## *****Our philosophy is that each child should If the only thing Catholic, Text  Description automatically generated is the name on the jersey, then we have failed the mission of Catholic youth sports.*****

## *****participate in every game; to develop as a player and stay inspired by the sport.*****

**General Guidelines Governing Basketball**

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# Article I

## Eligibility

**There shall be a separate league(s) for boys (those whose birth gender is male) and a separate league(s) for girls (those**

**whose birth gender is female).**

##  A. Age and Division

* - 5 boy’s and 4 girl’s divisions of competition:
	+ **Senior boys and girls:** under 19 and greater than 13 as of December 31 of the current school year. Not graduated from high school.
	+ **Junior boys:** under 17 and greater than 13 as of December 31 of the current school year. Not graduated from high school. **NO Junior Girl’s Division.**
	+ **Cadet (7-8th) boys and girls:** under 15 and greater than 10 as of 12/31 of the current school year. Not completed 8th grade.
	+ **Bantam (5-6th grade) for boys and girls:** under 13 and greater than 9 as of December 31 of the current school year. Not completed 6th grade.
	+ **Peewee (3-4th grade) for boys and girls:**  under 11 and greater than 7 as of December 31 of the current school year. Not completed 4th grade.*There will not be a BCA Tournament for the Peewee Division.*

## B. Player Restrictions

* A player will register and compete in only one parish and in only one division per season. A player may compete in the parish & grammar school divisions in the same age division.
* No player will be a member of a varsity high school team or have participated (anyone entered into the contest) in a varsity high school, preparatory academy, trade, or college activity that is under consideration for that season or as an underclassman will have participated at the varsity level at the same school and is under consideration for the current season.
* ***EXCEPTION: CHARTER SCHOOLS DO NOT APPLY. Players on a varsity COOPERATIVE team are NOT eligible to participate in BCA (CYO) basketball. (For example, a public high school and charter school form a cooperative team and play varsity.) A Player can be eligible if they play in a Charter School League only.***
* Boston Catholic Athletics (BCA) competition will be restricted to amateur participants only. Participants who have received remuneration or other compensation for play in their specific activity are ineligible.
* No player will register, compete, or be publicized under an assumed name or assumed residence.
* Non-Catholic Players: The basic intent of persons of other faiths participating in any activity is to prevent separation of a group of youngsters who are frequently together even though one or two of them are not Catholic in faith. This would deter from the true spirit of ecumenism.
* Non-Catholic players must be noted on the ***parish*** roster. No Catholic players should be dropped to allow non-Catholic players to play.
* Non-Catholic players must reside geographically within the boundaries of the parish/multi-parish combine he/she wishes to play for.

## C. Residence

* A participant will compete only for the parish in which the participant geographically resides. (defined as territory)

## 1. Non-Territorial Parishioner (NTP)

* If a youth wants to play for a parish team outside of their parish boundary in relation to their home address, they must submit an NTP form for approval. The NTP form confirms that the child and/or their family is a registered and involved member of the parish with the basketball team.

Involvement can vary depending on whether the child is confirmed or not but can range from being a part of the faith formation program to serving as an altar server, Extraordinary Minister of Communion, etc. **The player and parent should complete the NTP form and meet with the pastor for his approval. Once approved, the parish AD will send the form by November 8th to the AC and their Area Board for** **acceptance**.

* **There are two categories of NTP: Pre-Confirmation and Post-Confirmation**

o **Pre Confirmation** requires the player to be participating in the faith formation program at the parish in which he/she is a non-territorial parishioner. If the player does not attend the parish’s faith formation program for some reason, indicate in the NTP/Pre-Confirmation form which activities the child participates in or if there is any pastoral situation that needs to be considered by the pastor.

o **Post Confirmation** is for those players who have already received the Sacrament of Confirmation. This child and parent are required to fill out the NTP/Post-Confirmation form, meet with the pastor and share how they are involved with the parish in addition to basketball.

## 2. Multi-Parish Teams

* When a parish does not sponsor a team due to an insufficient number of players (defined as seven (7) players or less, the parish may join with a bordering parish and petition the Area Coordinator for authorization to participate in BCA competition.
* **Guidelines for a Multi-Parish Team: petitioning parishes** o May sponsor only one multi parish combine per division.
* o Must have one member of that combine with an insufficient number of participants to sponsor a team (defined as 7 players or less).
	+ Must supply a number of Catholic players on the team roster. o Must show proof of open invitation to each parish of this combine (parish bulletins, website, local newspaper).
	+ Must have the approval of the Athletic Director (AD) or representative and Pastor of each petitioning parish of this combine.
	+ Must have the approval of the local Area Coordinator.
	+ Must place all participants from the non-sponsoring parish on the same team if two teams are entered in the same division.

o Will not cut any players from either parish

### o The petitioning parishes will submit to the Area Coordinator by November 15.

o This multi-parish team will be eligible for competition for a period of one (1) season only. The parishes will re-apply to the Area Coordinator for each succeeding activity or season.

## 3. Collaborative Teams

* Parishes currently participating in the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan, Disciples in Mission, have an option to enter a Collaborative Team.
* **Guidelines for entering a team are as follows:**
	+ As of September 2021, parishes must be participating in Phase I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX of the Pastoral Plan.
	+ A simple letter to the AC explaining the desire and need for the collaborative team.
	+ Open invitation to all youth of the parishes within the collaborative, inviting them to play BCA

(CYO) Basketball. No players will be “cut.” o Rosters ought not to exceed 20 players, otherwise an additional team is to be added to accommodate all those who register.

* + BCA athletic directors and coaches are encouraged to attend one of the Forming Disciples in Mission Trainings. Dates can be found at disciplesinmission.com.
	+ **All parishes seeking to enter a Collaborative team are asked to fill out the “Collaborative Petition Form,” along with supporting documents, and send to their AC no later than November 8th.**

## D. Change of Residence/ School Status

• A participant who moves from one parish to another will be eligible to play for the parish from which the participant moved only if the date of moving occurred after October 1.

# Article II

**REGISTRATION**

## A. Entry Forms

* The entry forms list all the teams, coaches, etc. for each parish or school. The pastor and AD/s must sign the form indicating that all the coaches and AD/s listed have a current CORI and are Virtus trained to meet the Policies for Protecting God’s Children for the Archdiocese of Boston. ***CORI/Virtus is administered through the parish or school CORI Coordinator and verified by the Office for Child Advocacy.***
* Head coaches listed on the entry form must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age ***and there must always be two CORI cleared and Virtus trained adults present with children***
* ***The Parish Entry Forms and entry fees should be sent to the local AC no later than a date established by the Area Coordinators which is November 15th.* All forms are available through the website** [**http://www.bostoncatholicathletics.com/bcapage.html**](http://www.bostoncatholicathletics.com/bcapage.html)

## C. Entry Fees

* The entry fee for each team will be determined by Boston Catholic Athletics and noted on the Entry Form. ***This fee will be submitted with the proper entry form by means of a check made payable to the local Area Coordinator*.** **Entry fees and forms must be sent to the local Area**

**Coordinator by November 15th.** If this fee creates a financial burden for any school or parish, they should submit a written request to their AC to waive/reduce the fee. Such requests should be communicated no later than November 8th.

* ***The entry fee is $125 per team.***
* Any team that has not submitted their entry fee or applied for a fee reduction or waiver will not be permitted to participate in the league.

## D. Rosters

* All rosters must be signed by the pastor, (if multi-parish– then multiple signatures needed) parish AD and head coach. OFFICIAL ROSTER FORMS will be provided to the league through the website. http://www.bostoncatholicathletics.com/bcapage.html
* Each parish will carefully prepare in triplicate an official roster of players, not to exceed twenty (20) names, for each team it will have competing in an activity.
* Each person of another faith will be specifically noted on the parish roster as “N/C” (not Catholic).
* Each player named on the roster will present a record of birth, and, if requested by a BCA official, must provide a certified copy or notarized copy of that record of birth or a driver's license.
* Any parish, coordinator, parent or guardian may contact the local Area Coordinator in writing regarding a Letter of Waiver of the birth record requirement. Application for a Letter of Waiver will be accompanied by as much documentation as is available and must be submitted to the Area Coordinator at least one (1) week prior to the roster deadline.
* The parish athletic director or athletic representative will examine each roster for accuracy in the matter of age, residence, status and identity, parental permission and medical release and will then submit each roster to the local Area Coordinator (AC)
* The local AC will examine all rosters for completeness and for compliance with the general and specific rules and shall reject all incomplete rosters, and rosters which do not comply with the General Guidelines Governing BCA and Specific Rules.

The Local AC should retain the first & second copy of the roster and return the third copy to the parish Athletic Director.

* ***All rosters must be submitted to the local Area Coordinator by a deadline of December 1st which is not to be later than the date of their first scheduled league game.*** Any team that violates this rule is ineligible to participate in league play and Archdiocesan Tournament.

# Article III

## CONDUCT

**A. *Catholic Faith Based***

* **At all BCA games both teams and their coaches will share a prayer at center court prior to the start of the game and led by the home team. In the spirit of Christian sportsmanship, the teams will exchange handshakes at the end of the game and encouraged to thank the referees by shaking their hands too.**
* All participants (players, coaches, AD’s, etc.) are expected to display Christian sportsmanship and appropriate behavior. Any parish Athletic Director, coach, player or manager involved with the BCA who is found guilty by the AC and the Area Board of unsportsmanlike or improper conduct on or off the scene of any BCA activity will be subject to suspension from participation in all BCA activities.
* ***Play Like a Champion coach’s certification is a one-time requirement. Any coach who has not attended this training should do so at the next available “Play Like A Champion” training.***
* B. Ineligibility
* Any coach, player, or manager ejected by an official from a game once during a season will be ineligible to participate in at least the next scheduled game played by the team in that activity in the season.
* Anyone ejected by an official from more than one (1) game during a season will be subject to suspension from participation in all remaining games in that activity in that season and will be required to appear before the League Athletic Advisory Board (Area Board).
* Coaches, parish ADs and referees involved in a game in which a participant is ejected will submit in writing/email to the local AC all pertinent information pertaining to the ejection of the participant within 48 hours of the game. The local AC will notify the coach of the team as to the ineligibility of the participant in any BCA activities.

**Article IV**

**AREA LEAGUE**

## Entry

* Parishes submitting entries to their local Area Coordinator will play league games only within their territorial athletic area.
* Should a parish submit an entry to the local AC and that local area does not sponsor a league in that division, the local AC may request to place said parish with a neighboring area league. If accepted into the neighboring area league the AC of the area into which teams come will be responsible for entry forms, fees and rosters of the team(s).

## B. Schedule

* Due to the observance of the Lord’s Day, no games may be scheduled prior to 12pm (Noon) on Sundays. Any exceptions must be approved by the Local Area Coordinator.
* All teams within a Boston Catholic Athletic league will observe strictly that schedule which the local AC prepares.
* Any postponed game will be rescheduled within 7 days of the postponed date with a new date by agreement of the teams involved and is subject to the approval of the local AC. If a new date is not mutually agreed upon within seven (7) days of the original date each team will be credited with a forfeiture unless the local AC is notified and agrees with the reasons for not rescheduling the game.
* Any team which fails to play two (2) scheduled games within a season will be required to attend a hearing by the local Area Advisory Board and is subject to suspension from further participation in its league for that season.
* Any team which fails to complete its schedule will be required to attend a hearing by the local Area Advisory Board and is subject to suspension from participation in the activity during the subsequent season.

## C. Postponement

* **A game may be postponed only in the case of inclement weather or conflict with religious education**. The local AC will determine whether the game will be played and will inform the opposing team and officials.
* When a team is unable to play a scheduled game, its coach, AD, or athletic representative will notify the local AC and the coach or athletic representative/AD of the opposing team at least twenty four (24) hours in advance of the scheduled game time.
* Should a team fail to make notification of cancellation/ forfeiture; such team will forfeit the game and be responsible for the payment of officials and any gym fees. If such team fails to pay for the officials and gym fees, all games subsequent to said failure to pay will be forfeited until payment has been made.

## D. Protests

* All protests must be submitted within 24 hours of the game and should be emailed to the Area Coordinator. A protest fee of $50.00 made payable to local Area Coordinator and must be submitted to the local Area Coordinator.
* All protests of player eligibility must be specific with definite facts.
* Protests of rule interpretation during actual game conditions must be made orally with the game officials at the point of the alleged misinterpretation. The game must be completed, or the protest will not be allowed. Such protest must be submitted by email within forty-eight (48) hours of the protested game.
* Under no circumstances will protests involving the judgment of officials on decisions be considered.
* Should a rule interpretation protest be upheld the game will be replayed.
* All protest rulings will be decided by the local Area Advisory Board.
* **Appeal Process:**
	+ Appeals are to be initiated in writing by the parish AD or pastor to the BCA Appeal Board, copying the local Area Coordinator. The correspondence ought to state the issue at hand and grounds by which the appeal is based. Upon receipt, a hearing will be set up to adjudicate the appeal.
	+ The fee for the appeal will be $100. If upheld, the fee will be refunded in full.
	+ The BCA Appeal Board will consist of the following members: 2 Area Coordinators, and at least one member at large.
	+ Any local Area Coordinator involved in the decision being appealed will be recused from the Appeal Board.
	+ The quorum for an appeal is 3. All decisions are final.
	+ Appeal hearing must be attended by the Parish Athletic Director(s) and the coaches of the team(s) involved

## E. Forfeiture

• All games in which a proven ineligible player participates will be forfeited and the parish athletic director and coach must appear before the local area Advisory Board.

 **F. Officials**

• The local AC will assign certified officials to all area league games.

##  G. Game Results

• Immediately following each game, the winning team's coach should submit to the local AC the results of that game.

## H. Uniforms

* Players must be in full uniform (shirt and shorts) with the shirts numbered and of the same color, and shorts of the same color and striping. Teams not in uniform will not be allowed to play. Uniforms should display the name of the parish. Uniforms MUST BE LEGALLY NUMBERED (front and back). Parish name must appear on the front of the uniform shirt.

 **l. Equipment**

Each team is responsible for providing the proper and safe equipment for its own players. The home team will supply the game balls in suitable condition.

J. **Financial Responsibility**

* • Any parish which fails to meet the financial responsibilities of a season (e.g.

payment of fees for registration or to officials) will be required to attend a hearing by the League Advisory Board and will be subject to suspension from participation in all Boston Catholic Athletics activities.

## Area Board (Vicariate Advisory Board)

• The Area Advisory Board will be made up of the league Area Coordinator and at least two (2) ***parish athletic directors and/or other representatives*** from the league selected by the local Area Coordinator. The Area Advisory Board will hold hearings pertaining to any violation of the General Guidelines Governing Boston Catholic Athletics

# ARTICLE V

**EMASS CYO Tournaments**

## A. Eligibility

* All EMASS CYO tournaments will be invitational.
* A parish Boston Catholic Athletics (CYO) basketball team who wins at least 70% of its scheduled games (which must be concluded by Feb 28) will be eligible to be invited to represent their area in the EMASS Tournament. Results of a league tournament will not be considered for the EMASS CYO Tournament qualifications.
* A player should have participated in at least one half (1/2) of the number of games played by the team during the local area league schedule to be eligible for tournament participation.

## B. Schedules and Rules

* TheTournament Committee will make available to all local Area Coordinators and all participating teams a copy of the tournament schedule and specific tournament rules, sufficiently in advance of the first tournament game.
* The Tournament Committee will seed all teams according to their record. Whenever possible, teams from the same league will not be paired against each other in the first round of play.

##  C. Rosters

• The manager or coach of each participating team will submit that team's copy of the original BCA roster and proof of age to the Tournament Committee or representative before the start of each tournament game.

## D. Postponement

• Only the Tournament Committee may postpone a tournament game or change the scheduled starting time. The ***ACs*** will inform the teams involved in time to minimize inconvenience.

## E. Protests

* All protests will be filed with the Tournament Committee or representative.
* All protests of player eligibility must be submitted within four (4) hours after the game in question.
* Should an ineligible player take part in a tournament game, the team will forfeit the last tournament game in which the team played.
* Any manager, coach, or director who allows an ineligible contestant to compete will be required to attend a hearing by the BCA Board and is subject to suspension from participating in all Boston Catholic Athletics activities.

**F. Officials**

• All tournament officials will be assigned by the Tournament Committee.

# ARTICLE VI

**Boston Catholic Athletic Advisory Board**

• This board will be made up of the BCA Area Coordinators and others as appointed by the BCA Area Coordinators.

# ARTICLE VII

## Amendments

• The Archdiocesan General and Specific Rules may be amended by a majority vote of the membership of the Board of Coordinators present at any meeting. AMENDED September 2015, AMENDED February 2016, AMENDED September 2016, AMENDED September 2017, AMENDED September 2018, September 2019, September 2021, October 2022

**Specific Rules Governing Boston Catholic Athletics (CYO) Basketball**

**Eligibility**

Determining Date: the participant will be within the specific age for his/her division as of December 31 of the year of competition.

* ***Each player present at the game will be played by the coach unless the player is being withheld for mitigating circumstances such as disciplinary issues or intentionally missing practice. There is no specific amount of time a player must be on the court.***
* Refer to General Rules Article I, subsets A, B, C, D, E
* Player Restrictions - Refer to General Rules Article I, B.
* Game Restrictions - No team should play more than one (1) game in a single day. In the event of a league emergency, which absolutely requires the playing of two (2) games in a single day, at least four (4) hours must elapse between the starting times of games.

Playing Rules: The BCA (CYO Basketball) adheres to the National Federation rules with the following exceptions:

Refer to General Rules, Article IV.

Play should begin in each local area on a date early enough to permit the full schedule to be completed by the date specified as the deadline for the specific season of competition (the last Sunday of February). From that date the teams representing their local area must be ready to compete in the tournament.

No shot clock

o Length of Games

 2 15-minute halves

 5-6th, (4) 6-minute quarters.

 3-4th, (4) 6-minute quarters.

* Slaughter Rule - any team that establishes a lead in the score of 20 points or more is not allowed to play any form of defense in the opponent's back court or to double team the ball in the opponent’s front court.
* The 3-point shot is allowed in all divisions except the 3rd/4th grade division.
* The 28.5 cm basketball must be used in all 3-4th and 5-6th grade boy’s & all girl’s games.