

NCHC Official Player Registration & Association Credentials

(Formerly "Player Eligibility Fee")

1. Our Legacy: Stability in a Changing World

Serving the Homeschool Community Since 1991 The NCHC believes in providing the highest level of post-season competition while remaining affordable for families. Our track record proves this commitment:

- **Basketball:** National Team Entry Fees have remained essentially untouched for **35 years** (since 1991). Regional & District fees have been maintained at original rates.
- **Volleyball:** National Team Entry Fees have remained stable for **17 years**, with Regional fees maintained at inception rates.

While the world has changed drastically since 1991, our goal has not: **To keep team fees low so programs can survive.** However, the cost of running safe, insured, and professionally officiated events has increased dramatically post-2020.

2. The Challenge: The Cost of Integrity

For decades, sponsorships subsidized these costs. In the current economic landscape, that funding is no longer sufficient to meet the **NCHC Standard** of safety and quality.

- **Safety & Security:** We prioritize player safety by investing heavily in security personnel and medical resources. Deployment is determined by rigorous risk assessment for every venue.
- **Officiating Crisis:** To combat the national shortage of referees, the NCHC has aggressively increased pay rates to secure top-tier officials.
 - *Result:* Premium 3-man crews at Basketball Regionals increased by **200%**. At Nationals, premium coverage jumped from 21 games (pre-fee) to **257 games** last year.
 - *Result:* In 2025, nearly **400 Volleyball matches** featured professional R2 officials—a massive leap in quality.
- **Venue Excellence:** We secure high-quality, multi-court facilities. The cost of janitorial, insurance, and facility operations has risen sharply since 2020.

3. The Solution: Association Membership & Credentials

The **Player Registration Fee** is not an "extra" charge; it is the funding mechanism that protects the integrity of the tournament.

What this Fee Covers:

- **Association Membership:** Grants the athlete **Member Status** in the **NHBA** (Basketball) or **NHVBA** (Volleyball) for the duration of the event, including eligibility for insurance coverage.

- **Vetting & Eligibility (The Sword):** Player Registration provides the administrative "Sword" with an opportunity to use the individual registration process to verify ages, validate rosters, and enforce fair play *before* the tournament begins.
- **Operational Security:** Directly offsets the rising costs of safety personnel, liability insurance, and venue logistics.

Note: This fee is non-refundable as it immediately funds the administrative processing, insurance, and vetting required for the athlete's participation.

4. Why Direct Family Payment is Required

To foster the highest level of integrity, the NCHC requires that all player registration be completed directly by the student-athlete's family.

- **Legal Accountability:** By registering directly, the parent/guardian creates a direct "handshake" with the Association. It establishes a clean, auditable record for insurance and liability purposes.
- **Agreement to Standards:** The registration process serves as the family's formal agreement to abide by the **Association Bylaws** and **Invitational Guidelines**.
- **Supporting Coaches:** This relieves club leaders of the burden of acting as "Fund Collector." It also reduces last-minute drops, as families who pay directly are personally invested in the commitment.

5. Our Promise to Families

We remain dedicated to keeping this process family-friendly:

- **Family Cap:** We implement a **Fixed Family Payment Cap** of 3 athletes *per event*, ensuring large families are not disproportionately burdened.
- **Early Bird Incentives:** We offer discounted rates to reward families who commit & register early, which aids in our logistical planning.
- **Sustainability:** By making modest player contributions, we have avoided massive spikes in Team Fees that would crush small programs.

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