

PRAYER BEFORE GAMES

Catholic Charities CYO Athletics serves the needs of all youth in the Archdiocese of San Francisco, reflecting the diversity of the community in Marin, San Mateo, and San Francisco counties. The mission of Catholic Charities CYO Athletics program encourages the healthy growth and development of the whole person by helping young people practice and live Christian values of respect, love, and compassion through sports.

The intention of introducing prayer into Catholic Charities CYO Athletics is to more deeply promote the mission of CYO Athletics. Catholic Charities CYO Athletics helps young people integrate their physical, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual strengths. We believe that sports are not just about the final score but about the formation and dignity of the whole person. The use of prayer enhances the overall well-being of the young athletes by helping to put sports into a broader perspective - emphasizing not only the number of games won or lost, but impacting participants' attitude in victory or defeat.

The prayer will be implemented prior to the start of *every* Catholic Charities CYO Game. All teams will meet at center court/field/home plate and a representative from the home team will read the pre-game speech and prayer. **All teams must be present and send at least one representative to center court/field/home plate. All teams must observe a moment of silence during the pre-game speech and prayer.**

Game Prayer:

Catholic Charities CYO Athletics provides an atmosphere of sportsmanship for youth that fosters their physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual strength. Although it is not mandatory, we invite athletes, coaches, parents, and officials to take a moment to remember that God is present in each of us as we come together not just as competitors but as brothers and sisters.

Please stand as we pray:

God, we pray that our hearts be open to see your presence in and through sports:

We pray for athletes...

who, through sports develop character and values.

We pray for coaches...

who place players before winning and value sportsmanship.

We pray for parents...

who love their children for who they are, not for how they perform.

We pray for officials...

who inspire fair play.

We pray in God's name.

Amen.