

THESA Football Eligibility Requirements

Note: THESA (Texas Home Educators' Sports Association, Inc.) is an athletic program designed for Junior High and High School homeschooled students. **Junior High includes grades 6 through 8; High School includes grades 9 through 12.**_____

1. A player shall become ineligible to play on any THESA-sponsored sport on the next September 1st following that player's 19th birthday (anyone age 19 or older on September 1 of the current school year. Is not eligible.)

2. For Junior High teams, no Junior High player shall be eligible who is age 15 as of September 1 of the current school year. The minimum age requirement is 12 as of September 1 of the current school year.

3. **Note:** A High School player is ineligible to play on a Junior High team.

For High School teams, a player shall become ineligible after four (4) years of High School team participation. Players must be 14 years old on the date of September 1 of the current school year to play on a High School team.

* In no event can a player participate for more than five (5) years on a High School level team. Seniors can not play on Sub-Varsity teams.

4. A player must be living at home with a parent or guardian.

5. A player must be homeschooled. "Homeschooling" is defined to mean that a student's education is parent-directed: the parents define the course materials, curriculum, schedules, and other requirements for the student with the intent for the student to graduate high school. As such, parents can

choose many options for completion of their established educational requirements for their student including selecting co-op classes, dual-credit college classes, tutors, correspondence courses, videos, on-line courses, and similar resources for their student's education.

**** A player may also attend a private school that does not offer a tackle football program. A player is ineligible if they attend a school that offers a tackle football program.**

6. THESA encourages the player's education requirements to meet or exceed local and state regulations for academics and, if the player wishes to participate in collegiate athletics, to meet all NCAA educational requirements during High School.

7. A player is ineligible if that player has gone through a homeschool, public school, private school, or Christian school high school graduation ceremony prior to that season's first game including post season. A player is not eligible if they have received a GED, diploma for any reason, or even taking part in the graduation ceremony.

8. A player may be deemed **ineligible if that player enrolls or is enrolled at any time in more than 9 hours of dual credit college courses during any semester term. A course that is classified as dual credit allows a student to earn both high school credit and college credit at the same time. The player must be enrolled as a HIGH SCHOOL student taking dual credit classes. They can not be a straight college student or have been issued a high school diploma in order to attend.** "

9. A player **cannot** play on another homeschool, public, private, or Christian school team in **the same sport at the same time as playing on a THESA - sponsored team**.

10. If a player started the season on another homeschool, public, private, or Christian school team, no transfer shall be allowed during the season without the approval of the THESA board.

11. A player must be a member of THESA.

12. Exceptions to any eligibility requirement may be made only by express approval of the THESA Board. No exceptions will be permitted to the upper age limitations.

13. Players must be in academic good standing at all times during the sports season to participate on a THESA team.

14. High School players will not play on Junior High teams and vice versa. JV and Varsity may do so. Junior High may only play on Junior High teams, they are not allowed to play up. JV and Varsity may flow between high school teams with the exception of seniors. Seniors only play varsity.

15. A player must be in good physical condition and have a signed physical dated the start of the current season to participate. Without all required paperwork the player is ineligible.

16. In addition, please see the Athlete Handbook for more details.

17. **By submitting an Athlete Application, you are certifying that you meet all of the eligibility requirements to be a THESA athlete and will immediately notify your coach if you become ineligible for any reason.**

Sign Here:

Date: