

## THESA Eligibility Requirements (Basketball Only)

**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 5 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 1<sup>st</sup> following that player's 19<sup>th</sup> birthday (anyone age 19 or older on September 1 of the current school year).

2. For teams that are grade-based, 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 11 as of September 1 of the current school year. (12 years old for football.) **Note:** A High School player is ineligible to play on a Junior High team. For teams that are age-based (example; Volleyball and Basketball), a High School player may play on a Junior High (14U) team provided they are age-eligible. With approval of the sports coordinator, players under 11 years old as of Sep 1 of the current school year may be considered.

3. For High School teams, a player shall become ineligible after four (4) years of Varsity team participation. Players must be 14 years old on the date of September 1 of the current school year to play on a Varsity team; an exception can be granted, with board approval, should that player be necessary to "make" a team. Eighth grade students who are at least 12 years old on the date of August 1 of the fall semester are eligible to play on a sub-varsity level team with approval from the Board or Sport Coordinator. (Exception: Eighth grade players may participate in post-season Varsity activities in the event there are not sufficient numbers of Varsity players for the post season event without affecting their 4 years of Varsity eligibility.) In no event can a player participate for more than five (5) years on a High School Varsity level team. Seniors that do not qualify for a Varsity team may participate on a sub-varsity team upon approval from the coach and Sports Coordinator. **NOTE:** Sports that age-based such as Volleyball and Basketball, should review eligibility guidelines before making this decision.

It should be further recognized by the parents and coaches that some regional or state sanctioning bodies, and their associated schools, may deem eligibility to begin the year a player first plays on a High School team, making an eighth grader ineligible to play his senior year in the event that such a student wishes to later play for a public or private school governed by these rules.

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, curricula, 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.

Players who attend small, private institutions without athletic teams may be eligible to participate under certain conditions.

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.

6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. A player must be a member of THESA.
11. 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.
12. Players must be in academic good standing at all times during the sports season to participate on a THESA team.
13. Players starting on a higher -level team may not participate on a lower level team (i.e. a Varsity starter may not participate on a sub-varsity team; a JV starter may not participate on a Freshman team). Exceptions can be granted when 1) either the sub-varsity team needs additional players for the contest due to a shortage of sub-varsity team members or for development of players at a different position; or 2) Age-based Tournaments.
14. As a general rule, players should be rostered on the age-appropriate team.
  - a. Playing Up- Players may "play up" if both the age-eligible coach and the upper level coach agree that the player is ready, skill-wise, to move. In some scenarios, players may be rostered on an older team so that there are enough players to "make" a team. Finally, players may earn a spot on an older team (i.e.- participate on multiple teams) if their play throughout the year warrants.

- b. Players may be dual-rostered (i.e.- a 15-year-old freshman plays on 16U and 18U Basketball teams) if either it is determined necessary to “make” a team or the player is good enough to make a meaningful difference at the older age group level. This will be done with the approval of the sports coordinator and the affected coach(es). NOTE: Care should be given in this area such that each age group is balancing having a winning attitude and developing its players.

15. Players must be in adequate physical condition to participate on any THESA team. A yearly physical examination signed by a physician is highly recommended. (See Athlete Handbook.)

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

**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.**