



Catholic Youth Activities Organization (CYAO)

The CYAO Board was created in 2015 as a result of the Strategic Plan and was intended to provide guidelines and general oversight of youth activities and sports that are associated with the Catholic schools in Saunders County. This includes activities such as volleyball, basketball, wrestling, softball and robotics. Organizations that use the Cavalry name or have an association with the Catholic schools are part of the CYAO Board. Each club has two seats on the board and the rest of the board includes representatives from each school, the Neumann Athletic Director, the Neumann Booster Club, the Neumann Business Manager and the Chief Administrative Officers of the schools. The CYAO Board meets annually and provides oversight of club schedules, student fees, financial reporting and issue resolution.

I. Purpose

The purpose of the Saunders Catholic Youth Activities Organization (CYAO) and the board is to ensure that our youth programs function within the Catholic mission of our schools, including spiritual development, skills development and the involvement of our children and families as a part of our faith community. Cavalry youth club teams are a positive extension of our Catholic Schools and are meant to enrich students in physical, intellectual, spiritual and creative formation activities.

II. Support Functions

Spirituality – The CYAO Board supplies guidelines and support for youth activities that are consistent with our schools and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Volunteer Credentials – Coaches and volunteers who work independently with students in the clubs or organizations are required to pass background checks and follow the volunteerism guidelines established by the Diocese of Lincoln. (<https://www.lincolndiocese.org/all-documents/education/safe-environment-coordinators/sec-docs/1263-safe-environment-training-instructions/file>).

Finance & Insurance – Finances and club bank accounts are to be managed by the Bishop Neumann Office Manager and monitored by the Chief Administrative Officer. Each club may have their own board, insurance and day to day management of their club; the CYAO Board will provide support, guidance, transparency, and bi-annual financial reporting for Cavalry Clubs and organizations that are associated with Saunders Catholic Schools. Financial reports are due in August of each year and are published on the CYAO webpages on the Bishop Neumann website.

Facility Usage Policy & Fees – Clubs and organizations are allowed to use school facilities, prioritized by after school-sponsored events, based on the Saunders Catholic Schools Facility Usage Policy. Fees to use the facilities may be charged based on the specific policies of the school and supporting parish. In addition, a cleaning fee may be charged if maintenance personnel are used to clean up after team practices or games, based on each school's standard policy.

Participant Priority Guidelines – The Catholic Youth Activities Organization supplies priority guidelines for student involvement in Cavalry Club teams. (1) The first priority is given to students currently attending Saunders Catholic Schools, (2) second priority to Catholic students within the Wahoo Deanery that intend to go to one of the three Catholic schools, (3) third priority to Catholic students within the Wahoo Deanery that may consider going to one of the schools and the (4) fourth priority is at the discretion of the club team. Any non-school student, and their family, who participates in one of the CYAO clubs must agree to follow all of the guidelines and rules of the club and CYAO parents must be involved in club activities and fundraising events.

Co-op Team Guidelines – Cavalry teams that co-op with other schools and still want to use the Cavalry name, are managed under the same guidelines as all Cavalry Clubs and the co-op agreement must be approved by the CYAO Board and school administration.

Annual Scheduling Oversight – Club schedules are reviewed annually, to ensure consistency, transparency and to avoid overlap when possible and to avoid Sunday practices and games when practical.

Code of Catholic Conduct – The club teams and organizations will follow guidelines established by Saunders Catholic Schools for good sportsmanship, conduct and being good role models of our Catholic faith. (SCS Code of Catholic Conduct & Parents Meeting Letter).

Conflict Resolution Escalation Resource – After parents have followed their club guidelines for conflict resolution they may present the issue, with their Club Representative, at a CYAO Board Meeting for further guidance. CYAO Board Meetings are held annually in August, but a Club or Parent may request a meeting at any time to resolve an issue.

New Organization Applications – The Catholic Youth Activities Organization has the responsibility to review and process new club and organization requests. (SCS New Program Application Form).

III. Board Membership

Board Members – The members of the CYAO Board will consist of the Neumann Athletic Director, two members from each club, one representative from each of the grade schools, the Neumann Business Manager, and the Neumann Booster Club President. The Chief Administrative Officers from each of the schools have designated a representative that attend meetings, but are also considered part of the board and have general oversight of the organization.

IV. Meeting Dates

- August – Annual Board Meeting - Financial Reports Due
- Other Board Meetings - At the request of Club Directors or Parents

V. Cavalry Club Teams

Cavalry Basketball	4 th Grade – 8 th Grade Teams & Academies; 1 st -3 rd Grade Academies	
Cavalry Softball	4 th Grade – 12 th Grade Teams (HS summer teams)	CYAO Board Oversight through 8 th
Cavalry Volleyball	2 nd Grade – 8 th Grade Teams	
Cavalry Robotics	5 th Grade – 12 th Grade Teams (HS Teams)	CYAO Board Oversight through 8 th
Cavalry Wrestling	2 nd Grade – 8 th Grade Teams	



Covenant of Catholic Identity & Sportsmanship Overview

As the Saunders Catholic School family moves into another exciting year of youth sports, we wanted to give everyone a reminder of how important it is for our parents, fans, and students to exemplify good sportsmanship and to be good and supportive role models for our young athletes.

Living our Catholic identity and showing good sportsmanship, whether a by coach, student, fan or parent, is identified by living our Catholic faith before, during and after all activities and athletic events. This includes:

- + Encouraging students to perform their best in athletics and activities, just as we would urge them on with their classwork, knowing that others will always turn in better or lesser performances;
- + Participating in positive cheers that encourage our athletes; and discouraging any cheer that is negative;
- + Respecting the rules of the contest and the officials who administer them and their decisions;
- + Respecting the task that coaches face as teachers; and supporting them as they strive to live their Catholic faith and educate our youth;
- + Respecting our opponents as students and young athletes, and acknowledging them for striving to do their best;
- + Developing a sense of dignity under all circumstances.

We can have a positive influence on our youth's attitudes about activities, athletics and sportsmanship. The leadership role you take in sportsmanship will help influence our students and our community, for years to come.

Please join the staff, coaches, parents and community members in committing to being great Catholic role models for our youth by encouraging them to do their best, to enjoy their activities and sports, and to live their Catholic faith, on and off the athletic field, the court, the mat and at any event.





Catholic Youth Activities Organization

Parent Meeting Review

PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIP

1. Coaching and parenting are both very exciting and challenging.
2. It is important for parents to know the main concern of the coach is the entire team and the coach needs to recognize the main concern of the parents is their son/daughter.
3. Coaches may make mistakes throughout the year, but they are never to act in a way that is meant to intentionally hurt your son/daughter.

COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM THE COACH

1. Philosophy of the program.
2. Communication of practice times, game times, lifting schedules and team functions.
3. Special requirements for participation – additional fee's, special equipment, extra conditioning.
4. Procedure should your son/daughter become injured.
5. Discipline policies that may result in suspension from contest(s) or dismissal from the team.

COMMUNICATION THE COACH EXPECTS FROM PARENTS

1. Go the coach if you have any questions or concerns.
2. Notify the coach of any schedule conflicts with games or practices well in advance.
3. Concerns you may have about the program's philosophy and expectations.

APPROPRIATE ISSUES TO DISCUSS WITH THE COACH

1. Ways for son/daughter to improve their skills.
2. The treatment of your son/daughter.
3. Concerns about your son/daughter's behavior.

ISSUES LEFT TO THE DISCRETION OF THE COACH

1. Son/daughter's playing time.
2. The position your son/daughter plays.
3. What team they will compete on.
4. Who the starters are and why they start.
5. Confidentiality issues about other players.
6. Game strategies and play calling.

PROCEDURE TO TALK TO THE COACH

1. Call or email the coach and set up an appointment.
2. Do not confront a coach immediately after a game or practice.
3. Talk face to face with the coach rather than over the phone or by email when discussing the problem.
4. Do not get your son/daughter in the middle of the discussion or issue.
5. After speaking with the coach, if the issue is not resolved, you should follow your Club guidelines on escalating the issue.
6. If you feel the issue is not resolved after following your club's guidelines, you can contact the Catholic Youth Activities Organization (CYAO) to have the issue added to the agenda for the next CYAO Board meeting, for further guidance.