

Thorndale ISD



Athletic Policy

2011-2012

REVISED August 4, 2009

The Thorndale Independent School district is committed to producing a wholesome, competitive athletic program that emphasizes the importance of academics, sportsmanship, and citizenship. The Athletic Program should be a source of pride to participants, staff, parents, and community. Accordingly, everyone directly or indirectly involved must do his or her part to assure the success of the program.

GUIDELINES:

1. Student Athletes are expected to achieve academically to the best of their abilities. In the order to be eligible academically, students must meet the current UIL and TEA guidelines.
2. Student Athletes are expected to demonstrate legal and acceptable behavior at all times. Any unacceptable and/or illegal behavior will be subject to disciplinary action (see the list of consequences and The Student Code of Conduct). Thorndale Athletes must remember that they represent themselves, their school, their coaches, their parents, and their community 24 hours a day.
3. Student Athletes are expected to promote team attitudes at all times including riding the bus to and from games, sitting together before and after games, and eating together when the opportunity presents itself. Extenuating circumstances will be dealt with on an individual basis.
4. Student Athletes are expected to be dressed and groomed appropriately. Earrings (boys), piercings, facial hair, unusual hair styles (which includes unusual color, carvings, symbols, or styles-length, ponytails (boys) will be considered unacceptable. Minimum hair guidelines for boys: off the collar, no longer than mid ear, and above the eyebrows. Tattoos must be covered, permanent or temporary (obscene or lewd markings are prohibited). Any clothing that inappropriately references alcohol, drugs, or sex are all considered unacceptable. There will be no participation in athletics until the conflict is resolved. (Note, there are no exceptions for the piercing rule. Athletes should take into consideration the timing for new piercings). Minimum guidelines for travel appearance: appropriate dress. Headwear, if permitted, is restricted to Thorndale gear only.
5. Student Athletes are expected to be on time and to participate in all practices and games. In the event of illness, injury, or unusual circumstances, Student Athletes are expected to let their coaches know of the problem in advance. Student Athletes are expected to be on time and are expected to attend all games and practices whether participating or not. Unusual circumstances should be cleared through the coaches.

Student Athletes are expected to practice and play if they are capable. Doctors' notes will be strictly enforced. An athlete under a doctor's supervision must have a doctor's release or notification from a parent of the release before the athlete can perform again.

6. Student Athletes are expected to be responsible for all equipment provided by the school.
7. In the event of a conflict of activities, the following guidelines should be followed:
 - A. School related activities should come first.
 - B. Sponsors of conflicting school activities must be given sufficient notice by students in order to work out the best solution.
 - C. When multiple activities are involved, students will be asked to declare a primary activity. Students are then obligated to attend all practices and games for their primary selection before attending secondary activities. (District games and playoffs excluded). Coaches may work out other arrangements if mutually acceptable

Drug, Alcohol, Tobacco Position

The coaching staff is committed to the belief that the use of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs, including steroids and other similar substances, (excluding prescribed physician medications), are

detrimental towards athletic performance. The staff in no way endorses or condones the use of any illegal substance. Student athletes will be provided information regarding the dangers and consequences of using such materials. Participation in Thorndale athletics constitutes an agreement by athletes to remain drug, tobacco, and alcohol free during all phases of eligibility including vacations and summer breaks.

8. Student Athletes are prohibited from using or being in possession of tobacco, tobacco products, alcohol, or illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia. The MINIMUM penalty will be:
First Offense: Game suspension(s) (football, CC, tennis, golf, track 1 contest: basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball 2 contests; 20 miles within 1 week (M-S), maximum 5 miles per day. No participation until running is completed. Unusual circumstances will be reviewed.
Second Offense: Game suspension(s) (football, CC, tennis, golf, track 4 contests; basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball 8 contests; 40 miles within 4 weeks (M-S), maximum 5 miles per day. No participation until running is completed. Unusual circumstances will be reviewed.
Third Offense: 1 year participation suspension. Athletes will remain in the athletic period as long as they continue to work and maintain an appropriate attitude.
 - An athlete may request to be heard before a review committee after 6 months to evaluate the athlete's progress. The committee will have the authority to reinstate the athlete if it is determined to be in the best interest of both the student and the athletic program.

Offenses carry over from the seventh grade to the eighth grade, and then from ninth to twelfth.

Each case will be reviewed to determine unusual circumstances and facts.

When ticketed by an officer of the law, athletes will be subject to the applicable offense immediately upon discovery. Should the athlete have the charge dismissed by a legal authority, the recorded offense will be dropped from the athletic records.

Voluntary Participation: Any student athlete wishing to voluntarily participate in a substance abuse program, who has not been discovered to be in violation of the policy, may do so by contacting the athletic director and/or faculty or staff. The student athlete will not be subject to disciplinary action under these circumstances.

9. In order to letter, athletes must meet the following criteria: Athletes should participate at the varsity level for at least 50% of the season, attend practice on a regular basis, and contribute to the team as needed to the best of their abilities. The final decision will be that of the head coach of each sport. The policy is designed to allow athletes, regardless of their athletic skill level, to letter in recognition of their contributions to the program.
10. If an athlete quits a sport, all awards are automatically forfeited for that sport. To reenter that sport, athletes must have approval from the coaching staff. Athletes may not participate in the next sport, unless mutually agreed upon by the coaches, until the prior sport is finished.
11. Student athletes are expected to enroll in the appropriate athletic period during the school day. In addition, student athletes are expected to participate in all pertinent off-season programs.
12. Student athletes should understand that participation on an athletic team is a privilege and not a requirement. Accordingly, athletes must be willing to sacrifice individual accolades and considerations for the good of the team. Teams will not be successful where jealousy or selfishness reign. Athletes must accept the attitude that the team comes first.
13. Student athletes are prohibited from taking part in any type of hazing and/or initiation activities of any type at any time anywhere. Each case will be handled on an individual basis; based on the facts and severity of the situation, consequences may include any and all listed consequences including a permanent expulsion from athletics.
14. Athletes who remain ineligible for 2 consecutive grading periods may be removed from athletics *and/or the current sport (and placed in off-season)* at the discretion of the coaching staff.

15. Hazing of any kind is expressly forbidden. Hazing, initiations, etc. can include any physical, psychological, emotional, and/or verbal abuse.

16. Game competition for sports can begin according to the UIL calendar. Every attempt should be made to fulfill the schedule of games, if a team has enough players, a coach is available, and there is no conflict with another sport's district/playoff games. In the event of a conflict, an attempt should be made to change the date or time of a game to allow participation. If game dates or times cannot be changed then the game/tournament should be cancelled.

In the event of any infractions of the athletic policies, student athletes will be subject to one or more of the following consequences. Every effort will be made to treat each athlete in a fair, consistent manner after all circumstances are considered. Athletes are expected to inform their parents of any disciplinary actions.

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Removal from athletics
Removal from team
Conference with or without parents
Physical exercise
Work crew
Removal from practice
Suspension from game full or partial

Parents and fans:

In order for the program to be effective, it is imperative that the adult support group be in accord. The student athletes must hear and observe consistent remarks and behaviors that reinforce the above guidelines. Parents, staff, and fans should make every effort to:

- A. Support all student athletes through attendance and positive remarks, and be exhibiting positive role model behaviors while in the presence of athletes.
- B. Respect officials under all circumstances
- C. Respect coaches and school personnel. In the event of a problem, use good judgement and good timing. It is not advisable to meet with a coach directly after a contest. Set up a conference the next day. Go directly to the coach in charge as a first step.
- D. Remember that the rewards of participation are realized long after athletes have finished their high school efforts.
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- F. Remember that student athletes (teenagers) are doing their very best.
- G. Promote healthy, legal behaviors.

Please return to Athletic Office

I have received/read a copy of the Athletic Policy and whether directly or indirectly, will do my part to assure the success of the program.

Policy is available at:

<http://www.thorndale.txed.net/Uploads/115/misc/Update8-4-091.pdf>

Parent or Guardian's Signature

Athlete's Signature

Date