



**Abraham Baldwin  
Agricultural College**

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

## **Student-Athlete Handbook 2022-2023**

## Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

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## Student-Athlete Home

ABAC Athletics' mission is to offer a regionally (GCAA) and nationally (NJCAA) competitive intercollegiate athletic program. Our focus is on building relationships with local and surrounding communities while providing a worthwhile experience for our student-athletes, teaching them the meaning of integrity and ethical conduct, the basic principles of amateur competition, sportsmanship, fair play, and the principle of equitable opportunity for all students including women and minorities. We seek to enhance the academic endeavors of ABAC by helping through our success to attract promising students. Above all, we recognize that the College's obligation is to provide our students with a level of quality education which leads to recognized academic achievement, contributes to their social development, and prepares them to continue their academic and athletic pursuits.



## General Information

### ABAC Vision Statement

ABAC aspires to be an institutional destination of greatness, a college where committed students seek a life-changing experience and are prepared to contribute positively to the communities in which they live and work.

### ABAC Mission Statement

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College is a State College within the University System of Georgia. ABAC's mission is to provide excellent education by engaging, teaching, coaching, mentoring, and providing relevant experiences that prepare the graduate for life.

### About ABAC

Since 1908, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College has provided unique, hands-on learning opportunities for students as the South's premier destination for Agricultural studies. Our offerings have grown a great deal since our founding, now including a wide range of more traditional 4-year degrees and paths to success including a highly sought-after nursing program, innovative arts and science tracks, and an ever-growing list of learning opportunities and majors for our students. A member of the 26-member University System of Georgia, ABAC is proud to support enrollment of over 4,000 students from 155 of Georgia's 159 counties, 18 states, and 24 countries. Our home is in Tifton, Georgia, a tight-knit and thriving town nestled among the lush pines of South Georgia. ABAC takes pride in our community involvement and the breadth of opportunities our city provides to get involved in hands-on learning from healthcare to business experience. Our college is a genuine member of the community at large. The ABAC campus offers apartment-style housing for 1,400 students and a wealth of resources and opportunities for students to get involved, learn, and grow in our academic community. Chances to practically apply what is learned in the classroom in the real world begin on day one. ABAC's sprawling campus is equipped with a multitude of resources such as the J.G. Woodroof Farm, Forest Lakes Golf Course, and the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village. We also offer chances to get involved outside of Tifton at our instructional site in Bainbridge.

# Intercollegiate Athletics Directory

## Intercollegiate Athletics & Recreational Sports Directory

ABAC 41, 2802 Moore Highway  
Tifton, GA 31793-2601

| <b>NAME</b>         | <b>TITLE</b>                              | <b>PHONE<br/>(229)</b> | <b>E-mail</b>             |
|---------------------|---|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alan M.<br>Kramer   | Director of Athletics                     | 391-<br>4930           | akramer@abac.edu          |
| Shirley<br>Wilson   | Administrative Associate                  | 391-<br>4930           | swilson@abac.edu          |
| Jennifer<br>Walls   | Assistant Recreational Sports<br>Director | 391-<br>4935           | jennifer.walls@abac.edu   |
| Donna K.<br>Sledge  | Athletic Trainer                          | 391-<br>4940           | dsledge@abac.edu          |
| Matthew<br>Williams | Head Baseball Coach                       | 391-<br>4933           | matthew.williams@abac.edu |
| Brooks Calvo        | Assistant Baseball Coach                  | 391-<br>4933           | TBA                       |
| Jennifer<br>Walls   | Head Softball Coach                       | 391-<br>4929           | jennifer.walls@abac.edu   |
| Mike Reed           | Assistant Softball Coach                  | 391-<br>4929           | mreed8@abac.edu           |

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

|                  |   |          |                           |
|------------------|---|----------|---------------------------|
| Aliriza Sisman   | Head Women's Soccer Coach                               | 391-4987 | aliriza.sisman@abac.edu   |
| Matthew Williams | <del>Assistant Women's Soccer Coach</del>               | 391-4933 | matthew.williams@abac.edu |
| Robert Earls     | <del>Assistant Women's Soccer Coach (Goal Keeper)</del> | 391-4987 | robert.earls@abac.edu     |
| Larry Byrnes     | Head Men's Golf Coach                                   | 391-4934 | lbyrnes@abac.edu          |
| Hunter Dokey     | <del>Student-Assistant Men's Golf Coach</del>           | 391-4934 | hdokey@stallions.abac.edu |
| Dale White       | <del>Head Men's and Women's Tennis Coach</del>          | 391-4937 | dwhite@abac.edu           |
| Jacob Tompkins   | <del>Assistant Women's Tennis Coach</del>               | 391-4937 | jacob.tompkins@abac.edu   |
| Alan M. Kramer   | Director of Athletics                                   | 4930     | akramer@abac.edu          |
| Shirley Wilson   | Administrative Associate                                | 4930     | swilson@abac.edu          |
| Donna K. Sledge  | Athletic Trainer  | 4940     | dsledge@abac.edu          |
| Matthew Williams | Head Baseball Coach                                     | 4933     | matthew.williams@abac.edu |
| Brooks Calvo     | Assistant Baseball Coach                                | 4933     | brooks.calvo@abac.edu     |

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|                   |   |      |                            |
|-------------------|---|------|----------------------------|
| Michael Beeman    | Head Men's & Women's Cross-Country Coach    | 4987 | michael.beeman@abac.edu    |
| Jennifer Walls    | Head Softball Coach                         | 4935 | jennifer.walls@abac.edu    |
| Mike Reed         | Assistant Softball Coach                    | 4935 | mreed8@abac.edu            |
| TBA               | Student-Assistant Softball Coach            | 4935 |                            |
| Christopher Earls | Head Women's Soccer Coach                   | 5251 | christopher.earls@abac.edu |
| Matthew Williams  | Assistant Women's Soccer Coach              | 4933 | matthew.williams@abac.edu  |
| Robert Earls      | Assistant Women's Soccer (Goalkeeper) Coach | 5251 | robert.earls@abac.edu      |
| Larry Byrnes      | Head Men's Golf Coach                       | 4934 | lbyrnes@abac.edu           |
| TBA               | Student-Assistant Men's Golf Coach          | 4934 |                            |
| Dale White        | Head Men's & Women's Tennis Coach           | 4937 | dwhite@abac.edu            |
| TBA               | Assistant Tennis Coach                      | 4937 |                            |

## At a Glance

### ABAC Athletics at a Glance

ABAC has a rich tradition of successful intercollegiate athletic programs. Five national championships and a long-standing winning tradition serve as highlights for the intercollegiate athletic program at Abraham Baldwin. The Golden Stallions and Fillies are always strong competitors. ABAC teams compete in baseball, men's cross-country, men's golf, men's tennis, softball, women's cross-country, women's soccer and women's tennis. All full-time students are invited to try out for the intercollegiate athletic teams and are strongly encouraged to contact the head coach PRIOR to the start of the semester. The Golden Stallions have won national championships in men's tennis in 1984 and 1999. The softball Fillies claimed national titles in 1991, 1995, and 1996. ABAC is a member of the Georgia Collegiate Athletic Association and Region XVII of the National Junior College Athletic Association. Abraham Baldwin showcases its athletes in some of the finest outdoor venues available among state colleges in Georgia. These include professionally lighted baseball and softball fields, 10 lighted tennis courts, varsity soccer field, all-purpose lighted intramural field, track, intramural softball field, Thrash Wellness Center, Foundation Legacy Swimming Pool, Gressette Gymnasium, Forest Lakes Golf Course and lighted driving range, and certified cross-country course.

### Statement of Philosophy

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College believes that athletics is an important part of the college experience. Over the years, ABAC has created a balance between academics and athletics where the student-athlete has the best possible opportunities for success in the classroom and on the playing field. ABAC is dedicated to meeting the needs of students, promoting academic excellence, and serving the community as a source of knowledge, expertise, and culture. Athletic programs provide an active learning experience in building skills and attitudes such as persistence, teamwork, cooperation, sportsmanship, courtesy, determination, time management, and personal discipline. Athletics develops character and maturity as well as athletic excellence and physical health and is important in gaining community support for the college at local and state levels and fosters pride among students, faculty, staff, alumni, and citizens of Tifton and Georgia. The ABAC athletic program is committed to providing equal opportunities of participation and accessibility to all students and spectators and raises the bar relative to respect for all associated with the institution and its competition.

### Statement of Purpose



## Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

At ABAC, student-athletes will be given the opportunity and encouragement to complete a college degree which will prepare them for further study or for occupational careers and which will provide them the opportunity to develop athletic abilities in an environment consistent with high standards of academic scholarship, sportsmanship, and leadership. The primary purpose of the athletic program is to provide those experiences which complement and support student-athletes in their pursuit of a collegiate education.

## Objectives

The objectives of the athletic program are:

- To encourage academic scholarship and sportsmanship among student-athletes, students, faculty, staff, and spectators at athletic events.
- To provide academic counseling, advisement, and support for student-athletes.
- To field disciplined, competitive athletes and teams who are recruited, coached, and supported by professionals dedicated to the observation of all applicable rules.
- To schedule appropriate competition for the athletes and teams.
- To update and maintain intercollegiate athletics to accommodate the athletic and recreational needs of a diverse student, faculty/staff and community.
- To strive for improvement in the system of intercollegiate athletics by cooperation and promotion of sportsmanship with other institutions.
- To endeavor to provide financial assistance as needed by student-athletes.
- To comply with Title IX of the Higher Education Act (see ABAC Title IX Sexual Misconduct Guidelines & Procedures link <https://www.abac.edu/titleix/>).
- To strive for excellence through regional and national championships.
- To foster relationships with our local community and alumni.

## Athletic Mission Statement

ABAC Athletics' mission is to offer a regionally (GCAA) and nationally (NJCAA) competitive intercollegiate athletic program. Our focus is on building relationships with local and surrounding communities while providing a worthwhile experience for our student-athletes, teaching them the meaning of integrity and ethical conduct, the basic principles of amateur competition, sportsmanship, fair play, and the principle of equitable opportunity

## Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

for all students including women and minorities. We seek to enhance the academic endeavors of ABAC by helping through our success to attract promising students. Above all, we recognize that the College's obligation is to provide our students with a level of quality education which leads to recognized academic achievement, contributes to their social development, and prepares them to continue their academic and athletic pursuits.

# Student Responsibility

## Student Responsibility

All students are responsible for reading the Academic Catalog <https://www.abac.edu/academics/office-of-the-registrar/>, official announcements, official bulletin boards, and the Student Handbook <https://www.abac.edu/campus-life/dean-of-students/>. Also, students should be aware of the current requirements for their program of study, credits, degree requirements, quality points, and other policies and procedures relating to life at the College. ABAC has established a free student email account. The College will use this email account as an official means of communication with students.

# Student Code of Conduct

## Student Code of Conduct

All students are subject to the regulations outlined in the Student Handbook which are available at <https://www.abac.edu/campus-life/dean-of-students/> (see Statement of Mutual Responsibility Form). Students are also subject to city, state, and federal law. The College will not intervene nor ask special treatment for students who have violated any law.

Academic honesty is one of the conduct expectations for ABAC students in order to foster respect and integrity. Academic irregularities include, but are not limited to, giving or receiving of unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any academic assignment; taking or attempting to take, stealing, or otherwise obtaining in an unauthorized manner any material pertaining to the education process; selling, giving, lending, or otherwise furnishing to any person any question and/or answers to any examination known to be scheduled at any subsequent date; fabricating, forging, or falsifying lab or clinical results; plagiarism in any form related to themes, essays, term papers, tests, and other assignments; breaching any confidentiality regarding patient information.

All ceremonies of induction, initiation, orientation, or private actions by individuals which tend to cause or allow mental or physical suffering are prohibited. Hazing is any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off campus, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. Such activities may include but are not limited to the following: use of alcohol; paddling in any form; creation of excessive fatigue; physical and psychological shocks; quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, road trips or any other such activities carried on outside or inside of the confines of the chapter house; wearing of public apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste; engaging in public stunts and buffoonery; morally degrading or humiliating games and activities; and any other activities which are not consistent with academic achievement, fraternal law, ritual or policy or the regulations and policies of the educational institution or applicable state law. ABAC does not allow hazing and fully investigates reports received in an effort to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for all students. Reporting hazing is critical for students and employees. If you wish to make an anonymous report, we will evaluate the report and determine what follow-up is necessary to address the concerns. We would encourage you though, to submit your name and contact information to allow us to call or email should we have additional questions regarding the information in the report. All members of the ABAC community are strongly urged to report suspected instances of hazing. Reports can be made by using any of the following methods:

- Contacting the Office of the Dean of Students by emailing [deanofstudents@abac.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@abac.edu) or calling (229) 391-5130.

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- Submitting an online Hazing Report Form through the following link:  
<https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/s54u81kwTHBPo3WD8q9d4c71>
- Contacting ABAC Police by calling (229) 391-5060.

# Athletic Addendum to Student Code of Conduct

## Athletic Addendum to Student Code of Conduct

Student-athletes are one of the most visible groups in the college community due to their public exposure via the competitive arena and the media. Consequently, their actions are often subject to scrutiny by other members of the campus community. (~~see Statement of Mutual Responsibility Form~~). Student-athletes are, therefore, placed in a position which requires exemplary behavior. Basic courtesy and responsibility as a representative of ABAC Athletics require that all student-athletes:

- Treat instructors and classmates with courtesy and respect.
- Arrive to class on time and not leave early.
- Be prepared for class.
- Be attentive in taking notes and active in participating in class discussions.
- Notify instructors in advance when competition or travel requires missed classes.
- Discuss with instructors in advance the procedure to be followed if competition necessitates missing an examination or assignment deadline.

When student-athletes do group work with other student-athletes, their behavior invites judgments of student-athletes as a group. The behavior of each student-athlete should reflect positively on ABAC Athletics in general and specific sports in particular. Behavior has a definite impact on the reputation of ABAC Athletics and the attitude the campus community has toward the entire athletics program. Similarly, student-athletes' conduct will be closely scrutinized during campus events, travel, and competition off campus (~~see Student Travel Agreement Form~~).

Student-athletes are often looked upon as role models, particularly by young children, and it is important that personal conduct be always above reproach. It is expected that representatives of ABAC, either at the College or on road trips, will:

- Abide by the Student Code of Conduct and Athletic Addendum.
- Abide by all team rules, training rules, and travel rules as outlined by the head coach. (Student-athletes absolutely must comply with the directions of college officials.)
- Dress appropriately.

## Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

- Be courteous, patient, and cooperative with fans, officials, community, and media personnel.
- Refrain from use of inappropriate language, signs or symbols of unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Refrain from loud, attention-drawing, or discourteous behavior when traveling, staying in hotels, or visiting other campuses.
- Refrain from the following:
  - Alcohol, tobacco, and drug use.
  - Conviction of an indictable offense.
  - Destroying, stealing, or defacing property.
  - Illegal gambling.
  - Personal web pages and/or social media with questionable content.

# Letter of Intent Agreement

## Letter of Intent (LOI) Agreement

The LOI serves to document the commitment between a member college and a student-athlete. The LOI is valid for one year beginning August 1. If at any time the athlete chooses to discontinue their commitment to the ABAC Athletic Program he/she may be obligated to pay remaining amount of scholarship monies from the date of departure. Amount will be pro-rated based on a 15-week semester. Prior to leaving campus at the end of the school year, each player with an LOI must meet with the Head Coach to discuss the status of the following year's LOI.



# Athletic Training Services

## ABAC Athletic Training Services

We have a full-time athletic trainer here at ABAC. There should be no reason for an athlete to be late to practice because they are seeing the trainer. The ABAC athletic trainer will have treatment availability most mornings and prior to practice. Student-athletes are expected to seek treatment when not in class or practice. Student-athletes are expected to follow the ABAC athletic trainer's protocol in addressing and preventing injuries. It is important that the student-athlete initiates health concerns with ABAC's athletic trainer while also communicating with the Head Coach and Health Center as necessary.

### Reporting

All athletic injuries and illnesses are to be reported immediately to the ABAC athletic trainer for evaluation, care, and referral. The athletic trainer assesses the immediate needs and gives referrals to receive medical care. It is the student-athlete's responsibility to report back to the athletic trainer with information from the appointment and for follow-up care. For additional information on services provided, emergency medical plans and professional information, please see ABAC's athletic trainer.

### Physical Examinations

Every student-athlete is required to have a physical on file with the ABAC's athletic trainer prior to participation in any team activities (including strength and conditioning exercises and practices). Also, each student-athlete will be required to complete several forms relating to their health care, including: Physical Examination, History Information & Clearance, COVID-19 Screening, Concussion History, Concussion Reporting Agreement, USG HIPPA, Medical Insurance and Authorization, Health Special Risk Secondary Insurance, Consent to Treat, Assumption of Risk and Medical Information Release, Substance Abuse Informed Consent, Personal Information Consent, Insurance Coverage of Student-Athletes. All forms must be submitted on Sportsware Online ([www.swol123.net](http://www.swol123.net))

### Insurance Requirements

ABAC wishes to provide quality, timely healthcare to all our student-athletes. The following is a brief description of our policies and procedures relating to athletic insurance coverage and insurance claim resolution.

### **Pre-participation Requirements**

All student-athletes are required to provide a copy of a valid health insurance card, prescription benefit card, copies of any previous diagnostic tests, and physician notes from all previous injuries or significant illnesses. Failure to complete these forms or failure to provide the requested information will prevent the student-athlete from participating in any practice or competition until the required information is provided to the athletic training staff.

ABAC requires every student-athlete to carry adequate health insurance that covers athletic injuries. Most families rely upon their home coverage, which in many cases provides the needed benefits. However, the policy **MUST INCLUDE COVERAGE FOR INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC INJURIES**. ABAC strongly recommends you verify with your insurance provider that your current policy provides coverage for your student-athlete's athletic injuries.

### **Athletic Insurance Provided Through ABAC**

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College requires all student-athletes to provide evidence of health/accident insurance that covers intercollegiate athletic injuries. Any student-athlete that does not provide evidence of insurance or lets their health insurance policy lapse will be ineligible to participate in conditioning, practices, and/or competition with ABAC athletic teams until evidence of current insurance coverage is on file with the ABAC athletic trainer by uploading information onto SWOL. Also, any student-athlete that lets his/her health insurance lapse or does not inform the ABAC's athletic trainer of a change in his/her insurance policy will be **RESPONSIBLE** for all medical bills related to an athletic injury. If a student-athlete gets injured and during the billing process it is found out the student-athlete's insurance has been dropped or there is not coverage for any reason, that student-athlete may be responsible for total payment of all medical expenses.

ABAC's athletic department provides secondary insurance coverage for athletic-related injuries. The intercollegiate accident insurance policy (Health Special Risk), provided by ABAC, is offered on an "excess" basis to the primary health insurance policy, provided by the student-athletes plan. This means that the secondary insurance will pay secondary to a valid and collectible health insurance plan. It is the student athlete's responsibility to submit his/her medical claims to the primary insurance policy provider. Coverage will begin on the first day of a team's official practice or conditioning and continue until the end of the authorized athletic season as governed by NJCAA.

Insurance requirements for international student-athletes. All students who reside outside the United States and who attend the ABAC under provisions of an F or J Visa are required to purchase Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) healthcare insurance from the United

Healthcare System (UHS) provided by the University System of Georgia (USG). International student-athletes must also provide insurance coverage for athletic injuries that meet USG/ACA standards.

### **Important Notices**

- ~~ABAC's secondary intercollegiate athletic insurance provides coverage only if the student-athlete's injury was athletic related. The injury must have occurred during in-season varsity competition, practices and or other coach-supervised and mandated athletic-related activities including but not limited to pre/post season team workouts.~~
- ~~All injuries and follow-up treatment must be reported to the Head Coach AND Athletic Trainer at the time on injury/treatment.~~
- ~~ABAC secondary intercollegiate athletic insurance does not cover illness or pre-existing conditions.~~
- ~~Injuries resulting from participation in intramural sports or other on-campus, or off-campus activities are NOT covered by ABAC's secondary intercollegiate athletic insurance.~~
- ~~Parents/guardians should remember to always provide ABAC's athletic trainer with updated copies of valid primary insurance coverage should the student-athlete's insurance coverage change during the year. ABAC secondary intercollegiate athletic insurance WILL NOT pay for health care costs from an athletic injury if the student-athlete's coverage is invalid or has lapsed. It will be the responsibility of the student-athlete or parent/guardian to pay for healthcare costs in the case of an invalid or lapsed primary coverage policy.~~
- ~~If you have any questions regarding the terms of your coverage, you should contact your insurer immediately. Please be sure to note if there are any exclusions in your policy regarding athletically related injuries.~~
- ~~If you have any questions or concerns regarding ABAC's secondary intercollegiate athletic insurance please contact ABAC's athletic trainer.~~

### **Weather**

~~If at all possible, ABAC's athletic trainer will notify teams of impending dangerous weather. If lightning reading is within 10 miles, all student-athletes must immediately exit the field and seek shelter in athletic fieldhouse, institutional building, vehicle, or appropriate four-walled shelter. Anytime lightning is spotted, or thunder is heard, all should seek immediate~~

~~shelter. To find out about inclement weather affecting class, you can call the Inclement Weather Hotline at 229-391-5225. Most of the time, the ABAC Homepage will also have notifications of any cancellations.~~

## **ABAC Athletic Training Services**

We have a full-time athletic trainer here at ABAC. There should be no reason for an athlete to be late to practice because they are seeing the trainer. The ABAC athletic trainer will have treatment availability most weekdays prior to practice. Student-athletes are expected to seek treatment when not in class or practice. Student-athletes are expected to follow the ABAC athletic trainer's protocol in addressing and preventing injuries. It is important that the student-athlete initiates health concerns with ABAC's athletic trainer while also communicating with the Head Coach and Health Center as necessary.

### **Reporting**

All athletic injuries and illnesses are to be reported immediately to the ABAC athletic trainer for evaluation, care, and referral. The athletic trainer assesses the immediate needs and gives referrals to receive medical care. It is the student-athlete's responsibility to report back to the athletic trainer with information from the appointment and for follow-up care. For additional information on services provided, emergency medical plans and professional information, please see ABAC's athletic trainer.

### **Physical Examinations**

Every student-athlete is required to have a physical on file with the ABAC's athletic trainer prior to participation in any team activities (including strength and conditioning exercises and practices). Also, each student-athlete will be required to complete several forms relating to their health care. All forms must be submitted on Sportsware Online ([www.swol123.net](http://www.swol123.net)).

### **Insurance Requirements**

ABAC wishes to provide quality, timely healthcare to all our student-athletes. The following is a brief description of our policies and procedures relating to athletic insurance coverage and insurance claim resolution.

### **Secondary Athletic Insurance Provided Through ABAC**

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ABAC's athletic department provides secondary intercollegiate accident insurance coverage through *Health Special Risk* for athletic-related injuries. This means that our secondary insurance will pay secondary to a valid and collectible health insurance plan. Because our insurance is secondary, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College requires all student-athletes to provide evidence of a health/accident insurance that covers intercollegiate athletic injuries.

- o Most student-athletes rely upon their home coverage, which in many cases provides the needed benefits. However, the policy **MUST INCLUDE COVERAGE FOR INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC INJURIES** and should cover local physicians as "in network" providers (many policies can have the coverage area moved to the institution's geographic region. This could change local practitioners from "out of network" to "in network."). ABAC strongly recommends you verify with your insurance provider that your current policy provides coverage for student-athlete's athletic injuries.

There are many types of coverages that are either not insurances, or do not cover intercollegiate athletics injuries (i.e., MediShare, WellCare, Peachcare, and other State Medicaid). Therefore, student-athletes must provide documentation from their primary insurance company stating that they cover intercollegiate sports injuries. If a student-athlete cannot provide this, we ask them to secure ANY insurance that will cover intercollegiate athletics prior to allowing them to participate in conditioning, practices, and/or competition.

If student-athletes have difficulty identifying an insurance that will cover them in intercollegiate-athletes, we refer them to the USG Ship Athletic Rider. United Health Care offers coverage and students can email ABAC Student Accounts at [studentaccounts@abac.edu](mailto:studentaccounts@abac.edu) for more information or visit <https://www.abac.edu/funding/student-accounts/?search=student%20accounts>. Each semester a student would like to purchase this rider it will be assessed to their account. Once the amount is covered or paid in full, ABAC Student Accounts will then upload the information to United Health Care for them to enroll the student in the coverage.

Health Insurance Marketplace options which provide good coverage and cost are also located at <https://www.healthcare.gov/>.

## Pre-participation Requirements

All student-athletes are required to provide a copy of a valid health insurance card, prescription benefit card, copies of any previous diagnostic tests, and physician notes from all previous injuries or significant illnesses. Failure to complete these forms or failure to

provide the requested information will prevent the student-athlete from participating in any practice or competition until the required information is provided to the ABAC athletic trainer.

## Lapsed Insurance Coverage

Any student-athlete that does not provide evidence of insurance or lets their health insurance policy lapse will be ineligible to participate in conditioning, practices, and/or competition with ABAC athletic teams until evidence of current insurance coverage is on file with the ABAC athletic trainer by uploading information onto SWOL. Also, any student-athlete that lets his/her health insurance lapse or does not inform the ABAC's athletic trainer of a change in his/her insurance policy will be RESPONSIBLE for all medical bills related to an athletic injury. If a student-athlete gets injured and during the billing process it is found out the student-athlete's insurance has been dropped or there is not coverage for any reason, that student-athlete may be responsible for total payment of all medical expenses.

## International Student-Athlete Insurance Requirements

There are specific insurance requirements for international student-athletes. All students who reside outside the United States and who attend the ABAC under provisions of an F or J Visa are required to purchase Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) healthcare insurance from the United Healthcare System (UHS) provided by the University System of Georgia (USG). International student-athletes must also provide insurance coverage for intercollegiate athletic injuries that meet USG/ACA standards such as the USG Ship Athletic Rider.

## Important Notices

- o It is the student athlete's responsibility to submit his/her medical claims to the primary insurance policy provider. Coverage will begin on the first day of a team's official practice or conditioning and continue until the end of the authorized athletic season as governed by NJCAA.
- o ABAC's secondary intercollegiate athletic insurance provides coverage only if the student-athlete's injury was athletic related. The injury must have occurred during in-season varsity competition, practices and or other coach-supervised and mandated athletic-related activities including but not limited to pre/post season team workouts.

## Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

- o Student-athletes must communicate all potential injuries to institution's athletic trainer AND head coach when it occurs and follow the athletic trainer's procedures for follow-up care.
- o ABAC secondary intercollegiate athletic insurance does not cover illness or pre-existing conditions.
- o Injuries resulting from participation in intramural sports or other on-campus, or off-campus activities are NOT covered by ABAC's secondary intercollegiate athletic insurance.
- o Parents/guardians should remember to always provide ABAC's athletic trainer with updated copies of valid primary insurance coverage should the student-athlete's insurance coverage change during the year. ABAC secondary intercollegiate athletic insurance WILL NOT pay for health care costs from an athletic injury if the student-athlete's coverage is invalid or has lapsed. It will be the responsibility of the student-athlete or parent/guardian to pay for healthcare costs in the case of an invalid or lapsed primary coverage policy.
- o If you have any questions regarding the terms of your coverage, you should contact your insurer immediately. Please be sure to note if there are any exclusions in your policy regarding athletically related injuries.
- o If you have any questions or concerns regarding ABAC's secondary intercollegiate athletic insurance, please contact ABAC's athletic trainer.

## Weather

If possible, ABAC's athletic trainer will notify teams of impending dangerous weather. If lightning reading is within ten miles, all student-athletes should immediately exit the field and seek shelter in athletic field house, institutional building, vehicle, or appropriate four-walled shelter. Anytime lightning is spotted, or thunder is heard, all should seek immediate shelter. To find out about inclement weather affecting class, you can call the Inclement Weather Hotline at

229-391-5225. Most of the time, the ABAC Homepage will also have notifications of any cancellations.



# Social Media Responsibility

## Social Media Responsibility

With the rising popularity of social media sites such as TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, etc., student-athletes should take responsibility for the content of individual pages. Questionable content can present a negative image of student-athlete as an ABAC student-athlete, and therefore a negative image of ABAC Athletics. You should also be aware that you and your friends are not the only people who view your information. Employers view these pages as part of background checks on possible employees. People who would do you harm also use these pages as means of locating you. If you are ever in doubt of the appropriateness of your online public material, consider whether it upholds and positively reflects your own values and ethics as well as the athletics department and the Institution. Remember to always present a positive image and refrain from actions which may embarrass yourself, the team, your family, or the Institution.

Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include depictions or presentations of the following:

- o Posting photos, videos, comments, or posters showing the personal use of alcohol, tobacco, e.g., no holding cups, cans, shot glasses, etc.
- o Posting photos, videos, and comments that are of a sexual nature. This includes links to websites of a pornographic nature and other inappropriate material and innuendo.
- o Posting pictures, videos, comments, or posters that condone drug related activity. This includes but is not limited to images that portray the personal use of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.
- o Using inappropriate or offensive language in all comments, videos, and other postings. This includes threats of violence and derogatory comments against race and/or gender.
- o Posting information, photos, statements, and items that could embarrass or ruin the reputation of you, your team, the athletic department, or Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. This includes statements, information, photos, and items that may be posted by others on your page.
- o Student-athletes who do not conform to the stated expected behavior of this code may be subject to discipline. The discipline may range from a warning to dismissal from the team, and/or reduction/withdrawal of athletics related financial aid.



# Use of Drugs

## Use of Drugs

It is the fundamental belief of the NJCAA that athletic participation is a privilege and that those athletes who use illegal performance enhancing and/or recreational drugs substantively violate that privilege. In response to any violations of this nature that occur and are detected in NJCAA-sponsored or sanctioned events, continuation of rights and privileges or participation by the individual or the institution will be reviewed or revoked, as appropriate.

~~The possession, use, or distribution of illegal drugs, controlled substances banned by NJCAA, or drug paraphernalia while in or out of season is prohibited. The ABAC Drug Policy is a suspected use policy. ABAC does NOT random drug test but reserves the right to test any athlete if there is reasonable suspicion he/she is using illegal substances. Each instance will be handled on a case-by-case basis. The totality of circumstances will be studied. It is the~~

~~Institution's accepted responsibility to provide a competitive environment that is free from drug and substance use and abuse. A student-athlete who is suspected of using illegal substances may be subject to testing upon approval by the Head Coach, Director of Athletics, and necessary college administrators. If a student-athlete refuses testing, the athlete will be subject to sanctions imposed by the Head Coach and Director of Athletics. In all cases, student-athletes will be afforded full rights of due process (see Substance Abuse Informed Consent Statement Form).~~

The ABAC Athletics' Drug Policy is a Suspected Use Policy: ABAC does NOT random drug test, but we reserve the right to test any athlete if there is reasonable suspicion, he/she is using illegal substances. Each instance will be handled on a case-by-case basis. The totality of circumstances will be studied. It is the institution's accepted responsibility to provide a competitive environment that is free from drug and substance use and abuse. A student-athlete who is suspected of using illegal substances may be subject to testing upon approval by the Director of Athletics and Dean of Students. If a student-athlete refuses testing, the athlete will be subject to sanctions imposed by the Head Coach, the Director of Athletics, and Dean of Students. In all cases, student-athletes will be afforded full rights and due process, which will include notice of the suspected violation in writing, and the opportunity to respond, prior to the implementation of any disciplinary action. The results of testing will be made known only to the College's Chief of Police, the Director of Athletics, the Dean of Students, and Head Coach.

# Class Attendance

## Class Attendance

In keeping with the Intercollegiate-Athletics philosophy of “student first, athlete second,” the educational experience for the student-athlete will be always emphasized. Coaches will make every effort to minimize student-athlete absences from class and exams in scheduling athletic competitions. When practice schedules conflict with class schedules student-athletes are required to attend class. All student-athletes are expected to attend all scheduled class meetings. If a class missed due to a scheduled road trip or home competition, student-athletes should notify their instructor prior to the absence to make plans to complete all work as assigned. If student-athletes miss class due to an illness, then he/she must inform their head coach as soon as possible. It is also recommended the student-athlete visit the Health Center on campus for evaluation. If class is missed due to sickness, then the student-athlete will NOT practice but is expected to attend team functions unless Health Center personnel, ABAC’s athletic trainer, and/or head coach state otherwise.

# Non-Discriminatory and Harassment

## Non-Discriminatory and Harassment

~~Diversity includes more than race, gender, and age; at ABAC, diversity is about inclusion and respect for people. Our goal of inclusion and respect for people from different backgrounds and perspectives will ensure our institution fully leverages the abilities of all faculty, staff and students (see Notice of Non-Discrimination link and Discriminatory Harassment Form).~~

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College is committed to maintaining a fair and respectful environment for living, work, and study. To that end, and in accordance with federal and state law, University System of Georgia policy, and College policy, the College prohibits harassment of or discrimination against any person because of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment and pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity or national origin, religion, age, genetic information, disability, or veteran status by any member of the College Community (as defined below) on campus, in connection with a College program or activity, or in a manner that creates a hostile environment for any member of the College Community. Incidents of harassment and discrimination will be met with appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal or expulsion from the College.

# Sportsmanship Policy

## Sportsmanship Policy

Visit <https://www.njcaa.org/>

Coaches, players, and institutional personnel must remember that they are representatives of an institution of higher learning, its faculty, administration, and student body. As such, they are expected to conduct themselves in a manner which would reflect credit on their team, institution, region and the NJCAA. Student-athletes, coaches and institutional personnel who are representing the NJCAA or NJCAA member colleges are subject to all NJCAA rules, regulations and penalties as stated in the NJCAA Handbook as well as local, state and federal laws. Inappropriate and unacceptable behavior by coaches, players or institutional personnel will not be tolerated before, during, or after contests; at the hotel or in public while representing their college. Unacceptable forms of behavior include, but are not limited to:

- Fighting.
- Taunting.
- Inappropriate celebration.
- Disrespectful attitude toward opponents, officials, tournament administrators.
- Use of profane and vulgar language.
- Use of drugs and/or alcohol, tobacco (including but not limited to e-cigarettes, vaping, etc.).
- Disrespectful attitude toward host hotel personnel.
- Unlawful activities.
- Physical abuse or damage to college property or host hotel property.

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## **NJCAA Information**

National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Information

Visit <https://www.njcaa.org/>

# Student Support Resources

## Academic Support Center Resources

The Academic Support Center is made up of various services and programs created to empower students to achieve their full academic potential during their time at ABAC. In addition to an academic advisor, students will also have access to an academic support counselor, an ally and guide to help navigate the college roadmap from orientation to graduation. (see <https://www.abac.edu/academics/academic-support/>).

Email: [asc@abac.edu](mailto:asc@abac.edu)

## ABAC Student Handbook

The Student Handbook is a resource for campus activities, student life, student services, and college policies and procedures.

## ABAC Honor Code

An ABAC Stallion conducts themselves with honor and integrity at all times and expects their fellow Stallions to do so as well. A Stallion does not lie, steal, cheat, or allow others to do so.

## Academic Support

Academic Support is a collection of services and programs designed to help students achieve their full academic potential. In addition to an academic advisor, ABAC students also receive an Academic Support Counselor, committed to helping students “from orientation to graduation” in all ways educational. To learn more information about Academic Support, including the *Tutoring Center and Testing Center*, please visit <https://www.abac.edu/academics/academic-support/>. For questions, please email [asc@abac.edu](mailto:asc@abac.edu) or call (229) 391.4995.

## Care Team

The CARE Team is a network comprised of members from the ABAC campus community, including you, who work together to promote a safe and thriving academic and residential environment. Please visit <https://www.abac.edu/careteam/> for specific information on how to help students who need assistance, how to connect to campus resources, how to make campus safer, and how to support the student and academic conduct code.

## Counseling Center

The Counseling Center provides a variety of resources for students to ensure mental well-being. Our goal is to provide support to help our Stallions achieve their full academic and personal potential. Please visit the Counseling Center website for more information on counseling including emergency services. For questions or to inquire about appointments, please call (229) 391.5135 or email [counseling@abac.edu](mailto:counseling@abac.edu).

## Let'sChat@ABAC

The University System of Georgia has launched a program to expand mental health resources. With so many changes in the world and factors that can compromise your health and wellness, ABAC wants to make sure that students have the support they need. Many mental health resources and counseling services can be found at the LetsChat@ABAC website.

# Team Information and Rules

## Team Information and Rules

~~Individual sport head coaches will develop a set of team rules that fit the mission of their respective program, the athletic department, and the College. The student-athletes will sign a team rules form stating they have received and are aware of all team rules.~~

~~Only NJCAA eligible athletes who have had a current physical, have completed and signed each form in the Sports Ware Online (SWOL) eligibility packet, and who have current primary health insurance coverage may participate in ABAC Athletics practices and workouts. Any student-athlete who drops below the 12-hour enrollment will not be allowed to compete and may not be able to continue practicing with the team or participate in intercollegiate sports-related activities. In consideration of my membership on this team, and my participation in practices, games, tournaments, events, and activities, I agree to be bound by this 2021-22 Intercollegiate Student-Athlete Handbook and ABAC \_\_\_\_\_ Team Rules and Expectations:~~

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~~Signature Date~~

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~~Signature of Parent/Guardian (if minor)~~

Only NJCAA eligible athletes who have had a current physical, have completed and signed each form in the Sports Ware Online (SWOL) eligibility packet, and who have current primary health insurance coverage may participate in ABAC Athletics practices and workouts. Any student-athlete who drops below the 12-hour enrollment will not be allowed to compete and may not be able to continue practicing with the team or participate in intercollegiate sports-related activities. In consideration of my membership on this team, and my participation in practices, games, tournaments, events, and activities, I agree to be bound by this 2022-23 Intercollegiate Student-Athlete Handbook including my sports ABAC Team Rules and Expectations, the ABAC Student Handbook, and all NJCAA rules and regulations. I also agree to allow members of the ABAC Faculty/Staff to disclose my academic progress to assist in advising me with appropriate academic progress toward NJCAA, NCAA, NAIA, GCAA, and/or ABAC eligibility regulations. I agree to allow members of the ABAC Faculty/Staff to submit my name, photograph, major, class, academic standing, GPA official transcript, etc. for consideration of academic awards, achievements, honors, and



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societies. I agree to allow ABAC Faculty/Staff to release basic information to media outlets concerning participation status in areas such as medical, eligibility, and disciplinary (college/team rules).

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian (if minor): \_\_\_\_\_

# COVID-19 Guidelines

## COVID-19 ABAC Guidelines

~~We need to be attentive, flexible and adaptive to the COVID situation and follow all requirements and guidelines provided in ABAC's Plan <https://www.abac.edu/coronavirus/#Fall-2021-Plan> as well as the NJCAA and GCAA. Our athletic programs must reflect this guidance with focus on health and safety in everything we do. It is expected that our student-athletes will lead by example and have a personal responsibility to do their part to contribute to the culture of health and safety on campus including non-athletic related activities.~~

We need to be attentive, flexible and adaptive to the COVID situation and follow all requirements and guidelines provided in ABAC's Plan (<https://www.abac.edu/coronavirus/?search=covid>) as well guidance from our National (NJCAA) and Conference (GCAA) leadership. Our athletic programs must reflect this guidance with focus on health and safety in everything we do. It is expected that our student-athletes will lead by example and have a personal responsibility to do their part to contribute to the culture of health and safety on campus including non-athletic related activities.

