CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS

As I consider my participation in NVJCYO, I am asked to reflect on the letters "C" and "Y" in the acronym—and how Catholic youth sports must be different. Each time a youth takes the field, court, track or other venue it *can be* an incredibly productive event. *Whether it actually is productive depends on me…*

… me, as an **athlete**, challenging myself to use all the gifts given by the Lord, the coach, and those who care for me.

… me, as a **coach** or **spectator**, remembering that the game or activity should be about long-term formation in every sense of the word—physical, mental, social and spiritual. What is at stake is nothing less than the mental and spiritual well-being of those who hear my words and see my actions. If I am to set an example at all, I pray it will be a good one.

What I Expect of Myself and Others Expect of Me (All Athletes, Coaches, Spectators must acknowledge and agree to terms in order to participate)

- When my parish hosts, I will welcome parents/players of the other team as we prepare for friendly competition.
- I will represent our parish well by displaying excellent behavior, by being courteous and never using inappropriate language or taunting opponents or teammates or others in games or practices.
- I will cheer my team and applaud the efforts of all, never engaging in negative or unsportsmanlike cheering.
- I will be reverent and respectful when teams are in prayer.
- I will demonstrate good sportsmanship & sincerely congratulate the other team's effort.
- I will remain quiet during free throws.
- I will respect rules established by the league, such as no food or drink or smoking in the gyms and will cooperate in a courteous way with volunteers who are asked to enforce those rules.
- I will not engage in inappropriate physical contact, fighting or inappropriate verbal exchanges.
- I will not approach or engage with any official, timekeeper, or scorekeeper in a confrontational or sarcastic manner.
- I will respect the judgment of officials and abide by the rules of the contest and the facility. Mistakes happen; viewing angles and perspectives are different. I will demonstrate forgiveness, understanding and respect by not disputing the judgment of the officials who were selected to make those calls. If I feel my child's safety is at risk I then have the obligation to ask the coach to remove him/her from the game.
- I understand that no code of conduct can cover all circumstances and expectations and that team, parish, league or diocesan officials have discretion in evaluating behavior and providing correction. Further, I understand that these officials have an affirmative responsibility to those around me and impressionable youth to take disciplinary action, which may include but not be limited to relinquishment of my privileges to participate in parish/NVJCYO activities and/or forfeiture of games by my parish's team.

Additionally for Spectators, Parents, Guardians…

- I will respect the coaches' time and effort and will leave the coaching to them during the games, and focus on how I can make the most of my role in encouraging my player.
- I understand that it is my responsibility as the parent or guardian to ensure that I do not leave my youth at an activity until there are 2 appropriate adults to chaperone him/her.
- I will remain in the bleachers/on the sideline and never enter the field of play or court; I will also stay off the playing surface after the game and will not congregate in the foyers so that the next teams may warm-up and proper egress is maintained.
- I will not allow those under my care to roam free, especially under the bleachers, in the hallways, foyers, restrooms, on the stages, on parish grounds or in parking lots.

Additionally for Coaches…

- When interacting with the officials, I will remember that all eyes and ears are on me as a role model and I will interact with respect and humility.

DURING ONLINE REGISTRATION PLEASE CONFIRM THAT ALL GUARDIANS AND YOUR CHILD HAVE READ, UNDERSTOOD AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THIS CODE OF CONDUCT. Your parish or coach may also require you to sign and submit this form.

PARENT NAME:_____SIGNATURE:_____