



**Dr. Margaret A. Smith**  
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**School Board of Volusia County**

**Mrs. Diane Smith, Chairman**  
**Ms. Candace Lankford, Vice-Chairman**  
**Ms. Judy Conte**  
**Mr. Stan Schmidt**  
**Dr. Al Williams**

July 8, 2009

Dear Parents:

Due to a continuing budget crisis in public education funding, including Volusia County Schools, beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, it is our intent to implement a pay-to-participate procedure for all extra-curricular athletic programs. This pay-to-participate procedure is necessary in order to offer an athletic program for students.

A per-student payment of \$75.00 for one sport will be required, and for a student involved in more than one sport, an additional \$25.00 payment will be charged with a total of no more than \$100.00 per student.

If an athlete cannot afford to pay the fee, this should be communicated to the coach. The school will work with the parent and student to assist with the payment.

A question and answer document providing additional information is enclosed with this letter. Also enclosed is a payment form to complete and submit to the school. If you have further questions, please contact your child's school.

Thank you for your cooperation as we implement this necessary pay-to-participate procedure.

Sincerely,

Margaret A. Smith, D. Ed.  
Superintendent of Schools

MAS/dd

Enclosure

**Volusia County School District  
Pay to Participate Payment Form**

School \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Athletic Year 2009-2010**

This payment form must be approved and signed by the school's Athletic Director before payments are submitted.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ I.D. # \_\_\_\_\_

Sport \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below I acknowledge that my athlete owes \$75.00 for his/her participation in one sport. If my child plays a second or third sport, I am aware there is an additional \$25.00 fee.

Please be advised that this participation fee does not include the cost of athletic equipment, supplies or other associated fees.

I also acknowledge that this fee does not guarantee playing time.

I agree to pay in full amount by the dates on the schedule which is attached.

**AMOUNT DUE** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Athletic Director/Principal's Designee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**VOLUSIA COUNTY SCHOOLS  
PAY TO PARTICIPATE  
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS FOR PARENTS/STUDENTS**

- QUESTION #1** Will there be a Pay to Participate program for Volusia County Schools?  
**ANSWER #1** Yes! It is the intent of the Superintendent to institute a Pay to Participate program for Volusia County Schools.
- QUESTION #2** How much will it cost a student to participate in a high school sport?  
**ANSWER #2** Students will be expected to pay an annual fee of \$75.00 a sport regardless of size of program. If a student will be participating in more than one sport, the cost would be \$100.00.
- QUESTION #3** Who is responsible for collecting the participation money?  
**ANSWER #3** The athletic director will be the collector of these funds.
- QUESTION #4** When is the money collected?  
**ANSWER #4** Each team member must Pay to Participate prior to their first competition. This will give the coaches time to evaluate the players to be placed on the team roster. Failure to pay will result in providing an open slot for another athlete.
- QUESTION #5** What happens if the athlete quits, becomes academically ineligible or violates the Code of Student Conduct?  
**ANSWER #5** 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, there is no full or partial refund.
- QUESTION #6** What happens if the athlete never pays?  
**ANSWER #6** 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 (3 weeks). If payment is not received, the player will be dismissed from the team.
- QUESTION #7** What if the athlete cannot afford to pay the participation fee?  
**ANSWER #7** After all school based options are exhausted for those athletes that cannot afford the fee, free and reduced lunch criteria will be used to determine a sponsorship for the athlete. This criteria cannot be used as a waiver of the pay to participate fee.
- QUESTION #8** Can each high school continue with their normal fundraisers?  
**ANSWER #8** Yes! Pay to Participate will not conflict with each school's normal fundraising projects.
- QUESTION #9** If a student pays to participate, will they be allowed to enter other athletic competitions without paying admission?  
**ANSWER #9** No! Student athletes will need to pay the admissions for athletic competitions.
- QUESTION #10** Does the Pay to Participate fee pay for athletic equipment, accessories or other supplies associated with the sport?  
**ANSWER #10** No! The individual sport determines the equipment, accessories or supplies associated with the sport that may require funding.
- QUESTION #11** Will athletes playing more than one sport need to fill out the payment form for each sport?  
**ANSWER #11** Yes! A payment form is required for each sport.