

Greetings!

You are receiving this email because you are a game official working (or preparing to work) games or matches for CYO Athletics.

As you may know, the Archdiocese of Seattle instituted the Safe Environment program (SEP) in 2007-08 in response to requirements of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to prevent child sexual abuse in the Catholic Church. Participation in this program is mandated by all those who work with youth and vulnerable adults. This encompasses both paid staff and volunteers who work in programs involving these populations. The first year of the requirement entails a 3-hour, in person training. Subsequent years at this point require online refresher courses to be taken and completed.

The main purpose of the SEP for CYO Athletics is to insure we are doing everything we can to protect our kids. The goals are threefold:

1. To protect the children who participate in our programs;
2. To protect volunteers from false allegations;
3. To protect the programs that we are all so committed to as opportunities for the personal and communal growth of our young people;

We believe that the Safe Environment program equips those who work directly with young people to recognize the signs of abuse and to feel more comfortable acting upon such information. Along with putting into policy practices that eliminate opportunities for sexual predators in our own programs, we believe that we can make a tangible difference in the lives of our young people.

While as a game official you are not required to participate in this program because you do not have unsupervised contact with young people, our hope is that you will participate on your own to support our efforts to protect children. We are asking that our game officials go through the online refresher developed specifically for CYO Athletics. It takes between 20-30 minutes to complete. If you would like to attend the more detailed, in depth training, we can certainly work with you to arrange that.

Please go to the link below and enter the corresponding login and password information.

http://www.praesidiuminc.com/armatus/armatus_login.php

Log in: seattlecyo

Password: 1234wa

When you complete the program, it will prompt you for your name at the end of the quiz. A weekly report will be sent to CYO Athletics of those who have completed the online training.

Under the leadership of Archbishop Alex Brunett, the Archdiocese of Seattle goals of the implementation of the Safe Environment Program go beyond compliance and toward conversion. We are not just seeking to comply with the requirements of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, we would like to move our community toward the eradication of child sexual abuse in the church and in society. We believe that it is a worthwhile goal and we appreciate your support in working towards it.

Thank you again for the important service you provide in the context of competition in CYO Athletics, supporting our program efforts to make a positive difference in the lives of young people and their families throughout Western Washington.

Sincerely,

Tauno Latvala

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