

Dear CYO Athletics Community,

With Volleyball Championships coming to a close this weekend at Bishop Blanchet HS, it is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of another program year in CYO Athletics. We are thankful for those parishes and schools that host competition throughout the school year as we could not run our program without these facility opportunities. We also want to especially recognize the high schools that host our championship competition in each of our sports – Bellarmine Preparatory School (Pierce Co. Cross Country), Lakeside School (Soccer), Bishop Blanchet HS (Basketball, Volleyball) – thank you for your support of CYO Athletics and making our season end events special for our entire community!

In these culminating moments of our season, we often see the best of who we are as a community. We also have a glimpse sometimes into our imperfections.

We want to celebrate the moments of our best selves – and we do with trophies, exchange of PLACT bands and other opportunities to recognize those who have stood out for displaying the Cardinal virtues and the Spirit of CYO Athletics. On Thursday, June 9, in our Champions of Faith Celebration, we will gather to acknowledge those coaches, administrators, volunteers and youth who have excelled over the past year, and for many years in CYO Athletics. Archbishop Sartain will preside at Mass at St. James and then we will re-gather in the Isaac Orr Conference Center for our evening of dinner and recognitions.

If you know of a coach from your community that deserves recognition, please use the form found [here](#) to share your thoughts with your Parish/School Athletic Director so they can submit nominations on to us. We will need final nominations no later than Friday, May 13.

Unfortunately, there are also moments where we could do better. As coaches, game officials, athletes and fans are imperfect, so too are we as an organization.

That is why we send surveys to participating families after each sport season. While some of the information we get pertains more to local parish/school efforts, we do examine those elements of feedback of the larger program and how to incorporate them into program changes. Often, trends of parent survey responses are crafted into agenda items for our Spring Athletic Director (AD) Meeting on Wednesday, May 25.

We also ask the AD's to submit agenda items and proposals for discussion at this meeting. While this is a celebration and acknowledgment of our largely volunteer AD leadership, it is also an opportunity to point forward and make program/rule changes that make sense for the entire community that is served through CYO Athletics. If there are changes you would advocate for, please communicate with your Parish/School AD so that they can put forth an appropriate proposal. After discussion and non-binding votes take place at the AD meeting, this information is discussed among staff and the CYO Athletics Advisory Committee (AAC) at the final AAC meeting on June 13 to determine course of action for the coming year.

The hope is that as we take the steps for transformative change, we enhance or adapt those things that need it while maintaining those elements that are already what they need to be, thus becoming a better version of ourselves, providing growth that allows us to reach a greater measure of our potential.

Please use those avenues of feedback available to you to continue to improve the program and the outcomes for the youth and communities we serve.

Blessings,

Tauno Latvala
Director, CYO Athletics