



NICA League Participant Fees

National Interscholastic Cycling Association
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The financial model for NICA leagues is based largely on the successful and sustainable NorCal High School Cycling League (40% participation fees, 25% fundraisers, 5% grants, 20% individual donors, 10% sponsorship). High school mountain biking programs do not receive any tax-based income, and while grants and cash sponsors have made generous contributions, league fundraisers and fees are needed to generate reliable revenue to cover the annual costs of delivering consistent quality programs. All NICA leagues depend on NICA for ongoing support services and brand new leagues depend heavily on NICA grants for 2–3 years, made possible by NICA sponsors.

Because of the travel, equipment (shoes, jerseys, helmets, etc.), the bicycle (plus maintenance), mountain biking is by no means a low cost sport. Participant fees usually do not cover the full cost of the high quality programs NICA leagues provide. The leagues strive to keep fees affordable. In addition, leagues raise funds for providing sliding scale scholarships for those student-athletes that have financial hardships.

NICA's mission of building high school mountain biking coast to coast by 2020 is not funded by league participation fees. That work is funded by both national sponsors and funds from those regions.

League Registration Fee (annual) \$50

\$40 Goes directly to the league and covers the year round work of producing well organized camps, races, coaches trainings, newsletters as well as supporting coaches. \$10 Goes to NICA to cover their support services, such as web, graphical and registration/scoring services, annual policy development and director's training

In addition to high quality high school mountain bike programs, league student-athletes gain access to a number of benefits with their annual League Registration Fee. NICA provides insurance coverage for each rider when they are participating in approved activities, including supplemental health coverage up to \$25,000 (see the NICA [Insurance Overview](#) document for details). Student-athletes also have access to a number of discounts from NICA and League sponsors – contact your League director for a list of current sponsor discounts.

Race Fees, \$40–\$45 per race

Race fees cover the direct costs of producing high quality events, including equipment, staffing, rentals, travel/lodging, insurance, venue permits/usage fees, etc.

Day Camp Fees, \$45–\$75; Overnight Camp Fees, \$75–\$125

Camp fees cover the direct costs of producing well-organized camps. Day camp fees depend largely on the cost of the venue and instructors.

Coach License Fees (annual) \$25

The annual coaches license fee offsets the cost of developing and administering the [NICA Coaches License Program](#).

NICA offers a number of benefits to coaches who have obtained a valid NICA Coaches License. NICA offers liability and supplemental health insurance for coaches (see the NICA [Insurance Overview](#) document for details). NICA also works with out sponsors to provide generous discounts to coaches. Obtaining a higher level coaches license will grant access to additional benefits. Contact [Tyler Dibble](#) for details on NICA Coaches License Benefits.

Leaders' Summit Registration Fee, \$125–\$195

Leaders' Summit fees (AKA the "coaches conference") depend largely on the cost of the venue and instructors. Organizing leaders summits is labor intensive and the costs are generally spread across 20–40 participants. Tools are available to help coaches raise the 'tuition' for attending these professional development seminars. For a sample fundraiser letter, [click here](#).

Team Registration Fee

Division II, \$250–\$300 (\$125 discount may apply)

Division I, \$375–\$450 (\$125 discount may apply)

Team registration fees covers the insurance for the entire season of practice rides. The fee also helps offset the cost of ongoing team development and support, coaches' newsletters and team trophies.

In addition to liability and supplemental health insurance for all registered coaches, volunteers and student-athletes (see the NICA [Insurance Overview](#) document for details), NICA teams enjoy a number of great benefits, including discounted product from NICA and League sponsors. We are continually working to add additional benefits, so contact your League director for the current benefits available.

Not a Stadium Based Sport

In addition to not receiving tax based income, high school mountain biking and cycling in general does not benefit from the added revenue that often accompanies 'stadium based' sports. League Directors spend considerable time finding and maintaining relationships with appropriate venues. The managers at these venues are interested in working with highly professional and accountable organizations. The privilege of racing mountain bikes on both public and private land is, at all times, at risk. All NICA leagues are in need of board members who are willing to help build and maintain these important relationships.

Some Cost Comparisons

From an article researched and written by Andrew Ferguson in TIME Magazine (July 1999)

Kelly Donnelly, age 13, Cranford, N.J., and her sister are members of the Strikers select soccer team. They will play 50 games in her home state, Virginia and Canada.

What It Costs:

Equipment: \$85–\$265

Club Dues: \$400

Travel: \$50–\$250 per tournament

Clinics: \$600

How Much Time: 6 to 16 hours per week

Total Cost: \$1135–\$2015

Eva Rodriguez, 12, dreams of playing in the WNBA.

What It Costs:

Equipment: \$200–\$395 for shoes and uniform

Clubs: \$150 a year

Travel: \$60–\$210 month to attend out-of-town games

Clinics: \$100–\$400

How Much Time: 2 to 6 hours daily plus games

Total Cost: \$500–\$1575

Casey McKinley, 5, Parker, Co., Baseball

What It Costs:

Equipment: \$150–\$450 for uniforms, gloves, shoes, bats

Clubs: \$25–\$150 a year for league and team fees

Travel: Kids in elite travel squads spend \$10–\$100 per week

Clinics: \$200–\$600 for intense summers and spring break

How Much Time: 3 to 12 hours per week plus 2 to 4 games

Total cost: \$500–\$2700

Joe MTB League, 16, rides on his HS MTB team

What It Costs:

Equipment: \$500–1500

Team Dues: \$0–\$250

League Fees: \$190–\$275

Camps: \$0–\$125

Travel: \$50–\$175 per out-of-town race (gas and lodging)

How Much Time: 15 to 20 weeks, 9 to 12 hours per week

Total Cost: \$740–2325