



High School and Middle School Athletic Participation Fee

– updated July 2017

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 pays a fee for each interscholastic sports season in which they participate on one or more teams.
- Funds from the participation fees, along with a \$1 surcharge from high school regular season ticket sales will help fund the middle school interscholastic athletics program, which in turn supports athletics at the secondary level.

Outlining the fee

- Parents should not pay a participation fee until after tryouts and the coach has placed the student on the team roster.
- Fee schedule:
 - a. High school students will pay \$125 for each sport season (fall, winter, spring) in which they participate on one or more teams.
 - b. Middle school students will pay \$75 for each sport season (fall, winter, spring) in which they participate on one or more teams.
- 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.

How to pay the athletic participation fee

- Speak with the school Athletic Director for payment options at the school.
- Pay online using a credit card or debit card. A processing fee will be added by the contracted vendor. For additional information go to www.CMSAthleticZone.com and click on the athletic participation fee tab.

Refunds of participation fees

- Refunds 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 by the school prior to the first contest will receive a refund.*

Participation fee and/or waiver deadline

- A student-athlete who makes a team must pay the participation fee or meet waiver criteria prior to the first regular season game in their sport.
- A student-athlete who has not paid the fee or met waiver criteria by the first regular season game will be removed from participating in practices and contests.
- A student may rejoin their team once their participation fee is paid of waiver criteria met.

Outlining the waiver criteria

- Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools participates in the federal Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). CMS CEP & non-CEP schools have students who are directly certified for meal benefits because they live in households that participate in SNAP, TNAF, FDPIR or who qualify based on documented status.
- A family will receive a notification letter from CMS Child Nutrition if their child is directly certified for meal benefits. *ONLY directly certified student-athletes automatically qualify for a participation fee waiver.*
- A student who attends a CEP school but is not directly certified may, if they qualify, complete the Application for Need Based Assistance form *accompanied by* proof of total household income (pay stub, tax return, etc.). The Application for Need Based Assistance form serves in the place of the free and reduces lunch (FRL) letter.
- A student who attends a non-CEP school but is not directly certified may apply for free and reduced lunch status. A student at a non-CEP school who is approved for FRL will have their participation fee waived. A family will receive a notification letter from CMS Child Nutrition if their child is approved for free and reduced lunch.

Waiver process information

- Directly certified student-athletes must provide a copy of the letter from CMS Child Nutrition confirming their directly certified status.
- Students at CEP schools who are not directly certified must complete the waiver of athletic participation fee form and the Application for Need Based Assistance form accompanied by proof of total household income.
- Students at non-CEP schools who are not directly certified must complete the waiver of athletic participation fee form and provide a copy of the letter from CMS Child Nutrition confirming their FRL status.
- A separate waiver of athletic participation fee form and applicable letter from CMS Child Nutrition must be submitted for each student-athlete in the family.
- Contact CMS Child Nutrition at 980-343-6041 if you need a duplicate copy of your child's meal eligibility letter.

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 at www.CMSAthleticZone.com