

Pay to Participate Questions & Answers

“Pay to Participate”: Board Approved April 29, 2010. Action Item

- **Does “pay to participate” include all sports at the High Schools?** Yes, the fee is \$65.00 per student (payment is required prior to participation in any sport per school year). The funds collected will be used to support all athletic programs at the High Schools. The following are some examples that the funds will help pay for: trainer fees, equipment & equipment maintenance, field maintenance, travel, support officials, gatekeepers. *These funds will be replacing the funds that were previously available in the athletic discretionary at the District level before the 2010/2011 budget cuts.*
 - *800 students @ \$65.00 = \$52,000 funds collected. This replaces the \$52,000 cut in the athletic discretionary budget at each school VBHS & SRHS.*
- **Is there a deadline for submission of payments for the athletic program?** Payment of fees will be emphasized at the beginning of the school year. Payment is due before participation in any sport and there will be no proration in fees.
- **What does the budget for athletics look like? Are the funds going to be divided equally among the sports teams and be transferred as needed?** All individual payments from students will be deposited into the Athletic Internal Account entitled “Pay to Participate” and be transferred as needed to support athletics at the discretion of the Athletic Director with the Principal’s approval.
- **How is the District going to deliver the information regarding “pay to participate”?** A summer mailing is going out to students on the current athletic roster, information will be disclosed in the Student Handbook (addendum will be included in 2010/2011 books), information regarding the program will be posted on the School & District Website; information will be disseminated during orientation and local newspaper (s). **Information will be available in English and Spanish.*
- **Policy on cancellations of participation (will refunds be issued?)** There will be no refunds given.
- **How are the schools going to handle (disadvantaged students)?** No student will be turned away because of inability to pay. If a financial hardship exists, the student athlete may contact the head coach and/or Athletic Director in order make alternative arrangements.
- **What happens to the funds if any that remain in the internal account?** Funds that remain in the internal account entitled “Pay to Participate” will roll over to following school year to help support the athletic program.
- **What is the policy if a check is returned as uncollectible?** The student athlete will stay in the athletic program. Payliance (District’s Collection Agency) will handle the collection money.
- **Who is going to collect the money? How are the High Schools going to track payments from students?**

VBHS – The student will remit payment with their completed eligibility packet to the Head Coach. The Head Coach then will compile all eligibility paperwork and fees for submission to the Athletic Director for approval. Once the student has been approved, he/she will be rostered, paperwork will be filed, and the Athletic Secretary will receipt the fee. The Athletic Secretary will log each student’s payment on a spreadsheet and submit payment to the Bookkeeper for deposit into VBHS’s Internal Account. Receipts will be returned to the Head

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Coach of each sport for distribution to players. The Head Coach will distribute the receipt along with a voucher to the athlete. The voucher will enable the student to obtain an athletic photo ID.

SRHS – The student will remit payment to the Head Coach. The Head Coach will issue a student receipt then give the receipt book and payment (s) to the bookkeeper to be deposited into the internal account. The bookkeeper will log student payments on a spreadsheet that will be shared (view only) with the Athletic Secretary and Athletic Director.

- **How are the student ID cards going to be managed?** The ID cards will include a photo of all approved rostered athletes be color coded and dated by school year.
- **Do ID Cards serve as free admission to all sporting events?** Upon payment of the pay to participate fee of \$65.00 the student athlete will receive an athletic department pass. This pass will allow the student free admission to all home athletic contests for the 2010-2011 school year, with the exception of football games and any playoff contests which the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) mandates.
- *Sebastian High School is reciprocating with St. Lucie Co. - An additional athletic card (available to the 1st 600 student athletes who “pay to participate”) will provide reciprocity between St. Lucie and Indian River School District. This card will allow the athlete to have free admission to athletic contests with the exception of football games and playoff contests for the 2010-2011 school year. The student must present a school issued photo ID or Driver’s License along with the reciprocal athletic card.*