

DIOCESAN POLICY ON CO-ED PARTICIPATION IN CONTACT SPORTS

In the Catholic Schools and Parishes of the [Arch]Diocese of _____, athletic programs contribute importantly to the Church's religious mission and teaching ministry and play a vital role in the process of catechesis, in the nurturing of Christian discipleship and in the formation of the Christian personality. These programs would not exist in what are essential Catholic apostolates but for their role in developing a Christ-centered foundation for mature Catholic adulthood. Gospel-based values are taught and learned in these athletic programs by developing appropriate respect for self and for others through competitions and other forms of human interaction in which dignity, integrity, fairness and moral strength are emphasized. Christian witness to authentic Gospel values is given by all who are involved in these programs in the form of adherence to appropriate norms of conduct, decorum and moral discipline.

Preparation for Christian adulthood likewise involves the development and encouragement of appropriate, dignified and respectful forms of contact between male and female students. The [Arch]Diocese therefore believes that it is incompatible with its religious mission and with its effort to teach Gospel values to condone competitions between young men and women in sports that involve substantial and potentially immodest physical contact.

Consequently, the [Arch]Diocese has adopted this policy prohibiting co-ed participation in the following sports: wrestling, tackle football and tackle rugby.

In any sport in which co-ed participation is permitted, the appropriate ecclesiastical authority designated by the diocesan bishop may issue and enforce rules of conduct that reflect morally appropriate norms of contact between participants.