

**Mission Statement**

The Tuscola High School Athletic program is an integrated part of the high school's total curriculum. The department is committed to providing all student-athletes an equal opportunity to learn and be successful in an environment that promotes academic and athletic excellence. Additionally, THS Athletics is committed to ensuring that our programs remain a source of pride to our students, faculty, and community.

As such, the department expects equal commitment on the part of its student-athletes. Participating in a sport and thus representing Tuscola High School, is a privilege. The department encourages attitudes of self-discipline, group loyalty, good sportsmanship and personal integrity; an appreciation for the benefits of hard work, motivation and perseverance; and a feeling of pride in accomplishment. It is the Athletic Department's belief that these qualities lead to success in academics and athletics and to the attainment of skills necessary for continued learning throughout life.

**1. Athletic Participation**

- A. Any student who has made a team and started the season, then quits that sport, will not be permitted to begin practice or participate in another sport until the one he or she quit is finished.
- B. A student must attend school at least four periods on a game day in order to be able to participate in a game that day. Also, students will not be allowed to practice if he or she does not attend school at least four periods.

**2. Requirements for Participation/ Eligibility**

- A. All students participating in any phase of the Tuscola High School Athletic Department will be bound by the eligibility rules of the North Carolina High School Association.
- B. Athletes are not eligible to participate in any sport until the following items have been completed and turned in:
  - A. Application for permission to participate, including notification of misdemeanors or felonies, on file.
  - B. Physical examination completed and on file.
  - C. Proof of insurance on file.
  - D. All eligibility requirements have been satisfied.
  - E. Student and parent sportsmanship pledge signed and on file.
  - F. Athletic Department rules signed by parent and athlete.

### **3. Athletic Dress, Equipment and Uniforms**

- A. Student-athletes should dress in a manner that will reflect well upon THS while representing the school as the home or visiting team. All male athletes must be clean-shaven for all games. Head coaches in each sport are responsible for setting standards of appearance and dress to meet this requirement and to comply with rules set forth by the North Carolina High School Athletics Association.
- B. Students are responsible for all athletic equipment and uniforms issued to them by his or her coach. In the event an item is lost or stolen, the student will be required to pay the replacement cost of the equipment or uniform.

### **4. Athletic Awards, Banquets and Trophies**

- A. In order to receive a letter in a sport the participant must have completed the season as a team member in good standing. Letters cannot be earned on junior varsity teams. Letters and school letter jackets may be ordered through the athletic director at the end of each sport season.
- B. A player may letter in a sport if he or she is injured during the season in a game or practice and remains a member of the team in good standing.
- C. Any player who quits a team before the end of the season will not receive a letter or any other athletic award for that season.
- D. Athletic Banquets will be determined by the Athletic Department at Tuscola High School.

### **5. Team Travel**

- A. All students, as a team, will travel to and from any athletic event off school grounds the way provided by the coach. If an athlete, because of an emergency, is unable to go at the time of departure and finds other means to get to the place of the event, the coach will use his or her discretion as to whether or not that athlete may participate.
- B. In order for an athlete to be allowed to leave an away athletic event by means other than that provided by the coach, his or her parent or guardian must come in person to the coach and relieve the school of all responsibility for the safe arrival back home of his or her athlete.
- C. Student athletes should treat the property of the other schools with respect and leave their facilities in good condition.

**9. Seasonal Athletic Passes**

Every athlete will receive a seasonal athletic pass, which enables the athlete to attend any athletic event for the sport season in which the athlete is participating. Students may request this pass from the Athletic Director.

**10. Individual Team Rules**

Any coach, with the approval of the athletic director, may have rules and regulations that apply specifically to his or her team as long as the overall rules of the THS Athletic Department are adhered to. Parents and athletes are responsible for obtaining a copy of these rules.