

Subscription terms for the SchokoTicket

SchokoTickets with electronic fare management can be purchased as an annual subscription with monthly fare collection.

The VRR conditions of carriage and tariff provisions apply here, along with the following:

1. Requirements for the subscription

Requirements for issuing of SchokoTickets to eligible pupils by the transportation company shall be:

- 1) proof of entitlement to purchase the SchokoTicket by the subscriber or their legal representative and
- 2) conclusion of a subscription contract for underage pupils by the parent or guardian or by the adult pupil, and
- 3) authorisation of the account holder to collect all fees and charges resulting from the subscription contract from a current account held in the SEPA area until further notice, but at least for a period of 12 months monthly in advance for the respective contract period.
- 4) allowing the transport company to obtain information on the creditworthiness of the account holder from a credit agency as part of the application review. Transport companies wishing to perform a credit check shall inform the subscriber/contracting partner in advance and obtain their signature. The subscriber/contracting partner is thereby informed of this. In the event of a negative result, the subscription application shall be deemed rejected. The credit check requires transmission of surname, first name, address, and date of birth of the account holder to the credit agency. The transport company shall store the result of this check for up to 6 months in compliance with data protection regulations.

2. Conclusion of the subscription contract

The subscription contract enters into effect upon handover of SchokoTickets to the subscriber or an authorised representative by the transport company for the first 12-month period or with the payment of monthly instalments or quarterly instalments for SchokoTickets sent without prompting. From the 12th month onwards, the subscription period shall be one month, unless the subscriber terminates at the end of the current subscription month. If the subscription is not terminated, the contractual term of the current month shall extend automatically by another month. The SchokoTicket is in the subscriber's possession. The SchokoTicket is the property of the transport company. If the SchokoTicket has expired, the subscriber will be sent a new SchokoTicket without prompting. After the contractual relationship expires, the subscriber must return the ticket to the company. The recipient (here: transport company) must check the SchokoTicket for correctness and completeness. If the SchokoTicket is handed over or mailed, the cover letter will state the data stored on the chip. The SchokoTicket data stored on the chip are decisive. The subscriber can read their SchokoTicket at the KundenCenter (or with their own reader) to check the information on the chip. Complaints must be raised with the transport company without undue delay, but no later than 10 days after receipt, in writing or in person. Subsequent complaints may not be considered.

3. Start and duration of the subscription

The subscription can commence on the 1st day of each month if the properly completed order form with the SEPA direct debit mandate or any information required for this has been received by a VRR transport company. The transport company provides forms (order form) for this purpose. If the transport company does not have the duly issued SEPA direct debit mandate, the commencement date will be the next possible date. The subscription is generally valid for a period of 12 months, starting with the 1st subscription month, if the subscriber terminates the subscription early during the period indicated and against payment of a flat fee. From the 12th month onwards, the subscription period shall be one month until further notice, unless the subscriber terminates at the end of the current subscription month. If the subscription is not terminated, the contractual term of the current month shall automatically extend by one further month. Details on termination are set out in item 6 of these subscription terms. The entitlement to purchase and to continue to use the ticket must be documented again by a pupil beyond compulsory school age (over 15 years of age) at the beginning of each school year. The subscription shall end at the time when school education is completed. In this case, no special notice of termination the transport company shall not be required in this case. The customer is obligated to inform the transport company of any change of status. If the customer fails to do so, the monthly subscription price of the Ticket1000 at the fare level A1/A2/A3 must be paid for the past period. Pausing of the subscription is not possible.

4. Direct debit on time

The account holder is obligated to keep the monthly direct debit amount or, if intended, the quarterly amount as well as amounts for one-off payments under these terms and conditions in the account specified in the order form or in the current SEPA mandate ready for the due date of payment. The account holder shall be notified of the collection directly or indirectly via the contracting partner at least one day before the first due date.

5. Changes to the subscription contract due to a change in the status of the subscriber

The subscriber or their legal representative are obligated to inform the transport company of any change of status (discontinuation or acquisition of entitlement within the meaning of § 97 or § 118 (3) of the School Act (Schulgesetz) of NRW, change of school to a city not affiliated to the SchokoTicket procedure or to a school authority not affiliated to the SchokoTicket procedure, end of school education). Changes in the subscription are possible to the 1st day of a calendar month. The subscriber must notify the transport company of the change in status in writing or in person 6 weeks before the change takes effect. This shall require text form. Written form is also permitted. The sales offices can provide forms for notification of change requests.

In the case of account changes, a new SEPA mandate must be submitted at the same time. The entries made on the SchokoTicket on the basis of the original subscription contract (data on the chip and tariff features on the thermal field) are rendered invalid upon the change. If the subscriber's entitlement within the meaning of § 97 or § 118 (3) of the Schools Act NRW ceases to exist, the subscriber must pay the difference to the current transport charge for the freely available SchokoTicket for each subsequent month in which the change of status is not available to the transport company. The originally issued SchokoTicket must be returned to the transport company by the 3rd working day following entering into effect of the status change. The change will be made at the KundenCenter or at an otherwise designated location of the contracting transport company. If this deadline is missed, 1/30 of the current transport charges for the freely available SchokoTicket shall be paid as contractual liquidated damages for each subsequent day, including the day of return. Proof that a higher damage was incurred is reserved. The amount to be paid shall be commercially rounded to the nearest 5 cents.

6. Termination of the subscription by the subscriber

In the event of termination, the SchokoTicket will be blocked in the transport company's customer file. Furthermore, a corresponding note is forwarded to the Verkehrsverbund Rhein-Ruhr AöR. The SchokoTicket must be returned to the transport company without undue delay. Otherwise, a flat fee of 10.00 euros shall arise.

a) Proper termination: The subscription can be terminated at any time during the term at the end of a calendar month without any period of notice. The notice of termination shall be effective only if it is received by the transport company by the last day of the current subscription period. The termination shall enter into effect at the end of the last subscription month. Notice of termination shall require text form. Written form is also permitted. If the subscription is terminated before the end of the first 12-month period of the subscription contract, a flat-rate fee of EUR 20.00 will be charged. This shall not apply if the subscription contract has been in place for at least 1 year and the monthly amounts have been paid during this period. It also shall not apply if the subscriber is deceased.

b) Termination without notice: The subscriber's right to extraordinary termination without notice for cause shall not be affected. Cause for termination for the subscriber is given in particular in the case of an increase in the price of the ticket, loss of entitlement within the meaning of § 97 or § 118 (3) of the School Act NRW or a change of school to a city not affiliated to the SchokoTicket procedure. If the subscription price is changed, the subscriber or their legal representative may give extraordinary notice of termination of the subscription as of the date on which the change in the subscription price takes effect. The transport company must be notified of the termination. This shall require text form. Written form is also permitted. In any case, the flat-rate processing fee shall not be charged for terminations in the first 12-month period.

7. Termination of the subscription by the transport company

In the event of termination, the SchokoTicket will be blocked in the transport company's customer file. Furthermore, a corresponding note is forwarded to the Verkehrsverbund Rhein-

Ruhr AöR. The SchokoTicket must be returned to the contracting company without undue delay. Otherwise, a flat fee of 10.00 euros shall arise.

a) Proper termination: The subscription contract may be terminated at the latest in the last subscription month of the 12-month period. Notice of termination shall require text form. Written form is also permitted. In the event of an end of schooling due to issuing of a school-leaving or graduation certificate by the school, the subsequent month shall not form part of the 12-month contract period. In this case, the transport company may terminate the subscription at the end of the month preceding the main holiday month. (Example: If certificates are handed out on 2 July, July will still be part of the subscription, but August is not. The same shall apply if the certificates are handed out on 31 July.) Notice of termination shall require text form. Written form is also permitted.

b) Termination without notice: The transport company has the right to terminate the contractual relationship without notice for cause. Notice of termination shall require text form. Written form is also permitted. Cause for termination shall be deemed present in particular if direct debiting is not possible in accordance with item 4 or if the customer has not notified the transport company of any changes to their status. Cause for termination without notice shall also be present if the debited amount is not being paid within a period of 14 days, even after a reminder, or if at least 3 return debits have already occurred in a period of 12 months and the subscriber has been informed that termination without notice would be declared without further reminder in the event of another return debit. Any chargeback and reminder fees shall be borne by the customer in any case. If the termination takes place during the first 12-month period, a flat fee of 20.00 euros will be charged.

8. Loss or destruction

Loss or destruction of the SchokoTicket must be reported to the transport company without undue delay. The originally issued SchokoTicket will then be blocked in the transport company's customer file. A corresponding note will also be forwarded to the central block list of the VRR. A lost or destroyed SchokoTicket will be replaced for a fee of 10.00 Euro. A fee of 20.00 Euro (including a handling fee of 10.00 Euro) will be charged for any additional replacement issue within the 12-month contract period.

In the event of loss or destruction of the SchokoTicket, the transport company shall not accept any liability for damage incurred by the subscriber due to their inability to use any other benefits generated by the SchokoTicket in addition to the transport service (e.g. the electronic wallet). Compensation for such benefits by the transport company shall be excluded.

9. Change of residence

The account holder, the subscriber and, if applicable, the legal representative are obligated to notify the transport company of a change of residence without undue delay. This shall require text form. Written form is also permitted.

10. Refunds

Refunds of transport charges due to non-utilisation are not possible. Item 15.4 of the VRR tariff provisions shall not be affected by this.

11. Data protection regulations

By entering into the subscription contract, the transport company acquires the right to collect, store, and use personal data resulting from the contractual relationship, its termination, or its amendment. This takes place in order to enable ticket checks by transport companies participating in the electronic fare management procedure.

Irrespective of this, the transport company shall provide VRR AöR with data on blocking of the ticket due to reported loss, expiry, or change of the contractual relationship or subscriber actions in breach of contract. The transport companies connected to the electronic fare management system have access to this information.

The following data will be transmitted: Card number, identifier of the issuing transport company, ticket type, date of issue, association identifier, start date of blocking, end of blocking if applicable. No personal data will be forwarded.