

Subject::	Interscholastic Athletics
Date Proposed:	9/11/96
Date Approved:	12/19/96
Date Amended:	7/22/99
Committee of Origin:	Athletic

THORNTON ACADEMY
POLICY AND PROCEDURE HANDBOOK

Thornton Academy wants you to be a healthy individual. So in addition to the school's wellness curriculum, Thornton provides extensive opportunities for you to participate in interscholastic athletics. We encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities during your high school career.

The interscholastic athletics program has the following purposes:

- To encourage students of all skill levels to participate in extracurricular athletics.
- To provide sufficient opportunities for students to develop individual playing abilities.
- To teach the fundamentals and technique of each sport.
- To encourage school and team spirit.
- To foster pride, sportsmanship and ethical behavior.
- To maintain a good relationship between teams, the school and the community.

Your participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege, not a right. You must meet all pupil eligibility requirements of the Maine Principals' Association and abide by all of the rules set forth in Thornton Academy's interscholastic athletics policy.

1. Academic Eligibility

In order to be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics you must have passed during the first, second or third quarters the equivalent of four one-credit subjects. However, in the fourth quarter you must pass the equivalent of four one-credit subjects and accumulate four credits toward graduation in order to participate in fall athletics.

Your eligibility may be restored by passing the equivalent of four one-credit subjects the following quarter.

The only exception to this policy occurs after the fourth quarter when you can regain eligibility by attending summer school or by taking correspondence courses that are approved by the Thornton Academy Guidance Department.

The intent of this eligibility rule is to ensure that your participation in interscholastic athletics does not interfere with your academics.

2. Injuries

You and your parent/guardian should be aware that practicing or playing any sport can be dangerous and involves the risk of injury. Before you try out, practice or participate, you must have a physical exam and you and your parent/guardian must sign and return Thornton's interscholastic athletics permission slip.

Because of the potential risks associated with participating in interscholastic athletics, you must recognize the importance of carefully following coaches' instructions regarding playing and training techniques.

If you are injured and you receive professional care for an athletic injury, you must have written permission from your doctor to once again participate in your sport.

3. Insurance

Your own medical policy is your primary insurance. In the event that you do not have primary coverage, twenty four hour insurance coverage is available for a fee. Applications can be obtained from the school nurse, coach or activities director. Thornton Academy is not responsible for medical expenses which are not reimbursed by insurance.

4. Attendance

Attendance at all practices and games is mandatory unless you are excused by the coach or your doctor. In order to practice or participate in a game, you must attend school the day of the practice or game. You are expected to be in school on time. If you are tardy, you must have a valid excuse and you must arrive by the end of Block 2 (10:43 a.m.) to practice or participate in a game.

Any form of suspension, whether in school or off campus, makes you ineligible to practice or play during your entire suspension.

5. Equipment

Equipment will be worn only when practicing for or participating in the sport for which it was issued. Quitting a sport requires immediate return of all borrowed equipment. You are expected to pay Thornton Academy in a timely manner for any damaged or lost equipment.

6. Away-Contests

Whether you are an athlete or a team manager, you must ride to and from away-contests in transportation supplied by Thornton Academy, except in cases specifically approved in advance by the Student Activities Director and/or coach. You are expected to be neatly dressed for traveling to away-contests.

7. Disciplinary Problems

- A. If you are involved in serious or frequent violations of Thornton Academy's disciplinary rules, as judged by your referrals to the appropriate Dean's office, the Dean may in his or her sound judgment impose sanctions that affect or even prohibit your participation in interscholastic athletics. These sanctions are above and beyond the sanctions in the Defined Discipline Procedure Addendum, which is contained in the student policy folder handed out at the beginning of the school year.
- B. The school may also impose penalties if, during a practice or a game, you use vulgar or abusive language or gesture toward a teammate, opponent, official, coach or spectator. Although the penalty will vary depending upon the seriousness of the offense, the following is a general guide:
- First offense – a warning (a copy of which is mailed to your parent/guardian).
 - Second offense – suspension from one athletic event in that sport.
 - Third offense – suspension from the sport for the remainder of the season.

8. Tobacco Use

It is unlawful in Maine for persons under age 18 to purchase, possess or use cigarettes, cigarette paper or any other tobacco product. It is also unlawful to smoke in public buildings in Maine. And since February 22, 1993, Thornton Academy has prohibited smoking of campus.

Separate from penalties imposed by law enforcement, Thornton imposes penalties for smoking or chewing tobacco on or off campus when your sport is in season. The school enforces this rule because it wants student athletes to be healthy individuals. This rule applies even if you are 18 and can legally smoke tobacco or possess tobacco products off campus. Although the penalty will vary depending upon the seriousness of the offense, the following is a general guide:

- First offense – a warning (a copy of which is mailed to your parent/guardian).
- Second offense – suspension from one athletic event in that sport.
- Third offense – suspension from the sport for the remainder of the season.

9. Use, Possession or Sale of Alcohol and/or Drugs

There are a myriad of laws against the use, possession or sale of alcohol and/or drugs. Separate from penalties imposed by law enforcement, Thornton Academy imposes penalties for the use, possession or sale of alcohol and/or illegal drugs on or off campus. Although the penalty will vary depending upon the seriousness of the offense, the following is a general guide:

- First offense – a 2-week suspension from participation in athletics and use of Thornton Academy's athletic facilities after school. During the 2-week suspension, you must meet with your guidance counselor to discuss the issues related to your use, possession or sale of drugs and/or alcohol.
- Second offense – suspension from participation in interscholastic athletics for the remainder of that sports season and the next sports season.
- Third offense – suspension from participation in interscholastic athletics for one calendar year from the date of infraction.

Depending on the seriousness of the offense, paragraph 10 may come into consideration.

10. Accusation and/or Conviction of a Crime

Separate from penalties imposed by law enforcement, Thornton Academy imposes penalties for being charged with and/or convicted of a crime.

If you are charged with a crime, either a misdemeanor or a felony, you may in the sound judgment of the Headmaster be suspended from participating in interscholastic athletics until you are adjudicated.

If you are convicted of a misdemeanor, you may, in the sound judgment of the Headmaster be suspended from participation in interscholastic athletics for at least one calendar year following your conviction. If you are convicted of a felony, you shall be suspended from participation in interscholastic athletics for at least one calendar year following your conviction. At the end of that calendar year, a meeting will be held by the Headmaster, Associate Head of School, Student Activities Director and a Guidance Department counselor. The Headmaster will then determine your future eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics at Thornton Academy.

11. Quitting or Being Released From the Team

If you make a team roster and then quit the sport or you are released for disciplinary reasons before the end of that season, you relinquish your right to participate in another sport in that season. An appeal may be made to the Student Activities Director should you wish to participate in another sport in that season. The decision of the Student Activities Director shall be final.

12. Appeals Process

An appeals process governs this entire policy, except items 10 and 11.

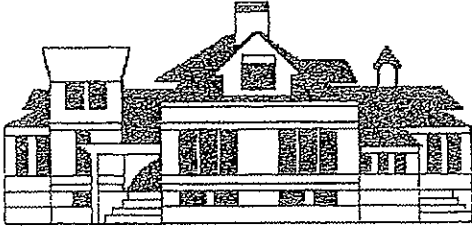
If the penalty is assessed by your coach, appeals must be made in writing, within 5 days of the penalty assessment, to the Student Activities Director. The decision of the Student Activities Director shall be appealed in writing, within 5 days of receipt, to the Headmaster. The decision of the Headmaster on all appeals is final. You remain suspended from participation in interscholastic athletics until all appeals are finalized.

13. Permission

Before you practice or play on a team, you and your parent/guardian must sign the attached permission slip that 1) gives you permission to participate in interscholastic activities; and 2) acknowledges an understanding of Thornton Academy's interscholastic athletics policy and the Maine Principal's Association's pupil eligibility rules. The permission slip must be returned to the Student Activities Director.

14. Additional Regulations

Nothing in this policy is intended to prevent a coach or a school official, in his or her sound judgment, from suspending you from practice or play for reasons other than those listed. Furthermore, you and your parent/guardian should understand that circumstances may necessitate coaches and school officials at any time making additional regulations which govern interscholastic athletics.



THORNTON ACADEMY

POLICY AND PROCEDURE HANDBOOK

Subject:	Hazing
Date Proposed:	12/9/04
Date Approved:	1/13/05
Committee of Origin:	Athletic

Thornton Academy Athletic Department Hazing Statement

Thornton Academy's school mission is to prepare our students for a changing world. Our athletic department strives to develop healthy individuals through proper competition and commitment to athletics.

Hazing has no place in this process. As a result, we will not tolerate any situation created intentionally to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule to any person.

Reported incidents will be investigated promptly and in a manner that protects the rights of the persons filing the complaint, the person complained against, and the school. Student/athletes who participate in such actions will be subject to discipline by the coach and/or school administration.

