

OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY



Student-Athlete Handbook 2024-2025

All student-athletes at Oklahoma City University are expected to adhere to the policies within.

OCU MISSION STATEMENT

MISSION

Inspired by a culture of creativity, Oklahoma City University fosters an immersive, personalized experience that welcomes and prepares students to pursue boundless opportunities.

VALUES

- Create:** Be innovative and enterprising
- Excel:** Be extraordinary
- Lead:** Empower yourself and other
- Respect:** Value each other
- Serve:** Pursue generational impact
- Collaborate:** Cultivate community

SOONER ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

Oklahoma City University is a member of the Sooner Athletic Conference (SAC). The SAC was formed in 1978 and is currently comprised of 13 universities from Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas and Kansas. More information about the SAC can be found at www.soonerathletic.org

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

Oklahoma City University is a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). The purpose of the NAIA is to promote the education and development of students through intercollegiate athletics participation. Member institutions, although varied and diverse, share a common commitment to high standards and to the principle that participation in athletics serves as an integral part of the total educational process.

The NAIA embraces the concept of the student and recognizes the importance of the individuality of each member institution, the value of the conference and regional structure, and the benefits of membership in a national association.

CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER

The NAIA "Champions of Character" initiative, through awareness, education and community involvement, will continue to develop an atmosphere of integrity in sport. The NAIA Champions of Character initiative will create an environment in which every NAIA student-athlete, coach, official, and spectator is committed to the true spirit of competition through *respect, integrity, responsibility, servant leadership, and sportsmanship.*

HOME OF CHAMPIONS

The OCU athletic department is the home of 76 National Championship teams and seeks to continue the tradition of excellence through the recruitment and support of student-athletes who embody this tradition of excellence. We recognize and value the educational experiences that come from competing in athletics and aim to provide an exceptional student-athlete experience.

CHAMPIONS IN THE CLASSROOM

Graduation is the expectation, graduation with honors is the goal.

CHAMPIONS IN COMPETITION

You wear the legacy of champions on your chest, honor the privilege.

CHAMPIONS IN CHARACTER

Respect yourself, respect others, respect authority, respect property, and be honest.

ATHLETICS STAFF DIRECTORY

Position	Name	Extension
Interim Athletic Director	Bill Raynor	5301
Associate Athletic Director for Academics & Compliance	Coby Mackin	5317
Assistant AD for Internal Affairs	Kristen Conventon	6205
Coordinator of Athletic Internal Affairs	Baleigh Garner	5309
Coordinator of Athletic Facilities	Garrett White	TBA
Coordinator of Athletic Operations	Hollis Giles	TBA
Director of Athletic Communications	Nate Thompson	5304
Assistant Director of Athletic Communications	Devin Elington	5304
Faculty Athletic Representative	Wendee Lentz	6284
Strength Coach	Jack Pugh	N/A
Head Athletic Trainer	Kylee Warne	5741
Athletic Trainer	Mackenna Noland	5741
Athletic Trainer	Shakota Neal	N/A
Baseball Head Coach	Keith Lytle	5157
Baseball Assistant Coach	Tanner Schoeninger	5156
Baseball Assistant Coach	Billy Easley	5156
Basketball Men's Head Coach	Mark Berokoff	5310
Basketball Men's Assistant Coach	Garrett White	N/A
Basketball Men's Assistant Coach	Devin Elington	N/A
Basketball Women's Head Coach	Kris Seigenthaler	5868
Basketball Women's Assistant Coach	Hollis Giles	5865
Cheer Head Coach	Alicia Bailey	5395
Cheer Assistant Coach	Keyanna Salmon	N/A
Pom/Dance Coach	Tasha Hinex	5424
STUNT Coach	Erin Johnson	6273
XC/Track Head Coach	Frezer Legesse	5319
XC/Track Assistant Coach	Andrew Leahey	N/A
XC/Track Assistant Coach	Davey Cleveland	N/A
Golf Men's Head Coach	Blake Trimble	5303
Golf Women's Head Coach	Josh Gorzney	5302
Rowing Coach	Bryan Volepenhein	5300
Soccer Men's & Women's Head Coach	Billy Martin	5165
Soccer Men's & Women's Assistant Coach	Harvey Paul	5165
Softball Head Coach	Phil McSpadden	5308
Softball Assistant Coach	Bobbi Bridges	5976
Volleyball Head Coach	Kristen Conventon	6205
Volleyball Assistant Coach	Baleigh Garner	5309
Wrestling Men's Head Coach	Justin Ensign	5379
Wrestling Men's Assistant Coach	Brian Picklo	N/A
Wrestling Men's Assistant Coach	Josh Powell	N/A
Wrestling Women's Head Coach	Will McKinney	5315

SPORT ADMINISTRATORS

Sport administrators work closely with coaches to help oversee the leadership of each program. Sport administrators are a resource for student-athletes to talk to about their experience as part of the athletic department.

Sport administrator assignments for 2024-25:

Bill Raynor	Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country/Track & Field, Volleyball
Coby Mackin	Golf, Rowing, Soccer, Softball, Wrestling
Kristen Coventon	Cheer, Dance/Pom, STUNT

FACULTY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVE

The FAR is a member of the faculty who has been designated by the President to serve as a liaison between the institution and the athletic department and serves as a representative of the institution in conference and NAIA affairs. The role of the FAR is to ensure that the university establishes and maintains the appropriate balance between academics and intercollegiate athletics. The FAR is involved in compliance and eligibility process and helps monitor and advocate for student-athlete well-being.

Wendee Lentz, PH.D., ATC/L is a professor in the Physical Therapy program and serves as OCU's FAR.

SENIOR WOMAN LEADER

The SWL is an NAIA designation for the highest-ranking female to be identified and provide leadership and guidance in the area of Title IX, department and university initiatives, and strategic planning. They also serve as an advocate for student-athlete well-being and represent the university on leadership initiatives at the conference and national level.

Coby Mackin serves as the Senior Woman Leader (SWL) for 2024-25.

STUDENT-ATHLETE ORGANIZATIONS

ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT-ATHLETES

The ASA is an advisory group made up of two student-athlete representatives from each OCU athletics team. The ASA serves as the voice for student-athletes to the administration and meets on a regular basis to address the student-athlete experience, discuss issues of concern, and propose policy changes to the athletic administration. The ASA also assists the athletic department with promotional and special events and provides feedback on SAC and NAIA proposals.

Tate Smithhart is the President of OCU's ASA for 2024-25.

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES

FCA is a student led group of students and coaches who meet regularly on campus. With Christ as the center of the meeting, and using the Bible as the authority, students are inspired to improve their spiritual lives. FCA is open to ALL students.

Carlee Mollet leads OCU's FCA chapter for 2024-25.

CHI ALPHA SIGMA

Chi Alpha Sigma is a national collegiate honor society specifically created to honor and recognize the academic achievements of student-athletes who are juniors with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher. The OCU chapter was founded in 2005. Membership is announced annually at the Jim Wade Awards and graduating seniors wear a distinguishing regalia cord at graduation.

STUDENT-ATHLETE CONDUCT

OCU Student-athletes represent themselves, their team, the athletic department, Oklahoma City University, and the NAIA. You have earned this privilege and are expected to conduct yourself in a manner that brings honor to those who have built the foundation upon which you compete. All student-athletes are expected to conduct themselves according to the [Oklahoma City University | Student Code of Conduct \(okcu.edu\)](http://okcu.edu). Violations of these guidelines will be investigated by the Athletic Director in conjunction with the Dean of Students.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic honesty is required in all aspects of a student's relationship with the University. Academic dishonesty may not be course-specific and includes falsification or misrepresentation of a student's academic progress, status, or ability, including but not limited to, false or altered transcripts, letters of recommendation, registration or advising forms, or other documents related to the student's academic career at Oklahoma City University or other colleges or universities.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

The athletic department recognizes the importance of class attendance to the student-athlete's academic development and success. The department is committed to limiting the number of class absences due to athletic contests while encouraging student-athletes to plan ahead to responsibly handle absences that are necessary. Missed class time due to sport practice is not permitted, and it is the student-athlete's responsibility to attend all classes when there is no conflict with an officially scheduled contest.

Procedure for missed class due to competition:

1. A student-athlete can be exempt from class two hours before a home contest.
2. A student-athlete must be listed on the official travel form in order to be excused for an away competition.
3. Student-athletes must communicate with their professors prior to any class being missed.
4. Each student-athlete is responsible for knowing the absence policy of each of their courses.

EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES

Oklahoma City University's athletic department provides student-athletes with appropriate equipment and facilities for safe participation in their sport. All equipment that is supplied to the student-athlete remains the property of Oklahoma City University and it is the responsibility of the student-athlete to prevent theft or damage to the equipment issued to them. Student-athletes are responsible for returning to the head coach all equipment owned by OCU at the end of the season, or sooner, if requested by the coach or athletic director.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

NAIA member schools are subject to drug testing to ensure fair play and the health and safety of student-athletes. This program includes urine collection and analysis for banned substances that are performance-enhancing or potentially harmful. Student-athletes are responsible for avoiding banned substances. A list of banned substances can be found here: [NAIA Banned Substances List.pdf](#) or on the NAIA website.

ACADEMICS AND ELIGIBILITY

All first-time NAIA participants must be deemed eligible by PlayNAIA prior to competing for OCU. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to submit all necessary information to both the PlayNAIA and OCU. OCU is required to certify each student athlete every semester, contingent upon an initial eligible determination through PlayNAIA. The Athletic Compliance and Academics office is the resource for student-athletes for eligibility or academic concerns.

Eligibility requirements:

1. Maintain enrollment in a minimum of 12 semester hours at all times (9 hours for graduate students). A student-athlete is rendered ineligible immediately upon dropping below 12 semester hours, except for the semester in which they will graduate.
2. Make satisfactory progress towards a degree, as defined by NAIA bylaws.
3. Maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher at all times.
4. NAIA eligibility is exhausted after four seasons of competition per sport, as defined by NAIA by-laws, or the completion of 10 full-time semesters, whichever comes first.

DAY-OFF POLICY

The OCU athletic department, in accordance with the NAIA adheres to a mandatory day off from athletic participation once per week during the academic year, designated by the head coach.

Athletic participation includes practice, strength and conditioning, skill instruction, camps, scrimmages and competitions. Athletic participation does not include travel, study hall, tutoring, fundraising, community service, compliance, organizational meetings, entertainment activities, sports medicine activities, or celebratory events not involving required physical activity related to the sport.

STUDENTS NEEDING ACCOMMODATIONS

If accommodation is needed for a documented physical condition, psychiatric diagnosis, or learning disability, please contact the Disabilities Services Coordinator at (405) 208-5895. The Disabilities Services Coordinator is responsible for coordinating all need-based accommodation and will issue students with a documented plan, as appropriate.

SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL AID

ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Athletic scholarship agreements are made for one academic term and are based on a student-athlete's past athletic and academic performance, potential for future athletic and academic performance, and/or the needs and interests of the team, athletics department, and/or University, as determined by the coach and/or Athletic Director. Acceptance of an athletic scholarship specific to the initial term neither implies nor guarantees the student-athlete will receive a scholarship agreement in future academic sessions.

BOOKS

Oklahoma City University's athletic department may provide scholarships for books or other course materials to select student-athletes. Upon a student-athlete's acquisition of their books or course materials, they immediately become the responsibility of each individual athlete. Failure to return rented materials, or any late fees incurred will be the financial responsibility of the student-athlete.

FINANCIAL AID

Every student-athlete is required to complete and submit a FAFSA application to the OCU Financial Aid Office. A new FAFSA application must be completed each year.

ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

The Athletic Communications office manages public relations for the OCU Athletic Department and serves as a liaison between student-athletes and members of the media. The office manages statistical record keeping of all OCU athletic programs, oversees all athletics publications, and maintains information on the athletics webpage. All requests for interviews must be managed by the Director of Athletic Communications.

SOCIAL MEDIA EXPECTATIONS

The athletic department expects all student-athletes to understand that all content posted to social media is a representation of OCU, the department, and their team and is potentially public and permanent. Student-athletes are expected to adhere to the following social media decorum:

- Do not post anything that attacks a student-athlete, coach, or administrator from OCU or any other institution.
- Do not post photos of other student-athletes, coaches, or administrators without their permission.
- Do not post information or photos that include sexual content, harassing language, inappropriate behavior, or items that could be interpreted as demeaning or inflammatory.
- Do not comment on injuries, rosters, or any team information that should remain confidential or is otherwise protected under privacy laws.

A violation of these expectations may result in one or more of the following sanctions:

- Meeting with the appropriate institutional personnel.
- Suspension from participation at the discretion of the athletic director.
- Additional sanctions through the university's student conduct process.

OCU SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: facebook.com/ocustars

Twitter: @ocustars; #thisisOCU

Youtube: @ocustars

Instagram: ocustars

NAME, IMAGE AND LIKENESS (NIL)

The NAIA allows its student-athletes the opportunity to be compensated for the use of their Name, Image and Likeness (NIL). The legislation, which is an amendment to existing language under the NAIA Amateur Code, allows a student-athlete to receive compensation for promoting any commercial product, enterprise, or for any public or media appearance. It is now permissible for a student-athlete to reference their intercollegiate athletic participation in such promotions or appearances.

Any student-athlete considering entering a NIL endorsement deal, must first consult with the athletics compliance officer. All NIL endorsements must be approved by the OCU Athletic Department and documented both with OCU compliance and with the NAIA. The following link is to be used for documentation with the NAIA: [NIL Details](#)

NOTE: International students can potentially put their VISA in jeopardy for participating in an NIL deal. They need to check with both the athletics compliance office and the international student office before agreeing to a deal.

SPORTS MEDICINE

Oklahoma City University partners with SSM-Health to provide certified athletic trainers (ATCs) who oversee injury prevention, clinical evaluation and diagnosis, immediate care, treatment, rehabilitation, and reconditioning. The ATCs are licensed medical professionals who do not report directly to any member of the athletic department staff. They report to an SSM-Health medical director and supervising physicians and subject to all HIPAA regulations. The OCU sports medicine staff shall provide health care services within the parameters and scope of practice established by the Oklahoma Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision, the National Athletic Trainers' Association, the Board of Certification, Standing Orders granted by the supervising Physician, and Oklahoma City University.

The athletic director delegates a liaison to manage the relationship between the athletic department and the medical providers. All injuries and illnesses must be reported to the athletic training staff. If a student-athlete is injured or ill and is restricted from athletic participation, they must be granted clearance by the certified athletic trainer or supervising physician before resuming physical activity. Medical records are maintained by the athletic training staff in accordance with HIPAA regulations for all student-athletes participating in OCU's athletics programs. HIPAA guidelines are strictly enforced. The athletic training room (ATR) is in room 112 in the east hall of the Freede Wellness Center. The athletic training staff office is in room 113, adjacent to the ATR.

TRAINING ROOM HOURS AND CHECK-IN PROCEDURE

The athletic training room are posted outside the clinic door. Student-athletes should be in the ATR at least 30 minutes prior to practice (earlier if possible) unless there is a class conflict. All in-season home games will be covered by a member of the athletic training staff, but the ATR will be closed for treatments on Saturdays and Sundays unless a prior appointment is arranged by athletic training staff.

All student-athletes must sign in and be entered into the clinic's EMR system for proper tracking of treatment and insurance coverage. Student-athletes may be asked to wait outside the ATR if the clinic is busy and no ATCs are immediately available.

INJURY PROCEDURE

All athletic related injuries should be reported to the sports medicine staff immediately. The athletic trainer will make an initial assessment and create a treatment plan or arrange referral to the team physician if deemed necessary. The student-athlete is required to follow the treatment plan on site under the supervision of the sports medicine staff before being released to return to play. If a student-athlete is not satisfied with their injury diagnosis or recovery progress, they should notify their team's athletic trainer or the team physician. Arrangements can be made for a second opinion but must be cleared through the sports medicine department to ensure compliance with the secondary insurance policy. A release of

records from the medical provider to the OCU sports medicine clinic will be required before a student-athlete will be allowed to rejoin the team.

ILLNESS PROCEDURE

A student-athlete who is unable to participate due to illness must inform the athletic training staff via phone, text or email. Student-athletes who do not have a medical provider will be referred to the on-campus clinic or an appropriate specialist by the sports medicine staff. If a student-athlete is withheld from class or physical activity by a medical provider, a release of medical records from the medical provider to the OCU sports medicine clinic will be required. A student-athlete who has been withheld from attending class due to illness will also be withheld from attending team events. Likewise, a student-athlete who is able to attend class is also expected to attend team events, even if they cannot participate.

ACCESS TO TEAM PHYSICIAN

A team physician will be available on campus once a week to assess any injuries or illnesses experienced by student-athletes. Appointments are established by the sports medicine staff based on severity of injury or illness. Student-athletes who are currently in-season will receive priority scheduling. Student-athletes who have schedules that conflict with clinic times will be referred to SSM Health Bone & Joint/Oklahoma Sports & Orthopedics Institute (OSOI) Clinic, as necessary.

STUDENT-ATHLETE PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICALS

A pre-participation physical is required annually before a student-athlete may begin any physical activity with their team. The physical exam will be conducted by the sports medicine staff and team physicians at a time assigned by the Head Athletic Trainer. The evaluation will be documented on the OCU physical form and signed off by a medical doctor or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (MD or DO) and will be free of charge to the student-athlete at the assigned time. If the student-athlete is unable to attend at the assigned time, they will either wait for the next physical date or setup an appointment per the physician's availability. Outside physicals are not accepted without prior approval of the Head Athletic Trainer and must be completed on the OCU physical form.

No athlete will be cleared for participation in any athletic activity, including strength and conditioning, until the physical and all medical insurance forms are on file in the Sports Medicine Clinic. The sports medicine department will notify the student-athlete and coaches of participation clearance.

CONCUSSION POLICY

The OCU Sports Medicine Department uses the Sway Medical concussion software and provides each student-athlete with their own profile for baseline testing. If an athlete is suspected of having a concussion, they should report their symptoms to the athletic training staff immediately. A student-athlete suspected of having a concussion is not permitted to return to play the same day, nor while symptomatic following a head injury. The student-athlete will be tested through Sway Medical daily until they are asymptomatic, and their tests are back within baseline limits. A student-athlete will not be allowed to return to full activity until they are cleared by the athletic trainer and/or team physician. For the complete concussion policy, please refer to the [OCU Athletics Training/Sports Medicine Policies](#).

HEALTH INSURANCE

All Oklahoma City University students are required to maintain personal health insurance or purchase the policy offered to all students at the start of the school year. The athletic department purchases a secondary insurance policy to cover the approved medical services necessary because of an injury sustained in an OCU organized and supervised team conditioning session, practice, or competition. This is an excess coverage plan that will help cover those expenses not paid by the student-athlete's primary insurance policy. As per the secondary policy, the student-athlete's personal insurance is the primary coverage for all athletics injury related charges. A copy of each student-athlete's current insurance card must be kept on file in the athletic training office. It is the student-athlete's responsibility to make sure their personal information is current at all times. Failure to do so could result in the student-athlete being responsible for significant medical expenses in the event of an injury.

The OCU athletics' secondary insurance policy only covers medical care for injuries incurred while participating on an OCU team. The insurance policy does not cover treatment or correction of pre-existing conditions, prescription medications, or medical care related to illness. The policy does not cover medical expenses for student-athletes who seek medical care without the knowledge of the athletic training staff or team physician.

For a student-athlete to have their bills paid by the secondary insurance policy, they must provide a copy of all EOB's, statements, or bills received from medical providers to the athletic training office within 90 days of the statement

date. Providing this documentation after 90 days may result in the claim being denied by the insurance company and become the financial responsibility of the student-athlete.

INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE

All international students must purchase accident/emergency care insurance through the university or a domestic agency each semester. Please see the International Student Admissions Office for more information.

REFERRAL PROCEDURE

If a member of the sports medicine staff determines that an outside referral or consultation is necessary, the appointment will be arranged by the sports medicine staff. In order to ensure proper insurance filing, a student-athletes must obtain a physician referral form from the OCU sports medicine staff to all medical visits and submit it to the front desk clinic staff upon check-in. If a student-athlete seeks medical care without obtaining prior approval from the team physician or the sports medicine staff, the student-athlete shall assume medical and financial responsibility with the provider.

PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS

Failure to report a pre-existing medical condition relieves the OCU Department of Athletics of all liability in the event the student-athlete sustains a subsequent injury or re-injury of the affected body part. Incomplete rehabilitation of a pre-existing condition may result in a disqualification from athletics participation. Any testing or medical follow-up requested by a physician during the pre-participation physical examination will be the financial responsibility of the student-athlete.

RESOURCES FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

PHYSICAL SAFETY

OCU Police
Emergency: 405-208-5911
Non-emergency: 405-208-5001
Anonymous: 1-866-943-5787

EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

OCU Counseling office
405-208-7901
counseling@okcu.edu
[Report Concerning Behavior from a Student \(CARE FORM\) \(maxient.com\)](#)

PHYSICAL ILLNESS

Family HealthCare and Minor Emergency Clinic,
405-373-2400

ATHLETIC INJURY

Athletic Training Staff
405-208-5741

FOOD INSECURITY

Pantry of Hope email Resourcepantry@okcu.edu for an appointment

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Learning Enhancement Center
405-208-5953
Lnewsom1@okcu.edu
[Home - Learning Enhancement Center - Dulaney-Browne Library at Oklahoma City University \(okcu.edu\)](#)

LEARNING DIFFERENCE OR DISABILITY

Kara Morrow, MMFT
405-208-5895
Das@okcu.edu

STUDENT-ATHLETE WELLBEING

Bill Raynor
405-208-5301
braynor@okcu.edu

ELIGIBILITY CONCERNS

Coby Mackin
405-208-4317
Cmackin@okcu.edu

FINANCIAL CONCERNS

Financial Aid,
405-208-5211
Finaid@okcu.edu
or
Student Accounts
405-208-5237

ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT

Jan Stovall
405-208-5171
jstovall@okcu.edu

CAREER SERVICES

Kanika Brown
405-208-5171
Careerservices@okcu.edu

SPIRITUAL OR RELIGIOUS SUPPORT

Rev. Aly Shahan
405-208-5484
Ashahan1@okcu.edu

SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

Office of Student Engagement
405-208-5181
[Oklahoma City University | Office of Student Engagement \(okcu.edu\)](#)

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONCERNS

[Oklahoma City University | Current International Students \(okcu.edu\)](#)

RESIDENTIAL LIFE CONCERN

RA on call
405-208-6363
Residencelife@okcu.edu

CAMPUS TECHNOLOGY HELP

[Support : Campus Technology Services \(okcu.edu\)](#)

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Dei@okcu.edu
[Incident Reporting Form - Gender-Based Violence, Harassment, and/or Discrimination \(maxient.com\)](#)

