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More Schools Utilizing Participation Fees In Latest Survey

EAST LANSING, Mich. – Oct. 27 – The number of schools implementing participation fees for extracurricular athletic programs increased, but the level of the fees remained relatively stable for the 2004-05 school year, according to a survey conducted this Fall by the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

In a voluntary online survey conducted during September, 551 member senior high schools and 346 member junior high/middle schools participated. Of those participating schools, 34.5 percent indicated that participation fees were being used at the high school level; and 32.7 percent indicated that fees were in place at the junior high middle school level. This is an increase in both categories, with 22.6 percent of senior high schools and 25 percent of junior high/middle schools responding to last year's survey indicating they were assessing fees.

While the number of schools with fee programs was up, the fees being charged were not. The survey again revealed that the most popular structures for participation fee programs at both levels were for students to pay on a per sport basis; or for a student to pay a one-time fee for the entire school year, regardless of the number of sports. For senior high school students paying on a per sport basis, \$50 was the most often cited number for the second straight year, and the average per-sport fee was again \$56. For students paying a single fee, the most used standardized fee was \$100 for the second straight year, but the average rose slightly from \$78 last year to \$85 this year. The number of schools structuring their programs on a tiered basis – where a student receives a discounted rate for multi-sport participation – more than tripled from a year ago.

The statistics for junior high/middle schools followed a similar pattern. The most often used per sport fee number was shared between \$30 and \$50 this year, compared to \$50 last year. The average per sport fee was \$43 this year, compared to \$38 a year ago. The most often assessed per student fee was \$50 for the second straight year, and the average fee rose to \$53 from \$50 last year.

The survey also offered the following:

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2-2-2 – Participation Fee Survey Results

- Of those senior high schools assessing participating fees for athletics, 24.2 percent were also charging fees for students participating in other extracurricular activities; up from 23 percent a year ago. Of those charging fees at the junior high/middle school level, 21.6 percent are also charging for other extra extracurricular activities, up from 5.9 percent in the previous survey

- Of those senior high schools assessing fees, 13.4 percent report a drop in participation in athletics. A participation drop was reported by 18.2 percent of junior high/middle schools charging fees.

- Of those senior high schools not assessing fees, 7.9 percent indicate they have had students transfer into their district because fees were not being charged. Last year, that number was 3.9 percent. At the junior high/middle school level 5.8 percent of reporting schools indicate they have received transfer students because of a fully-funded extracurricular athletics program, compared to 4.7 percent a year ago.

The complete survey results can be found on the News and Administration pages of the MHSAA Web site. The MHSAA previously conducted participation fee surveys in the Falls of 1993 and 2003, and plans to conduct annual surveys on this topic in future years. Data from this year's survey will be compared against data gathered from the Association's annual participation survey in the Spring to determine the impact of fees on student participation in extracurricular athletics.

The MHSAA is a private, not-for-profit corporation of voluntary membership by over 1,500 public and private senior high schools and junior high/middle schools which exists to develop common rules for athletic eligibility and competition. No government funds or tax dollars support the MHSAA, which was the first such association nationally to not accept membership dues or tournament entry fees from schools. Member schools which enforce these rules are permitted to participate in MHSAA tournaments, which attract approximately 1.6 million spectators each year.

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2004 MHSAA Participation Fee Survey – Senior High Results (Final – 10.26.04 – 551 Surveys Returned – 72.5% Response Rate)

Note: For the purposes of this survey, a participation fee is anything more than \$20, regardless of the title your school has given the fee (i.e., Registration Fee, Insurance Fee, Transportation Fee, Trainers Fee, etc.). If a student-athlete's participation on a team is contingent on paying any kind of fee, please provide the details requested below.

We are assessing a fee in 2004-05 – 190 (34.5%)

Breakdown by Class – A 73 (38.4%); B 54 (28.4%); C 35 (18.4%); D 28 (14.7%)

We ARE NOT assessing a fee in 2004-05 – 361 (65.5%)

PART ONE – To be filled out only by schools ASSESSING Participation Fees

1. Fees are also being assessed for other, non-athletic, extracurricular activities 45 (24.2%) - Yes 141 (75.8%) - No
2. We are going to evaluate the implementation of fees on an annual basis 148 (80.4%) – Yes 36 (19.6%) - No
3. We are calling our fee: Participation Fee 119 (66.9%); Registration Fee 11 (6.2%); Insurance Fee 8 (4.5%);
Transportation Fee 11 (6.2%); Trainers Fee 2 (1.1%); Other 27 (15.2%)
4. This is the FIRST time we have EVER had a Participation Fee 25 (13.2%) – Yes 164 (86.8%) – No
5. Our school also had a Participation Fee in the 2003-04 school year 144 (87.8%) – Yes 20 (12.2%) – No
6. We have continuously assessed Participation Fees each year since _____:
2002-03 – 20; 2001-02 – 5; 2000-01 – 8; 1999-00 – 8; 1998-99 – 4; 1997-98 – 4; 1996-97 – 3; 1995-96 – 7; 1994-95 – 16;
1993-94 – 3; 1992-93 – 2; 1991-92 – 5; 1990-91 – 11; 1987-88 – 1; 1986-87 – 1; 1984-85 – 4; 1983-84 – 1; 1982-83 – 2;
1980-81 – 1; 1977-78 – 1; 1975-76 – 1; Pre 1980 - 1
7. Have you seen a drop in participation because of Participation Fees? 25 (13.4%) – Yes 162 (86.6%) - No
8. Have students transferred out of your school because of Participation Fees? 5 (2.7%) – Yes 183 (97.4 %) – No
9. Do you have a maximum fee that you will charge a student-athlete for the school year? 134 (71.3%) – Yes 54 (28.7%) – No
10. Annual maximum fee per student breakdown:
 - a. Low - \$10
 - b. High - \$500
 - c. Average - \$127
 - d. Listing by fee: \$10 – 1; \$25 – 7; \$30 -4; \$35 – 2; \$40 – 1; \$45 – 2; \$50 – 5; \$60 – 2; \$65 – 1; \$70 – 1; \$75 – 6; \$80 – 1; \$90 – 3;
\$95 – 1; \$100 – 16; \$105 – 1; \$110 – 1; \$120 – 8; \$125 – 5; \$130 – 1; \$150 – 11; \$160 – 3; \$165 – 1; \$190 – 1; \$195 – 1;
\$200 – 8; \$210 – 2; \$225 – 5; \$230 – 1; \$250 – 1; \$275 – 1; \$300 – 3; \$400 – 1; \$500 - 1
11. Do you have a maximum fee that you will charge a family for the school year? 76 (40.9%) – Yes 110 (59.1%) – No
12. Annual maximum fee per family breakdown:
 - a. Low - \$50
 - b. High - \$600
 - c. Average - \$238
 - d. Listing by fee: \$50 – 5; \$75 – 2; \$100 – 5; \$120 – 3; \$125 – 2; \$140 – 1; \$150 – 5; \$160 – 1; \$165 – 1; \$175 – 1; \$180 – 1;
\$190 – 1; \$200 – 6; \$225 – 2; \$240 – 3; \$250 – 6; \$260 – 1; \$270 – 1; \$300 – 12; \$345 – 1; \$350 – 1; \$380 – 1; \$400 – 6;
\$425 – 1; \$500 – 2; \$600 - 2
13. Our Participation Fee is:
 - a. A standardized one-time fee per student-athlete for the entire year 48 (25.8%)
 - b. A standardized fee per team, regardless of how many sports a student-athlete plays 77 (41.4%)
 - c. Tiered, based on the number of sports a student-athlete plays 21 (11.3%)
 - d. Varies by sport 9 (4.8%)
 - e. Other 31 (16.7%)
14. One-time fee per student breakdown:
 - a. Minimum - \$10
 - b. Maximum - \$275
 - c. Average - \$85
 - d. Listing by fee: \$10 – 1; \$25 – 5; \$30 – 4; \$35 – 2; \$40 – 1; \$50 – 4; \$75 – 4; \$80 – 2; \$90 – 1; \$95 – 1; \$100 – 9; \$110 – 1;
\$120 – 2; \$125 – 5; \$150 – 5; \$275 – 1

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2-2-2 – 2004 Senior High School Participation Fee Survey

15. Fee per team student breakdown:
- a. Minimum - \$15
 - b. Maximum - \$175
 - c. Average - \$59
 - d. Listing by fee: \$15 – 2; \$20 – 5; \$25 – 7; \$30 – 3; \$35 – 3; \$40 – 7; \$45 – 2; \$50 – 14; \$55 – 1; \$60 – 2; \$65 – 3; \$70 – 5; \$75 – 8; \$80 – 1; \$90 – 1; \$95 – 1; \$100 – 8; \$125 – 3; \$175 - 1
16. Does your school offer a reduced fee or fee waiver provision based on income criteria? 116 (63.0%) – Yes 68 (37.0%) – No
We estimate that ___ % of our students will qualify for this waiver:
Less than 1% - 2; 1% - 14; 1-5% - 13; 2% - 3; 3% - 3; 4% - 1; 5% - 19; 5-10% - 5; 7% - 1; 8% - 2; 10% - 17; 15% - 5; 17% - 1; 20% - 5; 20-25% - 2; 20-30% - 1; 23% - 1; 25% - 3; 25-35% - 1; 30% - 1; 40% - 2; 50% - 1; 63% - 1
17. Do student-athletes receive any additional benefits related to their fee payment? 19 (10.2%) – Yes 169 (89.8%) – No
Sports physical free – 3; sports physical at reduced cost – 1; all-sports pass 9; insurance - 1

PART TWO – To be filled out only by schools **NOT ASSESSING** Participation Fees

- | | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Our school has assessed Participation Fees in the past | 45 (12.6%) – Yes | 311 (87.4%) - No |
| 2. The possibility of fees for 2005-06 is still being considered | 95 (26.7%) – Yes | 261 (73.3%) - No |
| 3. We have had students transfer into our district because we are not assessing a fee | 28 (7.9%) – Yes | 328 (92.1%) – No |

2004 MHSAA Participation Fee Survey – Junior High/Middle School Results (Final – 10.26.04 – 346 Surveys Returned – 42.1% Response Rate)

Note: For the purposes of this survey, a participation fee is anything more than \$20, regardless of the title your school has given the fee (i.e., Registration Fee, Insurance Fee, Transportation Fee, Trainers Fee, etc.). If a student-athlete's participation on a team is contingent on paying any kind of fee, please provide the details requested below.

We are assessing a fee in 2004-05 – 113 (32.7%)

We ARE NOT assessing a fee in 2004-05 – 233 (67.3%)

PART ONE – To be filled out only by schools ASSESSING Participation Fees

- | | | |
|---|--|-------------------|
| 1. Fees are also being assessed for other, non-athletic, extracurricular activities | 24 (21.6%) - Yes | 87 (78.4%) - No |
| 2. We are going to evaluate the implementation of fees on an annual basis | 96 (85.0%) – Yes | 17 (15.0%) - No |
| 3. We are calling our fee: Participation Fee 68 (63.6%); Registration Fee 6 (5.6%); Insurance Fee 2 (1.9%); Transportation Fee 6 (6.7%); Trainers Fee 1 (0.9%); Other 24 (22.42%) | | |
| 4. This is the FIRST time we have EVER had a Participation Fee | 25 (22.5%) – Yes | 86 (77.5%) – No |
| 5. Our school also had a Participation Fee in the 2003-04 school year | 75 (85.2%) – Yes | 13 (14.8%) – No |
| 6. We have continuously assessed Participation Fees each year since _____:
2002-03 – 2; 2001-02 – 2; 2000-01 – 1; 1999-00 – 3; 1997-98 – 2; 1996-97 – 1; 1992-93 – 3; 1991-92 – 4; 1990-91 – 3;
1989-90 – 1; 1988-89 – 1; 1983-84 – 1; 1982-83 - 1 | | |
| 7. Have you seen a drop in participation because of Participation Fees? | 20 (18.2%) – Yes | 90 (81.2%) - No |
| 8. Have students transferred out of your school because of Participation Fees? | 3 (2.7%) – Yes | 107 (97.3 %) – No |
| 9. Do you have a maximum fee that you will charge a student-athlete for the school year? | 71 (66.4%) – Yes | 36 (33.7%) – No |
| 10. Annual maximum fee per student breakdown:
a. Low - \$5
b. High - \$400
c. Average - \$106
d. Listing by fee: \$5 – 1; \$25 – 5; \$30 -6; \$35 – 1; \$40 – 1; \$50 – 14; \$55 – 1; \$70 – 1; \$75 – 1; \$80 – 4; \$90 – 5; \$95 – 1; \$100 – 7;
\$120 – 1; \$125 – 1; \$150 – 8; \$210 – 1; \$250 – 1; \$400 - 1 | | |
| 11. Do you have a maximum fee that you will charge a family for the school year? | 45 (41.7%) – Yes | 63 (58.3%) – No |
| 12. Annual maximum fee per family breakdown:
a. Low - \$25
b. High - \$500
c. Average - \$197
d. Listing by fee: \$25 – 1; \$50 – 3; \$80 – 1; \$100 – 2; \$120 – 2; \$125 – 1; \$135 – 1; \$140 – 1; \$150 – 6; \$160 – 2; \$175 – 1; \$180 – 1;
\$190 – 2; \$200 – 4; \$240 – 2; \$250 – 4; \$300 – 5; \$320 – 1; \$400 – 2; \$500 - 1 | | |
| 13. Our Participation Fee is:
a. A standardized one-time fee per student-athlete for the entire year
b. A standardized fee per team, regardless of how many sports a student-athlete plays
c. Tiered, based on the number of sports a student-athlete plays
d. Varies by sport
e. Other | 34 (32.1%)
42 (39.6%)
6 (5.7%)
3 (2.8%)
21 (19.8%) | |
| 14. One-time fee per student breakdown:
a. Minimum - \$25
b. Maximum - \$100
c. Average - \$53
d. Listing by fee: \$25 – 6; \$30 – 5; \$35 – 1; \$40 – 1; \$50 – 12; \$70 – 1; \$75 – 6; \$80 – 1; \$95 – 2; \$100 – 2 | | |
| 15. Fee per team student breakdown:
a. Minimum - \$10
b. Maximum - \$100
c. Average - \$43
d. Listing by fee: \$10 – 1; \$15 – 2; \$20 – 5; \$25 – 6; \$30 – 7; \$35 – 2; \$40 – 2; \$45 – 1; \$50 – 7; \$60 – 2; \$65 – 3; \$70 – 1; \$75 – 3;
\$100 – 4 | | |

(more)

2-2-2 – 2004 Junior High/Middle School Participation Fee Survey

16. Does your school offer a reduced fee or fee waiver provision based on income criteria? 78 (69.0%) – Yes 35 (31.0%) – No
We estimate that ___% of our students will qualify for this waiver:
1% - 12; 1-5% - 8; 2% - 4; 3% - 1; 5% - 8; 5-10% - 5; 7% - 2; 10% - 13; 10-15% - 1; 15% - 1; 16% - 1; 17% - 1; 18% - 1; 20% - 4;
23% - 1; 25% - 1; 30% - 2; 35% - 1; 40% - 2; 48% - 1; 63% - 1
17. Do student-athletes receive any additional benefits related to their fee payment? 9 (8.0%) – Yes 104 (92.0%) – No
Sports physical free – 1; t-shirt – 1; all-sports pass – 4; insurance - 1

PART TWO – To be filled out only by schools **NOT ASSESSING** Participation Fees

1. Our school has assessed Participation Fees in the past 23 (10.0%) – Yes 206 (90.0%) - No
2. The possibility of fees for 2005-06 is still being considered 56 (24.5%) – Yes 173 (75.5%) - No
3. We have had students transfer into our district because we are not assessing a fee 13 (5.8%) – Yes 212 (94.2%) – No