

Dear Junior Bolts and Catholic Youth Sports Stakeholders,

For more than 70 years, athletics and activities have been a source of excitement and pride for the Thunderbolt community. They are the physical and outward representation of our community. The central Catholic high school approach in Lincoln means that passion for the Thunderbolts is shared by our supporting parishes and schools. Truly, “*We are Pius.*”

Our parish schools connect with Pius activities—and sports in particular—in several ways:

- Formation of youth teams comprised of parish or Catholic school students (e.g., YMCA affiliations)
- Pius X High School camps
- The Junior High League for 7th & 8th graders
- The recent launch of “Junior Bolts” (JB) programs
- Parish family events like *Parish Family Football Night*, which build community, create enthusiasm, and support enrollment

The Pius Strategic Plan calls us to strengthen outreach and relationships with our junior highs. We cannot assume every K–8 Catholic school family will choose Pius, nor that other families will simply find us. We must actively compete for families who desire to “Restore all things in Christ”, and that’s where youth activities dovetail with mission.

The success of these programs—especially Junior Bolts—has generated excitement. Yet, growth requires a unified vision and direction. Unchecked expansion risks undermining good programs, and we cannot allow that as we shape the future of Pius. Finally, note the important caveat that these programs are **not** directly affiliated with Pius X High School; they are independent entities that associate with Pius but are not governed by it.

With this in mind, I’m excited to announce the newly formed position of **Youth Sports Outreach Coordinator (YSOC)**, under **Mr. Ryan Kearney**. This role will serve as a Pius partner to youth programs, fostering unity and mutually beneficial relationships with the junior highs, programs, and families in our community. The YSOC will not only unify and protect our efforts, but it will also help build a bright future.

Please see below for an overview and more details on this position and vision.

Blessed to be a Bolt,

Jeremy Ekeler

Chief Administrative Officer

Pius X Catholic High School

Overview

Mission:

To provide support, coordination, and resources from Pius X High School to youth sports programs, creating deeper connections and strengthening ties to the Thunderbolt community of Faith.

Deliverables:

- A growing sense of connection between Pius and supporting parishes
 - Faith formation for coaches, parents, and athletes
 - Character development for athletes
 - Coaching support (clinics, retreats, facility use, equipment procurement)
 - Stronger links between Pius athletic programs and youth athletes—both relational and technical
 - Increased enrollment at Pius X High School
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Roles & Responsibilities

Role	Overview
Faith & Character Formation	Provide resources for coaches and programs to foster faith and character development. Coaches cannot give what they don't have, so their formation is a priority. <i>Examples: Retreats, Masses, testimonials, Bible study resources.</i>
Program Growth	Ensure stability and growth of current programs while also exploring new opportunities (e.g., girls flag football, boys volleyball).
Program Development	Support coaching needs and logistics in three areas: 1. Professional Development (clinics, guest speakers) 2. Athletic Development (strength, conditioning, injury prevention) 3. Wellness (sleep, nutrition, mental health)
Operations	- Consistent facility rental agreements - Handbook of beliefs, guidelines, and direction for youth programs - Governance support (by-laws, best practices, networks of support)

Role	Overview
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal compliance (coach screening, LLC/non-profit status) - Unified communication across programs
Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In-person visits to elementary schools by Pius students - Growth of Parish Family events year-round - Delivery of Pius event info (posters, camp schedules, etc.)

Contact:

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