Varsity Sports – Authentication/CDN Services

Prepared by: Hsuan-Jun Lin

Date: Oct 12, 2025

Related Task: #68 Collect Pricing Data

https://tree.taiga.io/project/jaskirat-007-varsity-sports/task/68

Objective:

Est. monthly authentication costs based on user scale & provider pricing models.

- Fit within the sponsor's budget (around $100/month total for all services)

- Support 1 paid login / subscriber **(prevent account sharing)**

- Integrate smoothly with planned **streaming**, **storage**, and **database** components

- Offer reasonable scalability and developer-friendly APIs

Sponsor Context:

- ★ Set up a livestream option with a paywall that only allows 1 paid login / subscriber.

- ★ We will stream around 2 games/week & store them for on-demand access (each ~8-9 GB)

Pricing Assumption:

- **Estimated 100 active subscribers**

- **Around 1,000 monthly logins**

- **Target cost under $20 for authentication**

Pricing Overview:

Supabase: Pricing & Fees | Supabase

Free Plan
Cost: $0/month

Includes:

- ✅ Up to **50,000 Monthly Active Users (MAU)**
- ✅ **Unlimited API requests**
- ✅ **500 MB database** (shared)
- ✅ **5 GB egress + 5 GB cached egress**
- ✅ **1 GB file storage**
- ✅ **Community support**

Limitations:

- ❌ Projects paused after **1 week of inactivity**
- ❌ **No email support** (community only)
- ❌ Limited compute and resource scaling (shared CPU, 500 MB RAM)
- ❌ Only **2 active projects** allowed

Ideal For:

- Early development, demos, or small-scale MVP testing.
- Low concurrency (under ~100 active users).

Pro Plan (Most Popular)
Cost: Starts at $25/month

Includes:

- ✅ **100,000 MAU**, then $0.00325 per extra MAU

- ✅ **8 GB database** (expandable at $0.125/GB)

- ✅ **250 GB egress + 250 GB cached egress**

- ✅ **100 GB file storage** (expandable at $0.021/GB)

- ✅ **Daily backups (7-day retention)**

- ✅ **Email support**

- ✅ **7-day log retention**

Ideal For:

- Production-level apps with consistent traffic.

- Small teams ready to launch publicly or manage real users.

- When you need uptime reliability and email support.

Recommendation
For current sprint 2 and scale, Supabase Free Plan is fully sufficient.

Transition to Pro Plan ($25/mo) once the **livestream feature is deployed** and you expect real users/subscribers.

Clerk: Pricing

Free Plan
Cost: $0/month

Includes:

- ✅ Up to **10,000 Monthly Active Users (MAU)**

- ✅ **No credit card required**

- ✅ **No charge for inactive sign-ups**

- ✅ **Pre-built authentication components**

- ✅ **Custom domain support**

Limitations:

- ❌ No "remove Clerk branding" option

- ❌ No email or premium support

- ❌ Some advanced session and admin tools unavailable

Ideal For:

- MVPs, prototypes, and early testing

- Front-end heavy apps (Next.js, React) needing quick login setup

- Small projects with under 10k active users

Pro Plan
Cost: $25/month + $0.02 per MAU (first 10,000 free)

Includes:

- ✅ Remove Clerk branding

- ✅ Allowlist/blocklist controls

- ✅ Customizable session duration

- ✅ Access to advanced settings

- ✅ Priority support

Recommendation
Clerk **Free Plan** is ideal for development and early launch stages.

Upgrade to **Pro Plan ($25/mo)** later for production polish or when you want to remove branding and gain finer session control.

AWS Cognito: [Amazon Cognito - Pricing](#)

Free Tier
Cost: $0/month

Includes:

- ✅ **50,000 Monthly Active Users (MAU)** for user authentication (first 12 months)

- ✅ **50 MAU** for external identity providers (e.g., Google, Apple)

- ✅ **Unlimited API calls** within the MAU limits

- ✅ **Integration with AWS ecosystem** (Lambda, API Gateway, CloudFront, S3)

Limitations:

- ❌ After 12 months, free tier expires → usage billed per MAU

- ❌ Setup and maintenance complexity higher than other SaaS providers

- ❌ No built-in "session limit" feature — must implement via Lambda or custom logic

Ideal For:

- Teams already using **AWS** for backend or streaming (S3, CloudFront, MediaConvert)

- Projects that want deep AWS integration and scalability

Paid Usage

Cost Formula:

- $0.0055 per **MAU** beyond free tier

- $0.015 per MAU for social (federated) logins

- $0.015 per MAU for advanced security features (adaptive authentication, compromised credentials check)

Recommendation
AWS Cognito's **Free Tier** is excellent for initial production testing, especially if you already use AWS for storage and streaming.

However, setup and maintenance are more complex compared to Supabase or Clerk.

==Auth0:== [Pricing - Auth0](#)

Free Plan
==Cost: $0/month==

Includes:

- ✅ Up to **25,000 Monthly Active Users (MAU)**

- ✅ Any type of application (web, mobile, API)

- ✅ **Custom domain** support (*requires credit card verification*)

- ✅ **Passwordless login** (SMS, email, Passkey, OTP)

- ✅ **Unlimited social connections** (Google, Facebook, Apple, etc.)

- ✅ Up to **5 organizations** per project

- ✅ **Single Sign-On (SSO)** using Okta

- ✅ **Basic attack protection**

- ✅ **Community support**

Limitations:

- ❌ No advanced features like MFA (multi-factor authentication) or RBAC (role-based access control)

- ❌ No SLA or production-level support

- ❌ Limited to one environment (no production/dev split)

Ideal For:

- Development, testing, and small-scale internal apps.

- Projects where branding or enterprise integrations are not yet required.

Essentials Plan
Cost: **$35**/month (includes 500 MAU)

Includes:

- ✅ Everything in Free Plan, plus:

    - Multi-Factor Authentication (OTP, Duo)

    - Role-Based Access Control (RBAC)

    - Support for **10 organizations**

    - Stream logs to external systems (Datadog, AWS, Azure, etc.)

    - Separate **Production & Development environments**

    - Standard technical support

Additional Cost:

- ⚙️ Charges increase if MAU > 500 (custom pricing tiers apply).

Recommendation
Auth0 is **feature-rich and enterprise-ready**, but its **Essentials Plan** starts at a higher cost compared to alternatives.

Best used if you need **advanced authentication and SSO** integration, not for budget-limited environments.

SuperTokens: Pricing & Features for SuperTokens

Free Plan
Cost: $0/month (self-managed)

Includes:

- ✅ Core authentication and session management

- ✅ Passwordless login, email/password, social logins

- ✅ "1 active session per user" control via custom backend logic

- ✅ Works with any database (PostgreSQL, MySQL, etc.)

- ✅ Integrates with Stripe through backend webhook customization

Limitations:

- ❌ You must **host and maintain your own server**

- ❌ No automatic scaling, logging, or backups

- ❌ No built-in dashboard (manual configuration required)

Ideal For:

- Developers who prefer full control

- Projects that can handle server management or use a small VPS

- Cost-sensitive environments willing to self-host

Managed Service (Cloud)
Cost: Starts at $29/month for 5,000 MAU

Includes:

- ✅ Fully hosted by SuperTokens

- ✅ Automatic updates and monitoring

- ✅ Hosted dashboard with analytics

- ✅ Email support

Limitations:

- ⚙️ Advanced features like multi-region support or SSO require custom plans

- 💰 Pricing scales with MAU (more costly than self-hosting)

Recommendation

SuperTokens is the most customizable option — **great for developers who want control** and **no recurring platform fees**.

For simplicity and cost control, **self-hosting** is recommended until scaling or monitoring becomes a priority.