

**THURGOOD MARSHALL
ACADEMY
PUBLIC CHARTER HIGH
SCHOOL**

**ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT
HANDBOOK
2015-2016**

Executive Director
Richard Pohlman

Athletic Director
Michele Thompson

Thurgoodmarshallacademy.org

Welcome to Thurgood Marshall Academy Department of Athletics.

The education students receive at Thurgood Marshall Academy extends far beyond the classroom. Our athletes compete on teams in the Public Charter School Athletic Association and hosts opponents in our recently renovated, state-of-the-art athletic center.

Our expectation of excellence and our steadfast commitment to the success of each student are at the heart of our success at Thurgood Marshall Academy. Our Athletic Department is committed to the successful balance of academic and athletic success. In this handbook, you will find many of the goals and expectations of our athletic program. This information should serve as a guiding force and valuable resource for all student athletes as well as provide tools for achieving academic success.

Mission Statement

Thurgood Marshall Academy is committed to the development of the entire student. The Athletic Department's goal is to help each student reach his/her potential and provide student athletes with an opportunity to compete successfully in our athletic program. At TMA, athletics is an integral part of the student's educational experience. We expect that all students who choose to participate on an athletic team will make a sincere commitment to the team. Therefore, commitment to oneself, team, sport and Thurgood Marshall Academy is essential for success.

Objectives

- To provide growth opportunities for students who seek a competitive interscholastic athletic experience
- To develop improved health and physical fitness through a broad range of activities and sports including interscholastic competition
- To provide successful competitive athletic opportunities
- To develop qualities of sportsmanship and fair play while striving for excellence in a competitive environment
- To provide student-athletes with support systems to promote academic success and on-time graduation
- To develop and improve physical skills and abilities and develop an understanding of the basic rules and concepts of various sports
- To provide equal programs and equal opportunities for participation for both genders
- To respect all members of our community and instill values of commitment, discipline, teamwork and cooperation

SPORT OFFERINGS 2015-2016

FALL

- Girls' Varsity Volleyball
- Co-ed Varsity Flag Football
- Co-ed Varsity Cross Country

WINTER

- Co-ed Cheer
- Co-ed Indoor Track
- Girls' Varsity Basketball
- Boys' Varsity Basketball
- Boys' JV Basketball

SPRING

- Co-ed Track and Field
- Co-ed Ultimate Frisbee
- Co-ed Swim

Practice Expectations/Rules Expectations of Athletes

All Thurgood Marshall Academy Athletes are expected to:

- Attend all games and practices on time
- Display respectful and appropriate behavior toward teammates, coaches opponents, officials, managers, and all others associated with the sport
- Be responsible for the care and return of equipment and uniforms
- Report injuries to the coach or Athletic Director ASAP

-

Expectations of Parents

All parents of Thurgood Marshall Academy athletes are expected to demonstrate positive support for the athletes, coaches, and TMA's athletic program including policies and team rules.

We appreciate positive cheering, but ask that parents refrain from interfering or interacting with athletes or coaches from either team before, during or after competitions.

Any parent with concerns or questions relating to their child's athletic experience should make an appointment to speak with the coach privately. If necessary, the parent should contact the Athletic Director for follow up. We expect that all parents will show exemplary sportsmanship in true Warrior spirit.

Pre Participation

Before a student is deemed eligible to participate in interscholastic athletic competitions or practices, they must submit to the Athletic Director the specific forms/documents. These forms can be found on the school website, under the athletics tab. **Thurgoodmarshallacademy.org**

PARTICIPATION

Definition of “Participation.” A student shall be considered as having participated if he/she is in uniform in an interscholastic contest between organized teams or individuals of different schools.

May Represent One School. A student may represent only one (1) school in the same sport during a school year.

Varsity Competition. A student who has participated in varsity competition in a sport during a school year shall be ineligible to participate in junior varsity competition in the same sport in the same year.

Athletic Eligibility

Generally, only students who are enrolled in Thurgood Marshall Academy are eligible to participate in the TMA athletic program. However, students who attend a charter school in which a desired sport is not offered may participate in such sports on a team at another charter school, with the final approval of the LEA'S Executive Director/Principal.

Limit of Eligibility

A student is eligible to participate in regular season, playoff, or championship interscholastic athletic contests for a maximum of **eight (8) semesters in grades nine (9) through twelve (12)**

A student who reaches nineteen (19) years old on or before August 1st of the school year in which he/she wishes to compete in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) is not eligible to participate in the high school athletics program.

Academic Requirements

All students must have a grade point average of at least **2.0** to participate in athletics. The GPA shall be calculated from the term or final semester grades preceding the sport season in which the student wishes to participate.

Summer school courses shall be used with the final grades earned at the end of the year to calculate a new end of the year GPA. A student may not replace any grade with a summer school course.

A student who is academically eligible or ineligible shall remain in that status for a period of one term. Change in eligibility status shall occur on the day report cards are issued. A student who becomes ineligible at the change of a term may no longer participate with the team regardless of the number of contests remaining in the season.

Exception - First Semester in High School. Students entering the 9th grade for the first time shall be academically eligible for the first term of high school attendance. The student must meet the academic requirements to be eligible for the next term.

Eligibility

Students must have a **2.0** grade point average to participate in any athletic program. The student must maintain minimum progress toward meeting the high school graduation requirements as prescribed by *TMA school policy and the Public Charter School Athletic Association*. Student athletes must maintain a minimum Grade Point Average of **2.0** each quarter to remain eligible.

The coaching staff will make periodic grade checks throughout the season. The student-athlete must maintain a **2.0** Grade Point Average throughout the season. If the student athlete's GPA falls below a **2.0**, he, she will be subject to restriction and/or practice as set forth by the Athletic Department.

Student Athlete Code of Conduct

Student Athlete Conduct Policy Statement

Student athletes at Thurgood Marshall Academy are expected to represent themselves, their team and the school with honesty, integrity, and character whether it be academically, athletically or socially. Participation on an athletic team is a privilege, not a right, and should be treated as such. Participation has many benefits and brings with it responsibility to be positive and effective members of the team, school, and community.

The Athletic Department, along with the student athletes who represent our programs is a window to TMA. Student athletes often are in the spotlight and your behavior is subject to scrutiny by your peers, fellow team members, members of the school and community. The actions of one student athlete may result in a generalization of all student athletes and reflects on the individual team and school.

It is expected that all student athletes abide by all team and school policies/code of conduct.

Team Selection

All athletes will be given a fair opportunity to make the team through an open tryout period as determined by the Head Coach. Final roster decisions are based on several components, including number of students trying out and all around attributes.

Team size is determined by the coaching staff and athletic administration. All candidates, including returning players must earn a spot on the roster.

Eligibility

Students must have a **2.0** grade point average to participate in any athletic program. The student must be maintaining minimum progress toward meeting the high school graduation requirements as prescribed by *TMA school policy and the Public Charter School Athletic Association*. Student athletes must maintain a minimum Grade Point Average of **2.0** each quarter to remain eligible.

The coaching staff will make periodic grade checks throughout the season. The student-athlete must maintain a **2.0** Grade Point Average throughout the season. If the student athlete's GPA falls below a **2.0**, he, she will be subject to restriction and/or practice as set forth by the Athletic Department.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The purpose of this procedure is to provide the athlete with a means for resolving conflict with a coach, or team member. Student athletes who wish to become involved in conflict resolution are required to use the following procedures. Concerns should stay focused on specific individual situations. Areas of concern that are NOT appropriate to discuss with coaches are:

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other athletes

If you are experiencing any concern or difficulty associated with your activities as a student athlete, you should discuss your concern with a member of the coaching staff or the team captain (s).

If you are not satisfied after discussion with the coach or captain, or if you decide not to raise your concerns with these individuals, you should take your concerns to the Athletic Director. All concerns must be submitted in writing.

If necessary, concerns will be taken to the appropriate Dean or Academic Director for resolution.

Attendance

In order to participate in practice or games, athletes must be present in school for the entire day, or present an excused absence/tardy pass. Any exceptions can only be approved by the Academic Director.

Games and Practice

Athletes are expected to attend all scheduled practices, games, study halls and meetings. If there is a time where the athlete must miss a session, he/she must be excused by the coach. Notification of absence should be made with a minimum of one day's notice. Unexcused absences will result in the following consequences.

- a. 1st unexcused absence- Warning and conference with coach
- b. 2nd unexcused absence- One game suspension
- c. 3rd unexcused absence - Dismissal from the team

If an athlete is unable to participate in athletics due to injury, but is able to attend school, he/she is expected to attend practice, study hall, team meetings and games. Exceptions may be determined by the Coach and/or Athletic Director.

Uniforms

Each athlete will be issued a team uniform. Athletes will be required to sign a uniform contract which states that he/she will be responsible for the care and upkeep uniform and that the uniform will be returned in good condition. Athletes will be held responsible for the purchase price of lost/damaged uniforms.

Athletes are required to return uniforms immediately (within two days) of the end of each season. Failure to do so will result in the athlete receiving a uniform detention and bill for the cost of the uniform.

