

High School and Middle School Athletic Participation Fee

Why an athletic participation fee?

- The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education voted in May 2010 to include middle school athletics in the 2010-2011 budget reductions. Subsequently, the Board voted in June to approve an athletic participation fee for middle and high school student-athletes beginning in the 2010-2011 school year. Every middle and high school student-athlete will have to pay a fee for each interscholastic sports season in which they participate on one or more teams.
- The fee revenue will help fund the middle school interscholastic athletics program. These programs prepare students for high school athletics.

Outlining the fee

- The Board of Education approved the following fee schedule:
 - a. High school students will be charged \$100 in each sport season on which they participate on one or more teams.
 - b. Middle school students will be charged \$50 in each sport season on which they participate on one or more teams.
- The participation fee will be levied only when team rosters have been set after tryouts.
- Students enrolled in a high school or middle school that does not field athletic teams will pay their participation fee at their home school.
- The participation fee does not guarantee playing time.
- The participation fee does not guarantee a full complement of contests.
- Refunds of participation fees will not be given if a student-athlete quits a team, is removed from a team, withdraws from the school, or is injured during a practice and/or contest and cannot play. Refunds in other circumstances beyond district control will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Exception: A student-athlete who pays the participation fee in a sport that is cancelled prior to the first contest will receive a refund.

Outlining the waiver criteria

- Only students who have been approved for free or reduced-price meals through Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Child Nutrition Services are eligible to receive a waiver of participation fees.

Waiver process changes

- Obtain a waiver form from the school athletic director or team coach. The form can also be downloaded from the Athletics page of the CMS Web site: www.cms.k12.nc.us
 1. Complete the waiver of athletic participation fee
 2. Attach a copy of the free or reduced-price lunch confirmation letter from CMS Child Nutrition
 3. Turn both documents into the school athletic director or team coach
- A separate waiver of athletic participation fee form and letter must be submitted for each student-athlete in a family
- Contact CMS Child Nutrition at 980-343-6041 if you need a duplicate copy of your child's free or reduced-price lunch confirmation letter. Allot ample time to receive the duplicate letter by US mail.

Participation fee and/or waiver deadline

- A student-athlete who makes a team must pay the participation fee by an established deadline, given below. If the participation fee is not paid by the deadline, the student-athlete will be removed from future practices and contests.

High school fee deadlines

Aug. 12, 2011	Fall Sports (Football – Aug. 17, 2011)
Nov. 18, 2011	Winter Sports
Feb. 24, 2012	Spring Sports

Middle school fee deadlines

Sept. 12, 2011	Fall Sports (Football – Sept. 20, 2011)
Nov. 29, 2011	Winter Sports
March 8, 2012	Spring Sports

High School and Middle School Athletic Participation Fee, *continued*

How to pay the athletic participation fee

- Pay online using a credit card or debit card. A processing fee will be added by the contracted vendor. Information regarding the on-line payment process is posted on the Athletics page of the CMS Web site.
- Pay at the school's front office by check or money order. Checks should be made payable to the school. **Cash payments will not be accepted.**

How to make a scholarship donation for a specific student-athlete (other than your child)

- Donate by check or money order at the front office of the recipient's school. Checks should be made payable to the school. **Cash payments will not be accepted.**

How to make a scholarship donation to the general scholarship fund

- Donate online using a credit card or debit card. A processing fee will be added by the contracted vendor. Information regarding the on-line payment process is posted on the Athletics page of the CMS Web site.
- Make the donation by check or money order, at the front office of a CMS middle school or high school. Checks should be made payable to the school. **Cash payments will not be accepted.**

Information

- For additional information about high school and middle school athletic participation fees, contact your school's athletic director or the CMS Athletics Department at (980) 343-6980.
- Information is also available on the Athletics page of the CMS Web site: **www.cms.k12.nc.us**

CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG SCHOOLS

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