

Wakefield Crew – 2024 Spring Season Dues Information

Dear Wakefield Crew Families,

Welcome to Wakefield Crew! We had an amazing 2023 Spring season, including our girls 1V boat winning the Virginia State Rowing Championships for the third year in a row. What we are most proud of is the teamwork and dedication that our athletes show on and off the water. We look forward to building on that success in 2024.

We wanted to share information about fees and fundraising expectations for the year. Crew has significant annual costs to cover: out-of-season coach stipends, boathouse and regatta fees, required US Rowing and Virginia Scholastic Rowing Association (VASRA) membership fees, equipment maintenance, insurance and accounting fees, and more. We work hard to keep the operating expenses as low as possible, but our program, travel, business, and equipment expenditures this year are expected to top \$200,000. Among other things, we are facing increasing fees for fleet insurance, boat storage, and US Rowing and VASRA memberships..

Background

In 2022, the Wakefield Crew Boosters Board re-evaluated the funding model for our program, so that dues are sufficient to cover the full annual operating costs for winter training and spring rowing. Fundraising primarily supports the capital fund for the purchase of boats, etc. This is essential for fiscal solvency and both the short- and long-term health of our program. For perspective, a new 8-person boat costs roughly \$40,000. We are still paying off our two newest 8s, the Chris Willmore and the Spirit of '22. Ideally we recapitalize the entire fleet every 10 years. Our fundraising goal this year to support the capital fund is \$60,000.

2024 Dues and Fundraising

The fee for all athletes for the 2024 season is **\$750**, and the fundraising expectation for each athlete is **\$350**. The Wakefield Crew Boosters Board will provide several opportunities for all athletes to be successful in their fundraising, including a letter writing campaign and our annual Tag Day, and we will also be seeking corporate sponsorships. You can reach out to me or our fundraising lead Jessica Lenard (fundraising@wakefieldrowing.org) if your athlete is having a challenge meeting the goal. Note that there are also additional costs for travel regattas (Stotesbury and Nationals) and the Boosters can provide assistance to cover these fees for eligible athletes as needed.

Financial Assistance

It may be helpful to know that our dues are lower than every other high school crew in the area, in some cases by a significant margin. That said, we realize that crew is expensive compared to other high school sports and **do not want costs to be a barrier to participation**. We have established a formal scholarship structure (outlined below). Please let a coach or a member of the Board know if your athlete qualifies for a scholarship before the spring season begins in February. If you need financial assistance but do not qualify through the formal scholarship program, please speak with one of us to explore options.

2024 Wakefield Crew Fees	Standard Fee -Check	Standard Fee -paid online	Reduced Lunch - Check	Reduced Lunch - paid online	Free Lunch- Check	Free Lunch - paid online
All Athletes (both returning and new rowers/coxswains)	\$750	\$773.50	\$150	\$155.50	\$75	\$78.25
Travel Regattas for – Select Rowers & Coxswains	TBD	Cost + Fees	TBD	Cost + Fees	TBD	Cost + Fees

Payments will be due by February 24, 2024. If paying by check, make payable to “Wakefield Crew Boosters” and on the check put your child’s name on the memo line. Payment plans are available for all athletes. Online payments can be made via wakefieldrowing.org; click on the “Registration” link in the top menu (link will be live by February 9, 2024). Online payments incur an additional 3% + \$1.00 charge as noted.

MAIL OR HAND DELIVER CHECK TO:

Wakefield Crew Boosters
c/o Ed Hasecke
56 S. Aberdeen Street
Arlington, VA 22204

If you have questions regarding payment, payment plans, or tracking of online payments, please contact Ed Hasecke at treasurer@wakefieldrowing.org. If you have any other questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me at president@wakefieldrowing.org.

We look forward to working with you to support our rowers and coxswains in the coming season!
Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Kim O’Connell

Kim O’Connell, President, Wakefield Crew Boosters
president@wakefieldrowing.org