

**CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION**  
**2012-2013**  
**HANDBOOK OF**  
**ATHLETIC PROGRAMS**

**INTRODUCTION**

Athletics are an important part of the total parish life at Ascension Parish because they serve as a means whereby children are taught Catholic attitudes and values, fundamental techniques, sportsmanship, fair play, team play, and general basic sports skills. This booklet, in conjunction with CYO and SAY rules and regulations, shall serve as the guideline for operating this program, which will be governed by the Ascension Athletic Board.

**ATHLETIC BOARD MEMBERS**

Director: Kelly Maxwell 429-5442

Sports Registration Coordinator: Gretchen Parker 254-0334

Communications/Finance Coordinator: Kevin Kates 252-3289

Equipment Manager: Joe Nadeau 427-8833

Fund Raising Coordinator: Todd Shuttleworth 431-3889

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# **SPORTS SIGN-UP DATES 2012-2013**

## **BASKETBALL (CYO) & CHEERLEADING**

Basketball: Grades 4-8

Cheerleading: Grades 6-8

**August 21-22**

## **BASKETBALL (INTRAMURAL) & VOLLEYBALL**

Basketball: Grades 1-3

Volleyball: Grades 4-8

**December 4-5**

## **BASEBALL & TRACK**

Baseball: Grades 4-8

Track: Grades 3-8

**January 1-2**

## **SOCCER & GOLF**

Soccer: Grades 1-8

Golf: Grades 6-8

**April 9-10**

All sign-ups are in the Witzman Center after the Saturday 5:00pm Mass and the Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am, and 12:15 Masses

# ASCENSION ATHLETICS INFORMATION 2012-2013

## **BASKETBALL**

CYO Coordinator: Tom Whitney  
Participation Fee: \$90 by TBD  
Intramural Coordinator: Chris Draper  
Participation Fee: \$30 by TBD;

## **VOLLEYBALL**

Coordinator: Renee Barber  
Early Bird Participation Fee: \$50 if paid by TBD

## **BASEBALL**

Coordinator: Richie Eberle  
Early Bird Participation Fee: \$45 if paid by TBD

## **TRACK**

Coordinator: Martha Saurine, 256-8224  
Early Bird Participation Fee: \$40 if paid by **Jan 15\***

## **SOCCER**

CYO Coordinator: Jeff Wonderly  
SAY Coordinator: Jeff McManus  
Early Bird Participation Fee: \$45 if paid by May 14, 2012

## **CHEERLEADING**

Coordinators: Maureen Hemmert and Diane Keller  
Early Bird Participation Fee: \$30 if paid by TBD

## **GOLF**

Coordinator: Rob Hart  
Early Bird Participation Fee: \$30 if paid by May 14, 2012

## **UNIFORMS (All Sports)**

Jerseys: \$35

**\* If early bird registration deadline is missed, an additional \$20 handling fee will be applied**

**per family.** Signing up by the early bird deadlines is helpful to balance team sizes and to maximize participation opportunities for the children.

Refunds will only be given prior to the first game of the season for each sport.

## **I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Church of the Ascension sponsors a youth athletic program. The intent of the program is to provide athletic opportunities for Grades 1-8, and Kindergarten (if the age criteria is met), under the direction of the Ascension Parish. Teams represent the parish in the following sports: Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, Track, Cheerleading, Golf, Softball, and Baseball. Regulations pertaining to age eligibility, parental permission, conduct, attendance, etc, are rigidly set by the sport governing bodies and enforced by the Ascension Athletic Board (AAB).

The AAB attempts to minimize the number and complexity of the rules required to operate a viable athletic program. The interpretation of these regulations includes not only their wording, but also more importantly, their intent. The overriding point of the regulations are to insure safety, good sportsmanship, fun, maximum participation, and athletic instruction. The AAB realizes that unusual or unforeseen circumstances may arise involving these rules and regulations or the interpretation thereof. If such cases do arise, the AAB will, at its discretion, amend or waive the rules and regulations to apply to the extraordinary situations.

Any resulting changes in policy will be communicated to all members of the parish. Anyone interested in helping with the many activities scheduled for the school year should contact the AAB or any AAB member. Each year assistance is needed in areas such as coaching, sports coordinator, new AAB members, helping with the annual fish fry, field preparation, and working special events.

## **II. OPERATING PHILOSOPHY**

The Church of the Ascension Youth Athletic program covers a wide range of sports and activities. The process for governing this type of diverse program cannot be the same for all levels. Therefore, the difference in age and maturity is recognized. Hence, the AAB operates the various sections of the program according to the following philosophies:

A. Ascension youth athletics are for the children of our parish and not the parents. Sports are for kids.

B. The AAB views Ascension athletics as a means, whereby, children are taught Catholic attitudes and values, fundamental techniques, sportsmanship, fair play, team play, and general basic sports skills. At all levels, playing time for each child will be as equitable as possible, and coaches will comply with sport governing body rules at all times.

C. The coaching staff of Ascension athletics should exhibit a Catholic philosophy of coaching and interaction with children consistent with Item B above. An evaluation from parents at the end of each sport season will help monitor that the coaches abide by the tenets of the Ascension philosophy. Should any conflicts arise during the course of a particular season, the coach should be receptive to intervention and communication from a representative from the AAB. Non-compliance may result in termination of future coaching responsibilities. (For further guidelines, see Section VII (D), "Coaches Evaluations Procedures" and Section VII (E) "Actions Subject to Review").

D. Athletics are an important part of the total parish life at Ascension Parish. However, the youth athletic program should not have precedence over other educational activities, nor should it be considered unworthy of educational attention. The AAB believes that Ascension's youth athletics are in harmony with the educational objectives and philosophies of the parish.

E. Participation in the athletic program is voluntary. It does provide an opportunity for those who participate to develop fundamental skills. The program is not selective since players possessing various levels of ability are allowed to make up the teams that represent Ascension. Players should be afforded equitable playing time as well opportunities to play multiple positions within each sport.

F. Winning is an inherent part of any athletic program and every player should play to win. However, the AAB does not believe winning is the primary criterion of a good youth athletic program. Obviously, those participating on the teams receive the most benefits from the program. Yet, many other values are available to those in the parish. Supporting the team, exhibiting Christian attitudes and values, learning good sportsmanship, building teamwork, and acquiring a sense of pride are only a few of the values a well-rounded athletic program provides. In order to get the maximum benefit out of the Ascension Athletic Youth Program and to be fair to the coach and other team members, parents are requested to:

1. Bring the child(ren) to their team's practices and games, should not drop off their child(ren) without two coaches present.
2. Notify the coach if the child(ren) will not be at a practice or game.
3. Be positive and supportive towards the child's participation.

### **III. LIABILITY STATEMENT**

The Ascension athletic program does not provide personal injury insurance of any kind for any age group. Therefore, participants play at their own risk. Each player is required to turn in a parent consent form that states that the parish athletic program, and all of its administrators, is not responsible in case of any injury. Hence, the AAB highly recommends a full physical examination prior to each school year.

### **IV. ASCENSION ATHLETIC BOARD (AAB)**

#### **A. ESTABLISHMENT OF AAB MEMBERS**

The AAB will be comprised of five members. These five members, during the July organizational meeting, will decide among themselves who will hold the offices for that year. Members will serve a three-year term and membership will be staggered such that no more than 2 of the 5 members will leave in any given year. New members will be recommended by existing members and approved by the Pastor.

#### **B. AAB MEMBERS**

The members of the AAB and their respective duties are as follows:

**Athletic Director** – The Athletic Director shall be the chairperson of the Athletic Board and preside over all meetings. The Athletic Director shall approve all financial expenditures associated with the athletic program.

**Assistant Athletic Director** – The Assistant Athletic Director shall act as an assistant to the Athletic Director and shall preside over all AAB meetings in the absence of the Athletic Director. Additionally, the Assistant Athletic Director shall serve as the CYO representative during their term.

**Recording Secretary** – The Recording Secretary shall record and distribute the minutes of all Athletic Board meetings to the Board prior to the next AAB meeting and shall maintain records of all Athletic Board proceedings. Additionally, the Recording Secretary shall ensure announcements are made for all sign-ups and significant events related to the Athletic Program via the church bulletin, school and RE family newsletters, outbound phone calling system, and any other means to reach the parish families.

**Treasurer** – The Treasurer shall preside over the Athletic Board meetings in absence of the Athletic Director and Assistant Athletic Director. The Treasurer will be responsible for reporting to the Pastor of Ascension Parish all receipts and expenditures of the Athletic Association. Additionally, the Treasurer will be responsible for preparing monthly financial reports for submission to the AAB, Pastor, and School Principal.

**Equipment & Facilities Manager** – The Equipment and Facilities Manager will be responsible for maintaining an inventory of all athletic equipment. This individual will be responsible for insuring that all equipment is ready and available at the commencement of each sport season. The Equipment and Facilities Manager will coordinate dissemination of equipment with the appropriate Sport Coordinators, in addition to the collection of all appropriate items at the conclusion of each sport. Should the need arise to replace equipment, the Equipment and Facilities Manager will be responsible for securing bids from various vendors for review and approval by the AAB. The Equipment & Facilities Manager will also be responsible for insuring that the Ascension soccer fields and baseball diamond are maintained.

### **C. MEETINGS**

1. The AAB will hold a minimum of one public meeting each month at a time and place to be decided upon by the Athletic Director.
2. The public meeting in July will be an organizational meeting, at which time the members of the Board will make appointments of duties.
3. The AAB may conduct other meetings as necessary to carry out the athletic program in accordance with this handbook. Any decisions made at such meetings will be reported at the next regular meeting and will be entered into the official record of minutes..
4. A minimum of three members of the Board must be present to constitute a quorum.
5. Three consenting votes are required to carry a motion made and seconded by Board members. If three consenting votes cannot be obtained, the issue under consideration will be deferred to the Pastor for decision.
6. The monthly public meeting of the AAB will be open to the parish.
7. In order to participate or be placed on the agenda for the AAB meetings, a letter of intent must be received and recognized by the AAB. Also, any parish member shall have the right to propose a

matter for consideration and discussion by the AAB at any meeting, with the understanding that a formal vote for disposition may or may not be taken by the AAB until the next general meeting. This will allow sufficient time to research, investigate, or otherwise consider the matter. This pertains to new business items or items not on the agenda. This shall be especially the case in any matters involving financial expenditures other than operating expenses of the organization.

#### **D. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. The AAB is responsible to conduct a youth athletic program in accordance with the philosophy and rules and regulations set forth in this handbook.
2. The AAB will appoint Sports Coordinators to oversee the major aspects of each sport. Members of the AAB may not serve as coordinators during their AAB term in office.
3. The AAB will approve coaches for the sports teams as recommended by the Sports Coordinators. Members of the AAB may not serve as head coaches during their term in office.
4. The AAB will establish a budget for the fiscal year (July 1 through June 30) and present it to the Pastor on or before August 15 of each year. The budget will project all expected expenses to operate the program, establish player participation fees, and indicate the various sources of income planned throughout the course of the year. The Treasurer will submit monthly financial records to the AAB, Pastor, and School Principal.
5. The AAB will review applications from prospective Board members and make recommendations for appointments whenever a vacancy on the Board exists. A vacancy may occur either at the expiration of a term or upon the resignation of a Board member. Anyone appointed to an unexpired term will serve only the remainder of the unexpired term and must then reapply for a new term in accordance with IV A above.
6. The AAB will review the handbook in July before the beginning of each school year to guarantee continued success of the Ascension youth athletic program.

#### **V. SPORT COORDINATORS**

The positions of Sport Coordinators will be appointed by the AAB to oversee the major activities of each sport. The duties of the Sport Coordinators may

vary from sport to sport and may be expanded upon by decision of the AAB, but shall include the following:

1. The Sport Coordinator will be the point of contact for parental or participant questions or concerns related to the respective sport.
2. The Sport Coordinator will be responsible for recruiting/suggesting coaches to the AAB for approval.
3. The Sport Coordinator will organize, coordinate, and conduct the following activities:
  - a. Sport sign-up session;
  - b. Evaluation of coaches at the conclusion of the season;
  - c. Practice schedules;
  - d. Game schedules, to include reserving the appropriate facility/location for the game (i.e., PAC, soccer field, etc); and
  - e. Coach's meetings.

The Sport Coordinator will be the liaison between the AAB, the coaches, and any outside sports governing body such as CYO or SAY. Additionally, the Sport Coordinator should attend the AAB public monthly meetings.

An individual may be a Sport Coordinator for more than one sport in a calendar year. The Sport Coordinator term is one year and may be renewed, not exceeding four years. Additionally it is recommended that there is an appointed Sports Coordinator to succeed the current Sports Coordinator so that there may be one year to transition the responsibilities and train the new coordinator.

## **VI. PROGRAMS**

Every parish member who properly signs up for a sport will be placed on a team. Adult coaches are provided for each team. The best possible equipment is allocated to each team and participation awards are distributed to each athlete. Every athlete must pay a fee to participate.

The youth athletic program consists of the Intramural, Catholic Youth Organization (CYO), and Soccer Association for Youth (SAY) activities.

There are costs for participating in these activities. Efforts are made to keep participation costs to a minimum by relying on many volunteers and subsidizing the costs using profits made at the annual Ascension Fish Fry.

Therefore, volunteering to work at the annual Ascension Fish Fry and/or assisting, as coaches should involve the parents of the athletes.

## **CYO SPORTS**

The CYO sports program emphasizes playing skills in formal competition with other parishes and programs. Learning sportsmanship and fair play are the goals set for each player at this level. Players must compete in a given classification according to their grade in school. The Greater Dayton CYO determines the grade levels for each classification. CYO sports registration deadlines will be followed provided that team size limitations have not been met.

When faced with insufficient numbers of participants for any sport, the primary focus will be to allow the maximum number of Ascension players to participate. Therefore, higher grades may be permitted to augment their team numbers with players from lower grades, provided that no lower grade is disadvantaged due to lack of players.

## **SELECTION OF TEAMS**

For all league activities, except SAY soccer, if numbers warrant the fielding of more than one team per sport, an open gym evaluation will be held.

Primary focus will be to field equal teams. However, teams may be divided based on skill level if warranted by the league and approved by the AAB.

Coaches of the sport being evaluated will be given the opportunity to participate in the evaluation process. If coaches are not available, the AAB will select individuals to evaluate the players. Scoring in any level will be based upon a scale of 1-5, 5 being high score. Specific areas of scoring will vary depending upon the techniques of that sport in question.

With respect to selection of teams for SAY sponsored activities, if numbers warrant the fielding of more than one team, SAY guidelines mandate that a blind draw is to be held in the presence of a SAY representative.

No player will be cut from any team in any sport. In some limited cases, the team sizes may need to be balanced. In those instances, players will be asked if they wish to play on the higher aged teams. The volunteers will be solicited from oldest to youngest. If not enough players volunteer, players will be placed on the higher aged team in descending age order until the teams are balanced.

As stated in the Ascension Athletic Philosophy, play times at all levels will be equitable as possible. Coaches will comply at all times with the rules of the sport governing body such as CYO or SAY.

## **TEAM SIZE LIMITATIONS**

In an effort to maximize the playing time opportunities for the children, team sizes will be capped after the late registration date for each sport as follows:

<b>Sport</b>	<b># of Players on Field</b>	<b>Team Size Limitation*</b>
Soccer	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>
	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>
	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>
	<b>9</b>	<b>18</b>
	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>
	<b>11</b>	<b>22</b>
Basketball	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>
Volleyball	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>
Baseball	10	15

No child will be denied the opportunity to play any of the above sports provided that the registration forms are received on or before the late fee registration date for the given sport. If the team sizes have reached their limitations and the late fee registration date has passed, no further registrations will be accepted for that sport.

## **SOCCER PROGRAM**

Ages 6-10 will participate in the SAY Soccer League. Ages 6 and 7 will participate in the Passers SAY class. Ages 8-10 will participate in the Wings SAY class.

The lower age limit for the given SAY class must be met by August 1 of the soccer season. Children who reach the upper age limit for the SAY class on or before July 31 will be required to participate in the next highest SAY class. In the case of the Wings, if a child reaches age 10 on or before July 31, they will play on the CYO league team for fifth grade participants.

Grades 5-8 will participate in the CYO Soccer League and all CYO rules will apply. If numbers warrant the fielding of more than one team per sport, an open gym evaluation will be held. Primary focus will be to field two equal teams. However, teams may be divided based on skill level if warranted by the league.

**BASKETBALL PROGRAM**

Grades 1-3 boys and girls will participate in an intramural program. Grades 4-8 boys and girls will participate in the CYO sponsored league, with CYO rules governing. If a CYO team is not available for 4th grade students, then they will participate in the intramural program. If numbers warrant the fielding of more than one team per sport, an open gym evaluation will be held. Primary focus will be to field equal teams. However, teams may be divided based on skill level if warranted by the league and approved by the AAB.

**VOLLEYBALL**

Grades 4-8 girls and boys will participate in the CYO sponsored Volleyball league, with CYO governing rules. If numbers warrant the fielding of more than one team per sport, an open gym evaluation will be held. Primary focus will be to field equal teams. However, teams may be divided based on skill level if warranted by the league.

**BASEBALL/SOFTBALL**

Grades 5-8 girls will participate in the CYO sponsored Softball league with CYO governing rules. If numbers warrant the fielding of more than one team per sport, an open gym evaluation will be held. Primary focus will be to field equal teams. However, teams may be divided based on skill level if warranted by the league.

Grades 4-8 boys will participate in the CYO sponsored Baseball league with CYO governing rules. If numbers warrant the fielding of more than one team per sport, an open gym evaluation will be held. Primary focus will be to field equal teams. However, teams may be divided based on skill level if warranted by the league.

The AAB recognizes that there may be times when a team may not have enough players to field a full defensive team. A team may use substitute players if there are not enough players present to field a normal defensive team. The substitute players must come from the next lower grade. Substitute players can only play outfield positions and must bat last in the lineup.

**TRACK**

Ascension participates on the East Catholic Striders (ETS) track team along with four other parishes including Immaculate Conception, St. Anthony, St. Helen, and St Luke. CYO track has three age groups for boys and for girls; 9/10, 11/12, and 13/14. Group is determined by age on September 30 of each year.

Running events include hurdles, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200, and a variety of 4 person relays. Field events include long jump, high jump, shot put, and discus.

**GOLF**

Grades 6-8 may participate in CYO golf in accordance with CYO rules.

**CHEERLEADING**

Grades 6-8 Cheerleaders will cheer for the 6th-8th grade basketball teams. Guidelines for cheering will be in accordance with CYO rules.

**ADDITIONAL SPORTS**

Accommodations are made for Ascension children who wish to participate in other CYO sports not offered through our athletic program. Any team organized by Ascension Parish for normal league play as outlined in this handbook can participate under the Ascension name in additional organized athletic program under the following conditions:

1. The coach of the team must make a formal request in writing to the AAB;
2. The AAB must approve the request; and
3. The team can use Ascension equipment for regular season play, but must raise any additional funds needed. These funds cannot be raised through additional parish sponsored fundraisers.

**TOURNAMENT PLAY**

With respect to tournaments for teams, the tournament being entered must be approved by the AAB or by the committee appointed to handle tournament activity. All efforts for equitable play during tournaments will be made.

## **SIGN-UPS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Parish members, including Ascension students and religious education students, shall be notified of youth athletic and coaching sign-ups in each of the following manner:

- Church bulletin
- Announcement at Masses
- The Voice
- Education Connection outbound call announcements
- Notice sent home with students of Ascension School and religious education students.

## **VII. COACHES**

### **A. SELECTION**

1. Head coaches and designated assistant coaches must be at least 18 years of ages.
2. All coaches and assistants must attend the annual Decree of Child Abuse and fulfill all other requirements set forth by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.
3. All coaches and assistants must comply with the Ascension Philosophy by signing and returning a copy of the Philosophy.
4. All individuals interested in coaching must submit an AAB coach's application.
5. Those wishing to coach a particular sport must notify the Sport Coordinator prior to that sport's sign-up or sign the list during sign-up.
6. Every effort will be made to allow all volunteers the opportunity to assist with coaching in any way. All volunteers will be notified as to their area of responsibility.
7. When there is more than one person wishing to be head coach for a particular age group of a sport, the AAB will choose the head coach. The Sports Coordinator will notify all prospective head coaches of the AAB's decision. They will also provide the selected head coach with the names of the other head coach and assistant coach applicants so that those applicants may serve as an assistant coach if they wish.
8. The head coach will choose the assistant coach(es) after the teams are established. The head coach should use the same considerations that the AAB uses for the selection of coaches, with priority given to those who completed head coach applications that were not selected by the

AAB, then to those who completed assistant coach applications, then to parent volunteers who did not complete applications.

The considerations for the selection of coaches shall include some, but not necessarily all of the following criteria:

- Coaching experience in that sport;
- Training in that sport;
- Overall coaching experience;
- Past history with coaching Ascension teams, taking into account all past evaluations, and compliance with Coach's Requirements and Coach's Guidelines, as set forth in this section;
- Parent of a player on that team; and
- Parish member.

## **B. COACH'S REQUIREMENTS**

1. Coaches shall have taken Child Protection training and fingerprinting as required by the Cincinnati Archdiocese.
2. Coaches are to set an example of Christian attitudes and values, good sportsmanship, and fair play at all times.
3. Coaches are not to smoke or use tobacco, drugs, or alcohol on the benches, playing area, or sidelines during a game or practice.
4. Coaches are not to use profanity at any time during an Ascension athletic game and/or practice.
5. Coaches are required to attend all meetings called by the CYO and/or the Sport Coordinator for their sport.
6. Coaches will pick-up equipment. Coaches could be responsible for the replacement of damaged or lost equipment.
7. Coaches will turn in all team trophies and awards won while representing Ascension.
8. Coaches will sign the Ascension Athletic Philosophy, indicating their willingness to comply with the tenets of said philosophy.

## **C. COACH'S GUIDELINES**

1. Coaches should dress appropriately in the athletic program's colors (red & grey).
2. Any head coach who will not be present for a game should notify the Sport Coordinator 24 hours prior to the game as to which assistant coach will be in charge.

3. Coaches should see that the conduct of their players and fans are always complimentary, so that the game is always under control and no player is in danger of being ejected.
4. Coaches are required to turn in a completed season summary sheet immediately after the season concludes.
5. No coach shall penalize any player for absence from practice or game to attend Religious Education classes or functions. A coach has the right to question the safety of an athlete. With a medical release form, the coach must enforce equal playing time.

#### **D. COACH'S EVALUATION PROCEDURES**

1. Each coach will be evaluated at the end of the season by parents or guardians of team participants.
2. Coaches are encouraged to review the evaluations to assist them in improving their coaching strengths and weaknesses. The individual's evaluation will be made available to that person upon request of the AAB.
3. Evaluations may be used in the future selection of coaches.

#### **E. ACTIONS SUBJECT TO REVIEW**

If a parent or guardian of a child involved in the athletic program has a complaint about a coach or about the operation of a team, the parent is to:

- Talk directly with the coach or coaches involved about the matter;
- Call the Sport Coordinator and maturely explain the problem; or
- Write to the AAB and request a hearing on the situation.

Coaches will be subject to AAB discipline for acts that are deemed detrimental to the athletic program.

1. Any coach willfully involved in submitting a fraudulent parent consent form to the CYO will be permanently suspended from the Ascension athletic program.
2. Any coach willfully violating the player eligibility rules of Ascension will be suspended for the balance of that season, as well as for the entire succeeding season.
3. Any coach who willfully attempts to violate the spirit and intent of the rules, regulations, and/or procedures of the athletic program will be brought before the AAB for review and the appropriate action taken.

4. Any coach against whom a complaint is filed by the CYO or its Officials Association is subject to an AAB review and appropriate action.

5. Any coach whose team forfeits two or more games during the season may be prohibited from coaching the succeeding season.

6. Any coach who is ejected from a game is subject to a review by the AAB.

### **VIII. PLAYER CONDUCT & ELIGIBILITY**

Athletes of Ascension Church are direct representative of their parish and are expected to conduct themselves in a way that will gain respect for both themselves and the parish. Representing the parish as an athlete is a privilege, not a right, available only to those who are will to follow the rules and regulations of the athletic program. A well-disciplined athlete accepts this as fact and abides by it.

Rules pertaining to players will be as follows:

A. A player who is ejected from two games during one season must appear before the AAB for a hearing into his or her conduct.

B. A player having a complaint filed against him or her by the CYO or its Officials Association, or other sports governing body, must appear before the Athletic Board for review of the incident(s).

C. A player who is fighting while in uniform is automatically suspended for the next scheduled game. A hearing will be held on such matters, at which time the AAB will determine further action to be taken.

D. A player whose conduct is considered detrimental to the spirit of the athletic program, i.e., abusive language, willful destruction of property, use of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol during games or practices, etc., will be requested to appear before the AAB for a hearing to consider possible suspension from the program.

E. Players are eligible for the athletic program if they are members of Ascension Parish, attend Ascension School, or Ascension's Religious Education program. Exceptions to this must be approved by the AAB.

F. Players in the athletic program must pay their participation fee during signups.

### **IX. FINANCES**

The athletic program at Ascension attempts to be entirely self-supporting. All funds raised go into an athletic account that is closely supervised by the AAB.

The AAB will develop a budget on an annual basis for submission and approval by the Pastor. The Treasurer will submit monthly financial reports to the AAB, Pastor, and School Principal.

## **X. ATHLETIC AWARDS**

**A. FR. RUDY AWARD** – Recipients of the Fr. Rudy Award may be nominated by anyone associated with Ascension Parish. The nominee must be an eighth grade student attending Ascension School or enrolled in the Religious Education Program. To nominate an eighth grade student please submit the answers to the following questions to an Athletic Board Member before May 7, 2009 (limit nomination package to 250 words).

1. How is the nominee a role model to other participants of superior Christian attitude and values?

2. How does the nominee demonstrate the qualities of sportsmanship and fair play?

3. How does the nominee exemplify the value of team play?

4. In what ways has the nominee provided service to the Ascension Athletic program?

## **B. FR. MEIRENFELD MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD** –

This award is presented to the person who, by vote of the AAB, has shown his or her superior commitment to the athletic program by their long-term service to Ascension athletics. By virtue of this individual's outstanding efforts, the image of the athletic program is enhanced and because of this person's moral character, the quality of Ascension Parish is enriched.

## **C. TROPHY POLICY** – When an Ascension team receives a trophy:

- a. The coach shall turn the trophy in the AAB.
- b. The trophy will be displayed.
- c. The trophy will be placed in a trophy case.
- d. Only the most recent trophies will be displayed in the trophy cases.