

# 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 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 general education programs, but 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 for men include baseball, basketball, cross-country, football, golf, soccer, tennis and track and field; women compete in basketball, cross-country, soccer, softball, tennis, track and field, and volleyball.

## **National/Conference Affiliations**

Taylor holds membership in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). The men and women compete in the Mid-Central Conference (MCC). The MCC consists of: Bethel, Goshen, Grace, Huntington, Spring Arbor, St. Francis, Indiana Wesleyan, Marian, and Taylor—all Indiana colleges. Football competes in the Mid-State Football Association (MSFA). Mideast League is: Taylor University, Geneva College, Malone University, Ohio Dominican University, Quincy University, University of St. Francis (IN), Urbana University, and Walsh University. Midwest League is: Iowa Wesleyan College, McKendree College, Olivet-Nazarene University, St. Ambrose University, St. Xavier University, Trinity International University, University of St. Francis (IL), and William Penn University.

## **Intramural Athletics Program**

The Intramural Athletics Program, coordinated by Intercollegiate Athletics, provides a wide variety of activities for meeting the recreational and competitive needs of the entire Taylor student body. Team events include both a men’s and a women’s league for flag football, soccer, and basketball; coed leagues exist for volleyball and softball. Many other individual tournaments, such as pool, ping-pong, badminton, and racquetball, are held for both men and women.

Taylor’s Intramural Athletics Program has extraordinarily high participation rates. For example, flag football alone has more than 800 men and women participants each year. Residence hall competition has been the driving force behind these high numbers. Intramural sports have proven to be a great outlet from the pressures of college life and have developed into a great social activity for the majority of the student body.