

Northeast Illinois Catholic Conference

Organization

The name of this body shall be the Northeast Illinois Catholic Conference, hereafter referred to as the NICC. This association is a non-profit organization sponsoring athletic programs for member schools.

Member Schools/Organizations

Our Lady of Humility
St. Patrick's Wadsworth
St. Anastasia
Most Blessed Trinity
Prince of Peace (POP)
St. Bedes
St. Joseph Round Lake
St. Joseph Libertyville
Catholic Consortium of Lake County
St. Gilberts
Home Run Kids
Lake Forest Country Day School
East Lake Academy

Philosophy

The NICC is concerned with the development of the whole person: the religious, moral, social, and academic dimensions, as well as physical development. We believe participation in athletics is an important component to a well-rounded educational experience. Through participation in the NICC, students will develop ethical and moral standards, life-long skills, and positive values. These values include leadership, healthy living habits, self-discipline, integrity, teamwork, respect for rules and regulations, and the ability to participate with dignity and grace.

Objectives

- To integrate the teaching of Christian values within the athlete's experience.
- To promote personal growth for the athlete along with the spirit of camaraderie and sportsmanship.
- To instill the concepts of team-play and individual responsibilities as a team member
- To encourage leadership and increase self-confidence and self-esteem
- To promote life-long health
- To promote the understanding of the team and working toward shared goals.
- To provide a positive, challenging, rewarding, and fun experience for the players, parents, and coaches.

Administration

Officers: The officers of the NICC will consist of a president and three supporting officers. Officers are nominated and voted upon at the spring meeting for the upcoming school year. The president is responsible for facilitating meetings, awards, verifying insurance and collecting annual fees. The officers will assist with conference standings, tournament seeding and assisting the president. Grievances and protests are presented to the president and evaluated with the other officers.

Voting: Elections, rule changes and updates to the constitution will be voted upon. A majority rule is needed to carry the motion unless otherwise stated. Each member school/organization shall appoint a representative to the NICC. This person will serve as a voting member and represent their school/organization.

Finance: All members of the organization will pay annual dues as determined by the president and member schools/organizations. The fee will be adjusted for schools not comprised of a 5th through 8th grade. This money will be used for administrative purposes and the purchase of awards and equipment. A financial statement will be provided at the end of the season. Any special assessment for unanticipated expenses must be approved by voting members.

Meetings: Meetings shall occur at least 4 times per school year. The president will release a schedule for date, time and location.

Exceptions/Special Circumstances: Any exceptions to the stated policies must be requested in writing to the president. The president will then decide how to share the exception with the other voting members and the method of voting. The exception must be approved by a majority vote. The exception, if passed, will be in effect for that sport/season only.

Code of Ethics

Student Athletes

- Play the game for game's sake
- Be generous in winning and graceful in losing
- Display good sportsmanship and respect towards all opponents
- Work for the good of the team
- Accept the decisions of the officials gracefully
- Conduct yourself at all times with honor and dignity
- Recognize, applaud, and encourage the efforts of your teammates and opponents.
- Show respect for your coaches
- Show respect towards fans and personnel from other schools
- Abide by conference ethical standards, rules and regulations

Coaches

- Head Coaches must be at least 21 years of age. An assistant coach may be under 21 provided an adult will be at every game and practice when the head coach isn't available.
- All coaches or other adults involved in student supervision must complete all diocese requirements regarding criminal background checks, Code of Conduct, Protecting God's Children, etc.
- Coaches shall display good sportsmanship to instill in each student a sense of responsibility for being good examples to one another. Coaches should always be positive in coaching and encourage a good attitude towards officials. Sportsmanship covers not running up the score on another team. Obscene language and behavior will not be tolerated. Coaches should not incite the fans toward opposing coaches, players or officials. AD's are instructed to caution coaches and remind them of their responsibilities in this regard.
- Coaches report to the AD, who reports to the principal.
- Serious infractions regarding sportsmanship should be brought to the attention of the NICC president.

Spectators

- All spectators are expected to exhibit acceptable conduct at all times and may be removed by the game officials or authorized personnel of the host school.

- Fans are expected to be courteous and respectful of the host school facility and those in authority.
- Obscene language and behavior will not be tolerated.
- Kicking and stomping on bleachers is unacceptable.
- Local host rules about food and drink in gyms must be observed.
- Local host schools rules regarding facilities/parking must be observed.
- All student spectators are to be supervised by an adult.
- Arrive time should be no more than 30 minutes prior to game time.

Conference Sports

- Girls Volleyball: 5th through 8th Grade- August-October
- Boys Soccer: August-October
- Co-ed Cross Country: August to October
- Cheerleading: October - February
- Girls and Boys Basketball: October - March (Girls Dec. - March, Boys Oct.-Jan)
- Boys Volleyball: February - May
- Girls Soccer: March - May
- Co-Ed track: March - May

Playing time and team organization

- Conference standing, tournaments and awards are scheduled for 6th, no tournament, 7th and 8th grade teams. There will be no standings kept for 5th grade sports. Awards are presented to 1st through 4th place in the conference regular season and 1st through 4th place in the conference tournament.
- Athletes playing at the 5th and 6th grade levels are expected to receive EQUAL playing time during the season. The 7th and 8th grade athletes may expect a more competitive playing time. It is strongly suggested that each school play all of its players and provide each athlete with quality playing time.
- Teams will be organized by grade level from 5th through 8th grade. Schools with combined teams must play at the higher level. Players may only play up 1 level (*archdiocese athletic handbook*).
- Each team will play twice (once home and once away). Schools that have two teams at a specific grade level will play each other in the conference season or take one win and one loss for each team.
- Players may participate on their own team and play up if needed.
 - Volleyball: There is no maximum number of games that a team member is limited to.
 - Basketball: No team member may participate in more than 6 quarters of playing time during conference school match ups in the regular season where consecutive games are played by the various levels. Tournaments and no conference games are exempt. A team that plays a student more

than 6 quarters will forfeit the game in which the violation occurred. A team with 7 or less dressed players will be allowed to play up younger players at unlimited amount of quarters.

- **Uniforms:** Student names should not be on any uniforms. If they choose to purchase warm-ups those can have names on them. (archdiocese athletic handbook)

Conference Rules

- All sports will be subject to the rules and regulations of the conference constitution and bylaws and subject to the IHSA rules and standards.
- Every member of a team listed in the scorebook must enter and play in the game or match before it ends. The penalty to a team for failing to play a listed member is a forfeit of that game.
- If a school is protesting a contest, the NICC president should be contacted immediately in writing. The president will notify the voting members and school representative. A special meeting will be called as soon as possible to hear and resolve the protest.
- Any player or coach receiving a technical foul or yellow/red card due to unacceptable behavior will be expected to serve a one game suspension immediately effective their next NICC game. Any player or coach who receives two technical fouls in one season will be dismissed from their team. This applies to NICC games only- both regular and tournament. If the technical happens outside an NICC game, then it is a school specific issue and the NICC has no bearing on it.

School Responsibilities

- Athletic Director's schedule home and away contests with other participating school members. There shall be no regular season contests or practices scheduled on Holidays of Obligation or on Sunday.
- Host schools are responsible for having a designated person in charge of the game and facility at all times. Such person will notify the visiting coach of his/her role.
- Host schools are responsible for having competent timers and scorekeepers at each event. The home scorebook is the official record of the contest and is to be kept at the scorer's table at all times during the contest. A copy of the NICC rules are to be kept at the score table as well.
- Host schools should charge for admission and provide concessions at any conference-sponsored event. The host school keeps the money collected. Admission prices for regular season conference events should be set by the AD's on an annual basis at the beginning of the year meeting.
- Host schools are responsible for scheduling and paying officials for their own site. This includes tournaments scheduled at their location.

- During the merge of conferences each school will keep their assigner unless they choose to transfer to someone else. Referee fees will be \$35 per game.
- IHSA registered officials shall be used for all conference contests.
- In volleyball one official will be used for the regular season and tournament matches.
- In basketball, two officials are to be used for all games except 5th grade, one official will be allowed.
- The cheerleading judges for the conference competition shall not be affiliated with the host school.
- In track, the host school will organize judges and other volunteers. Participation from each school is expected.
- If a game is cancelled, to reschedule any game, there must be a 24 hour advance warning before the start of the first game. Both school AD's and the conference assigner should be notified of the rescheduling. The exception to this rescheduling rule can occur only in the situation designated as "an act of God." Schools not allowing for this time period are liable to possible forfeit. If a school cancels in less than 24 hours, then the cancelling school is liable for the official's fees.
- Win-Loss records should only be posted for 7th and 8th grade.

Program Guidelines (archdiocese handbook)

Basketball and Volleyball

- Grade 4: 10 to 15 games and three tournaments (no more than 20 games total)
- Grades 5 and 6: 15 to 20 games and three tournaments (no more than 25 games total)
- Grade 7 and 8: 20 to 30 games and three tournaments (no more than 35 games total)
- Each tournament entered counts as one game.
- League playoffs that follow regular season are counted as one game
- No more than two games should be scheduled a week M-F
- On School days, no games should start later than 8:30pm
- There should be no more than 3 pre-season scrimmage games
- **Practices**
 - Grade 4-6: 2 practices per week- not to exceed 3 total hours a week
 - Grade 7-8: 3-4 practices a week- not to exceed 6 total hours a week

Team Selection/Division/ Etc.

- There is a no cut policy in the archdiocese.
- If there is the need for two teams at a grade level, they should be evenly divided for talent and playing time. (archdiocese guideline)
- Athletes should only be asked to play up if there is a lack of participation at that grade level. (archdiocese guideline)

- Students may only play up 1 grade level. (archdiocese guideline)
- Home school students in good standing with religious education program can be eligible to play on the school team.