

Date _____

**Re: East Bay Parochial League
Coaching and Spectator Policy**

Dear Parents:

We would like to welcome you to another season of East Bay Parochial League (“EBPL”) athletics. There is an effort being made to improve the culture surrounding the EBPL athletic program. A fair number of people have mentioned that during an increasing number of basketball games, the atmosphere has become a bit combative or hostile. The EBPL is taking steps to improve the atmosphere at all games and we need your help. The first step is that at the prayer for the players before each game the EBPL is going to ask the spectators to hold hands and join in the prayer.

The EBPL has received complaints about coaches and spectators. The complaint has been against coaches who stand up and shout while coaching. The complaints about spectators have been mostly about yelling at the referees or scorer’s table. Thankfully, only a few complaints have been directed towards our school. There have been some complaints, however, registered against just about every school for vociferous parents.

In an attempt to solve the problem, the EBPL will strictly enforce what is known as a “seat-belt” rule for coaches and has expanded and clarified a **conduct rule** for both **coaches and spectators**. Coaches will receive a technical for violation of the rule by either coaches or spectators. Spectators who yell at the referees, yell at the coaches, or, shout at players on either team, may be asked to leave the gym.

We want to encourage you to come to all of the athletic contests and to cheer loudly and positively for **your school**. That support is really beneficial to our children, our teams, and our coaches. We need, however, to follow the rules and be mindful of how the atmosphere in the small EBPL gyms can be improved.

The CYO Code of Conduct covers the spectator rules quite well. In an attempt to assist all involved with EBPL athletics, the EBPL adopted a new rule last year, and has asked that a copy of it go to all parents/guardians of EBPL member schools. The rule is set forth below:

“14. **COACH/SPECTATOR BEHAVIOR.** Coaches shall not stand up to coach. A coach may stand up to speak to his/her players on the bench, to clap, or occasionally to stretch, but a coach may not stand and yell instructions to players on the floor. A coach may not approach

the scorer's table without obtaining the permission of a referee and may only approach with a referee. A coach may politely request information about the number of fouls or timeouts if that does not distract the scorekeeper from his or her duty. A violation of these rules shall be a technical foul, but only after one warning is made. Spectators must comply with the CYO Code of Conduct for spectators. They shall not complain about the officiating, yell to the officials, or yell at players. A violation of this rule shall be a technical foul on the head coach and shall cause the removal of the offending spectator, but only after one warning is made. The warnings called for in this Rule No. 14, shall be given by the referee or the host gym person-in-charge and cause there to be a stop in play. The warning shall be given to the offending coach and the other team's coach shall be informed of the reason for the warning. Each coach shall be given two minutes to notify his or her spectators of the reason for the warning."

A copy of the CYO Code of Conduct should be brought home to you by your children or handed to you at the Parents-Coach team meeting. We require that this form be signed by each player and at least one parent prior to that child being allowed to participate in any EBPL game. Please take the time to read that form, which reflects the philosophy of CYO. Let your guests who attend our games know the philosophy so that we can increase overall enjoyment at the games. If you observe a breach of this rule, even one that does not get a warning or a technical, feel free to contact the athletic director through the "school mail."

Thank you very much for all of the support that you have given the school and the players in the past, and we hope to see you out there leading the way with good examples once again.

Very truly yours,

Athletic Director

Principal