**Archdiocesan Athletic Manual Highlights**

Here are some highlights of key rules as copied from the Milwaukee Archdiocese Athletic Manual. These issues seem to come up every season. For more information, download and read the entire athletic manual

**The Church is working diligently to protect our children and youth against exploitation by overzealous adults.** Overworking young athletes not only lends itself to physical strain and a higher probability of injury but to mental exhaustion as well. The Catholic parish/school athletic programs call for responsible control and limitation of the time and energy expended on extra-curricular activities. This purpose imposes on the administrators and directors of Catholic parishes/schools the obligation to select and prepare adults who will fit the needs as role models for our youth.

**Playing Time: Local administrators and athletic associations shall create policies that provide for participation by all team members in all league and tournament games. This includes the Seton Volleyball Championships and the Padre Serra Tournament.** A game is defined as a match in volleyball, four (4) quarters in basketball, two (2) halves in soccer, etc.

**A student/athlete may participate with non-archdiocesan teams in the same sport during the season provided that the student’s priority and commitment is with the parish/school team and the student maintains the eligibility requirements.**

**Transfer Students:** A student who participates in any part of, or an entire, archdiocesan parish or school interscholastic athletic program season, or seasons, and transfers to another archdiocesan parish or school is ineligible to participate in any part of the interscholastic athletic program of the new parish/school for one (1) calendar year from the date of registration. See the manual for exceptions such as change in residence, etc.

Competitive athletic programs are to be limited to grades 5, 6, 7, and 8. **A student is eligible only to compete for four (4) years, one (1) year at each of his/her grade level of school. Students must play at their own grade level, unless classes are combined to form one (1) team.** Team members must meet the following age requirements as of September 1st: 5th GRADE: Under 12 years; 6th GRADE: Under 13 years; 7th GRADE: Under 14 years; 8th GRADE: Under 15 years.

**Teams:** **A team is comprised of eligible students from a single grade level in a single parish / school athletic program whenever possible.** **An eligible student may only participate on one parish/school team per sport per year.**

• **A student may only participate on a parish/school team one grade level above his/her current academic grade.**

• In rare instances, a student may need to play more than one grade level above his/her current academic grade. To seek approval for this, the student’s parent must submit a written request to the parish/school athletic committee, the league, and the Office for Schools. Final approval of the request may be granted by the Office for Schools only if the local athletic committee and the league grant approval.

**Merging Teams: Merging teams from two (2) or more schools/parishes is allowed** **only if there is a shortage of players at a specific grade, only after all internal options have been exhausted**, and only with schools/parishes that currently sponsor and administer active athletic programs in Grades 5-8. All eligible students in affected parishes will be allowed to participate on the merged team. A school may not divide players from the same grade between teams at the two (2) different schools. **Written authorization from each pastor/principal of the respective parishes/schools, which are in reasonably close geographical proximity to one another, is needed to field a merged team.** **The Team Merger Request Form 6145.2 (e)** must be completed and sent to the league director prior to the beginning of the sports season. The merger is approved once all signatures are obtained on the merger request form and it has been approved by the respective league director. **Combined grade level teams are allowed for athletes in two consecutive grades only.**

**Playing Down:** A parish based athletic program experiencing difficulty fielding a team at any grade level due to an insufficient number of eligible **students may appeal in writing for permission to play students down one grade level**. This appeal must be submitted at least 7 days before the final team commitment date for the member’s league. **In no instance will more than two players be allowed to play down, or more than one of the two be allowed on the playing floor at the same time. If a member is allowed to play students down, all opposing teams shall be advised of the names and numbers of the players. This request will be granted as a last resort,** specifically an inability of the student to play up a grade, or to merge with a nearby program. The request should first be made to the applicable league directors, who will forward the request to the Archdiocesan Office for Schools with its recommendations. The Office for Schools will make the final determination.

**Rosters:** **Official player rosters** with a place for the verification signatures of the pastor and/or principal, athletic coordinator and coach **are to be utilized for all league and tournament play.**

**Ejection from Competition Any student who is ejected from any competition for any reason shall be immediately suspended for the next game.** This includes any and all tournament competitions scheduled during this period. A second ejection shall result in a suspension of the next two games. **Any coach who is ejected from any competition for any reason shall be immediately suspended for the next two games.** This includes any and all tournament competitions scheduled during this period. The suspension does carry over into the next competitive season the coach participates in.

**Suspensions resulting from ejections are not subject to appeal**. Students may participate in practice, but not in a scrimmage, during the suspension period. **The parish/school and/or league may impose consequences beyond the above described suspensions.**

**Coaches**: There is to be no practice nor competition without competent adult supervision present at all times; an adult is a person who is at least **21 years of age. It is highly recommended that there be at least two (2) adults present in a supervisory role at all times. If an event has both male and female minors in attendance, there must be both male and female responsible adults also present.**

**All coaches**, whether a Head Coach, an Assistant Coach, or any adult actively involved in working with the players shall be **certified. Head coaches must be at least 21 years of age; assistant coaches must be at least 18 years of age and a high school graduate. High school students under the age of 18 may assist with coaching activities under the direction of the head coach. No high school student may have any supervisory responsibilities**

**6145.27: Interscholastic Athletics: Volleyball**

**A "match" shall consist of three "sets" or the "best two out of three” sets or any “set” that determines a winner.** The maximum number of matches a team may participate in during any one day is four, with a maximum of three being used for tournament play if in a single tournament. Playing in multiple tournaments in one day is NOT permitted. **ALL league matches for that day MUST be played and take priority over tournament matches**. If a single league match is scheduled, a maximum of three tournament matches may be played. If a double header or two league matches are scheduled, a maximum of two tournament matches may be played. If the team has a bye in league play, only a maximum of three tournament matches may be played. (Note: Exception for the Seton tournament to play three sets out of five.)

**6145.22: Interscholastic Athletics: Basketball**

Fifth and sixth grade team may play a **maximum of 12 games** and participate in three (3) tournaments.

• Seventh and eighth grade team may play a **maximum of 14 games** and participate in four (4) tournaments. (Not counting the Padre Serra basketball Tournament.)

• Teams may participate in tournaments held within the season (first practice date through season end date). **No tournament may schedule a team for, nor may any team participate in, more than five games per tournament.**

• The maximum number of league games a team may participate in during any one day is two (2). In addition, up to two (2) additional tournament games may be played on the same day if in a single tournament. Playing in multiple tournaments in one (1) day is not permitted. **All league games for that day must be played and take priority over tournament games. If the team has a bye in league play, a maximum of two tournament games may be played. Back-to-back games, or “double headers”, may be scheduled. Exception: one (1) hour of rest must be provided between games** **only if the request is made by the team before the schedules are created, on or before the day team counts are due.**