

Play Like a Champion Today (PLACT)

Coach Education Program and Requirements for CGSAA Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

This coaches training program is a part of the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) at the University of Notre Dame. It is research based and child centered and starts from the premise that sports are ministry and coaches are youth ministers. It is designed to:

1. Help us recognize the spiritual nature of sports;
2. Train youth sport coaches to be effective ministers;
3. Promote the moral and character development of our youth;

The mission of the Catholic Grade School Athletic Association (CGSAA) is to exist to organize and promote the development of respectful, faith-filled athletes through participation in interscholastic sports. The philosophy of CGSAA is to seek to develop the God-given talents in every athlete. Through the efforts of school personnel, parents and coaches, all athletes come to realize their full potential. Our goals are to integrate an athlete's experience with the teaching of Christian values, to enhance an athlete's knowledge of the game, and to promote an attitude of respect and sportsmanship as individuals and team members.

Consistent with the mission, philosophy and goals of CGSAA, organized sports provide a unique opportunity for the Church to minister to the youth of our Archdiocese. Noting that sports call for such values as loyalty, fair play, generosity, solidarity, and respect, the late

Pope John Paul II asked, "Are not these athletic values the deepest aspirations and requirements of the Christian message?" **Those involved in archdiocesan athletic programs need to do everything they can to make sports a form of ministry in western Oklahoma.**

The Catholic Grade School Athletic Association (CGSAA) of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City believes that by participating in this training and implementing both what is learned in the session and what is contained in the associated manual, coaches will be empowered in their effectiveness beyond the technical aspects of sports, enhancing their ability to create and maintain the positive environment that will GROW their youth participants.

We realize that experienced coaches may not get as much out of the training as beginning coaches but at the same time are hopeful that participating in the training will reinforce and affirm values and concepts experienced coaches are already practicing and perhaps even give new insights, perspective or tools into building on what they already do as a coach.

We understand that being a volunteer coach is a commitment of time, energy and passion for young people and those coaches juggle busy lives in order to do this ministry. That is why we give 1st year coaches more time to complete the training. In essence, if a volunteer coaches one sport per year, they have a full year to complete the requirement.

REQUIREMENT - Initially, every head coach is required to attend the PLACT coaches training. All athletic directors, principals and assistant coaches are invited and encouraged to attend. This training is designed to empower coaches to support and implement the mission of CGSAA and to enhance the experience of the players, coaches and fans.

FEE - The training costs \$25.00 per participant. The cost includes a three hour training session, certification from University of Notre Dame indicating successful completion of Play Like A Champion Coaches Training, all written materials and the Coaches Training Manual for Play Like A Champion.

- At the inaugural Coaches Clinic hosted on January 10, 2014, the support provided by the CGSAA and additional funds will cover the full clinic fee (\$25.00) for up to 20 participants per school. The remaining participants from a school will pay the fee of \$25.00 per participant.
- For subsequent trainings after January 2014, the clinic fee will be \$25.00 per participant. Support will be provided by CGSAA to sustain the coaches' education program and will enable **the school's cost of each participant to be reduced. \$1,000.00 will be distributed annually from CGSAA to schools on a percentage basis determined by the total number of teams per school from the previous school year.**

TRAININGS – There will be two designated PLACT training dates scheduled each year with the intent to offer them corresponding with the two primary seasons of sports annually within the CGSAA. There will be trainings prior to each season but it is recommended that coaches not wait until their season arrives to complete the requirement. There are facets of the training that should be incorporated substantially prior to the coaching season for maximum benefit.

The inaugural training will be conducted by PLACT Master Trainers from Notre Dame. Subsequent trainings will be led by local certified trainers trained by the PLACT Master Trainers from Notre Dame.

Documentation of the date of the completed PLACT training will be recorded in the eApps online data base that is used to track completion of the Safe Environment training.

ELIGIBILITY – ALL returning coaches (head) from this current 2013-14 school year for Volleyball, Soccer and Basketball must have completed the training prior to the beginning of their sport's season to be eligible as a coach for the 2014-2015 school year and subsequent school years. As new coaches volunteer, they will have until prior to their next season of coaching to complete the training. In practice, coaches have one year to complete the PLACT training requirement in order to remain coaching.

INFRACTIONS – If a team has a coach who has not completed their PLACT training as its head coach within the one year grace period that coach will not be permitted to coach until they have fulfilled the training requirement.

Coaches who are PLACT trained, yet receive infraction cards or technical fouls in the sport they coach, will be reviewed each season by the school principal, athletic director, CGSAA school representative, (and CGSAA officers as needed) to determine what actions to be taken and the coaching eligibility for future seasons.

PLACT PROGRAM GOVERNANCE – The creation of a position within the leadership of CGSAA will be developed to administrate and supervise the PLACT program. A Commissioner of Coaches' Education shall be appointed by the president and subject to the approval of the executive committee in the same manner as the commissioners of sports and commissioner of officials. The responsibilities of the Commissioner would be, but not limited to:

- becoming a local PLACT trainer
- communicating with and organizing the other local training team members
- scheduling subsequent coaches' trainings
- tracking coaches attendance at the PLACT trainings
- working with CGSAA treasurer on receipt of participant fees and payment of fees to PLACT at Notre Dame
- documenting and communicating coach compliance to local school Athletic Directors/Reps and Principals
- assisting with local school Athletic Directors/Reps and Principals when coaches are out of compliance
- liaison to PLACT staff at Notre Dame and Archdiocese of OKC