



NICA Technology Fee FAQ

Beginning March 1, 2025, NICA student-athletes and coaches will see a \$5 technology fee added to their annual Pit Zone registration. The technology fee will go directly to the National organization. This fee is separate and additional, covering the technology, software, subscriptions, and services NICA provides to all NICA leagues. It will not be distributed to individual leagues.

What is a technology fee?

The NICA technology fee is an additional charge added to a coach's or student-athlete's annual registration fee. It supports the technology infrastructure that NICA leagues and NICA uses to operate.

How much is it? How often will I pay it?

The fee is \$5 per student-athlete and \$5 per coach. It is assessed annually, only once per season.

How will I pay this fee?

The \$5 fee will be automatically included in the total when registering through the Pit Zone system.

What if I pay for my season registration now and then pay for races, a clinic, a camp, OTB skills session, or other events later?

The \$5 fee is charged only once per season. It is not applied to additional registrations or transactions throughout the season.

Why does NICA need a technology fee?

This dedicated revenue stream will allow NICA to plan for and fund important technology upgrades over the long term (3–5 years). It ensures a stable & predictable source of funding specifically for technology needs.

What will the funds support?

Here are examples of what the technology fee funds will support:

- Enhancing NICA's registration process and coach education platforms, Pit Zone and Moodle.
- Improving the online user experience for parents, student-athletes, coaches, leagues, and league staff.
- Upgrading NICA's communications, donations, and fundraising platforms used by leagues and teams.
- Supporting ongoing maintenance and upgrades as NICA grows participation and expands programming.

What doesn't the technology fee support?

The technology fee does not support:

- General operations
- Coach education, curriculum development & training
- Risk management
- Insurance and program administration
- Event production and safety
- Data protection and online security (these are already in place).

Why doesn't NICA simply increase the student-athlete and coach membership fees?

Membership fees already cover essential operational costs like insurance, safety, risk management, coach and rider benefits, coach education, training, and curriculum. The technology fee ensures that technology upgrades are funded separately.

Can I make suggestions to NICA about how to spend tech fee funds?

Yes! While NICA has plans for using these funds over the next three years to upgrade our flagship registration system, Pit Zone (e.g., improved UX/UI, new features, enhanced reporting, and dashboards for League Directors and teams), we welcome feedback. Coaches and parents can share suggestions for future improvements by submitting them here [\[coming soon\]](#).