



October 27, 2020

TO: Pastors, Principals and CYO Program Directors,

Over the past several months, the Office of CYO Athletics has been diligently working on several readiness plans of action in the anticipation of having a full year of sports. Unfortunately, as we all know, our State Officials canceled the indoor fall sports. On October 12<sup>th</sup> our State Officials announced that winter sports could take place indoors for both Youth and High School Levels. This was done by Executive Order Number 187. The CYO Office was prepared to modify its readiness programs for the anticipation of approval of indoor sports.

As many of you know, as a part of this process was surveying of all of our CYO Programs - to see if there would be interest in having a Basketball Season.

I would like to personally thank all of you - Pastors, Principals and CYO Program Directors - for an unbelievable job; each of you worked so well together. The input received by all of you was extremely valuable. From those surveys, we learned such crucial information. Our schools have had to evolve to a completely new set of guidelines. In achieving those guidelines, our school buildings have been transformed. In many cases, our gymnasiums have been converted to classrooms or, for social distancing concerns, they've become extended cafeterias - in addition to the rigorous sanitizing that is currently ongoing to keep all of our students safe and healthy.

The Covid-19 Pandemic is our top concern and, of course, plays a factor in all of our decision-making. Currently, including today in New Jersey, we have 10 straight days of over 1,000 new positive tests. All four (4) of our counties that make up our Archdiocese are all listed in the top 10 of most new cases.

***It is unfortunate that I have to share with you today that we had to make the difficult decision to cancel the CYO Winter Basketball Season. We must keep all of the children of our Parishes/Schools as safe as possible.***

We will continue to monitor the coronavirus and evaluate if there are any safe options that might help us reconsider our decision, as well as all the possibilities of offering basketball at a later time. However, we are not prepared at this moment to provide any possible time frame for that decision.

Throughout the survey process, many of you asked about offering weekend basketball clinics to the children in your Parishes/Schools. Although this is not something the CYO Office oversees, in our discussions with our Archdiocesan Leaders, the decision has been made that there should be **NO type of clinics or intramural occurring in our gymnasiums.** This is for everyone's wellbeing.

Again, I would just like to share with you that these are not easy decisions to be made. However, all of you should be commended for the examples you set for all of us last week. All of you expressed such great care for all of the children in your Programs and the passion with which each of you spoke was phenomenal – which made this process even harder.

For me, personally, I would like to thank each of you for your comradery, passion and support.  
God Bless all of you,  
Tom Conboy