



Transition Year

3rd Grade to 4th Grade

All 4th Grade Families & Coaches

Thanks for your interest in playing and coaching for our program this season. Every year questions come up from parents/coaches about the transition year from 3rd to 4th grade in our program. If you are new to our program or a coach transitioning from the 3rd to the 4th grade this bulletin will help answer those questions you may have about the process.

Starting in the **4th grade** the kids are placed on teams based on ability.

In Grades 4th thru 8th we offer 2 levels of play (*American & National*). In some cases *American 2* divisions can be formed when the East Diablo League has an abundance of teams in grade levels *5th thru 8th (boys only)*. The American level of play is more competitive than the American 2 & National levels. Within these levels we can have multiple teams.

Grade Coordinator & Coaches Division Placement

Since this is a transition year Grade Coordinators & Coaches Division Placement will be determined after the evaluation process as outlined in the Coaches Manual under the Grade Coordinators role. For those 2nd / 3rd grade coordinators moving up, keep in mind all players are subject to evaluations and coaches will be placed accordingly.

- **Grade Coordinators** The grade coordinator is the primary point of contact and the supervisor of their grade level. All grade coordinators will have final say on team rosters, what division (American/American 2/National) each team will participate in and how many teams they will have within their grade level. All grade coordinators are responsible for resolving conflicts within their grades before they forward any issues or concerns to the board of directors. **When a position for a grade coordinator becomes open for any grade level, the board will create a list of all interested coaches. After the evaluation process is complete and every child within the grade has been assigned to a team the board will then fill the open position from the list of qualified coaches.**

** All chosen Grade Coordinators for any grade level will continue to move forward with their group all the way thru to the 8th grade if they choose to do so. **Grade Coordinators** not living up to the guidelines set forth in the coaches manual can be relieved of their duties at any time by the Board of Directors.*

Grade Level Formation-How Teams are formed.

The formation of each 4th grade team will be determined after the evaluations. During the evaluation process, your child will be evaluated by a Basketball Committee made of St Agnes CYO board members, grade coordinators, coaches and outside evaluators. When the evaluation process is completed the kids will then be

separated into American, American 2 or National teams depending on their skill level. Each year the kids will be re-evaluated and placed on the appropriate teams.

Grades (4-8)

Teams in each grade level are divided into two divisions - *American (A) and National (N)*.

In some cases *American 2* divisions can be formed when the EDL has an abundance of teams in grade levels 5th thru 8th (*boys only*).

All players must attend the player evaluation process in order to be drafted onto teams.

Attendance exceptions and accommodations can be arranged for all players wishing to be on an American Division team.

The **American / 2 Division coaches** have the option to assess a player who is not present at evaluations at a later time. (*Evaluation Conflicts / Late Signups, etc.*)

Any player that does not attend the player evaluation process will be automatically placed on a National level team at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Selection Process (Grades 4-8 are as follows)

At the completion of the evaluation process the *American Division* coaches with the guidance of the grade coordinator in their grade level will select his/her **top 11 players** to complete their rosters.

For grade levels that have **3 or more teams**, with the guidance of the grade coordinator in their grade level the *American 2* coaches will select his/her **top 11 players** from the players remaining to complete their rosters. Remaining players will be placed on National division teams. If there are enough remaining players to field two or more National division teams, the National coaches will divide the remaining players through a draft process doing their best to balance the teams.

- *When there is an open Coaching / Grade Coordinator position for any grade level the Basketball Committee as mentioned above minus the coaches / grade coordinator will make final decisions on player placement.*

Coaches/Player Requests

When it comes to placing players with certain coaches and on certain teams, we do not allow these requests @ St Agnes once they reach the 4th grade. We let our evaluation process place all players in the levels of play that best fit the athletes. Let us explain why.

The Oakland Diocese believes putting kids into teams with players of similar abilities. Doing this maximizes the competition between each parish, places opposing teams on the same level, and challenges individual players to succeed against opponents who have similar skills. Creating teams into the more competitive American Leagues and the more instructional National leagues begins from 4th grade and goes all the way through the 8th grade. Splitting the leagues helps to create even play. Although there may be an errant lopsided game, on the whole, the division split produces games that are competitive in BOTH divisions. The division split discourages an American 'type' player from dominating in a National Division and discourages a National 'type' player from being dominated in an American Division. This Division split is adopted by all Parishes in the Diocese which comprises to almost 1200 teams.

St Agnes CYO
Board of Directors