

**Charlotte County Public Schools
Middle School and High School
Pay to Participate Program
Questions & Answers for Parents/Students**

- Question #1 **Will there be a *Pay to Participate* program for Charlotte County Schools?**
Yes. It is the intent of the Superintendent to institute a Pay to Participate program for Charlotte County Schools, starting in the 2012-13 school year.
- Question #2 **What will the *Pay to Participate* fees be used for?**
The fees will be used to offset the District's costs associated with athletics and cheerleading.
- Question #3 **How much will it cost a student to participate in a middle school sport?**
Students will be expected to pay an annual fee of \$20.00 a sport regardless of the size of program. If a student will be participating in more than one sport, the cost would be \$30.00. Families with more than one student athlete will be charged \$40.00 covering one or more activities for the entire family.
- Question #4 **How much will it cost a student to participate in a high school sport?**
Students will be expected to pay an annual fee of \$100.00 a sport regardless of the size of program. If a student will be participating in more than one sport, the cost would be \$125.00. Families with more than one student athlete will be charged \$200.00 covering one or more activities for the entire family.
- Question #5 **Is the athlete charged for "tryouts"?**
No. A fee is due only upon an invitation to join the competition team.
- Question #6 **Who is responsible for collecting the participation money?**
The athletic office will be the collector of these funds (the Assistant Principal at the middle school level).
- Question #7 **When is the money collected?**
Each team member must pay to participate prior to their first competition.
- Question #8 **What happens if the athlete quits, becomes academically ineligible or violates the Code of Student Conduct?**
If the athlete quits prior to the first competition, there is no financial penalty. Athletes must pay before the first competition. If the participant quits the team after the season begins, there is no refund. If the participant is academically ineligible, disciplined for a violation of team or FHSAA rules, violates the Code of Student Conduct and is suspended from play or school, there is no refund. Any other scenario will be dealt with on a case by case basis.
- Question #9 **What happens if the athlete never pays?**
If an athlete makes the team, they must pay prior to the first competition. If payment is not received before the first competition, they will not be able to compete. The coach will give the player a reasonable length of time to pay (2 weeks). If payment is not received, the player will be dismissed from the team.
- Question #10 **What if the athlete cannot afford to pay the participation fee?**
If the student/athlete has a financial hardship, he/she must notify the athletic director directly in writing explaining their financial issues. At the middle school level, the Assistant Principal is the athletic contact. Financial assistance may be offered.
- Question #11 **Can each high school continue with their normal fundraisers?**
Yes. Pay to Participate will not conflict with each school's normal fundraising projects.
- Question #12 **If a student pays to participate, will they be allowed to enter other athletic competitions without paying admission?**
No. Student athletes will need to pay the admissions for athletic competitions.
- Question #13 **Does the *Pay to Participate* fee pay for athletic equipment, accessories or supplies associated with the sport?**
No. The individual sport determines the equipment, accessories or supplies associated with the sport that may require student funding.
- Question #14 **Will athletes playing more than one sport need to fill out the payment form for each sport?**
Yes. A payment form is required for each sport.
- Question #15 **Does my *Pay to Participate* fee guarantee student athletes contest playing time?**
No. Student athletes who make the team at either the Middle School level, Junior Varsity or Varsity level must continue to work hard in school and in their athletic venture to earn actual contest time. Coaches will continue to make playing time decisions based on the student/athlete's current skill level.