

**OAKTON**



**OWLS**

**OFFICE OF ATHLETICS**

**Student Athlete Handbook**

2022-23

# INTRODUCTION

Intercollegiate Athletics at Oakton Community College has a tradition of excellence and success both on the field of play and in the classroom. This tradition has its origins at the beginning of Oakton Community College in 1969 when the college was founded. As a department, we have had both individual and team national championships, Region titles and conference championships. We have also had numerous Academic All-Americans and ISCC Academic All-Conference Team members. Many of our athletes have continued their education using their success at Oakton to move on to a senior college or university and into life.

This manual serves as a guide to assist students in succeeding as both a student and an athlete in the Oakton Intercollegiate Athletics Program. The context of the manual provides information and/or procedures students will need as they balance their life works as a person, a student and an athlete. Participation in the Athletic Program is challenging and it is necessary to conduct yourself in a manner consistent with the policies and rules of the College, the NJCAA and the Illinois Skyway Collegiate Conference.

Adhering to the guidelines set forth in this manual is essential in your success as a student athlete and contributes to the overall success of the Athletic program. It is a program that emphasizes respect for the student athlete. Most important in using this manual is that these are guidelines and processes which students must follow. If at any time you are uncertain of process or need additional information, please contact the Athletic Office.

## OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

### *Mission*

Oakton is the community's college. By providing access to quality education throughout a lifetime, we empower and transform our students in the diverse communities we serve.

### *Vision*

Dedicated to teaching and learning, Oakton is a student-centered college known for academic rigor and high standards. Through exemplary teaching that relies on innovation and collaboration with our community partners, our students learn to think critically, solve problems, and to be ethical global citizens who shape the world. We are committed to diversity, cultural competence, and achieving equity in student outcomes.

### *Values*

Our values are built around a focus on Oakton students.

- We exercise responsibility through accountability to each other, our community, and the environment.
- We embrace the diversity of the Oakton community and honor it as one of our college's primary strengths.
- We advance equity by acknowledging the effects of systemic social injustices and intentionally designing the Oakton experience to foster success for all students.
- We uphold integrity through a commitment to trust, transparency, and honesty by all members of the Oakton community.
- We cultivate compassion within a caring community that appreciates that personal fulfillment and well-being are central to our mission.

- We foster collaboration within the college and the larger community and recognize our interdependence and ability to achieve more together.

## **ATHLETICS PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT**

The Athletic Department promotes Oakton's mission of providing students with an education and training for their lifetime. Our mission is to have students experience the hard work and satisfaction of learning that leads to intellectual, emotional, and social growth. We expect Oakton student-athletes:

- ◇ to be responsible for their learning
- ◇ to exercise leadership,
- ◇ to demonstrate sportsmanship, and
- ◇ to be ethical in their academic, athletic, work and personal lives.

### **Guiding Principles of Oakton's Athletic Department:**

- ◇ To enhance the College community:
  - by modeling standards of ethical behavior and
  - by offering athletic opportunities integral to campus life and to a liberal arts education;
- ◇ To improve the persistence and academic success of student athletes;
- ◇ To teach students to value physical activity and personal growth;
- ◇ To teach the following core values:
  - respect      ▪tolerance      ▪fairness      ▪responsibility
  - compassion   ▪integrity      ▪hard work      ▪determination
- ◇ To promote social and personal development;
- ◇ To help students develop skills that will be useful throughout their lifetime. These include:
  - financial planning      ▪time management      ▪nutrition,
  - teamwork,      ▪leadership      ▪personal health
- ◇ To promote:
  - competitive excellence in intercollegiate athletics
  - broad participation in intramurals
  - instruction in physical education courses
- ◇ To support students beyond their athletic career. (Completion of an Oakton degree or certificate, articulation to a senior institution, or entrance into the working world).

# OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## STUDENT ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

As a member of an Oakton Community College athletic team, you represent a tradition of excellence on the athletic field of play and in the classroom. The college and the Athletic Department strive to uphold the highest standards of commitment and behavior for our student athletes and are committed to your success in athletic, academic, and personal growth. You, as a student athlete play a critical role in this development and must understand and respect the commitment required as a member of an Oakton intercollegiate athletic team.

This Code of Conduct will guide you during your enrollment at Oakton Community College and participation in intercollegiate athletics.

Student Athletes have a responsibility to:

### Academics:

- Attend all classes and become an active participant in classroom discussions, events and activities. Student athletes may NOT miss class for any practice, team activity or competition without expressed permission from the Senior Manager of Athletics.
- Submit class assignments as directed and required by the faculty.
- Behave in an appropriate and respectful manner toward the class instructor and fellow students.
- In a timely manner, notify the Athletic Academic Support and Compliance Specialist or Athletic Department staff of any issues/difficulties affecting your classroom performance or attendance.
- Meet with an academic advisor, counselor, tutor, or other academic support services as needed and/or required to support your class work.
- Participate in all athletic academic support activities and any other Athletic Department developmental activities.
- Complete and submit progress reports as instructed.

### Athletics:

- Strictly adhere to the rules and regulations of the NJCAA, the Illinois Skyway Collegiate Conference and the rules and standards of Oakton Community College and the Oakton Athletic Department.
- Attend all practices, games, video sessions and required team activities.
- Follow training programs and rules of conduct established by coaches, athletic and athletic training staff.

- Do not participate on any sport, club or league teams during the Oakton sport regular season (NJCAA rule, failure to follow this policy will result in loss of eligibility).
- Communicate and cooperate with registered medical practitioners in the diagnosis, treatment, and management and rehabilitation of athletic injuries.
- Uphold the rules of the sport, the spirit of such rules and encourage other student athletes to do the same.
- Treat team members, coaches, athletic staff, opponents and officials with due respect in both victory and defeat. Encourage other student athletes to act accordingly.
- Participate in a manner that ensures the safety of student athletes, coaches, and officials also participating in the activity.
- Athletes are expected to take team sponsored transportation to and from all competitions. Only under special circumstances (funerals, weddings, etc.) will an athlete be given permission, by the Senior Manager, to be excused from this requirement.

Personal:

- Treat everyone fairly within the context of his or her activity, regardless of gender, race, color, creed, religion, national origin, disability, age, marital status, political belief, veteran's status, sex or sexual orientation or economic status.
- Abstain from the use of tobacco products and alcoholic beverages or the use of performance enhancing or mind altering drugs. Never advocate or condone the use of tobacco, alcohol, mind altering or banned performance-enhancing substances.
- Abstain from all types and forms of gambling associated with college or professional sports.
- Refrain from the use of profane, insulting, harassing, or otherwise offensive language.
- At no time, allow individuals who may request sexual favors or use threats of reprisal for rejection to go unreported. Student should contact Athletic Department Staff or the Vice President of Student Affairs to report any such incident.
- In a timely manner, notify the Athletic Counselor or Athletic Department staff of any personal or social issues/difficulties that may affect your performance as a student athlete.
- Respect others: verbal or physical behaviors that constitute harassment or abuse are unacceptable.
- Understand and follow Oakton Community College policies and guidelines as outlined in the student handbook and student code of conduct, [Code of Student Conduct \(oakton.edu\)](http://oakton.edu)

**Failure to uphold these responsibilities may lead to discipline up to and including dismissal from a team and loss of athletic scholarship.**