

**Statement from Allentown Diocese concerning CYO Basketball;**

*Due to a severe shortage of facilities available to host practices and games, and in the interest of the health and safety of our student athletes, coaches, volunteers, and families, the following modifications have been made regarding the CYO 2020-21 Basketball Season:*

*CYO Basketball may proceed at the parish level only. Parishes wishing to participate may organize teams by grade level to compete in an intramural manner. All CYO Basketball events must be conducted in a manner that adheres to the maximum attendance for indoor events. CYO Basketball is at this time approved to begin Dec. 1st for team organization, and Jan. 1st for games. However, this is subject to change as we continue to monitor the situation.*

*CYO eligibility currently allows all members of the parish to participate regardless of whether they attend the affiliated Catholic School and allows members from outside the parish to participate in cases where a merger agreement has been approved. Based on current school/parish facility restrictions due to COVID-19, these guidelines may be waived by the school/parish for the 2020-21 season.*

*The opening of each CYO Basketball program requires the completion of the Health & Safety procedures issued by the Diocese, which can be found attached. Any CYO program that is unable to meet the requirements listed in these documents, or that does not feel comfortable reopening their program for any reason, is not required to participate. The decision for each parish to open its CYO program must ultimately be approved by the pastor. The Health & Safety plan to be submitted by each parish intending to reopen CYO programming must include the signature of the pastor.*

*Please note that the CYO liability form has been modified for the 2020-21 year and that no previous versions of the CYO liability form will be accepted. This liability form must be completed by all participants prior to their participation.*

*While the Diocese supports and encourages the opening of basketball season, this model will help to ensure safety in our diocesan schools and parishes, and will allow each program the freedom to determine their own ability to participate at the parish level. Please know that these decisions were made in the interest of those our Diocese serves. If you could please share this update, as well as its attachments, with the coaches in your deaneries, that would be greatly appreciated.*