

# Athletics

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The University recognizes and accepts the educational, social, and promotional impact the athletic program has on the institution and its constituency. Athletics is an integral part of the “whole person” education at Taylor University. The athletic program complements the institution in its mission “to develop servant-leaders marked with a passion to minister Christ’s redemptive love, grace, and truth to a world in need.”

The total development of the student athlete is paramount in the organization and implementation of the athletic program. Participation in intercollegiate athletics provides an arena whereby the student athlete may be developed, tested, and encouraged to achieve maximum physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual potential. The goal, through competition, is to assist and support student athletes in their understanding of a Christian response to a fundamental human experience.

The Taylor University philosophy of athletics is framed within the following understandings:

1. The athletic department is staffed by those who articulate and evidence a life committed to Jesus Christ. Further, they regard their profession, whether in or out of the classroom, as an opportunity to educate, mentor, and model the core values of what it means to be a man or woman of God. Commitment to Jesus Christ signifies a lifestyle and coaching style that calls for a standard of competitive excellence (*Col. 3:23*). It is intended that all coaches hold faculty rank and that all coaches function as educators.
2. Taylor University has a rich heritage of utilizing athletics as a means of Christian outreach and service. It is our intent to reaffirm, build upon, and create opportunities for Christian witness and discipleship through a successful intercollegiate athletic program.
3. The intellectual, spiritual, emotional, physical, and social well-being and development of our student athletes is paramount in our dealings with student athletes. Athletic participation is a platform not only for complementing our liberal arts and foundational core programs, but also for assuring that the core values (Biblically Anchored, Christ Centered, Faith Learning Integrated, Liberal Arts Grounded, World Engaging, Whole Person Focused, and Servant-Leader Motivated) of the University are being developed.
4. A successful intercollegiate athletic program creates a strong sense of community spirit. Athletics significantly contributes to a positive campus ethos and to constituent goodwill. The University as a whole benefits by giving visibility to both the athletic programs and to the athletes involved in these programs. We endeavor to make our programs an enduring source of pride for the university, participants, alumni, and the greater Taylor community.
5. The development of student leadership has long been a hallmark of Taylor University objectives and Student Development. The dynamics of intercollegiate competition, coupled with mentoring by Christian coaches, represents the potential for a rich environment of leadership development that is personalized and tested.

## **Intercollegiate Sports**

Intercollegiate sports include baseball (men), basketball, competitive cheer, cross-country, football (men), golf, lacrosse (men), soccer, softball (women), track and field, and volleyball (women). Taylor Athletics sponsors a pom squad that performs at various events.

## **National/Conference Affiliations**

Taylor holds membership in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). The men and women compete in the Crossroads League. The Crossroads League consists of Bethel University, Goshen College, Grace College, Huntington University, Indiana Wesleyan University, Marian University, Mount Vernon Nazarene University, Spring Arbor University, Taylor University, and University of Saint Francis (IN). Lacrosse competes in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference (WHAC) against Aquinas College, Cleary University, Concordia University, Cornerstone University, Indiana Tech, Lawrence Tech, Lourdes University, Madonna University, University of Michigan—Dearborn, University of Northwestern Ohio, Rochester University, and Siena Heights University. Football competes in the Mid-States Football Association (MSFA); the Mideast League includes Concordia University, Indiana Wesleyan University, Lawrence Tech, Madonna University, Marian University, Siena Heights University, Taylor University, and University of Saint Francis (IN); the Midwest League includes Judson University, Missouri Baptist University, Olivet Nazarene University, Roosevelt University, St. Ambrose University, St. Xavier University, Trinity International University, and University of Saint Francis (IL).