



NEWS RELEASE

DIOCESE OF ERIE

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10-15-26

Diocese of Erie Statement regarding Erie Catholic School System football program:

The Diocese of Erie is aware of questions regarding the Erie Catholic School System (ECSS) football program and believes it is important to clarify the circumstances that led to its suspension.

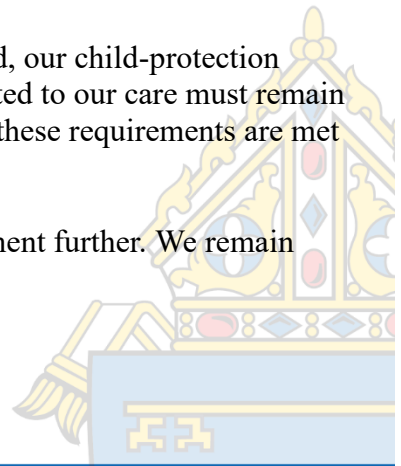
The Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese of Erie became aware that policies and administrative protocols governing the football program were not followed at the ECSS administrative level and began an internal diocesan review. This review is a matter of enforcing established athletic policies and regulations and is not about any one individual student.

During the course of that review, the Diocese of Erie identified a separate compliance issue involving requirements of the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth. Required clearances were not on file for adults associated with the football program. These requirements are mandatory for those who work with minors and are fundamental to the safeguards the diocese has established for the protection of children and youth.

The diocese recognizes the disappointment and uncertainty this situation has created for student-athletes and their families. We understand the impact this decision has on those who have dedicated their time and effort to the football program. Activities may resume after the diocese verifies compliance with policies and child-protection requirements.

The Diocese of Erie takes these matters seriously. Our policies must be followed, our child-protection requirements must be met and the safety and well-being of every student entrusted to our care must remain paramount. The diocese will continue working with ECSS leadership to ensure these requirements are met and appropriate administrative procedures are followed moving forward.

Because students and personnel are involved, the Diocese of Erie will not comment further. We remain committed to our families and our Catholic school community.



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