

Dear Parents and Players,

E-Blast RE: Membership Fee \$150 per player

Quick Action:

Print, complete and mail the attached Football Booster Club Membership Form. If you cannot open the form on your computer please go to the web site to download the form. We will begin handing out the 2011 Nike Team Practice Gear on June 13th and 14th before the Team Mini-Camp.

I Need More Information:

For additional explanation of the membership fee and the Q & A that follows, please read below.

As part of our annual Football Booster Club review and planning meetings, the Steering Committee, along with input from your Class Representatives, Programming and Fundraising Chairs, decided to implement a ***per player membership fee of \$150***. Each player and family in the football program will receive all of the benefits listed below and will no longer be asked pull out their checkbook during the season except for ***optional*** purchases.

With your PAID Football Booster Club Membership of \$150 you and your son will receive the following benefits from our MHS Football Booster Club:

- **Nike practice gear package** which includes 1 pair of three pocket dri-fit shorts and 1 dri-fit sleeveless shirt. Team practice gear is worn by all players to the MHS Football Program Mini Camp, Rutgers Football Camp, 3 weeks of optional practices and 7 on 7 at the end of July, the first week of official practice, and any other team meetings.

Note: Team Nike practice gear will be distributed to those with a paid membership on June 13th before the TEAM mini camp. Be the first to wear the gear.
- **Team short sleeved cotton t-shirt** to wear during the Entertainment Book Sale and at school.
- **Away Game Meals**
- **All Program Watermelon Feed** after the August 24th practice sessions.
- **1 Ticket** to the *NEW* Season Kickoff Party (Parents and Coaches) at Cherry Valley Country Club, August 23rd.
- **Paid Banquet Meal** for each player.
- **Season highlight DVD & Yearbook** distributed at our Team Banquet
- **Freshman/Senior Lunch** celebrating the incoming freshman as the senior players share their insights, words of wisdom and tips for success as a student athlete.
- **Friday Night** Game Day Sign for your front yard.

Requested Action: Please print, complete and mail your form and check to the person and address noted on the attached form. If you cannot open the attachment, please go to the web site to download the form. We will begin handing out practice gear to those players with a **PAID** membership at 2:20, June 13th and 14th, just before the start of mini-camp. To help us facilitate a smooth distribution of gear, please try to mail us the checks in advance of the June 13th.

Questions and Answers

The following Q & A has been created to address some of the questions that have been raised since our last meeting. Please contact any member of the Steering Committee with additional questions for concerns and we will address them immediately.

Question: Will **ALL** Football Families be asked to pay the \$150 Booster Club Membership fee?

Answer: Yes! As the economy changes and the expenses associated with the district, activities and sports rise, we believe this is the most equitable way to spread the individual player costs across the program **without** adding to our fundraising and placing the volunteer and financial burden on a few families. For you and your son to receive the individual benefits offered through our membership you are asked to pay the \$150 membership fee.

Note: Any family who is under financial hardship is encouraged to contact a Steering Committee member to work out an alternate plan.

President: Lisa Falconer	908.359.4833	lisacurt@4onthego.net
Vice President: Curt Oltmans	609.947.0384	cuot@novonordisk.com
Treasurer/Web Site: Tony Farinaro	908.359.9896	tonyf@nac.net

Question: Where does all of our fundraising money go? I thought the Entertainment Books and our other fundraisers covered the cost of program.

Answer: For **explanation purposes only**, this is not how we budget, think of our fundraising in the following way.

Fundraisers to pay for Football Program Expenses:

Our Entertainment Book Sale raises approximately enough money to pay for items the district does not fund such as association fees, award plaques, coaching staff stipends and development, equipment and other items similar to these. In addition to this, our Booster Club purchases replacement jerseys each year as we give them to our senior players when they graduate.

The Cougar Café and the Game Day Program cover what your membership fee does not: banquet costs, Huddle, web site administration fees, coaching gear and gifts, Homecoming, Senior Night and other expenses *on behalf of the team*.

Fundraiser to pay for Individual Payer Expenses:

Your \$150 membership fee covers special events and gear your player receives during the season. By paying this one time fee, it will eliminate the need for you to pull out your wallet each time for a watermelon or \$10 for a meal.

Question: Why does every player have to pay a membership fee where in the past it was optional?

Answer: In previous years the senior class families have donated the greatest portion of monies raised through our membership drive. However, in recent years the school district raised the activity fee to \$100 and the parking fee to \$200 placing an increased financial burden on senior families.

They in turn were not able to carry funding of the membership drive as in the past. We believe the new membership fee allows each family to pay for what they receive from the program.

Question: If I have two players in the program do I have to pay 2 membership fees?

Answer: Yes. This way each family is paying for their portion of what they receive from the program.

Question: I would like to budget my expenses for the season. What are some of the **optional** purchases that may arise during the season?

Answer:

- 2011 Football Team and Individual Photograph - late August
- Cougar Spirit Sign – Details posted on the web site.
- Team Apparel - mid August
- MHS Football Team Yearbook ad – late October
- Game Day Program ad for your business – late August
- Senior Get Away – Senior Families Only!

Question: Why are Athletic Booster Clubs using a membership fee as a fundraiser? What is the range of fee being asked by other clubs?

Answer: As the financial climate in the district changes, sports teams and individual activities are finding it necessary to self-fund an increased portion of their budget. The philosophy of the Football Booster Club Steering committee is that we ask each family to cover the “fun and gear” we provide our players, and we fundraise in the community to cover “program” expenses.

We are aware of athletic membership fees ranging from \$150 to \$250. The Lacrosse Booster Club asked each family to pay a membership fee of \$150 and had 100% participation.

Question: How does the booster club handle reserve funds not spent during a season?

Answer: We have finally built up a *small* rainy day fund to ensure a secure future and plan for upcoming expenses such as new tent. Please keep in mind, it takes money in the bank to raise money each year. We have to pay for apparel and practice gear before we have an opportunity to raise funds to cover the expenses. It is important to keep a strong start up balance to use for special events and fundraisers as we kickoff each new season.

Go Cougars!

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