

**Pennsylvania Catholic Conference Education Department's  
Implementation of the Policy on Coed Contact Sports:**

The Education Department understands how important extracurricular activities are to both schools and communities, and that sports offer a way to connect to God through recreational activities. Catholic schools, parishes, Catholic Youth Organizations (CYO) and clubs strive to emphasize the spiritual and ethical dimension in athletic activities. They seek to promote living Gospel values in a manner that enriches one's relationship with self, others and God. Participation creates an awareness of the need to go beyond self in fellowship with and in service to others.

The Education Department agreed on the following recommendations regarding coed contact sports:

Coed participation would be forbidden in the following contact sports: wrestling, tackle football and tackle rugby. Understanding the challenges Catholic athletes could face while implementing this policy, below are guidelines for those individual contact sports:

**Wrestling:**

- Under no circumstances may Catholic school, parish, CYO or club athletes wrestle someone of the opposite sex.
- Catholic schools, parishes, CYOs or clubs would not permit a female on a wrestling team.
- In the event a match is scheduled with someone from the opposite sex from an opposing team, the Catholic school, parish, CYO or club athlete would either have to forfeit the match or negotiate the match with the opposing team, so a female wrestler would not wrestle one of our athletes.
- If the school, parish, CYO or club enters into a co-op arrangement with another team, that team would have to honor the Catholic coed contact sports policy regardless of which team is the host.

**Tackle Football:**

- Catholic schools, parishes, CYOs and clubs would not permit a female on a tackle football team.
- This would not prevent Catholic schools, parishes, CYOs or clubs from playing teams with female athletes on the opposing team. The Catholic coed sports policy is only for Catholic teams and cannot impose its policies on any other team.
- If the school, parish, CYO or club enters into a co-op arrangement with another team, that team would have to honor the Catholic coed contact sports policy regardless of which team is the host.

**Tackle Rugby:**

- Catholic schools, parishes, CYOs and clubs would not permit a female on a tackle rugby team.
- This would not prevent Catholic schools, parishes, CYOs or clubs from playing teams with female athletes on the opposing team. The Catholic coed sports policy is only for Catholic teams and cannot oppose its policies on any other team.
- If the school, parish, CYO or club enters into a co-op arrangement with another team, that team would have to honor the Catholic coed contact sports policy regardless of which team is the host.

Coed participation in all other sports activities in Catholic schools, parishes, CYOs or clubs would be at the discretion of the Arch/Bishop.