

**OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP  
ATHLETICS ADVISORY BOARD  
DIVISION OF TEAMS/EVALUATIONS POLICY**

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this policy is to outline the procedures that will be followed to divide Our Lady of Perpetual Help athletic teams. This policy applies to 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade sports, which are: volleyball, football, cheerleading, basketball, softball, baseball, soccer and track. It would also include any new sporting activities that the Diocesan Recreation Association (DRA) may add in the future. This policy does not apply to the division of Our Lady K-3 or Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) sports teams.

**Guidelines:**

All teams will be divided in accordance with DRA guidelines. Teams in grades 4, 5 and 6 will be equally divided to ensure that no one team has a significant advantage over the other team. Teams in grades 7 and 8 will be divided based on the DRA terms “competitive” and “recreational”. Specific sport guidelines and rules interpretations are provided at the beginning of each sport season at the Athletic Director/Coaches meeting. Guidelines provided at those meetings will be followed by Our Lady athletic teams. Interpretations of DRA rules will be sought from the respective boy’s or girl’s DRA director. Results of those rules interpretations will be honored by the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Athletics Advisory Board (OLPHAAB).

All teams will be divided to reflect compliance with DRA guidelines and take into consideration the best interests of all of our student athletes. The OLPHAAB will review team division assignments, including approval by the Pastoral Coordinator and Athletic Director. Inquires regarding team division will be made in the following order:

1. Individual Sport Coordinator
2. If the grade level of the team is 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, then Boys or Girls Grade School Athletic Commissioner
3. Boys or Girls Athletic Commissioner
4. Athletic Director

Decisions regarding the division of athletic teams, including subsequent inquires, that are made by the Pastoral Coordinator and the Athletic Director shall be final.

**Evaluations:**

Player evaluations will be held as deemed necessary by the OLPHAAB to ensure that teams are divided in accordance with DRA policy. Assessments will be conducted using a standard procedure that will be approved in advance by the board. The standard procedures for evaluations may include the following:

- Evaluators will be independent of the group being evaluated (e.g. may not coach in that grade or be a parent of a player in that grade);

- The evaluations will be closed, with the exception of OLPHAAB members who are supervising the evaluations, evaluators and the players being evaluated (i.e. no spectators);
- A standard rating scale and form will be used for the evaluations. The scores will only be used for determining the placement of a player on a team and will not be revealed to coaches, players or parents. The forms will be maintained for future reference by the OLPHAAB.

The standard procedure for evaluating Our Lady student athletes may be modified by the OLPHAAB. In the event that teams can be divided in accordance with DRA policy without the completion of an evaluation process (i.e. the guidelines may be met by another technique of dividing teams), evaluations may not be conducted. The determination of whether evaluations will be conducted shall be made by the OLPHAAB.

**Player assignment:**

In most cases, Our Lady student athletes will be placed on an athletic team within their own grade and at a comparable skill level. There may be cases where different grade levels are combined to ensure that those that have signed up have an opportunity to participate. Combination of Our Lady athletic teams will be completed only if necessary and within DRA guidelines. The OLPHAAB does not control the manner in which other schools divide their teams or the level of competition within a certain league. Those are each the responsibility of the respective school and the DRA.

It is also permissible, based on DRA guidelines, for student athletes at an advanced skill level to participate at a higher level (e.g. 6<sup>th</sup> grader playing on a 7<sup>th</sup> grade team). The DRA provides age restrictions that dictate on which teams athletes may participate. The decision to move a player to another grade level will be based on what is best for all of the student athletes and not just one player. Moving a player to a higher grade level will require consultation with the OLPHAAB, the respective sport commissioners and the Pastoral Coordinator and Athletic Director. Decisions approved by the Pastoral Coordinator and the Athletic Director shall be final.

If a player chooses to not participate based on team assignment, fees that have been paid will be refunded to the parent and that player will not be able to participate in that sporting activity for the remainder of that sport's season.

**Policy Updates/Revisions**

Date	Board Approved	Description
1/22/07	Approved	Policy Issued
5/2/2011	Pending	Revised board position titles.