

THURGOOD MARSHALL ACADEMY PCHS

Athletics Department Handbook

2022-2023

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All elements of athletics covered in the manual will be adapted to the Covid-19 pandemic responses and subject to change based on DC Health guidance. In particular, it is the responsibility of all participants--staff, coaches, students, fans, and others--to follow the TMA Health & Safety Plan

(<https://thurgoodmarshallacademy.org/about/policies-and-resources/>) and to alter athletics activities to comply with that plan and any relevant guidance from DC Health.

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A. Philosophy and Principles

A.1 Philosophy

The education students receive at Thurgood Marshall Academy extends far beyond the classroom. Our expectation of excellence and our steadfast commitment to the achievement of each student is at the heart of our success. The Athletics Department is committed to engaging students by providing them with an array of quality athletic teams that foster positive character development, promote teamwork, teach healthy living habits, and build students' self-esteem through transformative relationships.

In this handbook you will find the goals and expectations of our athletic program. This information should serve as a guiding force and valuable resource for all student athletes and provide tools for achieving academic success.

We are members of the Public Charter School Athletic Association (PCSAA). We host our opponents in our state-of-the art athletic facility.

A.2 Principles

The Athletics Department operates with four guiding principles. These principles are listed below with a brief description of what each means.

Structure – Because Thurgood Marshall Academy offers its students multiple athletic activities, it is necessary for the Department to develop, implement, and evaluate policies that govern all of its athletics programs. These policies will set clear expectations with the goal of improving every program and positively contributing to the school's culture and operation.

Quality - We want students to be excited to join and remain a part of our athletics programs. For this to be possible, the programs offered need to be quality programs that teach appropriate skills and knowledge, push students to improve themselves, and make participation fun.

Increased Participation – The Athletics Department wants to see as many students as possible participating in its programs. The effect on a student who participates in a sport or club is remarkable. Students learn valuable life-skills, gain a greater appreciation for their education, develop pride in themselves, their team, and their school. The impact on the school is equally positive. Its culture will strengthen, parent satisfaction will improve, students will show greater academic growth, and the number of behavior incidents will decrease.

Connecting to the Classroom - The Athletics Department understands the positive impact its programs can have on students, especially when it comes to their behavioral and academic development. These programs and the policies of the Department will support the expectations set within the classroom and throughout the school, as well as promote the idea of "Academics First, Athletics Second."

B. Responsibilities of the Athletic Director

B.1 Director of Athletics

Equipment and Transportation:

- Purchasing distributing and collecting uniforms
- Purchasing, distributing and collecting equipment
- Scheduling and confirming practice space
- Coordination of travel plans to and from practice
- Working with the Director of Programs to ensure budget solvency

League Business

- Reviewing and administering all league rules and regulations, including the submission of necessary paperwork
- Attending league meetings
- Participating in league conference calls
- Scheduling games
- Reporting results and scores
- Confirming games

Staffing and Student Support

- Regularly assessing the athletic program to assure player growth as citizens, students, and as competitors
 - Working with the Director of Programs to hire coaches
 - Working with coaches to assure players meet school discipline expectations
- Ensuring player eligibility based on league and in school standards
- Drafting and administering player contracts
 - Drafting, distributing and collecting player permission slips
 - Attending games when possible
 - Coordinating managers, bookkeepers, and students filming games

School Spirit

- Organizing and assisting with pep rallies
- Developing a school culture that embraces athletics

Expansion of Athletic Offerings

- Researching option for additional athletic programs
- Assess school's ability to sustain additional teams

B.2 Team Coaches

- Provide proper supervision of athletes at all times.
- Check the environment for hazards prior to the start of meetings, practices, events, and/or games.
- Teach participants proper knowledge, skills, rules, and techniques associated with their team.
- Model proper character and sportsmanship at all times.
- Record students' attendance at the beginning of every practice, meeting, event, or game.
- Verify that athletes with asthma have their prescribed and unexpired inhaler prior to the start of all practices and competitions.
- Report any serious or chronic incidents of a participant(s) violating team, department, or school policies to the Director of Athletics.
- Notify the Director of Athletics of any students suspended from practice, meeting, event, or game and the reason for the suspension.
- Create and provide students and parents with season schedules at the beginning of the season.
- Send parents weekly reminders of upcoming practices, meetings, events, and games via text messaging and/or email.
- Notify parents of any cancellations or schedule changes as soon as possible via phone, email, and/or text.
- Seek approval from the Director of Athletics for any printed or website material to be distributed to parents or posted on the website, with the exception of the mandatory weekly text and email reminders to parents.
- Ensure that all students are picked-up by a parent after practice, meetings, events, or games, unless parents have formally given permission for the participant to take public transportation or walk home.
- Communicate the needs of the team or to the Director of Athletics.
- Attend seasonal coach meetings and complete any professional development required by the Department.
- Ensure equipment and supplies for the team are properly cared for and returned to their assigned area.
- Complete all required background checks and trainings.

B.3 Parents

- Complete all registration information and forms from the Athletics Department.
- Require their child to attend each of their program's practices, meetings, events, or games on the days that their child attends school.
- Support the teaching of sportsmanship to their child and model sportsmanship during all practices and games.
- Ensure that the child is picked up on-time after practices, meetings, events, or games.
- Provide and verify their child has their proper practice, meeting, event, or game uniform before arriving at the school.

- Review all communications from coaches/advisors and the Athletics and Department. ·
Contact the head coach with any questions or concerns.
- Attend as many games as possible
- Properly care for and return any school-owned uniforms, equipment or supplies by the end of the school year.

B.4 Students

- Attend and actively participate in all of their activity's practices, meetings, events or games. ·
Complete homework or independently read/study during study hall.
- Maintain at least a 2.0 GPA
- Meet the behavioral expectations of the classroom, the school, the Department, and team · Bring a complete and clean uniform for all practices, meetings, events, or games. · Give any schedules, fliers or messages to their parents/guardian immediately following practice, meeting, event, or game.
- Properly care for and return school-owned uniforms, equipment, or supplies at the conclusion of the year.
- Remain with the coach(s) at the end of each practice, meeting, event, or game until dismissed or picked up by parents.

C. Team Policies

C.1 Coach Selection and Training

- The Athletics Department believes that at the heart of any great team is quality coaching. Therefore, the Department has set specific guidelines to support the development of its coaches, but also promote safe and quality athletics.
- Every athletic team will have a head coach and an assistant coach. Coaches may be TMA employees or outside independent contractors.
- For any coach that is not a staff member of the school, prior to their participation with a program, they must submit an application, pass a criminal background check, and be interviewed by the Athletic Director and head coach.
- All coaches must receive and complete First Aid/ CPR training prior to their first practice/meeting.
- Athletic coaches must also complete the following National Federation of High School (NFHS) trainings prior to the start of their first practice:
 - *Fundamentals of Coaching*
 - *Concussions in Sports*
 - *Heat Illness Prevention*
- Additional training may be requested by the Athletic Director or league prior to a coach's first

practice.

C.2 Team Size and Eligibility

- All interested students are encouraged to try out for teams.
- The head coach and athletic director will collaborate to determine the maximum number of participants that will be accepted onto the team.
- In the case of try-outs, the head coach must hold a meeting with students prior to the try-out to explain how try-outs will be conducted and the evaluation criteria. Try-outs must be conducted in an objective manner with the utmost integrity.

C.3 Seasons and Registration

- In order to give students the opportunity to participate in a variety of teams, there are three sports seasons; Fall, Winter and Spring.
- Students are encouraged to register for all sports at the beginning of the school year. All registration forms must be completed via paper forms. Registration forms can be received from the Athletics Office or the school website.

C.4 Participant Eligibility

- Although the Athletics Department seeks to engage as many students as possible in its athletics programs, **it must be understood the participation in an extracurricular activity is a privilege, not a right.** Certain requirements must be met for a student to participate on an athletics team, which are listed below:
 - All age/grade requirements are met
 - All required registration forms are completed by deadline.
 - Student maintains at least a 2.0 GPA.
 - Student is not absent from more than three practices and meetings during the season.
 - Students must be medically cleared for competitive athletics (yearly physical exam).
 - Student must attend all scheduled classes to participate games the same day, unless granted an excused absence from their Dean, Head of School or Executive Director.
 - Students must attend and actively work on homework or independently read during study hall prior to the start of their activity.
 - Students may not participate in two or more athletic teams that operate on the same day
 - Students may not participate in an activity on days where they are serving in-school or out-of-school suspension. Students who earn two out-of-school or three in-school suspensions will be removed from their team for the remainder of the season.
 - Students must follow all team and Department and school rules and expectations.

C.5 End of School Day Transition

- When a team has a practice or game, students in that activity must report to the study hall. Athletes must get a pass from the study hall coordinator to return to the main building for any

reason. Students will complete homework or study independently during study hall. Study hall generally runs 45-60 minutes, depending on team practice schedules and gym availability. Study hall is run by the Athletics Coordinator.

C.6 Practice and Meeting Times

- Coaches are expected to report to the team study hall once they arrive for practice/game. · Team practices should not extend beyond 9:00 PM
- The head coach/must adhere to the scheduled end time that appears on the season schedule, unless the parents have been given advance notice (at least 24 hours' notice) of the time change.

C.7 Student Attendance

- Students who are a part of the team are expected to attend all scheduled meetings, practices, events, and games. The Department sets this expectation because students have made a commitment to their program and need to learn how to honor their commitments, which is a very important character trait to have in life.
- Parents should avoid scheduling appointments or pulling their child from practices/games. · Students may not leave campus after dismissal and return to the school for their program.
- Coaches and the Athletic Coordinator must record attendance at the start of each practice, meeting, event, and game.
- Coaches will be expected to submit their attendance sheet to the Athletic Coordinator. · Students who are absent for more than three practices, meetings, events, or games will be considered for removal from their team.
- Students must attend their full schedule of classes in order to participate in athletics that day. The exception to this rule will be if the absence from a class or classes was the result of an emergency or doctor's appointment and is excused by either the Dean, Head of School or Executive Director. In this case, the student must attend school for at least half of the day.
- Head coaches may limit or prohibit a student's participation in a program as a result of absences from meetings, practices, events, and games.

C.8 Transportation to Games and Events

- In cases where teams and clubs need to travel, the Athletic Department's top priority is the safety of students and staff. Also, the Department wants to ensure that teams and clubs arrive at their destination on time so they can properly prepare for their competition or event.
- Transportation will be arranged by the Athletics Coordinator.
- It is mandatory that all participants use the transportation provided by the Department. · At least one coach must ride with the team to and from a game.
- Students are expected to conduct themselves in a safe and respectful manner while being transported.
- Students are responsible for taking their property and trash with them after arriving at the game/event and returning back at the school

- Head coaches are allowed to limit or prohibit a student's participation if they fail to adhere to the guidelines stated above.

C.9 Unregistered Students/Siblings

- The department wants its coaches to focus on providing enriching experiences that build students up physically and emotionally. Furthermore, coaches and advisors are responsible for providing the safest environment possible for their students. Therefore, coaches/advisors are **only** responsible for the students who registered for their programs. All unregistered students may not attend or participate in the activity.
- Non-registered siblings may not attend practices, meetings, events, or games unless a parent is present to supervise them, but the unregistered sibling may not participate in the activity.
- Coaches and the Athletics Coordinator should send the non-registered student/sibling to the Director of Athletics.
- If an unregistered sibling attempts to attend the program on two or more occasions, the registered sibling may be removed from the program.

C.10 Student Pick-up and Walking/Metro Home

- The Athletics Department wants to do everything it can to make sure that its students and staff get home safely and on-time. Therefore, it is important that clear expectations are set and met by both parents and the coach.
- Upon registering their child for a team, a parent must formally declare whether the student will be picked-up by an adult, take public transportation or will walk home without adult supervision at the conclusion of the activity.
- If a student is to be picked-up, a coach must remain with the student until a parent arrives to pick up their child.
- If a student is walking home or taking metro, the student must leave school grounds immediately at the conclusion of their activity.
- Parents or authorized persons picking-up their child are expected to arrive on time. If a student is picked-up late three times or more (by 5 minutes or more) during a season, the student will be considered for removal from their program.
- If a parent is going to be late to pick-up their child, they are expected to contact the coach via phone or text message.

C.11 Uniforms

- A team may require a student to wear specific types of clothes for practice or meetings. It is the responsibility of the student to bring the clothing to school on practice or meeting days. · Coaches may limit or prohibit a student's participation in a program for not having the proper clothing, uniform, or equipment.
- Some programs may issue and loan student's school-owned uniforms and equipment. · If a student is issued and loaned a school-owned uniform or equipment, it is the responsibility of the student and their parent to return the complete item to their coach at the conclusion of the season.
- Parents of a student that returns an incomplete or severely damaged uniform, or does not return the uniform or equipment, will be held financially responsible for replacing that uniform or equipment.
 - If a student does not return their school-owned uniform or equipment by the designated deadline or their parent refuses to replace the uniform or equipment, Thurgood Marshall Academy reserves the right to withhold the student's report card until the uniform is paid for.

C.12 Cancellations

- The Athletics Department believes that a key to any successful program is consistency and following the season schedule. However, games may be canceled for emergencies, inclement weather, or even a forfeit by the opposing school. In all cases, the head coach is responsible for contacting all parents as soon as possible.
- Parents are responsible for making sure their students have plans to arrive home safely in case of cancellations.
- When a cancellation is made, the head coach will send an email and text message to parents. An announcement of the cancellation will be made during the afternoon announcements.

D. Safety Policies

D.1 Risk of Athletic Participation

- **Participation in an athletic program can involve intense physical activity and competition, which poses the potential for serious, catastrophic, or life-threatening injury. Participants and parents are urged to consider that there are inherent risks and hazards associated with athletic participation. Risks vary from sport-to-sport and can occur under direct supervision and with the use of proper safety equipment**

D.2 First-Aid/CPR Certification, Concussion Training, and Heat-Illness

Prevention

- In the event of a medical emergency during athletic activities, coaches are considered to be first responders. Therefore, the Athletics Department makes it a priority that its coaches and advisors are adequately trained in First Aid and CPR, as well as making sure that athletic coaches are properly trained to respond to students displaying symptoms of a concussion and heat-illness.
- Prior to the first team practice every coach must hold a current (within the past two years) CPR/First Aid certification.
- Prior to their first practice, all athletic coaches must have completed the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) Concussion Training, Fundamentals of Coaching and Heat-Illness Prevention course within the past two years.

D.3 Medical Treatment and Emergency Protocol

- If a student is injured during a practice, meeting, event, or game, the coach is to administer first aid and contact the student's parent as soon as possible. If the injury is severe and requires more than first-aid treatment, the coach or advisor is to take the following course of action:
 - Select a specific person to call 911.
 - Administer First Aid or CPR until emergency personnel arrive at the scene. Allow emergency personnel to see participant's medical waiver and authorization to treat forms.
 - Call parent or emergency contact of injured participant as soon as possible.
 - Call the Director of Athletics
- Complete an *Injury/Incident Report* and submit it to the Athletic Director within 24 hours of the incident. Incident reports should be completed anytime that First Aid is given, CPR is administered, or there is a response from emergency personnel.
- All coaches and advisors are expected to have their cell phones on during practices, meetings, events, and games. THE CELL PHONE WILL ONLY BE USED IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.

D.4 Medical Clearance, Medical Release and Return to Play

- Prior to a student participating in a program, the student must be cleared for competitive athletics on their *District of Columbia Universal Health Certificate*. This form is filed in the school's nurse office.
- Upon registering their child, the parent must complete a Medical Release Form which acknowledges the risks of participating in an extracurricular activity and grants permission for a coach and emergency personnel to provide treatment for any injury that may occur.
- If a student was injured during the season and was prohibited from participating in their program by a doctor, the student will need to submit a signed *Medical Return to Play Form* from a physician before participating again in any practice or game.
- Prior to a student returning to their activity, the *Medical Return to Play Form* must be signed by a

physician and submitted to the Athletic Director, who will provide a copy to the head coach.

D.5 Students with Medical Conditions

- Upon registering their child for a program, **the parent must declare all medical conditions affecting the student, as well as any medication the student is currently taking.** · Student athletes must bring their prescribed and unexpired inhaler to all practices and competitions. The student athlete will be prohibited from participating if they fail to bring their rescue inhaler.
- At the beginning of all practices and competitions, the head coach of each athletic program is responsible for verifying that their athletes with asthma have their prescribed and unexpired inhaler.
- All students who have been prescribed an Epi-Pen should bring their Epi-Pen to every practice, meeting, event, or game.

D.6 Practices at Off-Site Locations

- Programs walking/running to and from an off-site location must travel together and be closely supervised by their coaches.
- In the case of inclement weather, medical emergency, or a shelter in place situation while at an off-site location, the coaches should follow the Emergency Procedures for that specific site.

D.7 Inclement Weather

- Whether its sunny, raining, or snowing, parents and students should always assume that their program will operate as scheduled, unless notified by the school, Athletic Director or coach. · If an athletic practice is to be held on a D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) outdoor field and DPR closes the field, the athletic practice may not be held at that field. The practice may be canceled or relocated to the school.
- Practices or meetings conducted outside may be held if the temperature is above 35 degrees Fahrenheit, the conditions are reasonably dry, and students are appropriately dressed. · At the first sound of thunder or sight of lightning, all outdoor activities must immediately be suspended and participants are to seek cover. The activity may not resume until 30 minutes after the last sight of lightning or sound of thunder.
- If a program decides to cancel due to inclement weather, the head coach is responsible for contacting all parents as soon as possible.

E. Student Conduct and Discipline Policies

E.1 Student Conduct

- The Department believes its programs can help build positive character in its students. This is true

because of the hands-on experiences and lessons learned in each program, but also the Department's activities support students' behavior in the classroom and throughout the school.

- **Although the Department believes in supporting student's behavior development, it still believes that participation in an extracurricular activity is a privilege, not a right.** · Students participating in an extra-curricular program are to conduct themselves with integrity throughout the school day and while participating in their athletics program. They must follow the expectations laid out by the school's handbook, their classroom teachers, and by their coaches.

E.2 Student Discipline

- The Department expects that all of its participants conduct themselves with integrity during the school day and during their extracurricular program.
- This discipline policy is designed to protect the interests of all athletics teams and assist the student's improvement. Discipline by the Department may include, but is not limited to the following:
 - Limited participation
 - A practice, meeting, event, or game suspension
 - Multiple practice, meeting, event or game suspensions
 - Conference concerning the offense (Student/Director)
 - Conference with parents
 - Removal from team
- The method of discipline employed depends on the nature of the offense, as well as other pertinent factors.
- In cases where the student fails to meet the expectations of their team, the head coach will be responsible for disciplining the student. In cases where the student's removal from the team or club is being considered, the incident will be referred to the Athletic Director to make a determination.

E.3 Student Suspension from Practices, Meetings, Events, or Games

- The head coach and the Athletic Director may issue a single or multiple practice, meeting, event, or game suspension. This means the student will not be allowed to attend the program during the suspension.
- If the head coach issues the suspension(s), they must notify the student and their parents immediately after the decision has been made. The Athletic Director should be notified as soon as possible after the parent has been contacted.
- Students may not participate in an activity on days where they are serving in-school or out-of-school suspension. Students who earn two out-of-school or three in-school suspensions will be removed from the team for the remainder of the season.
- If a suspension is issued, it is to be carried out at the next practice, meeting, event, or game. · A suspension can also be carried out the same day as long as the student's parent is contacted by phone no later than 2 p.m. If a parent is contacted after 2 p.m., the suspension will be carried out the next practice, meeting, event, or game.

E.4 Student Removal from Program

- Only the Athletic Director may remove a student from a team, however, a head coach may recommend to the Director that a student should be removed. The Athletic Director will conduct an investigation and hold a phone or in-person conference with the student and their parents before giving a decision.
- Reasons for a student's removal may include, but are not limited to:
 - Failure to meet eligibility requirements
 - Chronic violation of program or department rules
 - Serious unsportsmanlike conduct
 - Violation of an offense as described in the TMA Students Code of Conduct.
- A student who is removed from a program, will be able to register for a program the following season on the condition that a conference is held between the student, their parent, and the Director of Athletics.

F. Coach Conduct and Discipline Policies

F.1 Coach Conduct

- Coaches can have a tremendous and lasting impact on students' lives. The Department wants every student in its programs to have a positive and meaningful experience. Therefore, coaches are to serve as proper role models for their students and conduct themselves with professionalism and integrity at all times.
- Reasons for disciplinary action against a coach include, but are not limited to the following:
 - Leaving students unsupervised during practice, meetings, events, and game.
 - Failure to report to practices, meetings, events, or games without notifying the Athletic Director
 - Poor attendance and chronic tardiness
 - Dishonesty and related problems
 - Inappropriate contact or communications with students and parents of Thurgood Marshall Academy as well as students, parents, and staff of other schools and organizations.
 - Unsportsmanlike conduction
 - Inappropriate use or storage of equipment
 - Failure to comply with any of the Department's policies.

F.2 Discipline for Misconduct

- Disciplinary action against a coach will be at the discretion of the Director of Athletics along with the Director of Programs. Actions may include, but are not limited to the following:
 - Undocumented verbal warning
 - Documented verbal warning
 - Written warning
 - Suspension(s) from practice, meeting, event, or games
 - Removal of coach
- Any documented warning, suspension, or removal notice will be kept in the coach's Department file.
- In the case a coach/advisor is removed, the removal notice will also be filed in their school personnel file.

G. Academic Policy

G.1 Academic Standard to Participate

- The Department wants its participants to understand the belief of "Academics First, Athletics Second." Therefore, participants must meet an academic standard before and throughout participating in the athletics program.
- Students are expected to maintain a 2.0 GPA
- For athletes, the Study Hall Coordinator will review grades on a bi-weekly basis to verify that students are in good academic standing.

G.2 Study Hall

- The Department understands that when a student participates in an extracurricular activity, they are sacrificing time and energy that could be used on completing homework and studying. To support students and their studies, it is mandatory for each student on an athletics team to attend study hall prior to the start of their program.
- Students will complete homework or study independently.
- Study hall will last approximately 45-60 minutes.
- Students are to report to study hall by 4:00 (4:30 Tuesday).
- Students are allowed to meet with teachers after school, but must report to the study hall and receive a pass to return to the main building.

H. Communication Policy

H.1 Coach Communication with Parents

- At the heart of a quality athletics program is good communication between the coaches and the parents. An informed parent is a supportive parent. Therefore, it is important that coaches communicate effectively and in different ways with parents.
- At the beginning of each season, the head coach will distribute a season schedule, a letter of introduction, and a copy of the Athletics Department Handbook. The participant is responsible for giving the material to their parents. The parent must sign and return to the coach a statement that they received, reviewed, and understood the information.
- Head athletic coaches are responsible for holding a pre-season parent meeting to review Department and team expectations.
- Head coaches will be responsible for giving weekly reminders of practices, meetings, events, or games to parents via email and text message.
- Head Coaches are responsible for communicating any cancellations of and updates for practices, meetings, events, and games via phone call, email, or text message.

H. 2 School Website

- The Department's website is www.thurgoodmarshallacademy.org
- The website is available for coaches, students, and parents to view important resources for athletics like updated schedules, program and department policies, department forms, emergency updates, and scores.
- All parents who register their child for an athletics team should have a media release statement on file with the school, which allows the Department to take photos and video of each program.

H.3 Parental Contact Information

- Upon registering their child for an extra-curricular program, the parents must submit current contact information including home address, cell phone number, home phone number, and email address to the Department
- Parents must provide two emergency contacts upon registering their child for a program. Information for the emergency contacts include their full name, address, home phone number, and cell phone number
- Failure to include all contact information for the parents or any of the emergency contacts will result in an incomplete registration and the student will not be allowed to participate in a program until all required contact information is submitted.

H.4 Parents or Students Expressing Questions and Concern

- If there are any questions or concerns involving some aspect of the Department, the student/parent should first contact the appropriate coach.
- When expressing a concern with a coach/advisor, please refer to and use the following guidelines:
 - Never approach a coach immediately after a game or event. This is not the proper time or place for a discussion concerning your child or program.

- Call the following day and make an appointment, which is convenient for both the parent and the coach to meet.
- Raise your concern in a calm and civil manner. Yelling, being rude or using foul language is not acceptable.
- Once you have stated your question or concern, listen to the explanation. Often a parent may be blinded by emotion and this overrides logical reason. Listening receptively may really help you to understand any explanation which is given
- If parents have contacted the head coach with their question or concern and they feel they did not receive a satisfactory response, they can contact the Director of Athletics to express their question or concern.
- It is important to remember that coaches have full time jobs and therefore their daily duties may prevent them from responding to questions or concerns immediately. Please allow 24 hours to respond to parental questions or concerns.

I. Parental Involvement and Volunteering

- Parental involvement is a key to any successful extracurricular activity. It sends a positive message to the student and encourages them to continue their interest in their activity. However, it is important that parental involvement, although its intentions may be good, does not disrupt an athletics program.
- Parents/guardians or others with questions about Thurgood Marshall Academy's Title IX policy can consult the Nondiscrimination Policy found on www.thurgoodmarshallacademy.org or contact the school's Chief Operating Officer."

I.1 Parental Involvement

- Parents are expected to be involved in the following ways:
 - Attend games, events, and performances
 - Encourage family members to attend games, events, and performances
 - Talk with their child about their extracurricular activity and continue to promote their commitment.
 - Follow program's expectations at all times.
 - Encourage children to follow program's expectations at all times.
 - Display sportsmanship at all times during athletic events.

I.2 Parental Volunteering

- The Department encourages parents to volunteer with their child's extracurricular activity as well. This type of involvement is a fulfilling experience for the parent as well as it sends a positive and supportive message to their child and the others in the program. Also, parent volunteers can provide much needed assistance for coaches. Parents are encouraged to volunteer in the following ways:

- Be a team parent
- Donate snacks and drinks to program
- Videotape games and events for coaches/advisors
- Photograph games and events for the Department
- Maintain scores and statistics for the team.
- Take tickets at games and events

1.3 Volunteer Hours

- Students who serve as team managers will be issued community service volunteer hours.
Students are responsible for submitting hours to the Athletic Director for approval.

J. Awards

J.1 Thurgood Marshall Academy PCHS Athletics Awards Criteria

MVP Award

- a. The athlete responds to coaching and studies the game.
- b. The athlete exhibits a spirit of competition in all practices and games, and has a desire to practice and improve whenever possible.
- c. The athlete is willing to accept the “team” before “self” and work hard to be a successful team player.
- d. The athlete has a desire to win and strive for victory.
- e. The athlete is willing to make sacrifices for the team.
- f. The athlete exhibits a continuing desire to improve oneself on and off the field, being successful in all aspects of school life. The athlete remained academically eligible throughout the season.
- g. The athlete exhibits a spirit of “pride” and “honor” to be part of the Warrior sports program.
- h. The athlete exhibits a willingness to be honest, polite, and courteous in dealing with others, including opponents and officials of the game.
- I. The athlete consistently demonstrates exemplary sportsmanship and is willing to accept defeat without blaming it on others.

Coaches Award - This award is generally presented as a “thank you” to an individual player who has been a positive contributor to the team.

- a. The athlete demonstrates outstanding athletic ability and leadership qualities.

- b. The athlete demonstrates superior dedication in the area of athletic competition.
- c. Throughout the season, the athlete demonstrates the true spirit of Warrior athletics.
- d. The athlete is willing to understand, learn and enter into a partnership with the coach and teammates in an effort to recognize his/her full potential.
- e. The athlete has participated in the struggle each and every day, attending all practices and games, and in the end went beyond his/her own limitations.
- f. The athlete has demonstrated hard work and personal improvement both in athletics and academics.
- g. The athlete maintained athletic eligibility throughout the season.

MIP (Most Improved) Award –This award is presented to an athlete who has shown marked improvement in skill level over the sport season. This athlete starts out with less skills and confidence than the rest of his/her teammates and then goes on to prove that not only did they improve or master the skills, but on occasion can even outperform the best players on the team.

Rookie of the Year- Excellent Rookie Player, contributes to the team's success, demonstrates good sportsmanship, has a good attitude, and is loyal to the team.

Warrior Pride- Warrior Pride- Doesn't get much playing time, never complains, always supports teammates, excellent attendance at games and practices.

Sportsmanship- Good role model, expresses a good attitude, exhibits great sportsmanship home and away, has a desire to win, accepts losses gracefully.

K. Sportsmanship

K.1 Since athletics should be educational in nature, it is important that all players, coaches, and parents demonstrate good sportsmanship and serve as role models for our athletes and students. Sportsmanship is an overt display of respect for the rules of sport and for all others. It also involves a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior, and integrity. This means:

- No vulgar or inappropriate language from our athletes, coaches, parents, or spectators.
- Taunting or trash talking of our opponents, their fans, or the officials will not be tolerated.

- Spectators cannot enter the playing or team area during a contest.
 - Parents and fans should be supportive and positive. Cheering is done for our team and not against our opponent.
 - We should not impede or interfere with our opponent's cheerleaders from leading cheers. ·
- In some sports, like basketball we should not yell at an opponent during a foul shot · School officials have the authority to remove a spectator(s) from a contest for unruly or improper conduct. The individual(s) may be removed for the duration of the particular contest or for any extended period of time depending on the severity or frequency of the improper conduct.
- Possession of intoxicants and/or illegal substances is prohibited. Smoking is also prohibited on school grounds and at athletic events.

ADDENDUM: THURGOOD MARSHALL ACADEMY CONCUSSION AWARENESS
 POLICY/https://thurgoodmarshallacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Concussion-Awareness-Program_TMA_v2020.pdf