



High School Program Fee Structure Update

A typical year for the high school program has four separate seasons; fall, winter, spring, and summer. Seasonal fees are paid by an athlete for each season the athlete participates. Under our new format, the seasonal fees will cover all costs (except for HOOCR and Youth Nationals).

These fees now cover all expenses: youth coaching, all regattas and travel (registration fees, equipment transport, food, buses, lodging, etc — except HOOCR), administration of youth specific activities, and MRC general membership (equipment/boat repairs, boathouse expenses, insurance, general overhead costs and other operational costs of the club).

Fall Season:

The fee for the Fall 2023 Season is \$1,360. This covers all fall practices and coaching, regattas (food, registration, travel, hotel, transportation, etc - except HOOCR), and overhead/maintenance and general administrative costs to run the club.

Why did our fee structure change in Fall 2023?

We have changed our fee structure for multiple reasons. Our prior format required separate fees for general membership dues, seasonal fees, regatta fees, etc. This regularly caused confusion among our members and called upon our families to pay fees multiple times per season. We have streamlined the registration to include general membership, seasonal fees, and travel expenses all in one seasonal fee. This makes registration less complicated for our members and simplifies our administration of the club. We are happy to be able to offer a better format for our members in 2023-24.

The only additional fee you will see this season is for athletes who are selected to compete at Head of the Charles (usually about \$600).

What your Fall Fee covers:

- Fall Programming: a fully immersed experience as a member of our fall program: including coached practices with the full training plan - Aug 28 – Nov 3 (Mon-Fri; 4:15-6:30), extra workout plans, and full access to our staff for help with development/recruiting/etc.
- Local Regattas: registration, equipment transport, food, etc. for the Milwaukee River Challenge and Head of the Rock regattas.
- Regatta Trip: Head of the Hooch - Nov 3-5 – bus transportation, lodging - hotel, equipment transport, registration, food for the weekend, coaches/chaperones, etc.
- MRC General Membership – covers general overhead costs such as equipment/boat repair, insurance, boathouse and indoor facility costs, and costs to administrate the rowing club. (The previous general membership fee was \$415 paid once each year. That payment required an additional payment transaction. As noted, we have incorporated the individual components into a single fall payment. The membership fee is now being broken up and implemented across each seasonal fee.)

As further explanation, general membership dues are an important part of the club's operational revenue and the high school team does require a good amount of club resources to operate. For instance, gas to run launches and repair of launches or racing shells. All Adult members and MSOE members are responsible for a general membership fee and are also helping pay for overhead expenses.

Why the fee is expensive:

- Travel expenses account for a large increase in our fees – for example, the cost to charter buses has doubled since 2020, food and hotel room also continue to increase. As all aspects of travel increase, we have to cover those costs.
- Coaching costs and local regatta costs have increased. In order to continue to offer high level programming at the club, it is necessary to compensate our staff for their time and expertise. Additionally, local regatta expenses have continued to increase with registration fees, truck rental, food, etc.
- Membership/Overhead expenses have steadily increased – maintenance and repair to shells and launches have gone up since 2020.
- In summary, many of the expenses associated with operating the club and the high school program have increased substantially. We are conscious of the fact that these fees are expensive and we continually do our best to keep our fees to a minimum while still being able to operate and sustain the club. Thank you for your understanding.

Family Discount, Payment Plans, and Financial Aid:

- Family Discount:
Families with two or more athletes in the junior program are eligible for the family discount. After the first child, all subsequent siblings are now 25% off. Due to large numbers of families with a second child and due to a portion of the fee covering travel, it is not viable for the club to offer a fifty percent discount as we did in the past. The previous fifty percent discount only pertained to seasonal/annual fees and not travel costs.
- Payment Plans:
If you need more time to pay, or can only pay a little at a time, please contact Roger via email to discuss a payment plan.
- Financial Aid:
Qualified participants may be eligible for need based financial aid. If cost is an issue, do not hesitate to apply. All financial aid applications and awards are 100% confidential.