

CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY
UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE VOLUNTEER POLICY
“Junior Coach Policy”

For the Sake of God’s Children (FSGC) policies of the Diocese of Wilmington mandate that all adults (18 years of age or older) that work with children and young adults have a background check, sign a Volunteer Covenant, and receive appropriate training from the parish or diocese. See also the “Background Checks and Forms for CYM Coaches” handout for background requirements and policies.

CYM regularly receives requests for high school boys and girls under the age of 18 to assist with CYM athletic teams. In some cases, parents that are head coaches of teams request that their minor son or daughter be allowed to help with the team. In other situations, former players return and help with the team, assisting with demonstration of drills or plays. Allowing individuals under the age of 18 to assist at practices or games can provide a valuable experience for the under-18 volunteer. It can provide a high school student with an opportunity to earn service hours required by their school and may plant a seed to return to the parish/school as an adult volunteer in the future.

It is important for parishes/schools and adult coaches to understand the responsibility undertaken when using volunteers who are minors.

- Prior to assisting in any way, the head coach of the team must meet with the under 18 volunteer AND the parent/guardian of the under-18 volunteer, OR written agreement from parent/guardian on file at the local parish or school.
- The head coach must review the “Volunteer Covenant” with the under-18 volunteer and the parent of the under-18 volunteer. In addition, the under-18 volunteer and the parent/guardian of the under-18 volunteer must both sign the “Volunteer Covenant” and the signed “Volunteer Covenant” must be on file in the parish/school office.
- The head coach of the team must also review the “Technology Policy” with the under-18 volunteer and the parent guardian of the under-18 volunteer.
- The under-18 volunteer is not considered a cleared adult as it pertains to FSGC safe environment policy.
 - The under-18 volunteer is considered an additional youth participant. For example, a team with 14 players listed on the roster, which usually requires 2 cleared adults, will now be required to have 3 cleared adults, as there will be 15 total players and volunteers on the team. This section applies to rosters, practices and athletic contests.
- These same policies will apply for In-House programs.

If there are any questions, please contact the Office for Catholic Youth Ministry at catholicyouth@cdow.org or call the CYM Office at 302-658-3800.

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