



Our Lady of Grace Athletic Association

Constitution

**CONSTITUTION
OF THE
OUR LADY OF GRACE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

The provision of this Constitution are based upon the intent of the Archbishop, The Archdiocese and its agents and institutions, to abide by all Church Archdiocesan, federal, state and local laws and policies.

The Charter on Catholic Youth Athletics set forth by the Cincinnati Archdiocese (“The Charter”), applies to this Constitution of the Our Lady of Grace Athletic Association (“Constitution”) as if fully set forth herein. In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the Articles of this Constitution and The Charter, The Charter shall prevail.

ARTICLE I. NAME & AFFILIATION

The name of this association shall be the Our Lady of Grace Athletic Association, hereafter referred to as OLGAA. The OLGAA is connected to the regional school known as Our Lady of Grace Catholic School, hereafter referred to as OLGCS, and is supported by the parishes of Assumption, St. Therese the Little Flower, St. Ann and St. Margaret Mary, all of Cincinnati, Ohio and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. These parishes will hereafter be referred to as the Covenant Parishes.

ARTICLE II. MISSION

OLGAA furthers the mission of the Catholic Church by providing sports experiences for youth that are firmly rooted in the Catholic faith tradition, based on the goals of Catholic youth ministry, and aligned with the goals of Catholic youth ministry, and aligned with the evangelizing mission of the Catholic Church. (*Charter Ref. p.7; 1.2*)

ARTICLE III. GOALS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

A. Goals. OLGAA is a form of youth ministry that leads young people closer to Christ, and takes its inspiration and direction from the 1997 U.S. Bishops’ document, *Renewing the Vision - A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*. That document identifies three overarching goals for all youth program in the U.S. Catholic Church:

Goal 1. Discipleship: to empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today.

Goal 2. Participation: to draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the Catholic faith community.

Goal 3. Growth: to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.

(*Charter Ref. p. 7; 1.3.1*)

B. Guiding Principles. The policies and best practices detailed in this Charter flow from these goals and are aligned with them. Since the Charter provides a framework of policies and best practices for elementary-age and parish-based athletics in the Archdiocese (except for the Excluded High Schools), the various athletics organizations, leagues, tournaments, teams, and practices that are a part of Catholic Youth Athletics will also reflect these overarching goals. The Guiding Principles are:

1. **Discipleship, Faith and Family First:** Catholic Youth Athletics proceeds from and should always include Christian discipleship in the Catholic faith, in support of the parents and families whose children participate. Charter policies and guidelines are developed with Christian discipleship, the Catholic faith, and family well-being as top priorities.
2. **Evangelizing Mission:** The whole Church and each of its members are called to the mission of evangelization; so too, is Catholic Youth Athletics a part of that mission. Participants, parents, families, coaches, athletics organizations, fans, and alumni – all those involved in some way in Catholic Youth Athletics – are invited into this evangelizing mission bringing the good news of Jesus Christ to a world much in need of it. The Charter establishes clear expectations regarding the evangelizing mission of Catholic Youth Athletics.
3. **Responsible Participation in the Church:** Catholic Youth Athletics will reflect the priority of regular, consistent, and responsible participation in the Church, in her worship, education, community, ministries and service to the world. The Charter includes policies and best practices affirming the priority of active participation in the Catholic faith community, including faith formation as well as worship on Sundays, Holy Days and during liturgical seasons.
4. **Faith, Character and Virtue Development:** In Catholic Youth Athletics, winning, performing, and succeeding are always subordinate to the development of faith, character and virtues in participants and their families. The Charter establishes policies and best practices regarding Christian behavior, good sportsmanship, and fair play for players, coaches, volunteers, athletics organizations, and parents, in line with the Great Commandments, the Ten Commandments, and the Golden Rule.
5. **Trained and Competent Coaches and Athletics Leaders:** Coaches and athletics leaders serving in Catholic Youth Athletics understand their roles as forms of youth ministry leadership, and will get training that leads to competence not only in coaching a given sport, but also in modeling and sharing faith, developing young Catholic disciples, and helping young people and their families stay meaningfully connected to the Catholic Church.
6. **Safety and Well-being of Children:** The safety and well-being of young people in Catholic Youth Athletics are paramount. The Charter describes policies and best practices to promote the safety and well-being of children.
7. **Good Stewardship and Accountability:** Athletics organizations and leagues that serve the parishes and schools of the Archdiocese should demonstrate good stewardship of money and other resources, with trustworthy and transparent systems of financial accountability.

(Charter Ref. p. 7, 8; 1.3.2)

ARTICLE IV. MINISTRY, ROLE, AND PURPOSE

A. Ministry and Role. OLGAA is an extension of the mission and youth ministry efforts of the Covenant parishes and OLGCS. OLGAA is responsible for coordinating and sustaining high quality athletic experiences for young people that build up their faith, character, virtues, self confidence, communication capabilities and leadership skills, in the context of athletics. OLGAA stands in for Jesus when he says, “Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” Matthew 19.14

Consequently, the sports programs of OLGCS is the place where the Catholic identity of participants, coaches and teams is authentically affirmed, modeled, and lived out. OLGAA understands its role as:

1. An integral part of the mission, ministries, and life of the parish, or non-parish school, and committed to that mission above and beyond other considerations;
2. Under the direct authority of the pastors of the Covenant parishes and the principal of OLGCS;
3. Part of the youth ministry of the Catholic Church, with leaders, coaches, adult volunteers, and parents who understand the youth ministry mission of Catholic Youth Athletics;
4. Guided by the mission, goals and principles of this the Charter on Catholic Youth Athletics;
5. A source of inspiration, character development, virtue and Catholic Christian behavior that ideally will be beyond reproach.

(Charter Ref. p. 30; 6.1.1)

B. Purpose. The purpose of OLGAA is to provide athletic activities for the youth of OLGCS and/or the Covenant Parishes and the opportunity to engage in these activities/sports under the supervision and guidance of elected and/or appointed officials.

To achieve this purpose, the OLGAA shall:

1. PROMOTE the practice of good sportsmanship and the Christian principles of fair play.
2. PROVIDE the opportunity for competition through league and tournament play whenever reasonable and/or possible.
3. PROVIDE the necessary equipment and supervision for safe competitive competition.
4. RAISE Funds for equipment, teams, facilities and any other purpose deemed necessary or reasonable and consistent with the purpose and functions of OLGAA.

ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP

Adults (18 years of age and older) who are parents or guardians of elementary school students attending OLGCS or are registered parishioners of any one of the Covenant Parishes, or any other person appointed by the Executive Committee are considered members of OLGAA.

ARTICLE VI. GOVERNING BODY

A. Governing Body

The Governing Body consists of the six Executive Committee members, subcommittee chairs, and individual sports coordinators, hereafter referred to as OLGAA Board.

B. Duties of the Governing Body

1. Final decisions affecting OLGAA will be made by the majority vote of the Executive Committee. Each subcommittee position, and sports coordinator can weigh in on all decisions, offering their point of view and support to the Executive Committee.
2. Policies, By-Laws and/or team rules will be established, published, and revised from time to time by the OLGAA Board.
3. The OLGAA Board may authorize activities and expenditures as may be consistent with the purpose and functions of OLGAA.
4. The OLGAA Board may authorize participation in competition in any sports leagues whenever deemed necessary or reasonable and consistent with the purpose and functions of OLGAA.

C. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of OLGAA should consist of six (6) elected board members from the general membership, each serving a two or three year staggered term so that only two or three offices are filled annually. The six (6) members will include President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two (2) Athletic Directors.

D. Exclusive Duties of the Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to remove any OLGAA Board member, coach, player, or OLGAA member from membership whenever that person is not following and maintaining the mission and purpose of OLGAA. Such action shall require a majority (four votes) of the Executive Committee.
2. The Executive Board may fill unexpired terms of office by appointment, which office is to be held until the next election. A simple majority vote of the remaining Executive Board members is required.

E. Duties of the Executive Committee

President

The President shall have the primary responsibility for the operation of OLGAA. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee and OLGAA meetings. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all OLGAA subcommittees with the right of attendance and discussion.

Vice President

The Vice President assists in the operation of the OLGAA. In the absence or incapacity of the President, the Vice President shall exercise all powers of the President.

Secretary

The Secretary shall be responsible for establishing, maintaining, and communicating relevant information and all records/minutes to the following: the school, the Covenant Parishes, the OLG website director, the OLGAA membership and the OLGAA Board.

Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for taking care of OLGAA finances. The Treasurer will be responsible for receiving all revenues and for paying all properly presented and approved bills plus other normal OLGAA Board, team or league expenses. The Treasurer shall maintain a record of such receipts and payments and shall render an accounting to the Executive Committee, Finance Committee, the school business manager, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, and upon request to the general membership at regular meetings. The Treasurer will also maintain a list of approved vendors and distribute it to members of the Governing Body when needed. The Treasurer will maintain insurance as appropriate for the prudent operation of the OLGAA Board.

Athletic Directors

The duties of the Athletic Director will be shared by two (2) people. They will divide the sports programs among themselves. The Athletic Directors shall support the individual coordinators of all sports and will act as a liaison between the leagues and the OLGAA Board. The Athletic Director is also responsible for confirming that all coaches are VIRTUS trained and have undergone the required Archdiocesan background check. The Athletic Director also makes sure the gym is equipped with what is needed for the particular sport/program.

F. School/Spiritual Liaison

The Principal or his/her designate shall serve as the school representative and the Spiritual Liaison to OLGAA and attend all meetings. (*Charter Ref. p. 31, 32; 6.2.3a*)

The Spiritual Liaison is responsible for communicating the spirit, mission goals, and principles of the Charter on Catholic Youth Athletics to the OLGAA membership. More specifically, the duties of the Spiritual Liaison include:

1. Ensure that the annual coaches' ministry meeting(s) is (are) scheduled. Attend the annual coaches' ministry meeting(s) and monitor attendance at such meetings by the coaches.
2. Promote ministry spirit: Assist coaches in implementing a spirit of ministry, as reviewed annually at the Coaches' ministry meeting, in practices and games throughout the season.
3. Evaluations: Participate in end-of-year evaluations of coaches and discussions regarding their return for future years
4. Resources: Provide resources, including prayers and other resources, to assist coaches in their youth athletics ministry.
5. Listening: Be a listening ear outside of the athletics organization for coaches, parents or athletes.

6. Develop guidelines: In consultation with the Pastor, or principal of a non-parish school, and athletics organization leadership, establish any guidelines to be fulfilled by coaches or teams to integrate Catholic/Christian faith and spirituality more fully into the athletics programming.
7. Grievance Committee: The Spiritual Liaison should be a member of the athletics organization Grievance Committee.

An annual review of the Spiritual Liaison should take place with the Pastor, or principal with input from coaches and the OLGAA Board. (*Charter Ref. p. 36, 37; 6.2.14*)

G. Pastoral Responsibilities

The OLGAA Board is accountable to the Juridictional Pastor and the Pastoral Council for the prudent handling of all organizational resources and accounting practices. (*Charter Ref. p. 31, 32; 6.2.3b*)

H. Subcommittees

In addition to the Executive Committee and the Spiritual Liaison, the OLGAA Board shall also include various subcommittees which may include, but is not limited to, Registration, Fundraising, Public Relations, and Scholarship Committees. The OLGAA Board may also include, but is not limited to the following coordinators: Scheduling, Concession, Spiritwear, and Individual Sports Coordinators.

I. Nomination Committee.

From time to time, OLGAA Board shall seek nominations to fill vacancies and support staggered terms/membership of the Board. Requests for nominations shall appear in weekly bulletins. The President will appoint a Nomination Committee of OLGAA Board to review candidate nominations. The Nomination Committee will present a recommendation to OLGAA Board. OLGAA Board will vote on final candidate selections.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS

Amendments to this Constitution shall be presented in writing by a member of the Executive Committee at two scheduled OLGAA Board meetings and voted upon at the second scheduled meeting by the present Executive Committee members and subcommittee representatives. The proposed amendment is considered adopted upon approval of the majority.