



# **THORNAPPLE-KELLOGG ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**

2023-24



# THORNAPPLE KELLOGG ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

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## **I. Introduction**

This athletic handbook is an extension of the Thornapple Kellogg High School Student Handbook and student-athletes are required to adhere to the requirements of both handbooks. This handbook informs our student-athletes and their parents/guardians of the TK athletic rules and policies. It should be understood that the rules set forth are intended to enhance the quality of the experience available through educational athletics by providing a program based on proper discipline and positive values.

## **II. Philosophy of Interscholastic Athletics**

Thornapple Kellogg recognizes the value of an athletic program as an integral part of the total educational program; athletics contribute substantially to the learning experience of students. Interscholastic participation is a privilege, not a right. Our program is designed to provide meaningful learning experiences that fit into the overall educational program. We try to develop young student-athletes to the full extent of their capabilities. We encourage all students to participate in as many different school-sponsored sports as possible throughout the entire school year. Within this framework, the participation of all student-athletes is encouraged, without compromising their competitive nature. Sportsmanship, citizenship, academics, school unity, and pride are greatly enhanced by student participation in school-sponsored activities.

## **III. Objectives of the TK Athletic Program**

1. The student-athlete learns the value of teamwork, self-discipline, development of a strong work ethic, and personal sacrifice. Contribution to the team is more important than personal goals or individual achievement. Building citizenship in our student-athletes is also a key component in the TK athletic program.
2. The student-athlete learns to be a good sport while developing self-control, honesty, and a spirit of cooperation.
3. The student-athlete learns to be a good winner as well as a gracious loser in defeat. Sportsmanship is a critical value that will be a major objective for all TK Athletics.
4. The student-athlete learns to appreciate the skills and abilities of his/her opponent.
5. The student-athlete learns an appreciation of playing by given rules.
6. The student-athlete learns the value of physical fitness that leads to a sound body, healthy mind, and life-long health habits.
7. The student-athlete learns, in a positive manner, to cope with the competitive nature of athletics and society.

## **IV. Eligibility**

The criteria to be eligible to represent Thornapple Kellogg School in interscholastic athletics is as follows:

- **Age** – You must be under 19 years of age at time of contest unless your 19<sup>th</sup> birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year, in which case you are eligible for the balance of that school year.
- **Physical Examination** – You must have passed a satisfactory physical examination for the present school year. Physicals are good after **April 15** of each year. Record of this examination must be on file in the high school athletic office before you begin practice.
- **Previous Semester Record** – A student-athlete must receive credit in at least 5 class periods to be eligible to participate in athletics. Failure to do so will result in ineligibility for the next **semester**, or until credit is restored (see MHSAA policy).
- **Current Semester Record** –
  1. A student must be passing five out of six class periods in order to be eligible to participate in athletics.

2. Athletic academic eligibility will be checked every 3 weeks and will be based on current semester grades. Grades will be checked from Power School on Thursday's and reported to the coaches.
  3. Student-athletes who become ineligible because of academic deficiencies will not be permitted to participate in contests for a period of **1 week** beginning the next Monday through Saturday. The student-athlete must attend every practice session, attend every game, and ride to and from athletic contests on the school-provided transportation during the one-week ineligible period unless excused by the coach. At the end of the week, the student-athlete will have the responsibility to secure a grade from each of his/her teachers\* and if satisfactory, meet with the Athletic Director to regain eligibility. If the grades are unsatisfactory, the student is ineligible until the next athletic academic eligibility check.
- **Attendance** – To participate in an athletic event or practice, a student must be in his/her last 3 periods unless properly pre-excused in the attendance office. Doctor's notes need to be turned in to the athletic office and attendance office **If a student-athlete fails to comply with this policy, a one-day athletic suspension will be enforced upon discovery of the non-compliance.**
  - **Awards** – You must not accept any award for athletic performance other than an emblematic award. The value of an emblematic award may not exceed \$25.00.
  - **Limited Team Membership** – You must not participate in any athletic competition during the season in a sport not under the sponsorship of your high school, after you have represented your school in that sport. The Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) guidelines will be followed.

#### **V. Student-Athlete Code of Conduct**

Representing Thornapple Kellogg School in interscholastic athletic competition is regarded as a **privilege and not a right**. Students who participate in interscholastic athletics while attending TK are expected to represent the highest ideals of character by exemplifying good conduct, good sportsmanship, good citizenship, and good training, which includes abstaining from the use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco. The following code of conduct has been established for all students who aspire to participate in interscholastic athletics while attending Thornapple Kellogg School. **The Student-Athlete Code of Conduct is in effect 12 months a year.**

#### Application of the Code of Conduct

When a student voluntarily participates in interscholastic athletics, he/she agrees to abide by the athletic Code of Conduct throughout his/her athletic career. The Code of Conduct applies to candidates, members, and managers of all athletic teams.

The Code of Conduct begins with a student's first day of participation in interscholastic athletics and continues through their date of graduation or last day of participation, whichever is later. The Code of Conduct is in effect during vacation breaks, summer recess, and off-season times. The student is always under the Code of Conduct from the beginning to the end of their athletic careers.

#### Standards of Conduct

The following behaviors constitute a violation of the Thornapple Kellogg Athletic Code of Conduct and subject the student-athlete to discipline as outlined in the "Penalties" section of the Code of Conduct:

#### GROUP I VIOLATIONS

- A. Use, possession, concealment, distribution, sale, or being under the influence of those substances listed in 1-7 below:
  1. Tobacco or tobacco products in any form including vape and e-cigarettes
  2. Alcohol or alcoholic beverages in any form, including a non-controlled substance, which a person represents to be an alcoholic beverage, or malt beverages labeled as "non-alcoholic" (including but not limited to Sharp's, O'Douls, King's Malt Beverage, Zing Malt Beverage).

3. Illegal drugs, including but not limited to those substances defined as “controlled substances” pursuant to federal and/or state statute
  4. Steroids or other illegal performance-enhancing drugs
  5. Substances purported to be illegal, abusive, or performance-enhancing (“look-alike” drugs)
  6. Misused prescription drugs (misuse of prescription drugs may lead to disciplinary action)
  7. Misused non-prescription drugs or inhalants (misuse of prescription drugs may lead to disciplinary action)
- B. Use, possession, concealment, distribution, manufacture, or sale of devices designed for and/or associated with the use of controlled substances. These include but are not limited to a marijuana pipe, clips, rolling papers, or other devices used to smoke, inhale, or otherwise consume controlled substances.
- C. Violation and conviction of federal, state, or local law/ordinance, including felony or misdemeanor act(s) other than minor traffic offenses.
- D. Lying, or providing false statements, during an investigation of athletic code violations. This can include the student-athlete himself or herself, or another student-athlete.
- E. Theft or failure to return any school-issued uniforms, equipment, or school-owned property.

#### GROUP I PENALTIES

***First Violation:*** Suspension from 25% of the current or next season’s schedule. If the violation occurs with less than 25% of the season left, it will be prorated in the next sport the student-athlete participates. The student-athlete is expected to fulfill all team obligations but may not dress for contests or games. In order to fulfill a suspension, the student-athlete must start and finish the season(s) the suspension is served in “good standing.” In addition, the athlete must complete a substance abuse education program as chosen by the Athletic Director or his/her designee.

***Self-Reporting Policy*** For a first violation of a Group I penalty only, should a student self-report that he/she engaged in conduct that violated the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct, the penalty will be reduced from 25% to 15% of the current or next season’s schedule. The final determination of a reduction of a penalty will be made by the athletic director. Subsequent violations of the Athletic Handbook will be treated as any other repeat violation of the code and the normal penalties for such violations shall be imposed. An additional 10% penalty may be added to a Group I Penalty for dishonesty.

***Second Violation:*** Suspension from athletics for one calendar year. If the student seeks an appropriate, approved program of substance abuse education program and provides written proof of completion of that agency’s requirements, the suspension will be reduced to 50% of the current or next season’s schedule. If the violation occurs with less than 50% of the season left, it will be prorated in the next sport the student-athlete participates. Any expenses incurred for the assessment and/or treatment program will be the responsibility of the student/parent and not Thornapple Kellogg Schools. In order to fulfill a suspension, the student-athlete must start and finish the season(s) the suspension is served in “good standing.”

***Third Violation:*** Termination of participation in the TK Athletic program for the remainder of the student’s athletic career.

### GROUP II VIOLATIONS

- A. Cumulative or gross misconduct, including behavior that school officials consider conduct unbecoming of a student-athlete and a representative of Thornapple Kellogg School.
- B. Violations of the TK Student Handbook which result in a suspension from school.
- C. Violation of any team conduct or training rule established by the coach and approved by the athletic director.

### GROUP II PENALTIES

Violations will be addressed by the Athletic Director and Principal(s) to determine disciplinary action *up to and including removal from said athletic team.*

**\*NOTE: Violations will be cumulative (for a Group I or II penalty) during a student's high school athletic career. Accumulation will begin the first day a student-athlete is enrolled at Thornapple Kellogg High School and will continue throughout their entire high school career.**

### School Suspensions

When a student-athlete is suspended from school, the following guidelines will apply:

***In-School Suspension:*** the student-athlete may not attend any school function, home or away, until the day they have returned back to school in good standing.

***Out-of-School Suspension:*** the student-athlete may not be on school property or attend any school function, home or away until the day they have returned back to school in good standing.

### Investigating Violations

When investigating a code violation, the following procedure will be followed:

- 1) In order for an investigation of a situation, there should be evidence determined sufficient by the athletic director or appropriate administrator (no anonymous letters, notes, e-mails, or phone calls will be accepted).
- 2) A student-athlete will be informed of any charges brought against them.
- 3) A student-athlete will have the right to present any relevant information that will support their defense.
- 4) If a student-athlete is suspended, the parent(s) will be notified in writing by stating the findings of the investigation and action being taken.

### Appeals Process

If the student or parent(s) wish to dispute the decision of the athletic director, this procedure must be followed:

- 1) The student or parent(s) can request a hearing before an Athletic Council within two (2) School Days of the athletic director's ruling. The request must be in writing to the athletic director and contain the reason for the request. If the student has admitted to committing a Code I violation, they are not permitted to appeal the suspension. The athletic council will reach its decision and inform the parents in writing within ten (10) school days of the meeting.
- 2) After an Athletic Council renders its decision, the student or parent(s) can appeal the decision to the principal within two (2) school days of the Athletic Council's ruling. The appeal must be in writing and contain the reason for the appeal. The principal will reach the decision and inform the parents in writing within ten (10) school days after the receipt of the written request.

- 3) After the principal renders his/her decision, the student or parent(s) can appeal the decision to the superintendent or designee within two (2) School days of the principal's ruling. The superintendent will reach the decision and inform the parents in writing within ten (10) school days after the receipt of the written request.
- 4) The Superintendent's decision shall be considered final. The parents may appeal to the Board only in cases of alleged violation of due process (Policy 5611) by the Superintendent. In such cases, the appeal shall be made in writing to the Board President within two (2) school days after the parents' receipt of the decision and shall include a statement of the alleged violation of the policy. The Board shall notify the parents of its decision within ten (10) school days of receipt of the written request.

\*During the appeals process, the student may not participate in games or contests until the issue at hand is completely resolved.

#### Athletic Council Procedure

In the event of the need for an Athletic Council Hearing, the following procedure will be followed for creating said council:

- 1) The Athletic Council will consist of six (6) members, selected by the Athletic Director from a pool of Thornapple Kellogg High School staff. The Council will be chaired by the Assistant or designee.
- 2) The Athletic Director will present the facts surrounding the incident, make a recommendation to the Council, and answer any questions regarding past practice, other facts pertinent to the incident, etc.
- 3) The charged student will give his/her disposition regarding the incident.
- 4) The Athletic Council will deliberate in a private setting, with the ability to consult the Athletic Director as needed. At this time, the Athletic Council will render a decision.

#### VI. N.C.A.A.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), an organization founded in 1906 that has established rules on eligibility, recruiting, and financial aid, regulates many college sports. The NCAA has three membership divisions – Division I, Division II, and Division III. Institutions are members of one or another division according to the size and scope of their athletic programs and whether they provide athletic scholarships.

If you are planning to enroll in college and you wish to participate in Division I or Division II sports, you must be certified by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse will analyze your academic information and determine if you meet the NCAA's initial-eligibility requirements.

To be certified by the Clearinghouse, you must:

1. Graduate from high school – You should apply for certification before graduation. If you appear to meet NCAA requirements, the Clearinghouse will issue a preliminary certification report. After you graduate, the Clearinghouse will review your final transcript to make a final certification decision.
2. Earn a grade-point average of at least 2.00 (on a 4.00 scale) in a core curriculum of at least 13 academic courses taken during grades 9 through 12, including at least:
  - a. 4 years of English
  - b. 3 years of Math
  - c. 2 years of Social Science
  - d. 2 years of Natural or Physical Science (including at least one laboratory class, if offered by the high school)
  - e. 1 Additional Year of English, Math or Natural/Physical Science
  - f. 4 years of Additional Academic Courses
3. Earn a core-course GPA of at least 2.300
4. It is your responsibility to make sure the Clearinghouse has the documents it needs to certify you. These documents are:
  - a. Your completed and signed Student Release Form and fee

- b. Your official high school transcript
- c. Your ACT and SAT scores

## **VII. Potential Dangers In Athletic Participation**

Parents and student-athletes should fully understand and appreciate the risk of injury associated with participation in sports programs provided by Thornapple Kellogg Schools. Athletic activities can be hazardous and taking part in such activities involves risk-taking on the part of the student-athlete and the parents. While reducing injuries to a minimum is a goal of our coaches and administration, the possibility of injuries still exists.

## **VIII. Athletic Injuries and Insurance**

Athletics is a voluntary program in which students participate at their own risk. Insurance provided by the school may cover medical costs not covered under a family's own insurance. Anytime a student-athlete is injured while participating in athletics, he/she must be sure that the coach or trainer fills out an accident report. Please make sure all procedures are followed. Thornapple Kellogg Schools do not assume financial responsibility for medical, hospital, or ambulance expenses incurred because of athletic injuries.

## **MHSAA PROTOCOL FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL FEDERATION SPORTS PLAYING RULES FOR CONCUSSIONS**

“Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health care professional.” The language above, which appears in all National Federation sports rule books, reflects a strengthening of rules regarding the safety of athletes suspected of having a concussion. This language reflects an increasing focus on safety and acknowledges that the vast majority of concussions do not involve a loss of consciousness. This protocol is intended to provide the mechanics to follow during the course of contests when an athlete sustains an apparent concussion.

1. The officials will have no role in determining concussion other than the obvious one where a player is either unconscious or apparently unconscious. Officials will merely point out to a coach that a player is apparently injured and advise that the player should be examined by a healthcare professional for an exact determination of the extent of injury.
2. If it is confirmed by the school's designated health care professional that the student did not sustain a concussion, the head coach may so advise the officials during an appropriate stoppage of play and the athlete may re-enter competition pursuant to the contest rules.
3. Otherwise, if competition continues while the athlete is withheld for an apparent concussion, that athlete may not be returned to competition that day but is subject to the return to play protocol.
  - a. The clearance may not be on the same date on which the athlete was removed from play.
  - b. Only an M.D., D.O., Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner may clear the individual to return to activity.
  - c. The clearance must be in writing and must be unconditional. It is not sufficient that the M.D., D.O., Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner has approved the student to begin a return-to-play progression. The medical examiner must approve the student's return to unrestricted activity.
  - d. Individual school, districts and leagues may have more stringent requirements and protocols including but not limited to mandatory periods of inactivity, screening and post-concussion testing prior or after to the written clearance for return to activity.
4. Following the contest, an Officials Report shall be filed with a removed player's school and the MHSAA if the situation was brought to the officials' attention.
5. Member schools are required to complete and submit an online report designated by the MHSAA to record and track head injury events when they occur in all levels of all sports during the season in practices and competitions. Schools with no concussions for a season (fall, winter and spring) are required to report this at the conclusion of that season.
6. In cases where an assigned MHSAA tournament physician (MD/DO/PA/NP) is present, his or her decision to not allow an athlete to return to activity may not be overruled.
7. Prior to returning to physical activity (practice or competition) the student and parent (if a minor student) must complete the Post-Concussion Consent Form. This form must be kept on file at the school and emailed to [concussion@mhsaa.com](mailto:concussion@mhsaa.com) or faxed to 517-332-4071.



## SANCTIONS FOR NONCOMPLIANCE WITH CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT POLICY

Following are the consequences for not complying with National Federation and MHSAA rules when players are removed from play because of a concussion:

- A concussed student is ineligible to return to any athletic meet or contest on the same day the concussion is sustained.
- A concussed student is ineligible to enter a meet or contest on a subsequent day without the written authorization of an M.D., D.O., Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner and the MHSAA-designated "Post-Concussion Return to Activity Consent Form also signed by the student and parent." These students are considered ineligible players and any meet or contest which they enter is forfeited. In addition, that program is placed on probation through that sport season of the following school year. For a second offense in that sport during the probationary period – that program is continued on probation through that sport season of the following school year and not permitted to participate in the MHSAA tournament in that sport during the original and extended probationary period.

## PUBLIC ACTS 342 AND 343 (2012) CONCUSSION AWARENESS IN NON-MHSAA SPORTS ACTIVITIES

The law mandates that the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) establish a concussion awareness website for youth sports sponsoring organizations (including schools) with educational material in non-MHSAA sports activities including physical education, intramurals, out-of-season activities, as well as out-of-season camps or clinics. Adult coaches must complete a one-time designated online concussion awareness course and the sponsoring organization maintains a record of completion. Students and parents must review concussion material and the organization maintain an acknowledgment of this material until age 18 or the student discontinues the activity. Participants with a suspected concussion must be withheld from the activity and evaluated by an appropriate health care provider and not be returned to activity until written approval is provided by an appropriate health care provider. For MHSAA practices and competition, an MD or DO must provide written return to play. See MHSAA Concussion Protocol on Page 111. \*\*\*The MDCH Website is accessible through MHSAA.com Health & Safety Page or directly at [michigan.gov/sportsconcussion](http://michigan.gov/sportsconcussion)

### **IX. School Attendance & Athletics**

To participate in an athletic event or practice, a student must be in his/her **entire** last 3 periods of the day unless properly pre-excused in the attendance office. **If a student-athlete fails to comply with this policy, a one-contest (game, meet, match) athletic suspension will be enforced upon discovery of the non-compliance.**

### **X. Participation**

**Participation on TK athletic teams is a privilege and not a right.** Membership on a TK team is to be earned by continuously adhering to the standards of conduct, both in and out of school.

***Middle School*** – Participation in Middle School Athletics is an introduction to interscholastic sports. Skill development, sportsmanship, and team philosophy are important goals at this level. TKMS will attempt to provide the opportunity to participate in sports to as many students as possible, however, because of possible physical and financial restrictions; team size may need to be limited. Playing time is guaranteed to all eligible team members during each contest, but not equally.

***Freshman Teams*** – (Tryouts are open to freshmen only). TK begins here to instill the **Pride, Class, and Tradition** of TK Trojan Athletics. The building of teamwork, character, enthusiasm, spirit, team unity, athletic skills/fundamentals, sportsmanship, and citizenship as well as learning to have fun in a competitive setting are the main focus at this level. Every attempt will be made to give each team member playing time, but playing time will not be equal for each player.

***JV Teams*** – This is a transition year between the freshman and varsity competition. The level of intensity at practice, as well as in the contests, will be increased. The commitment and dedication to the team and sport also must be increased at this level. The student-athlete will be given the opportunity to earn his/her playing time through the demonstration of his/her increased skills at practice and dedication to the team. No playing time is

guaranteed at this level; however, every effort will be made to provide game time to team members, as game situations will allow.

**Varsity Teams** – Varsity-level athletic teams are a focal point of the TKHS Athletic Program. To be a part of the Varsity Team is an honor in itself that must be earned. At this level, there is **no guarantee of playing time**. The intensity of the competition will determine when the best athletes will be on the field, court, mat, track or course.

**Before the 1st day of practice, all athletes must have submitted to the Athletic Office:**

1. An annual physical (dated April 15 or after) that is signed by an MD, DO, PA, or Nurse Practitioner and a parent or guardian.
2. A participation form, including participation fee, signed by the parent/guardian and the athlete.
3. A signed concussion risk acknowledgment form.
4. A signed travel release form.
5. A TK Athletic Handbook Code of Conduct Agreement

Once all of the above items are complete, the Athletic Office will verify academic and residency eligibility through Final Forms.

**XI. Philosophy of Winning**

Winning is one of the goals of the TK Athletic Teams, within the guidelines of the different levels of the program, and always remember academics, sportsmanship, and citizenship come first.

**XII. Dual Participation**

Student-athletes who wish to compete in more than one sport in a season must make a request to the athletic department at least two weeks before the athletic season begins to organize a consent meeting with the student-athlete, his/her parents, the building principal, the athletic director, and the coaches of both sports that the student-athlete would like to participate in. A student-athlete may only compete in more than one sport if all said members of this meeting sign a *Consent For Participation in Two Sports During the Same Sports Season* form.

**XIII. Team Advancement**

The intent of advancement of a student-athlete to a higher level team (beyond that which he/she would normally play) is to provide the talented student-athletes the opportunity to compete at a level that provides maximum experience and skill development for the student-athlete, as well as to contribute to the success of the team.

The following Team Advancement Guidelines must be met before a student-athlete will be moved to a higher-level team.

1. The head coach of the sport will make the initial recommendation for advancement.
2. The proposed team advancement of a student-athlete must be discussed with the athletic director, team coach, varsity head coach, parents, and the student-athlete.

**IXV. Squad Selection**

In accordance with our philosophy of athletics and our desire to see as many students as possible participate in the athletic program while at Thornapple Kellogg High School, we encourage coaches to keep as many students as possible within the framework of high school interscholastic competition. Time, space, facilities, equipment, personal preference, and other factors will place limitations on the most effective squad size for any particular sport.

Prior to trying out, the following information may be made available to all candidates for the team:

1. Extent of the try-out period (a minimum number of practice sessions)
2. Probable number of student-athletes to be selected

3. Practice commitments if they make the team (including possible holiday conflicts and/or commitments)
4. Game commitments
5. Season commitments

### **XV. Squad Reduction**

Choosing the members of the athletic squads is the sole responsibility of the coaches of those teams. When a squad reduction becomes a necessity, the process will include three important elements. Each candidate shall:

1. Have a predetermined minimum number of practice sessions.
2. Have performed in at least one game-like setting. (unless extenuating circumstances prevent such a setting)
3. Be personally informed of the cut by the coach. Coaches will discuss alternative possibilities for continued participation in the sport, or in other areas of participation within the athletic program with the student-athletes.

### **XVI. Uniform Policy**

All school-issued uniforms and equipment are to be used for athletic contests and practices **only**. These items are not to be worn in PE class, in school, in the community, or at home. The only exception to this rule is if an entire team wants to wear their jerseys to school on a game day. A student-athlete will not be allowed to play in a future season until all school-issued uniforms, warm-ups, equipment, etc. have been returned.

TK student-athletes will be **uniform** in appearance. All uniforms will comply with sport-specific rules and will not be altered to bring attention to an individual.

### **XVII. Physical Education Participation**

All student-athletes **must** participate in all physical education activities during PE class. Student-athletes are expected to perform all activities performed by other students, regardless of evening practice or game commitments. If modifications need to be made, the student should speak with the instructor.

If a student-athlete chooses not to fully participate or dress for a PE class, they are ineligible to participate in a game or practice later that day. **If a student-athlete fails to comply with this policy, a one-contest (game, meet, match) athletic suspension will be enforced upon discovery of the non-compliance.** This also applies to student-athletes who are injured and cannot participate in PE; if this is the case, the student-athlete cannot participate in athletic practices and games on those days they do not dress and participate. If a unique situation arises, the affected student-athlete should set up a meeting with the instructor and AD.

### **XVIII. Resolving Athletic Issues**

If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, the procedure you should follow is:

1. Encourage your student-athlete to solve his or her own problems first.
2. Email or contact the coach through to set up an appointment with the coach.
3. If the coach cannot be reached, call the athletic office and we will set up the meeting for you.
4. **Do not** attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. (Use the 24/48 rule. Wait to discuss the situation with a coach until 24 hours after the contest but not later than 48 hours.)

If the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution:

1. Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director (795-5432) to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

## **IXX. Other Issues**

### SUMMARY OF MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION REGULATIONS FOR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES AS APPLICABLE IN THORNAPPLE KELLOGG

Thornapple Kellogg Public Schools is a member of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) which has been the governing body of high school athletics in our state since 1924. As a member of the MHSAA, it is the district's responsibility to operate under and enforce the regulations and guidelines established by the MHSAA. These regulations and guidelines can be found in the MHSAA Handbook at [www.MHSAA.com](http://www.MHSAA.com). The following is a summary of the MHSAA Ten-Point Checklist for Student Eligibility.

#### *Enrollment*

Students must be enrolled in school prior to the fourth Friday after Labor Day (first semester) or the fourth Friday of February (second semester). A student must be enrolled in the school for which he/she competes. (Regulations I, Section 1)

#### *Age*

High school students become ineligible if they reach their 19th birthday before September 1 of the current school year. (Regulation I, Section 2)

#### *Physical Examination*

Students must have on file, in the school's office, a physician's statement for the current school year (after April 15) certifying that he/she is physically able to compete in athletic practices and contests. (Regulation I, Section 3)

#### *Semesters of Enrollment*

Students cannot be eligible in high school for more than eight semesters and the seventh and eighth semesters must be consecutive. Students are allowed four first semesters and four- second semesters of competition and cannot compete if they have graduated from high school. When two seasons leading to a state championship of the same sport are offered, an athlete may participate in only one. (Regulation I, Section 4-6)

#### *Semester Academic Records*

Students must have passed at least four full-credit subjects in the previous semester of enrollment and must be currently passing four full-credit courses. (Regulation I, Section 7-8)

#### *Transfer Students*

A student enrolled in grades 9 through 12 who transfers from one high school or junior high/middle school to another high school is not immediately eligible to participate in an interscholastic athletic contest or scrimmage in the school to which the student transfers, UNLESS the student qualifies under one or more Exceptions and all related Interpretations. (Regulation I, Section 9)

#### *Undue Influence*

The use of undue influence by a person directly or indirectly associated with a school to secure or encourage the attendance of a student for athletic purposes shall cause the student to become ineligible for a minimum of one semester and up to four years. (Regulation I, Section 10)

#### *Awards and Amateurism*

Students cannot receive money or other valuable consideration for participating in MHSAA-sponsored sports or officiating in interscholastic athletic contests, except as allowed by the HANDBOOK. Students may accept, for participation in MHSAA-sponsored sports, a symbolic or merchandise award, which does not have a value over \$45. Banquets, luncheons, dinners, trips, and admissions to camps or events, are permitted if accepted "in kind." Awards in the form of cash merchandise, certificates or any other negotiable document are not allowed. (Regulation I, Section 11)

#### *Limited Team Membership*

After practicing with or participating with high school teams, students cannot participate in any athletic competition not sponsored by their school in the same sport during the same season. There are exceptions for

individual sports as outlined in the MHSAA Handbook, Regulation I, Section 12(A). See Athletic Director for specific interpretations.

#### All-Star Competition

Students shall not compete at any time in any sport under MHSAA jurisdiction in All-Star Contests or national championships regardless of the method of selection. Participation in such a contest shall cause the student to become ineligible for a maximum period of one year of school enrollment. (Regulation I, Section 12(B). There are exceptions made for Seniors and National Teams/Olympic Development programs as outlined in the MHSAA Handbook, Regulation I, Section 12(C & D). See Athletic Director for specific interpretations.

#### MHSAA DISQUALIFICATION

The following policies for disqualification shall apply in all sports:

- When a student is disqualified during a contest for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct, that student shall be withheld by his/her school for at least the next contest/day of competition for that team.
- Failure of the school, for any reason, to enforce this regulation will prohibit the school from entry in the next MHSAA tournament for that sport, or from the remainder of the current tournament if the disqualification occurs during an MHSAA tournament or during the last regular season contest/day of competition.
- Disqualification from one season carries over to the next season in that sport for undergraduates and coaches, or the next season in any sport for seniors.
- If the playing rules for a sport specify any additional penalty or more rapid progression, or use of such a progression for other violations, the play rules apply.

#### Pay to Participate

Athletic registration fees must be paid by the given dates and the Athletic Registration Fee Guidelines form must be completed on Final Forms or the student-athlete may not be eligible to participate in practice or contests. TK does not want students whose families are unable to pay the fee to be denied the opportunity to participate. Any student who wishes to participate, but is unable to because of finances, should complete a waiver form available in the athletic office from the Athletic Director. We will work confidentially to ensure that no student-athlete is denied the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics due to financial need.

#### 5516 - Student Hazing

The Board of Education believes that hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational process and prohibits all such activities at any time in school facilities, on school property, and at any District-sponsored event.

Hazing shall be defined for purposes of this policy as performing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to perform any act of initiation into any class, group, or organization that causes or creates a risk of causing mental, emotional, or physical harm. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing shall not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.

Administrators, faculty members, and other employees of the District shall be alert, particularly to possible situations, circumstances, or events which might include hazing. If hazing or planned hazing is discovered, the students involved shall be informed by the discoverer of the prohibitions contained in this policy and shall be ordered to end all hazing activities or planned activities immediately. All hazing incidents shall be reported immediately to the Superintendent. Students who commit an act of hazing are subject to disciplinary action *up to and including permanent removal from the Thornapple Kellogg Athletic Department*. Students, administrators, faculty members, and other employees who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to disciplinary action and may be held personally liable for civil or criminal penalties.

#### 5532 - Performance-Enhancing Drugs/Compounds

The Board of Education recognizes that the use of dietary supplements that contain performance-enhancing compounds and/or performance-enhancing drugs poses a serious health risk to students.

Accordingly, no student, staff member, volunteer, or contractor shall knowingly sell, market, distribute, or promote the use of a dietary supplement that contains a performance-enhancing compound or a performance-enhancing drug (e.g., anabolic steroids) to a student with whom the staff member, volunteer, or contractor has contact as a part of his/her duties. Furthermore, the student, staff member, volunteer, or contractor shall not endorse or suggest

the ingestion, intranasal application, or inhalation of a dietary supplement that contains a performance-enhancing compound or a performance-enhancing drug by a student with whom s/he has contact as part of his/her duties.

**PUBLIC ACT 215 (2006) BANNED DRUGS**

The law requires all public school districts and academies to include in their local codes of conduct that possession or use of any National Collegiate Athletic Association banned drug is not permitted and shall subject the student to the same penalties that the school district has established for possession/use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs.(1) The board of a school district or board of directors of a public school academy shall ensure that its policies concerning a pupil's eligibility for participation in interscholastic athletics include use of a performance-enhancing substance by the pupil as a violation that will affect a pupil's eligibility, as determined by the board or board of directors. The governing body of a nonpublic school is encouraged to adopt an eligibility policy that meets the requirements of this section. (2) For the purposes of this section, the Department of Community Health shall develop, periodically update and make available to school districts, public school academies and nonpublic schools a list of performance-enhancing substances. The Department of Community Health shall base the list on the list of banned drugs contained in the Bylaws of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

**The TK Board Policy on Non-Discrimination is as Follows:**

The Thornapple Kellogg School Board, administrators, teachers, and coaches will not discriminate in its policies and practices toward others with respect to religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, marital status or disability. This policy shall prevail in all board policies concerning staff, student, educational programs and services, and individuals and companies with whom the Board does business. *See our student handbook for the discrimination complaint policy.*

\*The offenses and penalties listed in this handbook are only guidelines. Actual circumstances and the severity of those circumstances may warrant disciplinary action not specifically outlined in this handbook. In situations such as this, school administrators have the authority to modify consequences as deemed necessary and appropriate.

**Grievance Procedures**

SEE TKHS Student Handbook or TK Schools website.

**XX. Parent/Student Signature**

I have read the 2023/24 Athletic Handbook.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_