to intervene if a player or spectator is not displaying proper conduct. This responsibility is not the direct responsibility of the official or referee. The official may ask a coach to exercise control over a player or spectator. It is then mandatory that the coach take an active role in controlling the conduct of the team's players and spectators.

If the coach refuses to intervene when unacceptable conduct is being displayed by the team's players or spectators, then the official, Athletic Director, or school representative has the right to eject the player or spectator for unacceptable behavior. The official, Athletic Director or school representative also has the right to eject the coach for not actively intervening when appropriate.

The coach also holds the responsibility to model Christian behavior, sportsmanship, and to control himself/herself at all times. The coach is a representative of the school and reflects the athletic program during and after games.

Athletic Director

The Athletic Director is responsible for all coaches, athletes, and spectators of the school. In part, the Athletic Director is responsible for the conduct displayed by all the coaches, players, and spectators associated with the school. This includes, but is not limited to, practices, home games, away games, and tournaments. It is the responsibility of the Athletic Director to properly inform all coaches about the expected conduct for all league events. The Athletic Director is responsible for addressing all concerns expressed by the league as well as problems arising within his/her own school.

The Athletic Director must report all league and school actions to the Principal. The Principal is the head of the school and therefore is head of all activities in the school, including athletics. Responsibility for day-to-day operation of the athletic program is delegated by the Principal to the Athletic Director.

Dispute Resolution

In order to properly handle areas of concern, the following will dictate how to properly address issues arising within the league.

If a student athlete, parent, or spectator has a concern, they must first contact the coach of the school where the student is enrolled. If the problem cannot be solved, the coach, student athlete, parent, or spectator may choose to contact the school's Athletic Director. If the problem still has not been addressed properly, the concern may be brought to the school's Principal. If an athlete, parent, spectator, or coach has a complaint against a separate school, he/she must submit this complaint to his/her school's Athletic Director. The Athletic Director will then review the complaint with the Athletic Director of the separate school. Athletes, parents, spectators, and coaches should not directly submit complaints to PAL. The Athletic Director should receive all complaints first and then address the appropriate school or league.

The PAL should be notified by the Athletic Director only when the problem cannot be solved through the school. The concern or complaint must be in written form. The PAL will address the issue at the next appropriate meeting. Any decision made by the PAL must be approved by all schools' Principals involved.

Parochial Athletic League Agreement

As part of the PAL, each school must honor all rules and codes set forth by the PAL. Each school must read and sign the PAL Code of Ethics and agree to abide by PAL expectations.

The Principal and Athletic Director of the school are responsible for relaying all rules and codes to the coaches, players, parents, and spectators involved with the school. Failure to honor the rules and codes set forth by the PAL may result in the school's expulsion from a particular sport or the PAL. The school is responsible for signing the PAL Code of Ethics form at the beginning of each academic school year and submitting the form at the first PAL meeting of the year.



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School: **2010-11 School Year**

Principal: _____
Print Name Signature

Athletic Director: _____
Print Name Signature

*School Site signs one document for term of school year

School:

Sport: _____ Date: _____

Coach: _____
Print Name Signature

*Coach for each season of sport must sign