



May 12, 2009

FROM: WPCA Athletic Association

RE: CYO Gate Fees and Participation Fees

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Some important changes have been made by CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) to our athletic programs. These changes dramatically affect the fee structure for all parishes/schools that offer CYO athletics.

CYO is eliminating gate fees for all regular season sporting events including all Fall sports. Attendance for non-participants is now free of charge. In order to compensate the venues where these sports are played, CYO presumably will increase the rent they pay, and has increased the team participation fee to cover the cost. The new fee schedule was released in mid-April.

At WPCA, based on this year's participation level, we have estimated the *additional* fees will cost us nearly \$10,000 for the next school year. With fundraising revenue declining and the enormous investment we made to refit all of our sports teams with new WPCA equipment and uniforms this year, we must raise our participation fee in order to cover the increased CYO team participation fee.

The participation fee for children playing a CYO sport will go from \$15 to \$35 per child for each sport, effective immediately for 2009-2010 Fall sports. The family membership fee will not change; it remains at \$40 per family, per school year, as it has been for nearly 10 years.

We realize this is a significant change for our families. Please keep in mind the following to keep this fee increase in perspective:

- With the elimination of gate fees, families will save anywhere from \$2 to \$7 per game for every game they attend.
- WPCA athletics are the best deal in youth sports, especially among the surrounding parishes – indeed, throughout the entire diocese. At nearby parishes, families can pay up to \$100 for one sport, for each child that participates.
- Our teams are very well equipped, have brand new uniforms and are offered a variety of sports options.
- Intramural sports, such as flag football, intramural volleyball and basketball and indoor soccer are not affected by this change.

Raising fees in this economic climate is not a decision we made lightly. But considering that for many the increase will likely end up being a wash, or even a benefit, with the elimination of gate fees, we believe this to be the most fair and effective way to continue providing quality sports programs for our children.