



Youth and Young Adult Ministry and CYO Office

7911 Detroit Avenue Cleveland, OH 44102 P 216.334.1261

795 Russell Avenue, Akron, OH 44307 P 330.379.3636

www.dioceseofclevelandcyo.org

MERGER APPLICATION FOR CYO ATHLETICS

Members of the Diocese of Cleveland CYO understand that at times there may be a need for two or more members to merge for fielding an athletic team. The DOC-CYO considers a merger to be the last resort and used only when all other attempts by the members to field a team independently have been exhausted.

(In the sport of tackle football for grades 6th, 7th and 8th, the CYO Administration predetermines eligibility by assigning football sections. Merger applications are not accepted for this program).

(In the sport of **Cross Country**, teams **may not merge** with teams that have 10 or more athletes on their roster from the same division and same gender. Teams may practice together at the same course and with the same coach but teams must register and compete under their own parish/school name).

The following criteria is required before we consider a Merger Application:

1. No more than five (5) parish/schools/members/unified programs are part of the merger application.
2. The one member deemed the sponsoring member is identified. This member is listed on the competition schedule, uniforms and is responsible for administration of the team. The sponsoring member submits the Merger Application to the CYO Athletic Office for approval no later than the regular team entry deadline of the season.
3. Athletes from all parties to the merger are required to participate on the approved merged team(s).
4. The Member Administrator, Pastor or Administrator of each party involved, and the member athletic directors involved sign the Merger Application. This is required because all of the parties to the merger are accepting a level of responsibility and liability for the overall team(s) involved.
5. With CYO Athletic Administration approval, you can add members to the Merger Application until 10 days before the start of the season, provided you meet the criteria of bylaw 8-1-2.

The diocese administration will review the following items as part of the approval process:

- Is the Merger Application complete with required signatures submitted? We will deny incomplete Merger Applications. You will need to submit a new application in its entirety for approval.
- Was a description and rationale for the Merger Application, which identifies the principles stated in bylaw 8-1-1 or other exceptional consideration submitted?
- The number of parties to the application that have previously sponsored teams in the sport involved.
- The geographic proximity of the parties of the application for community building purposes.
- The merger will not create a competitive advantage.
- A CYO member is identified as the sponsoring member, assumes responsibility for the administration of the team, and represents the name under which the team will be registered.
- The Member Administrator, Pastor, or Administrator of each party involved signs the Merger Application and where applicable, the member athletic directors involved.

The Charter & Bylaws of the Diocese of Cleveland CYO prohibits members from recruiting players from others in the effort to field a team until the efforts by the individual parish/school to field a team were attempted. The merger application deadlines are strictly enforced and it is the sponsoring member's responsibility to see that all information is properly completed and submitted.

The Merger Application is protestable and the Diocese of Cleveland CYO protest/grievance procedure will resolve such protests.



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Sport (Check One): Baseball Basketball Cheer Cross Country Track & Field Volleyball
 Flag Football Rookie Tackle Football

Gender: BOY GIRL **Level of Play:** Grade school High school
Division of Play: 12th Grade 10th Grade 8th Grade 7th Grade 6th Grade
 5th Grade 4th Grade 3rd Grade 2nd Grade 1st Grade

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(*Sport merger applications for **Cross Country** and **Track and Field** must indicate the number of athletes from each parish/school below*)

Sponsoring Member: _____ **City:** _____
Parish/School #1: _____ **Number of athletes*:** _____
Parish/School #2: _____ **Number of athletes*:** _____
Parish/School #3: _____ **Number of athletes*:** _____
Parish/School #4: _____ **Number of athletes*:** _____

We, the CYO Members, Parishes and Schools listed above are applying for approval to form a merged team(s) in the sport and division indicated above. The Sponsoring Member and the other Parishes/Schools are asking for consideration based upon the following criteria (check all that apply):

- _____ The sponsoring member does not have a viable number of children to field a team of their own.
- _____ Without merging, the parties to the application do not have access to practice facilities.
- _____ Without merging, the parties to the application do not have adults qualified/eligible to coach the group of players in this sport.
- _____ The merger will create an opportunity for the children to compete at their own grade level, instead of needing to move up a division/level in order to have a viable number of players within the parish/school.
- _____ Parish/School(s) that are parties to this application do not sponsor CYO Athletic Programs.

Based upon the criteria indicated above, we have submitted the attached email narrative detailing the specific situation of the CYO Member(s) and parish/school(s) involved as well as items that should be given extraordinary consideration.

As Parties to the merged team we:

1. Certify that the parent/guardians of participants from my parish/school are bonafide-registered members of the parish or the child is enrolled in the school to comply with Bylaw 3.
2. Agree that the participants belonging to the sponsoring member are retained on the team roster before adding participants from other parish/school.
3. Have agreed to financial arrangements needed to field the team.
4. Certify that this team does not have athletes from parishes/schools outside the merger on its roster.
5. Agree that the sponsoring member is responsible for the submission of all fees & paperwork to CYO.
6. Agree that the sponsoring member will be the official contact for correspondences and used as the name for the team listed on schedules.

7. Understand that we are all considered to be offering the team in the sport, and as such, said merger may limit an athlete's eligibility choices.
8. Will direct all young people from our parish/school interested in playing this sport to the sponsoring member.
9. Understand that penalties for violations of the Charter & Bylaws or other rules may apply to all.

For the purpose of fielding a CYO Team, we the Pastors, Administrators, Member Administrators and Athletic Directors parties of this merger, have read the statements above and agree to abide by the terms of this merger as stated above and in the Diocese of Cleveland CYO Charter and Bylaws.

Signature of Sponsoring Member Administrator	Date
Signature of Sponsoring Member Athletic Director	Email Date
Signature of Parish/School Administrator (1)	Date
Signature of Parish/School Athletic Director (1)	Email Date
Signature of Parish/School Administrator (2)	Date
Signature of Parish/School Athletic Director (2)	Email Date
Signature of Parish/School Administrator (3)	Date
Signature of Parish/School Athletic Director (3)	Email Date
Signature of Parish/School Administrator (4)	Date
Signature of Parish/School Athletic Director (4)	Email Date

Form Completed by Name: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____ **Email:** _____

Submit this completed and signed agreement to the CYO Athletic Office for approval:
 Cleveland Office – 7911 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44102

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CYO DIOCESE ADMINISTRATION

This agreement is hereby APPROVED REJECTED by the CYO Athletic Office and shall go into effect on the date indicated below as a REGULAR MERGER.

CYO Administration	Date
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Communication of this decision sent to the Sponsoring Member on _____ . Rev. 8/8/18