

**Thea Bowman Leadership Academy
Athletic Department**



Student-Athlete Handbook

School Information

Address

Thea Bowman Leadership Academy
3401 W 5th Avenue
Gary, IN 46405
219-944-3100

Nickname

Eagles

Colors

Burgundy and Gray

Conference Affiliation

Independent

IHSAA District 1

Enrollment

400 - (2)

Principal

Dr. Richard Glass Jr

Athletic Director

Arthur Haggard

Athletic Department Phone Number

219-944-3110

Fax 219-977-7480

Purpose of Handbook

This handbook has been developed to facilitate communication and consistency between all individuals associated with Eagles Athletics. It explains the duties, responsibilities, expectations, and policies for all coaches employed by the Thea Bowman School Corporation as well as sanctioned volunteers. Coaching personnel and student athletes will adhere to all I.H.S.A.A. by-laws, as well as the guidelines established in the Thea Bowman High School Athletic Handbook and Coaches Handbook.

Thea Bowman Leadership Academy High School Athletic Department Philosophy

Interscholastic athletics is historically a significant part of the total educational program. They offer the opportunity for students to be a part of a team, to serve their school, to enjoy fellowship, and to develop intellectually, physically and emotionally. We believe that Thea Bowman High School athletics provides a unifying influence within our student body and between our school and community. The athletic staff will endeavor to provide each participant with positive experiences that will help them develop their own philosophy toward commitment, responsibility, and loyalty which will guide them for post-school competition in society. We believe that the will to win is a natural human trait and entirely desirable, but this urge whether individual or collective, is not to be attained at the price of unfair advantage or gained through violation of established rules and principles. The desire to win is important, but will never outweigh the welfare of the athlete and will be kept in perspective towards the balance of what is good for the team and the individual player. The most significant aspect of athletic achievement is quality effort itself. Being a winner is not always recorded on the scoreboard or in the won-loss records. Being an athlete at Thea Bowman High School is a privilege, we therefore have the right to expect higher standards of behavior from our athletes than we do the general student body. We expect positive leadership at all times, as well as high levels of achievement academically and athletically. Thea Bowman Leadership Academy will strive to offer the best personnel and facilities possible. Its coaching leadership will aspire to provide a positive example for the athletes by following ethical standards and presenting a professional attitude in all endeavors. They, along with parents and teachers, will help to instill a sense of pride in our school through supporting individual athletes, teams, and the Athletic Department and its policies. Thea Bowman Leadership Academy athletics purpose is not to develop college or professional players or to prepare gifted athletes for Olympic competition. Those areas, however, are by-products of the interscholastic athletic program. Thea Bowman eagles athletes and spectators can be proud of a program that is helping our athletes become the best that they can be in many aspects.

Thea Bowman Leadership Academy Athletics Student-Parent Handbook Home of the Eagles

Congratulations, and welcome to Thea Bowman Leadership Academy (TBLA) Athletics Program, Home of Eagles! We're excited and pleased that you have decided to participate in the athletics program here at Bowman Academy.

Your decision to become a student athlete will provide you with special opportunities to receive rewards, to create life-long friendships, to experience the enjoyment of competition, and to help develop self-pride. In order to be a successful student athlete requires a strong commitment on the part of an athlete. One's personal sacrifice, positive attitude, listening skills, motivation, and self-discipline is needed at all times.

The Athletic Department, coaches, and important stakeholders, have all worked hard to provide student athletes with all the things necessary to make their season a success. The Department has set high standards for its athletes, and expect that these standards are upheld in a positive way, in school, on the field of play, on the court, and in the community.

We, the Athletic Director, Administrators, coaches, and shared-stakeholders want to "emphasize" for our students that being part of the athletic program and representing Bowman Academy is a "privilege". With that privilege comes responsibility, not only to oneself, but also to the team and to the entire school. We encourage our athletes to always give and do their best, whether in season or out of season. We expect our teams to model the appropriate behavior and tone for coaches, teachers, support staff, administrators, peers and athletic supporters.

Here, at Bowman Academy, sportsmanship, (the ability to be well-mannered—hard-working in the classroom), is as important as winning any game. These expectations will be followed by ALL Bowman Athletes.

As parents, it's just as important to take an active part in your child's academic and athletic involvement. We strongly encourage parents and family members to communicate and establish partnerships with coaches, teachers, administrators and The Athletic Department.

In closing, we look forward to working together in the spirit of athletics, here, at Thea Bowman Leadership Academy—and as always, we appreciate your continued support!

Arthur Haggard, Athletic Director, TBLA

TBLA Athletic Directory:

Dr. Richard Glass, Jr.	Principal HS	219-944-3119	rglass@tbla.email
Michael Collins	Principal ELEM	219-883-4826	mcollins@tbla.email
Leah Tennione-Hogan	AP for Culture/Climate	219-944-3116	lhogan@tbla.email
Lamont Holifield	AP for Academics	219-944-3100	lholfield@tbla.email
Marissa Simmons	AP & Instructional Ldr	219-883-4831	msimmons@tbla.email
Arthur Haggard	Athletic Director	219-944-3110	ahaggard@tbla.email
Jermaine Mead	Dean ELEM	219-883-0453	jmead@tbla.email
Kimberly Olive	Administrative Asst.	219-944-3102	kolive@tbla.email

Interscholastic Sports Offered at Thea Bowman High School

Men's

Fall

Varsity Football
Junior Varsity Football
Cross Country

Winter

Varsity Basketball
Junior Varsity Basketball
Freshman Basketball

Spring

Varsity Baseball
Track

Women's

Fall

Varsity Volleyball
Junior Varsity Volleyball
Cross Country

Winter

Varsity Basketball
Junior Varsity Basketball

Spring

Track

Athletics - Code of Conduct for Participants

Hopefully, communicating effectively prior to, and during, your sport season will help limit the number of crisis management items that occur during the season. Coaches should strive to be thorough so as to alleviate questions and problems concerning potential policy violations.

Conduct (Athlete)

Athletes at Thea Bowman Leadership Academy are expected to adhere to three (3) levels of conduct:

1. The rules of conduct of athletes, according to the IHSAA, (8-1): "Athletes conduct, in and out of school, shall be such as (1) not to reflect discredit upon their school or the IHSAA, or (2) not to create a disruptive influence on the discipline, good order, moral or educational environment in the school. NOTE: It is recognized that principals, by administrative authority vested in them by their school corporation, may exclude such contestants from representing their school." Any contestant, coach, contest administrator or school administrator who is ejected from a contest for an unsportsmanlike act will be subject to penalties as outlined in the IHSAA by-laws."
2. The TBLA Athletic Code of Conduct guidelines are expectations in the best interest of our school, athletic department, individual teams, and student-athletes.
3. The team rules and expectations of their individual sports

Since it is impossible, of course, to cover with a specific rule or regulation all situations that may arise, athletes are reminded that they are expected always to conduct themselves according to the highest standards of honesty, morality, fair play and sportsmanship; and to refrain from any conduct that may impair one's performance and/or prove detrimental to the Thea Bowman Leadership Academy Athletics.

We take these general values seriously, and they are as much a part of our rules as any of the more specific regulations that follow. A failure to abide by these general standards, and/or the failure to comply with the specific rules set forth in this handbook, may result in one's being **suspended** or **terminated** from the Thea Bowman Athletic program.

As a student athlete, one is known, respected and admired by countless fans, whose continued interest and support is essential to his/her success and the success of the athletic department. The image projected by the athlete's conduct, both in season and out of season, may not only affect his/her own career as an athlete, but also may have important consequences for teammates, families, as well as for the school.

**NOTE: It is recognized that The School Principal and Athletic Director, by the administrative authority vested in them by their School Corporation, may exclude such participants from representing their school based on participants' meeting and satisfying the "Guidelines for Participants". Refer to: Thea Bowman Leadership Academy Student/Parent Handbook for Grades 5-12.*

PARENTAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ATHLETIC POLICIES

Upon entering Thea Bowman Leadership Academy, or at the time a student tries out for an

athletic team, he/she will be presented with this handbook, containing all the necessary forms and information for participating in athletics.

Each parent or guardian shall read all of the enclosed material and certify that the Rules, Policies, and Eligibility of The TBLA Athletics Department are understood. This signed document will be filed in the Athletic Director's office.

RISK OF PARTICIPATION

All athletes and parents/guardians must realize the risk of serious injury, permanent disability, or death, which may be a result of athletic participation. Thea Bowman Leadership Academy will use the following safeguards to make every effort to eliminate injury:

- Maintain a continuing education program for coaches to learn the most up-to-date techniques and skills to be taught in their sport.
- Instruct all athletes about the dangers of participation in the particular sport.

Insurance

All student athletes are covered by a limited insurance policy provided by Thea Bowman Leadership Academy. For further details, please contact the Athletic Department or refer to page 24 of this handbook.

Athletic Trainer

If an athlete is injured, no matter how minor, he/she should inform the coach and seek treatment immediately from the athletic trainer.

All pre-game and pre-practice treatments must be completed prior to one's scheduled start time; if not, arrangements need to be made with the coach to extend treatment time. The athletic trainer will provide additional information training room rules and regulations.



SPORTSMANSHIP – WHO IS RESPONSIBLE? www.ihsaa.org

RESPONSIBILITIES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education governs all levels of competition within school systems. With its

support, your school administration can begin establishing the importance of the fundamentals of good sportsmanship in the minds of the entire school family and all those who associate with any of the activities of the school. In order for sports to serve a purpose in the educational system, students must obtain positive educational benefits from athletics such as: responsibility, self-discipline, sportsmanship, teamwork, work ethic, integrity and personal sacrifice for the good of others.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. Adopt policies that promote the ideals of good sportsmanship, ethics and integrity.
2. Serve as a positive role model and expect the same from parents, fans, participants, coaches and other school personnel.
3. Support participants, coaches, school administrators and fans who display good sportsmanship.
4. Support the administration when it must remove someone from a game due to a lack of good sportsmanship.
5. Recognize the value of school activities as a vital part of education.
6. Attend and enjoy school activities.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COACH

The actions of the coach have a great deal to do with how sportsmanship is valued by the members of the team. In order for good sportsmanship to become a reality, the coach should:

1. Always set a good example for members of the team and fans to follow.
2. Instruct members of the team in regard to proper sportsmanship.
3. Respect the judgment of contest officials.
4. Display no behavior that could incite fans.
5. Treat opposing coaches, participants and fans with respect.
6. Shake hands with officials and opposing coaches in public.
7. Develop consequences for those who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDENT-ATHLETE

The responsibility of players with regards to sportsmanship is second in importance only to the coach. Because players are admired and respected, they can exert a great deal of influence over the actions and behaviors of spectators.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Treat opponents with the respect they deserve as guests and fellow human beings.
2. Shake hands with opponents and wish them good luck before and after the contest.
3. Exercise self-control at all times, accepting decisions and abiding by them.
4. Respect the integrity and judgment of the officials. Never argue or make gestures indicating the dislike of a decision.
5. Accept both victory and defeat with pride and compassion, being neither boastful nor bitter.
6. Congratulate opponents in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS

1. Realize that a ticket is a privilege to observe a contest and support high school activities. It is not a license to verbally assault anyone or act in an outrageous manner.
2. Realize that athletics are part of the educational experience and that its benefits go beyond the final score of the contest.
3. Respect the decisions made by officials and learn the rules of the game to better understand their decisions.
4. Participate in positive cheers and refrain from encouraging those who take away from

- the spirit of the contest.
5. Respect and support the task of the coaches.
 6. Respect opponents as students, and acknowledge them for striving to do their best.
 7. Be a parent your child would be proud of! Be a fan, not a fanatic!

RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENT FANS

1. Realize that a ticket is a privilege to observe a contest and support high school activities, not a license to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious.
2. Know and demonstrate the fundamentals of sportsmanship.
3. Respect, cooperate and respond enthusiastically to cheerleaders.
4. Respect the property of the school and the authority of school officials.
5. Stimulate desired crowd response using only positive cheers, signs and praise without antagonizing or demeaning opponents.
6. Show respect for an injured player when he/she is removed from the contest.
7. Do not applaud errors by opponents or penalties inflicted upon them.
8. Do not heckle, jeer or distract members of the opposing team. Respect opposing spirit groups, fans, coaches and participants.
9. Never criticize the players or coaches for the loss of the game.
10. Respect yourself, your team, officials, coaches, opponents and fans.
11. Refrain from using profanity, racial or sexual comments and intimidating language or actions directed to others.

RESPONSIBILITY OF CONTEST OFFICIALS

The officials of any contest are impartial arbiters who are trained and perform to the best of their ability. Mistakes by all those involved in the contest are a part of the contest. We should not rationalize our own poor unsuccessful performance or behavior by placing responsibility on an official. The rule of GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP is to accept and abide by the decisions that are made.

WHAT OFFICIALS CAN DO:

1. Accept the role of an official in an unassuming manner. Avoid showboating.
2. Maintain confidence and poise, controlling the contest from start to finish.
3. Know the rules thoroughly and abide by the established Code of Ethics.
4. Publicly shake hands with coaches of both teams before an athletic contest.
5. Never exhibit emotions or argue with participants, coaches and fans.
6. Work cooperatively with fellow officials, scorers and time keepers for an efficient contest.
7. Withdraw from the playing area without delay at half-time and at the end of the contest.
8. When watching a game as a spectator, give the contest officials the same respect you expect to receive when working a contest.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MEDIA

1. Promote the ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship.
2. Do not give undue publicity to unsporting conduct.
3. Report facts without demonstrating partiality.
4. Refrain from making negative comments and about participants in the contest.
5. Sponsor sportsmanship awards for players and coaches.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

1. Develop a program for teaching and promoting the ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship within the school, the conference/league and the IHSAA.
2. Provide appropriate supervisory personnel for each interscholastic athletic event.

3. Support participants, coaches and fans whose team displays good sportsmanship.
4. Recognize exemplary behavior and actively discourage undesirable conduct by participants, coaches and fans.
5. Attend events whenever possible and function as a role model—show good sportsmanship. This includes communicating with spectators during an event as to what is acceptable and unacceptable behavior.

NFHS Sportsmanship Guidelines

“Good sportsmanship is viewed by the National Federation as a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity. In perception and practice, sportsmanship is defined as those qualities which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. The ideals of sportsmanship apply equally to all activity disciplines. Individuals, regardless of their role in activities, are expected to be aware of their influence on the behavior of others and model good sportsmanship.”

FUNDAMENTALS OF SPORTSMANSHIP:

1. Show respect for self and others at all times.
2. Show respect for the officials. Good sportsmanship implies the willingness to accept and abide by the decisions of the officials.
3. Know, understand and appreciate the rules of the contest. Good sportsmanship suggests the importance of conforming to the spirit as well as the letter of the rules.
4. Maintain self-control at all times. Prevent the desire to win from overcoming rational behavior.
5. Recognize and appreciate skill in performance regardless of team affiliation.

Athletics – Guidelines for Participants

Thea Bowman Leadership Academy will make every effort to assure the enjoyment and participation of all who attend events held in the gymnasium. The second level of the gymnasium is not accessible for those persons who have difficulty climbing stairs. To assure the safety of all spectators, persons with mobility limitations will be seated on the Main Floor level.

I. Statement of purpose and philosophy

A. Purpose

- 1) To encourage students involved in athletic activities to develop a wholesome and healthful lifestyle.
- 2) To foster self-discipline.
- 3) To communicate rules/regulations in a clear, concise manner.
- 4) To publish and distribute the rules and regulations so they are readily available to students, parents and staff.

- 5) To provide coaches with unifying guidelines so that enforcement of the rules is fair and equitable throughout the school community.

B. Philosophy

Interscholastic athletics are an integral part of the school's program, offering students a means to help develop self-discipline, accept responsibility, and make decisions to prepare for the adult world. Athletes are encouraged to develop social conscience as well as intellectual faculties. We believe that learning is a never-ending process and that athletic participation helps to develop a positive set of values to guide young people through life. Athletics are wholesome activities because participants are judged by their ability to perform singly or in concert as they strive toward athletic excellence.

II. Responsibilities

It is a privilege to participate in and be associated with Thea Bowman Leadership Academy Athletics. This privilege is extended to all students, provided they are willing to assume certain responsibilities. A student must be willing to make necessary sacrifices in order to be a credit to himself/herself. This can be done by:

- A. Achieving academically by first being a good student.
- B. Exhibiting high standards of social behavior.
- C. Displaying sportsmanship, both on and off the playing field.
- D. Respecting other athletes, cheerleaders, officials, opposing teams, coaches,
- E. spectators, and those in authority.
- F. Being cooperative.
- G. Maintaining a good appearance, including cleanliness and good grooming.
- H. Using language that reflects well on family, school and self.
- I. Being a positive leader by example, words and/or actions.
- J. Complying with the rules necessary to be in good standing at the completion of the sport season (the last contest or the banquet, whichever comes later).

III. ELIGIBILITY

As outlined by the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) and Thea Bowman Leadership Academy, to be eligible to participate in practice, and or organized athletic school competition ALL student-athletes must:

- A. Have a completed school approved Physical Examination, Concussion and Sudden Cardiac Arrest form on file with the athletic department as issued by The IHSAA. (Forms may be picked up in the athletic office)
- B. Be in good standing academically and socially at Thea Bowman Leadership Academy, and the Gary community as according to Thea Bowman Leadership Academy Parent/Student Handbook for Grades 5-12th and rules set forth by the coaching staff that are in support of the IHSAA, the Athletic Department and the Athletic Department Ruling Board Committee.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY GRADES 5-12

- **18-1 Minimum Course Enrollment and Grades for Participation:** To be eligible scholastically, students must have received passing grades and earned credit at the end of the maximum number of full credit subjects (or the equivalent) that a student can take and must be currently Enrolled in at least Seventy percent (70%) of the maximum number of full credit subjects (or the equivalent) that a student can take.
- In addition, All Student-Athletes here at Thea Bowman Leadership Academy will exceed the IHSAA 18-1 Rule and will achieve a 2.25 (can be rounded up to a 2.3 GPA) every 9-week grading period to be to assure that a student-athlete maintains a 2.3 GPA or better year around to be eligible to participate in varsity athletic sports.
- A Student Athlete with two (2) or more “F’s” at the end of any grading period is **INELIGIBLE** to participate in varsity athletics during the following 9-week grading period.
- A Student Athlete must have remained enrolled, completed and have passed **SIX** of **SEVEN** full-credit classes each grading period to be eligible to participate in varsity athletics. **FIVE** of the classes must be **CORE** Classes.
- The definition of “Student Athlete” also includes Cheerleaders.
- This amended policy shall take effect at the beginning of the 2017/2018 school year. Eligibility and continuing eligibility to participate in varsity athletics shall be determined at the end of the first 9-week grading period of the Fall Semester 2017.
- Certification dates at Thea Bowman Leadership Academy will be established and shared with student-athletes, parents and coaches to be consistent within the school year. The Principal shall set the Eligibility Certification Dates annually by the tenth school day following each grading period. The grades that are reported at the certification date will determine a student-athlete’s eligibility.
- Any student-athlete who does not achieve a 2.25 (can be rounded up to a 2.3 GPA) may be allowed to practice at the discretion of the athletic director and the coach Such student-athletes will be required to participate in study tables and complete weekly progress reports. These student Athletes may be allowed to dress during official competition at the Athletic Director’s discretion.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT RULING BOARD COMMITTEE

The Athletic Department Ruling Board Committee is a committee designed to address, listen to, review and make athletic eligibility decisions based on student-athlete concerns regarding academics, sportsmanship, school behavior, school attendance/tardies, social media concerns, and the interaction of student-athletes in community, but not limited to as seen fit for review by The Athletic Department Ruling Board Committee.

The following general rules for participants have been established:

- A. A participant shall not violate local and state laws, IHSAA regulations, and the Thea Bowman Leadership Academy “Student/Parent Handbook, or the “Athletic Handbook for Athletes.”
- B. Abuse of school owned equipment is prohibited.
- C. A participant must attend four class periods of school the day in which he/she participates in competition, performance, or practice unless excused by a principal or Athletic Director.
- D. A participant shall not possess or use tobacco products.
- E. A participant shall not consume or be in possession of alcoholic beverages, possess or use illegal drugs.
- F. A participant shall not knowingly possess, use, transmit or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, stimulant, controlled substance, or possess, use or transmit paraphernalia for use of such substances.
- G. A participant is discouraged from being in attendance at a place where he/she knows that illegal consumption or possession of alcohol is occurring, and/or transmission or use of illegal substances. Attendance at these events may result in ineligibility.
- H. A participant shall not use or possess weapons.
- I. A participant at no time shall put himself/herself before the team in a manner in which the athlete is questioning playing time, or arguing a coaching decision or is uncoachable.
- J. At no time ever is a participant allowed to verbally or physically threaten a coach on or off the court.
- K. At no time is a player to use foul or abusive language—on the court during a game, after a game, in the hallways, during school, or on school grounds/campus.

Procedure for alleged violations

Any alleged violation of the above general rules shall be reported first to the Athletic Director and school administration. The allegation will first follow TBLA Parent/Student Handbook Guidelines. In the some cases, but not all, the coaching staff has set rules that must be followed. If those rules are compromised, it is highly likely that consequences will follow. In addition, The Athletic Handbook set forth by The Athletic Department may also apply.

If necessary, upon further investigation by given Administrator(s), Athletic Director, and Coaching Staff, an Athletic Committee may be formed. The committee may include, but is not limited to, a coach, a teacher, a staff member, an administrator, and an Athletic Director. Such given committee will review the case, and its decision of the violation/penalty will be shared with the building Principal. If the student is found to be in violation, the following discipline will result:

A. Consequences of violations:

- 1. As set forth by the TBLA Parent/Student Handbook Guidelines, all violations will follow given consequences. *The range of punishment goes from verbal warning to dismissal from the team.*

2. Whenever a violation occurs, and an athlete has qualified for awards, the awards may be given, subject to the approval of the Athletic Director, and/or the Athletic Committee.
3. During an exclusionary period, practice for the athlete will no longer take place.
4. After a review of relevant factors, the coach will submit a letter outlining recommended disciplinary action to the Athletic Director, the Athletic Committee, and the Principal.
 - A. Individual coaches will establish, within the confines of their own sports program, additional rules and regulations that pertain to such items as practice attendance, tardiness, practice and game conduct, curfews, etc. These rules and regulations, in conjunction with their ensuing penalties for violation, shall be in writing and given to each athlete participating in that program, with an additional copy on file in the office of the Athletic Director.
 - B. Athletes have a responsibility to Thea Bowman Leadership Academy that extends beyond the season in which they participate. Therefore, athletes who violate training rules and/or general rules, while out of season, will be disciplined in the same manner as an in-season athlete.
 - C. These consequences are in addition to the normal disciplinary consequences.

Appeal Procedure: Any excluded participant may appeal a decision of exclusion to The Athletic Director and building Principal.

**NOTE--AGAIN: It is recognized that The School Principal and Athletic Director, by the administrative authority vested in them by their School Corporation, may exclude such participants from representing their school based on participants' meeting and satisfying the "Guidelines for Participants". Refer to: Thea Bowman Leadership Academy Student/Parent Handbook for Grades 5-12.*

Social Media Policy

Any posting of an inappropriate nature, including threats, harassing, gang behavior, violent images or derogatory statements toward an individual or group will be deleted. Threats are taken seriously and are subject to the appropriate discipline as outlined by TBLA Board of Trustees policies. This does not exclude the possibility of law enforcement intervention. **The use of any District logo or image on one's personal social networking sites is prohibited.**

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The TBLA staff and Technology Department periodically review all social media account content. The following principles apply to online participation and set the standards for respectful interaction on these pages.

- Be respectful, credible and truthful.
- Photos of students: There **MUST** be a parent's consent on file in the respective school's office. Additional copies are also available within the *Student Handbook*.
- All comments, suggestions, or questions must be relevant to TBLA or any associated website maintained by Thea Bowman Leadership Academy.

THEA BOWMAN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REMOVE CONTENT POSTED IF IT CONTAINS:

- Partisan political views or views of a political organization.

- Commercial endorsement.
- Spam: *Repeated posting of identical or very similar content in a counterproductive manner, including aggressively promoting services and products*
- Discriminatory, unlawful, misleading, or malicious content. This listing includes content intended to bully, to aggressively intimidate, to harass any person/user, team and or school.
- Information that is clearly off school related topics.
- Content that advocates illegal activity.
- Content that infringes on a copyright or trademark—including logos or images maintained by Thea Bowman Leadership Academy.

STUDENT/STAFF USE OF TBLA SOCIAL MEDIA

Students and staff are encouraged to always exercise the utmost caution when participating in any form of social media or any online communications, both within The TBLA community and beyond - **Please pause before you post.**

Everyone who participates in a TBLA online interaction must remember that his or her posts are public and reflect on the entire TBLA community. With regard to personal Twitter accounts, this is especially true with the use of searchable hash tags (#.) Ultimately, all posts are subject to the same behavioral standards set forth in The Parent/Student Handbook, for Grades 5-12.

Students are expected to abide by the following:

- To protect the privacy of TBLA students and faculty, students and staff may not, under any circumstances, create unauthorized digital audio or video recordings of TBLA community members, either on campus or off-campus events for online publication or distribution, without consent.
- Students and staff may not use social media sites to publish disparaging or harassing remarks about TBLA community members, athletic or academic contest rivals.
- Students and staff who choose to post editorial content to websites or other forms of online media, must ensure that their submission reflects their **own** opinion and does not imply the opinion of TBLA. Again, failure to abide by these guidelines and policies, as with other policies of TBLA, may result in disciplinary action or suspension of certain privileges while on The TBLA campus.

NOTE: By accessing, affiliating with or commenting on a social media platform, your identity and personal information may be visible to third parties not affiliated with TBLA. Thea Bowman Leadership Academy does not normally share individual user information with third parties; however, user information will be disclosed as required by law or in circumstances where comments indicate a situation that may be illegal, harmful or dangerous to persons or property. TBLA is not responsible for access to your identity, profile or personal information by third parties. It is the express responsibility of the user, or his/her parent/guardian, to protect the user's identity, profile, and personal information.

TBLA Winnasium:

We make a difference by showing spirit through encouraging our players and cheering them on.

1. We focus on our players - not the other team, other coaches, other fans or officials.
2. We understand that the main event is on the floor—not in the stands.

3. We understand that Thea Bowman Leadership Academy sets high expectations regarding sportsmanship, and any inappropriate rude acts, words, or aggressive behavior reflect poorly on our school and may in fact inspire the opponents.

**Students who do not uphold these beliefs will be removed!*

ACADEMICS

Student athletes should manage their time in such a way as to not to miss practices, competitions, or school, in order to participate in athletics, and to achieve successfully in academics. If this task is not accomplished, students should NOT be involved in athletics. Academics must always be a higher priority than athletics.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community service is highly encouraged.

ABSENCE DUE TO ILLNESS OR INJURY

An athlete who misses (three) (3) consecutive days of school or athletic participation due to illness or injury, must obtain written permission from a physician and present to the Athletic Director or coach before he/she may again become eligible for participation. Additional practices are required by the IHSAA before regaining eligibility after an extended absence due to illness or injury.

PARTICIPATION IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES AND INJURIES

Any student excused from participating in Physical Education classes by way of a parent's note or doctor's note, shall not be allowed to participate in an athletic event or practice that same day.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

Students desiring to participate in interscholastic athletics must undergo a physical examination performed by a licensed medical doctor (M.D.) prior to the first practice or high school team camp of any sport. The physical form, which must be signed by an M.D., may be obtained at the Athletic Office or from the coaching staff. The doctor's signature must be dated after May 1 preceding the current school year. The student must complete the medical history and sign it to be eligible for participation.

MISSING PRACTICES

An athlete should consult his/her coach before missing practice. Missing practice or a game without good reason will be dealt with severely. Sudden illness or some other emergency may be good reason for missing practice or game. Missing practice the day before a game/match without a written excuse or understanding can result in a coach's decision of "no play".

ATTENDANCE

Student athletes are expected to make school attendance a priority. The priority includes attendance both the day of and the day after athletic contests. Student athletes and student staff are expected to be in attendance at school-- on time--the day following any

and all evening activities. All efforts are made to avoid late activities on school nights, but sometimes may become necessary. Students must be in attendance at school at least one-half of the day of scheduled activity in order to be eligible for the extracurricular activities that day. Exceptions may be pre-arranged absence and/or other school-related functions.

Attendance and punctuality at and for games, meetings, practices and travel

1. On time attendance is required for all practices, games and meetings. If a student athlete is going to be late, he/she should inform the supervising coach. Constant tardiness and absences from practices may result in "no playing time," or even-dismissal from team.
2. If an athlete is unable to attend a practice, game or meeting because of illness or injury, he/she must notify the supervising coach directly.
3. If a participant is late for a team bus, he/she will be left; buses cannot jeopardize the entire team for one person.
4. The coach may give additional rules to be followed regarding travel.

VACATION POLICY

Vacations by athletic team members during sport season are **extremely discouraged**. Should an unavoidable/unforeseen absence occur, do the following:

- Contact the head coach immediately.
- Be willing to accept the consequences rendered.

RELATIONSHIP OF THESE POLICIES AND REGULATIONS TO THE TBLA STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK OF STUDENT CONDUCT

These policies and regulations supplement the TBLA Student/Parent Handbook for Grades 5-12. A violation of these regulations may also independently violate the code of student conduct, resulting in suspension/expulsion from school, removal from extracurricular activity under the provisions of that Code, or in addition to any disciplinary penalty that may be called for under these regulations.

EXCLUSION FROM PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The student will be given the opportunity to appear at an informal hearing to challenge the reason(s) for the intended exclusion. The informal hearing will be held with an administrator. Within 48 hours following exclusion from the team, a letter of notification will be sent to the parent/guardian specifying the reason for exclusion/participation, the period of time for the exclusion, and any other options that may exist. The parent/guardian shall be notified.

HAZING

Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational process and shall be prohibited at all times. No administrator, faculty member, or any other employee of Thea Bowman Leadership Academy, shall encourage, permit, condone, or tolerate any hazing activities. No student, including leaders of student organizations, shall plan, encourage, or engage in any hazing.

Hazing may be defined as the imposition of strenuous, often humiliating, tasks as part of a program of rigorous physical training and initiation, including a victim to do any act of initiation to any other student or organization that may cause or create a substantial risk of mental/ physical harm to any other person. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing does NOT lessen the prohibition contained in this policy.

Administrators, faculty members, and all other employees of Thea Bowman Leadership Academy shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances, or events, that may include hazing. If hazing or planned hazing is discovered, involved students shall be informed by the discovering school employee of the prohibition contained in this policy and shall be required to end all hazing activities immediately. All hazing incidents shall be reported immediately to the school Administrator/Athletic Director.

Administrators, faculty members, students, and all other employees who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, and may be liable for civil/criminal penalties in accordance with Indiana law.

INDIVIDUAL SPORT RULE

Coaches may establish additional rules and regulations for their respective sports. Penalties will be designated/handled by the respective coach(es). Participants and parents will be informed in writing before the season.

ENROLLMENT

After a ninth (9th) grade enrollment, and attending classes for at least fifteen (15) or more school days, a student is eligible for no more than 8 consecutive semesters. For further information, please refer to the IHSAA by-laws Rule 12 available on-line.

EQUIPMENT ISSUE AND RETURN

TBLA Athletics endeavors to provide each team member with the best and safest equipment available. All equipment issued to an athlete is expected to be returned in the same condition as when issued (other than normal wear and tear), or the athlete is expected to compensate the athletic department for the loss or damaged equipment. Failure to return equipment, or to compensate the athletic department for lost/ damaged equipment, will result in forfeiture of award.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS AND EQUIPMENT

Funding

High School athletics at Thea Bowman Leadership Academy are "self-funded." The program cannot operate without support from supporting fans/spectators. High Schools do not receive district funds (tax dollar) for equipment, uniforms, transportation, or for most coaching stipends. Therefore, voluntary donations are solicited to fund these valuable programs. Without generous donations, sports at TBLA cannot be offered. High school sports cost much less than outside club sports. Please keep the above statement afloat in ongoing donations and support of all fundraising efforts.

School Year Athletic Fees

These fees will be used for transportation, equipment, officials, and game day operations. They do not guarantee playing time, control over any conditions of the team, activity, or the Athletic Department. Furthermore, the fees do not alter Thea Bowman policies, codes of conduct, building rules, individual team or club rules, and/or the Indiana High School Athletic

Association. The fees for participants are as follows:

Note: ALL fees MUST be paid prior to the FIRST athletic contest.

Voluntary Donations (defined)

Voluntary donations are needed to help alleviate the coaching staff from necessary administrative duties that the Athletic Department performs, and allow (voluntary donations) coaches to focus more on student-athletes.

These donations cover major operating costs of the athletic budget: officials, equipment, supervision/security, facility, first aid supplies, and various other general expenses in order to operate the athletic departmental budget. A suggested donation will be detailed in a specific sport budget presented to parents at an orientation meeting after all teams have been finalized.

Uniforms – All Athletes will be supplied with “some” of the necessary equipment and uniforms necessary to participate in a given sport. However, in several sports, the athlete may be required to purchase a portion of the game uniform, which will become their property. Fundraising opportunities will be available to help with costs.

Equipment – All athletes are responsible for the proper care and security of equipment issued to them.

1. All equipment issued to a player is to be worn only at practice, scheduled games, or scrimmages involving that particular sport. Exceptions must be approved by the coach (i.e.-jerseys).
2. Before any item is attached, added to, removed from or worn with a uniform that is issued to an athlete for a specific sport, the athlete must secure permission from the coach.
3. Each athlete is responsible for all equipment issued; therefore, it must be kept clean and in the best possible condition. Thea Bowman Leadership Academy is not responsible for lost or stolen equipment. Athletes are required to secure all athletic equipment to avoid theft.
4. All athletic equipment is the property of TBLA and the Athletic Department; therefore, school equipment may not be taken from the school building for personal use, or for the use of any other organization. The Athletic Director must approve any exception.
5. All equipment issued to an athlete must be returned at the end of the school season. Equipment that is not returned, for any reason, or is damaged beyond normal wear and tear, must be paid for at REPLACEMENT cost. All lost equipment must be paid for within one week of the last contest of the sport. Any athlete who has not returned or paid for lost equipment within that one week will be denied the right to participate in athletics until the obligation is met.
6. Under certain circumstances equipment (i.e. helmets, jerseys, etc.) may be sold to team members at the end of the season. The head coach and the Athletic Director will control this sale. The Athletic Director will set the price. The head coach, prior to equipment's being given to the athlete, will collect the money.

PARTICIPATION ON TEAMS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Athletes, who participate as members of any other similar team in the same sport season, not under the direct supervision and management of their school, shall not be eligible for participation on the school team. Participation in other sports while participating on a school team should be done only with the knowledge of the high school coach.

TRANSFER STUDENTS (Grades 9-12)

Parents of students who wish to participate in athletics at Thea Bowman Leadership Academy but who did not attend TBLA during their intended sport's season the previous school year are required to complete an Athletic Transfer Report Form. The transfer will be sent to the student's former school and to the IHSAA for approval. The student cannot become eligible for competition until approval has been granted by the IHSAA.

Thea Bowman Leadership Academy athletics will strictly enforce IHSAA by-laws regarding student-athlete transfers. Students who transfer without a corresponding change in residence by the parents or guardians will be recommended for "Limited Eligibility" which allows for participation at the junior varsity level only for a period of 365 days. If there is reason to believe that the change of schools involves athletics in any way, the recommendation from TBLA athletics will be "No Eligibility" in athletics for a period of 365 days. TBLA athletics will consider any hardships relevant to the transfer, if necessary. Further information regarding transfers may be obtained through the athletic office.

TRANSFERS (Grades 9-12)

I.H.S.A.A. Bylaw Rule 19 – The transfer bylaws apply to all students enrolled in grades 9-12. These bylaws apply to all schools, both public and private.

I.H.S.A.A. Bylaw Rule 19-1 – If a student transfers after the first day of the student's ninth grade year or after having established eligibility prior to the start of school by playing in a contest (scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament contest), the student will be ineligible for one year from the date of enrollment in the school to which the student transferred. A student is considered to have transferred whenever the student changes from that school in which the student was enrolled as a ninth grader to any other school regardless of whether the school from which the student transferred or to which the student transfers is public or non-public, member or non-member.

MULTIPLE SPORT PARTICIPATION

Thea Bowman Leadership Academy Athletic Department supports the concept of participating in more than one high school sport. High school coaches should not establish expectations "out of season" which may prohibit or restrict a student's participation in another sport which is "in season". A student athlete who wishes to participate in more than one sport in the same season (fall, winter, spring) must have prior approval of the coaches and Athletic Director. A schedule resolving all practice and competition conflicts must be established prior to the season and the student athlete will be asked to designate a "primary" sport if necessary.

CONFLICTS IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Thea Bowman Leadership Academy recognizes that every student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extracurricular activities. Students are also urged to use caution in attempting to "specialize" too much, thereby denying themselves a well-rounded high school career. Students, however, should be

cautious about participating in too many activities. Interscholastic sports at the high school level require a substantial time commitment, which may extend Monday through Saturday from the first official day of practice until the end of the tournament series. ***A commitment to a high school athletic team indicates that all non-school conflicts will be resolved in favor of the high school team.*** These conflicts may not include such things as significant religious holidays, participating in a relative's wedding, or a family member's funeral, etc.

The Indiana High School Athletic Association has been the governing body of high school athletics in the state of Indiana since 1903.

Thea Bowman Leadership Academy is a voluntary member of the IHSAA and has agreed to follow its rules. Both the school and the IHSAA believe in equal competition among schools and close relationship between academics and athletics.

The IHSAA rules are listed on-line at IHSAA.ORG, a brochure can be ordered and copies can be available upon request in the Athletic Office. All rules are found in the IHSAA By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation.

****NOTE: It is recognized that The School Principal and the Athletic Director, by administrative authority vested in them by their School Corporation, may exclude such participants from representing their school based on participants' meeting and satisfying the "Guidelines for Participants". Refer to: Student/Parent Handbook for Grades 5-12th.***

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/ CONSENT FORM

Dear Student and Parents,

It is important that you read, review and understand the contents of the Handbook for Student Athletes. Please sign and return this page to indicate that you have read, reviewed and fully understand the handbook.

Student Acceptance:

I understand and acknowledge receipt of the Handbook for Student Athletes. I have read and reviewed the contents, and I agree to the provisions contained therein.

Student Name (print) _____ Grade ____ Date _____

_____ Signature

Parent/Guardian Acceptance:

I have received and reviewed the Student/Parent handbook. I understand the rules and regulations set forth and agree to the provisions contained therein.

Parent Name (print) _____ Date _____

Signature

