**SS. Philip and James CYO**

**Athlete and Parent Commitment to Excellence and Code of Conduct Contract**

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

SS. Philip and James CYO is committed to the development of our youth through the healthy partnership of parents, students, coaches, volunteers and teachers. Individuals are encouraged to pursue excellence while maintaining good sportsmanship. Parents and athletes are asked to acknowledge at registration, that participation in CYO athletics is a privilege and offensive behavior is unacceptable as outlined in the SS. Philip and James CYO Commitment to Excellence and the [Archdiocese of Philadelphia CYO Athletic Ministry Handbook](http://www.cyophilly.com/handbook/). Each parent is expected to read the Commitment to Excellence on the next page and explain these principles of conduct and sportsmanship to their child ***before*** acknowledging SSPJ CYO Code of Conduct and Commitment to Excellence the waiver at registration.

**ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT**

Each athlete is expected to follow the SSPJ CYO Code of Conduct as outlined below:

* I shall demonstrate respect for my teachers, coaches, fellow classmates and teammates.
* I shall be prepared for all classes.
* I shall be responsible for my academic studies and complete all classroom and homework assignments on time.
* I shall understand that I am part of a team and my participation at practices and games affects the overall team. If I am unable to make an event, I will notify the coach as early as possible.
* I shall play to win, play fair, and respect my opponents, the officials and spectators.
* I shall not use alcohol or illegal substances.
* I shall not use profanity.
* I shall accept both victory and defeat with dignity.

The athlete acknowledges that he/she has read or parent has explained and understands the SSPJ CYO ***Commitment to Excellence*** and the ***Code of Conduct*** contract and agrees to abide by these principles as outlined in these documents at all times. Anyone failing to comply with the School and CYO policies must accept the consequences based upon their actions as determined by the CYO Board.

**PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

**Parents** of SSPJ CYO athletes serve as role models while in attendance at a sporting event. Therefore, it is expected that each parent agree and sign the following Code of Conduct.

* I shall demonstrate positive support for all athletes, coaches, and officials at every game, practice or other youth sporting events.
* I shall place the emotional and physical well being of my child ahead of my personal desire to win.
* I shall insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.
* I shall demand a sports environment free from drugs and alcohol and refrain from their use at all sports event.
* I shall insist that my child treat other athletes, coaches, spectators and officials with respect.
* I shall help my child enjoy the sports experience by being a respectful fan, assisting with coaching as needed, and/or providing transportation.
* I shall do my very best to make youth sports fun for my child.

I have read and understand the SS Philip and James CYO ***Commitment to Excellence*** and the ***Code of Conduct***, and agree to abide by these principles outlined in these documents at all times. Anyone failing to comply with these CYO policies must accept the consequences based upon their actions as determined by the SSPJ CYO Board.

**Commitment to Excellence**

SSPJ CYO Board has implemented an Athlete, Parent and Coach ***Commitment to Excellence*** for the CYO athletes in their individual and team pursuit of Excellence. Before the start of each season, the SSPJ CYO Board is expecting that all athletes, parents and coaches will read the SSPJ CYO ***Commitment to Excellence***. By acknowledging SSPJ CYO Code of Conduct and Commitment to Excellence the waiver at registration, athletes, parents and coaches are agreeing to the SSPJ CYO Code of Conduct and Commitment to Excellence.

We acknowledge that CYO Athletics is just one component of SSPJs’ comprehensive Youth Ministry. This component enables the partnership of athletes, parents and coaches to manage and support the direction of our athletic programs. We do this through our growth and understanding of our relationship with God, our Parish and our commitment to our community.

The intent of the SSPJ CYO program is to encourage healthy and enjoyable competition by promoting the sharing of the Gospel values among athletes, parents and coaches. We want to encourage that our actions will be reflected in the classrooms, in our athletic endeavors and in our actions outside of the school and the Parish. While we value winning, we are committed to winning with dignity, reflecting the CYO values while maintaining our integrity as individuals and as team members of SS Philip and James Parish as well as the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

SS Philip and James encourages all students to reach their full potential through academics and athletics. We agree this is accomplished both in the classroom and outside of the classroom.

In partnership with the parents, expect the following Commitment to Excellence for SSPJ CYO Athletics and Athletes:

**I. Academics**

1. Preparation for Class: All students will be responsible for completing all class assignments and homework on time.
2. Class Participation: Students are expected to give attention and respect to the teacher at all times. Students must respect and show concern for their fellow students at all times.
3. Failing Grades: Any student who is failing a subject, will be ineligible to participate in CYO activities until they improve their subject average to a passing grade.
4. Absence: Students who are marked absent from school may not participate in CYO activities on that day.

Any student who does not fulfill their academic responsibilities may be suspended from participating in the SSPJ CYO Athletic Program for up to three (3) weeks. The student can only resume activities after the parent, sees improvement and a note is sent to the Athletic Director for reinstatement.

**II. Discipline Code**

At SS. Philip and James, we believe that discipline is fundamental to life. Discipline is a necessary reflection of the philosophy of our Parish and the CYO. Correct training in discipline means that a student, parent and coach learn to accept rules and regulations presented to them. Students, parents and coaches are expected to act in such a fashion that their behavior will reflect favorably on themselves, the Parish, the CYO and their family. The Discipline Code applies to students, coaches, parents and family members. Anyone failing to comply with the CYO policies must accept the consequences based upon their actions as determined by the SSPJ CYO Board.

1. Harassment: SS Philip and James, and the CYO follow the Archdiocese of Philadelphia’s policy prohibiting all forms of harassment (physical, verbal, sexual, mental, etc.). The CYO will not tolerate harassment, intimidation or threats of any kind towards a student, teacher, parent, coach, volunteer or official.
2. Violent, Threatening, and Inappropriate Conduct: Itis the intent of SSPJ CYO to provide an athletic environment free from all forms of improper threats, intimidation, hostility, and inappropriate and offensive behavior. Such improper conduct may take the form of unwanted verbal or physical conduct, verbal or written derogatory or discriminatory statements, and behavior not otherwise conducive to the educational, athletic or religious mission of our school and CYO program. Unacceptable conduct, either by a student, parent or coach includes, but not limited to, the following:
   1. Disrespectful behavior of any kind toward or about any athlete, teacher, classmate, parent, coach, or volunteer.
   2. Inappropriate behavior of any kind toward or about any athlete, teacher, classmate, parent, coach, or volunteer.
   3. Conduct by athletes, parents, coaches and spectators deemed incompatible with the religious mission of the Parish and CYO is grounds for disciplinary action, including the immediate dismissal of the athlete, parent, volunteer or coach from ALL CYO activities and the possible dismissal from school.
3. Serious Infractions: Serious Infractions will result in the immediate dismissal from CYO activities. These apply to athletes, parents, volunteers and coaches. Infractions deemed serious are:

* Violent behavior, including any fighting or behavior that causes physical injury.
* Blatant disrespect for authority in school and on the practice/game fields.
* Vandalism, destruction or defacing of parish or school property.
* Profane/obscene language or gestures, or engaging in immoral conduct.
* Possession of any item that may present a danger to others.

It is the intention of the CYO Board to adhere to these policies. In the event an infraction has been committed by an athlete, coach, parent, volunteer or family member, the infraction will be presented to the SSPJ CYO Board using the SSPJ CYO Incident Report. The SSPJ CYO Board will review the infraction and determine the severity. Anyone involved in a Serious Infraction will be suspended immediately. Should an athlete be dismissed from a team, they will not be able to participate in any CYO activity for one full year (twelve months). Should a parent be dismissed from CYO, the student may also be dismissed from participating in any CYO activity for one year. Should a coach be dismissed from CYO, they will not be permitted to coach at SSPJ CYO for two (2) years and will have to be recertified as a CYO coach.