



2022 Athletic Handbook

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

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A Message from the Department of Athletics

The ABC Athletics' Staff is excited that you have made the commitment to participate in intercollegiate athletics at Arkansas Baptist College. This year will be a pivotal year in the advancement of our sports programs and athletic department. We are transitioning to a four year athletic program and we are excited for our student athletes as a whole. Whether you're a freshman or a senior. We thank you for your involvement with Arkansas Baptist College athletics.

Our entire staff wants the experience you have from athletics to be a positive one. The athletic staff is committed to giving you the necessary tools to be successful both on the court and the field and in the classroom. You must remember, you are a student-athlete. Doing well academically is of utmost importance. Athletics can present many opportunities but it also demands much greater responsibility. You must be able to balance your dual roles, of student and athlete, in order to succeed at both.

The staff also wants you to see and use athletics as a way to mature and grow as an individual in your faith at ABC. Throughout your respective season, there will be numerous opportunities to grow as an individual, to develop long-lasting relationships, and to reach for the potential that God's placed before you. It is my hope that you will take advantage of the opportunities that are ahead of you this year.

The last thing to keep in mind is that playing a sport at the collegiate level is a privilege. It is not a right. Treat it as a privilege and not something you're entitled to. You are expected, both on the court and field and off, to act in a manner that reflects well on your school, your team, and most importantly – your relationship with Christ.

This handbook presents many facts about our athletic department, our procedures, and our expectations. Please set aside time for yourself to look through it and familiarize yourself with the contents. It is expected of all student-athletes to abide by the policies in this document. If issues arise throughout the year, it is your responsibility to know and follow the guidelines in this handbook. If you have any questions concerning this handbook, feel free to contact our athletic staff. Once again, we thank you for the commitment you have made to ABC Athletics.

GO BUFFS!

Quick Facts

Location: 1600 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Little Rock, AR 72202

Athletic Department Phone: 501. 420.1200

Athletics Web Site: www.abcbuffaloes.com

Interim President: Regina Favors

Enrollment: 487 Students

Mascot: Buffalos

Colors: Purple & White

National Affiliation: NAIA

Men's Sports: Baseball, Basketball, Football, Track & Field, Soccer

Women's Sports: Basketball, Softball, Track & Field, Soccer

Policies and Expectations

Athlete Eligibility

For a student to be eligible for any NAIA recognized intercollegiate competition, a member institution must ensure that the student conforms to the following regulations. Any student competing in a sport recognized by the NAIA who is a first-time NAIA participant must receive an eligible determination from the NAIA Eligibility Center prior to representing an NAIA institution in competition against competitors not directly identified with the institution. The Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives shall determine specific policies and exceptions necessary to institute this requirement. See the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives policy for further information.

A first-time NAIA participant shall be defined as any student who has not previously represented an NAIA institution by competing in a scrimmage, exhibition or contest. This includes varsity, junior varsity and freshman team competitions in any sport that was recognized by the NAIA at the time of the student's competition.

1. An entering freshman student must be a graduate of an accredited high school or be accepted as a regular student in good standing as defined by the enrolling institution.
2. An entering freshman student must meet two of the three entry-level requirements below. Students not meeting at least two of the three standards shall be denied athletics participation at a member institution for the first full year of attendance (two semesters, three quarters, or the equivalent) that such a student is identified with any institution(s).

The three entry-level requirements are as follows: a. A minimum score of 18 on the ACT or 970 on the SAT (Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Math) for tests taken beginning May 2019. EFFECTIVE DATE May 1, 2019 (for tests taken beginning May 1, 2019); EXCEPTION: For ACT tests taken beginning March 2016 through April 30, 2019, a minimum score of 16 will satisfy this requirement. This exception will apply to tests taken through April 30, 2019, after which point the exception no longer applies. For SAT tests taken prior to May 1, 2019, a minimum score of an 860 will satisfy this requirement.

NOTE: The test score must be achieved at a single test sitting administered by a certified tester on a National, International or official state assessment testing date to apply to this requirement. A test taken under any conditions other than those listed is considered by both testing agencies to be a residual test and cannot be used for certification purposes. The ACT/SAT must be taken prior to the beginning of the term in which the student initially participates.

Note bylaw amendment effective May 1, 2022 as applied to eligibility decisions for NAIA competition in August 2022 or beyond: An entering freshman student can become eligible by achieving an overall high school grade point average of 2.300 or higher on a 4.000 scale.

EXCEPTION: A prospective student attending an accredited U.S. high school can satisfy NAIA entering freshman academic requirements prior to completing high school graduation requirements provided the student has registered with the NAIA Eligibility Center and satisfies one of the following academic criteria:

a. A student may satisfy freshman academic requirements upon completing six semesters, or its equivalent, of secondary education by obtaining an overall high school grade point average of 3.300 or higher on a 4.000 scale.

b. A student may satisfy freshman academic requirements upon completing seven semesters, or its equivalent, of secondary education by obtaining an overall high school grade point average of 2.800 or higher on a 4.000 scale.

Transfer Requirements

1. A student previously identified with an institution of higher learning (two- or four-year), who then transfers to a member college or university must complete the Official NAIA Transfer Player Eligibility Statement, and the institution must mail this statement to the eligibility chair prior to the student participating.

2. A student becomes identified with an institution upon representing an institution in an intercollegiate contest or enrolling in 12 or more institutional credit hours as reported by the institution's registrar on an official transcript based on the institution's official census date (summer session not included). Anyone transferring after identification becomes a transfer student.

3. If a student identified with an institution officially withdraws from that institution within 21 calendar days following the start of term and returns and becomes identified with the same institution (without becoming identified at another institution), the student shall not be charged with a term of attendance for the term in which the student withdrew.

4. If a student becomes identified at an institution and officially totally withdraws from that institution within 21 calendar days and subsequently becomes identified at an NAIA institution after remaining out of school for at least two full consecutive semesters, two full consecutive trimesters or three full consecutive quarters following the term of withdrawal, the term shall not be counted in application of the Nine-Hour Rule or 24/36-Hour Rule. The term shall be charged as a term of attendance with respect to the 10 semester, 12 trimester or 15 quarter limit. However, the transfer rule shall apply and the term shall be counted in application of the Nine-Hour Rule or the 24/36-Hour Rule if the athlete participated during the 21 days.

5. If a student identified with an institution officially withdraws from that institution then transfers and becomes identified with another institution, the student shall be charged with a term of attendance (and zero hours credit) if they meet the definition of identification as determined by the official transcript after the institution's official census date.

6. A transfer student who was suspended or was declared otherwise ineligible due to misconduct while representing an institution in competition, in accordance with Article VI, Section B, Item 7, must serve the period of suspension at the institution to which the student transfers before intercollegiate participation shall be permitted.

7. Attendance during a summer session or in a non-term (enrolled in fewer than 12 credit hours) does not count toward satisfying the 16-week residence requirement.

8. A student transferring to an institution using the trimester system may meet the residency requirements by enrolling in any regular trimester and establishing 16 calendar weeks (112 calendar days) of residence.

9. A student charged with a season of competition in one sport by different institutions in the same academic year shall be charged with two seasons of competition. A student could amass two seasons of competition within one academic year.

EXCEPTION: A student competing at a junior college who meets the requirements for graduation from that junior college and transfers to a member institution during the same sport season and otherwise eligible to compete at the member institution in the same sport shall be charged with only one season of competition.

TRANSFER: PREVIOUS IDENTIFICATION AT A FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION

1. A student who has participated in an intercollegiate contest at the immediately previous four-year institution and then transfers to an NAIA member institution shall be required to be in residence for a period of 16 calendar weeks before being eligible for the sport(s) previously participated in at the four-year institution.

A student shall have the 16 calendar weeks residency requirement waived for participation in that same sport provided the student has a cumulative minimum overall GPA of 2.000 (on a 4.000 scale) from all previously attended institutions of higher learning and receives a written release from the athletics director, assistant or associate athletics director, or compliance officer at the immediately previous four-year institution.

EXCEPTION 1: If a student's NAIA school requests a written release from the student's previous four-year institution and the previous institution does not respond to the request within 30 days, the written release will be deemed automatically approved, provided the NAIA institution can produce the prescribed written documentation showing a transfer release was requested. To satisfy this requirement, the NAIA institution's request must be made via email and directed to the previous four-year institution's athletics director, associate athletics director and/or compliance officer, including as many of these individuals as possible.

EXCEPTION 2: A student who has completed all academic requirements for graduation and who has transferred to an NAIA institution and enrolled in a graduate program, professional school or fifth-year, post baccalaureate degree teacher education program will not be subject to the residency requirement. A graduate transfer student can compete immediately at the new institution, and there is not a release or minimum GPA required, pursuant to any applicable conference rules.

A student who has not participated in an intercollegiate contest at the immediately previous four-year institution is not subject to the residency period in that sport.

The term "16 weeks" refers to 16 consecutive calendar weeks (112 calendar days), including vacations and inter-terms (except summer terms). The 16 weeks does not refer to school weeks.

2. This period shall be counted from the opening date of classes as stated in the official college catalog or from the date on which the student enrolls, whichever is later. No part of the 16 weeks shall fall between the end of the term immediately preceding the regular summer term and/or summer vacations and the beginning of the fall term.

3. The residency requirement shall be satisfied at the beginning of the day following the end of the 16 calendar weeks (at the beginning of the 113th calendar day) from the first day of class. Should the 16-week period be satisfied after the institution's regular season has been completed, the student has established eligibility for the following season in that sport but is not eligible for postseason athletic competition in that sport which is held during an extended period of the term just completed.

TRANSFER: PREVIOUS IDENTIFICATION AT A JUNIOR COLLEGE

A student whose immediately previous identification and participation was with a two-year institution and who transfers to an NAIA member institution shall not be required to meet the 16-week residency requirement. The student shall fulfill all academic requirements of the NAIA and is entitled to only four seasons of competition in a given sport at the intercollegiate level.

Code of Conduct and Academic and Class Attendance Expectations

Code of Conduct

Athletes will demonstrate a Christ-like attitude at all times. Respect will be shown to all school administration, faculty, coaches, managers, teammates, opponents, officials, and fans. Failure to perform in this manner can result in immediate action at the Head Coach or Athletic Directors discretion.

Academics

All student-athletes must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or above to be eligible to participate. In addition, all student-athletes must keep their term-GPA above a 2.0 to be eligible to participate. For transfers, you must have a "ABC GPA" above a 2.0 after your first semester of attendance at ABC and beyond. Failure to maintain the required minimum GPA will disqualify you from participation. Athletes may attempt to re-qualify by re-attaining the required minimum GPA.

Class Attendance

Students are expected to attend every lecture, recitation, and laboratory session of every course in which they are enrolled. The College advocates regular class attendance by all students. While attendance and tardiness are primarily a student-teacher relationship, the College has a concern in the proper fulfillment of such obligations by students. Class attendance must be recorded at each class period.

Students may be allowed as many unexcused absences as hours a course meets weekly. For example, a three credit course could allow for three unexcused absences. Students who miss more than the maximum number of classes may be assigned a grade of "F" in a course because of excessive absenteeism or have overall grade averages reduced. When students accumulate as many absences as the number of credit hours represented by the course, the instructor will notify the students and document the notification. Students may receive an excused absence due to participating in programs, activities, or events that are sponsored by the college, or when students are confronted with an extenuating circumstance (death in immediate family, judicial case, or serious illness). Official documentation of the situation must be submitted for absences to be excused. Instructors shall set forth at the beginning of the semester their expectations with regard to make-up policy, class participation, tardiness, absences, and other factors that may influence grades.

Requirements for an athlete missing class are as follows:

- Each athlete is responsible for informing his or her professors of the schedule of games in advance of the season so that the professors are aware that you will be gone for athletics.
- Being an athlete carries with it the expectation that you will attend all of your classes, turn in your work on time, and meet with the professor proactively to ensure that you get lecture notes.
- Athletes are entirely responsible for turning in any assignments (that are due while the athlete is gone) BEFORE they leave for the trip. You are responsible for all dates, times, and any assignments presented in your syllabus.
- Athletes are not to miss class to participate in practice sessions.

General Expectations

Grievance Procedure

Depending on the sport, the season can last 3+ months and throughout that time, disagreements may arise between the student-athletes and coaches. These disagreements are to be handled in a mature fashion, following the proper chain of command, and with as much privacy as possible for those involved. Therefore, when trying to resolve conflicts, disagreements, and other issues, please follow these procedures:

- The student-athlete needs to go and meet with the head coach to express thoughts and explain the issue or complaint. This needs to be done face-to-face. This will provide an open line of communication and the majority of issues can be resolved in this first step. (Although unlikely, any cases of alleged physical or mental abuse should be reported directly to the Director of Athletics.)
- Parents should not get involved until the student-athlete has had an initial meeting with the coach. If Parents choose to get involved, they should first contact the coach and discuss the situation.
- At NO time will a coach or the athletic director discuss issues pertaining to playing time or game strategy with parents. Those issues are between the coach and the players. 4. If player/coach meetings have been held without the issue being resolved, the next step is to schedule a meeting with the Director of Athletics. The Director of Athletics will meet with each party separately and then together, if applicable. At the conclusion of those meetings, the Director of Athletics will communicate an opinion and/or decision about the situation to all parties involved both verbally and in writing.

Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco

Each athlete shall abide by the rules and regulations and accept the responsibilities of the Substance Abuse Policy as established by the ABC Student Handbook.

Athletes are advised that ABC has a “Zero Tolerance” policy in effect for all undergraduate students. This policy applies to both under age students and students over the age of 21. Athletes are specifically cautioned that a violation of the school’s Zero Tolerance policy could result in not only suspension from the athletic team but suspension from the college.

SMOKING POLICY

- Smoking on the premises, which include residence hall rooms, academic buildings, gymnasium, dining facilities, and public common areas of Arkansas Baptist College are prohibited.
- Smoking is also prohibited in College vehicles unless the vehicle is assigned to one person for his/ her own use.
- Students who choose to smoke must be twenty (20) feet from the exterior of the College campus.

Smoking on all Arkansas Baptist College campus property is regulated under the authority of Act 462 of the 76th General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, 1987. In accordance with this statute and recognizing the ill effects of tobacco on its smoking and non-smoking faculty, staff, students, and visitors, the College and its assembly declare that Arkansas Baptist College buildings shall be **Smoke- Free**. Smoke-free is defined as: “no use of smoking materials such as legal and illegal cigarettes and tobacco of any kind on the Arkansas Baptist College premises which include buildings, outside hallways, and stairwells.

A head coach or the Director of Athletics may at any time and without notice administer a random drug test, reprimand an athlete, suspend the athlete from the team, or impose conditions of probation on the athletes continued participation on the team if the head coach or Director of Athletics has evidence that the student athlete has engaged in misconduct.

Discriminatory Harassment and Sexual Harassment

The college believes that all employees and students should be able to work and learn in an educational environment free from discriminatory harassment. Harassment of any person or group of persons on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, veteran's status, or other protected status, as those terms are defined by applicable state and federal law is a form of discrimination specifically prohibited and not tolerated in the ABC community. Any employee or student who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including permanent exclusion from the college or termination in the case of employees. Please refer to the ABC student and faculty handbooks.

Sexual harassment deserves special mention. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other physical, verbal, or visual conduct based on sex constitute harassment when:

- Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or a student's status in a course, program, or activity.
- Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an employee or student is used as the basis for employment, academic, or athletic decisions.
- The conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an employee's work performance or a student's academic or athletic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

Hazing

Arkansas Baptist College does not condone or support the practice of hazing. Hazing is contrary to the principles upon which the College and its surrounding community are built. Therefore, hazing is prohibited on and off campus as a requirement for admission or acceptance into any sorority, fraternity, club, organization or athletic activity. Please refer to the ABC Student Handbook

Gambling and Sports Wagering

Athletes shall not knowingly perform any of the following:

- Provide information to individuals involved in organized gambling activities concerning intercollegiate athletics competition.
- Solicit a bet on any intercollegiate team.
- Accept a bet on any team representing the institution.
- Participate in any gambling activity or tournament pools.

Prospective or enrolled student-athletes found in violation of the provisions listed above will face disciplinary action.

Team Travel

The coach will let the student-athlete know what time to get out of class to leave for a game. If you are scheduled to leave while in the middle of one of your class times, you are required to attend that class until 15 minutes prior to your departure time. You will be expected to be ready and packed before you go to that class. You are responsible to make your professor know before class that you will be leaving early.

All student-athletes must travel with the team to and from games, unless prior arrangements have been made and approved by the Head Coach. Student-athletes not traveling back to the campus after a game must be given approval from the Head Coach to do so.

All lodging and meal costs on road trips will be taken upon by the Athletic Department. The student-athlete is not responsible for the cost of meals, lodging, or any other necessities (which are determined by the head coach). For any incidental charges incurred at a hotel due to a student-athlete's misbehavior will result in the student-athlete being held responsible for the incidental charges.

Social Media Policy

All social media, (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, etc.) are completely acceptable for our student-athletes to have accounts with. However, student-athletes are not allowed to defame or poorly represent Arkansas Baptist College in any way through their use of social media. This includes the athletic department, the athlete's respective team, coaches, other student-athletes, faculty & staff, etc. If a student-athlete breaks this policy, matters will be handled on a case-to-case scenario by the Director of Athletics.

ABC Equipment Policy

Athletes must return all equipment belonging to the college at the end of the season. Failure to do so will result in charges being added to your account until the items are returned or paid for. A student-athlete will be held responsible for replacing any damaged equipment that is damaged by the student- athlete.

Sports Medicine/Physicals

Each student-athlete is required to have a yearly physical and have the results on file with the Athletics office on campus. The physical MUST be completed and on file prior to any practice or game competition.

We do have an Athletic Trainer on staff, on a part-time, limited basis. He/She will be in attendance for all of our home athletic contests, in addition to being on-campus for treatment.