

CCL, ESCC to merge for football competition in 2019

The Chicago Catholic League and the East Suburban Catholic Conference proudly announce the merger of their leagues for football competition beginning with the 2019 season. The football merger was formalized after a unanimous vote by school principals from both conferences.

School leadership felt strongly that combining the football portion of the leagues would lead to increased parity among programs, based on like enrollment, football participation, and team success. With schools playing opponents more similar to themselves, the opportunity to garner success and grow programs is great. Most importantly, the two illustrious leagues share in their Catholic mission, and put faith formation, academics, and the maturation of young men at the forefront.

Throughout the spring and summer 2018, a committee of athletic directors from each conference came together to discuss this possibility. The committee devised and agreed upon, a formula which will determine the divisional placement of each school. A school's male enrollment, football participation numbers, and success during the 2017 and 2018 football seasons will determine the divisional alignment of the conference.

The new football conference will consist of the 14 full members of the Chicago Catholic League (CCL) and the 10 full members of the East Suburban Catholic Conference (ESCC). CCL members include Brother Rice High School (Chicago), De La Salle Institute (Chicago), DePaul College Prep (Chicago), Fenwick High School (Oak Park), Leo High School (Chicago), Loyola Academy (Wilmette), Marmion Academy (Aurora), Mt. Carmel High School (Chicago), Montini Catholic High School (Lombard), Providence Catholic High School (New Lenox), St. Laurence High School (Burbank), St. Rita High School (Chicago), St. Ignatius College Prep (Chicago), and St. Joseph High School (Westchester).

The ESCC members are Benet Academy (Lisle), Carmel Catholic High School (Mundelein), Joliet Catholic Academy (Joliet), Marian Catholic High School (Chicago Heights), Marian Central Catholic High School (Woodstock), Marist High School (Chicago), Nazareth Academy (LaGrange Park), Notre Dame College Prep (Niles), St. Patrick High School (Chicago), and St. Viator High School (Arlington Heights).

Further details about the merger will be announced as committee work progresses.

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