



10731 W 131st Street
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Important Announcement April 16, 2013

OLOW Athletics will become an A/B program effective May 1, 2013

Over the last nine (9) months, the Athletic Board has conducted an exhaustive research initiative to determine the future course of our athletic program:

- Parent survey (2 to 1 in favor of switching to A/B)
- Review of all area Parish athletic policies (All utilize A/B-over 20 surveyed)
- Interviews with area Parish athletic directors/presidents
- Meetings with OLOW'S coaches and coordinators – past and present

After careful review and reflection, the Athletic Board has determined that hereinafter (if enrollment dictates – see below)

Basketball registrants per grade	Number of teams	Volleyball registrants per grade
7 - 13	One	6 - 12
14 - 26	Two	13 - 24
26 - 39	Three	25 - 37

OLOW will divide teams into A/B teams beginning in 6th grade. Fourth (4th) and fifth (5th) grade teams will continue to be split evenly (per Archdiocese policy), although the teams will be “shuffled” in 5th grade, still maintaining equal talent.

New A/B Policy

Grade	Teams
4	Split evenly (developmental)
5	Split evenly –shuffled (developmental)
6	Split A/B
7	Split A/B
8	Split A/B

Transition period

The Parish is sensitive to our families that have been in the program for a number of years and acknowledge this change may not be welcomed by all. Constructing a framework to ease this transition is a better solution than forcing a dramatic policy change mid-way through their experience.



The following graduating classes have been identified as Transition:

Graduating class (middle school)	Grade – Fall of 2013	Transition policy
2016	6	Parent vote – 6th grade only . A/B thereafter
2015	7	Parent vote (7 th and 8 th)
2014	8	Parent vote (8 th)

At the time the parent of a child in the transition group registers for an OLOW sport, they will cast a vote:

- A) Maintain equal talent
- B) Change to A/B

Whichever option has greater than 50% of the vote will be the binding direction for that year. In the event of a split 50% vote, the Athletic Board will make a binding determination.

Only the groups specifically identified above as Transition will have the voting option, all other future groups will be bound by the parish policy of A/B formatted teams without exception.

The parish understands there is no “perfect” way to handle this issue and it is with great humility and empathy that we make this change. We will now be in lock step with our peers in the Catholic leagues that our teams play in. Further, our research has shown that player’s at all developmental levels will benefit by the opportunity to play with those in their peer group.

Town Hall meetings

Please consider attending one of the following informal meetings should you have questions, comments or thoughts to share:

Date

Tuesday May 7
Monday May 13

Time and location

6:30 – 7:30pm in the youth room
6:30 – 7:30pm in the youth room

Additional information

The details of the new procedures including tryout guidelines, independent evaluators, etc. will be posted on the Athletics’ Page of the Our Lady of the Woods website: www.ourladyofthewoods.org/athletics by May 15th, 2013 and will be available at the parish office or by request.

Athletic Board members are available via email and listed on the website.

Thank you.

Our Lady of the Woods Athletic Board