



Working With a Booster Club

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There are many benefits to having your dance team work with a booster club. Here are a few tips for improving your relationship with your school or gym's booster club organization. Most booster clubs are registered as non-profit organizations and rules will vary from club to club, so the first thing to do is familiarize yourself with your club's bylaws and policies. Schedule a meeting with your booster club president so you can discuss how they will be involved with your team.

Initially, you will want to find out more about the financial aspect of being involved with a booster club. Find out if your team will have an individual account or will be included in an account with all other sports/clubs. If your team does have a separate account, ask your booster club contact if you can arrange to have direct access to your funds through a personal checkbook or having a separate treasurer just for your team. Your booster club can be a great partner for your fundraising efforts. If possible, use your booster club account to keep track of all of your fundraised money. Since your booster club is most likely a non-profit there may be a limit on the percentage of a dancer's total annual expense that they may raise through fundraising efforts. Be sure to confirm with your club if they have a limit and also if they have restrictions on whether fundraisers need to be team efforts or if individuals can benefit independently.

A bonus to handling your finances through a booster club is that they are tax-exempt. If you place uniform orders, pay competition entry fees, etc... through your booster club you will not have to pay sales tax which will help your team remain cost-effective. Be sure to find out exactly what can and cannot be covered by your booster club account (i.e. uniforms are an acceptable expense but a team party may not be supported).

Finally, be sure to keep your team parents involved. Explain to parents at your first meeting how involvement with your booster club will work. This is a great time to let parents know how much you are hoping to fundraise and also how much financial support you will be asking them for this season. Ask for a trustworthy parent to be the booster club representative for your dance team to ensure someone will be attending all booster club meetings. Encourage your parents to be active in the booster club to make sure your team's voice is heard. Booster club parents can be a great help to your team. You can even ask for booster club volunteers to help with tickets, concessions, etc at your events. If you keep yourself and your team informed and involved with booster club activity this relationship can greatly benefit your dancers!