



# ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

## SECRETARIAT FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

### Office for Youth & Young Adults

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**To:** Pastors  
Parish Athletic Directors (*or their equivalent*)  
Parish Youth Ministers (*or their equivalent*)

**From:** Mr. John J. Tague, M.A., M.B.A.  
Director, Office for Youth and Young Adults

**Cc:** Dr. Richard McCarron  
Secretary for Catholic Education

**Date:** February 22, 2011

**Re:** 'Skills Camps' and 'Mandatory Overnight Camps'

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Please be advised that the following **Directive/Policy Statement** with regard to the above referenced subject matter becomes effective immediately:

### **CYO/YOUTH MINISTRY *DIRECTIVE/POLICY STATEMENT* REGARDING SKILLS CAMPS AND MANDATORY OVERNIGHT CAMPS**

Parishes, through their CYO representatives (i.e., pastor/priest moderator, CYO board members, coaches, or designated volunteers) may not require attendance at outside skills camps or overnight camps as a prerequisite for participation on a team or in a specific activity.

CYO representatives frequently receive information from colleges and athletic organizations regarding skills camps or overnight camps. CYO representatives may share information with players and their parents. This should not be viewed as an endorsement of the program or that the CYO representatives have reviewed the camps' safety policies. Parents are encouraged to review any outside program to determine its suitability and safety for their children.

If a CYO representative (or youth leader), with the approval of the pastor, makes arrangements for members of a team (or a youth group) to voluntarily attend a skills camp or overnight camp, then the CYO representative (or youth leader) must adhere to all Archdiocesan guidelines concerning the ratio of chaperones to youth. All adults must have the required background checks and Safe Environment training. If there is a parish sponsored youth skills camp (or youth activity), Archdiocesan Safe Environment directives and guidelines are to be in effect.

#### **THE ARCHDIOCESAN GUIDELINES CONCERNING THE RATIO OF CHAPERONES TO YOUTH ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

- Two adults for the initial seven youth for 8<sup>th</sup> grade and below
- Two adults for the initial ten high school youth
- One adult per each additional ten youth in all age groups
- Never one adult working alone with youth