

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Winter Youth Rally

Hotel and Discipline Regulations

PREFACE

“If anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor’s crown unless he competes according to the rules.”
II Timothy 2:5

In developing and implementing the Winter Youth Rally (WYR), the Metropolis of Atlanta strives to create a nurturing Christian environment which respects its participants’ physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. Participants in the WYR program are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the teachings of Orthodox Christianity. At times certain behavioral issues may arise among some participants that may disrupt the WYR community. For this reason, His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios has created the position of a “Hotel & Discipline Coordinator” (to be referred to as the HDC) for the Winter Youth Rally. The HDC will create and consult with a HDC Advisory Committee that will include, but not be limited to, the Metropolis of Atlanta the Metropolis Youth, Education and Hellenic Culture Coordinator (YEHCC) and 2 attending Clergy, to be named by the HDC). If an incident occurs in which any participant breaks WYR guidelines or exhibits unacceptable behavior, the matter will be referred to and handled with HDC, in consultation with the HDC Committee Members.

The Metropolis WYR Hotel and Discipline Regulations are formulated to provide a general spirit and attitude in which all Participants are to realize and accept. Each situation may not be identified within these Rules & Guidelines. Considering that the intent of these Rules & Guidelines is to facilitate proper Orthodox Christian conduct, play and attitude, unspecified events or situations will be handled accordingly by HDC with consultation of the Metropolis of Atlanta Youth, Education & Hellenic Culture Coordinator. **If deemed necessary, any Participant may be sent home immediately, at their own or parents’ expense.**

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TERMS

GOYAn: A 7th – 12th Grade student* who is a participant in the GOYA ministry of the Church and is active in the full life of the Church (Sacraments, Sunday School, etc.) *Minimum age of 12 and in 7th Grade.

Participant: Any person present at the WYR, Hotel and its functions: GOYA Players, Non-Players, Coaches, Advisors, Chaperones, Priests, Parents, Siblings, Grandparents, Relatives, Fans, etc.

Lead Advisor: The Lead Advisor is assigned by the Parish Priest. The Lead Advisor must be 25 years old and will work as the liaison between the Metropolis and the local Parish before and during the Winter Youth Rally. The Metropolis will inform the Lead Advisor which GOYAn from the local parish have registered. The Lead Advisor will be responsible for all team registrations, team assignments, roommate assignments and confirming that the local parish follows Advisor: GOYAn Ratio set by the Metropolis at a 1:10 ratio. ***Please Note: Priest are not Lead Advisors.**

Advisor/Chaperone: Advisors must be 21 years old adult who are active in the life of their Parish. They are responsible for all GOYA entrusted to them for the duration of the WYR, including transportation to and from and during the WYR.

They and will work with their parish Lead Advisor to ensure the safety and whereabouts of the GOYAns of their local Parish. All Advisors are required to stay at the hotel. ***Please Note: Priest are not advisors.**

Coach: (Bible Bowl, Basketball & Volleyball) A coach must at least 19 years old and will work with the local parish's Lead Advisor to ensure team is registered for the event and all players are registered to attend the Winter Youth Rally. If a coach is 21 years old, they can also be counted as an advisor/chaperone but must stay at the hotel. No Coaches/ Assistant Coaches under 21 years old are allowed to stay in the hotel during the WYR.

Parish: All Participants attending from a particular Parish.

Drugs & Alcohol: For purposes of these rules, "drugs & alcohol" shall be defined as:

1. All dangerous controlled substances as so designated and prohibited by the state of GA.
2. All alcoholic beverages.
3. All tobacco/nicotine products, including electronic cigarettes. (GOYAns only)
4. All chemicals which release toxic or non-toxic vapors.
5. Any prescription drug not prescribed for the Participant.
6. Any substance that is a "look-alike" to any of the above.
7. Any product that when misused, may result in drug-like effects.

DECLARATION 1: The Metropolis prohibits the use, possession, concealment, or distribution of any drug or any drug-related paraphernalia and weapons as the term is defined by law. Alcohol use is not permitted by any Participant during the tournament weekend.

CONDUCT

- A. Hazing and bullying are unacceptable and grounds for immediate discipline. (GOYA Advisors and Coaches: Please review what actions are considered inappropriate with your GOYAns.)
- B. Unacceptable Conduct is prohibited by any Participant, as defined in “Terms,” page 2-3. This includes, but is not limited to loss of temper, foul language, un-sportsmanship-like gestures, and un-Christian-like conduct. No “nicknames” with inappropriate meaning can be used.
- C. Metropolis Representatives, in the presence of a Parish Priest or Chaperones, reserve the right to enter any room of any Participant where there is concern for their safety or the safety of others. In addition, bag searches of anyone who is suspected of possessing drugs, weapons, or any other non-sanctioned item, may be necessary under those circumstances. These searches can and will be conducted at random.
- D. Any Participant causing damage, either personal or public property, will be held responsible and liable. Discipline may include immediate removal from WYR (Hotel and all venues being used) and possible indefinite suspension.
- E. GOYAns are permitted to enter the room of GOYAns of the opposite sex only if the door is wide open and a Chaperone is present. (There must be a minimum of two females and two males.)
- F. Single Participants (not married and/or not related Participants) of the opposite sex may not share any hotel room. Individuals of the opposite sex, who are not married to each other will not be permitted in the same room without the door open. (This includes all Participants including Coaches and Chaperones.)
- G. GOYAns of the opposite sex must not be assigned to adjoining rooms.

- H. All Participants upon registering must agree to abide by the Online Social Networking and Blogging Policy provided by the Archdiocese.
- I. Quiet Hours are a wind-down time and preparation for sleep from 11:30 P.M. to 7:30 A.M.
- J. Curfew is from 12:30 A.M. to 7:00 A.M. All GOYAns must be in his/her assigned room at this and during these hours. Junior Team Assistant Coaches who are 19 or 20 years old are not permitted to stay at the Hotel during WYR. Curfew violation discipline may include game forfeiture, suspension, and immediate removal from WYR and/or all future WYR events.
- K. All Participants may not bring inappropriate videos/adult entertainment and/ or access them while in the hotel room.
- L. All Participants must attend Divine Liturgy on Sunday at the Host Church. Moreover, they must be in attendance no later than 15 minutes after Divine Liturgy is scheduled to begin. Parishes and Teams not complying are subject to discipline ranging from forfeiture of the next game to suspension from the next WYR. Players not complying are subject to discipline ranging from suspension for the Sunday game to suspension from any future WYR. Discipline may also be applied to the next WYR.

DECLARATION 2: All incidents during WYR are considered in violation of Metropolis Rules are considered matters which must be brought to the Metropolis Youth Director. No matters are considered “in-house” to the Parish. Violation of this declaration may subject a Parish immediate removal from WYR and/or future WYR and Metropolis programs.

DRESS CODE (Applicable to ALL Participants) _____

- A. In keeping with the Orthodox Christian family environment, our Metropolis requires modest clothing.
- B. No clothing with logos that contain profane language, reference to drugs, alcohol, tobacco and violent or anti-Christian propaganda will be permitted.
- C. Pants or shorts with writing on one's bottom are not permitted, and pajamas may not be worn as outerwear.
- D. Female Participants' Dress Code Notes: (This includes all Participants, Advisors, Coaches, Chaperones, GOYAns, etc.)
 - 1. Mid-section (waist & hips) must be always covered.
 - 2. Tube tops, halter, tank tops straps* or one-bare shoulder tops are not permitted. (*Straps must be at least 3-fingers wide.)
 - 3. No short mini-skirts, short-shorts.
 - 4. If using the hotel pool, no bikinis, tankinis, bare midriff or two-piece swimsuits are permitted.
 - 5. For evening events that ask for Semi-Formal attire, all the above rules apply: no strapless dresses, halter dresses, spaghetti strap dresses, etc. unless a sweater/jacket is worn all evening. No short or tight-fitting dresses either.
- E. Male Participants' Dress Code Notes: (This includes all Participants, Advisors, Coaches, Chaperones, GOYAns, etc.)
 - 1. No "saggy-baggy" pants to be worn below the hips.
 - 2. Boxers may not be worn as outerwear and may not extend above or below shorts or pants.
 - 3. If using the hotel pool, no Speedos are permitted.
- F. The Clergy and WYR Representatives reserve the right to ask any Participant to change inappropriate clothing or may provide appropriate clothing to wear.

DISCIPLINE

- A. Under the direction of our Hierarchy, the HDC and Metropolis YEHCC will apply a ZERO TOLERANCE policy for any Participant who uses illegal drugs or alcohol anytime, at any location during the tournament weekend. This policy prohibits the use of tobacco products by all GOYAns. Violation of the above will be grounds for immediate and possible indefinite suspension.
- B. Disciplinary actions will be taken immediately or within two weeks following the violation. All disciplinary action will be taken by the HDC and Metropolis Y.E.H.C.C. Appeals to disciplinary decisions may be submitted in writing to the Metropolis Youth & Young Adult Ministry Office within ten days of the disciplinary action.
- C. All incidents which violate the Metropolis Rules & Guidelines must be immediately reported to the WYR HDC, Metropolis Y.E.H.C.C., Athletic Committee Chairman or Metropolis Representatives present.
- D. Inappropriate actions of an individual Participant may require disciplinary measures to be brought upon not only the individual but may also extend to a team or an entire Parish.
- E. Participants who are in the presence of any type of “drug” use, possession, (see page 1) or action which violates Metropolis Rules & Guidelines should report it to the WYR HDC, Metropolis Y.E.H.C.C., Athletic Committee Chairman or Metropolis Representatives or they will be subject to the same discipline.
- F. Disciplinary action that may be taken on any infraction can include:
 - 1. Verbal Warning
 - 2. Suspension from all Athletic Activities as Individual or entire Team
 - 3. Removal from any Activity
 - 4. Removal from Hotel and WYR event
 - 5. Indefinite Suspension from all future Metropolis Youth Event

MUSIC DURING WYR

Please keep in mind that we gather first as Orthodox Christians during the WYR. All music that is used in Hotel, Rooms, Transportation, pre-game warm-ups/post-game, must be appropriate and void of profanity, drug, and sexual connotations. During the evening activities and dance, the DJ or Band will not be able to accept music or song requests from Participants. Music with inappropriate lyrics that has been edited (radio version/cleaned up) is not permitted. The Metropolis Youth Director will discuss specifics with each DJ. GOYAns, please remember that you are attending a Church sponsored event in all your actions on the dance floor. Advisors and Chaperones, it is your responsibility to make sure that the manner in which the GOYAns from your Parish choose to dance is appropriate.

***Important-** All loud music will be confined to the dance. No Music will be played on balconies or Loud Music coming from rooms will be permitted.

CHAPERONE *(INCLUDES, COACHES & LEAD ADVISORS)

- A. Must be a Registered, Screened and Trained Youth Worker under the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese' Policies for the Safety of Youth and Children.
- B. Must be responsible adults who are active in the life of their Parish and are at least 21 years old. Will be responsible for all the GOYAns entrusted to them for the duration of the WYR, including transportation to and from and during WYR. Must set the example for his/her GOYAns by refraining from un-sportsman-like and un-Christian-like conduct, including unacceptable language. No "code-cuss" words are to be used. Any unacceptable behavior of Advisors, Chaperons, Coaches will be immediately reported to the WYR HDC, Metropolis Y.E.H.C.C. Any misconduct from a Chaperone* can Hotel and Discipline Regulations Page 7 of 8 result in the immediate forfeiture of games and possible immediate removal from WYR and/or removal from future WYR and Metropolis Programs.

- C. Must Report any rule violations that could lead to individual Participant, Parish or team disciplinary action to the Metropolis Representatives at the tournament. Failure to do so can result in the removal of the Chaperone, Removal of an entire parish, forfeiture of any athletic games played or future.
- D. Must complete Registration and have approval of their Parish Priest.
- E. Will be responsible for a maximum of ten GOYAnS and if necessary.
- F. Must ensure that there are no more than four staying overnight in any hotel room.
- G. Must never sleep in the same bed as a GOYAn, unless it is his own child or sibling.
- H. Must never be alone with just one other GOYAn.
- I. Not permitted to change clothes in front of GOYAnS. (Use the bathroom in the hotel room.)
- J. Upon check-in and check-out times, Chaperones are to inspect GOYAnS' rooms for missing items or damages. Damages should be reported immediately, especially when just checking in.
- K. Remain with assigned GOYAnS during the entire time the Participants are away from home.
- L. Not permitted to consume alcohol during the WYR.
- M. Must check rooms at the 12:30 a.m. curfew to be sure all Participants are in their appropriate rooms.
- N. Must attend all social events. Are not permitted to leave the social events.