

# **Thomas More Prep-Marian Activity/Athletic 2025-26 Handbook**



**Thomas More Prep-Marian**  
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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Thomas More Prep-Marian activity/athletic program. Hopefully, your decision to take advantage of this portion of our extra-curricular program will be educational, rewarding and challenging. Thomas More Prep-Marian encourages you to take advantage of as many programs as your time and talent will permit. *WE DO NOT ENCOURAGE SPECIALIZATION IN ONE SPORT/ACTIVITY; RATHER, WE WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO EXPERIENCE A VARIETY OF SPORTS/ACTIVITIES.* Naturally, due to conflicts in seasons, practice times, schedules, etc., some choices will have to be made by you. Good luck to you as you strive to grow emotionally, mentally, spiritually, socially and physically through athletics/activities. This handbook covers all athletics/activities including extra-curricular and co-curricular activities. Activities in which grades are earned are not subject to inclusion in the policies outlined in this handbook.

## PHILOSOPHY

We believe that interscholastic activities shall supplement the academic and spiritual growth of our students, and as such become a vital part of a student's total educational experience. These experiences contribute to the development of learning skills and spiritual patterns that enable the student to make maximum use of his/her education.

Student participation in any part of our activities is a privilege, not a right. This privilege carries with it responsibilities to the school, to the activity, to the student body, to the community and to the student himself. This participation will help to develop the student physically, mentally, spiritually, socially, and emotionally.

## SPORTSMANSHIP

Thomas More Prep-Marian is a member of the Mid Continent League (MCL) and the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA). As members of these groups, we adhere to policies set down for the display of good sportsmanship by athletes, students, fans, parents, and patrons. Member schools are to enforce sportsmanship rules for our own school, players and spectators. Violation of rules can result in the following consequences: written reprimand, probation, suspension, ejection, or permanent removal from events. Consequences are in force for players, coaches, students, parents, and fans.

***All school discipline policies and rules apply to the Thomas More Prep-Marian School students at school activities whether they are held on school property or away from school.***

As a participant representing Thomas More Prep-Marian, you have the responsibility for exhibiting good sportsmanship/citizenship at all times. You will receive the ingredients of good sportsmanship through the teaching, coaching and examples of the coaching staff. So, be sure to exhibit what you learn.

A very important lesson we learn through interscholastic activities/athletics is that by hard work and dedication we can improve. Thomas More Prep-Marian recognizes we can take the ability given us and through hard work and dedication to become anything we desire. If you are willing to recognize the ability you possess and work hard, you can achieve success in activities/athletics no matter what the material success may or may not be.

Attitude is one of the principle requisites in being successful in any sport/activity, and of course, how you act and how you feel and think in showing your disposition best define this concept. The desire to excel, to win, to pay the price, are all positive points or attributes of attitude that contribute to the winning philosophy.

Yes, a winning philosophy is important. But likewise, realize the importance of how the game is played as well as viewed. Simple acts or gestures of respect such as displaying good conduct, cooperating with officials, shaking hands with opponents before and after the contest, showing self-control at all times, accepting decisions and abiding by them, accepting both victory and defeat with pride and compassion, and never being boastful or bitter, will aid you, the individual, and your team as well to portray the standards of sportsmanship expected of athletes/participants.

Actually, interscholastic activities/athletics are much like everyday life. Society thrives on competition that has made our country as great as it is today. Regardless of your plans in later life, whether to be in labor, management, sales, professions or whatever, you must realize there will be competition. There are and will be disappointments in all of life's activities. It is how you react to these disappointments that will measure what values you have learned through active participation in contests, festivals, contests, tournaments, and athletic play on the athletic courts, and fields during your high school days.

## **GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP CODE**

### **For Players, Coaches, and Fans:**

1. Maintain pride in self and school.
2. Strive to keep high standards of conduct.
3. Cheering is always encouraged for one's own team.
4. No taunts, chants, noises, cheers, songs, profanity, signs or motions directed to the opposing team, coach, school, or officials. Treat everyone with respect.
5. No disrespect will be shown to the opposing team during introductions.
6. No noisemakers.
7. Abide by the decisions of officials.
8. Accept victory or defeat graciously.

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

As a student participant, you are in school to secure the best possible education you are capable of achieving. Deciding to take advantage of this component plays a significant part in your total educational development. However, with this decision also come certain responsibilities, if the value of activities is to be achieved, namely:

1. Striving to achieve sound citizenship and desirable social traits, including control, honesty, cooperation, dependability and respect for others and their abilities.
2. Maintaining academic and eligibility standards as established by the Kansas State High School Activities Association and Thomas More Prep-Marian.
3. Learning the spirit of hard work and dedication.

4. Attaining mental and physical fitness through good health habits.
5. Excelling to the limits of your potential.
6. Showing respect for both authority and property.
7. Willing to accept the leadership role that is instilled through the activity program.

Keep in mind that you are in the public eye and your personal conduct always must be above reproach. You have an obligation to create a favorable image and gain the respect of your teammates, your student body and the community.

## BASIC GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION

1. Students are free to make their own selections as to the activities in which they wish to participate.
2. A student who has gone out for a sport, but quits of his own accord, will not be eligible to start practicing for another sport before the end of the competition in the sport that was dropped, unless both of the head coaches and the athletic director agree.
3. Transportation policy: Complete the online form on the TMP-Marian website if you wish for your student to leave a school activity with a parent or another adult from a school event/activity instead of riding in school provided transportation. If your student will be traveling with someone other than his/her parent, please complete this form and deliver it to the coach/sponsor at least twenty-four hours before departure from Thomas More Prep-Marian to the event. This form is the minimum requirement according to school policy. Policies by individual coaches/sponsors may be stricter. This form must be completed and signed by the parent or legal guardian of said student. Failure to meet these guidelines may result in the student returning to school in school transportation. No student will be allowed to travel alone with an adult unless it is a family member.
4. If a student misses any part of the day due to illness or any unexcused absence they will not be allowed to participate in any after school activity that day.
5. In the event of truancy or suspension, the student will not be eligible for participation until the student has fulfilled the disciplinary requirements established by the administration.
6. Student hazing is expressly prohibited; hazing is defined as willful conduct directed at another student, whether occurring on or off school property, for purposes of initiation or admission to any school-related activity or athletic team.

Students found to have violated this policy will be subject to suspension/expulsion from school and suspension/exclusion from activities/athletic participation depending on the severity of the misconduct.

School employees, including sponsors and coaches who have knowledge of school hazing, but fail to take corrective action will be subject to discipline up to and including termination of district employment. **If hazing occurs, coaches/sponsors must report the incident to the school administration immediately.**

8. The use of alcohol, tobacco, or the misuse of prescription/over-the-counter drugs is known to be detrimental to the individual as well as the team he/she represents. Therefore, disciplinary action will be taken, which may result in the removal from the team, should the student choose to use any of the above-mentioned substances. (This is more clearly defined in the Code of Conduct Policy).

## ACADEMIC STANDARDS POLICY

Students receiving a failing (69% or below for HS and 68% for JH) grade in ANY class will be required to attend Academic Tutoring. Students MUST report to the Learning Commons NO LATER than 3:25 for HS and 3:20 pm for JH and stay until 4:00 pm. If a student chooses to skip the tutoring session, he/she will serve a penalty period. The second instance of skipping a tutoring session will make the student ineligible for the next competition the following week. Students MUST have ALL school work, books, worksheets, and Chromebook. Students WILL NOT be allowed to leave and to go to their locker. Once the student is passing ALL classes, he/she MUST take his/her Chromebook to the Academic Tutoring Teacher and physically show the teacher his/her grades. At that time, the Academic Tutoring Teacher can dismiss the student. Students participating in an after school activity will report to their activity after 4:00 pm. ***A student is not eligible to participate in competitions if they are failing 2 or more classes as of 8 a.m. of the competition day.*** Any student who is on the eligibility list for 2 consecutive weeks will need to check-in their phones in the school office phone lockers starting the 3rd week until he/she is removed from the eligibility list. Phones are brought to the office by 7:55 a.m. and stored in the phone locker.

## PARTICIPANT'S PLEDGE

A student who participates in extracurricular activities must sign the "Participant's Pledge" as a precondition of his/her participation. The student's signature on the pledge signifies the commitment to abide by the conditions of the Thomas More Prep-Marian's Code of Conduct Policy and Student Conduct Policies and to remain free of alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs and to be a "credible citizen". The parent's signature on the pledge signifies that the parent has read and understands the pledge. This pledge is located at the back of this handbook with the Code of Conduct Policy.

## CARE OF EQUIPMENT

In order to give the student a sense of responsibility and an appreciation of his/her equipment, each student will be held accountable for the abuse or loss of it. ***ANY EQUIPMENT LOST OR STOLEN MUST BE PAID FOR BY THE STUDENT IN WHOSE NAME IT WAS CHECKED OUT.***

The following guidelines, if adhered to, will reduce the chances of lost or stolen equipment.

1. Do not exchange or loan any of the equipment checked out to you to another teammate. If an exchange is warranted, the coach will make the adjustments.
2. Any loss of equipment should be reported immediately to the head coach, rather than waiting until the end of the season.

3. Any protective equipment that does not fit properly or that has any defective parts should be reported to a coach immediately. Do not wear the equipment until the necessary adjustments have been made. This is for your protection.
5. At the end of the sports season, all equipment must be turned into the coach that issued the equipment.

## **PROTECT YOUR ELIGIBILITY**

The Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA), of which Thomas More Prep-Marian is a member, is a voluntary, nonprofit, educational association of junior and senior high schools established for the purpose of working cooperatively in adopting standards for supervising and regulating interscholastic activities and contests.

One of the primary functions of the KSHSAA is to establish eligibility standards that must be met by all students to attain the privilege of representing their school in interscholastic activities.

Eligibility is a PRIVILEGE to be granted by the school to a student, which allows that student to participate in interscholastic activities. Eligibility is NOT A STUDENT'S RIGHT BY LAW.

Precedents setting legal cases have determined that eligibility is a privilege to be granted only if the student meets all standards adopted by the school, which enables the school to grant the student such a privilege.

Students shall have passed at least five new subjects of unit weight, or its equivalent, the previous semester or the last semester of attendance.

## **PHYSICIAN EXAM PARENTAL CONSENT**

No student is eligible to represent Thomas More Prep-Marian in interschool athletics, spirit, or spirit competitions until their pledge sheet is on file with the office, a statement certifying the student has passed an adequate physical examination and is physically fit to participate in interscholastic athletics, spirit, or spirit competitions. The statement must be signed by any of the following licensed health care providers: a physician, a chiropractor, an authorized physician assistant, or an APRN. The statement must also be signed by a parent or legal guardian, stating the student has permission to participate.

## **ATHLETIC AWARDS**

### ***VARSITY PARTICIPATION LETTER AWARD***

A certificate/letter will be presented to the athlete each time he/she meets the requirements established in that sport and is recommended by the head coach to be a recipient of the award.

## **ATHLETIC LETTERING**

All of the TMP-Marian athletic programs offer an athletic letter for their sport. The actual granting of a letter, however, is ultimately decided by the coaching staff based on the additional factors of good school citizenship and a constructive, positive attitude.

To earn a varsity letter, the athlete must compete in 50% of the varsity contests scheduled and/or quarters of those contests regardless of the grade-level classification of the student. If a senior has not met the criterion of 50% in prior years but is in good standing, he/she may be awarded a varsity letter. Athletes who qualify for a varsity letter in the same sport after previously earning one will receive a bar in subsequent years.

## **SUPERVISION POLICY**

No individual student, team, or activity group shall be permitted to participate in events without being accompanied and supervised by a representative of the school faculty or administrative staff. Activity sponsors are responsible for the supervision of groups while on the bus traveling to and from events, while at the events, and until the students' ride arrives. Activity may not occur without school representative supervision. This includes but is not exclusive to practices, meetings, performances, contests, and bus transportation.

Sponsorship includes the coach/sponsor riding the bus, accompanying the activity, and/or supervising any activity under the sponsorship of a particular department. Sponsorship may necessitate the coach/sponsor procuring assistance from within his/her own department and/or activity personnel. It is the responsibility of the activity sponsor to cover his/her events.

## **CONFERENCE AFFILIATION**

TMP-Marian is a cooperating member of the Mid-Continent League, and, as a member, is committed to adhering to the rules and regulations of the League

Presently there are eleven member schools:

- Ellis
- Hill City
- Hoxie
- Norton
- Oakley
- Phillipsburg
- Plainville
- Russell

- Smith Center
- Thomas More Prep-Marian
- Trego

Schools compete for league championships in volleyball, football, basketball, wrestling, boys golf and track.

## CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

*Thomas More Prep-Marian School officials, coaches of athletic teams, and sponsors of various activities believe that students who are selected for the privilege of membership on teams should conduct themselves as responsible representatives of the school. In order to assure this conduct, coaches and sponsors enforce a Code of Conduct. Furthermore, members of teams must always serve as exemplary of high ethical character and must demonstrate appropriate academic commitment, which is expected from all students. As recognized representatives of their school, members are expected to exhibit appropriate behavior during the season (activity) or out of the season, in uniform or out of uniform, on school grounds or off school grounds.*

## SECTION A Extracurricular Activities and Education

1. Thomas More Prep-Marian has as its primary goals the academic education and spiritual growth of all students. Therefore, each coach or sponsor has the obligation to encourage students to perform within reasonable academic expectations and help students grow in their faith..
2. All student use of tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, electronic nicotine devices (this includes, but may not be limited to any e-cigarette, vape pen, hookah pen, or personal vaporizer), or possession or use of non-prescribed controlled substances or paraphernalia for their use will not be tolerated, and the violator will be subject to disciplinary action.
3. Rule enforcement will be consistent and immediate. School officials are not expected to police off-campus, non-school activities unless the violation is brought to public attention, are sufficiently severe to bring discredit upon the organization, and are proven.
4. Each coach or sponsor has the prerogative to establish additional rules pertaining to the activity supervised. These rules may include attendance at practices, contests, trips, etc. Rules set by the individual coach or sponsor must be in writing and approved by the administration and communicated to the student participants before the activity begins.
5. Students suspended OSS, out of school, by the Administration will not be allowed to participate in activities or athletics while they are on suspension.
6. The Administration will be notified of all violations of the Code of Conduct and the consequences of the infraction. In addition to the penalties imposed by the Code of Conduct, such infractions will also be subject to appropriate school disciplinary policies.

## **SECTION B**

### **Procedures**

1. All reports of violations of the Code of Conduct are to be made either to the athletic director or to the principal.
2. The athletic director or principal contacts the student, the parents, the coach or sponsor to inform them of the violation and procedures to be followed. If requested, a meeting is scheduled within three (3) school days. This meeting includes the athletic director, principal, the student, his or her parents, if they desire, and the student's coach or sponsor.
3. The athletic director, principal, and the coach or sponsor will determine the course of action. The student and his/her parents are notified of the decision immediately.
4. Any student who violates the guidelines and/or does not satisfactorily complete the season or activity may not be eligible for any awards or special recognition given for participation in the activity.
5. Penalties will be applied in every area of activity in which a student participates. Any offense constitutes a violation in all activities covered under the guidelines.

## **SECTION C**

### **Guidelines for Action**

Guidelines are established on a yearly basis and refer to infractions, which occur in or out of season. A yearly basis is defined as July 1st through June 30<sup>th</sup> when the student is actively engaged in a school-related activity on or off-campus. Consequences incurred in one year and not served will carry over to the next year.

#### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

*Consequences for infractions by students are determined by the following guidelines.*

##### **1<sup>st</sup> Offense**

- 20% games/activities suspension. If the violation occurs out of season, any suspension will begin with the initial contest of his/her next athletic season or with the initial activity or contest of a non-athletic group.

##### **2<sup>nd</sup> Offense**

- 40% games/activities suspension. If out of season, the suspension begins with the next athletic season or initial activity of a non-athletic group.

##### **3<sup>rd</sup> Offense**

- Suspension from all athletics/extra-curricular activities for 365 days. If out of season, the suspension applies to the next school year.

## **SECTION D**

### **Right of Appeal—Due Process**

A student and his or her parents may appeal a decision by writing a letter to the coordinator of the respective area with copies to the principal, within three (3) days following the meeting. This letter should request a hearing with the school administration.

Within five (5) school days after the letter is received, the athletic director will notify the parents and the participant of the time and place of the appeal hearing. The principal and athletic director will hear both sides of the case and will take action, that they consider to be in the best interests of the student and the school. During the time between the original decision and the hearing, the principal has the authority to waive the action that has been taken.

## **-SCHOOL/COMMUNITY RELATIONS PUBLIC COMPLAINTS**

Although no member of the community shall be denied the right to petition the Diocese of Salina for redress of a grievance, the complaints will be referred through the proper administrative channels for a solution before investigation or action by the Diocese of Salina or complaints that concern Diocesan actions or Diocesan operations only.

The Diocese advises patrons that the proper channeling of complaints involving instruction, discipline, or learning materials is as follows:

1. Teacher/Extracurricular Sponsor or Coach
2. Activities Director (Complaints Regarding Sponsors and Coaches)
3. Principal
4. Appropriate Central Office Administrator
5. Superintendent

\* *Any complaint resulting from extracurricular activities should follow the proper channels above.*

# ACTIVITY/ ATHLETIC COMMITMENT PLEDGE 2025-2026

*Participant's Name (Please Print)*

*Grade*

*Sport/Activity*

Prior to participating in any practice or tryout sessions for any interscholastic sport, each athlete must:

1. Successfully pass a physical examination to participate in athletics, by a licensed physician and the copy of such examination must be on file in the office of the athletic director. Physical exam is valid if issued on or after May 1 of the previous school year.
2. Return this Activity/Athletic Commitment Pledge Form with the student and parent(s) signatures.

As a school's student/athlete voluntarily participating in interscholastic activities/athletics, I acknowledge that:

1. I have read the Student Activity/Athletic Handbook and understand what Thomas More Prep-Marian School expects from me in regard to the expectations set forth in this handbook and to sportsmanship, citizenship, scholastics, and staying free from drugs, alcohol, and tobacco use while enrolled in this school. I understand the consequences of violating school policy and I will not do so while a Thomas More Prep-Marian student participant.
2. I will be responsible for all equipment issued to me throughout the season, will return such equipment at the conclusion of the season, and will pay the current replacement cost for any of the equipment not accounted for by me at the end of the season.
3. I have been properly advised, cautioned, and warned by administrative and coaching personnel of Thomas More Prep-Marian that I am exposing myself to the risk of injury, including, but not limited to, the risk of sprains, fractures, and ligament and/or cartilage damage which could result in a temporary or permanent, partial, or complete impairment in the use of my limbs, brain damage, paralysis, or even death. Having been so cautioned and warned, it is still my desire to participate in sports and to do so with full knowledge and understanding of the risk of injury and with full consent of my parent(s)/guardian(s).
4. I, along with my parents, certify that I have read and understand all of the Thomas More Prep-Marian School activity/athletic policies in this handbook. In order to be eligible for participation, I understand I must comply with all requirements listed.
5. I agree that I will refrain from participating in any student hazing activities as a participant or as an observer. I further understand that violation of the school's hazing policy may result in suspension from school and suspension from participating in all activities.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Student's Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent/Guardian Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

***RETURN THIS PAGE TO YOUR COACH or FRONT OFFICE***