

Athletic Booster Club (ABC)

Frequently Asked Questions

May, 2014

General Programs

What is the ABC?

The ABC (Athletic Booster Club) is a completely volunteer organization that consists of parents and supporters of SMSA athletic programs (high school and middle school). It operates under the overall direction of the SMSA administration with by-laws governing its' activity, in cooperation with the PABC (Performing Arts Booster Club) to provide support to student athletes at SMSA. The school president and athletic director are standing members of the club. **Volunteer involvement is key to ABC, and student athlete success.**

When does ABC Meet?

The ABC typically meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the High School cafeteria, beginning in August, and concluding in May.

Who attends ABC Meetings?

Anyone interested in supporting SMSA athletic programs is welcome to attend. Everyone is able to contribute to discussion of current events, concerns, or to bring issues, requests or proposals to the ABC for consideration. Officers and trustees have voting rights regarding resolutions and motions for approval.

Do I need to have a child or family member currently attending SMSA to participate in ABC?

While having a current student at Springs provides helpful perspective, the ABC welcomes alumni and other family members to participate.

What if I can't be at every meeting?

ABC welcomes anyone to attend at any time. Officers and trustees of the ABC are expected to participate on a more routine basis to ensure the administration of programs can be done in a timely and efficient manner.

Do I need any experience with athletics to participate?

Experience with athletic programs is not required, however, since we are a volunteer organization, a spirit of teamwork, cooperation and service is essential to the success of the ABC.

What type of help is most needed?

Participation in the various programs supporting our student athletes (i.e. assistance with concession stands or coordinating/scheduling parental involvement in various sports) is our primary need. Those interested can also serve on committees, special events coordination, fundraising, special projects, or as an officer or trustee.

Who do I contact if I'm interested in volunteering for an event or sport?

To get involved in volunteerism at SMSA, you must complete the Volunteer Form. This can be found on the SMSA website under the Family tab in the Forms & Documents section. You can also contact the individual that is identified on the Volunteer Form for the ABC or the other booster clubs at SMSA. Please refer to the Volunteer Requirements Document for more detailed information.

My child is only active in one sport, can I still be on the booster club?

Every SMSA parent is welcome to be part of the ABC, without regard for the level of participation by their child in athletic programs. Our overall objective is to help ensure the opportunity for success for all of our student athletes, and in turn, the SMSA system through good sportsmanship, active participation and visible, recognizable support.

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What are the Officer and Trustee positions?

The ABC has a President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. There are also anywhere from 4 to 6 trustees, who are appointed by the President, with counsel from the Officers and input from ABC members. The terms for these positions are typically either one or two years. Officers typically have participated at some level on the ABC prior to being elected to gain experience and ensure continuity. Elections are generally held during the February meeting, with nominations and voting conducted.

Fund Raising and Disbursements

How are funds raised to support the ABC?

There are a variety of programs operated by the ABC that raise funds to help support student athletes. In all cases, these are coordinated and executed by volunteers. Volunteer involvement is essential to our success.

What are the major fundraising activities? The primary fundraising activities are as follows:

- Friends of Ledgers – Annual Campaign
- Discount Card Sales – Supported by Local Businesses
- Annual Athletic/Sports Passes
- Concession Stand Revenue – All sports
- Special Projects (bag tags, bracelets, etc.)

How does ABC ensure funds are handled and used in an appropriate manner?

Monies raised through the above activities are posted to the ABC checking and savings accounts, under the direction of the treasurer and the SMSA finance office to ensure fiduciary control. Invoices for various supplies (i.e. concession stands) are paid on an ongoing basis from submitted invoices and receipts. Funds requested for purchases to support student athlete programs are either submitted via a disbursement form/presentation to the ABC at a regularly scheduled meeting, or by formal request to the ABC. Financial reports are posted monthly and available for full review by anyone attending the monthly meetings. Reconciliation of accounts is handled through a series of checks and balances.

What type of support is provided to SMSA sports programs by ABC?

All athletic programs are supported by the ABC. Football, Volleyball, Cross Country, Tennis, Soccer, Basketball, Hockey, Dance, Wrestling, Golf, Baseball, Softball and Track & Field are all included in needs assessments and requests. Additionally, ABC will also support facilities improvements related to these sports, along with development funding where appropriate (i.e. support for co-op programming). Recent examples include:

- Team Uniforms and Warm Ups – Girls Soccer, Girls Softball, Baseball, Track and Field, Cross Country, Golf, Dance, Middle School basketball, football and track.
- Facilities – Gym and locker painting, Banners for Hutter gym, high jump pad, softball diamond upgrades
- Development funding – Hockey lockers, student buses, co-op programs

How do I know my efforts will help support student athletes?

Budgets within SMSA rely on the funding generated by ABC to ensure our student athletes are well equipped for their safety, comfort and to enhance the image of our sports programs and SMSA as a whole. When you support the ABC, you are promoting the best opportunities possible for our students to participate in our programs and succeed.

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How much money is typically spent per year supporting athletics?

ABC disbursements typically average \$30,000 annually to support our athletic programs and student athletes. Each year, requests are prioritized and planned to establish a level of support, with due diligence given to ensure expenditures are allocated in the most equitable manner possible and generally in keeping with revenue.

How do I request funding for supporting a sports program request?

Individual(s) can complete a disbursement request (i.e. request for team uniforms) and present their request to the ABC at a monthly meeting. Alternately, a request can be presented to the ABC in person, or by letter for services or other non-durable goods. The ABC will evaluate the request, and reserves the right to grant or deny the request per ABC by-laws and protocol.

If I cannot dedicate my time through volunteerism, but would like to make a financial donation, how do I do that?

Financial donations to the ABC are greatly appreciated. You can contribute during the Friends of Ledgers annual campaign, but if you miss that opportunity, there are other ways to give. You can contact the leader of the ABC that is listed on the Volunteer Form or will provide you with the proper form for giving. If you are interested in directing your donation, you can discuss that with the President of the ABC. For example, if you are interested in purchasing and donating products for a specific sport. [QUESTION FOR THE ABC, DO WE DO THIS?]