

MASON ATHLETICS

2017-2018: Athletic Program Fee

Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, the Falls Church City Public Schools established a fee for students choosing to participate in our athletic program. The School Board has set the fee for this school year at \$125 for the first sport participated in, and \$25 for each additional sport participated in.

These fees will be collected by the high school athletic department and used to maintain equipment, uniform and supplies at, or near, the current level. The collection of fees also will allow us to avoid eliminating, or downsizing, any programs, and maintain our tremendous depth and breadth of participation opportunities. Nearly half of the GMHS student body participates in our athletic program each year.

While these fees have become necessary to sustain our programs, the school division recognizes the importance of keeping our programs available to all students, and thus, has established a process for families that may experience difficulty as a result of the athletic program fee. No student will be excluded from participating for inability to pay.

This document will summarize the fee structure, the process for requesting a fee waiver, or payment plan, and the process for requesting a refund.

Fee Structure:

- ❖ Athletic Fees are DUE by:
 - The first scrimmage or contest – **whichever comes first**

- ❖ The fee is \$125 for a student's first sport, and \$25 for each additional sport. After paying \$300 in any given school year, a family can request a waiver for any additional fees due.

- ❖ When students pay their first Athletic Program Fee of the school year, they will be granted free admission to all regular season athletic events held at GM. ***NOTE: Students are encouraged to pay their Athletic Program Fee as early in the school year as possible so that they will get free admission into our contests. Students that do not make a team can request a refund of the fee, as explained below.***

Please note the payment of fees does not guarantee "playing time" or entry into tournaments/meets, or an equal amount of participation by all participants.

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Julie M. Bravin, CAA - Director of Athletics



Waivers and Payment Options:

- ❖ The Athletic Program Fee may be waived for any student/family for who it presents a hardship, or barrier, to participation in our programs. Students meeting the requirements for free or reduced price lunch will automatically qualify for the waiver. Students not covered by the free or reduced price lunch program can request to pay the fee in three installments, or in cases of financial hardship can request a waiver of the fee entirely. Those requests will be handled discreetly, and confidentially, by the high school athletic director. Families can request a waiver of the fee on the Athletic Program Fee form and submit it directly to the athletic director.

Refunds:

- ❖ If, after participating in tryouts, a student does not make a team, a refund of the Athletic Program Fee will be issued, based on the following schedule:
 - \$125 Fee Paid = 100% refund if turned in within 3 weeks of tryout period
 - \$125 Fee Paid = 75% Refund if turned in within 90 days of the tryout period
 - \$125 Fee Paid = 50% refund if turned in over 90 days before the tryout period
 - \$25 Fee Paid = 100% refund
- ❖ Refunds are not available if a student loses the opportunity to participate for a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, Athletic Handbook, or team rules.
- ❖ Refund requests will not be granted to a student that voluntarily decides to stop participating after the first scheduled scrimmage, or contest.
- ❖ All requests for a refund must be submitted in writing.

- **RETURN THIS FORM TO THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ONLY – DO NOT TURN IN TO COACHES**

Athletic Program Fee Payment/Request for Waiver, Reduced Fees, or Payment Options

This **FORM** must be received by the athletic department before the first scrimmage or contest – whichever comes first. After that date, students will be withheld from participation until the **FORM** is received.

Please make checks payable to **GMHS**:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Student Name | |
| Grade | |
| Sport | |
| Fee Paid (enter \$125 or \$25) | |
| Date Submitted & Check # | |

IF WAIVER IS REQUESTED Please fill out the form below:

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Student Name | |
| Grade | |
| Sport | |
| | <u>WAIVER TYPE REQUESTED</u> |
| | Free/Reduced Price Lunch Participant |
| | Installments with partial fee attached |
| | Hardship waiver of full fee |
| | Family max of \$300 reached |

If you selected the **Free/Reduced Price Lunch Participant Option**, permission must be provided by the parent or guardian for the free or reduced lunch information to be released to the school principal. By signing below, you are giving the food service office permission to release that information to both the high school athletic director and principal. If you select the payment plan, your signature is asking that you be granted the payment plan option. If the Hardship option is chosen, an explanation regarding the special circumstances can be included below.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date** _____

For Office Use Only:

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Free/Reduced Price Lunch Participant | ___ WAIVER APPROVED | ___ WAIVER DENIED |
| Installment Waiver | ___ APPROVED | ___ DENIED |
| Hardship Waiver | ___ APPROVED | ___ DENIED |
| Family Maximum Reached | ___ YES | ___ NO |