

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 for each interscholastic sports season in which they participate on one or more teams.
 - b. Middle school students will be charged \$50 for each interscholastic sports season in 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 is charged per student-athlete, per season.
- 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

- Complete the application for waiver of athletic participation fee and return it to the school principal.
- A separate application for waiver must be filled out for each student-athlete for whom a waiver is requested.
- Waiver forms may be picked up from the school athletic director. They can also be downloaded from the Athletics page of the CMS Web site: www.cms.k12.nc.us.

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

Sept. 15, 2010	Fall Sports
Nov. 30, 2010	Winter Sports
March 14, 2011	Spring Sports

Middle school fee deadlines

Sept. 30, 2010	Fall Sports
Dec. 21, 2010	Winter Sports
March 21, 2011	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. Additional information regarding the online payment process will be posted at a later date 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. Additional information regarding the online payment process will be posted at a later date 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**