Thornton Academy Athletic Department Handbook

2023-2024

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Athletic Department Directory

Director of Student Activities	Gary Stevens
Administrative Assistant – Athletics	Julie Carter
Certified Athletic Trainer	Tony Giordano, L-ATC
School Physician	Dr. Maura Price
School Nurse	Deborah Prescott

Fall Athletics

Head Coach – Fall Cheerleading	Kayla Downing
Head Coach – Boys and Girls Cross Country	Joshua Wynne
Head Coach – Field Hockey	Lexie Carter
Head Coach – Football	Kevin Kezal
Head Coach – Golf	Jeffrey Camire
Head Coach – Boys Soccer	Andrew Carlson
Head Coach – Girls Soccer	Natalie Sharland
Head Coach – Volleyball	Corey Huot

Winter Athletics

Head Coach – Boys Basketball	Michael Nelson
Head Coach – Girls Basketball	Suzanne Rondeau
Head Coach – Winter Cheerleading	Kayla Downing
Head Coach – Ice Hockey	James Gagnon
Head Coach – Boys and Girls Swimming and Diving	Kathleen Leahy
Head Coach – Boys Indoor Track and Field	George Mendros
Head Coach – Girls Indoor Track and Field	Amanda Tripp

Spring Athletics

Head Coach – Baseball	Jason Lariviere
Head Coach – Boys Lacrosse	Ryan Hersey
Head Coach – Girls Lacrosse	Craig Agreste
Head Coach – Softball	Anthony Miner
Head Coach – Boys Tennis	Andrew Carlson
Head Coach – Girls Tennis	Todd Sachs
Head Coach – Boys Outdoor Track and Field	George Mendros
Head Coach – Girls Outdoor Track and Field	Amanda Tripp

Contact Information

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Athletic Director Twitter	@GarySteTAAD
Athletics Twitter	@TATrojanSports

Thornton Academy Athletics – Athletic Department Philosophy

Thornton Academy wants all students to be healthy individuals so, in addition to the school's wellness curriculum, Thornton provides extensive opportunities for students to participate in interscholastic athletics. Students are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities during high school.

The interscholastic athletics program has the following purposes:

- To encourage students of all skill levels to participate in extracurricular athletics.
- To provide sufficient playing 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.

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

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Thornton Academy Sport Offerings

Fall Season

Sport	**Levels**
Cheerleading	Varsity, Junior Varsity
Boys Cross Country	Varsity
Girls Cross Country	Varsity
Field Hockey	Varsity, Junior Varsity
Football	Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman
Golf	Varsity, Junior Varsity
Boys Soccer	Varsity, Junior Varsity, First Team, Club Team
Girls Soccer	Varsity, Junior Varsity, First Team

Volleyball	Varsity, Junior Varsity, First Team, Club Team

Winter Season

Sport	**Levels**
Boys Basketball	Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman
Girls Basketball	Varsity, Junior Varsity, First Team (if numbers permit)
Cheerleading	Varsity, Junior Varsity
Boys Ice Hockey	Varsity, Junior Varsity
Girls Ice Hockey*	Varsity, Junior Varsity
Boys Swimming and Diving	Varsity
Girls Swimming and Diving	Varsity
Boys Indoor Track and Field	Varsity
Girls Indoor Track and Field	Varsity
Wrestling **	Varsity

*Cooperative team hosted by Biddeford High School and also involving Sanford High School and Wells High School
**Cooperative team hosted by Biddeford High School

In addition to the above sports offered by the school, Thornton Academy students also have an opportunity to participate in Alpine skiing or Nordic skiing as an individual athlete. Thornton Academy has established cooperative team relationships with area schools for these sports. Students compete for and represent Thornton Academy in these activities, but practice and compete with a host school. Students who elect to participate in these activities are responsible for their own transportation to and from practices. Participants are eligible for all honors and awards accorded by the SMAA and/or Thornton Academy. Students interested in any of these activities should contact the athletic administrator for more information.

Spring Season

Sport	**Levels**
Baseball	Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman
Boys Lacrosse	Varsity, Junior Varsity, First Team
Girls Lacrosse	Varsity, Junior Varsity
Softball	Varsity, Junior Varsity, First Team
Boys Tennis	Varsity
Girls Tennis	Varsity
Boys Outdoor Track and Field	Varsity
Girls Outdoor Track and Field	Varsity

Note: Student-athletes at Thornton Academy may participate in only one interscholastic sport offering per season.

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Conference Affiliations

Southwestern Maine Activities Association

Thornton Academy is a member of the Southwestern Maine Activities Association (SMAA), a conference consisting of seventeen member schools located in Cumberland and York Counties. Thornton Academy competes in Class A South for all Heal Point and Crabtree Point sports (Exception: Class AA South for basketball).

SMAA Conference Membership – 2023-2024

School	***Location***	***Mascot***
Biddeford High School	Biddeford	Tigers
Bonny Eagle High School	Standish	Scots
Cheverus High School	Portland	Stags
Falmouth High School	Falmouth	Navigators
Deering High School	Portland	Rams
Gorham High School	Gorham	Rams
Kennebunk High School	Kennebunk	Rams
Marshwood High School	South Berwick	Hawks
Massabesic High School	Waterboro	Mustangs
Noble High School	Berwick	Knights
Portland High School	Portland	Bulldogs
Sanford High School	Sanford	Spartans
Scarborough High School	Scarborough	Red Storm
South Portland High School	South Portland	Red Riots
Thornton Academy	Saco	Golden Trojans
Westbrook High School	Westbrook	Blue Blazes
Windham High School	Windham	Eagles

Student Eligibility for Interscholastic Athletics

Academic Eligibility – Thornton Academy Policy

Athletic Eligibility

Eligibility Requirements
Since Thornton Academy participates in athletic competitions under the auspices of the Maine Principals Association, eligibility requirements for athletics meet MPA requirements. To be eligible to participate in athletics, a student must have passed (A-D & P) the equivalent of four one-credit subjects in the first, second and third quarters. In the fourth quarter, a student must pass the equivalent of four one-credit subjects and accumulate four credits toward graduation in order to be eligible to participate the following fall.

A student who is ineligible may practice with the team, but will only be granted eligibility to fully participate in athletic competitions (games, meets, etc.) if they receive passing grades (A-D & P) in the equivalent of four one-credit subjects at the progress report date following the quarter that initially deemed them ineligible.

Progress report dates are as follows

- Q1 – September 27, 2023
- Q2 – December 1, 2023
- Q3 – February 16, 2023
- Q4 -,April 26, 2023

Maine Principals' Association Policies for Eligibility to Compete in Varsity Interscholastic Athletic Contests

A student shall be eligible to participate in any interscholastic secondary school athletic contest:

A. Who meets the eligibility rules established by the local school authorities (above).
B. Who is regularly enrolled in the school which he/she represents.
   1. To be considered regularly enrolled, a student must be fully enrolled and academically active in the school which he/she represents. An academically active student must be pursuing a program of studies approved by the

principal and superintendent of schools. Exception: At the end of the current grading period a student, who has met all school requirements for graduation and will not receive/accept a diploma until the school's graduation date, may complete the sports season even though he/she is no longer a regularly enrolled student. All other MPA and local policies will be adhered to. (Revised 11/16/06)

2. Students in grade 9 in separately organized junior high/middle schools are eligible to participate in the varsity athletics program of the senior high school in their school administrative unit.

3. In order to make possible the formation of all interscholastic Heal point athletic teams in smaller secondary schools, a student may be drafted from grade eight (8) of the same school system, provided that such student is in satisfactory physical condition, and provided that the secondary school using the student does not have an enrollment of greater than sixty (60) girls or sixty (60) boys. It is further understood that this extra year of athletic competition does not penalize such students under the eight semester rule. This applies to the following team sports only: Baseball, Basketball, Cheerleading, Field Hockey, Football, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, and Volleyball.

4. Homeschooled students will be exempt from the enrollment rule (Article II, Section 2, Paragraph B) if their equivalent instruction program has been approved as outlined in Maine Law. Homeschooled students must meet all other eligibility rules in Article II, Section 2, of the MPA Bylaws.

5. Out-of-district placement students shall be exempt from the regular enrollment provisions of Article II, Section 2 (B)(1) and may participate in the interscholastic program of the school in which they are placed if the following provisions are met:

a. The school accepting the out-of-district placement student requests a waiver from the Committee on Eligibility;

b. The waiver request is accompanied by a written consent from the principal of the sending school that a waiver should be granted;

c. The Committee on Eligibility determines that it is in the best interests of the student to participate in the interscholastic program of the receiving school. For purposes of this paragraph, "out-of-district placement students" shall be defined as students placed by the PET process in a private special purpose school, as defined by the Maine Department of Education regulations.

C. **MPA Bona Fide Team Rule:** A member of a school team is a student athlete who is regularly present for and participates in team practices and competitions. Bona fide members of a school team are prevented from missing practice or competition to compete or practice elsewhere.

A single waiver per student athlete per sports season may be granted by the principal on a case-by-case basis for extraordinary circumstances. (e.g. If a student/athlete is invited to participate in a prestigious weekend event then a waiver may be granted. If a student/athlete is invited to participate in a

nationally recognized tournament over a school vacation then that waiver may be granted for that activity. If a student requests to miss practice every Friday because he/she is receiving specialized coaching from an outside team/coach, then a waiver should not be granted because it violates the spirit and intent of the rule.)

** This policy is not intended to restrict dual participation in schools that allow dual participation.

*** Penalty for violation of this policy:
1st Violation – Report violation to the MPA office, suspension from play for one game/contest
2nd Violation – Report violation to the MPA office, removal from team for remainder of season

D. Who is under twenty years of age at the time of participation.
E. Who has maintained undergraduate status in a four-year course in a Maine secondary school or its equivalent as outlined in the MPA Constitution, Article II, Section 3.
F. **MPA Eight Semester Rule:** Who has yet to fulfill eight full semesters at an approved secondary school or its equivalent. A student is only eligible to compete for the first eight consecutive semesters after he or she first enrolls as a freshman in high school, or in the ninth grade in a junior high school.
    1. Upon application by a student's principal, the Committee on Eligibility of the Maine Principals' Association may grant no more than eighteen consecutive weeks of additional eligibility upon a satisfactory showing that:
        a. A student has failed one or more semesters because of absence due to illness or injury.
        b. A student has been absent one or more semesters because of required military service.
        c. A student withdrew from school to assume full fiscal responsibility for the support of the family because of illness or incapacity of a parent.
        d. A student has encountered unusual circumstances that warrant an exception. Such cases will be reviewed on an individual basis.
        e. If a student is granted an additional semester of eligibility, such eligibility may be given for any eighteen consecutive weeks, not necessarily concurrent with a semester, during the student's fifth year of attendance at the specific request of the school.

EXPLANATION: The eight semester rule refers to eight consecutive semesters in time; it does not necessary refer to eight semesters of attendance or completion. For example, a student who registers as a freshman in September 2020, is eligible to compete in interscholastic

athletics insofar as this rule is concerned until the close of the school year 2023-2024. The pupil is not eligible to compete after that date unless the student is granted additional eligibility by the Committee on Eligibility.

a. If a student is granted an additional semester of eligibility, such eligibility may be given for any eighteen consecutive weeks, not necessarily concurrent with a semester, during the student's fifth year of attendance at the specific request of the school.
b. **MPA Four Seasons of Competition Rule:** No student who has been enrolled in grades 9, 10, 11, 12 inclusive, in any approved school, shall participate in the same athletic activity for more than four seasons except that this does not apply to the eligibility rule affecting small schools who are permitted to use eighth grade students when there are not more than forty boys or girls in grades 9-12.
c. It is the responsibility of each school's administration to verify the eligibility of each student at the beginning of each semester or equivalent.

G. Who has completed and passed work in the equivalent of four (4) full-time subjects with credit toward graduation in the most recently completed quarter or equivalent
   a. Failure to earn passing grades in four full-time subjects (or the equivalent) shall render a student ineligible for a period of time determined by the local school.
   b. The record at the end of the marking period shall be final and scholastic deficiencies may not be removed for the purpose of meeting minimum eligibility requirements except:
      i. For those grades/credits in a regular accredited summer school program accepted by the school district.
      ii. Incomplete grades which may be made up for credit during the first five (5) weeks of the subsequent quarter.
   c. It is understood that homeschooled students will have completed and passed the equivalent of four (4) full-time subjects which meet the requirements of the approved home school program of instruction in the most recently completed quarter.
   d. It is understood that a special education student will not be denied participation in interscholastic athletics solely because the student in enrolled in a reduced course load when the reduced course load is due to the student's exceptionality, provided the student is satisfactorily completing the requirements of the educational component of an individual education plan and is otherwise compliant with the plan. It is further understood that the special education student not satisfactorily completing the educational components of an individualized plan or is not otherwise in compliance with the plan shall have his/her eligibility status determined in the same manner as the eligibility of a non-special education student who is not satisfying the applicable academic standards.

H. A student who is otherwise eligible, but who was not enrolled in a given secondary school during the preceding semester, shall be considered eligible provided the pupil:
    a. Carried successfully during the preceding semester of attendance at another approved secondary school or the equivalent, the minimum scholastic requirement for eligibility of the receiving school.
    b. Completed successfully the work of an elementary or junior high school during the preceding semester.

I. A student who fails to qualify, comply, or conform with the eligibility provisions, or who violates these eligibility provisions shall be ineligible to compete in any interscholastic secondary school athletic contest.

J. **MPA Transfer Rule:** A student transferring to a member school may be added to a varsity eligibility roster if the student is enrolled and in full attendance no later than the opening date that countable games may be played, assuming the student meets all other local and MPA eligibility rules. Students not meeting the deadline cannot be added to the varsity eligibility roster during the remainder of that sports season. Exceptions may be granted at the discretion of the Executive Director for late arriving foreign and foreign exchange students.

K. **MPA Transgender Policy:** Provided that all other eligibility considerations are met, transgender students will participate in interscholastic activities according to the policy approved by the Maine Principals' Association.

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Permission Forms

Prior to practice or play on any team, a student and his/her parent/guardian must sign a permission slip that: 1) gives permission to participate in interscholastic activities; 2) acknowledges an understanding of Thornton Academy's interscholastic athletics policy and the Maine Principals' Association's pupil eligibility rules.; 3) acknowledges that there are risks involved in participating in athletics. The permission slip must be returned to the Student Activities Director.

Each student's private medical policy is his/her primary insurance. In the event that a student does not have primary coverage, twenty-four hour insurance coverage is available for a fee. Applications can be obtained from athletic administrator. Thornton Academy is not responsible for medical expenses which are not reimbursed by insurance.

Parents must also complete a health history information form on a yearly basis. This information is utilized by the school nurse and athletics department staff to assist the student in participating in a given activity safely. This information is filed in the school clinic, and the school nurse updates coaches, the certified athletic

trainer, and athletic administrator as necessary to help support the specific medical needs of a given student-athlete.

Thornton Academy requires all students involved in its athletic programs to have a pre-participation physical examination. Examinations are valid for two years from the date that they occurred. Parents may use their primary health care provider for this purpose. Documentation of all completed physical examinations should be sent to school nurse Deborah Prescott by U.S. Mail, in person, by e-mail (deborah.prescott@thorntonacademy.org), or by fax (391-6388).

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Attendance at Practices and Contests

Attendance at all practices and games is mandatory unless a student has been excused by the coach or his/her doctor. In order to practice or participate in a game, a student must attend school the day of the practice or game. Students are expected to be in school on time. If tardy, a student must have a valid excuse and must arrive by the end of Block 2 to practice or participate in a game.

Any form of suspension, whether in school or off campus, makes a student ineligible to practice or play during his/her entire suspension.

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Athletic Training Services/Injuries

Athletes and their parents/guardians should be aware that practicing or playing any sport can be dangerous and involves the risk of injury. Before trying out, practice or participate, students must have a physical exam and return a signed athletics permission slip. Because of the potential risks associated with participating in interscholastic athletics, athletes must recognize the importance of carefully following coaches' instructions regarding playing and training techniques.

If an athlete is injured and receives professional care for an athletic injury, he/she must have written permission from the attending physician in order to resume participation in the sport. Please note special considerations and exceptions listed for concussions and head injuries as noted in Thornton Academy policy and Maine state law.

Tony Giordano, L-ATC serves as Thornton Academy's certified athletic trainer. The athletic training room is generally open at 2:30 PM on school days during the season. The athletic trainer services all home athletic contests and practices on days that activities occur. During the school year, he also works with athletic training students from the University of Southern Maine and the University of New England who support his efforts while receiving valuable hands-on experience.

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Management of Concussion and Other Head Injuries Policy

Thornton Academy recognizes that concussions and other head injuries are serious and could result in significant brain damage and/or death if not recognized and managed properly. The Academy adopts this policy to promote the safety of students participating in school activities, including but not limited to extracurricular athletic activities and interscholastic sports, and to provide academic support for students identified with concussive or other head injuries.

Training

Prior to the beginning of each sports season and each academic school year, school personnel (including volunteers) identified by the Concussion Policy Management Team, must be made aware of this school policy and standards of care related to the management of concussive injuries and participate in concussion awareness training that includes recognizing signs and symptoms that may suggest a concussive or other head injury. Coaches (including volunteers) are required to successfully complete the on-line NFHS course "Concussions in Sports" (per the Maine Principals Association guidelines).

Students and Parents/Guardians

Prior to the beginning of each individual student's sports season (at least annually), students intending to participate in school-sponsored athletic activities and parents/guardians of these students will be provided information including:

A. The risk of concussion and other head injuries and the dangers associated with continuing to participate when a concussion or other head injury is suspected;
B. The signs and symptoms associated with concussion and other head injuries; and
C. The school's protocols for:

1) Removal of the student from the activity when the student is suspected of having sustained a concussion or other head injury,
2) Evaluation, and
3) Return to participation in school activities and academics

The student participating in sports and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) must sign a statement acknowledging that they received and read this information before the student is allowed to participate in any school-sponsored athletic activity.

Management or Concussive and Other Head Injuries

It is the responsibility of staff members involved in school activities and trained in the signs and symptoms related to concussion and/or other head injury, to act in accordance with this policy when the staff member recognizes that a student may be exhibiting such signs and symptoms of a concussion. Any student suspected of having sustained a concussion or other head injury during a school activity including but not limited to participation in interscholastic sports, must be removed from the activity and academics immediately. A student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) will be informed of the need for an evaluation for brain injury before the student is allowed to return to participation in school activities and academics.

No student is permitted to return to the activity or to participate in other school activities or academics on the day of the suspected concussion. Any student having sustained a head injury is prohibited from further participation in any school activities or academics until he/she is evaluated for concussion. If a concussion is suspected, the student must be removed from school activities and academics and evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in concussion management. If a concussion is confirmed, the student is not permitted to return to participation in any school activities or academics until medically cleared to do so by a licensed health care provider trained in concussion management. All academic restrictions must be lifted prior to participation in athletics. The use of the Acute Concussion Evaluation (ACE) Care Plan is the expected form of communication regarding medical clearance (a copy of the ACE form is available in the school nurse's office and on the Thornton Academy website.) It is the responsibility of the parent to provide the necessary and appropriate documentation. The ACE form must be returned to the school nurse prior to attending any class. More than one evaluation by the student's health care provider may be necessary before the student is cleared for full participation. Coaches and other school personnel shall comply with the student's treating health care provider trained in concussion management recommendations regarding gradual return to participation. If at any time during the return to full participation in school activities and academics the student exhibits signs and symptoms of concussion, the student must be removed from the activity and academics and be re-evaluated by the treating licensed health care provider trained in concussion management.

****Please refer to the Athletic Training Department's Concussion Protocol.***

Cognitive Considerations

School personnel should be alert to cognitive and academic issues that may be experienced by a student who has suffered a concussion or other head injury. The athletic trainer will notify the school nurse and coach (as applicable) when a

concussion injury has occurred during a Thornton Academy athletic event to which the trainer provided care and/or when he/she has knowledge of a suspected head injury. Notification will occur within the same school day or at the start of the next calendar day. Parents are encouraged to report suspect or known concussion or other head injuries that occur outside of school related activities to the school nurse. It is the responsibility of the parent to inform the school of signs and symptoms related to concussion or head injuries that are recognized while the student is not in school. The school nurse will then institute the following steps:

- contact the parent to acquire medical recommendations from the child's treating licensed health care provider;
- inform the parent of Thornton Academy's concussion policy
- share medical recommendations with the student's guidance counselor
- the nurse will notify all school personnel responsible for supporting the academic needs of the student including but not limited to: homeroom advisor, dean, and classroom teachers (including study hall)

School personnel shall accommodate a gradual return to full participation in academic activities as appropriate, based on the recommendation of the student's concussion trained health care provider and appropriate designated school personnel.

Concussion Policy Management Team

The Head of School will appoint a Concussion Policy Management Team, which may include: the school nurse, the Director of Athletics, the Director of Student Services, the Director of Guidance, the Middle School Principal, and members of the Athletic Training Department. The team shall oversee and implement this policy and related standards of care for concussive head injuries. This team will identify the school personnel who shall be trained in concussion signs and symptoms and the school activities covered by this policy. The policy and/or related standards of care should be reviewed when generally accepted protocols change.

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Equipment

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

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Transportation

Athletes and team managers 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. Athletes are expected to be neatly dressed for traveling to away contests.

Communication

Good communication is a hallmark of a strong athletic program. Communication among all parties (athletic department, coaches, student-athletes, parents) is critical for students to fully enjoy the benefits of the athletic experience.

Our coaches work very hard to provide the best possible experience for our student-athletes. They are professionals who are committed to creating an education-based environment that teaches life lessons through the context of competition. As a result, at times they must make very difficult and challenging decisions and take into account factors that student-athletes and parents may not be aware. We encourage students to talk to their coaches if there are any problems or issues that may be of concern during the season. In addition to enhancing communication within the team structure, this method also helps teach student-athletes valuable self-advocacy skills and personal responsibility.

Parents and student-athletes have a right to expect the following communication from the coaches of Thornton Academy athletic teams:

- The coach's philosophy and criteria for the team selection process
- Specific team policies and consequences for when policies are not followed or training rules are not adhered to
- Expectations for team members
- Location and times for all practices and contests
- Any special events or activities planned for the team
- Procedure to follow should a student be injured during competition

Appropriate concerns parents should discuss with coaches:

- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
- If their child, at any time, feels threatened or uncomfortable in any way by actions of teammates or coach(es)
- Any specific information that the parent feels would be of value to the coach to help him/her coach their child
- Ways the parent can help the child improve
- Any concerns a parent may have about their child's behavior or performance in or out of school

Issues that are not appropriate to discuss with coaches:

- Playing Time – it is impossible to discuss playing time issues without discussing other students
- Play Calling
- Team Strategy
- Other Student-Athletes

Student Recognition

Thornton Academy Athletic Honors

Varsity Letters

Thornton Academy awards letters to varsity student-athletes based upon the criteria listed below. The first time that a student earns a letter, he or she will receive a chenille "T" award. Student-athletes qualifying for varsity letters also receive a pin emblematic of the given sport for each letter awarded. The costs of all letters are underwritten by the Thornton Academy Athletic Booster Club.

Varsity Letter Criteria - Baseball, Basketball, Field Hockey, Football, Golf, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Tennis, Volleyball:

- Must play in one half of the total amount of games: i.e. quarters, periods,
- Innings, matches, etc.

Varsity Letter Criteria - Cheerleading:

- **Fall:** Must perform at half the amount of regular season football games.
  Winter: Must perform at the SMAA League Meet or State Regional Meet and half of the regular season basketball games.

Varsity Letter Criteria - Cross Country:

- Must be on the team's top ten runners list.
- Or, score in the Regional or State meet.

Varsity Letter Criteria - Swimming:

- Must score in half of the regular season meets.
- Or, score in the Southwestern League Meet or State Meet.

Varsity Letter Criteria – Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field:

- Must score a total of 10 points during regular season meets.
- Or, score in the Southwestern League Meet (Relays do not count).

Championship Jackets

The Board of Trustees of Thornton Academy, in recognizing championship performances in extracurricular activities, will purchase jackets, from trustee funds, for any organization or individual that achieves State Championship status in events sponsored by the Maine Principals' Association.

In the event that a Thornton Academy organization wins a State Championship and an individual State Champion is a member of the winning organization, only one jacket will be awarded to that individual. Additional lettering recognizing both awards (achievements) will be incorporated on that jacket.

Coaches and advisors will also receive jackets.

In the event that teams would like to purchase state championship rings, the Thornton Academy Board of Trustees will underwrite the cost of the ring up to the amount that a jacket would cost. All additional costs are assumed by the student or the program's exchange account. Teams wishing to obtain both a jacket and a class ring may get the former at the expense of the Trustees Fund and the latter at the expense of individual students.

Senior Plaques

The Thornton Academy Athletic Boosters Club awards recognition plaques to all seniors who have lettered in at least one activity during their careers. These plaques include the name of the recipient and all activities and years in which they have lettered or served as a varsity captain. The senior plaques are presented at the Senior Athletic Awards Program held at the beginning of the graduation week festivities.

Thornton Academy Outstanding Senior Athlete Scholarships

The Thornton Academy Athletic Boosters award a scholarship to one boy and one girl who have demonstrated outstanding performance, leadership, sportsmanship, and character during their careers at Thornton Academy. The recipients are selected by a vote held among athletic department personnel. These scholarships are presented at the Senior Athletic Awards Program held at the beginning of the graduation week festivities.

John "Jeddy" Newman Scholar-Athlete Awards

The highest honors accorded a student-athlete at Thornton Academy, the John "Jeddy" Newman Scholar-Athlete Awards are presented to one boy and one girl from each graduating class. Students receiving this award have demonstrated excellence in athletics as evidenced by their participation in one or more interscholastic sports during their career at Thornton Academy, having earned varsity letters as a participant, and through their recognition by

governing bodies for both the league and the state as whole for excellence in their respective sports.

The recipients are determined by a point system based upon:

1. Academic performance
2. Number of varsity letters earned
3. Number of varsity captaincies
4. All-conference recognition earned
5. All-state honors

These scholarships are presented at the Senior Athletic Awards Program held during graduation week.

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Southwestern Maine Activities Association (SMAA) Awards

SMAA All-Stars

Each of the varsity sports offered by the Southwestern Maine Activities Association (SMAA) recognizes all-conference performers following the end of the season. The criteria for determining qualification for the all-star team vary by activity. In addition, some activities recognize students with special honors (ex. most valuable player). Each student-athlete earning all-conference recognition is recognized with a certificate.

SMAA All-Academic

All seniors who successfully complete an athletic season are eligible for SMAA All-Academic recognition for that activity. Thornton Academy seniors with a 3.2 (non-weighted) career grade point average or higher will be awarded with a certificate signifying that achievement. Awards for fall athletes will be determined using the first six semesters of their high school careers; awards for winter and spring athletes will be based upon seven semesters of academic performance. **(Please note that beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, that the standard for eligibility for this award will be an A- career grade point average.)**

SMAA Sportsmanship Banner

Demonstrating good sportsmanship at athletic events is a community responsibility that includes coaches, student-athletes, parents, spectators, and the school administration. The SMAA awards a banner to one member school per year that meets the criteria enumerated in the league's sportsmanship mission:

- Treating everyone with courtesy
- Cheering for your school, not against the other school
- Treating officials with respect
- Using appropriate language and behavior

The recipient of this award is selected by a vote of the student-athletes who attend the annual SMAA Student-Athlete Summit and is based upon their experiences in visiting other schools. The school receiving this honor will be presented with a banner that may be displayed on its school campus.

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Thornton Academy Athletic Boosters

The Thornton Academy Athletic Boosters exist to provide financial support for all student athletic activities at the school. The Boosters raise money at home football, soccer, basketball, lacrosse and track and field contests and other events by selling concessions and souvenirs (cloth apparel). The proceeds garnered from these efforts are utilized to provide supplemental funding for student athletics. The only program operating under its own booster umbrella is ice hockey.

Coaches have an opportunity to utilize Booster money through the "wish list" process. At specified times each year, the athletic administrator will give coaches an opportunity to identify any items that they would like to have purchased by the Athletic Boosters. The athletic administrator prioritizes all requests and forward those approved by him or her for Booster funding to that group. The Thornton Academy Athletic Boosters must formally approve the 'wish list' prior to the purchase of any items listed on it.

The Thornton Academy Athletic Boosters meet on the first Wednesday of each month at the Thornton Academy Dining Commons at 7:00 PM. All are welcome to attend.

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National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Information

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) oversees athletics for nearly 1100 academic institutions in the United States. The NCAA is organized into three divisions (I, II, III), each of which has different requirements for initial eligibility. Student-athletes who may be participating in competitive athletics at one of these schools should be aware of the initial eligibility requirements for the division to which that college or university is assigned. Students who may be recruited to play Division I or II must register on-line with the NCAA Eligibility Center (www.eligibilitycenter.org). The NCAA Eligibility Center is responsible for

determining initial eligibility of all student-athletes and confirms the amateur status of all participants.

Divisions I and II require that students earn a grade point average of 2.3 or higher in core subjects identified on the NCAA Eligibility Center website. As a general rule, the "4 x 4 Rule" is a good one to follow when scheduling high school classes – four core areas (English, mathematics, science, social studies) for each of the four years of high school. In addition, for Divisions I and II (starting in 2013), prospective student-athletes must achieve SAT or ACT scores that are at or higher than the figure listed on the sliding scale for their high school GPA in the core subjects. Those scales are available at the Eligibility Center website.

For more information or assistance, please contact your guidance counselor or the athletic administrator.

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Quitting or Being Released From the Team

A student who makes a team roster and then quits the sport (or is released for disciplinary reasons) before the end of that season, relinquishes the right to participate in another sport in that season. An appeal may be made to the Student Activities Director in order to participate in another sport in that season. The decision of the Student Activities Director shall be final.

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Disciplinary Problems

A. If a student is involved in serious or frequent violations of Thornton Academy's disciplinary rules, as judged by referrals to the dean, the dean may in his/her judgment impose sanctions that affect or even prohibit 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, any athlete uses vulgar or abusive language or gesture towards 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 the athlete's parent/guardian).

- Second offense – suspension from one athletic event in that sport.
- Third offense – suspension from the sport for the remainder of the season.

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Tobacco Use by Student-Athletes

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. Thornton Academy prohibits smoking anywhere on campus (as of February 22, 1993).

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

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

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Use, Possession or sale of Alcohol and/or Drugs by Student-Athletes

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 two-week suspension from participating in athletics and use of Thornton Academy's athletic facilities after school. During the 2-week suspension, a student must meet with his/her 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.

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Hazing and Harassment

Reference: Maine Anti-Hazing Law (Statutes 6553 and 10004)

Thornton Academy is committed to the personal development of each student in our athletic program. The Thornton Academy Athletic Department is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all participants, coaches, and supporters. As a result, we unequivocally oppose any situation created intentionally to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule to any person.

Our athletic department will interpret hazing as any act whether physical, mental, emotional, or psychological, which subjects another person, voluntarily or involuntarily, to anything that may abuse, mistreat, degrade, humiliate, harass, or intimidate him or her, or which may in any fashion compromise his or her dignity as a person.

Reported incidents will be investigated promptly and in a manner which 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 athletic administrator.

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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.

A student charged with a crime, either a misdemeanor or a felony, may in the sound judgment of the Headmaster be suspended from participating in interscholastic athletics until adjudication.

A student convicted of a misdemeanor may, in the sound judgment of the Headmaster, be suspended from participation in interscholastic athletics for at least one calendar year following conviction. If convicted of a felony, a student shall be suspended from participation in interscholastic athletics for at least one calendar year following conviction. At the end of that calendar year, a meeting will be held by the Headmaster, dean, Student Activities Director, and a guidance counselor. The Headmaster will determine the student's future eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics at Thornton Academy.

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Additional Regulations

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

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Discipline Appeals Process

An appeals process governs all disciplinary matters except those pertaining to being accused and/or convicted of a crime or quitting/being released from a team.

If the penalty is assessed by a 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. A student remains suspended from participation in interscholastic athletics until all appeals are finalized.

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